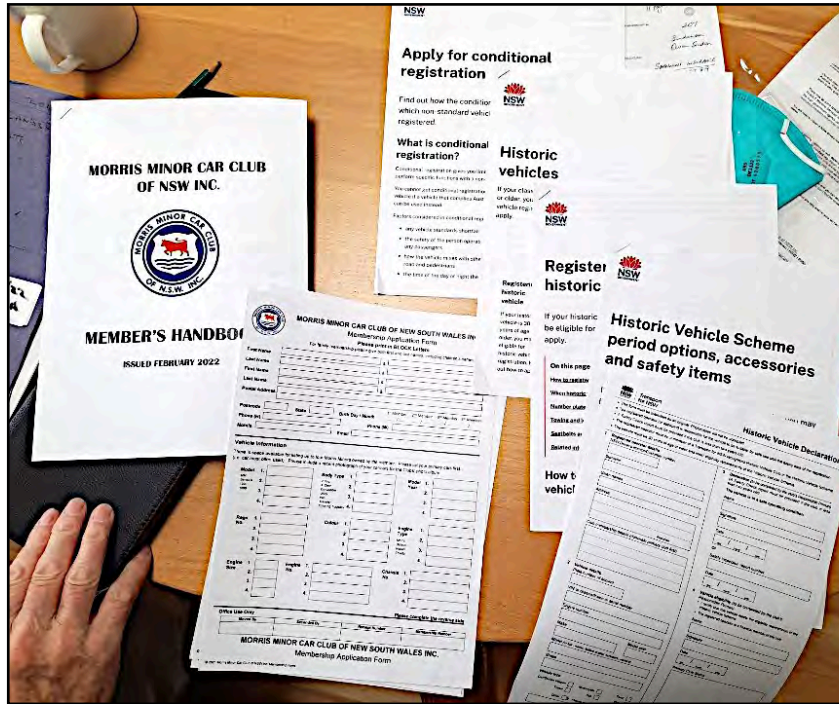


Byron Littlewood

Holidaying to another country can be more than a little stressful: itinerary, what to pack, passport, flight(s), insurance, accommodation...

But moving to another country, well that is in another thing entirely. I personally know of only one or three people who have made such a leap, and only for a limited time (10 years max), with each of them knowing they would be returning to Oz.

So, here is a not-so-young gentleman, who is moving from England to the other side of the world, Australia no less, who not only needs to arrange packing, flights, etc, etc - but also wants to take his car with him!



Masses of paperwork

Those who have read *Minor Torque* (page 23, Sept-Oct 2022) will know that Byron Littlewood was given a wonderful send-off from his Lancashire Branch of the UK Morris Minor Owners Club.

In the past, Australia used to welcome any person from the UK, no matter what, especially criminals, going way back to the First Fleet of 1788 - but things have changed since then.

Getting out of England was the easy part. Byron was able to settle into his new accommodation in the outer south-western Sydney area, Camden to be precise. However, getting his car - a stunning Morris Minor 1000 Traveller - into the country was

Australia's newest arrival: Byron's Traveller in it's new home, overlooking beautiful countryside and the town of Camden





Byron receives his historic plates from Kim at Transport for NSW

almost a bridge too far. More accurately, getting the car to Australia was relatively easy, getting it out of customs was a minor nightmare.

Months went by, and customs being what customs can be like, put every conceivable obstacle in Byron's way. "Your car has dust on it." Well, the car had been here for at least a month, so it must be Australian dust. "You'll have to pay for a car wash" said customs. "A car wash? OK, how much?"

'Inexcusable' would be the only description that comes to mind, because the cost of the car wash was \$600! Yet, customs being customs, pay-up-or-shut-up seemed to be the only alternative, so Byron had to pay up.

OK, so his car is now out of customs... now what? The MMCCNSW got in contact with Byron to help make the import/registration process just a little bit easier.

Weeks and months went by. Dozens of photos were emailed to the MMCCNSW to recognise that Byron's Morrie was legitimate, and then everything came down to just one day.

"What paperwork should we take with us to Transport for NSW?" asked Byron. The answer...? "Everything!" Transport NSW are renowned to require every single obscure piece of minuscule

paperwork to get the job done - but Byron had the lot - and he needed every sheet.

We were at the Transport for NSW window for over an hour - but the lady behind the counter, Kim, was more than accommodating. "This doesn't exactly say who the previous owner was" she said. "But this document shows that I am only the second ever owner of the car" said Byron.

Eventually common sense triumphed: Byron received those prized pieces of motor vehicle ownership: 42732-J number plates.

The timing couldn't be better, as a few days later Byron, with his daughter Jane in another car 'just in case', was enjoying his first outing with his new club in his new country, appropriately Australia Day at Berrima. 'All's well that ends well', so they say, it just took a long time to end well. A really good all-round team effort from the MMCCNSW.

Owen Sinden



Byron with his daughter Jane at the Australia Day celebrations in Berrima