

Member of Worldwide 100M Le Mans Registry in Australian rallies

Bill Meade
Founder, Worldwide 100M "Le Mans" Registry

The Worldwide 100M "Le Mans" Registry, which was founded 25 years ago, has car-owning members from 18 different countries. This special Austin-Healey registry has grown to date to include 213 people who own "factory-built" 100Ms, and 208 people who own cars converted to the "Le Mans" configuration.

The membership, which is scattered all over the world, has interest in all types of automotive events including concours, rallies, vintage racing and even enjoyable, relaxed touring. Our American members enjoy learning about the major events around the world. It provides them with the encouragement and inspiration to travel and enjoy these large car gatherings in other interesting locations.

The Registry receives frequent reports on events in which our members have participated (and have often won or placed in the top tiers). The following is a story about one of our Australian members, Brian Grant, who owns a beautiful red "Le Mans" conversion and has been a Registry member since 2006.

The Classic Adelaide Rally

This rally is a motorsport event held over a four-day period wherein competitors race against the clock on closed sections of public roads using the entire width of the road and it is definitely not for the faint-hearted.

Brian, who has been an active member of the Registry for 13 years, has run the Classic Adelaide Rally. His ability to run this rally is an indication of the level of preparation and presentation of his Austin-Healey Le Mans, and he recently made an important upgrade to his car, installing a new, accurate set of "Le Mans" H6 carburetors and correct "Le Mans" intake manifolds. With this high-performance equipment, the car is running in top form.



The Bay to Birdwood Official Starter with Brian and Joy Grant.

The "Le Mans modified" cars were the very first prototype Austin-Healey race cars, and therefore are often restored to this spec level and extensively used in vintage racing and rallying around the world. This fact of Healey performance cars is certainly true in South Australia where the Classic Adelaide is held. Brian told us, "If your interest is in either full-blown rallying

or just need the opportunity to test your driving skills on the same roads as those used by the more serious competitors, then it doesn't come any better than Adelaide, particularly if you are driving a Healey."

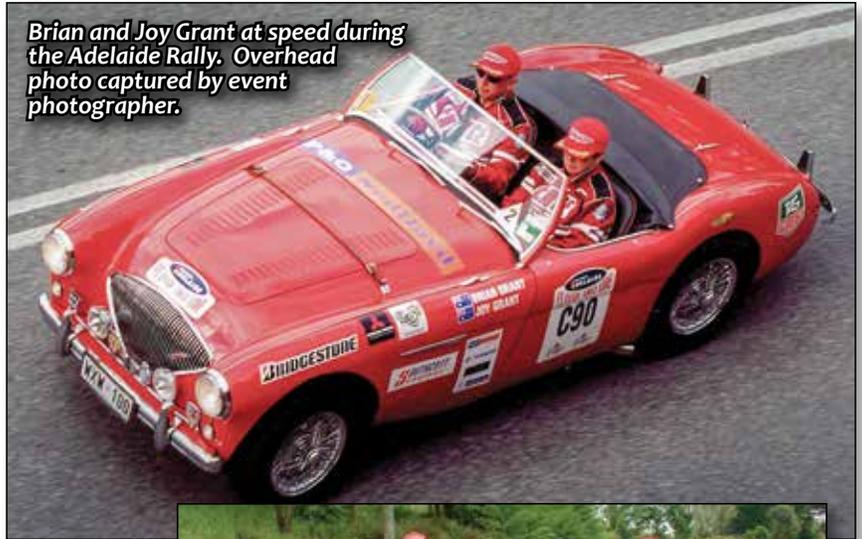
Bay to Birdwood Event

On the other hand, "Bay to Birdwood" is a non-competitive event and the largest continually held motoring event for veteran, vintage and classic vehicles held anywhere in the world. It is held in September every year on a Sunday morning.

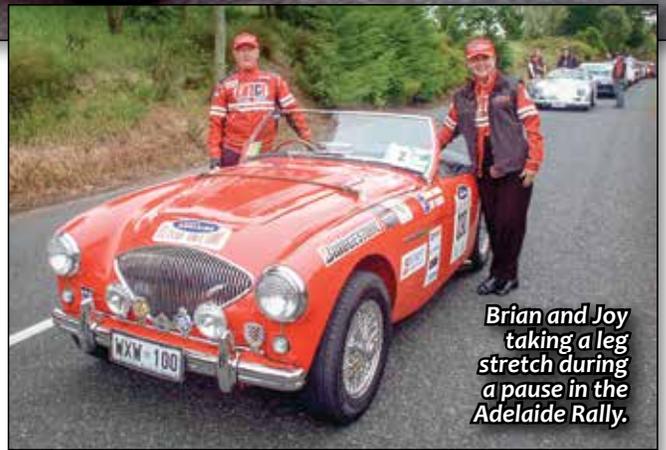
The 70-kilometer route winds its way from the seaside town of Glenelg up to the city of Adelaide and through the lush green rolling landscape of the Adelaide hills, finishing at the National Motor Museum in the town of Birdwood. Here you can witness the wonderful spectacle of Australia's motoring history on parade. Between 60,000 and 70,000 people line the 70-kilometer route and watch the cavalcade of 2,000 cars that takes over an hour to pass any given point along the route.

This run ends with a concours d'élégance at the completion at the Australian National Motor Museum. Brian Grant's car has been in the final judging twice, the second time as runner-up. This concours is a very difficult event for even the best sports car to win. Many drivers and passengers dress in the attire to match the period of the vehicle showing at the concours d'élégance.

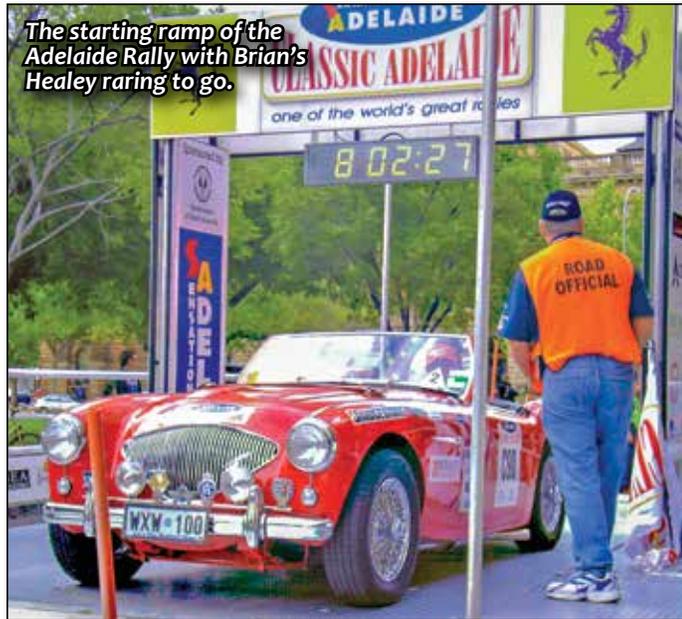
The original Bay to Birdwood run started in 1980 and attracted entrants from not only Australia, but also from New Zealand,



Brian and Joy Grant at speed during the Adelaide Rally. Overhead photo captured by event photographer.



Brian and Joy taking a leg stretch during a pause in the Adelaide Rally.



The starting ramp of the Adelaide Rally with Brian's Healey raring to go.



A spotless engine compartment featuring two H6 Le Mans carburetors with cold air box.



Beautiful interior of Grant's car in black with striking red piping. His Le Mans 100M Registry brass plaque is clearly visible on the dash.

and these two major events in Australia are outstanding examples of events that members of the Worldwide 100M "Le Mans" Registry from around the world take part in.

The Austin-Healey 100M and the Le Mans-modified cars are rare and fantastic cars, but still obtainable for the true enthusiasts to undertake these types of exciting competition and concours show gatherings. If your travels afford you the opportunity to visit or participate in either of these two outstanding events, we can guarantee that it will be a highpoint of your automotive adventures. **HM**