



AUSTIN HEALEY OWNERS CLUB of VICTORIA

On behalf of the AHOC Vic Committee a small group has reviewed our current *Concours d'Elegance* operations and rules.

This review was prompted by comments arising from recent *Concours* and *Show 'n' Shine* events, along with the knowledge that a separate review of the *Concours* system has been proposed by our National Rally Representatives meeting as a group earlier this year.

Our review seeks to establish a recommendation for our Victorian needs in the knowledge of directions established by that above mentioned group, known to be keen to adapt the US Concours Registry approach.

Ultimately we would expect to see a national approach to the Austin Healey state by state *Concours d'Elegance*.

Recommendations

The AHOC Vic group reviewed the US Concours Registry system and quickly determined that whilst being more involved, the potential for enhanced results provided an excellent basis for adoption.

Our group has:

- Used the US Concours Registry Inspections forms, being re-ordered to suit anticipated inspection procedures, augmented with key items that had been overlooked and of course, anglicised the spelling and choice of some words. These Inspection Forms include a Concours entry form (cover page) and guidance/definitions around some specific issues.
- Recommended that the Concours move from being a car against car competition with one winner by class, to an inspection which determines whether a particular Healey achieves sufficient points to be awarded a *Concours d'Elegance Certificate*. These certificates to be awarded in *Gold, Silver or Bronze* based on the level of achievement out of 1000 points. There may well be any number of certificates issued in any one year.
- New groups have been established based on similarity between models;
 - 100 Class – including BN1/2, 100M & S
 - Roadster Class – including BN4/6/7 & BT7
 - Convertible Class – including BJ7/8
- *Concours d'Elegance* Inspections are quite detailed and will require the use of a hoist. Thus the inspection procedures will be conducted on a day, at a suitable venue, with results announced at a separate event held shortly after. The anticipated level of prestige in

achieving a **Concours Certificate** of any colour is anticipated to be elevated due to the rigour of the process.

- Further, it is recommended that a perpetual shield be established to record the achievement of all **Concours Certificates** and that this be displayed in our clubrooms as a mark of respect to the achievement.
- In order to avoid confusion as to what our awards mean, we recommend that the **Concours d'Elegance** Rules always be published in a document that also includes the rules of our **Road & Show** class.

Concurrent with the **Concours d'Elegance** review we recommend some changes to our **Road & Show** event (including a new name);

- The **Road & Show** event is a car against car competition and as we have seen in the past, this event attracts a vast number of entrants due to our flexibility around vehicle enhancements.
- The **Road & Show** winners will be acknowledged by Class;
 - 100 Class – including BN1/2, 100M & S
 - Roadster Class – including BN4/6/7 & BT7
 - Convertible Class – including BJ7/8
 - Modified Class – All Healey but augmented along a theme.
 - Special Interest – Wide bodies and non Healey engines.
- Winners will receive the **Road & Show** car award certificates and potentially other acknowledgements.
- For this event we recommend adoption of a version of the AHOC NSW Inspection form for the Road Car Class event. One form to cover the five classes above.

The rules for both the **Concours d'Elegance** and the **Road & Show** car event have been rewritten to cater for the above recommendations. We would expect to see these published and available on our website.

Whilst we have “borrowed heavily” from the US Concours Registry materials, we have sought and received their permission to do so. We are indebted to them for the inspiration that paved the way for our adaptation.

Finally, the “Achilles Heel” of a **Concours d'Elegance** with real credibility is our ability to recruit Inspectors. Whilst the Inspection Forms lead Inspectors to their tasks, judgement requires both a keen interest to understand Originality, reference books and training opportunities. Healey restorers have in the past offered to conduct some training and we recommend this option be pursued along with “on the job” training by interested parties working alongside more experienced operators.

We expect that those vehicles achieving a **Concours Certificate** of any hue will be a very exclusive group, but equally we believe those who achieve a **Road & Show** award will know their cars are best in class.