



by Kieran Rennie



The (vintage) Car Park

Being of Irish/South African heritage - yes, with the much sought-after Danny Boy travel document - I'm often asked why I don't flee this troubled land and relocate to the Emerald Isle.



The Landy and the Willys.
Where all the 4x4 madness began

The short answer is that this country fosters a lifestyle which resonates with me. The diverse culture, the breathtaking beauty, the wide open spaces and, of course, the climate, all enable and encourage us to experience things outside of our barbed-wired homes. Me? I'm a bonafide petrol-head and South African's own some cool ass cars. Cars they're generally keen to show off.



A 1929 Auburn Boattail Speedster.
If you have to ask, you can't afford it

The Pretoria Old Motor Club (POMC) – CARS in the PARK was held at Zwartkops Race Track on 31st July 2016. This was the 37th POMC – CARS in the PARK organised by the club. Currently, it is the biggest event of its kind in South Africa. More than 2500 vintage and classic vehicles, built before 1985, were on display. The cars were presented by more than 100 clubs and a number of private individuals. An area in and around the pit complex is dedicated to the MARKET on the TRACK which accommodated more than a 100 food and flea market stalls.



A Mk1 Escort in Mexico trim

Highlights? The 31st was an interesting day for me. I'm currently talking to a guy in Durban about a '72 Alfa Giulia (if I bought it, it would be my second Alfa) and there were, as you can imagine, a number of lovely examples on display. There were also five or six extremely well-maintained 2 door Mk1 Escorts - another favourite of mine. But somehow, the humble wee Beetles seemed to entice me the most.

That's the thing about Cars in the Park. It's not about super-high value exotics or ultra-rare collectables. That is, in my opinion, the thing about vintage cars. They don't need to be red and built in Modena to tug at your heart strings.

My wife, Ashleigh, thinks this kind of thing is madness. "So this is it?" she asks. "This is all they do? You all just drive here, at the crack of dawn in the freezing cold. Then you park your cars and walk around gawking? Really?" Yes, my love, really. This is what we do.



Mellow Yellow (my name, not theirs)



Look closely.
Porsche flat-6 motor



Merc Pontoon Bakkies? Really?
Do we take these to a Bratwurst braai?