

## YOUNG BLOODS

A Journey Through Time and Engineering: The Young Bloods Visit Bill Sales' Legendary Car Collection.

The article below is reproduced with the kind permission of the Pretoria Old Motor Club and author and photographer Mené Nienaber. The article appeared in the March 2026 edition of the POMC newsletter.



On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, the Young Bloods had the privilege of visiting the private car collection of Bill Sales, a man whose life has been shaped by engineering excellence, mechanical curiosity, and an enduring passion for automobiles. What unfolded was not merely a viewing of vintage and classic vehicles, but an intimate look into the heart and mind of a lifelong car enthusiast whose collection tells a story of dedication, craftsmanship, and personal meaning.

From the moment the Young Bloods arrived, it was clear that this was no ordinary garage. Each car represented more than metal and machinery - it was a milestone, a memory, and a manifestation of Bill's decades-long relationship with automotive design and engineering.

### The Beginning of a Lifelong Passion



Every great story has a beginning, and Bill's automotive journey began humbly with his first car: a 1959 Messerschmitt KR200 in 1972. This vehicle marked his entry into the world of car ownership and set the foundation for a passion that would only deepen over time. While the Messerschmitt itself may not have been the most glamorous vehicle, it represented independence, learning, and the start of something much larger. The first solo project was a 1956 Berkeley 328 built in 1976 and still in the collection.

However, Bill's connection to cars started long before he owned one himself. As a young boy, he spent weekends in the garage with his uncle, helping repair Volkswagen Beetles. Those early hands-on experiences were transformative. They allowed him to understand the inner workings of vehicles - not just how they functioned, but how they could be restored, improved, and reimagined. What began as simple assistance in a family garage soon evolved into a lifelong passion.

## Nearly Four Decades of Experience and Expertise



With at least 38 years of experience in automotive design and engineering, Bill has built a career grounded in technical knowledge, creativity, and problem-solving. His professional journey gave him insight into both the aesthetic and functional aspects of vehicles, enabling him to appreciate cars as both machines and works of art. This extensive experience is evident in his collection. Each vehicle reflects careful consideration, mechanical understanding, and respect for automotive history. Bill's engineering background allows him not only to collect cars but to restore, modify, and convert them with precision and purpose.

## A Collection Spanning Over Half a Century



One of the most remarkable aspects of Bill's collection is its historical range. His oldest vehicle, a 1954 TR2, stands as a symbol of post-war automotive craftsmanship. With its classic lines and timeless design, it represents an era when driving was as much about character as it was about transportation.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, his newest vehicle is a 2005 MG TF model, showcasing the evolution of automotive technology and design over more than five decades. Together, these vehicles illustrate the progression of engineering innovation and stylistic change.

In total, Bill owns an astonishing 29 cars. Each one has its own story, personality, and purpose within the collection.

Rather than simply accumulating vehicles, Bill curates his collection thoughtfully, ensuring that every addition has meaning and value.

### **Choosing the Right Project: More Than Just Mechanics**



When asked how he selects new projects, Bill offered a surprisingly emotional and relatable answer. He compared the experience to visiting the SPCA. Just as someone might walk through and feel drawn to a particular animal that makes eye contact and creates an emotional connection, Bill looks for a car that “speaks” to him.

This analogy reveals an important truth: for Bill, collecting cars is not purely logical, it is deeply personal.

However, he also emphasized one critical practical requirement: paperwork. Proper documentation ensures that the vehicle's history is clear and that restoration or ownership can proceed without complications.

This balance between emotional connection and practical responsibility defines Bill's approach to collecting.

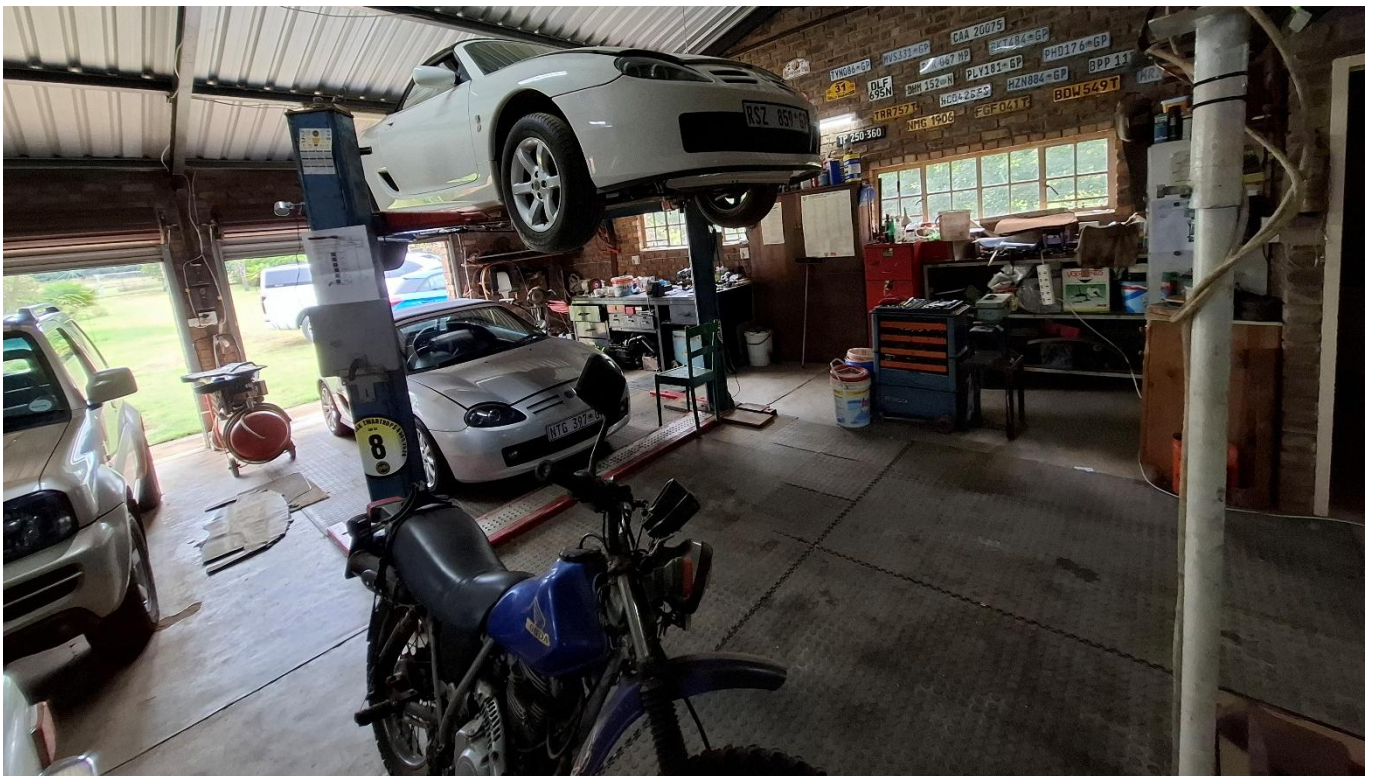
## Clubs, Community, and Shared Passion



Bill's involvement in automotive culture extends beyond his personal garage. He is an active member of several respected car clubs, including the Pretoria Old Motor Club (POMC), as well as clubs dedicated to iconic automotive brands such as Triumph Motor Company, Mini, and MG.

These memberships allow him to connect with fellow enthusiasts, share knowledge, and contribute to the preservation of automotive heritage. Car clubs play a vital role in keeping classic vehicles alive, providing support, expertise, and community for collectors and restorers alike.

## His Greatest Accomplishment: The Conversion Project



Among all his achievements, Bill considers the conversion of one of his cars to be his greatest accomplishment.

Conversion projects require extensive technical skill, patience, and vision. They involve transforming a vehicle beyond its original specifications while preserving its integrity and performance.

This accomplishment reflects not only Bill's engineering expertise but also his creativity and determination. It demonstrates his ability to breathe new life into vehicles and push the boundaries of what is possible.

## A Hobby Built on Freedom, Passion, and Purpose



Perhaps the most inspiring aspect of Bill’s story is his simple yet powerful answer when asked why he undertakes these projects: “Because I can. It’s a hobby made for everyone and anyone.”

This statement captures the essence of his philosophy. His passion is not driven by profit, prestige, or obligation—but by pure enjoyment and personal fulfilment. It reflects the freedom that comes with pursuing something you love.

Bill’s collection stands as proof that hobbies can become lifelong journeys, shape identity and bring meaning to everyday life.

### Inspiring the Next Generation

For the Young Bloods, the visit was more than an educational experience, it was a source of inspiration. They witnessed firsthand what dedication, curiosity, and passion can achieve over time. Bill’s story demonstrates that great accomplishments often begin with small moments - helping in a garage, fixing a simple engine, or buying a first car.

His collection is not just a display of vehicles, but a timeline of personal growth, technical mastery, and unwavering passion.

### Conclusion

The visit to Bill Sales’ car collection offered the Young Bloods a rare glimpse into the life of a true automotive enthusiast. With 29 cars spanning over 50 years of history, nearly four decades of engineering experience, and a passion rooted in childhood memories, Bill represents the spirit of automotive preservation and innovation.

His journey reminds us that passion, when nurtured over time, can lead to extraordinary accomplishments. More importantly, it shows that hobbies, no matter how simple they begin, can grow into lifelong legacies that inspire others for generations to come.

We’d like to say thank you very much to Bill Sales and Bill Flynn for everything.





# YOUNG BLOODS

## YB INITIATIVE

Revving up the next generation of classic car enthusiasts



### WHAT IS YOUNG BLOODS?

YB is more than a club – it's a movement. We're sparking passion and passing the torch of classic motoring to the next generation, Whether you're into engine restoration or just love the lines of a vintage ride, this is your space to learn, build, and belong.



### OUR MISSION

- ♥ Ignite lifelong passion for classic cars
- 🔧 Teach hands-on restoration & mechanical skills
- 🔗 Build bridges with POMC & the greater car community



### WHO CAN JOIN?

#### AGE FOCUS: 18-30

Younger? Join select events with adult supervision.

Older? You're welcome too – just know this is *youth-led* and youth-focused.



### WHERE IT ALL HAPPENS

#### POMC Clubhouse

- Restoration Projects
- Technical Workshops
- Strategy & Planning Sessions

### READY TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT?

Whether you're hands-on or just curious, YB is your starting line. Come for the cars – stay for the community.

The Young Bloods initiative was launched at POMC on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2025.