

THE RAVAGES OF TIME

I have noticed of late that I am getting a little fragile around the edges but it seems I am not the only sufferer. A friend decided to clean a 1949 Mark VI cylinder block using the services of [Redi-Strip in Sydney](#).

They did an excellent job it seems guaranteeing that no original metal would be removed or damaged by their process. All rust however departs. My friend, idly tapping around the block in the manner of the old railway fettler who used to tap railway wheels, noticed a rather dull response from the front of the block – normally covered by the timing case cover. There was a slight crack in the area evidenced by some residual cleaning solution leaching out. A bit harder tapping produced the following.



He actually broke open the hole you see in the picture which revealed that the casting thickness had been reduced by corrosion to 1-2 mm! Originally they would have been 4-5mm of metal.

The other matter of interest was the amount of casting sand which had remained in the block after 57 years!

