



CentreSpoke

April 2017



Allan and Aileen's rare Cortina Utility

Motor Enthusiasts Club of Central Australia

Incorporating The Alice Springs Vintage & Veteran Car Club

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MECCA Committee 2016/2017

PRESIDENT:	Col Jarrett
VICE PRESIDENT:	John Hubner
TREASURER:	John Syme
SECRETARY:	Michele Thompson
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Brian Eather
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Russ Driver Mal Trull
VEHICLE REGISTRAR:	Michele Thomson
EDITOR:	Stuart Gear
WEB MASTER:	Frank Allan
HISTORIAN:	Stuart Gear
CRANKHANDLE:	Alvina Spears/
CLUB HOSTESS:	Marie Gear
LIFE MEMBERS:	Dave Simpson, Tony Bullock



SHARE THE PASSION





Presidents Report

March 2017

We have had two meetings so far this year and both have had a good roll up of members and vehicles. Vicki and I were away for the breakfast at Hungry Jacks in February, but from all reports it went very well. At the March meeting we had two new members introduce themselves, both gave a very good account of their motoring interests. After morning tea and a look at the vehicles in the parking lot, we had a run to Emily and Jessie Gaps this was followed by an enjoyable lunch at the Star of Alice Restaurant.

The club will be busy for the rest of the year, with a lot of community events and runs planned. We have been offered the opportunity by Bunnings to put on a vehicle display at their Easter open night on the 6th of April, this is a good opportunity to promote the club. Please give me a call if you can bring your vehicle.

The April run has been changed to take advantage of the open day at the Desert Park. Even though this weekend has been cooler, there is no guarantee that it will stay this way, so we have decided to have our meeting and then have a run to the Desert Park. The run to Standley Chasm can get hot so we will postpone this run and have it in the cooler months.

We have attended our first Red Centre Nat's meeting, it looks like it will be another good event. They are after volunteers and are offering the same deal as entrants with free passes for the weekend, I believe this includes the free buddy pass the same as entrants. If you can volunteer it would be appreciated, this has proven to be a good event for the town, give me a call if you need more information. The vintage and classic bike section will be in a pavilion this year, so that will make it easier for us.

Keep an eye out for emails and flyers as we update and inform members of coming events. To enhance our communication process, John Hubner has set up a Face Book page for the club.

Safe Motoring.
Col Jarrett.





The Sec's Desk

MECCA

MOTOR ENTHUSIAST CLUB CENTRAL AUSTRALIA inc MEETING SUNDAY MARCH 12TH, 2017

Meeting Opened: 9.10 am

Present: Karl Smith, Vicki Jarrett, Garry Bentley, Allan Campbell, Trevor Hyman, Neville Heness, Megan Heness, Lisa Heness, Stuart Gear, Peter Hilliard, Brian Eather, John Hubner, John Syme, Col Jarrett, Michele Thompson, Raelene Beale, John Cooper, Philippe Friedel, Marie Gear, Jarod & Katy Bentvelzen and family, Fred Twohig, Jasmina Muhic, Mark Hangan and Mal Trull

Apologies: Ivan & Heather Bain, Mike Thompson, Russ & Liz Driver, Tim Schubert, Derek Poolier, Wally & Alvina Spears.

Visitors: Sunder Madabushi and Paul Guerin

Previous Minutes: No minutes were taken at the Hungry Jack's Breakfast

Treasurer's Report:

John Syme presented the report.

Moved: John Hubner Seconded: Raelene Beale All: Carried

Correspondence In:

Alice Springs Show Society Invitation for this years show at an earlybird price
Helena Napolitana Leaving Alice Springs and VW for sale
John Palamountain: Emailed new contact details in preparation for his
retirement from Shannon's.
Commonwealth Bank Statement
Australia Post PO Box renewal
Bike Torque
Crank Torque
Austin Journals
Auto Torque
Gawler Car Club Journal
Steering Column

President's Report:

Christmas Party – A very big thank you to Raelene and John for being such wonderful hosts. Everyone had a great time!

Facebook Page John Hubner has offered to set up a facebook page – accepted

Website Jasmina Muhic has offered to take on the website – accepted

Continued on next page

This will allow Frank Allan to resign from the position. Frank has been running it from his new home in South Australia. The website's annual fee is due too.

Thank you to John and Jasmina for taking on these sites. The two social media outlets will compliment each other and distribute information regarding our club to members and the public.

Club Shirts Colin has spoken with Workwear and they can produce the shirts for us. More information to follow.

Name Tags: Some members do not have them, Col to organise name tags.

MVR The MVR has provided a list of all vehicles registered as being members of MECCA. Colin will follow up as there are some that are non members. He feels some may be from a Darwin club with a similar name.

R42 Regulations Colin asked that all members adhere to the conditions provided by registering your vehicle with an R42 form. Remember to carry your log book. Registrations are being checked by police to ensure they comply. The regulations for Club Registration can be found on form R2.

Sale of Vehicles If you are selling a vehicle that has Club plates, the only way it can retain the plates is, if it is sold to another club member. Otherwise, the plates must be handed back in to MVR and normal registration applied.

Red CentreNats We have been invited to attend a meeting on the 20th March/

Alice Springs Show A good show of hands as to who would be interested in displaying their vehicle at the show. Colin will follow up with Shannon's to register a site. Shannon's has a new Rep, Robert Berry. Fred asked if stationary engines can be included. The stationary engines will be invited; the owners must be financial members of the club so they are covered by our insurance. They were invited last year but Ian Ross was working out of town at the time.

Bangtail Muster Colin will register the club to join the parade in May.

National Motoring Day 21st May, Brian will arrange with the Aviation Museum for us to hold a BBQ lunch there again this year. Always a popular event.

Open Day Shannon's have suggested as there are a lot of vehicles in town that they have insured but their owners are not members of a club, that an Open Day may be a great way to let them know about MECCA. They would be able to send out invitations to their customers to attend. The National Motoring Day would be the perfect opportunity.

Transport Hall of Fame Annual dinner will be held in August. We have been asked to run the bar again for them. This is always a good fundraiser for our club.

Continued on next page

Minutes continued

Red CentreNats September – Club members get a discounted registration fee if they enter early.

Fred Twohig The Velocet Rally was held in Traralgon in November last year. A very enjoyable event apart from having to travel through the centre of Melbourne to attend. This year's event will be held in Warick, Queensland in October.

Club Trailer Fred made a suggestion that maybe some members aren't taking their vehicles on club runs due to the fear of breakdowns. He suggests that we look at using some of our funds to invest in a club trailer to accompany our runs.

Karl Smith offered to carry spares for members if they are limited for space.

Garry Bentley suggested that we have a Register of Members with information about their vehicles including photographs. Everyone agreed this would be a great idea. Stuart has already created something similar for his vehicles and could work on a template for everyone to fill in. One of Colin's vehicles will be the test one for the next newsletter. Jasmina suggested that we get a quote for the photographs to be taken but it was decided to hold off on this. Then we found out about our new member, Sunder!

Sunder Madabushi provided some information about himself and his vehicle, a Royal Enfield Bullet. He still has another vehicle in India. Sunder has had a great deal of experience in tours and rallies through India and the Himalaya's and is a very experienced rider. He is also a very experienced photographer! A suggestion was made that the National Motoring Day may be the perfect opportunity for a photo shoot of vehicles.

Paul Guerin gave a run down on how he came to own the vehicle he has wanted since he was a child - 1965 Lotus Cortina. Paul purchased the vehicle from a collector in Sydney but has also been lucky enough to track down the former owner in America. This man spent 17 years restoring the vehicle. Allan's eyes lit up when he heard about it and he and Paul are sure to have a lot to talk about.

Allan Campbell will be travelling to attend the Cortina Nationals in Albury this year.

Mal Trull is in town until April and the will be spending 3 months overseas before moving to Stratford in Victoria.

Today's Run : Emily and Jessie Gap and the Star of Alice for lunch

Meeting Closed: 10.00 am



MORGAN MOTOR COMPANY

1970 Ford Falcon XY GT

Owners Vicki & Colin Jarrett



This XY Ford Falcon GT was purchased by the current owners Vicki and Colin Jarrett in April 1981, they are the second owners of the vehicle. The previous owner was the building firm Helm Constructions, their main office was in Adelaide South Australia; they also had a branch in Alice Springs.

The vehicle was originally purchased in August 1971, from the Bowden Ford Company Adelaide. As the vehicle was a company car, they ordered a base model, with manual radio and no stripes. Ford offered a delete stripe option when the vehicles were ordered from the factory, I believe the stripes were removed by the dealership at the time of purchase, which was a common request by companies and some owners at the time.

The vehicle spent a number of years in Adelaide and when it was time to be replaced, the Alice Springs manager of the company requested that the vehicle be transferred to him, I believe this happened in the mid 1970's. I first spotted the vehicle in early 1979 and only saw it a couple of times prior to purchasing it. In 1981 the vehicle was advertised for sale, as it turned out the vehicle was located at the end of our street which was a surprise to me. After some negotiations we purchased the vehicle in April 1981. At the time of purchase the mileage was just over 63,000 miles, the speedo reading now is just over 72,000 miles.

The vehicle is in original unrestored condition, the paint work is eighty to ninety percent original, we have only carried out routine maintenance on the brakes, tires, cooling and fuel systems.

When we first purchased the vehicle it was on full registration and was transferred to Club Registration when it reached thirty years old. We regularly take the vehicle on club runs and display it at car shows.

Manufacture Date: 12/ 1970.

Engine: 351 Cleveland V8.

Gearbox: 4 Speed.

Paint: Monza Green.

Trim: Saddle Brown.

Humour

Adverts That You Will Never See Again.

The Subaru GL Coupe. Like a spirited woman who yearns to be tamed.

Perhaps you're a woman who gets life by the ruff. You live life your way. And it shows... in the clothes you wear... in the accents you have... and in the car you drive.

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Stuck. Again. The weightless lines of the steel prime body make you feel... With front wheel drive this car's different. A step ahead of the ordinary. One in line. Let her enable you to feel the softness of her thighs & see how her feet work. The most graceful beauty the harbours of her kindred automobiles. The GL Coupe is ready.

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Lead her to the open road. This is where the Subaru GL Coupe wants to be. Unleash the full-time power of her 1400cc. sophisticated engine. Control the Coupe's every movement - her every twist and turn - as you take hold of her back and guide steering. She'll never let you down with her fast wheel independent suspension. She'll carry you away to the peaks to the end line of her faith.

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After the excitement of a busy day, you'll find that you're not alone in your search for a good night's sleep. You'll find that you're not alone in your search for a good night's sleep. You'll find that you're not alone in your search for a good night's sleep.

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LLOYD MANUFACTURING CO.
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SO THE HARDER A WIFE WORKS, THE CUTER SHE LOOKS!



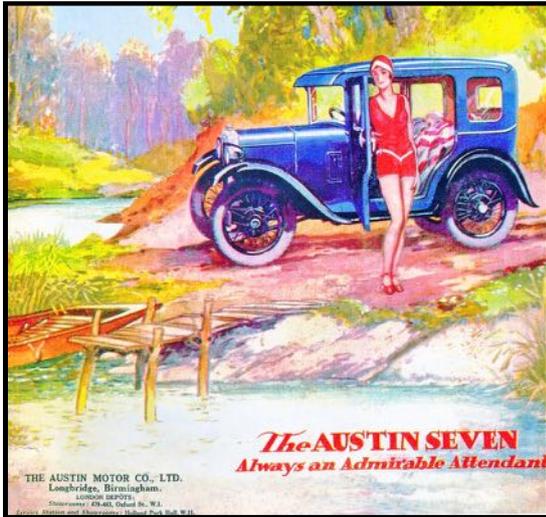
LOOK, HONEY, YOU SEEM TO THRIVE ON COOKING, CLEANING AND DUSTING AND I'M ALL TICKERED OUT BY CLOSING TIME. WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

VITAMINS, DINKINS! I ALWAYS GET MY VITAMINS



Kellogg's PEP
Vitamins for pep! **PEP** for vitamins!*

AUSTIN SEVEN & AUSTIN SWALLOW



A 1920s Austin advertisement depicting a scantily dressed young lady to enhance their sales.



The Swallow Sidecar Company's assembly line at Coventry assembling Austin Seven Swallows.



The Swallow Sidecar Company's assembly line, assembling Swallow sidecars.

Austin Seven chassis were delivered to the Swallow Company works where they were bodied with upmarket coachwork. The cars were attractive little machines albeit a bit heavier for the little Austin motor to cope with. The bodies were framed in timber and covered in sheet metal as was most British body work in those days.

These cars are well sought after today, fetching large amounts of money. Time has not been kind to these vehicles as they contained a lot of timber and many have been lost for ever.



Mal Trull's Austin Seven on the left and an Austin Swallow on the right. They also built a roadster version.

Austin Swallows were introduced in 1927, selling for GB£175. compared to the factory built Austin Seven GB£145. 2583 units were built, and 147 are known to exist today.





Historian's Page

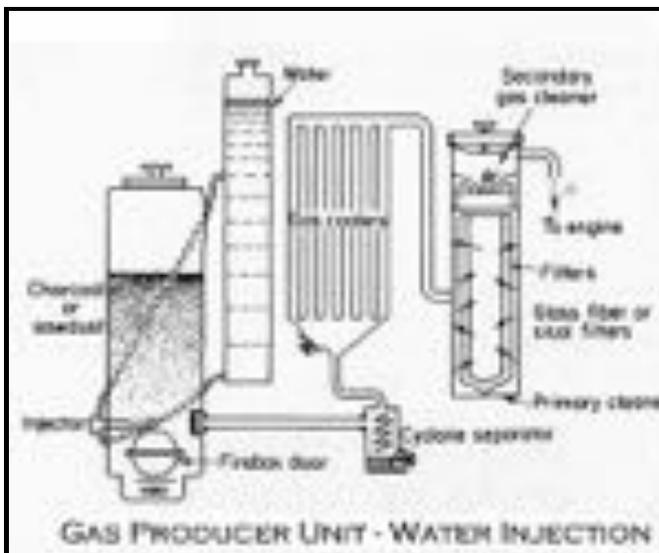
Wood Gas Producers As Used On Vehicles During WW 2

As petrol was rationed during this period and for many years after the war, charcoal burning **gas producers** were developed and fitted to vehicles. They were a big cumbersome piece of apparatus, fitted to the rear, front mudguard or trailed behind the vehicle.

You certainly would not wear your best suit and white shirt whilst driving the car as the burner required the ashes to be raked out frequently and the hopper filled with a fresh charge of charcoal, covering the operator in black soot. Power was very low with a top speed of 15-20 MPH (24-32 kms/hr) very hard to maintain and hill climbing ability severely compromised.



A car in Melbourne outside an underground toilet, fitted with a rear mounted gas producer



BASIC COMPONENTS

HOPPER: (or producer or retort) which is an upright container in which the charcoal is stored and burnt.

RADIATOR: to cool the hot gases.

FILTER: (or scrubber) to clean the gas before it enters the engine.

The gas given off is carbon monoxide and the vehicle required modifications to support operation on this gas.

DANGERS: carbon monoxide poisoning.



Bits & Pieces

Next Meeting, Sunday The 9th of April



- Free Park entry all day
- Talks and presentations throughout the day
- Kids activity zone with face painting and science area
- Food stalls
- Celebrate with the cutting of the Birthday cake
- Late afternoon entertainment with Ted Egan AO and local bands

We will meet as per usual at the Masonic hall, followed by MECCA pie and a cuppa. before driving to the Desert Park.



To those who ride pushies, such as Fred Twohig. I snapped this racy machine in the York Motor museum WA, but you still have to pedal the contraption.

Regards ed

Husbands are husbands

A man was sitting reading his papers when his wife hit him round the head with a frying pan.

'What was that for?' the man asked. The wife replied,

'That was for the piece of paper with the name Jenny on it that I found in your pants pocket'.

The man then said 'When I was at the races last week, Jenny was the name of the horse I bet on.' The wife apologized and went on with the housework.

Three days later the man is watching TV when his wife bashes him on the head with an even bigger frying pan, knocking him unconscious. Upon re-gaining consciousness the man asked why she had hit again.

Wife replied. 'Your horse phoned'



MECCA Club appreciates the help given to us by Shannons.
Please support those that support us.

