

Motor Enthusiasts Club of Central Australia
Incorporating Alice Springs Vintage & Veteran Car Club Inc

CENTRE SPOKE

September 2010



PO Box 1506 Alice Springs NT 0871
Email address: mecca@mecca.asn.au
Web Site: www.mecca.asn.au

M.E.C.C.A. COMMITTEE 2010/2011

PRESIDENT:	Mal Trull	8952 2169
VICE PRESIDENT:	Col Jarrett	8952 6261
TREASURER:	Dieter Hentschel	8953 1369
SECRETARY:	Derek Poolier	8953 3051
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Brian Eather	8952 4091
EDITOR:	Frank Allan	8953 7789
HISTORIAN:	Stuart Gear	8952 4645
CRANKHANDLE:	Alvina Spears	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Trevor Hyman, Heather Trimper, Laurie Trimper	
LIFE MEMBER:	Dave Simpson	
CLUB HOSTESS:	Marie Gear	

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

MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA
MINUTES OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
12 SEPT 2010

Meeting was opened at 0917hrs by the Vice President Mr Col Jarrett at the Masonic Hall, Allchurch St, Alice Springs.

Attendees:

D Poolier, C Jarrett, D Hentschel, J Cole, M Thompson, S Gear, C Carpenter, F Allan F Twohig, B Eather, P Hillyard, F Twohig, M Seidel, V Jarrett M Gear.

Apologies were received from:

H and L Trimper, M and S Trull, A and W Spears, R Howson, T Jacobs, C Scott, A Kennedy and A Campbell.

The Vice President welcomed visitors: Neil, and Ivan Bain.

PURPOSE OF MEETING.

The VP advised the members that the meeting had been called to approve the Annual Financial report, which had previously been presented at the AGM.

Moved Frank Allan that the Annual Report be accepted, seconded E Carpenter, carried.

The VP called for any general business, there was none.

The VP closed the meeting at 0925.

Signed..... C Jarrett VP

Signed..... D Poolier Secretary

Date: 12 Sep 2010

MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
12 SEPT 2010

Meeting opened at 0926hrs by the vice president Mr Col Jarrett at the Masonic Hall, Allchurch St. Alice Springs.

Attendees:

D Poolier, C Jarrett, D Hentschel, J Cole, M Thompson, S Gear, C Carpenter, F Allan, F Twohig, B Eather, P Hillyard, F Twohig, M Seidel, V Jarrett, M Gear.

Apologies were received from:

H and L Trimper, M and S Trull, A and W Spears, R Howson, T Jacobs, C Scott, A Kennedy and A Campbell.

VP welcomed the visitors,

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. Moved F Allan, seconded Brian Eather, carried.

Business arising from the minutes: nil.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Mal Trull will be away for about 3 months on holiday, Col Jarrett (VP) will stand in for him.
- Col reported on a recent committee meeting that decided to put the constitution of the club on the web site as well as the names of the office bearers. Meetings will now be held on the second Sunday of the month, this appears to be a better date to accommodate attendance. The February meeting will be held at Hungry Jacks. Stuart Gear will now manage the Overlander badges. Centre Spoke will be now on the web site. Secretary to post to Tony Bullock.
- Secretary to compile a list of clubs for distribution of Centre Spoke.
- The calendar of events for the club will also be available on the web site.
- Xmas party to be at the Blue Moon restraint, Undoolya Road, 6 Nov at 6pm, to be preceded by drinks and nibbles on the banks of the Todd. Members to be reminded that it is BYOG.
- Stuart Gear presented two OL badges and certificates this month.
- Shannon's Motor Show will be combined with Show and Shine and be on Mother's day in 2011.
- VP spoke on Club Registration system, now one year old.
- Club vehicle on club rego, should not be used for hire or reward.
- Frank Allan spoke on the updated web site.

Meeting close at 1037, members repaired to the kitchen for MECCA pie prior to departing for Simpson's Gap and lunch.

Signed..... C Jarrett VP

Signed..... D Poolier Secretary

Date: 12 Sep 2010

MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15 AUGUST 2010

The AGM of the above Club was opened at 1015hrs at the Masonic Hall, Allchurch Street, Alice Springs by the President Fred Twohig.

PRESENT were Stuart Gear, Alvina Spears, Wally Spears, Vicky Jarrett, Heather Trimper, Laurie Trimper, Kylie Foley, Trevor Hyman, Mike Thomson, Ivan Bain, Merv Mathews, Marie Gear, Don McInnes, Ian Cunningham, Dieter Hentschel, Colin Jarrett, Chips Carpenter, Frank Allan, Fred Twohig, Sandy Trull, and Mal Trull.

APOLOGIES were received from Chris and Coralie Boyd, Chris Scott, John Cooper, Raelene Beale, Derek Poolier, Brian Eather, Melissa Scott, Sue Carpenter, Marilyn Allan, Robert Howson, Aileen Kennedy, and Allan Campbell.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

The acting secretary Stuart Gear, presented the minutes of the previous AGM. Moved by Heather Trimper and seconded by Dieter Hentschel that they be accepted as a true and correct record. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Report was presented and read by the President, Fred Twohig. (as per attached to the hard copy).

TREASURERS REPORT

The treasurer, Frank Allan presented the treasurers report (as per attached to this hard copy). Moved that this report be accepted by Mike Thomson and seconded by Chips Carpenter. Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President now declared all positions vacant and called for nominations for the following:

PRESIDENT

Chips Carpenter nominated Mal Trull, seconded by Frank Allan. Col Jarrett declined a nomination. Mal Trull accepted the nomination and was elected unopposed.

VICE PRESIDENT

Mal Trull nominated Col Jarrett, seconded by Trevor Hyman. Col Jarrett accepted the nomination and was elected unopposed.

SECRETARY

Stuart Gear nominated Derek Poolier, seconded by Marie Gear. Derek Poolier had indicated before the meeting that he would be willing to accept the nomination and was elected unopposed.

TREASURER

Col Jarrett nominated Dieter Hentschel, seconded by Frank Allan. Dieter Hentschel accepted the nomination and was elected unopposed.

PUBLIC OFFICER

Frank Allan nominated Brian Eather, seconded by Mal Trull. Brian Eather indicated before the meeting that he would be willing to accept the nomination and was elected unopposed.

NEWS LETTER EDITOR

Chips Carpenter nominated Frank Allan, seconded by Heather Trimper. Frank Allan accepted the nomination and was elected unopposed.

CRANK HANDLE

Chips Carpenter nominated Marie Gear, seconded by Alvina Spears. Marie Gear accepted the nomination and was elected.

HISTORIAN

Col Jarrett nominated Stuart Gear, seconded by Mal Trull. Stuart Gear accepted the nomination and was elected.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members were elected to the committee.
Heather Trimper, nominated by Chips Carpenter, seconded by Mike Thomson, carried.
Laurie Trimper, nominated by Alvina Spears, seconded by Marie Gear, carried.
Trevor Hyman, nominated by Col Jarrett, seconded by Dieter Hentschel, carried.

CLUB HOSTESS

Marie Gear was unanimously appointed the Club Hostess with the recipe of the famous MECCA pie.
Meeting closed at 1115hrs by the new President Mal Trull

M Trull (President).....Date

S Gear (Act. Secretary).....Date

MECCA 2010/2011 Calendar

Date	Run/ Meeting	Director	What to bring etc.	
17th October	09.00 at Masonic Hall	General Meeting followed by a run to Standley Chasm for lunch.	Heather Trimper	BYO Lunch or buy some from the Kiosk at Standley Chasm.
6th November	17.00 at river for 18.00	Christmas Function at Blue Moon Restaurant, Undoolya Rd	Col, Dieter, Heather	Club will subsidize costs. This is BYO. More details T.B.A.
December	No Meeting in December.			Have a Merry Christmas and Happy and safe New Year
2011				
January	No Meeting			
13th February	09.00 at Hungry Jacks	Breakfast Meeting at Hungry Jacks	Mal Trull	Our first meeting for the year. MECCA will buy you breakfast
13th March	09.00 at Masonic Hall	Meeting and Local Mystery Run	Col Jarret	Details T.B.A.
10th April	09.00 at Masonic Hall	Meeting and run to Camel Farm for lunch	Dieter Hentschel	BYO Lunch or lunch can be purchased at the Camel Farm.
2nd May	T.B.A	Mayday Parade MECCA will enter as a group.	Mal Trull	This is not a club run but you are urged to take part in the parade as it will be the 50th Year of the Bangtail Muster.
15th May	10.00 at Beaufort North Stuart Highway.	National Motoring Day. Club open day and vehicle display at Connellan Hangar Araluen Precinct.	Col Jarret & Brian Eather	Mecca will provide a sausage sizzle lunch at the Hangar
12th, 13th, 14th June		Long Weekend, Queens Birthday, FINKE Desert Race, Top Half Folk Festival at Glen Helen		No run in June due to Finke long weekend. Feel free to organise a casual event and invite others.
10th July	09.00 at Mobil Larapinta	Day run to Glen Helen	Laurie Trimper	Casual run to Glen Helen for lunch. BYO lunch or buy it there.
14th August	10.00 at Masonic Hall	Annual General Meeting and BBQ	Sandy Trull & committee	MECCA will provide BBQ lunch
27th August	Date to be confirmed	RTHoF	Mal Trull	Club to help out at bar for dinner.
11th September to be Confirmed	09.00 at Masonic Hall	Meeting and run to Tropic of Capricorn and Telegraph Station		
9th October	09.00 at Masonic Hall	Meeting and run	T.B.A.	
13th November	09.00 at Masonic Hall	Meeting and run	T.B.A.	

Spotlight

Each month we hope to put the 'Spotlight' on one of our Club members to give you a bit of their life story, with an emphasis on their vehicles which they have owned.

We will start with some of the longer-serving members as this will give newer members an insight into the history of the Club and some of the 'senior' members.

Please start thinking about your history and assembling some photos of your old and current vehicles.

Anyone willing to step up for next month, please contact Frank on 8953 7789 or via email at phantom.frank@gmail.com. We can scan photos if you don't have digital versions of your memories.

Thought For The Day

You can't have everything – where would you put it?

(Probably doesn't apply to Allan Campbell's shed)

Overlander Badge Presentations

Earlier this month we had presentations of Overlander Badges to Frank Braden and Kevin Stack. They drove their 1929 Chryslers from Melbourne, through Alice to Darwin and were on their way back home when they received the badges. Here are pictures of their vehicles.



HOW TO COPE WITH A TRIP TO AUSTRALIA'S CENTRE

The trip to Alice Springs in the centre of Australia is popular but it's unfortunate that a sealed road has not been built from Port Augusta to "the Alice," a distance of 860 miles.

Despite this the RACV touring section is receiving many inquiries from people who wish to make the journey, because it is "different" to other journeys.

A colored picture of the road between Alice Springs and Hermannsburg Mission, 82 miles south west of Alice Springs, is featured on the front page of this Journal.

Here is some advice on the run prepared by the RACV Touring Department. A survey of the trip has been made by RACV officials and strip maps can be obtained from the Touring Department.

Taken generally the road from Port Augusta to Alice Springs, 860 m., under normal conditions offers reasonably good travelling and, apart from a delay in the event of a breakdown, does not involve any risk providing the motorist takes normal precautions associated with "outback" driving.

If the vehicle to be used is small or light it would not generally be regarded as suitable unless its driver is prepared to exercise every caution. All vehicles attempting this journey must be in first-class mechanical condition, as no assistance is available in the event of a breakdown. A good ground clearance is also a desirable feature.

What to take

The following list of spare parts could also be carried and, although they may not be used during the journey, they are normally required during the life of

the vehicle and would therefore not be wasted:

● Fan belt, top and bottom radiator hoses, condenser, coil.

● Spare tyre and tube (in addition to normal spare wheel).

● Two spark plugs, fuses and valves (tube), normal tools such as spanners, etc., wheel brace, tyre levers, puncture outfit.

● Pump and jack should be standard equipment.

The longest distance on the journey between Port Augusta and Alice Springs where petrol is not available is 215 miles between Port Augusta and Kingoonya. Sufficient fuel to cover this distance at least should be carried as well as a reserve gallonage equal to 120 miles which would be desirable in the event of puncturing the main tank.

Water

Water supplies are available at some bore for drinking but at least two gallons per person should be carried with a minimum of four gallons per vehicle. Provisions are obtainable at Kingoonya, Coober Pedy and Kulgera, however, fresh meat, bread, butter, etc., may sometimes be unobtainable. As the price of goods rises steadily as one proceeds north from Port Augusta, it is well for the motorist to be self-sufficient as much as possible.

At Kingoonya and Coober Pedy meals and accommodation may be obtained but apart from these two settlements no other facilities are available and the traveller must there-

fore be prepared to camp out on the trip.

When travelling on this route motorists should be particularly careful at the numerous water courses (normally dry) which in some cases become hazards with their sharp approaches and sometimes loose sandy beds.

From the Woodroffe turn-off until descending from the high country in the vicinity of Lake Hart, the road traverses a stony plateau. Slow speeds are necessary as flying stones from fast driven cars could result in cut tyres or a punctured petrol tank. Once leaving the high country, the track through Coonambine winds through open scrub and in patches is sandy, but no undue difficulties should be encountered.

Salt pans

Good speed can be maintained on to Kingoonya over open country but, in the event of rain the well defined detours over high ground should be used to avoid salt pans.

After leaving The Twins the alternative route through McDonnell Peak and Ingepool should be followed, the direct road is not recommended.

Reports concerning the condition of the Port Augusta to Alice Springs road are received monthly at the RACV Touring Department and the latest report received states that between Port Augusta and Pimba the gravel and earth surface is in mainly fair to good repair.

● See page 27.

Road to Alice— From P. 11

Similar conditions will also be encountered beyond Pimba to Kingoonya; however, a bad sandy section about 10 miles long exists in the vicinity of Lake Hart.

From Kingoonya to Kulgera a mainly graded earth surface in fair condition exists. However, on many sections a fine dust,

commonly known as bull dust, will be encountered.

For the remaining section of the journey to Alice Springs there is a graded earth surface with some potholes. Road works have commenced south of Alice Springs and it is expected that a gravel road will be completed between the South Australian border and Alice Springs later this year.

From the Victorian RoyalAuto July 1957. This was their travel feature article.



MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA (MECCA)

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Postal Address: PO Box 1506, Alice Springs NT 0871

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Web Site: www.mecca.asn.au



Overlander Badge History & Particulars

The members of the **Alice Springs Vintage & veteran Car Club** originally created this very special and much sought after award in the mid 1970s in recognition of the many Veteran, Vintage and Classic motor vehicles whose drivers took up the challenge to travel from interstate to visit Alice Springs. Back in those days the roads to Alice were not the wide, smooth roads we have today but were narrow, undulating strips of bitumen with rough shoulders and causeways where we now have all weather bridges. The Stuart Highway from Port Augusta to the Northern Territory border was still a rough boulder strewn, bull dust and corrugated dirt track which tested the endurance of man and his machine. The sealing of this part of the Stuart Highway was not completed until 1987. The award was appropriately named the **OVERLANDER BADGE** to commemorate the vast distances covered on these roads, the confidence or blind faith the owners had in their vehicles, and the courage of the drivers and passengers who travelled in them to reach Alice Springs. In July 1996 when the **Motor Enthusiasts Club of Central Australia** was formed and incorporated the **Alice Springs Vintage & Veteran Car Club** it was decided that a new category be established to award vehicles from 1947 to a rolling date of 30 years old that make the journey to Alice Springs. This is called the **Special Interest** category.

Today the **OVERLANDER BADGE** is available to anyone who is confident enough to take up the challenge to drive their Veteran, Vintage, Classic or Special Interest vehicle or motor cycle either to or from Alice Springs over an approved distance. The Badge can only be awarded to the nominated driver and vehicle which must arrive at or depart from Alice Springs and cover the specified distance under the vehicles own power.

THE APPROVED DISTANCES FOR THE FOUR CATEGORIES ARE:

Veteran:	Up to 1919	500 kilometres
Vintage:	1920 to 1930	1500 kilometres
Classic:	1931 to 1946	3000 kilometres
Special Interest:	1947 to 30 years old	3000 kilometres

The badges are 90mm wide by 100mm high and differ in design to distinguish the different categories:

Veteran Badge:	White tyre, red spokes, silver grey background and yellow scroll.
Vintage Badge:	Black tyre, green spokes. Silver grey background and yellow scroll.
Classic:	Black tyre, orange spokes. Silver grey background and yellow scroll.
Special Interest:	Black tyre, blue spokes. Silver grey background and yellow scroll.

TO APPLY for the badge, contact your club secretary, or apply directly to the MECCA Club secretary. An application form will be sent to you or your club secretary, as required. This form is self-explanatory and must be returned to the MECCA club secretary on completion of the road kilometre requirements. Fee for the badge and engraving is \$75.00. We recommend payment in advance, ie., upon application, to ensure engraving is completed in time for presentation at the completion of your trip.

ALL APPLICANTS, whether arriving from interstate or originating in Alice Springs, must submit reasonable proof of their completion of the qualifying road kilometres in order to be awarded the Overland Badge. This is typically in the form of fuel receipts from the service stations along the route.

AFTER APPROVAL by the Overlander Badge committee, the badge applicable to your vehicle will be duly inscribed with the applicants name and vehicle and registered in our files. The badge will then be posted to you or your club secretary's postal address, as specified. If you have completed your required kilometres upon arrival in Alice Springs, MECCA can present the badge to the applicant in person.

For further inquiries email us, or drop us a line at the above addresses.



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VETERAN



VINTAGE



CLASSIC



SPECIAL INTEREST

Overlander Badge Application

I HEREBY MAKE APPLICATION TO RECEIVE THE **OVERLANDER BADGE** FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORY
VETERAN, VINTAGE, CLASSIC, SPECIAL INTEREST, Please circle.

YOUR DETAILS

Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone Nos. Home: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Where should we mail the badge to: _____

VEHICLE DETAILS

YEAR _____ MAKE _____ MODEL _____

BODY STYLE _____ No OF CYLINDERS _____ TYPE OF MOTOR _____

PROPOSED ROUTE

START: _____ FINISH: _____

VIA: _____

START DATE: _____ FINISH DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NOTE: Please enclose the fee of \$75.00 with the application and allow time for the engraving.

