

# ***Motor Enthusiasts Club of Central Australia***

**Incorporating Alice Springs Vintage & Veteran Car Club Inc**

## **CENTRE SPOKE**

*February 2011*



**PO Box 1506 Alice Springs NT 0871**  
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**Web Site: [www.mecca.asn.au](http://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.

## MECCA 2011 Calendar

<b>Date</b>		<b>Run/ Meeting</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>What to bring etc.</b>
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 Beaurepaires North Stuart Highway.	<b>National Motoring Day. Club open day and vehicle display at Connellan Hangar Araluen Precinct.</b>	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	<b>Date to be confirmed</b>	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.	

## MECCA President's Report January 2011

Well hello everyone and welcome to 2011. I hope the New Year finds you all well and that Santa brought you the presents you were hoping for.

Sandy and I returned from our tripping around the country in time for a quite Christmas with family and granddaughters. We managed to avoid all the terrible flooding although it was a fairly wet trip which tested my skills in finding and repairing leaks in old caravans.

By all reports things have been going along well with MECCA. I did manage to get to the Road Transport Hall of fame reunion dinner before we drove out of town. This is always a good night and once again was well supported by our members helping out at the bar. It was interesting to see all the trucks etc. making their way back to all points of Australia as we travelled. The Christmas Dinner sounds like it was a bit different at the quirky Blue Moon Restaurant. Thanks to Dieter and Heather for organising that.

As you may well know our acting secretary Stuart Gear has been on the sick list. He was flown to Adelaide a few days before Christmas with a heart problem and ended having a triple bypass operation. He and Marie spent Christmas and New-year in Adelaide due to this. However, Stuart is now home and on the road to recovery. We all know Stuart has a big heart. Take it easy and look after yourself Stuart!! ("There was nothing wrong with me until I went to the doctor")

The calendar for 2011 is now being fine tuned, our first event being the breakfast at Hungry Jacks on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Please come

along and refresh your MECCA friendships over breakfast.

In March Col Jarrett has a Mystery Run in store for us which I am sure will be a worthwhile destination.

More details in coming events.

I hope this year is a successful for MECCA. Remember if you are a Committee Member it is our job to keep the club vibrant and attractive for members. The committee however needs input from the members in doing this.

Remember our long suffering Editor. This is probably one of the most difficult jobs on the committee made even more so if no one submits anything to print. If you see anything that might be of interest to the other members shoot it off to Frank and he can put it in the Centrespoke.

The Centrespoke is issued mainly in electronic format now. If you need a printed copy please let Frank Allan or me know and we will make one available for you. Remember you can download one from our website at [www.mecca.asn.au](http://www.mecca.asn.au)

This year we have decided to combine the monthly meeting and a run, or other event on the second Sunday of each month. This means it will only take up one Sunday a month for MECCA runs. You can attend either meeting and run or just the meeting or run, if that makes sense.





However feel free if on another day you feel like going for a drive with some friends let the committee know and we can make it an informal club run so that you are covered for Club Rego.

This year in May is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bangtail Muster. In the distant past the Car Club used to always participate in this event and I have some great old photos of



this. (a few are included here) I would like to support this once again particularly being the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

If you have any suggestions for events please do not hesitate to contact the committee, after all it is your club and we are working for you.

Happy Motoring  
Mal.

## **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](mailto:phantom.frank@gmail.com). We can scan photos if you don't have digital versions of your memories.

## **Coming Events February**

### **Breakfast at Hungry Jack's**

This month's event is our first for the year.

Meet at Hungry Jack's car park Stuart Highway at 09.00 on Sunday 13 February. This is a safe off street car park in view of the venue, a great place to show off your old vehicle.

MECCA will pickup the cost of breakfast this morning. If you have any special diet requirements which can't be supplied by Hungry Jacks you will need to bring your own breakfast.

There is no run after this meeting, just a natter over breakfast.

***See you there.***

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### ***Scary bike ride through Moscow***

*if you want to see a crazy idiot riding through Moscow peak traffic, check out this link:  
[http://www.angelfire.com/ak2/intelligencerreport/high\\_speed.html](http://www.angelfire.com/ak2/intelligencerreport/high_speed.html)*

## Newcastle to Alice Springs 2010

### Driving a 1954 FJ Utility

Departed Newcastle on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010, travelled through Denman, Dubbo, Wilcannia, to Cobar for the first overnight. The FJ ran well with no problems. Departed Cobar for Broken Hill with the intention of overnighting in Peterbourough, unfortunately this was not to be the case.

About 38kms out of Broken Hill I felt a wobble in the back end of the FJ followed by a crash and grinding noise. To my surprise the rear left hand tyre passed me on the right hand side and ran down the road on the centre line. The car skated off the road and came to a stop, thankfully sunny side up. The left hand rear brakes were ground away with the backing plate and U-bolt nuts, what a mess.



Fortunately I was within in mobile range and rang the NRMA roadside service, so a recovery truck was sent out to retrieve the FJ.



On arrival in Broken Hill a local and his wife turned up to check out the ute, they suggested parking it in their driveway as Scott had FJs.



In front of Scott and Janet's house ready to go.  
(27/2/2010)

Next morning I returned to Scott and Janet's house to find Scott and Damo (Scott's son) had made a list of parts required. A friend of Scott's, Hal (who is a keen FJ guy) helped out with parts also. With no more than a request to replace the parts used, by mid afternoon the day after the mishap I was on the road again.



South Australian Border at Yunta (28/2/2010)

On arrival in Alice Springs I called my insurance company (Shannons of course) and arranged to have the FJ rear quarter panels repaired. Within a couple of weeks the repairs were completed to a very high standard by Alice Paint and Panel.



Woomera Town Park (1/3/2010)



NT Border (2/3/2010)



Kulgera Roadhouse (2/3/2010)

Joe and I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the run that started at Mobil Larapinta and ended at the nursery. The FJ and I also attended the Show 'n' Shine at the Casino and I must thank the MECCA members for making us feel very welcome. By the middle of June my stay in Alice had come to an end so it was off home to Newcastle hopefully

with no problems. I was not to be so lucky as just north of Marla Bore I received a blow out on the right hand rear. I replaced it with my spare but the tyre and rim had been damaged during the broken axle incident near Broken Hill. I had forgotten to repair them when I was in Alice.



Finke River flowing (2/3/2010)



Alice Springs (2/3/2010)

I made it into Marla at a reduced rate of speed but waited two days for some suitable tyres to be sent up from Adelaide.

So it was towards the end of June that I finally arrived home in Newcastle after having driven 5558klm. The FJ averaged about 32.5m/g which I thought was pretty good. I guess looking back a broken axle and one blow out in over five and half thousand K's really wasn't that bad. I actually made some new friends and once again the old car clan proved that there are a lot of very good people in this world.

Hopefully in 2011 I'll be back in Alice for a couple of months (though probably not driving the FJ) so I'm hoping to hook up with the MECCA folks again.

Thanks for making my stay in Alice that much better.  
Dave Sullivan