

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

CENTRE SPOKE

September 2011



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:	Laurie Trimper	
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Brian Eather	8952 4091
EDITOR:	Allan Campbell	89534573
WEB MASTER:	Frank Allan	8953 7789
HISTORIAN:	Stuart Gear	8952 4645
CRANKHANDLE:	Alvina Spears	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Heather Trimper, Derek Poolier & Marcus Seidel	
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 2012 Calendar

11 Mar

General Meeting @ 9am at the Masonic Hall
followed by Home Movies & High Tea

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8 Apr

General Meeting @ 9am at the Masonic Hall
followed by coffee at venue TBA

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7 May

May Day Parade- location/timing TBA
followed by Lunch at the Desert Park

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20 May (note the date has changed from previous Calendar)

National Motoring Day @10am at Beaurepaires, Nth Stuart Hwy Club Run
ending with Open Day and display at Connellan Hangar, Araluen Club will
provide sausage sizzle lunch

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12-14 Jun

Queen's Birthday/FINKE Desert Race
no Club event due to Finke, but feel free to organize something and invite people
along

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6-7 Jul

Alice Springs Show Vehicle display in conjunction with Shannons

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14 Jul

Day Run to Glen Helen @ 9am at Mobil Larapinta
BYO lunch or buy it there.

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12 Aug

General Meeting @ 10am at the Masonic Hall followed by Lunch run to Aileron
- details TBA

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25 Aug (date to be confirmed)

Road Transport Hall of Fame Dinner Our major fundraiser - Club members run
the bar for the event

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9 Sep

Annual General Meeting @ 10am at the Masonic Hall
followed by BBQ

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14 Oct

General Meeting @ 9am at Olive Pink
followed by morning tea

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11 Nov

Christmas Function details TBA

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New MECCA Mailing List

Hopefully everyone has received an invitation to join the MECCA members mailing list. This is a new feature offered by the ISP that hosts the club website and, once we iron out a few bugs (ie the webmaster not reading the instructions carefully enough), this should be an easy way to get information out to all Club members and interested parties.

It allows you to change your details if you are changing email addresses, without relying on getting the correct new address to the Committee and waiting for the changes to be made. It also provides one place to maintain email addresses, so we don't have multiple people with multiple different partially complete lists.

If you didn't receive an invitation to join the list, you can subscribe by going to:

<http://mecca.asn.au/mailman/listinfo/Members>

President's Report March 2012

Well here we are into March already. I hope that 2012 is panning out all right for everyone.

Our first event for the year the "Hungry Jacks Breakfast" was well attended once again with a hearty breakfast and a chinwag enjoyed by all.

Marie and Sandy have been busy organising the "High Tea and Home Movies" event for March. This will follow the General Meeting.

We have some old Club home movies and an old doco of central Australia to keep us amused. If you have any old Alice Springs movies or Club related photos please contact either myself or Stuart Gear and we will try and screen them.

Stuart Gear has been working very hard on the MK V Jaguar and has all but completed the painting. He has done an excellent job any bit as good if not better than you get from a high class paint shop. I am looking forward to seeing it on the road once again. As long as I have known Stuart it has been "under restoration". Great job Stuart!!

We are heading off the weekend after our next meeting to attend the "**R & S Series Valiant National Rally**" in Perth. This year is the 50th anniversary of Valiant in Australia. The R Series was released in February 1962 and S Series later the same year. The National Rally should have actually been last year but it was postponed to coincide with the 50th anniversary.

Anyway enough about us.

The committee once again has a full year of activities planned. But please if you have any ideas for runs etc. pass them on to us.

And don't forget our long suffering Editor. If you want a newsletter he needs some copy!!

Happy Motoring
Mal

If anyone has any articles or info for our Centre Spoke please forward them to the editor at al_campbellau@bigpond.com

The collaborations of Herbert Austin

Below is a brief snapshot of some of the work of Herbert Austin and the Austin Motor Company. There is plenty of more information available on the internet.

Herbert Austin, founder of the Austin Motor Company, started his career as manager at Woolesley Tool and Motor Car Company. He was also the first Baron Austin of Longbridge. During the First World War, Austin had government contracts from artillery to aircraft. The company grew to have an employee base of 22,000. The company went into receivership in 1921, but then Herbert Austin got together with Ernest Payton and Carl Engelback to rebuild the company. They started making small cars because the British tax code taxed the cars according to engine size. Engine tax on an Austin 7 was 39.00 per year, where a Ford Model-A was 120.00 per year. Baby Austin was built under licence by other companies including BMW and Datsun.

During the Second World War, as well as the cars they made trucks and Lancaster bombers.

Austin and Nuffield Organisation formed the British Motor Company in 1952. That is also when they joined with Donald Healey to produce Austin-Healey sports cars. Additionally, in the same year, they signed an agreement with Nissan Motor Company to have Austins made in Japan. Nissan developed engines for Datsuns using Austin patents.

The Mini was launched in 1959. Austin called it Austin Seven. Morris Minor was the winner in customer sales. British Leyland decided to just use the name Mini in 1970 instead of producing and marketing separately.

For further listings of some of the cars, military vehicles, taxis, ambulances, commercial vehicles, and aircraft Austin built, go to:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austin_Motor_Company

Information gathered from Wikipedia. Story idea planted by Mal.