



CentreSpoke

November /December 2014



Members of the Wagga Wagga Club with their Overlander Badges.

Motor Enthusiasts Club of Central Australia

Incorporating The Alice Springs Vintage & Veteran Car Club

PO Box 1506, Alice Springs. NT. 0871

Email: mecca@mecca.asn.au

Web site: www.mecca.asn.au

MECCA Committee 2014/2015

PRESIDENT:	Col Jarrett
VICE PRESIDENT:	Tim Schubert
TREASURER:	Ron Kern
SECRETARY:	Laurie Trimper
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Brian Eather
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Dieter Hentschel Heather Trimper, ,
VEHICLE REGISTRAR:	Derek Poolier
EDITOR:	Mal Trull
WEB MASTER:	Frank Allan
HISTORIAN:	Stuart Gear
CRANKHANDLE:	Alvina Spears/ Heather Trimper
LIFE MEMBER:	Dave Simpson



SHARE THE PASSION

MECCA

MOTOR ENTHUSIAST CLUB CENTRAL AUSTRALIA inc

Calendar 2014 / 2015

2014

November:

9th: 9am meeting.

End of year Christmas lunch.at “Alice in the Territory”

December: No Events.

2015:

January: No events.

February:

8th: 9am. Breakfast at Hungry Jacks.



MECCA.
Calendar 2015.

March:

8th: 9am Meeting. Run TBA.

April:

12th: 9am Meeting. Run TBA.

May:

4th: Bangtail Muster Parade.

10th: 9am Meeting. Mothers Day run TBA.

17th: National Motoring Day. Run and BBQ.

June:

14th: 9am Meeting. Run TBA.

July:

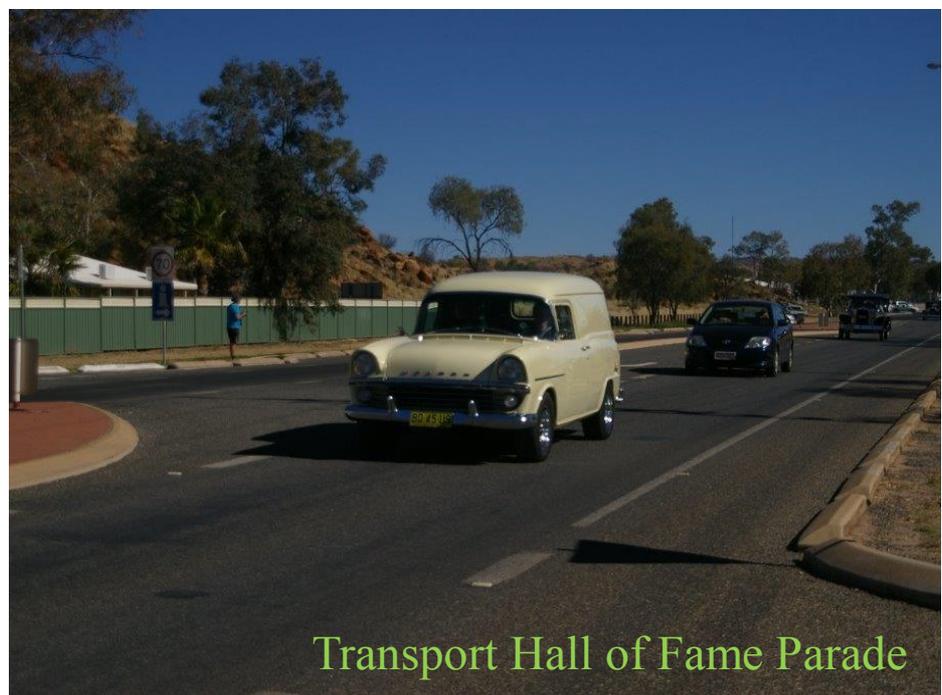
12th: 9am Meeting. Run TBA.

August:

9th: 9am Meeting followed by **AGM.**

September:

13th: 9am Meeting. Run TBA.



PRESIDENTS REPORT

OCTOBER 2014.

The Club has been busy over the last couple of months with monthly meetings and runs as well as catching up with other car clubs that have passed through town, we also manned the bar for the National Road Transport Hall of Fame.

On the 29th of August we held a presentation of Overland Badges to members of the Wagga Wagga Veteran and Vintage Motoring Club inc.

The 30th of August was the National Road Transport Hall of Fame Reunion Dinner. We had ten members of MECCA help with table preparation, manning the bar and clean up at the end of the night. The night went well and the live band was quite good. I have talked to Liz Martin and the organisers of the event and they have all asked me to pass on a thank you to MECCA, they were very pleased with our efforts.

The **September** meeting only had a few members present, we had a lot of apologies from members with other commitments on the day. We had the run with three cars and two bikes to Standley Chasm and had an enjoyable lunch.

There was a good roll up to the **October** meeting, followed by a short run to the Transport museum for morning tea.

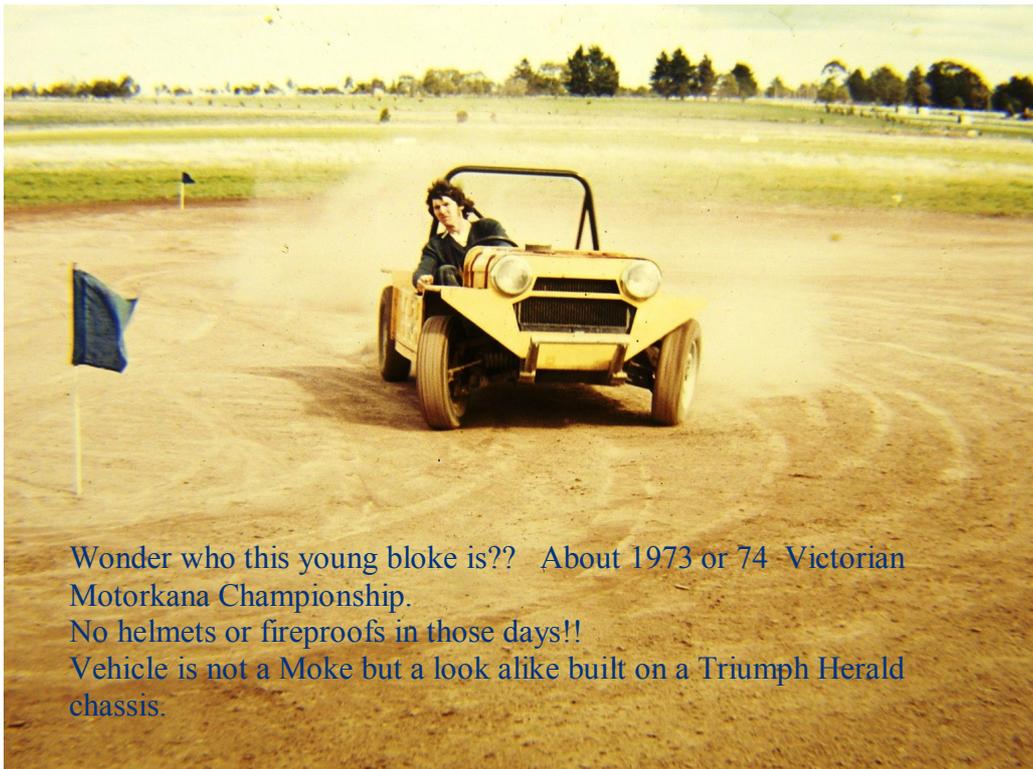
Wally and Alvina have been in Melbourne and are due back soon. Wally has had a hip replacement and is doing very well after the operation. It looks like he will be better than ever on his return. We should see them at the next meeting.

Our next meeting is on the 9th of November. We will have refreshments and cake after the meeting and then the Christmas lunch at Alice in The Territory on Stephens Road. They have looked after us for the last few years and their price is quite reasonable.

I am still representing the club on the steering committee for the Red Centre Nationals that are proposed for the week following the 2015 Road Transport Hall of Fame Reunion. The official launch is expected shortly.

Safe Motoring,
Colin Jarrett.

Minutes of October General Meeting



Wonder who this young bloke is?? About 1973 or 74 Victorian Motorkana Championship.

No helmets or fireproofs in those days!!

Vehicle is not a Moke but a look alike built on a Triumph Herald chassis.

End of Year Christmas Function

This years end of year function will be held on Sunday November 9th at the:
“Alice in The Territory” Restaurant.

This is the same venue as last year. Cost will be \$42.00 per person.

**Please advise if you will be attending by Friday 31st Oct by
emailing to.**

committee@mecca.asn.au or Laurie mmtjvrx@hotmail.com

Money can be paid to our treasurer Ron Kern via the club bank account :

Motor Enthusiasts Club BSB 065-900
 Account 00900920

Don't forget the Kris Kringle present. Boys for boys, Girls for girls approx. \$10 value.

I have included the menu below:



Could this be Ivan??

MECCA Christmas Buffet Menu

Soup

Creamy Thai Pumpkin

All served with freshly baked crusty bread rolls.

Salads

Roasted Pumpkin, spinach, crumbled fetta and toasted pine nuts with reduction of balsamic vinaigrette**

Chicken Hawaiian salad: roasted chicken salad with apple, pineapple, bell peppers, and curry aioli.**

Greek style fresh salad with capsicums, cucumber, tomatoes, Spanish onions, olives, feta cheese and drizzled with herb Greek dressing (V).

Caesar Salad of crispy cos lettuce, grated eggs, crispy bacon, anchovies, croutons and caesar dressing.

Mains

Baked local barramundi fillets flavoured with cumin and finished with a lemon hollandaise sauce.**

Roast Chicken with rosemary and red wine demi glaze

Herb crusted Beef Roast with a seeded mustard demi glaze

Honey and pineapple glazed ham on the bone

Crunchy saffron potatoes**

Baked sweet potato and pumpkin**

Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

Steamed beans with Roasted Almond Flakes and Butter **

Selection of Condiments

Dessert

House made mixed berry cheese cake

Fresh tropical fruit salad marinated in pineapple juice with fresh mint.**

Traditional House made Christmas pudding with warm brandy custard

Baby Meringues topped with fresh whipped cream and fresh summer fruits

All buffets served with
Fresh whipped cream.**
Warm brandy custard.



OVERLANDER BADGES.

The Wagga Wagga Veteran and Vintage Motoring Club was recently in Alice Springs. Having travelled from Wagga in NSW to Alice Springs via Ayers Rock, they met the requirements for the Overlander Badge.

The group had an enjoyable time however they did have a few unfortunate setbacks. Originally they were to set out with seven vintage and classic vehicles plus support vehicles.

1929 Buick. Wayne and Janelle Clout.

1926 Oldsmobile. Ian and Chris Holgate.

1928 Chev. Carol and Ray Harrison.

1928 Chev. Jim and Chris Hatton.

1927 Hupmobile. Gerald and Colleen Rainbird.

1936 Chrysler. Rob Lehevar

1960 Holden panel van. Craig and Sue Kelly.

Unfortunately the night before they set off the Buick developed an engine problem so they decided to leave it home, much to the disappointment of the owners Wayne and Janelle Clout, so they took their late model vehicle as support.

All went well until they arrived at Curtin Springs, the Oldsmobile developed a diff problem. A few phone calls to the NRMA, Stuart Gear and myself and we had arranged for the vehicle to be dropped off at Wally and Alvina's workshop. Russ Driver was called and seeing it was a vintage vehicle took his personal enclosed trailer to pick up the vehicle, the owners were very happy to receive this type of service so far from home. Russ dropped the vehicle off at the Spears workshop and they got to work on the diff. Within two days they had spare parts flown up from Wagga, new bearings fitted and the vehicle was mobile again. The rest of the vehicles arrived and carried out services and minor repairs in the Spears workshop, Wally was in his element helping out. The Hupmobile had a leaking

water pump and Dallas Spears repaired a wheel on one of the Chev's. The group thanked the Spears family for their help and the use of their workshop, it definitely kept Wally occupied for a few days, it was good to see the workshop full of vehicles.

A presentation of the Overlander Badges was held at AJ's Tavern. There was a good roll up of people from the Wagga club and Mecca. Stuart and Marie were in Darwin so Fred Twohig gave a very informative talk on the history of the Overlander Badge and presented the Badges. Unfortunately the 1929 Buick did not qualify and the Overlander Badge has been held until Wayne and Janelle can drive the Buick to Alice Springs.

The Wagga club participated in the National Road Transport Hall of Fame reunion parade through town and had a good look around Alice Springs prior to the return trip to Wagga

Thank you to all of the people that made this an enjoyable event.

Col Jarrett.



SHARE THE PASSION

Thanks once again to Laurie from The A7 Cub SA

Champion Spark Plugs



For some reason when I was a boy I always thought that Champion spark plugs were British. I don't know why. Maybe it was something to do with the British Bulldog spirit or maybe the current British motorcycle and car champions that were regularly publicised. But I since found out that they are in fact American (of French heritage). Albert Champion was a French push bike racing rider. He won the Paris –Roubaix road race in 1899. With the winning from this and other races, and to avoid seven years army conscription, Albert went to America to continue racing cycles. He did well enough to buy a racing car and went motor racing. The bug had bit. However as was often the case in the early days Champion was badly injured in a crash and spent many months in hospital. The injuries left him with one leg shorter than the other. He returned to France to raise more funds. He had the cranks on his cycle altered to compensate for the shorter leg. He won the 50 km track race in Paris and in 1904 became national motor pace champion. But the racing had re-opened the old injuries and he was again hospitalised. His bike racing days were over. He returned to America and saw an opening in the ignition and spark plug industry. He established the Champion Spark Plug Company in Boston. In 1908, following a disagreement with his backers he left the company and moved to Flint, Michigan. Here he founded the Champion Ignition Company in 1908. His first office was on the top floor of the Buick factory. Following a legal challenge by his former company a year later the name was changed to the AC Spark Plug company (after his initials). To this day both names survive as AC Delco (GM products) and Champion spark plugs sold by Federal-Mogul.

On a personal note, Champion was married when he went to America but the marriage did not last. In 1922 at age 44 he married a show girl. In 1927, he collapsed and died while escorting his wife to the dance floor of the Hotel Meurice in Paris. He was being honoured for making the spark plugs that were used by Charles Lindberg when he crossed the Atlantic alone that year. Albert Champion is buried in Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. Now why did I think he was British?

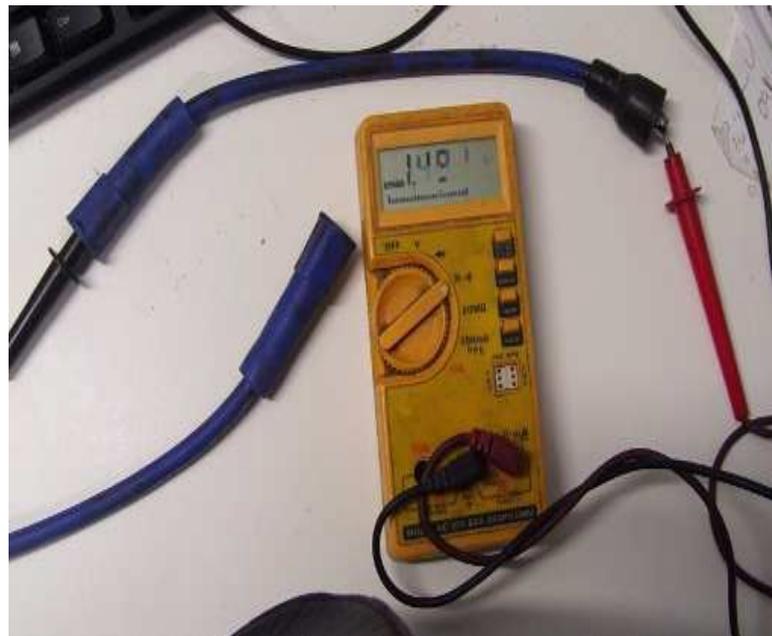
Resistance is useless

Thanks to (Gary Zimmer) R & S Valiant Club Victoria.

I mostly use those blue silicon spark plug leads on my cars, for no other reason

than these are common in stores. They do suppress the static on the radio, but since I have an AM radio without a speaker, then I basically drive to work talking to myself. These leads work fine when new, but as time goes by they deteriorate, and harden. Eventually the signs appear that the engine misses or misbehaves, and the logical response (for me at least) is to replace parts until the problem goes away. This happened to my Valiant recently, and on further investigation I found that the points gap was almost zero. So I installed a new set, and the car still ran rough. I replaced the spark plugs, and that actually made it worse.

The reason is simple. When these silicon leads are new the resistance should be around 500 ohms, as measured with a multimeter. When old, and affected by heat, their resistance increases to 2000 Ohms or more, and this reduces the voltage of the spark at the plug. Replacing points or plugs involves bending the leads, and this cracks them internally, further increasing resistance. So the easy solution is if something is not right, take off a few leads and measure their resistance.



Getting Older

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anaesthesia, he asked to speak to his son.

"Yes, Dad , what is it?"

"Don't be nervous, son; do your best, and just remember:

“If it doesn't go well, if something happens to me?”

“Your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife!!”

Two blokes, one old, one young, are pushing their carts around Woolworths when they collide.

The old bloke says to the young bloke,

"Sorry about that. I'm looking for my wife, and I wasn't paying attention to where I was going."

The young bloke says, "That's OK,

I'm looking for my wife, too....

I can't find her and I'm getting a little worried."

The old bloke says, "Well, maybe I can help you find her... what does she look like?"

The young bloke says:

"Well, she is 27 yrs. old, tall, brown hair, blue eyes, long legs and very bux-om. She is wearing short shorts and a brief top." "What does your wife look like?"

To which the old bloke says:



**“Doesn’t matter,
--- let's look for yours.”**



HISTORIAN'S PAGE

THE MASTERS GAMES

The 2014 Masters Games having just ended I thought it appropriate to reflect on the Club's past involvement in providing vehicles for the games opening and closing ceremonies.

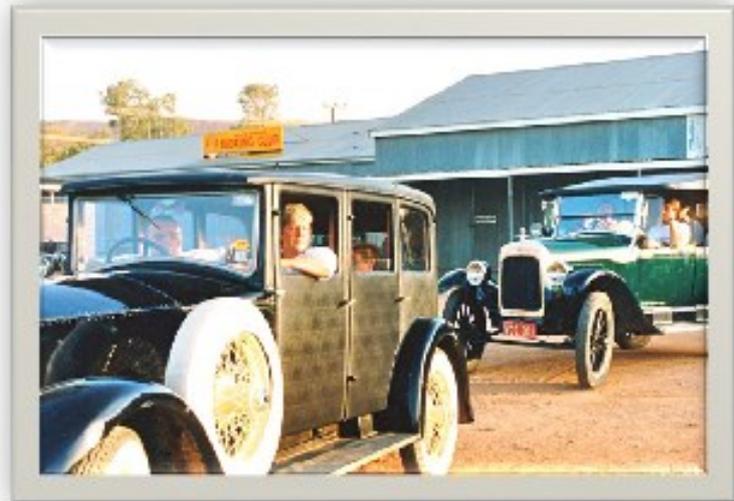
The vehicles pictured below were all from the Stuart Auto Museum of whom the owners, Peter and Jenny Mostram were members of the Club at this time. Peter and Jenny encouraged the use of the museum vehicles to keep them in good running order. The collection was originally put together by Club member, Dave Simpson and housed in Leichardt Terrace. He later built the Stuart Auto Museum in Palm Circuit as a permanent home for his collection and later sold the museum including vehicles to the Mostrams. The premises are now the Windmill Restaurant.

ARRIVING AT TRAEGER PARK FOR THE OPENING CEREMONY 1986

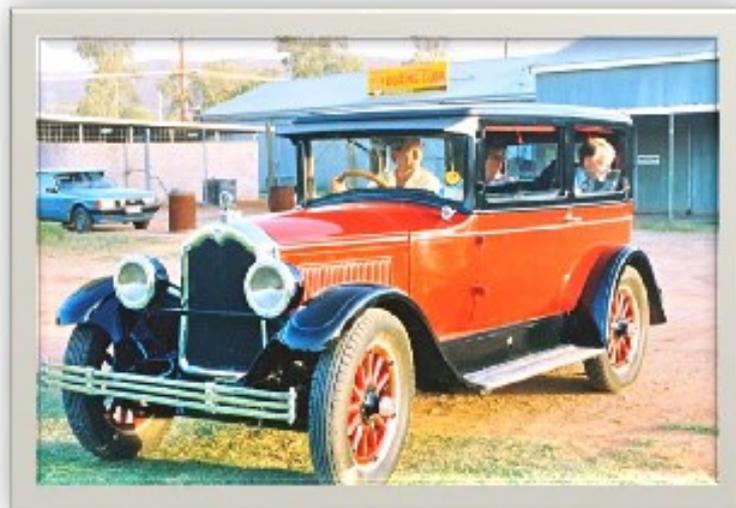
The picture on the right shows the fabric covered Rolls Royce being driven by *Wulf Pfau* with swimmer *Dawn Frazer* in the front seat.

In the green Chevrolet following, driven by *Stuart Gear* were *Kurt Pfau* in the front and Chief Minister *Steve Hatton* and the Mayor of Alice Springs *Leslie Oldfield* in the rear seat.

The vehicle following behind the green Chev in the picture below is a 2 door Buick, driven by *Trevor Jacobs*, with *Lorraine Pfau* and *Les Pilton* in the rear seat.



NOTE: "CLUB" refers to The Alice Springs Vintage & Veteran Car Club or Motor Enthusiasts Club of Central Australia.



Happy motoring

Stuart

