



CentreSpoke

December 2016



Raelene's Triumph Herald

Motor Enthusiasts Club of Central Australia

Incorporating The Alice Springs Vintage & Veteran Car Club

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MECCA Committee 2016/2017

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VICE PRESIDENT:	John Hubner
TREASURER:	John Syme
SECRETARY:	Michele Thompson
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HISTORIAN:	Stuart Gear
CRANKHANDLE:	Alvina Spears/
CLUB HOSTESS:	Marie Gear
LIFE MEMBERS:	Dave Simpson, Tony Bullock



Seasons

Greetings

I hope you all have a great Christmas and new year celebrations and may your travels be trouble free and safe.

*See you at Hungry Jack's on the 12th Feb 17
The Ed*



SHARE THE PASSION



President's Report

December 2016

We are near the end of 2016 and as with every year we will not have any official meetings during December and January. Our first meeting back will be Hungry Jacks on the 12th of February 2017, a flyer will be sent out prior to the event.

There was a very good roll up to the Christmas party held at the home of John and Raelene. On behalf of all our members, a big thank you to John and Raelene for inviting us to their home. A special thank you to Raelene for organizing a great event and the members that assisted on the day. A number of members made up salads and desserts that went down very well, all of these delights were homemade which made them that much nicer. The main meal and vegetables were cooked in Weber's and tasted great, all of the food was top class. Thank you every one for an enjoyable night.

John Hubner and myself attended the final debrief for the Red Centre Nat's 2016 in November, the organizer's were very happy with the event and thanked all of the club's for their support. Preparation for the 2017 Red Centre Nat's have started and they have already received a number of entries.

All of the best wishes for Christmas and the new year. For those travelling away, take care and enjoy the break.

Safe Motoring.

Col Jarrett.



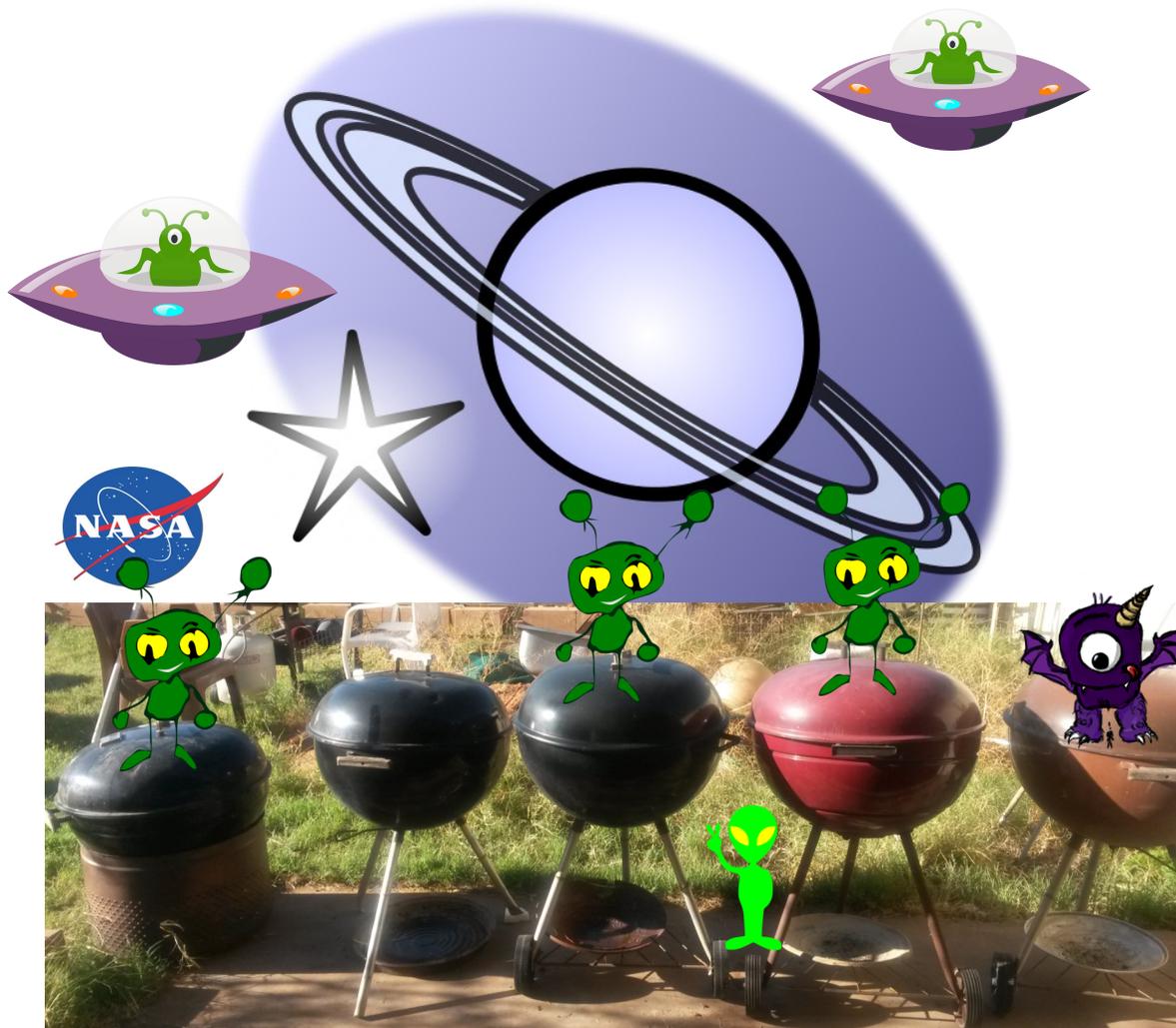


The Sec's Desk

Nothing to Report

Pix From The Christmas Dinner





What are they? Are they space ships from some far off galaxy transporting little green men to mingle with our community, or are they left over lunar landing modules from the moon expeditions in the 60s that have found their way into the community through army disposals.

No, all wrong. They have a more Earthly origin. They were Weber's in the back yard of Raelene and John's home which Raelene used to cook the meat for our Christmas dinner. Watch out for the Purple People Eater.



A Letter From Tony Bullock



Hi to all MECCA Club Members in Alice Springs and surrounds. I hope you all are keeping well. Both Linda and I wish you all a happy and Cheerful Xmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. We have now established our selves here in the sunshine coast highlands after a good six months of coming to terms with the move after 30 years in the Alice and around 42 years in the Territory. We are coming up to 2 years in mid November this year. After both Linda and I working consistently and making work more or less our lives for 40 years it is good to be able to do some of our wish list activities which was impossible in the past. Bringing up a family and making ends meet, well you know what I mean, as I guess most of you know about that with your own lives.

Some of the things we are fortunate to achieve on our semi retirement life style were to take a trip to LA to the Pomona swap meet in late July. We were in LA for a week. We hired a GMC pickup with our Nephew and went flat out buying parts and purchasing some vehicles. Pomona is almost too big to get round all the stalls and cars. They estimated over 2000 cars turned up on the day. There were some beautiful examples. I was surprised to see so many Mexican people there with their cars and stalls. We purchased a 1957 Chevy Apache, 1957 Chevy, 1962 Chevy Nova and a Mercury Park Lane which are based at my Nephews Factory in Noosa. It was a great trip accept for the fact I had to go to work as soon as we landed back home at Pinkenbar where I was requested to assist with an audit for a company. Linda and I have been to a lot of car shows over here where I am proud to say the Thunderbird has been rewarded with recognitions three times at different events.

I will send some various pictures to Stuart where he will be able to pick what he thinks may be appropriate for the news letter showing some of the extensive work I have performed on the bird in the past six months. I am aiming to bring the car as close as I can to originality. It won't be concourse but it will be a very good example of an original 1955 Ford Thunderbird. I now have power steering and power brakes. With parts I have acquired in the States I am aiming to have power seats and power windows installed soon. Some of these parts were not reproduced but I was able to acquire some from a private collector in LA. Due to the honour given to me buy the club as a life member I feel the need to contribute something for the news letter from time to time. By showing my appreciation which I am very happy to do, I hope you find what I have written interesting and entertaining. I guess when one starts to write something it is difficult to know what the best is. There is so much I could write about such as car shows and where they are held and how many cars turn up etc or perhaps meeting people who have great workshops here in the Sunshine coast or even some of the towns I have visited here in the past 2 years, but for now the above will have to do.

Once again to all, "compliments of the season" and drive safely. Remember take the approach that everybody on the road is a nutter and drive with that in mind which will help to keep you safe.

Cheers Tony and Linda Bullock



*Tony & Linda's
Thunderbird*

Christmas Humour



1

Car manufacturers have often used some of nature's most exotic creatures when naming their products. Match up the following:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. Ford | A. Snipe |
| 2. Chevrolet | B. Hornet |
| 3. Hudson | C. Manta |
| 4. Singer | D. Wildcat |
| 5. Studebaker | E. Mustang |
| 6. Humber | F. Stag |
| 7. AC | G. Impala |
| 8. Opel | H. Gazelle |
| 9. Triumph | I. Cobra |
| 10. Buick | J. Lark |

Answers on page 9

2

Some engine names. These are just as colourful as the model names of the cars. There are 9 American and 1 British. Match up the following:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Blue Flame Six | A. Studebaker |
| 2. Nailhead | B. Plymouth |
| 3. Cobra Jet | C. Oldsmobile |
| 4. Firedome | D. Chevrolet |
| 5. Blue Streak Six | E. Buick |
| 6. Skybolt Six | F. De Soto |
| 7. Golden Commando | G. Ford |
| 8. Ram Rod | H. Austin |
| 9. Super Duty 455 | I. Jeep |
| 10. Tornado | J. Pontiac |

Answers on page 9

Judge (to defendant) "and what is the charge against you?"

Defendant: "Doing my Christmas shopping early, your honour."

Judge: "Well that's hardly a crime. How early were you doing it?"

Defendant: "About three hours before the shop opened your honour."

*The good food and family instill
A feeling of peace and goodwill
But for all your good cheer
To last through the year
Will depend on your credit card bill*



So do I get a tracking number or anything.

And Now For A Bit Of Culture From The Historian

Auld Lang Syne

the world's most sung song

Stuart Gear.

AS the festive season is nearly upon us I thought I would take a closer look at this intriguing song most of us sing at midnight on the 31st of December each year.

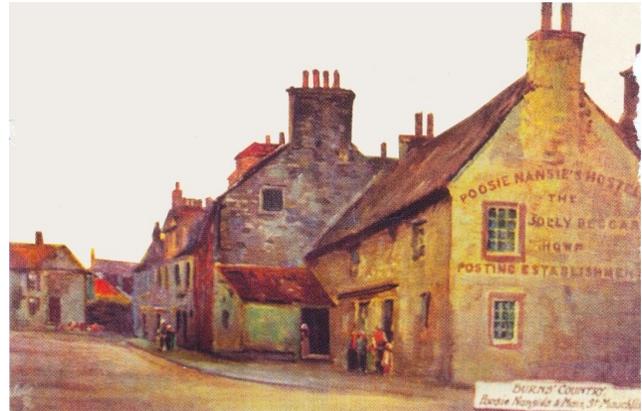
Undoubtedly, millions of people throughout the world will sing *Auld Lang Syne* to see out 2016 and usher in 2017. Few will know all the words and fewer still will have any idea what they mean, or the origins of the song. The words are attributed to the famous Scottish poet Robert Burns (1759-1796) who apparently picked up the tune and some of the words from an old man singing in the dialect of south-west Scotland. *Auld Lang Syne* has become the international song of departure, and is sung by more people than any other.

The possibility is that Burns only wrote two of the five verses, but as he did with many other Scottish songs, he modified them and in some cases purified them.

It seems likely that the song was first sung either in Poesie Nancy's Tavern in Mauchline, or the Bachelors Club in Tarbolton located a few miles away.

The song was initially centred on two young men who drifted apart after their early schooling and who, after re-uniting, reminisced about their earlier times together and the kindly folk they met.

Conviviality was, for Burns, one of the most important virtues. For him *Auld Lang Syne* is a concrete expression of his love of mankind and his ideal of International Brotherhood.



Poesie Nansie's, Mauchline. In Burns' day this was a lodging house for tramps kept by George Gibson and his wife Agnes ---- 'Poesie Nansie'

Below: Bachelors Club, Tarbolton. Founded in 1780 by Robert Burns, his brother Gilbert and some other young men of the district. It is now preserved as a museum.

What of the song and what does it all mean? Apparently *Auld Lang Syne* is an old expression used by the Scots for centuries and translates into modern English as *times gone by* or *old long ago*. Once this is known the meaning of the song becomes much clearer.

For me as a kid growing up and going to school in country Victoria north of Ballarat, I first became aware of *Auld Lang Syne* (or Old Lang's Iron as us kids thought it was), when it was sung at the conclusion of all school concerts and social functions held at the local hall. After a sumptuous supper, that country women are renowned for providing and coffee and tea that was made with real cow's milk, a circle was formed, hands joined and the routine performed as outlined on the next page, after which everybody departed for home, bellies full and happy.

To us primary school kids who spoke only "Strine" some of the words made no sense at all and sailed over our heads like the first Sputnik, as they probably did most other people. For example, the 3rd line in the last verse: "*And we'll tak a right guid willie-waught*", which translates as: *And we will take a goodwill drink (of ale)*. This was beyond the comprehension of our young minds.

But in my teenage years when I learned to play the bagpipes, *Auld Lang Syne* was a compulsory "to learn" piece of music along with *Scotland The Brave* etc. I didn't need to know the words, just blow.

The routine is to form a circle in which everyone is equidistant from the centre, demonstrating they are all equal. At the beginning of the song the participants stand with hands by their sides, symbolising they are relative strangers then all join hands.

.When they come to the last verse, 'And there's a hand my trusty frier (friend)...', each participant then extends his or her right hand of fellowship to the person on his left, then the left hand to the person on his or her right.

This symbolises two things: firstly, that they are crossing their hearts; secondly, that they automatically form a smaller and more intimate circle of friendship. Now they have an unbroken chain of participants who are close friends.

Below are the traditional words and the modern English translation The verses do get shifted around and are not always sung in the order as below.

Auld Lang Syne
Traditional



Auld Lang Syne
Modern English
Translation

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne*

*Chorus: - For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne.*

*And surely ye'll be your pint stowp!
And surely i'll be mine!
And we'll tak a cup o; kindness yet
For auld lang syne!*

*We twa hae run about the braes,
And pou'd the gowans fine;
But we've wander'd mony a weary fit'
Sin' auld lang syne.*

*We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,
Frae morning sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin' auld lang syne.*

*And there's a hand, my trusty frère!
And gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak a right gude willie-waught,
For auld lang syne.*

*Should old acquaintances be forgotten
And never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintances be forgotten
And days of long ago*

*Chorus: - For times gone by, my dear
For times gone by,
We will take a cup of kindness yet
For times gone by'*

*And surely you will pay for your pint,
And surely I will pay for mine
And we will take a cup of kindness yet
For times gone by.*

*We two have run about the hillsides
And pulled the daisies fine,
But we have wandered many a weary foot
Since times gone by.*

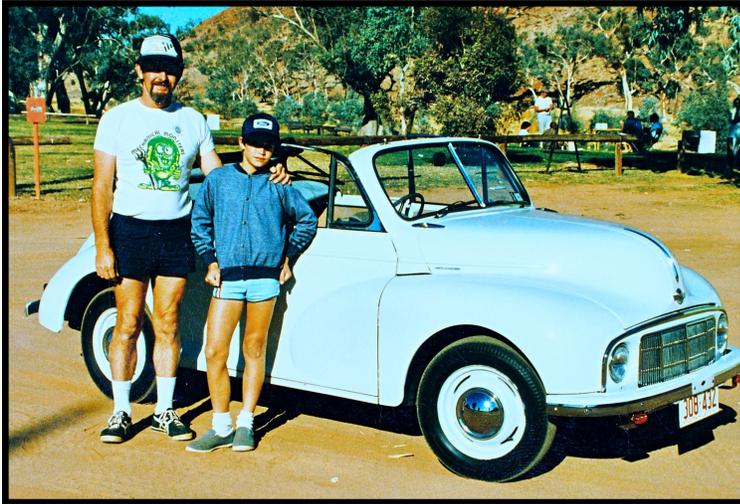
*We two have paddled in the stream
From noon until dinner time,
But seas between us broad have roared
Since times gone by.*

*And there is a hand, my trusty friend,
And give us a hand of yours,
And we will take a goodwill drink (of ale)
For times gone by.*

Festive season greetings to all for Auld Lang Syne



Around the Traps



I caught up with Tom & Carol Cor-nock who are in town visiting family. They were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary .

Tom & Carol were members of the Club when they lived in Alice. They now reside in Hervey Bay QLD.

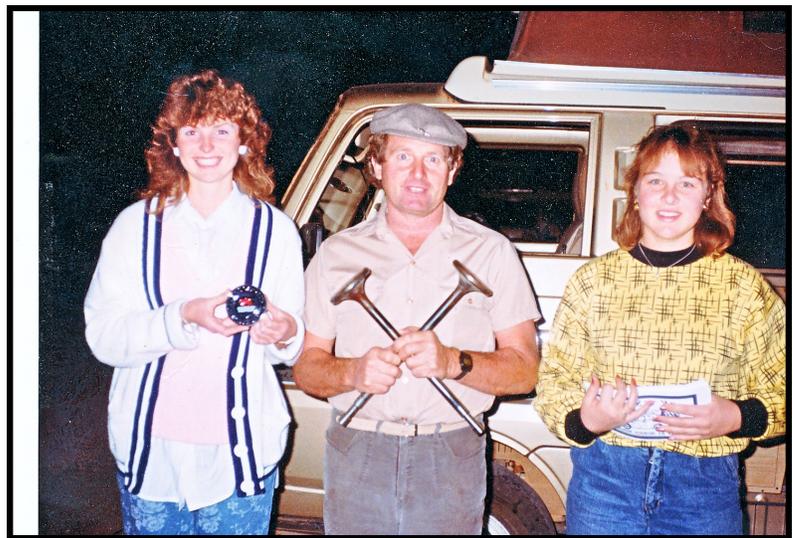
Tom runs Morris Minors and is pic-tured here with his son Peter and his beautiful MM convertible.

All were younger when this shot was taken and also the shot below.



The girl on the left is Tom and Carol's daughter Katrina, (now Whan) in the middle is Stuart Gear, and on the right is Felicity Gear (now Head).

A contingent of Morris Minors (52) arrived in Alice and the call went out for two valves to replace burnt ones. I presented them with the two valves I am holding which were from a large diesel engine. They almost swallowed their false teeth. We did have two genuine valves for them.



Mal Trull will be celebrating Christmas with his daughter, Christine and family in his new home at Stratford Gippsland VIC. He will return to Alice late January or early February. The shed on his new property looks terribly Inviting. I am sure many hours of tinkering will be carried out here. The house is OK, but you don't buy a property for the house.

ANSWERS to quiz 1 on page 6.

1. Ford - **Mustang**, 2. Chevrolet - **Impala**, 3. Hudson - **Hornet**, 4. Singer - **Gazelle**,
5. Studebaker - **Lark**, 6. Humber - **Snipe**, 7. AC - **Cobra**, 8. Opel - **Manta**,
9. Triumph - **Stag**, 10. Buick - **Wildcat**.

ANSWERS to quiz 2 on page 6.

1. Blue flame Six - **Chevrolet**, 2. Nailhead - **Buick**, 3. Cobra Jet - **Ford**,
4. Firedome - **De Soto**, 5. Blue Streak Six - **Austin**, 6. Skybolt Six - **Studebaker**,
7. Golden Commando - Plymouth, 8. Ram Rod - Oldsmobile,
9. Super Duty 455 - **Pontiac**, 10. Tornado - **Jeep**.

The Overlander Badge

One veteran Overlander Badge and Certificate were awarded last month to Leslie Johnson from Chatswood NSW for completing the specified distance in his 1913 Overland Model 69. Leslie was part of the contingent who drove their veteran vehicles on a rally starting at Birdwood SA and finishing in Darwin NT in August 2014.



THE MERTON RACEABOUT

Chassis Number: **6910053**

Engine Number: **691858**

Model: **69**

Raceabout

Year of Manufacture: **1913**

Registration Number: ?

Present Owner: **29th-October-2015**

Name: **Leslie Cullen Johnson**

Spouse: **Roselee Johnson**

Correspondence Address: **94 River Ave Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia**

Email Address: **frogshollow1@bigpond.com.**

Phone Home: **(02)9412 18938**

Mobile: **0419 288 383**

Know History: Purchased in 1975 from Wayne Merton of Dural NSW, believe Wayne purchased the car from Jack Hill (now deceased), contacted Wayne and confirmed, Wayne also advised he has no knowledge of any previous owners.

OUR 1913 Willys Overland Raceabout

Model 69

Purchase price new \$985-00 USD



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

