



# CentreSpoke

April 2017



*Allan and Aileen's rare Cortina Utility*

**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](mailto:mecca@mecca.asn.au)

Web site: [www.mecca.asn.au](http://www.mecca.asn.au)

# MECCA Committee 2016/2017

PRESIDENT:	Col Jarrett
VICE PRESIDENT:	John Hubner
TREASURER:	John Syme
SECRETARY:	Michele Thompson
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Brian Eather
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Russ Driver Mal Trull
VEHICLE REGISTRAR:	Michele Thomson
EDITOR:	Stuart Gear
WEB MASTER:	Frank Allan
HISTORIAN:	Stuart Gear
CRANKHANDLE:	Alvina Spears/
CLUB HOSTESS:	Marie Gear
LIFE MEMBERS:	Dave Simpson, Tony Bullock



**SHARE THE PASSION**





## *Presidents Report*

*March 2017*

We have had two meetings so far this year and both have had a good roll up of members and vehicles. Vicki and I were away for the breakfast at Hungry Jacks in February, but from all reports it went very well. At the March meeting we had two new members introduce themselves, both gave a very good account of their motoring interests. After morning tea and a look at the vehicles in the parking lot, we had a run to Emily and Jessie Gaps this was followed by an enjoyable lunch at the Star of Alice Restaurant.

The club will be busy for the rest of the year, with a lot of community events and runs planned. We have been offered the opportunity by Bunnings to put on a vehicle display at their Easter open night on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, this is a good opportunity to promote the club. Please give me a call if you can bring your vehicle.

The April run has been changed to take advantage of the open day at the Desert Park. Even though this weekend has been cooler, there is no guarantee that it will stay this way, so we have decided to have our meeting and then have a run to the Desert Park. The run to Standley Chasm can get hot so we will postpone this run and have it in the cooler months.

We have attended our first Red Centre Nat's meeting, it looks like it will be another good event. They are after volunteers and are offering the same deal as entrants with free passes for the weekend, I believe this includes the free buddy pass the same as entrants. If you can volunteer it would be appreciated, this has proven to be a good event for the town, give me a call if you need more information. The vintage and classic bike section will be in a pavilion this year, so that will make it easier for us.

Keep an eye out for emails and flyers as we update and inform members of coming events. To enhance our communication process, John Hubner has set up a Face Book page for the club.

Safe Motoring.  
Col Jarrett.







## *The Sec's Desk*

### **MECCA**

#### **MOTOR ENTHUSIAST CLUB CENTRAL AUSTRALIA inc** **MEETING SUNDAY MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

Meeting Opened: 9.10 am

Present: Karl Smith, Vicki Jarrett, Garry Bentley, Allan Campbell, Trevor Hyman, Neville Heness, Megan Heness, Lisa Heness, Stuart Gear, Peter Hilliard, Brian Eather, John Hubner, John Syme, Col Jarrett, Michele Thompson, Raelene Beale, John Cooper, Philippe Friedel, Marie Gear, Jarod & Katy Bentvelzen and family, Fred Twohig, Jasmina Muhic, Mark Hangan and Mal Trull

Apologies: Ivan & Heather Bain, Mike Thompson, Russ & Liz Driver, Tim Schubert, Derek Poolier, Wally & Alvina Spears.

Visitors: Sunder Madabushi and Paul Guerin

Previous Minutes: No minutes were taken at the Hungry Jack's Breakfast

#### Treasurer's Report:

John Syme presented the report.

Moved: John Hubner    Seconded: Raelene Beale    All: Carried

#### Correspondence In:

Alice Springs Show Society    Invitation for this years show at an earlybird price

Helena Napolitana    Leaving Alice Springs and VW for sale

John Palamountain:    Emailed new contact details in preparation for his retirement from Shannon's.

Commonwealth Bank    Statement

Australia Post    PO Box renewal

Bike Torque

Crank Torque

Austin Journals

Auto Torque

Gawler Car Club Journal

Steering Column

#### President's Report:

Christmas Party – A very big thank you to Raelene and John for being such wonderful hosts. Everyone had a great time!

Facebook Page    John Hubner has offered to set up a facebook page – accepted

Website    Jasmina Muhic has offered to take on the website – accepted

*Continued on next page*

This will allow Frank Allan to resign from the position. Frank has been running it from his new home in South Australia. The website's annual fee is due too.

Thank you to John and Jasmina for taking on these sites. The two social media outlets will compliment each other and distribute information regarding our club to members and the public.

**Club Shirts** Colin has spoken with Workwear and they can produce the shirts for us. More information to follow.

**Name Tags:** Some members do not have them, Col to organise name tags.

**MVR** The MVR has provided a list of all vehicles registered as being members of MECCA. Colin will follow up as there are some that are non members. He feels some may be from a Darwin club with a similar name.

**R42 Regulations** Colin asked that all members adhere to the conditions provided by registering your vehicle with an R42 form. Remember to carry your log book. Registrations are being checked by police to ensure they comply. The regulations for Club Registration can be found on form R2.

**Sale of Vehicles** If you are selling a vehicle that has Club plates, the only way it can retain the plates is, if it is sold to another club member. Otherwise, the plates must be handed back in to MVR and normal registration applied.

**Red CentreNats** We have been invited to attend a meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> March/

**Alice Springs Show** A good show of hands as to who would be interested in displaying their vehicle at the show. Colin will follow up with Shannon's to register a site. Shannon's has a new Rep, Robert Berry. Fred asked if stationary engines can be included. The stationary engines will be invited; the owners must be financial members of the club so they are covered by our insurance. They were invited last year but Ian Ross was working out of town at the time.

**Bangtail Muster** Colin will register the club to join the parade in May.

**National Motoring Day 21<sup>st</sup> May**, Brian will arrange with the Aviation Museum for us to hold a BBQ lunch there again this year. Always a popular event.

**Open Day** Shannon's have suggested as there are a lot of vehicles in town that they have insured but their owners are not members of a club, that an Open Day may be a great way to let them know about MECCA. They would be able to send out invitations to their customers to attend. The National Motoring Day would be the perfect opportunity.

**Transport Hall of Fame Annual dinner** will be held in August. We have been asked to run the bar again for them. This is always a good fundraiser for our club.

*Continued on next page*

*Minutes continued*

Red CentreNats      September – Club members get a discounted registration fee if they enter early.

Fred Twohig      The Velocet Rally was held in Traralgon in November last year. A very enjoyable event apart from having to travel through the centre of Melbourne to attend. This year's event will be held in Warick, Queensland in October.

Club Trailer      Fred made a suggestion that maybe some members aren't taking their vehicles on club runs due to the fear of breakdowns. He suggests that we look at using some of our funds to invest in a club trailer to accompany our runs.

Karl Smith offered to carry spares for members if they are limited for space.

Garry Bentley      suggested that we have a Register of Members with information about their vehicles including photographs. Everyone agreed this would be a great idea. Stuart has already created something similar for his vehicles and could work on a template for everyone to fill in. One of Colin's vehicles will be the test one for the next newsletter. Jasmina suggested that we get a quote for the photographs to be taken but it was decided to hold off on this. Then we found out about our new member, Sunder!

Sunder Madabushi provided some information about himself and his vehicle, a Royal Enfield Bullet. He still has another vehicle in India. Sunder has had a great deal of experience in tours and rallies through India and the Himalaya's and is a very experienced rider. He is also a very experienced photographer! A suggestion was made that the National Motoring Day may be the perfect opportunity for a photo shoot of vehicles.

Paul Guerin gave a run down on how he came to own the vehicle he has wanted since he was a child - 1965 Lotus Cortina. Paul purchased the vehicle from a collector in Sydney but has also been lucky enough to track down the former owner in America. This man spent 17 years restoring the vehicle. Allan's eyes lit up when he heard about it and he and Paul are sure to have a lot to talk about.

Allan Campbell will be travelling to attend the Cortina Nationals in Albury this year.

Mal Trull is in town until April and the will be spending 3 months overseas before moving to Stratford in Victoria.

Today's Run :      Emily and Jessie Gap and the Star of Alice for lunch

Meeting Closed: 10.00 am



# 1970 Ford Falcon XY GT

Owners Vicki & Colin Jarrett



This XY Ford Falcon GT was purchased by the current owners Vicki and Colin Jarrett in April 1981, they are the second owners of the vehicle. The previous owner was the building firm Helm Constructions, their main office was in Adelaide South Australia; they also had a branch in Alice Springs.

The vehicle was originally purchased in August 1971, from the Bowden Ford Company Adelaide. As the vehicle was a company car, they ordered a base model, with manual radio and no stripes. Ford offered a delete stripe option when the vehicles were ordered from the factory, I believe the stripes were removed by the dealership at the time of purchase, which was a common request by companies and some owners at the time.

The vehicle spent a number of years in Adelaide and when it was time to be replaced, the Alice Springs manager of the company requested that the vehicle be transferred to him, I believe this happened in the mid 1970's. I first spotted the vehicle in early 1979 and only saw it a couple of times prior to purchasing it. In 1981 the vehicle was advertised for sale, as it turned out the vehicle was located at the end of our street which was a surprise to me. After some negotiations we purchased the vehicle in April 1981. At the time of purchase the mileage was just over 63,000 miles, the speedo reading now is just over 72,000 miles.

The vehicle is in original unrestored condition, the paint work is eighty to ninety percent original, we have only carried out routine maintenance on the brakes, tires, cooling and fuel systems.

When we first purchased the vehicle it was on full registration and was transferred to Club Registration when it reached thirty years old. We regularly take the vehicle on club runs and display it at car shows.

Manufacture Date: 12/ 1970.

Engine: 351 Cleveland V8.

Gearbox: 4 Speed.

Paint: Monza Green.

Trim: Saddle Brown.



## The Subaru GL Coupe. Like a spirited woman who yearns to be tamed.

Perhaps you're a man who grabs life by the cuff. You live life your way. And it shows... in the clothes you wear... in the women you love... and in the car you drive.

The Subaru GL Coupe is waiting for you.

Sleek. Agile. The sculptured lines of the one piece body invite you in. With front wheel drive she's different. A step ahead of the others. Go to her. Let her cradle you in the softness of her highback reclining bucket seats. Surround yourself with the lushness of her interior appointments. The GL Coupe is ready.

Now. Turn her on.

Lead her to the open road. This is where the Subaru GL Coupe wants to be. Unleash the relentless power of her 1400cc quadrocyl engine. Control the Coupe's every movement—her every twist and turn—as you take hold of her rack and pinion steering. She'll make it smooth with her four wheel independent suspension. She'll carry you away as she peaks to the red line of her tach.

The Subaru GL Coupe is yours. Waiting for you. And one more good thing, she costs so little to keep happy.

Front Drive  
**Subaru**



IMAGE HOSTED ON WWW.SCOTSBLOG.COM • BLOG ABOUT SUBARU

show her  
it's a man's world



**Van Heusen**

To Wake Up **GAY**  
in the Morning!



Just Try this at  
Bedtime Tonight!

Why be content to awaken tired, listless, or low in the morning—when you should be gay and radiantly "alive"? Why not follow this simple plan thousands are using for sparkling morning freshness? Just drink a warm cup of Ovaltine at bedtime each night.

For here's what Ovaltine does to bring you fresher, happier mornings—

**First,** takes stress at bedtime, it promotes sound sleep, without drugs.

**Second,** it supplies important food elements to rebuild vitality while you sleep.

**Third,** it also furnishes extra vitamins and minerals in a delicious, more natural way for all-around health and vigor.

So why not turn to Ovaltine tonight? See if you don't sleep better, feel more vital—if your friends don't tell you how much more radiant you look!

**OVALTINE**  
PLAIN AND CHOCOLATE FLAVORED



**NATURAL SLEEP—**

**WITHOUT DRUGS—**

A cup of warm Ovaltine at bed-time induces sound sleep without drugs, in safe natural ways. For the power to induce "natural" sound sleep is given by powerful natural agents of digestive stomach food given right after bedtime. (Ovaltine food elements known to be taken very late usually disturb sleep.)

**REBUILDS VITALITY DURING SLEEP**

Night-time, when you are sleeping, you and the good food Ovaltine is rich in vitamins and body and nerve cells—build up freshness and vigor for the day. It is especially pronounced for many children every morning sleep.

**COCAINE**  
TOOTHACHE DROPS

Instantaneous Cure!

PRICE 15 CENTS.

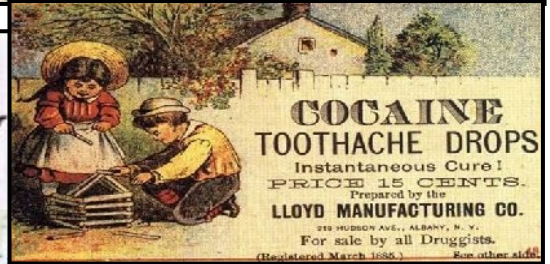
Prepared by the

**LLOYD MANUFACTURING CO.**

201 HUNTER AVE., ALBANY, N. Y.

For sale by all Druggists.

(Registered March 1935.) For other info.



**SO THE  
HARDER  
A WIFE  
WORKS,  
THE CUTER  
SHE LOOKS!**



I, GOSH, HONEY, YOU SEEM TO THRIVE ON COOKING, CLEANING AND DUSTING AND I'M ALL TUCKERED OUT BY CLOSING TIME. WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

VITAMINS, DARLING! I ALWAYS GET MY VITAMINS



Vitamins for pep! **PEP** for vitamins!\*



## AUSTIN SEVEN & AUSTIN SWALLOW



*A 1920s Austin advertisement depicting a scantily dressed young lady to enhance their sales.*



*The Swallow Sidecar Company's assembly line at Coventry assembling Austin Seven Swallows.*



*The Swallow Sidecar Company's assembly line, assembling Swallow sidecars.*

*Austin Seven chassis were delivered to the Swallow Company works where they were bodied with upmarket coachwork. The cars were attractive little machines albeit a bit heavier for the little Austin motor to cope with. The bodies were framed in timber and covered in sheet metal as was most British body work in those days.*

*These cars are well sought after today, fetching large amounts of money. Time has not been kind to these vehicles as they contained a lot of timber and many have been lost for ever.*



*Mal Trull's Austin Seven on the left and an Austin Swallow on the right. They also built a roadster version.*

*Austin Swallows were introduced in 1927, selling for GB£175. compared to the factory built Austin Seven GB£145. 2583 units were built, and 147 are known to exist today.*







## Historian's Page

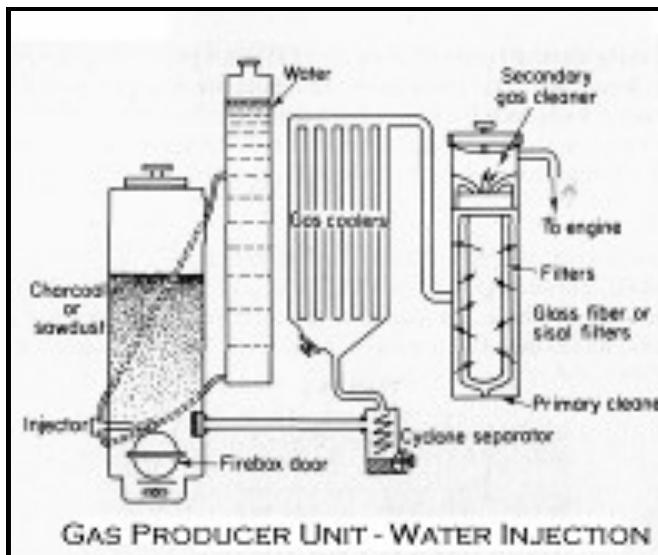
### Wood Gas Producers As Used On Vehicles During WW 2

As petrol was rationed during this period and for many years after the war, charcoal burning **gas producers** were developed and fitted to vehicles. They were a big cumbersome piece of apparatus, fitted to the rear, front mudguard or trailed behind the vehicle.

You certainly would not wear your best suit and white shirt whilst driving the car as the burner required the ashes to be raked out frequently and the hopper filled with a fresh charge of charcoal, covering the operator in black soot. Power was very low with a top speed of 15-20 MPH (24-32 kms/hr) very hard to maintain and hill climbing ability severely compromised.



*A car in Melbourne outside an underground toilet, fitted with a rear mounted gas producer*



#### BASIC COMPONENTS

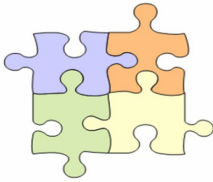
**HOPPER:** (or producer or retort) which is an upright container in which the charcoal is stored and burnt.

**RADIATOR:** to cool the hot gases.

**FILTER:** (or scrubber) to clean the gas before it enters the engine.

*The gas given off is carbon monoxide and the vehicle required modifications to support operation on this gas.*

**DANGERS:** carbon monoxide poisoning.



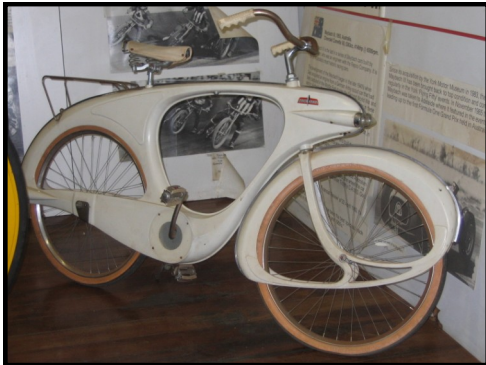
## *Bits & Pieces*

*Next Meeting, Sunday The 9th of April*



- Free Park entry all day
- Talks and presentations throughout the day
- Kids activity zone with face painting and science area
- Food stalls
- Celebrate with the cutting of the Birthday cake
- Late afternoon entertainment with Ted Egan AO and local bands

We will meet as per usual at the Masonic hall, followed by MECCA pie and a cuppa. before driving to the Desert Park.



To those who ride pushies, such as Fred Twohig. I snapped this racy machine in the York Motor museum WA, but you still have to pedal the contraption.

Regards ed

## **Husbands are husbands**

A man was sitting reading his papers when his wife hit him round the head with a frying pan.

'What was that for?' the man asked. The wife replied,

'That was for the piece of paper with the name Jenny on it that I found in your pants pocket'.

The man then said 'When I was at the races last week, Jenny was the name of the horse I bet on.' The wife apologized and went on with the housework.

Three days later the man is watching TV when his wife bashes him on the head with an even bigger frying pan, knocking him unconscious. Upon re-gaining consciousness the man asked why she had hit again.

Wife replied. 'Your horse phoned'





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

