



CentreSpoke

May 2019

Congratulations Stuart and Marie
Coffee and Chrome event 5/5/19 winners for best
restored vehicle



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 2018/2019

PRESIDENT: John Hubner 0435 293 146

VICE PRESIDENT: Allan Campbell 8953-4573

TREASURER: Russ Driver 0408 002 907

SECRETARY: Douglas Draeger 0428 676 741

PUBLIC OFFICER: Brian Eather 0428 758 002

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Neville Heness 0428 740 964
John Bridgefoot 0418 223 557

VEHICLE REGISTRAR: Col Jarrett 0457 297 271

EDITOR: Liz Driver 0427 970 744

WEB MASTER: Tony McKenzie 0412 853 072

HISTORIAN: Stuart Gear 0418 898 361

CRANKHANDLE: Alvina Spears 0417 169 452

CLUB HOSTESS: Marie Gear 0407 399 551

LIFE MEMBERS: Dave Simpson, Tony Bullock, Walter & Alvina Spears,
Stuart & Marie Gear.



Presidents Report

Hi all,

Its been a busy couple of months for the Club. Following the April meeting we had a BYO BBQ lunch at Trev's place and by all accounts it was a great day with many members attending.

Unfortunately, I couldn't be there as An and I got married on the Saturday and headed off on our honeymoon.

In May, some of our members attended the Aces & 8's Coffee and Chrome on the Alice Springs Council lawn, Saturday the 5th. It looked like a great day out and is intended to become an annual event so mark it on the calendar for next year. Followed on the Sunday by the Bangtail Muster where we had about 6 members participate with their vehicles.

Also, in May we had our annual run and BBQ to the Aviation Museum to celebrate National Motorist Day. Another really good day out with fellow club members, we also had a few guests from Aces & 8's.

Thanks to all who helped out with food and the BBQ. Its great to see everyone pitch in an lend a hand!

Coming up we have the June meeting (Sunday 9th), followed by run to Tropic of Capricorn and return, then lunch at RFDS Cafe.

Note that this is the weekend of the Finke Desert Race.

And in July the annual Alice Springs Show, where we have been allocated the same space as last year. So, everyone please polish up your pride and joy and bring it along as we want to have a really good display to showcase our Club.

August will see the AGM and new committee take the reins, so start thinking about what you can do to help with the running of MECCA.

As usual, If you have any stories for the newsletter, make sure you put pen to paper and send it through to Liz. We are always looking for more stories to print and as I always say never let the facts get in the way of a good story.

Don't forget we have a webpage and Facebook page so keep an eye on those for any upcoming news or last minute changes to events.

Also for correspondence email;

Membership email via. members@mecca.asn.au

Committee email via. committee@mecca.asn.au

If you don't get the occasional club email it means we probably don't have your correct email address.

See you soon

Cheers John



The Sec's Desk

MECCA **MOTOR ENTHUSIAST CLUB CENTRAL AUSTRALIA inc**

MEETING SUNDAY 12th May 2019.

Meeting Opened: 09:10 am.

Present: Raelene Beale, Garry Bentley, Allan Campbell, John Cooper, Russ and Liz Driver, Brian Eather, Phillipe Freidel, Marie and Stuart Gear, Lisa and Neville Heness, Peter Hilliard, John Hubner, Trevor Hyman, Col Jarrett, Aileen Kennedy, Craig and Robyn Lambley, Jasmina Muhic, Derek Poolier, Michele and Mike Thompson, Mandy and Stephen Vandenberg, and Trevor Jacobs

Apologies: Nil.

Visitors: Nil. new visitors, Mandy and Steve have returned for another meeting.

Previous Minutes:

Previous minutes sent out in email earlier this week.

Motion John Hubner, minutes be accepted as true and correct

Seconded: Garry Bentley Pass All: in favor yes

Treasurers Report:

Bank balance end April \$5,506.46, Only Income this month \$35- (membership), Less expense – \$ 374 – Outside club display at the Show and \$385- Insurance on the club trailer. Total expenses this month \$ 759-. Current balance is \$ 4782.46

John Hubner Motion - Treasurers report be accepted Seconded: Trevor Hyman
Pass All: in favor yes

Secretaries Report: as emailed to members earlier in the week

Correspondence In:

Various club magazines including, Auto Torque, Bike Torque, Crank Talk– all available to peruse at the meeting

Correspondence Out:

Email club registration for Bangtail muster. Response received by John Hubner who has confirmed event registration. 5 or 6 vehicles.

Email club registration enquiry for Alice Springs Show. Response sent to John Hubner who has confirmed entry (now waiting for invoice)



The Sec's Desk 2

General Business:

Alan referred to a public information forum meeting held by MVR regarding club vehicle registration. Interesting and informative, including : Clubs required to record members attendance on runs and meetings with club registered vehicles (Red plate rules). – **Refer new meeting sign in sheet.**

Travelling or attending interstate runs, meetings with club registered vehicles to be notified to MVR.

More information on the MVR web site.

Editor will publish link in next newsletter as well.

Club trailer, insurance quote \$385- PA. Draft trailer use rules passed around meeting for any comment / feedback.

Wally Spears update provided, in good spirits and shortly transferred to Victor Harbour Hospital.

Suggestion that club has club information handouts at vehicle displays. Stuart advised that he had a ticket book style of club info handout and Allan confirmed the club still had some. Will be used at the next club displays (Coffee and Chrome, Alice Springs Show)

AGM 2019 will be held on 11 August 2019 - Masonic Hall at 10:30 am, after the normal monthly meeting at 9:00 am

Today's Run: Run to Airport / East side and BBQ lunch at Aviation Museum.

June / July Activities:

Sunday 9 Jun 2019. General Meeting @ 9am at the Masonic Hall
Followed by run to Tropic of Capricorn and return and then lunch at RFDS Cafe.

Note that this is the weekend of the Finke Desert Race.

July 5 and 6 2019, Alice Springs Show, Club Display

Sunday 14 July 2019, General Meeting @ 9am at the Masonic Hall
Followed by BBQ at Russ and Liz Drivers property

Meeting Closed: 09.31

MECCA
MOTOR ENTHUSIAST CLUB CENTRAL AUSTRALIA inc

CLUB Calendar 2019

June 9th Club meeting followed by run to Tropic of Capricorn and return,
followed by lunch at RFDS Café (Noted FINKE weekend 7-10 June)

July 5th and 6th – Alice Springs Show

July 14th Club meeting followed by BBQ at Russ & Liz Driver's property

August 11th – Club **AGM**, followed by lunch at Golf Club

August 24th – Sat night, RTHF Reunion dinner, members work bar

September 19th – Club meeting followed by run to Standley Chasm for lunch

Details to follow / suggested:

Social Night – BBQ / Film Night – members property – details tba

Weekend run / Glen Helen – Sat night stay and / or Sunday morning tea run

Joint run with Aces and Eights (club calendars to be shared to organise a joint run)

THE BEST HOLT AND BEST STORY YOU'VE NEVER HEARD

"Fifty Years on Tracks" is a marvellous time-worn book published in 1954 by the Caterpillar Tractor Company. It chronicles the story of how the C. L. Best Tractor Co. and the Holt Manufacturing Company merged to become the Caterpillar Tractor Co. It's a story many of us know well. But likely not many know of the Caterpillar customers and employees who come to life on the book's yellowed pages. Written as a memento marking Caterpillar's first 50 years, the words tell a story of innovation, hard work, determination and even connectedness that somehow still tugs at the heart some 63 years later. This is the first in a series of articles retelling the charming stories found therein.

August 9, 2017

In the Beginning

Twenty-one-year-old Charles Holt left his home in New Hampshire in 1863 to settle in San Francisco. There he started working at a lumber company and just three short years later opened his own lumber company, harvesting wood principally from his father's New Hampshire mill. But it turned out that wood from the East often made into wagon axels and wheels didn't receive proper seasoning for the hot, dry western climate. So Charles decided to manufacture wagon wheels and other wagon parts a bit inland in Stockton, California. Charles' brother Benjamin soon after headed west to join in the new venture.

On a destined and parallel path, Daniel Best was eager to make his fortune. At age 21 in 1859 he travelled the Northwest trying his hand at gold mining, hunting and sawmilling without much success. But in 1869 Daniel started working at his brother's ranch near Marysville, California. Back then the Best brothers hauled grain from the fields into town for cleaning but it was an expensive proposition. In the following winter Daniel invented three portable grain cleaners to clean the grain right at the farm eliminating a major expense. The following harvest the Best brothers operated all three machines and they soon opened a local factory to manufacture and sell the machines. In 1891 Best even brought his 13 year old son Clarence Leo (C.L.), into the family business.

Years passed, and the Best and Holt companies each grew creating impressive new lines of farm equipment and other types of machinery with principal concentration on tractors and harvesters. At first they produced steam-powered machines with large wheels. Later Benjamin Holt added tracks to his machines and became the first to invent a commercially successful track-type tractor. His tractors were first powered by steam then later by gasoline engines. The competitive spirit of those early companies no doubt fuelled innovation even back then.

In 1908, Best sold out to the Holt Manufacturing Company but two years later Daniel's son C.L., organized the C. L. Best Gas Traction Co., manufacturing wheel-type tractors. By 1912 C. L. was producing track-type machines as well and claiming a share of Holt leadership in the track-type tractor market.

By the end of World War I in 1918 both companies were keenly competitive, each with its own advantages. Best had a better financial status, a more advanced tractor design and the makings of a solid dealer group. Holt, however had a worldwide reputation, the "Caterpillar" trademark, larger factories and a combined harvester line that had been around for 40 years. Blending the best of both worlds, in 1925, the two companies merged.

And the Caterpillar Tractor Co. was born!

Photos next page

PHOTOS OF HOLT AND BEST (2)

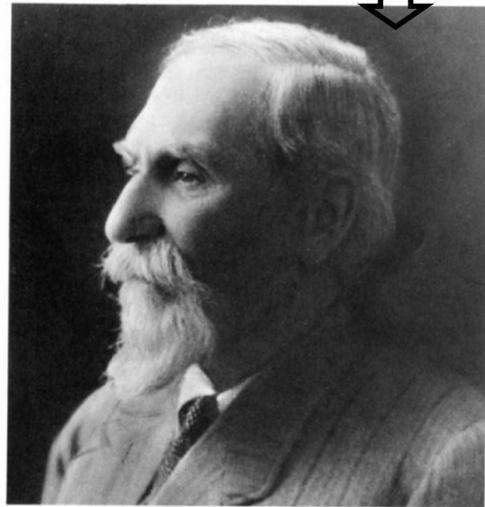


← 1927 Holt crawler

Daniel Best ↓



Benjamin Holt ↑



19-101

C. L. B.
 GAS TRACTORS GIVE SATISFACTION
EVERYWHERE

Main Office and
 Factory
 Elmhurst
 Oakland, Cal.

BRANCHES
 Los Angeles
 Fresno
 San Francisco



**STEEL
 CASTINGS**
 A SPECIALTY
 Converter Process
 We make all the steel
 castings used on our
 Traction Engines and
 Harvesters, and are
 prepared to furnish
 high grade steel cast-
 ings at short notice.

19-101 *Master Copy*

Write for Catalogue, Terms, Etc. to
C. L. Best Gas Traction Co.
 Phone Elmhurst 130 Station G, Oakland, Cal.

Add for C.L. Best →

Cruelty

1936 Buick car crush



WHAT WERE THEY
THINKING?

The Wonder (Jack) Years—1940

It seems that the jack supplied with Buick cars for 1940 was universally derided as possibly the worst jack ever.

Big statements for what was marketed as new thinking and a brilliant engineering solution by the world's largest jack manufacturer - Walker Co.

This revolutionary jack was designed to eliminate the need to crawl under your car to position the jack. By lifting the wheel at the upper most point of the rim you merely had to lift the unsprung weight of the car and so it was easy and also fast as you merely lifted the wheel about 6 inches. Sounds great.

You then had to slip another part of the system a steel jack stand under the car to support the backing plate, in the case of Buick and some other makes, but possibly the suspension in some Chevrolets and other brand motorcars. This to be done whilst you have the flat tyre and wheel blocking your vision I expect. No wonder these jacks are hard to locate these days as one wag on the internet tells the story of their us-age.

"If you thought the 1938 jack was bad, you should see the 1940 jack.

It mounts on the lip of the wheel. Then when you jack it up high enough there is another piece like a mini jack stand goes behind the wheel to hold it so you can then remove the jack and dismount the tyre.

While discussing the jack with a Buick vendor he told me that the reason they are a rare jack to find is because back when the cars were fairly new, if you got a flat and used that jack it most likely shot out from under the wheel - If it didn't break your leg, you picked it up and threw it in the woods swearing to never do that again!"

This wonder jack appears to have not been the wonder you may have expected. It may be prudent if you have one of these jacks to use it as a show piece rather than a functioning jacking system.

Carry a better jack with you, just in case you need to use it!

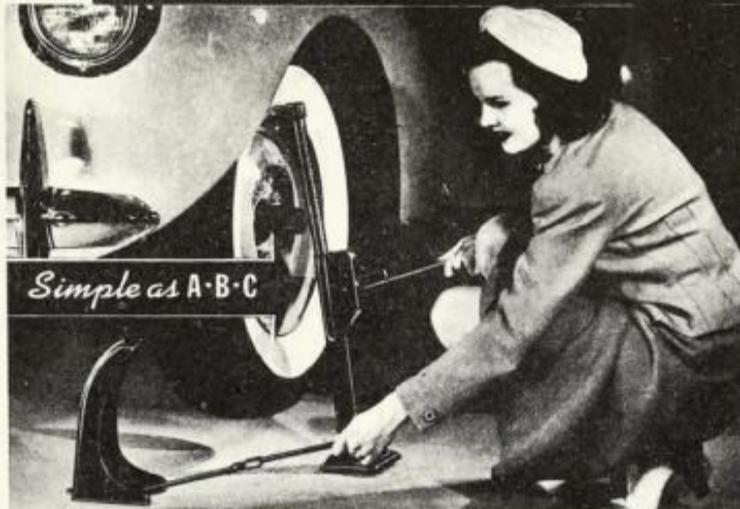


OLD JACK ADD

TORONTO — BELLEVILLE — HAMILTON — KITCHENER
(Telephone Numbers are shown on Page 1)

99

FAST SELLING WALKER RIM-LIFT JACK



Simple as A-B-C

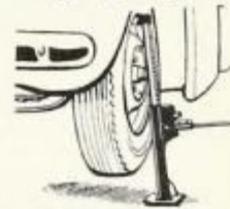


No. 650 RIM LIFT JACK with stand for use under backing plate.



No. 655 RIM LIFT JACK with stand for use under springs and axles.

SIMPLE AS
A-B-C



A • Jack Up Wheel at Rim



B • Slide Stand into Position



C • Remove Jack and Wheel

● It's the biggest news in passenger car jacks in years. It's a jacking method based on *new thinking and brilliant engineering*. It's the new Walker Rim-Lift—a typical product of the World's Largest Jack Builder.

Safe . . . the jack takes a firm grip under the rim *right at the center of the load*. Fast . . . raising unsprung weight only, you need a lift of merely 6 inches. Clean . . . you don't grope for a purchase or crawl on hands and knees. Positioning of jack and stand is done *entirely from the side of the car*.

Because of the "Custom-Built" nature of the Rim-Lift Jack, it is available in two styles—No. 650 Jack with stand for use under backing plate and No. 655 Jack with stand for use under springs and axles. In selecting the proper jack for each make of car it is necessary to follow the recommendation table

RIM-LIFT WALKER CAR JACKS

No. 650—
BUICK—1936-1940 incl.
CHEVROLET—1936-1940 incl.
CHRYSLER—1936-1938 incl.
DE SOTO—1936-1938 incl.
DODGE—1936-1938 incl.
PLYMOUTH—1936-1940 incl.

No. 655—
CHEVROLET—1939-1940
CHRYSLER—1936-1940 incl.
DE SOTO—1936-1940 incl.
DODGE—1936-1940 incl.
FORD—1936-1940 incl.
HUDSON-TERRAPLANE—
1936-1940 incl.
LINCOLN ZEPHYR—1936-1940
MERCURY—1939-1940
NASH, LA FAYETTE—1936-1940
OLDSMOBILE—1936-1940 incl.
PACKARD—1936-1940 incl.
PONTIAC—1936-1940 incl.
PONTIAC—1936-1938 incl.—
(except "knee action")
STUDEBAKER—1938-1940 incl.—
(except 1939-1940 Champion)

**COFFEE AND CHROME -
MANY THANKS TO ACES AND EIGHTS FOR INVITING
OUR CLUB**



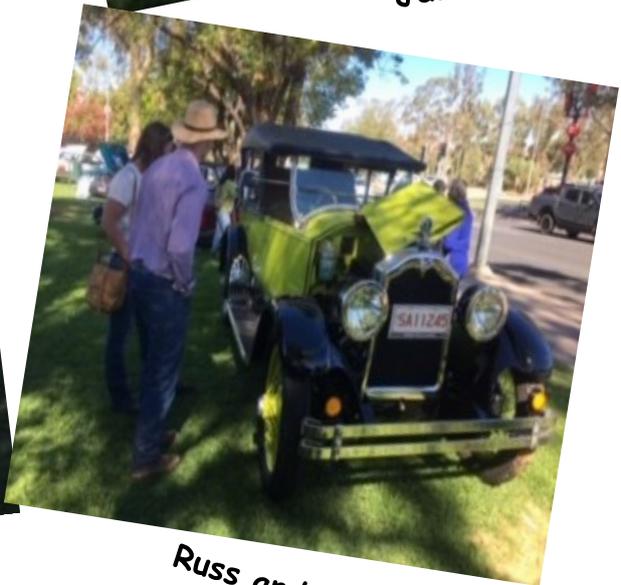
Allan and Aileen



Jasmina



Neville and Lisa



Russ and Liz



Stuart and Marie

BANGTAIL MUSTER / MAY DAY



Col



Neville and Lisa

Russ and Liz



Jared, Katy and family



Jared, Col and Neville's car



Anzac oval
Customline, Jaguar, Fairlane, Buick and Ford



Anzac oval - backwards
With Liz and youngest grand daughter Shae

Also present was Tony O'Brien and family unfortunately except for Anzac Oval photo no photo was taken at start of parade - Apologies.

AND IF COFFEE AND CHROME AND BANGTAIL MUSTER
EVENT WAS NOT ENOUGH WE GOT INVITED TO THE
TELEGRAPH STATION FOR COFFEE AND LUNCH
OH MY - WHAT A WEEKEND



Telegraph Station tea rooms
Present: Col, Pete, Mags, Liz, Carrie, Peter, Russ, Neville, Lisa
and visitors Liz and Jeff

JOKE TIME



How did the hairdresser win the race?
She took a short cut.

What do you call a good hair stylist?
A shear delight.

Why did God make only one Yogi Bear?
Because when he tried to make a second one he made a Boo-Boo

Why are trees very forgiving?
Because in the Fall they "Let It Go" and by May Day they "turn over a new leaf".

What do you get when you plant kisses?
Tu-lips (two-lips).

Can February March?
No, but April May!

Why was the fly dancing on the top of the Pepsi bottle?
Because it said "Twist to open."

Why did the man lose his job at the orange juice factory?
He couldn't concentrate!

Why did the worker at the Pepsi bottling factory get fired?
He tested positive for Coke!

Why did the orange stop rolling down the hill?
It ran out of juice

What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?
A clock

During what month do people sleep the least?
February, it's the shortest month

The other day, my wife asked me to pass her lipstick but I accidentally passed her a glue stick.
She still isn't talking to me.

What did the traffic light say to the car?
Don't look! I'm about to change.



SERVICES

Trev's Auto Repairs

For Rego checks, repairs and wheel alignments.

Phone 8955-5568



To sell your business's services and products call
Liz on 0427 970 744 or email wheelnuts@always17.com.au

INFORMATION ON RED CLUB PLATES

A short review of use of registered red club plates– for full details follow the web address at the end of the page

Club Registration Scheme is designed to provide for concessional registration of eligible enthusiast vehicles.

The scheme is intended to support and encourage Northern Territory motor vehicle enthusiasts to maintain the operational status of historic and individually constructed vehicles and allow them to have restricted access to a road or road related area at a reduced rate of registration and compulsory third party insurance. Club Registration is not an alternative to normal vehicle registration and it is not a short-term registration scheme. This document recognises the limited road use of specific types of vehicle, which includes vehicles with a manufactured build date of over 30 years.

Limited road use under the Club Registration Scheme is intended to assist the owner in maintaining the vehicle in a roadworthy condition for participation in “Approved” Club events such as vehicle displays to the general public and club organised functions.

There are two specific types of use applicable to vehicles with Club Registration.

1. Approved Club Events, including events organised by other clubs or organisations which are supported and approved by the Club.
2. Maintenance, Test Driving or Restricted Personal Use. Vehicles registered under the Club Registration Scheme are registered for 12 month period only.

A condition of the scheme is that a ‘Log book’ must be filled out to record each and every journey undertaken by the vehicle.

Use of vehicle is restricted to 60 days - for Approved Club Events
and 30 days - for maintenance, test driving/restricted personal use
So total of 90 days

Interstate travel is permitted on programmed Club events or when the Club, or a Club member, receives a written invitation to attend an event from the organisers of a formal interstate Club event - application must be made to Club Committee for the event.

- The Club committee is required to advise the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, in writing, that members of the club intend to participate in an interstate event.
- This advice should be received by the Registrar at least one month prior to the start of the event. The written advice should include the registration number of the club registered vehicle/s intending to travel interstate, the departure and return dates of the vehicles, full contact details of the organisers of the event and a copy of the formal invitation or documentation associated with the event

Vehicles registered under the Club Registration Scheme have not paid full registration fees, and as such, are not entitled to full and unrestricted road use.

For more details copy the web address below and put into your browser

<https://nt.gov.au/driving/regio/registration-other-vehicles/motor-club-vehicles/apply-for-club-vehicle-registration>

**MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB of CENTRAL AUSTRALIA. INCORPORATED.
BY-LAWS and POLICIES OF THE MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB of
CENTRAL AUSTRALIA
INCORPORATED .July 2006.**

MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB of CENTRAL AUSTRALIA. INCORPORATED.

1. Admission to membership:

Prospective members are required to attend three meetings / events before a membership application can be submitted.

New members are to be proposed by a current financial member. (As per paragraph 9 of the constitution)

New members are to be seconded by a current financial member. (As per paragraph 9 of the constitution).

2. Attendance requirements:

Members that use the Club registration system are required to attend three meetings / events during the club financial year.

3. Club Registration:

All members of the club are requested to comply with current MVR requirements for veteran, vintage, classic and thirty year old vehicles.

4. Annual subscriptions:

(A) Single membership: \$25.00.

(B) Family and couples membership: \$35.00.

(C) Honorary and life membership: No charge.

(D) Country membership: \$15.00.

Country members must reside 50 kilometres or more from Alice Springs

(E) Persons over the age of 16 years are deemed to be a single membership.

5. Visitors, Honorary and Life members:

(A) Visitor: Any person visiting Alice Springs who is a bona fide collector or enthusiast may be admitted as a visitor for a period not exceeding two calendar months, at the discretion of the committee. A visitor shall enjoy all privileges of membership but shall not be permitted to vote.

(B) Honorary Members: Honorary membership of the club may be awarded to individual non members in recognition of outstanding service to the club. Admission as an honorary member will be subject to the unanimous agreement of the club committee.

(C) Life members: Life membership will be available to members who have given at least ten years of outstanding service to the club. Any financial member may nominate another member for life membership. However, the granting of life membership will be subject to the unanimous recommendation of the committee and their recommendation must be ratified by the majority of members at a General Meeting.

Cont. (2)

**BY-LAWS and POLICIES OF THE MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB of
CENTRAL AUSTRALIA (2)
INCORPORATED .July 2006.**

6. Duties of committee members not detailed in the Constitution:

Club Registrar:

The Registrar shall maintain a register of vehicles on Club registration.

The Registrar is to be notified of all new Club registrations.

The Registrar is to be notified when vehicles are sold or taken off the Club Registration system, so the register can be kept up to date

· **Historian:**

Maintain and store all Historical records relating to club activities.

7. Club memorabilia:

The club will as required and approved by the committee, purchase memorabilia relating to club activities for the sale to members, visitors and as fund raising revenue.

These will include but not be limited to:

- Club shirts.
- Club badges
- Overlander badges. (As per conditions on the application form)
- Club and member name tags (not for sale)

8. Trophies:

The club may, from time to time, offer various trophies to be competed for by Club members and / or members of other approved clubs.

The presentation of trophies may be suggested by any MECCA financial member, but must be approved by the committee.

- If approved by the committee, club funds may be utilized to purchase suitable trophies.
- The rules of competition, method of determining the winner(s) and time/location of the presentations will be determined by the committee prior to the event. All club sponsored trophies should be presented at a club activity that is open to all members.
- All winners must be financial members.
- In the event of a dispute over the awarding of a trophy, the committee will determine the winner. The committee's decision will be final and no further correspondence or discussions will be entered in to.

(9) Special events:

The club from time to time may host special events which will be open to the public. The proposer of the event shall present the details of the event to the committee for review. The event must be approved by a majority of the committee prior to approval being given to run the special event.

National Motoring Day



Some of members pride and joys



Well done for Phil for getting his jeep on the road



Socializing in front of the hangar



Still talking and they say ladies can talk—Ha Ha



Great to spend time with An, Lisa and Stuart while cooking at a great venue.



Members hard at work eating all the goodies.



Editors Page

Another month has nearly gone - and my what a month.

Started off with Bangtail Muster / May day - an absolute glorious day. Club members bringing out their well polished squeaky clean pride and joy - and I can not forget they also bought out their families - so double bonus. We had some relies up from SA and they came with us on the event and they had a ball. I do not think there were as many floats in the parade however the bystanders were plentiful. It is always interesting to see how multi-cultural Alice Springs residents are and you don't realize until you go to a parade. And the residents were as excited to be there as we were. We all ended up on Anzac Oval as per usual, and met up with Pete, Mags, Carrie and Peter and we all went to the Telegraph Station for cup of coffee and lunch, also present was Russ, Liz, Col, Neville, Lisa and our friends Liz and Jeff and wow what a lay back afternoon - we thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Then of course Mothers day - of course did not get breakfast in bed as we had a club meeting - this needs to change next year as us mum's need to be pampered on this special day (however I get pampered every day by my husband and family - hopefully you do too)

Next Motoring day - excellent turn out and the run was great - only Russ + Liz had problems with the generator on the Buick so only went partway to the Airport and had to return home to change vehicles - another job to do in our spare time - however we made it to the Aviation Museum and Liz and An cooked the 1st run of Barbecue - was not burnt and tasted great, and to Stuart for the 2nd barbecue run and huge thanks to Lisa for the salad and potato bake which is always extraordinary, John for doing the shopping and Marie everything else on the table and also the famous Mecca pie. It was great that a few members from Aces and Eights joined us for lunch.

Update on Wally and Alvina—they are back in Alice Springs. Wally is recuperating and will possibly be off his feet for quite a while yet however knowing him he will surprise us all.

Well that's it for another month - hope you are keeping well and enjoying this wonderful life.

If you have any photos, jokes, stories or want to swap, sell, buy or promote your business or products send me a email on wheelnuts@always17.com.au

Cheers Liz

