



# CentreSpoke

February 2021



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**HERE IS TO ANOTHER  
EXCELLENT CLUB YEAR  
WITH OUTINGS AND  
SOCIAL GATHERINGS**



**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 2020/2021

PRESIDENT:	Tony O'Brien	0438 530 366
VICE PRESIDENT:	Trevor Jacobs	0417 824 684
TREASURER:	Russ Driver	0408 002 907
SECRETARY:	Allan (Sam) Salmon	0409 033 257
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Brian Eather	0428 758 002
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Carl Blackmore Neville Heness	0490 024 102 0428 740 964
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:	Lisa Heness	8952-8564

LIFE MEMBERS: Dave Simpson, Tony Bullock,  
Walter & Alvina Spears, Stuart & Marie Gear,  
Col & Vicki Jarrett



## *Presidents Report*

Just a quick Presidents report to catch up on our Club.

Our Club Breakfast went well last Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>. Terrific attendance and great food.

Planning to have a Committee meeting this week to plan our years events, with the Covid mostly out of the way (restrictions adhered to) we can now arrange some motoring trips to various venues.

We have some new members with some fine machinery, so looking forward to discussing mechanicals.

There have been some upgrades at the Masonic Hall, (Security matters and new seating).

Looking forward to our first official meeting March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Masonic Hall, hope to see you all there.

Cheers for now.

Keep those motors running,

Tony O'Brien



## *The Sec's Desk*



### **Stumps Café Breakfast meeting 14/2/21**

#### **Present:**

Raelene Beale, Garry Bentley, Jared, Katy and sons Hudson and Lachlan Bentvelzen, Carl, Kathryn and grandson Rowan Blackmore, John Cooper, Douglas Draeger, Russ and Liz Driver, Mark Dunn, Brian Eather, Phillipe Freidel, Stuart and Marie Gear, Sean and Karen Heenan, Tony O'Brien, Neville, Lisa and Megan Heness, Michael Hanrahan, Trevor Hyman, Peter and Judy Inkster, Sam Salmon, Mike and Michele Thompson, Mandy Vandenberg,

#### **Visitor:**

Tony Knott

#### **Apologies:**

Derek Poolier, Tim Schubert, John Bridgefoot, Col and Vicki Jarrett, Tony and Margaret McKenzie, Tom Slattery, Allan Campbell, Aileen Kennedy, Pietje Span, Bryan Cartwright, Robyn and Craig Lambley, John Hubner, Wally and Alvina Spears, John Wischusen, Fred Twohig and Trevor Jacobs







## MECCA

MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA Inc

### CLUB Calendar 2020 - 2021

**Sunday 14/03/21**

9.00am General Meeting Masonic Hall Allchurch St



P.s - don't tell any one the Secretary is going to give notice so we need to elect a new Secretary - could this be you?

Also rumor has it the Vehicle Registrar position is also going to be vacant soon, we need you to take this position also

***Followed by:*** A garage crawl to Bryan Cartwright then Stuart Gear and end up at Trevor Jacobs for BBQ.

Cost \$5.00 per person BYO drinks and chairs





## MECCA

MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA Inc

### CLUB Calendar 2020 - 2021

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>11/04/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting<br><i>Followed by:</i> A drive to Tropic of Capricorn BBQ lunch on site<br>\$5.00 BYO drinks and chairs etc |
| <b>03/05/21</b> | Bangtail Muster – meet on Gap Rd – time to be advised  |
| <b>09/05/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting - Mother's Day – no run   |
| <b>16/05/21</b> | National Motoring Day <b>9.00am</b> meet at Masonic Hall for drive to Aviation Museum for BBQ lunch. Cost \$5.00 per person        |
| <b>13/06/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting<br><i>Followed by:</i> A run to - Members to decide outing  |
| <b>02/07/21</b> | Alice Springs Show Day – MECCA stall at Show – times to be advised   |
| <b>11/07/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting<br><i>Followed by:</i> A run to Road Transport Hall of Fame for “Back to the Track” military vehicles.      |
| <b>08/08/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting then AGM<br><i>followed by:</i> Lunch – TBA   |
| <b>28/08/21</b> | Road Transport Hall of Fame reunion – MECCA for Bar Service - TBA  |
| <b>05/09/21</b> | Red Centre Nats & Father's Day – MECCA - to display vehicles – times to be advised   |
| <b>10/10/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting<br><i>Followed by:</i> A BBQ at Simpson's Gap   |

## **ASSOCIATION ACT INFORMATION SEMINAR**

### Committee and Members

This came in the Email below – I think it is very interesting whether you are on the Committee or a Member who may want to be on the Committee in the future and also find out up to date details of compliance or to make sure the Committee is doing the right thing.

As you can see Alice Springs has 2 sessions on different days at the Masonic Hall

To register your interest **email**

**[DITT.OACompliance@nt.gov.au](mailto:DITT.OACompliance@nt.gov.au)** ASAP and if enough numbers they will come down and run the course – an opportunity too good to miss

## **Are you a member of an Association?**

Find out more about the *Associations Act 2003* and being on the **Management Committee of an Association**

Free information seminars are being run by Licensing NT

### **Tennant Creek**

#### **Session 1:**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

1pm to 3.30pm

#### **Session 2:**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

6pm to 9pm

**Max 13 people per session**

Territory Business Centre

Ground Floor, Barkly House

90 Paterson Street, TC

### **Alice Springs**

#### **Session 1:**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

6pm to 9pm

#### **Session 2:**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

1pm to 4pm

**Max 40 people per session**

Alice Springs Masonic Hall

8 All Church Street, THE GAP

## Breakfast at Stumps Cafe

How good is this 33 people attended our Motorcycle Club well M.E.C.C.A car club - loved our 3 tables with our new logo HA HA





## Farewell to one of our inaugural foundation members

### Dave Simpson RIP

The family of David Simpson are extremely sad to announce that after a very short and sudden battle with brain cancer, Dave passed away surrounded by his loving wife and daughters on Friday 19th February at 76 years young.

A former Territorian and lover of wide open spaces and bush life- Dave was a man of many talents who started the first garage at Uluru in 1968, created the Stuart Auto Museum and opened the Wallis Fogarty Restaurant in Alice Springs.

Dave also ran an 800 square mile sheep station and a 20 acre banana plantation in WA.

Dave and Berlinda, his beloved wife of nearly 40 years, have resided in the small historical town of Burra in country SA for the last 15 years.

A skilled mechanic by trade, we are so proud of Dad's achievements. Dave restored many cars which can still be seen at the Transport Hall of Fame.

The blue Wackett aircraft he restored is in the Aviation Museum, the silver Rolls Royce he restored for Chris Connellan is displayed in the glass case at the airport, and in Adelaide, the 1923 Harley he restored is in the Harley Davidson Bikeworks on South Road.

The funeral and wake for Dave will be held in Adelaide on Saturday 6th March. Please pm me if you would like the details and to confirm your attendance due to limited numbers for Covid restrictions.



Article copied from Facebook Kathy Zep 23rd February

## **M.E.C.C.A CLUB COMMITTEE HISTORY 2004—2005**

**Continued from November 2020 issue**

### **Committee 2004—2005**

President	Col Jarrett
Vice President	Jeff Thomas
Treasurer	Jan Dunk
Secretary	Aileen Kennedy
Public Officer	Col Jarrett
Committee Members	Rod Crush, Cliff Glover, Kyron Wright, Derek Poolier
Membership Officer	Jeff Farmer
Vehicle Registrar	Vacant
Editor	Suellen and Tim Schubert
Webmaster	Vacant
Historian	Dave Simpson
Crank Handle	Susan Carpenter
Club Hostess	Belinda Simpson

### **Committee 2005—2006**

President	Col Jarrett
Vice President	Tim Schubert
Treasurer	Sandy Trull
Secretary	Derek Poolier
Public Officer	Col Jarrett
Committee Members	Jeff Thomas, Allan Campbell
Membership Officer	Jeff Farmer
Vehicle Registrar	Vacant
Editor	Brian Wilkinson
Webmaster	Vacant
Historian	Dave Simpson
Crank Handle	Jan Dunk
Club Hostess	Belinda Simpson

### **Committee 2006—2007**

President	Jeff Thomas
Vice President	Col Jarrett
Treasurer	Sandy Trull
Secretary	Derek Poolier
Public Officer	Col Jarrett
Committee Members	Tim Schubert, Stuart Gear
Vehicle Registrar	Jeff Farmer
Editor	Chips Carpenter
Webmaster	Vacant
Historian	Col Jarrett
Crank Handle	Susan Carpenter
Club Hostess	Marie Gear

Thankyou Allan Campbell

## **Travelling interstate on NT Club Plates - Guidelines**

If you intend to travel interstate MVR needs to be advised as per section 8.2 of the Northern Territory Motor Vehicle Enthusiast Club Registration Scheme Guidelines

### **Section 8.2**

Club events outside the Northern Territory 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.

The Club Registrar 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 guidelines can be found online at: [NT.GOV.AU](http://NT.GOV.AU)

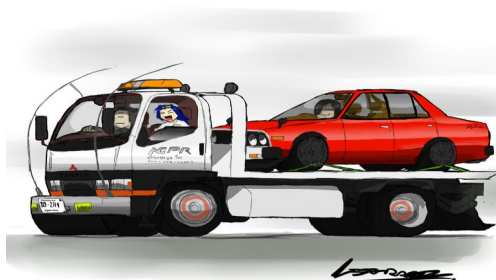
Please forward your requests **via your club Registrar** to -  
MVR.Rego@nt.gov.au – Attention to Manager of Registration.  
To support your request please also send to MVR:  
Formal Letter to MVR requesting permission to participate in the event,

### **Letter needs to identify:**

The Club member's Full Name,  
Club Registration Vehicle Plate Number/Make and Model  
Name of the Event  
Date/s of the event  
Dates required to travel to and from NT to participate in event (travel plan)  
Flyers / Info Bulletin on Event, Invitation letter / Tickets of entry into event by event organisers

MVR will approve or deny the travel

**If you fail to do this and proceed interstate your vehicle is deemed to be unregistered and uninsured**



## Grand kids Joke Page



Why did the toilet paper go down the hill?  
It wanted to get to the bottom.

What do you get when you cross a cat and a lemon tree?  
A sourpuss!

Why did the banana go to the doctor?  
Because he wasn't peeling well.

Why was it hot after the baseball game?  
Because all the fans had gone.

Why was the math book sad?  
Because it had too many problems!

What is the most delicious snake?  
A PIEthon!



What do computers eat for a snack?  
Microchips!

What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down?  
It gets toad away.

What sits at the bottom of the sea and twitches?  
A nervous wreck.

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tyre, it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods."

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in.

At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"





## "THE BISCUIT STORY"

"Mr. MONTE CARLO"  
was a very fresh biscuit.  
He took "MISS VO VO"  
for "MORNING  
COFFEE."

He put his hand on her  
"MILKY WAY" and  
thought that was  
"NICE."

But when he put his  
"SCOTCH FINGER" on  
her "DATE SLICE" she  
grabbed him by his  
"GINGER NUTS" and  
made him "SAO."



## **To understand your Man better**

Because I'm a man, when I lock my keys in the car, I will fiddle with a coat hanger long after hypothermia has set in. Calling the AA is not an option. I will win.

Because I'm a man, when the car isn't running very well, I will pop the hood and stare at the engine as if I know what I'm looking at. If another man shows up, one of us will say to the other, "I used to be able to fix these things, but now with all these computers and everything, I wouldn't know where to start." We will then drink a couple of beers, as a form of holy communion.

Because I'm a man, when I catch a cold, I need someone to bring me soup and take care of me while I lie in bed and moan. You're a woman you never get as sick as I do, so for you, this is no problem.

Because I'm a man, I can be relied upon to purchase basic groceries at the store, like milk or bread. I cannot be expected to find exotic items like "cumin" or "tofu." For all I know, these are the same thing.

Because I'm a man, when one of our appliances stops working, I will insist on taking it apart, despite evidence that this will just cost me twice as much once the repair person gets here and has to put it back together.

Because I'm a man, I must hold the television remote control in my hand while I watch TV. If the thing has been misplaced, I may miss a whole program looking for it...though one time I was able to survive by holding a calculator...(applies to engineers mainly).

Because I'm a man, there is no need to ask me what I'm thinking about. The true answer is always either sex, hunting, sex, cars, sex, tractors, sex, fishing, sex, sports or sex. I have to make up something else when you ask, so don't ask.

Because I'm a man, I do not want to visit your mother, or have your mother come visit us, or talk to her when she calls, or think about her any more than I have to. Whatever you got her for Mother's Day is okay; I don't need to see it. And don't forget to pick up something for my mother, too.

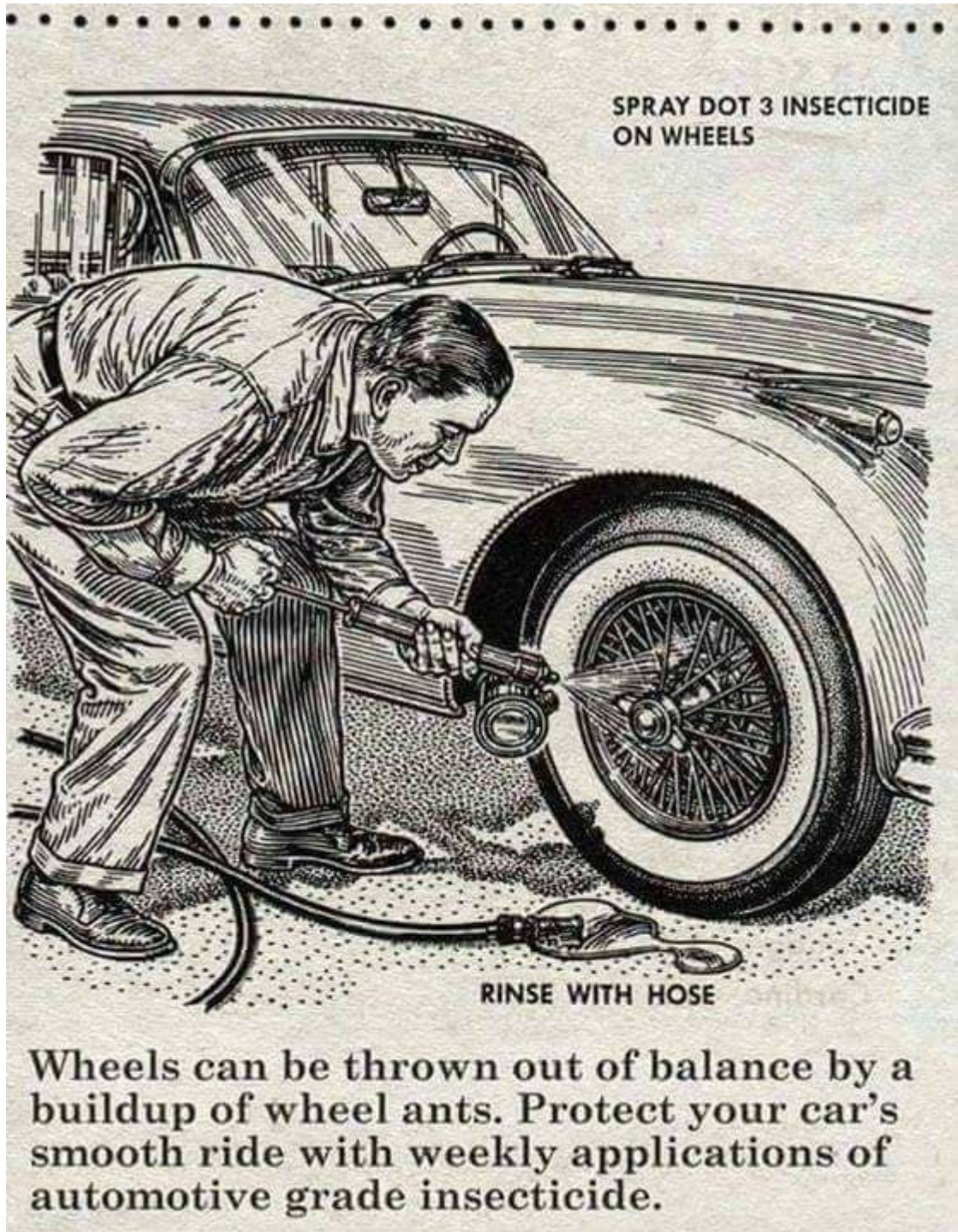
Because I'm a man, you don't have to ask me if I liked the film. Chances are, if you're crying at the end of it, I didn't...and if you are feeling amorous afterwards...then I will certainly at least remember the name and recommend it to others.

Because I'm a man, I think what you're wearing is fine. I thought what you were wearing five minutes ago was fine, too. Either pair of shoes is fine. With the belt or without it, looks fine. Your hair is fine. You look fine. Can we just go now?

Because I'm a man, and this is, after all, the year 2021, I will share equally in the housework. You just do the laundry, the cooking, the cleaning, the vacuuming, and the dishes, and I'll do the rest.... like wandering around in the garden with a beer, wondering what to do.

This has been a public service message for women to better understand men.

## OLD AUTOMOBILE ADDS



Thankyou Trevor Jacobs





February 2021

Marie Gear, Bryan Cartwright, Mandy Vandenberg, Karen Heenan

### **Club Merchandise For Sale**

Club shirts various sizes \$45.00 each

Club Hats \$20.00 each

Available at Club meetings or contact Col on 0457 297 271

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**2021 MECCA Calendars** available to members if you don't have yours - give Liz a call on 0427 970 744

Many thanks to Tony O'Brien, Neville Heness, Douglas Draeger and me for distributing calendars in 2020

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### **SERVICES**

Trev's Auto Repairs

For Rego checks, repairs and wheel alignments etc

Phone **8955-5568**

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If you would like to advertise your business or goods send me a email  
liz@always17.com.au





## EDITORS PAGE

Happy New Year and what a fabulous and exciting year it will be.

Well where do I start mmmmmmm -

After a fabulous Christmas and New Year just relaxing and putting power back into our batteries and wait and see what the year has to offer.

Many of our members cruised over the border treading carefully in case the virus was about however all made it back or are still away enjoying themselves.

Some of our members were not that lucky - into hospital for hip transplants, boulders removed from head, shingles, fingers adapted, bruised toes, eye cleanout, and who knows what else - to all that have suffered and are still getting well we wish you well and hope to see you March 14th at the meeting to discuss what not to do.

Very sad to hear that Dave Simpson had passed away suddenly - he was an interesting and knowledgeable person and will be greatly missed.

Our Breakfast was a great success - would have liked a quieter venue however when venues don't ring you, when you have left numerous messages and been to see them and they don't ring back to confirm booking it makes you wonder in these times whether they are making too much money or going broke?

Our choice was terrific - Stumps Café went out of their way to prepare 3 tables with our new motorcycle logo and food was good and we did not have to wait long to be served. I do believe one member had to go and see where their drink was and they had forgotten to deliver - all was good in the end.

The rain was magnificent our rainwater tanks overflowed yes 7 tanks @ 22,500ltrs each, should see us through until the next downpour. The weeds took over the place with some 3 corner jacks appearing however they were quickly sorted.

Its going to be a busy year for the club pending coronavirus - looking forward to the upcoming events.

Stay well, keep working on your projects and if you have pictures and editorial for March issue please email so I can include, same with if you have something to sell and the list goes on - remember this is your newsletter with your input.

Many thanks  
Liz Driver

## MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA (MECCA)

Incorporating the Alice Springs Vintage & Veteran Car Club Inc

Postal Address: 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)

### *Overlander Badge History & Particulars*

The members of the **Alice Springs Vintage & Veteran Car Club** originally created this very special and much sought after award in the mid 1970s in recognition of the many Veteran, Vintage and Classic motor vehicles whose drivers took up the challenge to travel from interstate to visit Alice Springs. Back in those days the roads to Alice were not the wide, smooth roads we have today but were narrow, undulating strips of bitumen with rough shoulders and causeways where we now have all weather bridges. The Stuart Highway from Port Augusta to the Northern Territory border was still a rough boulder strewn, bull dust and corrugated dirt track which tested the endurance of man and his machine. The sealing of this part of the Stuart Highway was not completed until 1987. The award was appropriately named the **OVERLANDER BADGE** to commemorate the vast distances covered on these roads, the confidence or blind faith the owners had in their vehicles, and the courage of the drivers and passengers who travelled in them to reach Alice Springs. In July 1996 when the **Motor Enthusiasts Club of Central Australia** was formed and incorporated the **Alice Springs Vintage & Veteran Car Club** it was decided that a new category be established to award vehicles from 1947 to a rolling date of 30 years old that make the journey to Alice Springs. This is called the **Special Interest** category.

Today the **OVERLANDER BADGE** is available to anyone who is confident enough to take up the challenge to drive their Veteran, Vintage, Classic or Special Interest vehicle or motor cycle either to or from Alice Springs over an approved distance. The Badge can only be awarded to the nominated driver and vehicle which must arrive at or depart from Alice Springs and cover the specified distance under the vehicles own power.

#### THE APPROVED DISTANCES FOR THE FOUR CATEGORIES ARE:

Veteran:	Up to 1919	500 kilometres
Vintage:	1920 to 1930	1500 kilometres
Classic:	1931 to 1946	3000 kilometres
Special Interest:	1947 to 30 years old	3000 kilometres



The badges differ in design to distinguish the different categories:

Veteran Badge:	White tyre, red spokes, silver grey background and yellow scroll.
Vintage Badge:	Black tyre, green spokes. Silver grey background and yellow scroll.
Classic:	Black tyre, orange spokes. Silver grey background and yellow scroll.
Special Interest:	Black tyre, blue spokes. Silver grey background and yellow scroll.

**TO APPLY** for the badge, contact your club secretary, or apply directly to the MECCA Club secretary. An application form will be sent to you or your club secretary, as required. This form is self-explanatory and must be returned to the MECCA club secretary on completion of the road kilometre requirements. Fee for the badge and engraving is \$75.00. We recommend payment in advance, ie., upon application, to ensure engraving is completed in time for presentation at the completion of your trip.

**ALL APPLICANTS**, whether arriving from interstate or originating in Alice Springs, must submit reasonable proof of their completion of the qualifying road kilometres in order to be awarded the Overland Badge. This is typically in the form of fuel receipts from the service stations along the route.

**AFTER APPROVAL** by the Overlander Badge committee, the badge applicable to your vehicle will be duly inscribed with the applicants name and vehicle and registered in our files. The badge will then be posted to you or your club secretary's postal address, as specified. If you have completed your required kilometres upon arrival in Alice Springs, MECCA can present the badge to the applicant in person.

For further inquiries email us, or drop us a line at the above addresses.

