



# CentreSpoke

March 2022

## FIRST OFFICIAL CAR CLUB MEETING 13/3/22



**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 2021/2022

PRESIDENT:	Tony O'Brien	0438 530 366
VICE PRESIDENT:	Trevor Jacobs	0417 824 684
TREASURER:	Russ Driver	0408 002 907
SECRETARY:	Aileen Kennedy	0491 266 246
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Brian Eather	0428 758 002
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Sean Heenan	0439 040 188
	Neville Heness	0428 740 964
	Bryan Cartwright	0479 096 203
	Fred Twohig	0437 778 819
VEHICLE REGISTRAR:	Allan Campbell	0491 266 246
EDITOR:	Liz Driver	0427 970 744
WEB MASTER:	Tony McKenzie	0412 853 072
HISTORIAN:	Stuart Gear	0418 898 361
CRANKHANDLE:	Alvena Spears	0417 169 452
CLUB HOSTESS:	Lisa Heness	8952-8564

LIFE MEMBERS: Dave Simpson (dec), Tony Bullock,  
Walter Spears (dec), Alvena Spears,  
Stuart & Marie Gear,  
Col & Vicki Jarrett , Len Davenport (dec)

HONOURAY MEMBER: Loraine Braham

PATRON: Bernie Kilgariff (dec)



## *Presidents Report*

### Members

Finally into the New year;

We can now get into some travelling trips and garage/shed visits, some interesting visits next meeting ending up with a pleasant BBQ at Sean Heenan's Home on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> April.

The weather finally becoming cooler, great for overheating Radiators, good to see Trevor Jacobs E Type Jag at our regular meets, actually managed to sort of fit into the drivers seat, not so squeezey getting out though.

I have been looking into the issue of recognition of contributions/efforts of those great members who continually help make our Club run Smoothly, some ideas that I will bring up at the next meet.

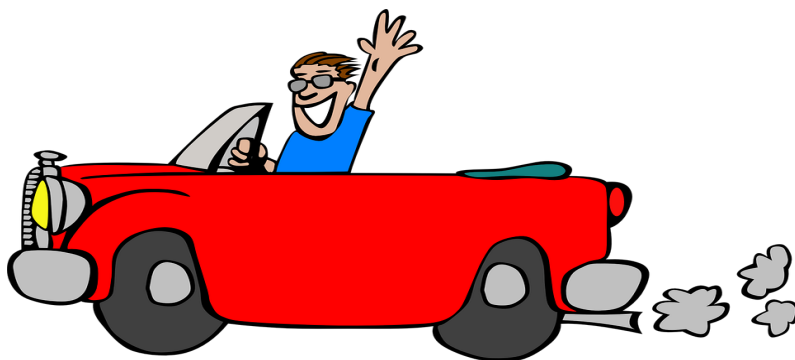
I realize that we have members also in the Aces and eights Club which I think is great, for some of our members it allows them to participate in dual activities, drives/Nats etc.

Our Clubs differ in many ways, particularly with the type of Vehicles, theirs are kinda Noisy and ours more Traditional.

Both Clubs are great for building friendships and enjoying Motoring at its best. Looking forward to more drive aways/BBQ events in the coming months.

Keep those motors running.

Cheers.  
Tony O'Brien  
President





## *The Sec's Desk*

### **MECCA General Meeting Sunday 13 March 2022**

Held at Harry Griffiths Masonic Hall

Meeting opened by President Tony O'Brien 9.08am

#### **Present**

Raelene Beale (apologised for being late), Allan Campbell, Brian Cartwright, John Cooper (apologised for being late), Stephen Dinner, Cameron Dinner, Douglas Draeger, Liz Driver, Russ Driver, Mark Dunn, Brian Eather, Marie Gear, Stuart Gear, Sean Heenan, Lisa Heness, Peter Hilliard, Trevor Jacobs, Aileen Kennedy, Tony O'Brien, Alvina Spears, Michele Thompson, Fred Twohig, Mandy Van Den Burg, Steve Van Den Burg, Ross Murphy.

#### **Visitors**

Nil

#### **Apologies**

Garry Bentley, Neville Heness, Michael Hanrahan, John Hubner, Trevor Hyman, Tony McKenzie, Margaret McKenzie, Tim Schubert, Mike Thompson, John Wischusen.

**Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 14 November 2021 were read-and approved - moved Brian Eather, seconded Stuart Gear.

#### **Business arising from the minutes**

#### **Presidents Report**

Covid restrained activities, so now that we can, let's go somewhere. Tony has recently returned from doing work in remote communities. Presidents report approved – moved, seconded Trevor Jacobs.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

Liaison with the President of the Pioneer Women's Museum took place. Volunteers are needed so they can open the Museum more often. Due to a lack of volunteers and low numbers the course of action taken is that the Museum would more than welcome us and appreciate a visit from us later on in the year.

#### **Correspondence In**

- Commonwealth Bank statement
- Post Box renewal invoice.

#### **Correspondence Out**

-Nil.

Secretary's report approved - moved Tony O'Brien, seconded Trevor Jacobs.



## *The Sec's Desk*

### **Treasurers Report.**

Russ Driver provided a statement for the meeting.

Opening bank balance was \$6975.93, + \$210.00 Membership, + \$50.00 donation from Dinner family, + \$880.00 Christmas lunch; Expenses \$1057.80 Food for Christmas lunch.

The net bank balance as at 12 March 2022 is \$7058.13

Moved Fred Twohig, seconded Mandy Van Den Berg.

### **General Business**

-Visit to the Dragway Strip in May – Sean Heenan and Mandy Van Den Berg provided information. Mandy and Steve raced their bikes there last night.

Heather Parkinson is the person to contact. To race, you need a licence and insurance – MECCA Club insurance does not cover this.

-Red Centre Nats cheap entry fees finish at the end of this month. Get your entries in soon for the cheaper entrant fee as they go from \$30 to \$60 for club entries.

-The visit to the 7Mile is to be arranged.

-We need to check the date of Aces & Eights Coffee and Chrome.

-Tony O'Brien suggested the investigation of a recognition system of years spend in the club. Discussion took place about how this would work, and about if it is necessary or if it impedes upon the Life Membership system. Fred Twohig had raised the idea of a recognition of club cars at meeting and events, and prize at the end of the year for person with highest vehicle input.

-Tony asked members about their projects. There were various responses from around the table.

-Alvina sent the fines bus around and we were delighted to see the painting that Michele Thompson did of Alvina, excellent work.

-Run for meeting being held on 10<sup>th</sup> April is a shed crawl to Allan Campbell's shed, then Fred Twohig's shed, then a BBQ at Sean Heenan's place, 75 Ragonesi Road. Approximately 20 people at the meeting said they would be attending. Finalisation of numbers will be sought in the week before the meeting for catering purposes

Meeting closed at 10.04am



## MECCA

MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA Inc

## CLUB Calendar 2021 - 2022

### **10 April 2022 General Meeting then Garage Crawl**

Following a brief general meeting, members are invited on a garage crawl on all or part (whatever suits you) of various restoration projects that are under way.

The garage crawl commences at Allan Campbell and Aileen Kennedy's - from 10:30 am.

Next is Fred Twohig's - approx. 11:30am.

Motor bikes and early Holden's abound, look for the road cone on the road at Fred's gate.

Then we go to Sean and Karen Heenan's place at about 12.30 pm –

A Club bbq lunch will be available for \$5 per head, bring a chair if you want to sit down and it's Moke country here (not Californian as advised at the last meeting) amongst his other interesting stuff.

Cheers Trevor Jacobs

8 May 2022 Meeting at 9am Masonic Lodge Hall  
Possible Drags—to be confirmed by Secretary

12 June 2022 Meeting at 9am at the Masonic Lodge Hall  
Followed by a Corroboree Rock Road Trip

1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 Alice Springs Show, Blatherskite Park Static Display.

10 July 2022 9am for a 9.30 start run from Masonic Lodge Hall to  
Stuarts Well for lunch

14 Aug 2022 Meeting at 9.00 am the Masonic Lodge Hall followed by the  
AGM—lunch venue TBA

26 to 28 Aug 2022 RTHF Festival

2 – 4 Sept 2022 Fathers Day / Red Centre Nats.

2 Oct 2022 7 Mile outing meet at Masonic Lodge Hall - times to be advised

9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022 Meeting at 9am at the Masonic Lodge Hall - Run TBA



**Presentation to Alvina Spears portrait painted by  
Michelle Thompson**



**Boys will be boys at any age.  
Our President Tony squeezing into Trevor's  
E-Type jaguar**



AH THE GOOD OLD DAYS - DRIVEIN,  
COKE, POPCORN ETC A GOOD MOVIE WITH  
YOUR OWN SOUND SYSTEM AND WHATEVER  
ELSE DEVELOPED DURING THE NIGHT

No wonder we had a baby boom





## **Automobiles and Dealerships of the Past and the Modern Era**

On 19 January 1978 - 44 years ago today, the last Beetle built at Volkswagenwerk Emden, and the last Beetle sedan to be built in Germany, rolled from the production line.

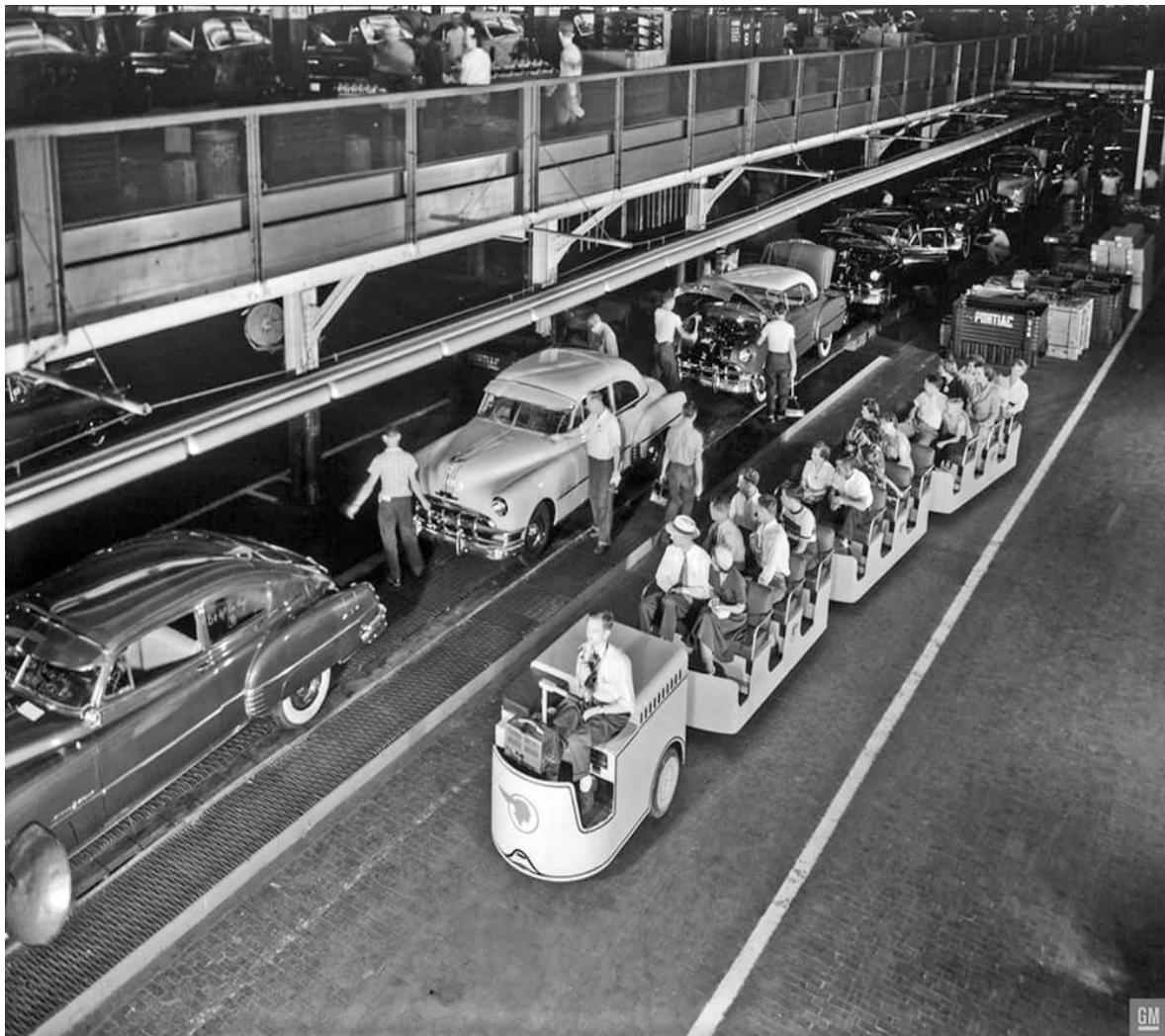
Painted in Dakota Beige, it was also the last of 16,255,500 Beetle sedans to be made in Germany and was shipped to the Stiftung Auto Museum Volkswagen in Wolfsburg.

Beetle production at Emden began on 8 December 1964 and continued for thirteen years with a total of 2,362,800 produced at the factory.



**This was copied from GM PhotoStore page**

Back in the day automotive plant tours, like this one at GM's Pontiac Assembly, gave visitors an up close and personal look at how automobiles were built.

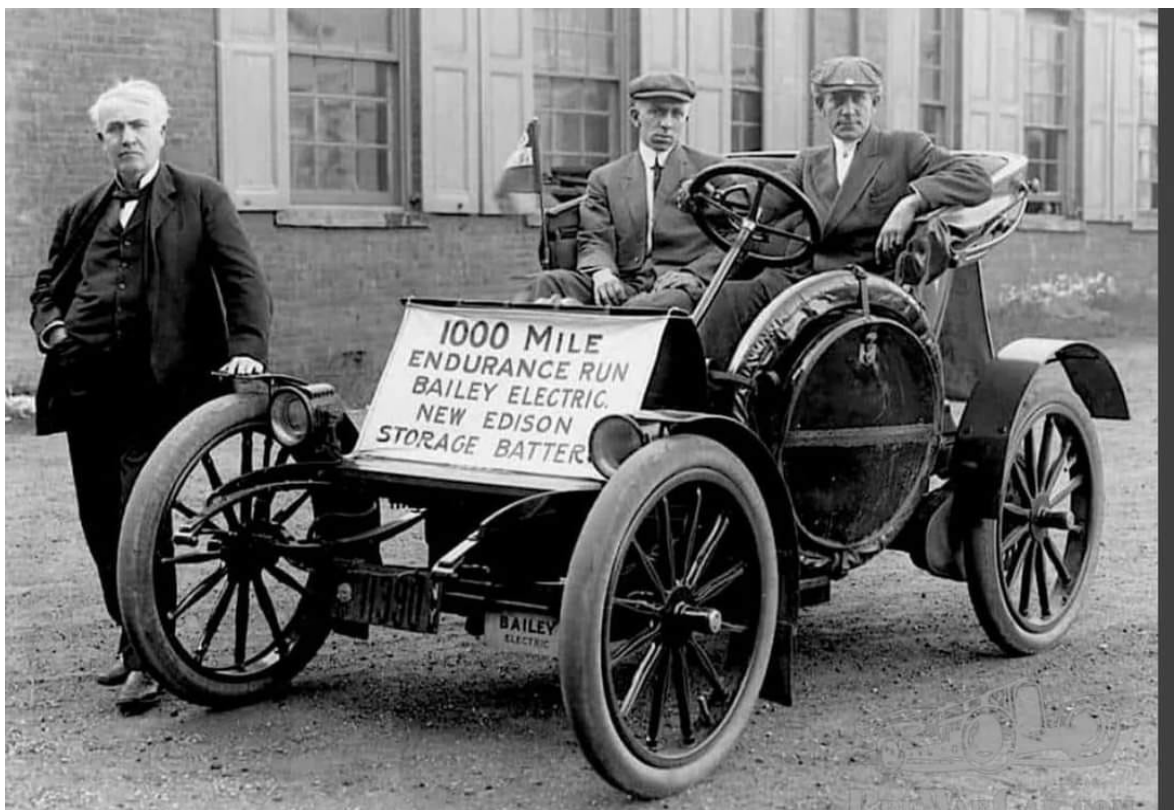


## **This was copied from Time Travellers blog**

Thomas Edison with his electric car in 1910.

Equipped with Edison's state-of-the-art battery, the Bailey Electric managed to make 100 miles on a full charge.

In September 1910 the electric car competed with much bigger petrol-powered cars in a 1,000 miles long endurance run.



## **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 (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.

## JOKE PAGE



What do dentists call their x-rays?  
Tooth pics

Did you hear about the first restaurant to open on the moon?  
It had great food, but no atmosphere

Did you want to hear a construction joke?  
Sorry, I'm still working on it.

Why did the bullet end up losing his job?  
He got fired.

How do you measure a snake?  
In inches - they don't have feet.

You heard the rumour going around about the butter?  
Never mind, I shouldn't spread it.

Why didn't the skeleton go to the dance?  
Because he had no body to go with.

What do you call a religious person who sleep walks?  
A romin' catholic

What washes up on small beaches?  
Micro-waves

How does a dog stop a video?  
He hits the paws button

The first rule of the Alzheimer's club is  
Wait, where are we again?

A child asked his father, "How were people born?"  
So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on."  
The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him,  
"We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now."  
The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!"  
His father replied,  
"No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."



As you get older the wealthier you become.

Below is for both sexes



**OMG, I'm rich!  
Silver in the hair,  
Gold in the teeth,  
Crystals in the kidney,  
Sugar in the blood,  
Lead in the butt,  
Iron in the arteries,  
and an inexhaustible  
supply of natural gas!**

*I never thought I would  
accumulate such wealth!*

-Unknown Author



**April 2022**

Lisa Heness, Col Jarrett, Fred Twohig

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### **Club Merchandise For Sale**

Club shirts various sizes \$45.00 each

Available at Club meetings or contact Liz on 0427 970 744

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### **SERVICES**

Trev's Auto Repairs

For Rego checks, repairs and wheel alignments  
etc

Phone **8955-5568**

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### **2022 MECCA Calendars**

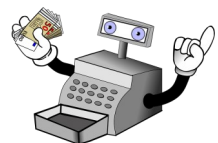
2022 Calendars still available if you don't have yours.  
Pick up at next meeting 10/4/22  
or give me a call 0427 970 744

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### **For Sale**

De-clutter your shed or home place your adds here -  
no charge for members

Email for April edition - [liz@always17.com.au](mailto:liz@always17.com.au)







## EDITORS PAGE

March - only seemed like yesterday it was Christmas, Covid, civil unrest in the world (as long as it doesn't interfere with our lives) floods, fire, earthquakes, opening of borders and new streams of Covid, soaring fuel prices, weekly shopping bill doubling in price - wow who would have guessed in 2022 this is only the start - can't wait for the rest of the year to see what happens next.

All jokes aside we are the lucky ones, we have a roof over our heads, loved ones by our side, friends, food in the fridge and if we do have any worries we only have to turn on the TV to see the devastation in Australia and overseas.

Our first official meeting went off well, I felt there should have been more members present however with opening of borders, there is the thrill of going into another state and not having to fill out passes and having loved ones coming to see us. It is also that time of year that the weather is cooling down and we are able to venture out.

It was interesting listening to members talk about their vehicles and what they are doing and how members are helping solve other members problems, great team work. We have a lot of very skilled people in the club.

I have to congratulate Lisa Heness getting at the club rooms early to get the coffee pot on so as members arrive they can have their coffee hit. Where would we be without you Lisa. Thank you.

It will be great to see members out in their pre loved vehicles showing them off in the coming months. We have some great outings coming up. If you have friends or family up get them to come to our events I'm sure they would love a different outing.

Red Centre Nats if you are entering , do it before 31st March and get the cheap rates - any money you can save you might as well have it.

Well next meeting and the Garage Crawl after will be great and to end up at Sean Heenan's place for a magnificent BBQ - don't forget chairs unless you want to stand up and grow tall.

Until then - keep safe and healthy

Liz Driver  
Editor

Ps if you want to put anything in April edition email me

