



CentreSpoke

October 2022

NEXT MEETING: Sunday 13th November 9 am Masonic Lodge Kris Kringle
Christmas gathering Sun 20th November Turf Club—12 noon
Details inside



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

Facebook: search "MECCA Alice Springs"

MECCA Committee 2022/2023

PRESIDENT:	Trevor Jacobs	0417 824 684
VICE PRESIDENT:	Tony O'Brien	0438 530 366
TREASURER:	Sean Heenan	0439 040 188
SECRETARY:	Aileen Kennedy	0491 266 246
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Brian Eather	0428 758 002
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Peter Inkster	0432 310 911
	Neville Heness	0428 740 964
	Bryan Cartwright	0479 096 203
	Stephen Dinner	0409 525 350
VEHICLE REGISTRAR:	Allan Campbell	0491 266 246
EDITOR:	Douglas Draeger	0428 676 741
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:	Tony Bullock, Alvena Spears, Stuart & Marie Gear, Col & Vicki Jarrett ,	
HONOURAY MEMBER:	Lorraine Braham	
LIFE MEMBERS (dec)	Dave Simpson Walter Spears, Len Davenport	
PATRON:	Bernie Kilgariff (dec)	



Presidents Report

President's Report

Hi members, with the weather still remaining cool I hope you are making the most of it while you can. Cars are still pleasant to drive and sheds are not red hot meaning you can get in them and enjoy.

October's outing was well attended at the 7 Mile Aerodrome and thanks goes to Alex Nelson for his guided talk on the area. Alex is a wealth of information and provided a great insight into early air travel and aviation history in Alice Springs. Also thanks to Doug Draeger for providing the pancakes and coffee on the day.

This November there are 2 gatherings that you can attend if you wish. The first is the usual general meeting on Sunday 13th 9.00am at the Harry Griffiths Masonic Hall. At this meeting we will have a Kris Kringle, with presents to the value of \$10 and can be new, recycled or regifted. Males bring for males and females bring for females. On arrival obtain a ticket from Marie and place your present in the box.

The second event is our Christmas get together at the Alice Springs Turf Club on 20th November from 12.00pm. See details elsewhere in the newsletter. I was there on Thursday checking out the venue and I can tell you it is one of the best places in town. We will be upstairs and inside in the new restaurant area and the view over the track is great. Entry to the Turf Club is free, the restaurant area is airconditioned, there is a bar upstairs and so no matter the weather it should be a great afternoon. Those attending please advise the secretary for catering purposes and payment is to be made to the club account.

That's about all from me. The club has December and January off. This is traditionally the hottest months and usually everyone goes away, so enjoy your break and we'll see each other in the new year.

Merry Christmas and safe motoring

Trevor Jacobs



The Sec's Desk

MECCA Informal Meeting Sunday 2 October 2022

Held at 7 Mile Aerodrome

Meeting opened by President Trevor Jacobs at 11.38am

Present

Garry Bentley, John Bridgefoot, Allan Campbell, Brian Cartwright, Douglas Draegar, Mark Dunn, Marie & Stuart Gear, Neville Heness, Peter Hilliard, John Hubner, Trevor Jacobs, Aileen Kennedy, Ross Murphy, Tony & Margaret McKenzie, Tony O'Brien, Alvina, Dallas & Jane Spears, Michele & Mike Thompson, Fred Twohig.

Visitors or Provisional Members

Des Kelly, Adrian Cousins.

Apologies

Raelene Beale, John Cooper, Stephen Dinner, Russ & Liz Driver, Sean Heenan, Lisa Heness Judy & Peter Inkster, Mandy & Steve Van Den Berg.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 September 2022 were distributed via email prior to today.

Presidents Report

We will have a short meeting today. No need to have formal minuted meeting.

General Business

Christmas Party:

Sean Heenan has researched the Racecourse suggestion, and information has been sent to members. Numbers required as soon as possible.

Kris Kringle:

Kris Kringle will be done at November meeting. Anyone taking part please bring a \$10.00 gift. Males bring a gift for male, females bring a gift for female. Marie Gear will run this.



From the Editor

Approaching our last meeting for the year Sunday 13th

Kris Cringle will be played out after the meeting and our Christmas gathering will be two weeks later at the turf club which is a race day

The club calendar for 2023 has been finalised and is currently being printed. Hope to have copies available for the meeting

Reminder there is no meeting in December or January but we can keep in touch through the club Facebook page - search MECCA Alice Springs

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1357738737646489/?ref=share>

And check out the web page

Over the holidays, take some pics and think about contributing something for the club magazine next year

Last car event for the year for members if interested—Christmas Car Show and market



<https://facebook.com/events/s/alice-springs-christmas-show/1217800662405487/>

Public Event Invitation

Blatherskite Park is organising their 2nd annual Christmas Show, and were wondering if MECCA club members would like to display some cars? NOTE: NOT CLUB EVENT

The event is on Sat 19th Nov from 4 – 8pm. Please note the event is outside, but we can store cars in the pavilion overnight if needed.

Rachel from CASS is the contact if interested in attending Rachael 89521651
Their idea is to have some cars on display to provide the blokes something to look at to compliment the quilts and craft that will be there. It is open to the general public to attend the party.

Remember: November is our last meeting for the year but we can still keep in touch via social media over the holidays search MECCA Alice Springs on Facebook and leave a post and a picture



MECCA Christmas lunch

When Sunday 20th November from 12pm

Where Alice Springs Turf Club

Entry to Turf Club is free This is a race day

Canapes \$40 pp

- *Panko Prawns with homemade tartare Sauce
- *Duck pancakes
- *Dates with blue cheese wrapped in bacon
- *Thai beef salad
- *Wild mushroom risotto
- *Mini Hamburgers
- *Fish and chip cones
- *Corn ribs with spicy aioli

Cost \$40 per person payable to the Mecca club account.

Drinks at your own cost

**If attending please advise the secretary
allan_aileen@bigpond.com
or text/phone 0419 266246**



Health Issues by Liz Driver

Well you never know what life has in stall for you.

When I gave notice that I would not be editor for the club for the next 12 months I had no idea what was happening deep inside my body.

I ended up throwing up and feeling as if I was going to die not able to eat or do anything else than have the toilet be my home, unable to communicate other than take me to the hospital (I must have been sick to nominate going to the hospital).

After the 4th admission in approximately a week – Emergency took me seriously that something must be wrong. I had a CT scan which showed something in my bowel and with further investigation I was informed I had a tumor and when biopsy came available I would be contacted, I was then discharged from hospital. Still feeling like death warmed up.

Next contact our GP (which I normally don't visit unless my body instructs me to). I asked for a referral to Adelaide Gastroenterology – low and behold the next day a phone call from Adelaide to advise appointment date. So off in our vehicle and headed south. In Adelaide blood tests, colonoscopy, booked in to see surgeon and confirmation it was colon cancer, filled out forms for Lyell McEwen Hospital and waited for surgery date.

Surgery was on Friday 30/9/22 and felt very sore and sorry for myself however my faithful and trusted husband by my side helping me all the way made my pain bearable. On the second day I was made to get out of bed and walk with my tune up machine down the hospital corridor and back to my trusted bed again. Sunday the physio came in and sussed me out asking me questions on what I could do (I did not trust her, seemed like she was thinking I couldn't look after myself and was looking to put me in home care) – no way – I was asked to stand up, put on a piece of clothing which I picked was socks, bent down and put on one sock and sat down – that proved to her that I was independent and I could look after myself – that was all that was needed to satisfy her and she left happy. Russ and I went for a walk on the ward again but were told we mustn't leave the floor we were on.

Monday morning in strolls the doctor and his apprentices, tells me what a good patient I was and that they were amazed that I required very little pain killers and with the nurses advising him I was moving around, eating etc. the doctor said he wanted to discharge me and saw no point in me staying in hospital – Russ and I were surprised as we were told a minimum of 4 – 7 days and this was only just day three. So got dressed and walked out of the hospital to our awaiting vehicle to go back to my sister's place and take it easy for a week.

I was informed I had an outpatient appointment on Thursday 13th October, so we packed up so that we could head home after the appointment, and took a leisurely trip home arriving Friday 14/10/22 at 4.30pm. Home Sweet Home.

We learnt a lot from this incident and I would like to share it with you.

I had a cancer bowel test in Alice Springs which came back negative – so I presumed everything was o.k.

I found out my iron levels were very low and I had an iron infusion in Adelaide to get my levels back to where they should be.

On my enquiry I was informed my iron levels were low even before the operation and that I was probably passing blood into my stools however the machine they use to detect blood is not 100% accurate and will not detect minor blood – so there are a lot of people out in the community that think they do not have a problem – so get your iron levels checked to make sure this is o.k.

When you get your bowel test kit or you organise one – use it and get your results back

To be sure you don't have a problem get your doctor to organise a colonoscopy which is approximately a 4 hour procedure and you can go home the same day and wait for results to be sure your insides are o.k and you don't have polyps which can turn into cancer.

Also eat a Western diet full of fruit, vegetables, grains etc limit red meat and stay away from processed food e.g sausages, bacon, salami, fried foods etc, and go for long walks to get the system working.

I know some of our members have health issues and if we can talk about our experiences we may save some one's life or make their life less stressful if they have issues.

Perhaps our club could have a Health Issue page and members can educate us regarding what we don't know about ourselves.

Well that's it for my rambling – I will be having another check-up next year to make sure my body has no additives that I did not invite so I don't go through this again.

Keep well

Liz Driver



Pictures from our excursion to 7 Mile



Many thanks to
Home Timber and Hardware

For loan of BBQ Trailer



History of Number Plates in the Northern Territory

The Northern Territory of Australia requires its residents to register their motor vehicles and display **vehicle registration plates**. Current regular issue plates are to the standard Australian dimensions of 372 mm (14.6 in) in length by 134 mm (5.3 in) in height, and use standard Australian serial dies.

* **General series:** CA-12-BC

* **Motorcycle:** A-1234

* **Trailer:** TA-1234



The Northern Territory has never fully adopted the 1950s three letter, three number Federal scheme. It was proposed to receive XAA-000 to XZZ-999 that Western Australia later took up.

Prior to 1933 Registration plates in the NT was between Central Australia and Northern Australia for 5 years, as NA & CA has their own registration plates until the merger in 1933 back into Northern Territory.

1933 to 1953 Plates were made in the style similar to Q plates in Qld, with NT shown on a white band at the left and the numerals in white on black.

1953 to 1979 Registration plates in the NT were simply five numbers these being white on a black background. [e.g. 12-354], by the 1970s it reached 100-000 so a 6-digit version was added and ran until 1979 when it changed to ochre on white plates. All black-and-white plates were recalled and replaced on expiry of registration, retention fees applied if the motorist wished to keep the original number.

1979 to 2011 NT plates have six numbers in ochre on a white background,

with the slogan "Northern Territory: Outback Australia".

Motorcycle plates have five numbers.



There doesn't seem to be a noticeable system to plate series, as numbers of all types appear on both halves of the plate.

NTG (Northern Territory Government) 800-000 to 899-999 and Cycles 80-000 to 85-999, has the NTG embossed at the left hand side of a standard plate, while NTG was embossed on top of motorcycle plates. MO 8.000 series was also issued to Darwin Buses but has since been deregistered as these services were privatised. It continues to be issued as a standalone numeric allocation after 2011 when the general series moved to alpha numeric.

In 1987, the embossing has changed following a change of manufacturer into a non-standard embossing.

The same year, motorcycles and trailers plates were modified to accommodate registration labels to be displayed in a box below the T letter for trailers and at the right hand side for motorcycles. It happened for a while before the change of manufacturer.

In the 1990s MVR started offering custom, or combination of alpha numerics personalised in Ochre-white base, Black-white base and black-yellow base, with slogan options N.T. - OUTBACK AUSTRALIA or N.T. - NATURE TERRITORY - or N.T. at the top.

In 1998, Vehicle general series reverted to the Australian standard embossing used before 1987.

Trailer plates used the Tnn-nnn format up it was exhausted in 1998 after which Ta-nnnn was implemented. This was previously on a black on yellow base until 1979 when the current ochre on white slogan plates were introduced.

In the early 2000s slimline plates were introduced on personalised /custom or general series via remakes only.

By August 2008 it was reported both motorcycles and general series have reached the 9's and a new system was being looked into to replace the current system. It was reported that the MVR in the NT is looking at n-a-nnnn or aa-nnnn or the NSW aa-nn-aa format to replace it. It is expected to occur near the end of 2010.

As of 23 October 2009, the NT Government announced the chosen new plate format Ca-nn-aa. ^[3] It will also replace the all numeric motorcycle series with alpha numeric series. The new series was unveiled in January 2011. It became available for issue in June 2011, with the same ochre on reflective white base and slogan slightly modified to show as NT OUTBACK AUSTRALIA without dash and full stops.

Motorcycles

From 1953, Motorcycles had the NT insert embossed at the left hand side while the remainder is embossed as 12-345 in white on black base.

From 1979, the ochre on reflective white base was introduced, with the slogan NT-OUTBACK AUSTRALIA for a brief period at the top before reverting to N.T.

Motorcycles since March 2011, have the new format adopted as A-1234 replacing the numerics issued since it began, is the 1st version.

in 2013, with the labels abolished, motorcycles plates had the box rego label space removed and alpha numeric characters realigned to the middle, hence version 2 of the current format began but it lasted for about 2,500 before changing again.

As of October 2015, motorcycles have changed the embossing back into the standard Australian motorcycle starting from A-8900's, hence the 3rd version since the March 2011 changeover.



Special purpose plates

Special purpose plates offered are MO (Buses), MB (Mini Buses), Private Hire PH, Taxi, SUB taxi series, TV (Tourist Vehicle), SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle), LV (Limousine Vehicle), CV (Courtesy Vehicle), D - Dealer Trade series and SFV (Special Function Vehicle)

Dealer Trade series was in annual cyclic colours before changing to the yellow on black reflective base then finally into current ochre on reflective white base.

MO bus plates from 1953 until 1987 was in yellow on black base which was later reflective in the 1980s and was replaced by the current blue on mid yellow base. Initially it used wheat base but changed to mid yellow base.

TV Tourist Bus plates was introduced in the early 1990's from TV-000 to TV-999 in white and green base. Once it reached 999, it moved over to TV-00A and now changed colours to Blue on mid yellow from TV-00G.

Lorry plates in small L embossing and in black on white was introduced in 1953 but lasted only 3 years and was recalled & replaced by the standard general series.

in the 2010s, a new club plate scheme has replaced the VCC (Vintage Car Club) scheme, with embossed legend CLUB down left vertical and bottom legend "NT-MOTOR ENTHUSIAST" and is white on reflective red.

Commemorative plates

1987: [Australian Bicentenary](#) plates were released to celebrate the period 1788 to 1988. These were offered with green or ochre text on a reflective white background with the Bicentenary logo between the characters.

- 2001: a Centenary of Federation series was released to commemorate the 1901 to 2001 anniversary of Australia's federation. The series had a black background with white characters in the format CF001 to CF999.
- 2008: to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Northern Territory forming independent government outside of South Australia, a series of blue characters on a white background was made available. The format was 700-000 to 710-000.
- 2011: the NT released a special series to commemorate the centenary since the Territory was established in 1911. These were produced with red text on reflective black in the nnnn-NT format. Due to complaints that these plates were too hard to read by enforcement cameras, the plates were recalled and remade into the ordinary ochre text/white base with the usual *NT – Outback Australia* slogan.

May 2016: the NT released commemorative plates to mark 75 years since Darwin was bombed during [World War II](#). The range BOD-000 to BOD-999 was allocated. The plates are on sale for \$150 and available to purchase from 14 May 2016 to 27 February 2017. The slogan screen printed at the base of the plate is *NT – The Territory Remembers 1942–2017* with a [Supermarine Spitfire](#) (fighter aircraft) graphic between characters. The plate is produced with blue text on a reflective white base.

June 2020: a new general release number plate "Territory Together" was available at no extra cost as a tribute to frontline workers across the NT. The plate is white with ochre lettering in the format NT9500 to NT9999. An image of police and healthcare workers separates the letters and numbers.



Numberplate on 1942 Chevrolet truck 4 x 2 located in Tennant Creek

Numberplate has raised white alloy letters riveted to tin plate painted black (Mid 1950,s)

Discontinued plates

Lorry series: L·nnnn Issued until 1953 when it was replaced by the general series. All have been recalled.

Club rules for club trailer hire

M.E.C.C.A Car trailer reg TF 6050 usage and conditions

For the purpose of all up lift of roadworthy and un-roadworthy vehicles to transport from place of breakdown or from home to place of repair in Central Australia and trailer not to cross into other borders e.g Use of equipment – use in NT ONLY

Vehicles that can be transported – cars, motorbikes, sidecars that belong to Motor Enthusiasts Club members only.

Club member to provide straps, chains, dogs, ropes etc to secure vehicle onto trailer

Donation of reasonable expectation will be expected for the use of Club Trailer for ongoing costs e.g registration, insurance and general maintenance (not to be confused with abuse of Club trailer)

Repair and Maintenance of M.E.C.C.A car trailer-

The club member at the members own expense, will keep the trailer in good repair, appearance and condition (normal and reasonable wear and tear excepted). The club member will supply all parts and labour that are necessary to keep the Club trailer in such a state.

If the Club trailer is not in good repair, appearance and condition when it is returned to M.E.C.C.A then M.E.C.C.A may make such repairs that are necessary to put Car Trailer in a state of good repair, appearance and condition, (normal and reasonable wear and tear excepted)

M.E.C.C.A will give the club member invoice for the said repairs and the club member will reimburse M.E.C.C.A for the expense of those repairs.

Insurance –

M.E.C.C.A will comprehensively insure trailer however if a claim is to be made Club member responsible for damage will pay any Excess and any other fees associated with repairs.

Club member who is under the influence of Alcohol or Drugs and has a accident or is pulled over by Police for random tests will pay full costs of Club trailer to be recovered and repaired.

Indemnity

Club member will indemnify and hold harmless M.E.C.C.A against any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorney's fees and costs, arising out of use of Club car trailer

Entire Agreement

This Agreement will constitute the entire agreement between the Parties. Any prior understanding or representation of any kind preceding the date of this Agreement will not be binding on either party except to the extent incorporated in this Agreement

Club member agrees with M.E.C.C.A club trailer conditions as per trailer usage sheet

Renew or apply for club vehicle registration

You can apply for a reduced rate of registration and compulsory third party insurance so you can maintain the operational status of historic and individually constructed vehicles.

You can only apply for this registration if you:

are a member of a recognised vehicle enthusiast club and own one of the approved types of vehicles outlined below.

This type of registration only allows you restricted access to a road or related area.

To find out more, read the club registration scheme guidelines:

Northern Territory Motor Vehicle Enthusiast Club registration scheme guidelines PDF
(available on line or DMV office)

You will also need to comply with your clubs membership rules

Before you apply

Before you apply, follow these steps:

Step 1. Check you have an approved vehicle type for the club registration scheme

You must have one of three main classes of vehicles to apply for the club registration scheme.

Classic motor vehicle

These are factory produced vehicles that have a date of manufacture that is at least 30 years old or more.

Street Rod

Street Rods that are built and designed and certified as compliant with the National Guidelines for the Construction and Modification of Street Rods.

Individually constructed vehicle

Individually constructed vehicles (ICV) or individual approved vehicles (IAV) that have been approved and are eligible for club registration.

Step 2. Ensure you're a member of a recognised motor vehicle enthusiast club

You must be a member of a recognised club to apply.

A club representative will be able to explain the details and requirements of the scheme to you.

Recognised enthusiast clubs in the Northern Territory (NT) include:

Aces and Eights

Classic Ford Club

Classic Holden Car Club of the Northern Territory

Darwin Commodore Car Club

Katherine Vehicle Enthusiast Club

Motor Enthusiasts Club of Central Australia

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

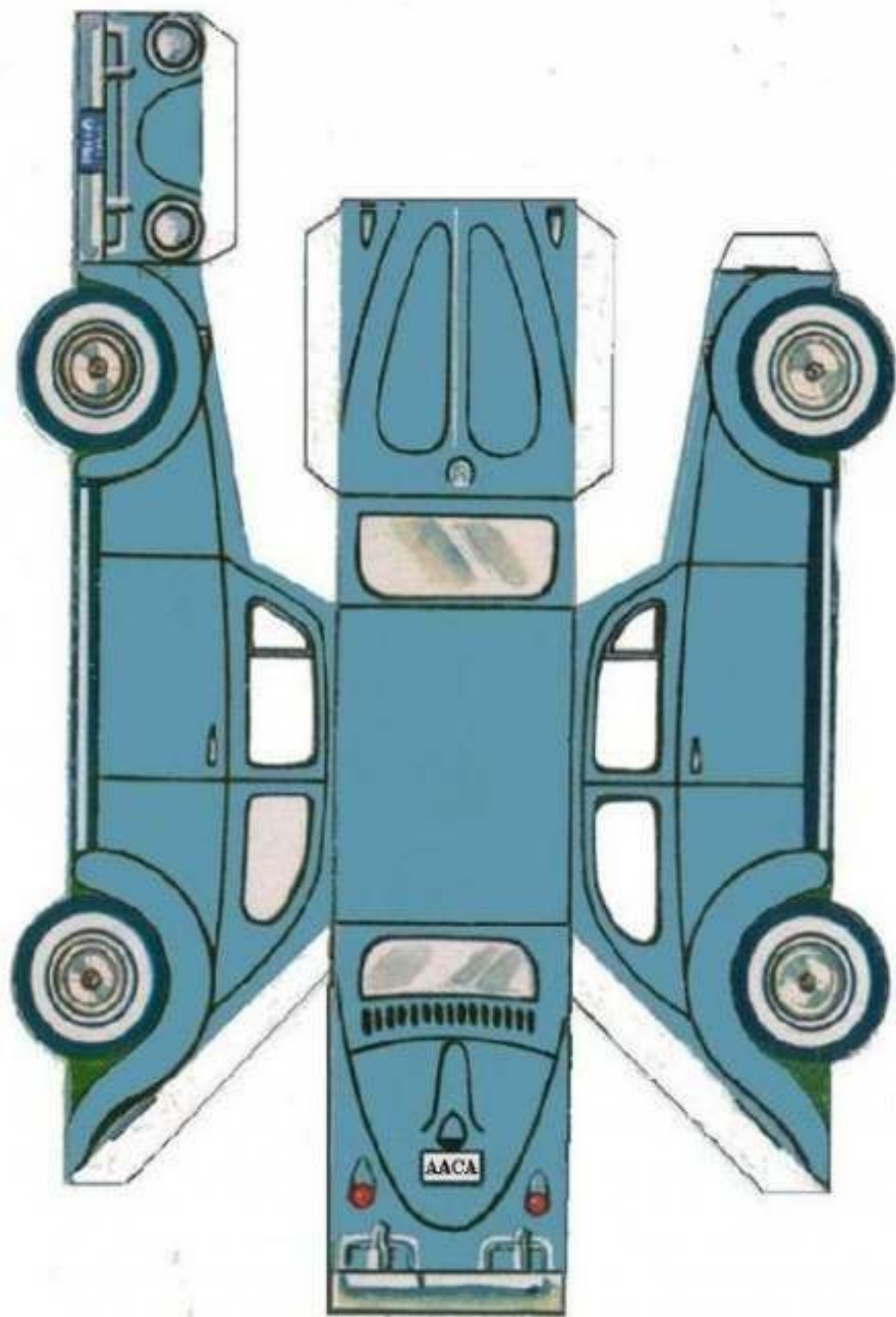
NT Gassers Car Club

Territories Finest Custom Car Club

The Classic Motorcycle Club of the Northern Territory

Toyota Landcruiser Club Darwin.

Once you have reviewed all the rules regarding club vehicle registration and you still have questions—our club vehicle registrar is Allan Campbell 0491 266 246





Liz Driver



Happy Birthday wishes for month of November to members:

Carl Blackmore,

Good Luck
In local council by-election

Sean Heenan

Joke Page



Q. What did the disgruntled guy say to his mechanic?
A. *You auto know better!*

Q. What did the auto mechanic say to the guy at the REPCO store?
A. *Oh, give me a brake!*

Q. Which cable channel do auto mechanics enjoy?
A. The Car Tune Network.

Q. What did the auto mechanic do during his spare time?
A. He liked to draw car toons.

Q. Why wouldn't the blonde go to Grease Monkey during her lunch hour?
A. Because she was a vegan.

Q. Why do mechanics like working on Fords?
A. They come from the factory with the problem circled.

Q. How do you know you've found the right auto mechanic?
A. He understands *all* the language you speak to describe the @\$%! problem.

Q. What did the REPCO parts clerk say to the guy who asked if he could get a wiper blade for his Ford ?
A. *Sure, sounds like a fair trade to me!*

Did you hear about the mechanic who performed abdominal surgery on a robot?
It was gut-wrenching!

Q. What did the alien say to the gas pump?
A. Take your finger out of your nose while I'm talking to you.

Did you hear about the mechanic who is afraid of speed bumps? He's slowly getting over it.

CLUB CALENDAR

November 13th Christmas Party—Location and details TBA

December / January—No meetings

February 12th General Meeting—followed by breakfast run—Olive Pink

March 12th General Meeting—followed by shed crawl
Trevor Jacobs organiser + BBQ

April 8th—9th FINKE Desert Race
(3rd Sunday) 16th General Meeting followed by drive to Drag Strip

May 14th Mothers Day

(3rd Sunday) 21st General Meeting followed by drive to Simpsons Gap

21st—National Motoring Heritage Day (Drive It Day) - NRTHFame

June 12th Queens Birthday Long Weekend

(3rd Sunday) 18th General Meeting followed by drive to Stanley Chasm

July 9th General Meeting only as following Alice Springs Show Displays (Fri + Sat)

August 13th General Meeting then AGM
followed by Shed crawl (Sean Heenan organiser)

September 10th General Meeting (Red Centre Nationals)
followed by run Corroboree rock and lunch Alice Springs Brewery—TBC

October 2nd (1st Sunday) General Meeting followed by run (TBA)

Bathurst 6th—9th Oct

All general meetings start at 9 am at Masonic Lodge

Services

Trevs Auto Repairs

For rego checks, repairs and wheel alignments etc

Phone 8955-5568

Club Merchandise For Sale

Club shirts in various sizes \$45– each

Club hats \$20– each

Available at club meetings—See treasurer or secretary

Club Car Trailer

Stephen Dinner is currently the club car trailer manager and currently resides at his property in Ilparpa for pick up and return

Trailer hire bookings and forms (Conditions for hire) are available from Stephen Dinner

0409 525 350 stephendinner@bigpond.com

Who has some spare shed space ? :)

Club has some tables, chairs, Gazebo, looking for a home between club events.

Can you help with undercover storage

See the president—Trevor Jacobs—if you can help

JETCOR

ALICE SPRINGS - NORTHERN TERRITORY

Mike and Michele Thompson



REPCO Alice Springs — For your car parts



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

MECCA Club appreciates the support given to us by

Robyn Lambley MLA
MEMBER FOR ARALUEN

Araluen Electorate Office – Alice Springs
PO Box 2654, Alice Springs NT 0871

