



CentreSpoke

March 2023



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 2022/2023

PRESIDENT: Trevor Jacobs 0417 824 684

VICE PRESIDENT: Tony O'Brien 038 530 366

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, Alvina Spears, Stuart & Marie Gear,
Col & Vicki Jarrett ,

HONOURAY MEMBER: Loraine Braham

LIFE MEMBERS (dec) Dave Simpson , Walter Spears, Len Davenport

PATRON: Bernie Kilgariff (dec)



Presidents Report

Members

Hello All,

At last the weather has changed and we can enjoy our cars a bit more.

The garage crawl was well attended and thanks must go to Stuart Gear, Doug Draeger, Peter Hilliard and Al Campbell for opening up their sheds and showing members what lurks behind. There is some amazing mechanical stuff that has been collected over the years or being worked on and it was a delight to see. A special thanks to Al and Aileen Campbell for hosting the bbq at the end and also to club hostess Lisa for the rissoles, salads and sweets.

The Bangtail Muster is just around the corner and entry forms are out now. In the old days it was easy to know what community events were coming up, now it requires a bit more searching but I'm reliably told it is on. Expect an SMS closer to the time with details of when and where.

The next 3 general meetings have been pushed back to the third Sunday of the month. This year the committee decided to not compete with Easter Sunday, Mother's Day and Finke bike race so adjust your calendars for the next 3 months.

Accordingly the next General Meeting is Sunday 16th April 9.00am at the Harry Griffiths Memorial Hall in Church St. This will be followed hopefully by a run to the Drag Strip on the South Stuart Hwy for a line up and photo shoot. The arrangements are currently being worked through by our Treasurer and should be sent via SMS and presented at the next meeting.

Members may note a change of editor. With Doug's additional workload in what is a growth industry, it was difficult to produce Centre Spoke by himself so the decision was made to introduce a joint editorship arrangement between Liz and Doug. Welcome back Liz and thanks for volunteering, the show must go on as they say...

Happy motoring and see you at the next meeting,

Trevor Jacobs





The Sec's Desk

MECCA General Meeting Sunday 12 March 2023

Held at Harry Griffiths Masonic Hall Allchurch Street

Meeting opened by President Trevor Jacobs at 9.10am

Present

Raelene Beale, Garry Bentley, Carl Blackmore, Allan Campbell, John Cooper, Stephen Dinner, Douglas Draegar, Russ & Liz Driver, Mark Dunn, Brian Eather, Marie Gear, Michael Hanrahan, Karen & Sean Heenan, Lisa & Neville Heness, Peter Hilliard, Trevor Jacobs, Aileen Kennedy, Craig & Robyn Lambley, Ross Murphy, Michele & Mike Thompson, Fred Twohig, Mandy & Steve Van Den Berg.

Visitors or Provisional Members

Adrian Cousins, Stuart McDonell, Pam Caddy.

Apologies

Brian Cartwright, Stuart Gear, John Hubner, Trevor Hyman, Carol Murphy, Tony & Margaret McKenzie, Tony O'Brien, Derek Poolier, Tim Schubert, Pietje Span, Dallas & Jane Spears, Neil Tranthan.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 November October 2022 were read and accepted. Moved Garry Bentley, Seconded Liz Driver.

Presidents Report

Christmas party well attended.
February breakfast well attended.
Today's run is a shed crawl.

Secretary's Report

CORRESPONDENCE In:

Email from Les Johnson re Willys Overland club of Victoria run from Port Augusta to Alice Springs July 2024. Enquiring about weather, Overlander Badges, suggestions for dinner on Thursday 11 July 2024.
Email from Tim Schubert, new email address.
Email from Revival Auto Parts brake restoration specialists
Email from John Palamountain re XP for sale
Bike Torque
Post Box renewal notice
Trailer Insurance Renewal notice
Email from Central Australian Show Society re Alice Springs Show 7 – 8 July 2023
Email from Mark the Festival Director from Cooly Rocks on re Show N Shine in Coolangatta on 7 to 11 June 2023



The Sec's Desk 2

CORRESPONDENCE Out:

Email membership application to Adrian Cousins
 Email to Les Johnson regarding trip to Alice Springs in 2024.
 Email to Bean Tree Café at Olive Pink re February breakfast meeting
 Secretary's report moved Lisa Heness, Seconded Doug Draegar.

Treasurers Report

Opening balance 9 October 2022 \$7322.58.
 Income \$940.00 Donation Dinner, \$50.00 membership payment.
 Expenses Turf Club Lunch \$1200.00, Lodgement annual tax return \$19.00,
 Creative gifts \$45.00, Colemans Printing \$731.50, Flowers \$165.00.
 Closing balance 12 March 2023 \$6152.08.
 Moved Allan Campbell, Seconded Russ Driver.

General Business

Alice Springs Show 7 – 8 July 2023:

Motion put forward to put cars in a display at the show.
 Majority of members voted in favour.
 Motion carried. Further details to be obtained.
 Check with Shannons re sponsorship.
 Bright Spark Award: - Progressing.

Trailer:

Insurance renewal received, Rego renewal not yet received.
 Discussion took place regarding usage.
 Michele spoke regarding the way insurance is set up, unrestored cars
 can be put on the trailer. 2T gross weight.

Club rego

2 copies of R42 required. One is for MVR, one is for the club.
 Need to sight and audit log book. No tip runs or shopping in club registered
 vehicles.

<https://nt.gov.au/driving/regos/getting-an-nt-registration/motor-club-vehicles/apply-for-club-vehicle-registration>

Next meeting: Sunday 16 April, 9am, Harry Griffiths Masonic Hall, Allchurch
 Street.

Meeting closed 9.46am



MECCA

MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA
Inc

CLUB Calendar 2022 - 2023

8th - 9th April - Easter and Finke Desert Race - **NO MEETING**

**Sunday 16th April - 9.00 am meeting followed by drive to
Drag Strip -TBA**

1st May - Bangtail Muster - Gap Rd - TBA

14th May - Mothers Day - **NO MEETING**

21st May - 9.00am meeting followed by drive to Simpson Gap - BBQ

9 - 12th June Finke Desert Race and Queens Birthday long weekend
NO MEETING

18th June 9.00am meeting followed by drive to Standley Chasm

7th—8th July - Alice Springs Show - club stall

9th July—9.00 am meeting - no run

13th August - 9.00am meeting then AGM followed by shed crawl
(Sean Heenan organiser)

2nd - 3rd September—Red Centre Nats - club stall

10th September - 9.00am meeting followed by run to Corroboree rock
and lunch Alice Springs Brewery - TBC

2nd October - 9.00 meeting followed by run - TBC

6th—9th October—Bathurst

13TH NOVEMBER
CLUB MEETING BEFORE CLUB CHRISTMAS
LUNCH 20TH NOVEMBER

How good is this Raelene and Lisa putting together christmas treats for morning tea.

What imagination and wow it was yummy we have talented members - come again - thank you from all of us

Kris Kringle postponed to Christmas lunch (boy was Kris Kringle upset that he couldn't give out presents)



13TH NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING
BEFORE CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH 20TH NOVEMBER



Yep we all know where to hang out



(2)

NOVEMBER 22 - CHRISTMAS CLUB LUNCH
ALICE SPRINGS TURF CLUB 1690 RESTAURANT



(3)

NOVEMBER 22 - CHRISTMAS CLUB LUNCH
ALICE SPRINGS TURF CLUB 1690 RESTAURANT



(4)

NOVEMBER 22 - CHRISTMAS CLUB LUNCH**ALICE SPRINGS TURF CLUB 1690 RESTAURANT**

Well Kris Kringle was so happy to give out the presents and find the bags were empty - Merry Christmas to all





12/2/23 Breakfast Olive Pink Reserve

What a pleasant surprise a room all for ourselves, a fantastic turnout of club members and the food was pretty good.



12th MARCH - GARAGE CRAWL

Oh La La our members have been busy over the christmas break



Thank you Marie, Stuart, Doug and Elaine for opening up your shed





Thank you Peter for opening up your shed—didn't realize you had so many bikes - well done.



Thank you Al and Aileen for opening up your sheds and home for a magnificent day.



Raelene's friend Pam visitor to Alice Springs hitched a ride to the club meeting and the garage crawl and then Raelene and Pam cooked lunch - Sausages, Hamburgers, onions. Thank you to both of you.
Then desert thank you Raelene and Marie -It was yummy



Up coming events.

Bangtail Muster 1st May 2023 Monday - 10 am Monday from the Gap Road Memorial Club Car Park ending at Anzac oval car park Wills Terrace.

Aces and Eights Coffee & Chrome 7th May 2023 on Council lawns -
Line up 7am - 8am, entry fee \$5.00, music, food etc available

9 - 12th June 2023 Finke Desert Race and Queens (Kings) birthday long weekend.

Alice Springs Show 7 - 8th July 2023
Trade Show applications are out let the Committee know who will bring their pride and joy to put in MECCA pavilion . A great weekend for all

RTHF festival 24—27th August 2023
Bookings open end of March. go to RTHF website
www.roadtransporthall.com/ and scroll down to Festival of Transport to Festival of transport 2023 programme

Red Centre Nats 1 - 3rd September 2023 RCN 09
Fathers day weekend - Mecca will have a spot in this magic weekend.
Enter your vehicle on line www.redcentrenats.com.au

Bay to Birdwood SA - 22nd October 2023
Approximately 1500 vehicles enter to drive from West Beach to National Motor Museum at Birdwood.
Information email baytobirdwood.history.sa.gov.au
Entry forms not out to date.

JOKE PAGE



Jeronimo was hitch hiking into town to get a case of beer and got picked up by a hot rodder. The hot rodder put his foot to the floor and drove at 80km into town. Jeronimo asked the hot rodder ..

"Hey Why you drive so fast?" to which the hot rodder replied

"Keeps the inside cool, keeps the outside cool"

Later Jeronimo was riding his horse across the desert at full tilt screaming

"Keeps the inside cool keeps the outside cool, Keeps the inside cool keeps the outside cool " when the horse dropped dead from sheer exhaustion at which point he said

...."Hmmmm, must have froze"

Joe was out for a cruise with his favourite girl , as they cruised the back roads Joe secretly reach down and turned off the engine and let it coast to the side of the road . She says " your not going to tell me you ran out of gas are you ? That's the oldest trick in the book and I'm not falling for it !"

Joe said " Why baby ! I would never think about doing that to you

Besides I'm into the here after"

She said "I don't get it " to which Joe answered

"Its like this Baby , If you ain't here after what I'm here after , Well I'm afraid you are gonna be here after I'm gone"

Know why the British don't make computers?

They couldn't figure out how to make them leak oil

What do you call an MG with dual exhaust?

A Wheelbarrow

I saw a sign at a gas station. It said "help wanted."

There was another sign below it that said "self service."

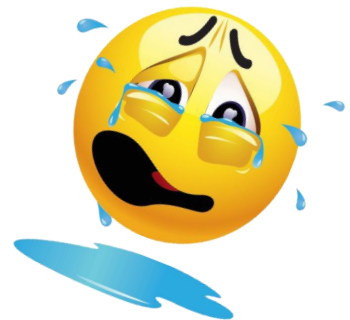
So I hired myself.

then I made myself the boss.

I gave myself a raise.

I paid myself.

Then I quit.





MARCH & APRIL 2023

John Bridgefoot, Liz Driver, John Hubner, Derek Poolier,
Lisa Heness, Col Jarett, Fred Twohig

Club Merchandise For Sale

Club shirts various sizes \$45.00 each

Available at Club meetings or contact Sean on 0439 040 188

Club Trailer

Stephen Dinner is trailer manager contact details
Stephen 0409 525 350

JETCOR MOTORCYCLES

SHOP 1 + 2 Stuart Hwy Alice Springs
Yamaha, Honda and Harley Davidson motorcycle dealership
Ph 8952-4884

REPCO ALICE SPRINGS

For your car parts
2 Whittaker St Alice Springs
Ph 8952-2377

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

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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.



EDITORS PAGE

I know what you are thinking - what happened to Doug?

Well I rang Doug as he has limited time as work has taken over and hasn't got available time to do CentreSpoke so I offered my services.

Was that a wise move? I am still processing that decision.

Doug - well he was overwhelmed - he couldn't say yes fast enough so you got me for this edition until Doug sorts out his work ethics.

Well what an exciting end of the year - Christmas lunch at Turf Club - I don't think anyone anticipated the horse racing and it was a education, very noisy and poor Kris Kringle had trouble finding ticket holders for their presents, eventually the goodies bag was empty.

Breakfast at Olive Pink was exciting meeting everyone again and what a turnout, food was pretty good even though the food people had trouble locating clients because we were all talking too much.

The Garage Crawl - It was a surprise as we did not know where we were off to until the morning meeting - well done organizers.

First off to Stuart and Marie's —Stuart has been very busy excellent restoration in progress, off to Doug and Elaine's place - lots there for Doug to restore, then around the corner to Pete's place - wow so many bikes - Pete needs a bigger shed, last of all off to Allan and Aileen's to view their sheds - yes sheds - very impressive.

Raelene and Pam (friend) cooked the BBQ - Sausages, hamburgers, onions while Lisa and Neville decked the table with bread, salads and accessories, then when we had eaten out came desert. Well done, no need for tea - HA HA

Thank you Allan and Aileen opening up your home for lunch and to Lisa and Neville for all the preparation for lunch - what would we do without you.

Wow we have a lot of events this year so it should be good, also we have new members so the club is growing.

Well that's my job done - enjoy and we'll see what happens next month.

Our next meeting is 3rd Sunday in April 16th April at 9am then a run to Drag strip and we will probably all be home for lunch - bugger no BBQ

Happy Easter everyone

Enjoy Liz





MECCA Club appreciates the support given to us

Robin Lambley MLA member for Araluen

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