



CentreSpoke

September 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 2023/2024

PRESIDENT:	Tony O'Brien	0438 530 366
VICE PRESIDENT	Douglas Draeger	0428 676 741
TREASURER:	Sean Heenan	0408 002 907
SECRETARY:	Aileen Kennedy	0491 266 246
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Brian Eather	0428 758 002
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Stephen Dinner	0409 525 350
	Adrian Cousins	0427 455 009
	Bryan Cartwright	0479 096 203
	Margaret McKenzie	0412 853 072
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:	Marie Gear	0407 399 551
CLUB HOST	Neville Heness	0428 740 964

LIFE MEMBERS: Tony Bullock, Stuart & Marie Gear,
Col & Vicki Jarrett ,

HONOURAY MEMBER: Loraine Braham

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

PATRON: Bernie Kilgariff (dec)



Presidents Report

Just a quick President Report for the month.

We had a great time at Pine Gap last week at the Visitors day.

This venue holds a special memory for me as I first went there in 1969 as a first year Electrician from Adelaide.

Many of the same buildings are still there but the site is much larger now.

Don't forget that we have a run 15th October Meeting to Ross River, likely the last for the year.

Xmas Dinner at the Golf Club being arranged in November, menu to be forwarded.

Trevor Jacobs settling in well at his new home in the Adelaide Hills.

Thanks again to the new Committee for devoting your time in keeping our Club motoring along.

It was a busy year with so many Club Events occurring, I am looking forward to the New Year.

Catch you up in October.

Cheers.

Tony O'Brien



STAND IN ASSISTANT SECRETARY REPORT

BY DOUGLAS DRAEGER

General members Meeting held Sunday 9 am 10th Sept 2023

Attendance: as per the attendance record list – including:

Sean Heenan, John Cooper, Raelene Beale, Gary Bentley, Craig and Robyn Lambley, Marie Gear, Stuart Gear, Brian Eather, David Hurst, Stuart McDonell, Dallas Spears, Mike Thompson, Neville Heness, Lisa Heness, Charlie Carter, Liz Driver, Russ Driver, Fred Twohig, Karen Heenan, Tony Obrien, Neil Ross, Doug Draeger

Apologies: Stephen Dinner, Brian Cartwright, Jane Spears, Peter Hilliard, Allan Campbell and Eileen Kennedy

Visitors: David Hurst, Neil Ross, Stuart McDonald

Previous meeting minutes, As printed in Centre Spoke, Accepted as true and accurate record, all members unanimous

Proposed: Neville Hennes, Seconded: Russ Driver

Presidents Report: As per the club magazine emailed to members, and thanks again extended to members who provide the morning tea, and produce the club magazine - much appreciated by all

Secretary Report: Not available

Treasurers Report: Tabled statement for Sep-23 including Income – more membership fees incoming , expenses including room hire x 2 for last year (late) and this year, Insurance invoice has arrived (Club trailer and Public Liability \$1,405 combined)

Sep 23 Bank Balance as at 10/9/23 \$ 5,907.08

Proposal, Pay Insurance – All present in approval,

Refer previous minutes: Club financial report and notice regarding vote on financial report acceptance, Members to vote on accepting financial report as outlaid by auditor

Accept Treasurers report: proposed Raelene Beale, Second Liz Driver –
All in favour

Business arising: Minutes of AGM and notice on vote on club audited financials as published in Centre Spoke and emailed to members: vote to accept as true and accurate

Proposed: Tony O'Brien, Seconded Sean Heenan

General Business: President read through the previous minute's general business – Nil action items



STAND IN ASSISTANT SECRETARY REPORT (2)

New Business:

Red Centre Nationals display was well received, Russ and Liz won their 8th award and Neville one for his Ford.

Only down side was the very slow pace of the parade causing clutch and overheating issues for some vehicles. Otherwise a great show, weather was good, and good member turn up for display

Welcome back Charlie from a visit to Darwin hospital

Pine Gap display was a good day with general interest in the vehicles and motorcycles. Douglas will provide some pictures and a report for the next magazine

Russ reported on his work to bring a 1933 Rockne back onto the road in time for Bay to Birdwood (rare – only 6 known of in Aus.) and 1925 Buick requiring a new head gasket

Charlie Carter has just completed his current project and has it registered and on the road

Fred had an interesting trip away on a 2010 Yamaha Liquid cooled 250 cc motorcycle along Mereenie Loop road to Kalgoorlie, Olgas to Docker river road, 3800 klm in two weeks on very rough roads and no mechanical issue. Best part – the changing scenery along the way

Neil Ross working on a Cadillac

Michael and Michelle are busy moving house

Stuart McDonell brought his 1960 TR3 to the meeting, which he restored 39 years ago

Stewart reported slow progress on the MG but getting closer to being finished

Craig and Robyn working on minor issues with a Cadillac and FJ Holden (6v electrical issues)

John Cooper took his Triumph and Jag to Pine Gap

Sean Heenan brought his Bentley to the meeting



STAND IN ASSISTANT SECRETARY REPORT (3)

Russ and Liz helped move some vehicles for Trevor Jacobs to S.A. south of Clarendon

Christmas lunch will be at the Golf Club on Sunday 12th November – \$60- per head, full buffet - all in favour, bring a gift for secret Santa

All in favour of producing another club calendar for 2024

Liz asked for help from members for pictures of their vehicles for the next club calendar, please send to Liz before the next meeting. Prefer picture with members in the photo next to their vehicle

National Motoring Day on 19th May, propose run to Road Transport hall of Fame for BBQ

Red Centre Nats – reported Mick Ryan (REPCO) managed 6 shifts volunteering at RCN and possible donation to club may follow from RCN

Future RCN and Finke can be an opportunity for the club to raise some funds through volunteering and donations made to club

Bunnings BBQ fund raiser on Saturday 16th December, looking for helpers for a few hours and vehicles to display

Meeting closed 10.15 am

Next meeting 9 am Sunday 15th October 2023 Masonic Hall



STAND IN ASSISTANT SECRETARY REPORT (4)

Still looking for names to help on the Bunnings Club Funds raising BBQ Saturday 16th Dec 9 am till 4

Help out for just 2 or 4 hours will be much appreciated.

Contact Douglas to roster a time 0428 676 741

February 11th Olive Pink Breakfast, venue has been confirmed and booked

Last general meeting Minutes as published in Centre Spoke

Pine Gap club vehicle display was well attended with John Hubner (Victory M/C), Ross Murphy (Dodge weapons carrier), Douglas Draeger (Yamaha NorthForce), Peter Hilliard (Willys Jeep), John Cooper (Triumph), Peter Dunn (Jaguar), Allan Campbell and Aileen Kennedy (Ford Cortina), Adrian Cousins, Luke Cousins and Tony O'Brien

Pine Gap Official photographer took photos of our group with the vehicles and in front of the entrance memorial and flag poles, we are still waiting to receive security approved copies, will follow up for future edition of magazine.

American style food vendors and drinks were the order for the day

Members filled the time with shared tall tales and some true stories and also sharing display monitoring times with escorted (correction – Security Monitors) tours of the site and other vendor's displays

Relaxed atmosphere and our security escorts (oops – political correctness – I mean security monitors) were very happy with our mob with the exception of one members general chatting of North Korea being in the news with ballistic missile testing, and talking politics and world affairs led to a wise warning not to talk about North Korea (presence of cameras and listening devices) to which North Korea should only be referred to as Upper Korea J

Only unfortunate accident / incident was a scratch in one member's passenger door which is a timely reminder to take great care with member's vehicles.

Helping each other and keeping a watchful eye on our treasures and prevent people, including our own members, from leaning, sitting, or touching our vehicles without asking permission and the owner being present

One time secretary
Dougie

(alias Douglas Draeger)



MECCA

MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA
Inc

CLUB Calendar 2023 - 2024

5-8th Oct - Bathurst

**15th October - Meeting 9am Masonic Hall -
run to Ross River for lunch**

12th November - Meeting 9am Masonic Hall - Christmas party and Kris Kringle
Alice Springs Golf Club - Cost \$60.00

16th December - fund raiser - Bunnings - BBQ

11th Feb **2024** - Breakfast meeting - Olive Pink

10th March - Meeting 9am Masonic Hall - shed crawl TBA

29 Mar to 1st April - Easter

14th April - Meeting 9am Masonic Hall - run to Standley Chasm for lunch

May - Coffee and Chrome - date to be advised

6th May—Bangtail Muster - details to be advised

12th May - Meeting 9am Masonic Hall - Mothers Day - no run

19th May - National Motoring Day - run TBA

7th - 10th June - Finke Desert Race

16th June - Meeting 9am Masonic Hall - run to Stuarts Well

5th - 6th July - Alice Springs Show

10th July - Willys Overland Club of Victoria arrive in Alice Springs

11th July - Willys Overland Club dinner and awards night

14th July—Meeting 9am Masonic Hall—no run

11th August - Meeting 9am Masonic Hall and AGM- run to Russ and Liz's
place lunch - International food - members to contribute

1st Sept - Red Centre Nats and Fathers Day

8th Sept - Meeting 9am Masonic Hall - no run

Red Centre Nats



Another great 2 days, firstly setting up and then mingling with the crowds.

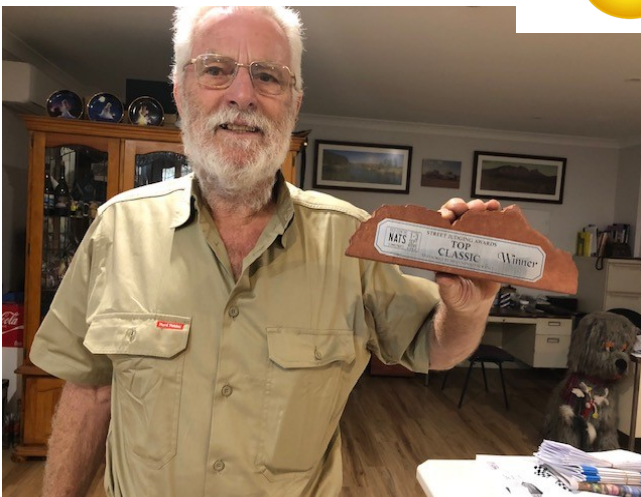
In case you are wondering yes we did have table and chairs and more people



Red Centre Nats



Our Red Centre Nats winners
 Russ Driver
 Neville Heness
 Congratulations



Confused?

I become confused when I hear the word
"Service" used with these agencies:

Internal Revenue 'Service'

US Postal 'Service'

Cable TV 'Service'

Civil 'Service'

Federal, State, City, & public 'Service'

Customer 'Service'

This is NOT what I thought 'Service' meant.

But today, I overheard two farmers talking, and
one of them said he had bought a bull to
'Service' his cows.

BAM !!! It all came into focus. Now I understand what
all those agencies are doing to us.

You are now as enlightened as I am.

Here's something I saw and thought you'd all enjoy.

Did you know that in 1884 the first production standard electric car in the World capable of being reproduced and sold to the public was revealed?

Did you know that by early 1900 1/3 of all vehicles on the road were electric? They started to disappear rapidly around 1920 with the introduction of gasoline and Henry Ford.

Ferdinand Porsche- the founder of the eponymous sports car- produced an electric vehicle called the 'P' in 1898, before creating the world's first hybrid offering, which was powered by both electricity and a combustion engine.

Mercedes-Benz also offered an electric model called the Mercedes Mixte, in 1906. This car was adopted as a taxi in the cities and even became a race car in 1907.



1909 Buick Model 10 Runabout...

The Buick Motor Company was founded by David Buick in 1903 who quickly found himself in financial problems. Dunbar is perhaps more famous, although not widely known, as the individual who developed a method of affixing porcelain to cast iron, resulting in the household white bathtub.

In 1909, Buick sold the design for \$100,000, giving him the financial ability to enter the automobile business. Although Mr. Buick was a talented plumber and an inveterate tinkerer, he lacked the business skills and experience to operate such an endeavour. Three companies later, the Buick Motor Company was acquired by James H. Whiting who appointed William Crapo Durant as president. David Buick sold his stock and departed the company in 1908.

William Crapo Durant gained control of the company and soon sales, production and profit greatly increased. In 1908, the Buick Company became a founding member of the General Motors Corporation. This was the same year the Model 10 Buick was introduced. It carried a price tag of \$900 which included the Buick Gray paint scheme, oil side and tail lights, acetylene headlights, and bulb horn as standard. The top was optional and cost an additional fee. In total, over 4000 examples were produced in its first year, providing Buick and General Motors with financial prosperity.

In 1909 Buick extended the chassis length to 92 inches. The number of body styles and sales also increased, reaching 8,100 units produced.

By 1910, Buick was offering the Model 10 in 13 different body styles. The side-mounted spare and a windshield remained as optional equipment.

Production would last until 1910 with a total of 23,000 units being produced.



The good old days - peace and serenity





October 2023

Stephen Dinner, Tony O'Brien



Trezona Accounting
Mick Trull and Menuke Jasin
For Auditing Mecca Financials
Very much appreciated
Thank you

Robyn Lambley
Donation for 2024 Calendars
Much appreciated
Thank you



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

For Sale

3 phase lathes for sale -

The one on the left is a Modern Lathe - needs some work a handy person will get it fixed in no time.

The one on the right is a Gebruder Bohringer (German) needs electrical looking at

Selling both as we have upgraded and need the room - make us a offer

Call Russ 0408002907 or Liz 0427970744

(p.s you will probably get a better price if you ring Russ ha ha)



JOKE PAGE



Why are waterbeds so bouncy?
They're filled with spring water.

What's the difference between spring rolls and summer rolls?
Seasoning.

How can you tell the weather's getting warmer?
There's a spring in people's step.

Why couldn't the little flower ride a bike?
It didn't have any petals.

Did you hear about the flower who went on a date with another flower?
It's a budding romance.

Which bird should you never let into a jewellery store?
A robin.

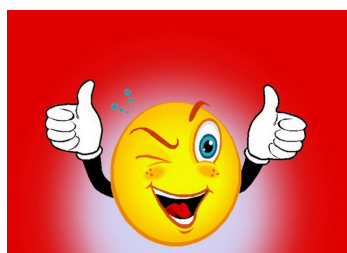
Did you hear about the car that was made out of sausages?
It was a banger!

What happened when the frog's car broke down?
He jump started it!

Why should you check your tires for punctures?
In case there's a fork in the road!



The theoretic turtle started out to see the toad;
He came to a stop at a liberty-pole in the middle of the road.
"Now how, in the name of the spouting whale," the indignant turtle cried,
"Can I climb this perpendicular cliff, and get on the other side?
If I only could make a big balloon, I'd lightly over it fly;
Or a very long ladder might reach the top, though it does look fearfully high.
If a beaver were in my place, he'd gnaw a passage through with his teeth;
I can't do that, but I can dig a tunnel and pass beneath.
He was digging his tunnel, with might and main, when a dog looked down at the hole.
"The easiest way, my friend," said he, "is to walk around the pole."





EDITORS PAGE

Well what a month.

Red Centre Nats what a weekend nice to chat to people who you haven't seen in ages. The vehicles were impressive and great to see. In my opinion not as many as previous years possibly caused by Alice Springs bad publicity, fuel prices and general rising costs. However we thank those who made the effort to come and hope their stay was enjoyable.

Red Centre Nats number 10 (yep 10 years in Alice) for 2024 early bird entrants fees were half of what we paid for this years - mind you we were not early birds in 2023. Congratulations to Russ and Neville for their winning vehicles in Red Centre Nats.

Unfortunately we did not go to Pine Gap Family day however heard it was a great success and well done to all the members who went and displayed their vehicles. Looking forward to some photos when they are released. (whoever heard of photos being in prison and some one with a magnifying glass making sure nothing secret is in the photos before being released - ha ah)

Bathurst around the corner so we will be glued to the TV or lucky enough to go to Bathurst to see it in person. Great event.

Then second to last meeting in October with meeting then a run to Ross River should be a good day.

November meeting then club Xmas lunch in air conditioned comfort and a lot quieter than last year - we hope - lunch at Golf and of course Kris Kringle - love those gifts.

A special thank you to the members who sent me photos of their vehicles for 2024 Mecca Calendar - photos etc are at the printers and awaiting a proof to go ahead. So all on schedule. Thank you.

Reminder if you did not get your 2 general waste vouchers with your council rates they are now available at Alice Springs Town Council Todd St.

That's it for me, if you have anything for CentreSpoke drop me a line.

See you at 9am 15th October for General meeting followed by a run to Ross River.

Stay well and healthy

Liz Driver
0427970744
wheelnuts@always17.com.au

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 Web Site: 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.

