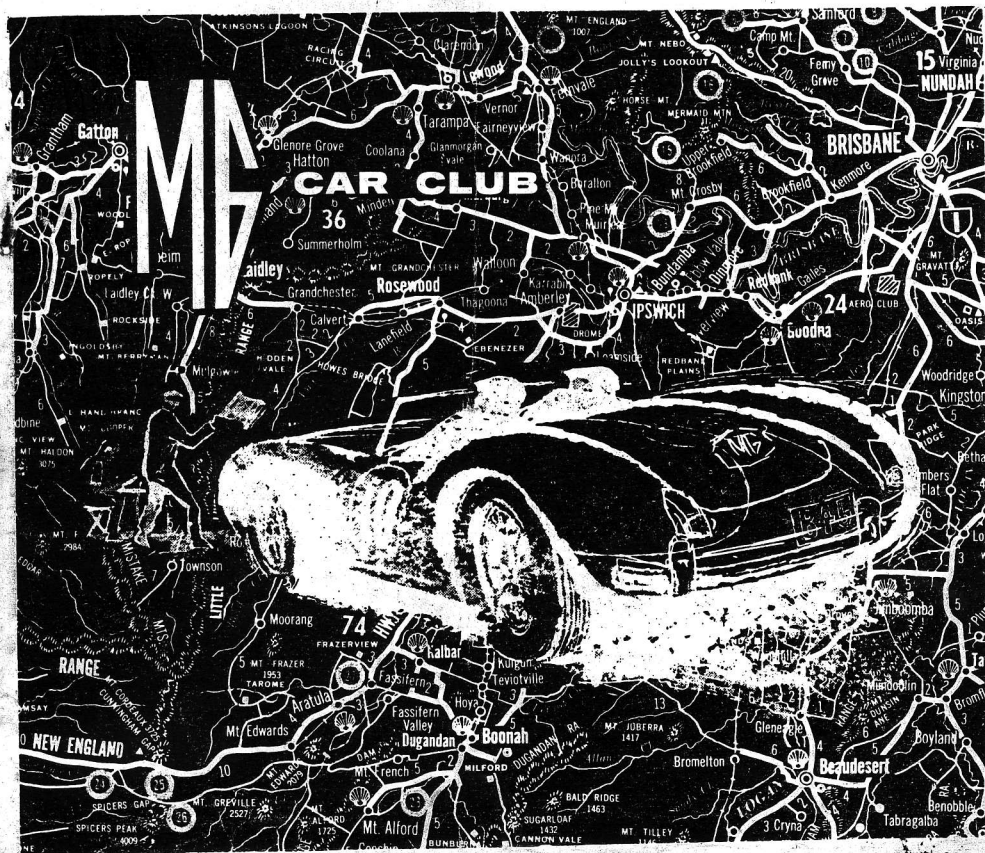


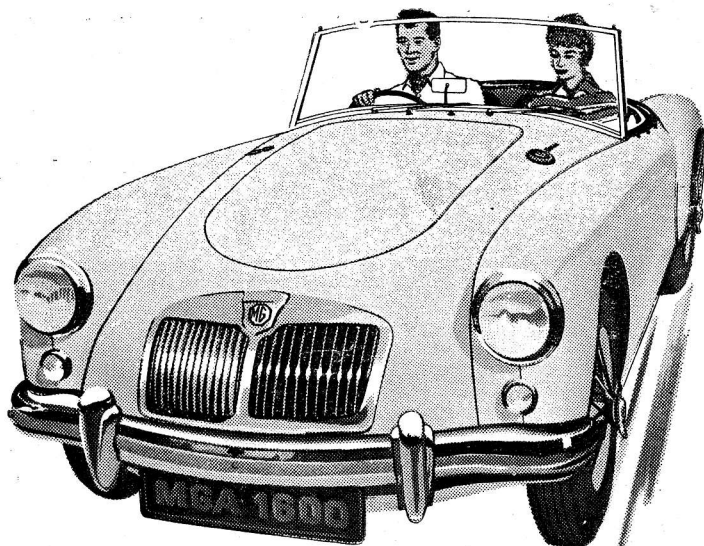


the

Official Journal of the MG Car Club — Qld. Centre.

OCTAGON





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THE OCTAGON

MARCH 1962

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(Queensland Centre)

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E D I T O R I A L

The best thing which can happen to a club committee, is to see that their work was not all in vain, by the enthusiastic attendance of members, to the events which the committee have worked so hard to organise.

I feel that the Queensland Centre has taken great steps this year as the attendance of events has not just been good, but very enthusiastic indeed. This is particularly gratifying and I sincerely hope that it will continue.

Thank you, Members, for your confidence::::::::::::::::::::

I hope that you will continue to enjoy the benefits of the Club throughout the coming year.

Please remember that your committee will welcome any suggestions and all feasible ideas will be thoroughly investigated.

X-X

GRAND PRIX DE VICTA

There is no atmosphere like that of a full-scale Grand Prix.

The excited crowd, the festivities, the scent of racing fuel, Castrol 'R', hot engines, the pits.. all part of the International Grand Prix Circus.. at Tingalpa....

Rod (Juan) Hiley won the pole grid position with a fantastic practice lap of three hours, forty one minutes with his Formula Libre Victa, followed by Neale (Stirling) Groundwater on an identical Victa, then Thatcher, Appleby, Tebble (who should know how to drive a Victa), Kelly and a bloke names Brabham driving the experimental Lawn Patrol with automatic height adjustment...

First car away at the drop of the flag was Hiley who showed his masterly control of the potent 2.0 litre Viceroy in the long grass, and by the end of lap one was a clear eighteen inches ahead of the field.

Groundwater, out to prove that he was no hayseed, had closed the gap to seventeen inches by the end of lap five. Tebble was the first to limp back to the pits with a fouled plug, accompanied by similar language.

Appleby handled the outdated Formula One Victa with consummate skill but his mount lacked the handling qualities of the later series. and eventually blew a chunk of metal out of the snorkel, with his subsequent retirement.

Meanwhile, Kelly was not letting the grass grow under his feet and held off the challenge of the Rover team, losing a little ground on the corners. (Those Rovers really handled). Countess Marcovich took over Juan's mount on lap three hundred after a re-fuel and tyre change and was lapping at three hours, forty nine minutes. However,

on lap three hundred & fifty she took a swig at her hip flask whilst drifting Autocrosse Corner, lost the tail, spun and stalled. (She was then disqualified by the Stewards for having blood in her alcohol stream).

Thatcher also ran into trouble on lap eight thousand, four hundred and ninety eight; lost control of the Shirley Fertiliser Factory entered Zagato Phosphate, ran into the spectators and nearly scalped a cane toad! Tebble retired later with fuel trouble which turned out to be a lump of manure in the fuel line. This was presumed to be sabotage by the Pope People.

The finish was the most thrilling I have seen in all my years as an unprejudiced motoring writer!

Just imaging! Eight of the worlds fastest lawn mowers locked in battle, hurtling into the last turn, wheel to wheel, engines screaming, smoke pouring from the exhausts, drivers straining for the ultimate ounce of performance! Phew!!!

Who won? I forget! But they cut a lot of grass so that we could have a gymkhana the next day.

*****G Y M K H A N A*****

We didn't expect forty entries for the gymkhana on the 19th February, least of did we expect twenty one of them to be M.G.s. But it happened. If this sort of thing continues we may even win the Nuffield Overseas Trophy.

First event on the program was the Sled Race. This, and other events proved that Mini-Minors are a force to be reckoned with in future gymkhanas, that is, if they are driven the way Barry Broomhall and Russell Sayer drove theirs! Entrants were divided into teams, although nobody seemed to know who was competing against who. Nevertheless, organisation was smooth and everybody seemed happy. Very good! The Sled Race provided much interesting spectacles as bods flying through the air, and a few sled riders receiving a mouthful of earth from spinning wheels. Just as well for our Club Captain that there will be no sled race at Lowood. He didn't last long behind that T.D.

Did Allan Killips really win the Centre Road Safety Award last year?. You should have seen him in the Fir Tree event. (No,

Gymkhana cont'd

you do not have to climb a tree in this one.)

Does anyone know of a 1938 Morris tourer for sale?. I am sure everyone who saw the performance of one at this gymkhana will wait one. This was entered as 'Three in a Bomb' team and they downed the Sprites with monotonous regularity. It nearly downed its own driver, too when a wheel came off, complete with axle, halfway through the Forward Bending race. Just as well for the Secretarial T.D. as it would have downed that too. If anyone wishes to make an offer for the Morris, it is owned jointly by Graham Gething, John Walker, Lex Batterham and the Beneficial Finance Ltd.. (I hear they have another one at home too! Probably want to put it in the Centre's racing team!) Yes Brian, it does look like a T.D.!!

There once was a guy named Noel Whip....
Every time he drove, we did a flip.

Yes, he actually spun twice in two runs at the Forward Bending and cleaned up a pole going backwards. (No. the T.C. was going backwards not the pole). Anybody who has not watched a gymkhana doesn't realise what he is missing.

Alf Chappell came all the way from D'Aigular to prove that a T.C. can hold its own with the best of them. Good driving Alfred, it's good to see you with us. From similar terrain came Dan Casey in the white M.G.A.. Another new driver was Ian Clay in the Ex Ian McLeod T.R.2 and Ian did very well for himself, did Ian!!

A special event called (for want of a better name) The Thing produced some ominous crunching sounds from gear-boxes. A good name for this event would be Valve Bounce and Crunch.

A member of the team called 'Anti M.G.' was seen scorching sideways through the Autocrosse, shedding large chunks of rusty bodywork. This was the Healy driven by 'Grandma Horgan'. The Autocrosse proved that we don't need a skid pan.. we already have one! Keith Turner, driving a V.W. for the Scuderia Centro Bug, won this event, and looked to be enjoying himself immensely. Keith claimed to have reached thirty in low gear! But that's on a V.W. speedo, Keith!!!

Geoff and Rod Hiley were flying around in T.C.s. Norm Wright in the T.F.1500, Mr Pres. in the Magnette... in fact many faces we have not seen at gymkhanas for a long time. (Were we right after all?).

Message for the Gymkhana Sub-committee. Keep it up. Events designed for M.G.s have proved to be more fun for the other cars than ever before. (Vince fitted the Pontiac around in fine style).

	<u>R</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>below.</u>
FIR. TREE	1st	I. Michels	M.G.T.F.	28.7	secs			
	2nd	R. Kelly	M.G.A.	28.95	-			
	3rd	K.B. Anderson	M.G.A.	29.81	-			
SLED RACE	1st	P. Kinnane	Sprite	25.04	-			
	2nd	J. Walker	Morris	26.01	-			
	3rd	R. Hiley	M.G.T.C.	26.04	-			
FORWARD BENDING	1st	B. Tebble	M.G.T.D.	17.00	-			
	2nd	K. Horgan	A/Healy					
	3rd	J. Bright	M.G.T.C.					
THE THING	1st	R. Hiley	M.G.T.C.	24.4	-			
	2nd	G. Hiley	M.G.T.C.					
	3rd	B. Tebble	M.G.T.D.					
AUTOCROSSE	1st	K. Turner	V.W.	25.05	-			
	2nd	N. Wright	M.G.T.F.	26.05	-			
Tie {	2nd	T. Harlock	V.W.	26.05	-			

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LOWOOD MOTOR RACING CIRCUIT

As a contribution to Motor Sport, we will be providing Gate Keepers for the Queensland Racing Drivers Club for all future race meetings at Lowood.

We already have many volunteers, but still need a few more. Each member has only to work one "two hour shift" on the gate and he will be free to watch the racing for the remainder of the day. In return for this, volunteers will receive two free admittance passes.

Let us benefit the Center at the same time. If you are gatekeeping

Lowood Racing cont'd

wear a club badge or overalls and hand out Invitation to Join Centre cards to the M.G. owners as they come in the gate.

Don't forget that our team will be running at this meeting!

Volunteers.. Please advise the Hon. Secretary NOW!! Only the first thirty names can be accepted. The phone number is 97-5872.

NAMES MUST BE IN BEFORE 21st MARCH. DON'T FORGET.

(())(()) APRIL FOOLS DAY AT LOWOOD (())(())
 =====
 -----Secretary's Corner-----

A reminder to members once again, that you may obtain C.A.M.S. approved fire extinguishers and Safety belts through the Centre at a reduced price. As I owe my life to a safety belt, I can give a personal recommendation to fit them. It is now a C.A.M.S. ruling that all closed cars taking part in a speed event must be equipped with an approved Safety belt or harness, properly affixed. The I.S.S. brand is approved and is used by the Road Safety Council in their own vehicles.

The 1962 C.A.M.S. Year Book and N.C.R.s are at last available. This year the two are combined for 10/- and are extremely interesting reading for the Motor Sport enthusiast. These will be available at the Clubrooms.

It is unfortunate that I am usually busy at the Clubrooms, and often miss the opportunity to meet new or prospective members. If you see a 'stranger' wandering about, please devote a little of your time to speak to him and introduce him to your friends. Most of us are inclined to shirk our responsibilities to new members, due to shyness and partly to laziness. Please remember, we were all new members once. Make them 'feel at home'. We are all interested in motor cars, otherwise we would not have joined the club.

Do you know that we have over two hundred and seventy members now?. Looking through the membership Register, I find that I only know about two hundred and ten, personally. Which means that I have sixty friends whom I have not met:: How about coming to the Clubrooms more often??.

[illegible]

REVISÉD P O I N T S S C O R E

The points scoring system for the Centre's trophies has recently been reviewed and a new and fairer system has been introduced, taking effect from 1st January 1962.

This was needed, due to our ever increasing membership and the Centre has outgrown the old system. The new system will be displayed on the Notice Board.

on the Notice Board.
+++++++ ++ ++++++

centre

programme

MARCH	11th	Treasure Hunt Starts Clubrooms 1 p.m.
	25th	Gymkhana & Barbeque. Gymkhana Grounds
	23rd	Film Evening. Clubrooms 7.30 p.m.
	30th	Gymkhana Demonstration Showgrounds.
APRIL	8th	Sprints Meeting Cancelled (Circuit not available)
	27th	Night Navigational Run Clubrooms 7.30 p.m.
	29th	Club Run and Barbeque.

For details of the Club Run, see Club Captain. We want at least twenty sports cars to turn up.

Driving Test cancelled due to lack of suitable site.

NIGHT NAVIGATIONAL RUN

Twenty eight cars were entered for the Night Run on February 23rd. A large proportion were M.G.s a further indication that things are 'looking up' in the Queensland Centre.

We were pleased to have the assistance of two of our Sydney

Night Navigational Run cont'd

Centre guests. These were the two fellows driving the blue N.S.W. T.C., and who kindly manned a control for us. One way to spend your holiday.

We understand that the 'regulars' on Bartleys Hill have been avoiding the place lately. Perhaps it is a little disturbing to be suddenly and unexpectedly illuminated by a Magnette's head and driving lights, just when one is getting comfortable. (We have since received a deputation from the 'Lovers' Society' requesting that we do not place our controls on Bartley's Hill).

Ian (Buster) Campbell, navigating for Treasurer, Merv Head, managed to successfully drop and bust the nicely sealed watch, lead Merv all over the wrong places and still came in second! Next, time Ian, use a sundial. You'll find them hard to break.

Did you know that the City Council has a spy in the Club?. Every time we hold a Navigation Run they despatch a man with a tin of white paint to cover up a few street names along the route, just to add to the confusion. (People who say that the Trials committee do it, are just being nasty).

Congratulations to Ian Hamilton for having a 'clean sheet', (He didn't win because the 'clean sheet' was simply one which the duplicator missed). Believe Ian had a good suggestion as to what the Trials committee could use it for!

Keith Herron managed to get through without running out of petrol and with the aid of a bottle of car sickness tablets Howard Johnson and Keith Turner... he won!

Second, of course, (or should we say off course) was Merv Head and Ian Campbell and third Bob Kelly navigated by his brother.

Footnote to those who get lost or 'give it away, and do not return to the finish point (the Clubrooms). Always return to the Clubrooms as you score points for finishing the course. (Perhaps they are still at Bartley's Hill).

DON'T FORGET THE 'EASTER EVENTS' AT MELBOURNE. If you wish to go, please advise the Hon. Secretary immediately.

C E N T R E N E W S A N D G O S S I P

(Contributed by all and sundry)

If you are unable to attend a club Friday night, try dropping in to the 'Carolena' Coffee Lounge about 11.15 p.m. There, amongst the soft lights and sweet music you will find many of our members munching waffles and guzzling Cappucino.

For those not initiated into the 'Carolena Club' and to the Left Wingists who frequent the 'Other Place' at the Darker End of Queen Street .. a message. It's cool, we get good food and service, (unheard of Elsewhere) and the Scenery is better because you can see it. For '62, Carolena is IN and the Other is OUT! How about joining us next week?.

Who was the keen type who placed an Invitation to Join Centre card on our Hon. Secretary's T.D. at Lakeside? The same car sporting club badge, windscreen transfer and a glovebox full of the same cards.

It appeared that any member not acting as an official at Lakeside, was competing. This is the real way to support Motor Sport.

Congratulations to Bevan Fleming for a magnificent drive, and to Terry Kratzmann for a third place in his first race.

The main race was won by N.S.W. member, Jack Brabham.

Two of our members recently achieved their Majority. Ian Michels and Beverley Marcovich. Congrats to both.

Des Coles denies it all (page six last Octagon) but we don't believe him. About time you got more sand for the budgies cage, Des!

Nan Hunter was seen slipstreaming a T.F. with the parental Magnette recently. We are wondering who won?.

You may add the 'Cock o' the Walk' Restaurant, Sandgate Road to your list of Octagon approved places to congregate. Very good after Lakeside meetings etc.. Amiable proprietors who place no

Centre News & Gossip cont'd

restriction on noise. (More places will be investigated).

Believe Ted Peel considering trading T.C. on Land Rover. Might be more suitable, Ted!.

A big Thank You to Ritchie for testing a possible hill climb site on the way to Lakeside. A bit small, perhaps, Ritchie?.

Denis McGrath tested one near President's home.

Hear that Horgan copped a windscreen washer spray up the bracket on the Buck's Night. That'll teach you to criticise!!

Ron Davis has a set of pink aerial ribbons for sale. Believe they will fit a Magnette. Same guy was wrapped up like an Egyptian Mummy at recent party. Huess what with? (You will find plenty in the little room at the rear of the Clubrooms).

Glen Robertson wants to know who did steal the Cookies from the Cookie jar?.

Anyone interested in a genuine hoon sheepskin for their car? Write to Ross Robertson at Big Creek. (No Kerry, a big creek is not an Austin Healy).

Rumour has it that a dear old lady was wandering around the Karussell at Lakeside pouring ice water in inconvenient places. The Hon. Sec (who does not answer to the name of Grandma), is conducting an investigation, Rod!

(Subscribers to Octagon please note. This is not 'Man Junior' or the 'Weekend'. ALL future copy will be severely censored. Ed.)

xx

O P E N F O R U M

On Friday night, 9th February, the usual clun night was declared Open Forum. The Committee invited discussion and questions from the seventy or so members present.

The 'ice was broken' by Ron Dunglinson who asked what had been done about the Centre's racing team. This was answered by

Mike Thatcher suggested that we hold an M.G. versus the Others event at Gymkhanas. In other words, form two teams- one of M.G.s the other of other makes. How about that ?.

The night was a success with an amusing diversion provided by the ladies who make our tea. They wanted to go on strike.. but didn't.

00000000000000000000 !!!!!!0000000000000000

BUCK'S NIGHT

Phil (He Drinks) Thew was there, of course, and Zeke, The Claw, Ron (He also Drinks), Davis, Denis McGrath, Geoff Hiley and many other prominent members of the Temperance League.

Wives, Del and Deidre, were discovered spying on us from a parked car. Shame!!

Noel Anderson spent the night tipping beer over innocent people
Norm Wright and John Whitlam made sure they did nothing that would
get their names in the Octagon. Keith

Buck's Night cont'd.

harron arrived about midnight and proceeded to stir up much trouble

For those considering resigning as a result of these 'goings on' here's a message. Please come to the next Buck's Night; (if you are a buck). I had a wonderful time. Thanks Doug for lending us your home. By the way, when is the next Buck's Night?.

+++++

I wish to welcome the following new members to the Centre. May your association with us be a long and enjoyable one.

The Editor.

Barry Pearson	397 Wynnum Nth. Rd.	Wynnum Nth.	M.G.A. 1600
Del Winston(Miss)	35 Thomas St.	Camp Hill	M.G.T.D.
Roger Nielson	9 London Rd.	Clayfield	M.G.A. Coupe
Robert Doneman	39 Wilmington St.	Newmarket	M.G.A.
Rodney Hiley	721 Old Cleveland Rd.	Camp Hill	M.G.T.C.
Lynette Moffatt (Miss)	13 Balmoral St.	Hawthorne	M/Minor
Noel Bates	44 Fourth Ave.	Kedron	Jaguar
Leslie Gould	24 Cremorne Rd.	Kedron	
Graham Iax	51 Grenade St.	Cannon Hill	Simca
John Halford	806 Wynnum Rd.	Cannon Hill	Morris 850

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RACING TEAM NEWS

We will be entering eight M.G.'s in the team's first outing at Lowood on April 1st. They will be under the direction of Bill Thomas, who has been elected as 'team manager'. The team is as follows;- Doug. Bright-M.G.T.C., Barry Campbell- M.G.A. 1600, Dan Casey- M.G.A., Brian Finan- M.G.A. 1600, Ian Michels- M.G.T.F., Bruce Neville- M.G.T.C., Keith Reynolds- M.G.A., Brian Tbble- M.G.T.D., All members interested in supporting this venture, should contact Bill Thomas. Come and see us at Lowood and call at the pits after the meeting is over. See you at Lowood, April 1st..

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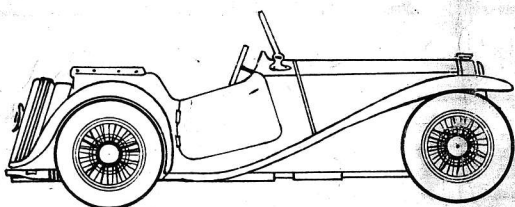
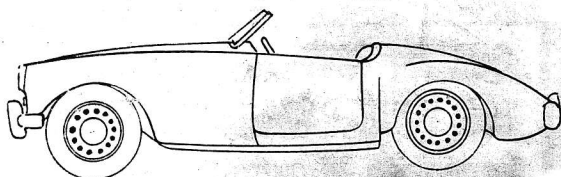
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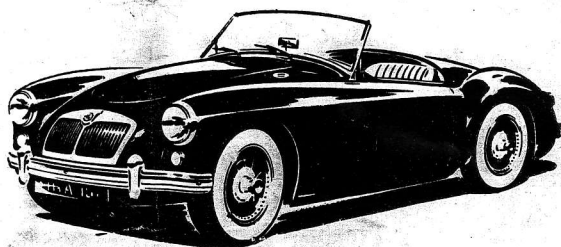


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