



# MG CAR CLUB NORTHERN CENTRE NEWSLETTER

May 2018

Issue 436



# MG CAR CLUB NORTHERN CENTRE

A Warm Welcome to our New Members



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## Our 2018– 2019 Committee Members

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## Club Contact Details

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Meetings are usually on the  
First Monday of the Month.  
Please check by phone.



082 410 1569



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Branch Code 250655 Menlyn Square

*The opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the MG Car Club Northern Centre or the Executive Committee.*



# May Newsletter

*About This Issue*

## Special Indaba Bumper Edition

This month the 2018 Indaba was held in the Drakensberg. Open spaces and the majestic mountains form the backdrop to the stories told by club member's participating at the National Gathering in our Newsletter.

Dam visits, Rocker Races and Treasure Hunts.  
From lunch in the country to the Black + White Gala evening.  
We also talk driving tests and of course awards!

And the good news?

It was mentioned at the Indaba that the Northern Centre is only 40 years old, a youngster compared to the anniversaries soon to be celebrated by our sister Centres. This means we still have years of great friendship and adventures in front of us!  
We better buckle up Guys.



Norman officiates as Tony presents Trevor the **George Tuck Trophy** which was awarded to Trevor at the Indaba.

The trophy is awarded to the individual who, over the past 2 years, has most promoted the MG marque.



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I NSOMNIA

C REW

## Chairman's Letter

### *The National Indaba reflects the Northern Centre Spirit*

The National Indaba, hosted by the Kwa-Zulu Natal Centre, kick started the MG activities for May. The Drakensberg setting made the perfect backdrop for driving our beloved cars. A more splendid setting would be difficult to find. Some of us were fortunate to be able to make the journey a week long break of MG fun and friendship.

In last month's article I mentioned that whatever you put into an Indaba you will get out of it. In true Northern spirit, our centre got the most out of the event. I would like to compliment the Northern family for the outstanding spirit displayed. Every member showed true MG Spirit. This elevated "MG The Marque of Friendship" from a slogan into a reality. From the impromptu party at "Las Vegas" (aka unit 10) to the Saturday afternoon Comique and the Saturday evening awards dinner. Congratulations to all - and well done for all the trophies!

Thank you to ONE + ALL for making this a memorable event that it turned out to be. More than one person commented on how wonderful it is to see the MG Car Club installed with enthusiasm. Complimented for our spirit, the Northern Centre was awarded the Gee Pee Trophy for best all round centre. A well deserved win even if we say so ourselves!

A big thank you must go to the KZN Centre and Chris Brown and his committee for arranging the event. The stunning Drakensberg environment allowed us the opportunity to express the spirit of this centre to the fullest.

Not to be overshadowed by the Indaba, two other events need mentioning. The first being the May Social evening catered by Annette Craddock in honour of Tony's birthday on the 13th May. As always Annette provided top notch food and presentation with attention to detail. A screening of Bronwyn Craddock's stunning Brooklyn Mall Timeline video completed the evening. The short film honoured her grandfather and went down very well indeed!

The second, more sombre event this month was the funeral of Rosa Westaway. Rosa passed away the 6th of May peacefully in her sleep. A strong attendance at the funeral, and the impromptu wake that followed, showed the Northern Centre family's support for Dave. We remain supportive of Dave.

Unfortunately the Combined Centre's Show day planned for the 24th June has been postponed. The Show day will now take place in Mid September, in the new revamped Waterfall Park. Interior use of the Mall of Africa presented a great deal of restrictions. The Johannesburg organising committee proposed the reschedule to ensure a more successful event.

We have arranged an alternative run to a game farm near Cullinan has for the original 24th June date. The Club Event's section of the newsletter provides more details.

Octagonally

Pepi



Northern Centre is presented the Gee Pee Trophy for All Round Best Centre



# Indaba 2018

*The 2018 National M G Car Club Indaba was the highlight of the MG Car Club Calendar*

## 2018 uKhahlamba MG Indaba

*Drakensville Resort KwaZulu-Natal*



The KwaZulu-Natal Centre hosted the MG Car Club Members at the 2018 Ukhahlamba MG International Indaba

held from

Thursday 3 May to Sunday 6 May 2018

in the MaGnificent surroundings of the world heritage

Drakensberg Mountains.

The venue was the ATKV Drakensville Resort, billed as a "Breakaway Paradise in the Mountains". The usual selection of Indaba activities as well as some interesting scenic drives and visits to some of the local attraction were presented.

### THANK YOU

To Pierre Retief for some of the official photographs  
Low Resolution versions have been used to minimize the size of the news letter.

## Weekend Programme

### Thursday 3 May

- Registration and Welcome cocktails
- Tour of Hydro Electric Plant
- Rocker Cover racing in the Hall

### Friday 4 May

- Run/Treasure Hunt
- Lunch at Cathedral Peak Wine Estate
- Afternoon at leisure
- Entertainment in the Sentinal Hall

### Saturday 5 May

- Driving Tests
- Concours in place in front of the Hall
- Tops Only Presentation
- Concours d'Elegance + Commique
- Afternoon at leisure
- Gala Evening Dinner and Awards including speeches and 2020 Indaba presentation.





# 2018 Indaba

*Steve + Hazel Eden recount their trip to the 2018 Indaba going topless all the way*

We left home reasonably early (that is 08h30 for pensioners!) on the Wednesday, as we thought our speeds would be less than others on the same route. The MGA ran extremely well, and once we had made our way through Bapsfontein, Benoni and past the Casino to the N3, Hazell became relaxed and no longer worried about the car's reliability.

This route, used to avoid the freeway through Jo'burg, has now become very busy with too many robots, which is why this is probably the last time we will use it. The car seems to settle at a 3500rpm cruise which equates to around 95km/hr. We filled up at Wilge One stop and also stopped at the new Puma services at Tau for a comfort break, an excellent place to stop on your way to Durban. Kevin and Jenny Loader also stopped there. The attendant said she had seen a red car yesterday with people in it who looked so cold she felt sorry for them! Jenny's response was "Don't worry, they do this for fun". Of course, the roof was not on, neither were the side screens, and we weren't cold at all!

After the fill up at Wilge Plaza the fuel gauge seemed to be stuck at nearly full which is worrying when you are not sure how far a tank will take you. Geoff and Bev caught us up just outside Bergview where we stopped for lunch before taking the short drive to La La Nathi Guesthouse just outside Harrismith, for the overnight stay.

“ Don't worry, they do this for fun!

We were joined by Geoff and Bev, Dave Goodrum, Gary, William, Peter and Paul, and Brian Woodhams. La La Nathi proved quite luxurious and comfortable with a well cooked braai supper. Those who went to bed early were conscious of the traffic noise from the N3. Being a little deaf (or so Hazell says) it didn't really bother me. Some of course would have slept through a nuclear explosion! After a short detour into Harrismith for toothbrushes, (thanks for the route to PnP Dave) the morning saw us all on the relatively short journey to Drakensville ATKV. A top up of petrol (19l compared to the 29l Gary added in Harrismith, the joys of a V8!) at Little Switzerland followed breakfast at the Phat Chef at the Border Post. Very nice too.

After a stop to admire the view at Sterkfontein Dam, where you needed a 4x4 to reach the viewpoint, we all missed the turn off to ATKV and hence met up with some other NC members, who had come from Howick at a Coffee Stop. Some departed from there to the **Dam Pumping station** for a tour.



*Bev leading the pack in taking off our tops at the top of Oliviershoek Pass*



# 2018 Indaba

*Steve + Hazel arrive at Drakensville as the Indaba gets underway*

An early arrival at ATKV which saw us waiting (in the pub, surprise, surprise) for room keys to be available at 2 o'clock, not sure why so late, perhaps to make more bar profit! We had both really enjoyed the drive down, roof off, sunburn, windburn and all.

Room allocation saw us right at the end, between the staff quarters and Albert and Cecilia. The NC team was quite spread out through the resort but soon managed to find a central location, #10! Our room was clean and tidy but quite cold. There was a car port for the A to sit in.

Friday night saw welcoming speeches and **Rocker Cover** racing followed by supper. The food was much as expected at these sort of events, but the NC team enjoyed the evening and nobody went hungry.

Following breakfast on Friday we met outside the hall to receive our instructions and route schedules for the **Treasure Hunt**.

A list of questions was provided with answers to be found at the Tower of Pizza, and at the end venue, Cathedral Peak Wine Estate. If trying to miss the potholes made the roads challenging, the questions were less so, few and easy to answer. Those who competed in the Treasure Hunt were entered into a draw for a weekends accommodation which Hazell and I won!

This weekend away will be raffled in the Club. A sheet of MG related tie breaker questions was provided, a lot of Googling followed to find the answers. Congratulations to Bev + Geoff for winning 3rd prize!

“ Trying to miss the potholes made the roads challenging...”

An excellent picnic lunch was provided at the **Wine Estate**, after which Hazell and I, after what seemed a long drive, returned to ATKV for the afternoon.

Friday evening supper was held in the hall, and **Entertainment** followed. A brave effort by Lawrence and his team to provide a pop concert. A shorter programme with a few songs, as a comedy, may have been more appropriate. Some of the audience left as soon as sweets had been served.

Saturday morning after breakfast saw the Driving Tests which were a gymkhana type event on a grass field. Bearing in mind the 500km drive home to come, I decided to leave the car parked. The NC Team arranged the majority of their cars in one line across the display area, most impressive.

The driving tests were followed by the Concours d'état, Tops Only and Concours Comique. Congratulations to Richard Grover for winning d'état with the Y type, and to Peter + Paul for winning Comique, beating the Team NC rendition of Y MGA into second place. There were no other entries although the underwear found under the back seat of a d'état entry provided a few laughs.







# 2018 Indaba

*Steve + Hazel on the Gala Dinner and next Indaba*

On Saturday evening the formal **Gala Dinner**, speeches and prize giving took place. The evening was themed as *Black + White* and Team NC turned out in force as 101 Dalmatians, complete with Cruella de Ville (Sandra) and Tony leading us in. This created quite a stir. We even got Brian Woodhams, MG Car Club overseas representative, to don some ears. Fortunately the speeches and prize giving were brief.

The evening closed with a presentation from Cape Town Centre on the 2020 Indaba to be held in Oudtshoorn.

“ Made even better by the spirit of the Northern Centre.

The drive home on Sunday went smoothly. Climbing Oliviershoek Pass saw the A in second gear pulling hard but no overheating occurred. The stuck fuel gauge was a little worrying, but after a fill-up at the Caltex after Harrismith, we made it home. A cycle race in Benoni had led to some road closures which delayed our arrival at our local Pub, Malt Bar + Grill, for lunch.

Now we look forward to the NC 40th weekend away later this year, Cape Centres in Cradock in 2019, and the Indaba in 2020— for which I refuse to dress as an ostrich!

In summary, an enjoyable weekend, made even better by the spirit within the Northern Centre.



**Set your sights on 2020**  
**An MG Indaba not to be missed!**





**OUDTSHOORN : 2020**  
 Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th Sept

The **MG Car Club - Cape Town Centre** invites you to join us for the 2020 Indaba.  
 Costs : Single R4250 / Couple R7500 (these are estimates subject to finalisation)

If you are interested in attending the Indaba, please drop the organisers an email : [indaba2020@gmail.com](mailto:indaba2020@gmail.com)

Entries for the Indaba will open on September 1st, 2018.  
 Entry forms will be available on the website: [www.mgcc-ct.co.za/indaba2020](http://www.mgcc-ct.co.za/indaba2020)






# 2018 Indaba

*Richard and Avril Grover discuss the “Y” of the Indaba*



Having been to the Indaba in Clarens, albeit for just for the Saturday, when our eldest son, Terry, and I went there in his TF and enjoyed the cars on display as well as the comique and d’elegance, when entries opened for the Knysna Indaba we decided to give it a go. Needless to say we had a ball with the Northern Centre contingent and we were hooked on the Indaba idea. After Knysna was our very own Northern Centre event in Pretoria which we, once again, enjoyed immensely. The next Indaba was scheduled to take place in the Drakensberg, organized by the KZN Centre so we registered and some debate took place in the Grover household as to whether a 1948 Y Type was a suitable (and sensible) mode of transport for the event.

The decision was further complicated when we realised that the week prior to the Indaba we had booked our

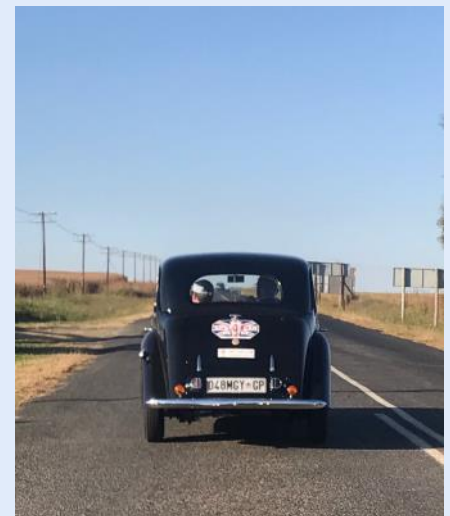
annual family timeshare at Champagne Sports Resort, just down the road from where the Indaba was to be held. I guess that it was Stephen who put it into perspective, saying “well, what’s the worst that can happen – if it breaks we stick it on a trailer and send it home!”

And so the adventure begins. First things first –a few niggling items that have been craving attention for a while needed to be done as well as a check of all the fluids , an oil change and some fresh anti-freeze. Speedo and fuel gauge repaired, carpets removed and the edges bound, fuel pump checked (and a spare removed from the TD just in case), tyres replaced and new tubes fitted by my local, friendly tyre man who, would you believe, had tubes in stock, and informed me that they are the same size as the front wheels on old tractors, proving that there is a little bit of Triumph in the old girl! As I ran out of time to fit a temperature gauge my thanks to the Admiral for the loan of his radiator cap temperature gauge to give me some comfort on the road that things were not hotting up under the bonnet. Then, of course, the inevitable cleaning – inside, outside, underneath and then finishing off with a polish.

Thursday morning and Av and I are packing for 11 days on the road and with a boot full of sundry car stuff we manage to fill the back seats with bags of luggage and off we go, heading for an overnight stop in Clarens with Steve and Bron riding shotgun behind us. The Y type performs admirably, cruising at between 50 and 60 mph and a little slower on the up hills. We arrived at our overnight stop after dark – very dark if you have 1948 lights on a moonless night, and were warmly welcomed at the accommodation which Bron had booked for us on a farm just outside the town.

Friday morning dawned clear and bright and a quick check under the bonnet revealed a cracked fan belt so a call was made to that well known, intrepid Sani Pass explorer at the Sports Car Centre followed by another call to Mandy, our daughter, asking her to collect the new belt and bring it to Champagne Sports. Fortunately the cracked belt lasted until we got there.

Lesson number 1 – check the fan belt as part of your planning for a long journey, or carry a spare belt.



*Richard’s Lesson #1*

*Check the fan belt as part of your planning for a long journey, or carry a spare belt.*



# 2018 Indaba

## *Richard and Avril Grover discuss the "Y" of the Indaba*

The following Thursday saw us on the road again en route to the Drakensville Power station for the tour organized by the Indaba committee. On the way we noticed several little two-seater sports cars parked at a roadside coffee shop on the Winterton road and decided to investigate – what a surprise, a bunch of NC folk enjoying the sunshine and magnificent vista of the Drakensberg mountain range. This happy crowd was soon joined by other, like-minded enthusiasts and so we felt that the Indaba had got underway even before we had registered. Then onto the tour of the facilities which we found very interesting. Hats off to *Eishkom* for making this possible.

Registration at the resort was well coordinated and efficient and we soon settled into our Drakensville accommodation which was, as a matter of interest, the housing originally built for the construction workers for the power station and now upgraded and run by the ATKV. Plenty of fellowship followed over the following days including a scenic drive to a wine farm for lunch after which some of the NC crowd managed to find brewery near Champagne Sports.



Saturday was set aside for the various Indaba events which of course included the Tops only, Concours d'etat, and Comique. Regrettably these were not well supported with only 2 cars entered for d'etat and a not a great turnout for Tops only either. Northern Centre was well represented, winning the majority of the awards on offer. The Saturday evening function went off well with most people entering into the spirit of the black and white theme. Once again we pretty much stole the show with Cruella de Ville leading in a pack of Dalmatians, all appropriately dressed for the occasion.

A flat wheel on the Y Type greeted us when we got up on Sunday morning and to our horror the spare was no better. Offers of help arrive in the form of a portable compressor and a can of Fogger so we are soon ready to set off for home.

Lesson number 2 – check your spare before leaving, such and obvious thing to do, but somehow it was forgotten amongst all the other checks demanding my attention.

I decided not to risk driving up the Oliviershoek Pass for safety reasons as, for several kilometers, there is no shoulder to drive on while creeping up the pass at a snail's pace. Fortunately for us Dirk was happy to drive his A up the hill and we were very grateful for the use of his trailer. When we reached the N3 we swapped over and were on the way home for the final leg of our adventure.

The drive home was uneventful and we arrived safely having driven 675 miles, enjoying it immensely and grateful for a well restored car to do it in. Driving a 1948 car in today's traffic is probably not for everyone and needs a healthy dose of patience and concentration, staying out of the way of those road users less sympathetic to the hobby that we love.

The next Indaba is in the Cape – is that a drive to far? Let's wait and see how we feel in 2020.



*Richard was awarded with:  
1st in Class for Concours D'etat  
Gold Award  
Car of the Day*

### *Richard's Lesson #2*

*Check your spare  
tyre before leaving  
on a journey.*





# Rocker Cover Races

*Glen Parker's Rocker represents Gauteng and the Johannesburg Centre*



Although he was unable to attend, Glen Parker's Rocker, successfully rocketed to victory under the guidance of Hentie Erasmus.

The Rocker Cover rocket was engineered and built by Glen—complete with CD wheels!



# Day Run + Treasure Hunt!

*Bev + Geoff Cunnington won third prize in the Treasure Hunt which finished at The Cathedral Peak Wine Farm*

A mass of MG Northern Centre's 40th Anniversary Golf shirts greeted us on Friday morning for the start of the Indaba Run and Treasure Hunt – what a sight! It had been decided that this was the day that would make the most impact for us all to wear our shirts. It was a beautiful sunny day, so our shirts really stood out, what a great team!

After collecting our Treasure Hunt papers and route schedules we were briefed at the hall and then people left in their own time. There were a couple of clues as we left the resort but all the other clues were set in the areas that we stopped at. It was quite a sight to see everyone scrabbling around at the Tower of Pizza scrutinizing all the various very old pieces of machinery scattered around the grounds. All in the hope that they may reveal the answers.

The drive itself was amazing, all those MGs, many open tops, travelling through such astounding scenery. Children in the rural areas were so excited to see the cars and waved and cheered as we passed them. The people in the rural areas seemed to take great pride in their homes, everywhere was so neat.

We eventually arrived at the wine farm, such a beautiful place made all the better with the amazing line-up of MGs. Lots of clues here which everyone was eager to quickly find the answers to so that they could get to the serious matter of drinking wine, beer or



“ *A beautiful place made all the better with the amazing line up of MGs.* ”

whatever! But, before we did that we had to answer a questionnaire about MGs, not our strong point! DO NOT CONFER ON THESE QUESTIONS, it said on the paper but that didn't happen! Having handed in all our papers to Lawrence we were free to do as we wanted.

There were long tables set up on the veranda, which it seemed Northern Centre dominated by the sea of blue 40th golf shirts present there. As it was such a beautiful day though some of us decided to sit under the shade of the trees on the grass or on the makeshift seating that was available (we were also closer to the food!).

What a fantastic spread was laid on for us, tables laden with cheeses, breads, biscuits, cold meats and salads all a great accompaniment to the bottle of red wine we purchased. What a truly wonderful day! Many thanks to KZN for organising the event.

In true Northern's tradition, some of the members decided to finish off the day with a trip to a local brewery.

But that's another story!

Imagine our surprise at the gala evening when we were presented with a certificate for third place in the treasure hunt – we're convinced it was just drawn out of a hat – too many people with the same answers!





# Day Run + Treasure Hunt!

*Country style lunch at The Cathedral Peak Wine Farm. Followed by an informal trip to the Drakensberg Brewery*





# Day Run + Treasure Hunt!

Country style lunch at The Cathedral Peak Wine Farm.  
Then an informal trip to the Drakensberg Brewery





# Day Run + Treasure Hunt!

*An evening drive back to the resort after the day's adventure*

The Answers to the Treasure Hunt Questions:

On the way to the main road:

Whose Stables?	Drakensville
Crops either side of the road?	Mealies + Soya Beans

At the Pizza Tower:

What's for hire?	Helicopter
It's made in Sweden. What's the number?	9063
It's made in London + Birmingham?	Avery Scale
It's International !?	Farmall Tractor
Climax No.?	766
What was made by Malcomess?	Water Pump
I really dig these items?	Spade Chairs
Quench your thirst today?	Today Farm Ginger Beer

At the Wine Estate:

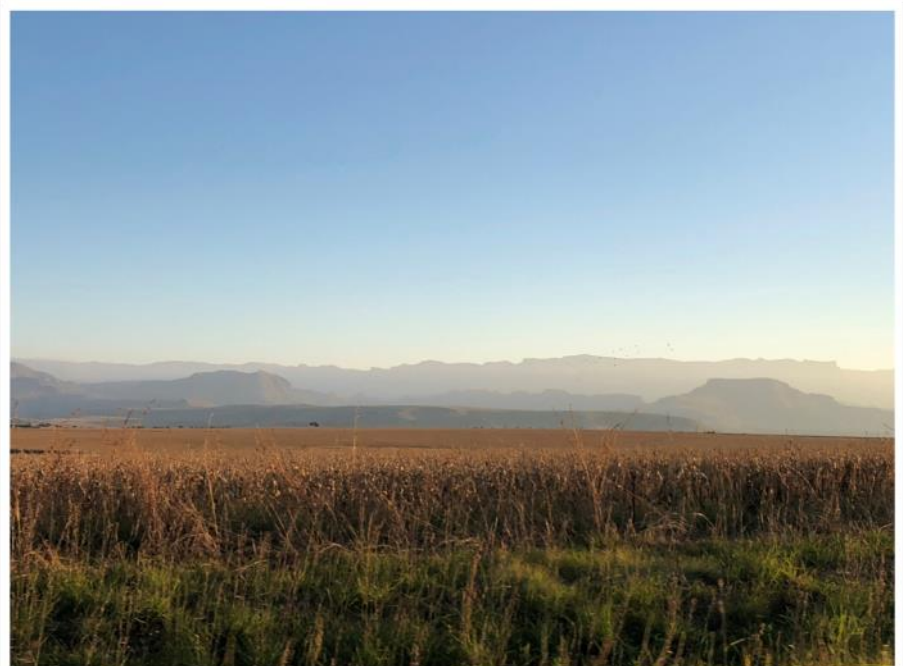
How many barrels on the end display?	15
How many barrel planters are there?	6
How much for the Wine Tasting?	R50 pp

Tiebreaker Questions:

Abingdon phone number at the MG Works?	251/252 253	All of them!
MGA Twin Cams produced:	2,111	
Total MGA's produced:	101,081	
Total TC's produced:	10,000	
Les Miller Specials:	Spider, Jasper + Fat Man	
MG's last record breaker:	EX 181	
Originator of the MG marquee:	Cecil Kimber	
Tanks overhauled:	Matilda + Mark V + Mark VI light tanks	
Parts made for the famous WW2 aircraft:	Lancaster Bomber	



MG's last record breaker EX 181. Not at the Indaba.







# Friday Night's Entertainment

*Dave + Michelle Goodram get down + groovy with the Mad House 5, Dinner For 1 + fun at 10*

When approached to compile an article on the proceedings of one cold Friday night in the Berg the term Amusia came to mind. An evening of great fun and entertainment was seemingly on the cards – boy were we handed a royal—flush.

After a hearty meal, vegetarians excluded, some banter amongst fellow MG enthusiasts about the lovely visit to a Drakensberg vineyard and brewery, taking MG's through a KZN rural community cheered on by enthusiastic school children, was clearly audible.

The promise of entertainment for the evening, a closely guarded secret, loomed large. Four folk, bedecked in rock n roll denim with patches, aptly named The Mad-House 5 began stirring up some emotion. And so our rock and roll journey unfolded.

Following a rendition of Petula Clark's *Downtown* and an epiphany, enthusiasm was sparked to head on down town to unit number 10.

10 a number used when describing anything that is close to perfection. Number 10 is also the symbol of matter in harmony however to reduce something by one tenth is to decimate.

In unit number 10 the banter, including some tears being shed, slowly but surely grew into a raucous noise, as more and more people, carrying thirst quenching gifts morphed into a mob of revellers.

An over-worked little JBL speaker, providing some fine tunes to an appreciative crowd rocked the little Berg resort. Items of furniture being transformed into dance floors. Bulging at the seams the exit from the little soirée was changed to the kitchen window. Sombre spirits rapidly transformed into jovial singing, fun and laughter – an assortment of spirit being the source blurring many a souls path homeward.

So an unusual start to an evening was completely overshadowed by the number 10.

A special mention must be made, to those gentle-folk who remained throughout the performance to see a redeeming rendition of Dinner for One.





# Driving Tests

*William Kelly has a hoot on the gymkhana driving circuit*

On the Saturday morning the driving tests were held in a field just up from the show car field. I had intended to field SeeKoei to rise to the challenge thrown down by Ed Hillary in his TC but SeeKoei decided that discretion was the better part of valour and wouldn't start for any amount of love, money or outright threats. So we left him at the cottage to think about his awful behaviour and trundled on up to find Brian Woodhams and Stiffler for the event.

As it happens Brian was entered and as it happens we needed partners and as it happens young James had nil interest in this and poor Wendy had to take him off to play his new favourite game, mini golf. Which is also known as Putt Putt for those of us old enough to remember but which in this case had been transformed into throw/kick/putt the ball to all corners of the course for mom to fetch.

Brian and I were thus teamed up as partners and there were two obstacle courses to be navigated. The first was a slalom which involved adding flimsy polystyrene cups onto sharp pointy poles alternating between driver and navigator and then taking them off again when coming back in the reverse direction. Damaged cups would incur a penalty. Of course the fiendishly

*“ I probably wouldn't be so cross but he did it in MY car!*

wicked Brian had already calculated that deliberate sabotage would be advantageous to his evil cause which innocent old me had not even considered as a possibility. Anyway, after his deliberate drop of a cup which I then reversed over in an attempt to retrieve it, and despite our supply of pilfered additional intact cups, it was hard to avoid a penalty. Not a great start.

We then had Brian drive the course and despite my magnificent brilliance in the mastery of my own machine, he beat me. Even when I was navigator! These Poms know how to drive...and so it was naturally now a case of "Game On!"

The second test was a more simple drive around a pole holding a rope with a weight in the middle without letting the weight hit the ground or pulling over the centre pole that the rope was attached to. Naturally, thanks to sheer talent I was utterly brilliant at this - I like to think that Clarkson chap has nothing on my ego - and besides, what could possibly go wrong? As it happens Brian was terrible at this particular event. But being gracious hosts the KZN chaps allowed him to have several attempts at it until he got it right. Which he did.

Beating me.  
Again.

It was a bad day at the office. I came second in the tests and Brian won it, taking the trophy overseas with him. I probably wouldn't be so cross but he did it in MY car! The sheer faced bald headed cheek! The only dignity to be salvaged from the tragic farce was that V8 power managed to beat whatever souped-up nuclear powered hell fire demon spawn motor Ed has in his excellent TC (but not by much it has to be said).

It was all great fun, much banter, much concentration coupled with much laughter and amusement by all. It just goes to show that the simple things can often be the best things and all our thanks to the KZN guys for putting it together to begin with.

And congratulations to Brian...





# Tops Only Condition

*Bernard + Marelize Mostert get to grips with a Tops Only competition, far from the comfort of home*

Most of you know, Miss Daisy gets groomed by one person only: Patricia.



As the Tops Only was only judged on Saturday and was preceded by the scenic drive through the Berg, it did present some challenges.

Everyone rose sort-of bright (after the night before @ No. 10 Downing) and kind-of early (also after the night before @ No. 10 Downing) to start cleaning and preparing for Tops Up. Here we need to specify that the "everyone" where those who wanted to enter. The rest rose for breakfast and only woke up later.

Due to the fact that we did not have covered parking, Miss Daisy was parked strategically in the middle of no-where, avoiding nature's drop zones under the trees and additional cleaning efforts.



The dew presented some challenges and also an excuse for not starting too early. But the crisp autumn sun quickly dried all the cars and the grooming started, with encouragement and appreciation from the onlookers.

*“ she looked pretty good with her sparkling chrome, polished paint and the cloudless sky reflecting in the windscreen*

*But Miss Daisy doesn't wear undies!*



To watch enthusiasts washing their cars; is like watching new parents wash their new born for the first time – there is a cream and a special "lappie" for every part and every crevice gets cleaned carefully but thoroughly.

Bernard had to wear sunglasses to protect his eyes from the reflection of 'Old English White'.

Marelize also had an audience commenting and advising – some even pulled up chairs.

It did not take long for Miss Daisy (and her owner) to get back their bubbly personalities and soon she (the car, not the owner) was parked and ready for inspection. I know that each parent thinks his donkey is a race horse, but we thought she looked pretty good with her sparkling chrome, polished paint and the cloudless sky reflecting in the windscreen. Well, the judges agreed and Miss Daisy walked / rolled away with first prize!



Thanks you to every judge and everyone who assisted or advised as this was a team effort.

# Concours Commique

*Peter Faul expresses the love for all things MG with the  
... Morris Garage People*



One of the many activities of the KZN hosted Indaba was the comique eleganza which Northern Centre participated in with much pomp and ceremony and won 1st and 2nd place for their effort.

First up was Peter + Paul who took to the field with much bravo. The traditional Hebrew concept of a cherub was to act as a guardian of the Garden of Eden. These two rather plump cherubs played a very different role, that of shining a light on the Marque of friendship, that is MG. The concept was born as we were driving our Iris Blue B through our suburb when we

heard a comment from a young girl to her mother, "Look mommy there goes a little patch of heaven." That was the inspiration we needed for the comique event.

“ Young man, there's no need to be down...

Humans have marked their bodies for a thousand years. These permanent designs, sometime plain, sometimes elaborate, always personal, have served as status symbols and declarations of love and many other beliefs. The tattoos on our little patch of heaven declaring love and passion of the brand, with the cherubs acting as guardians was our way of sharing in the MG magic. We were rewarded by winning 1st prize.

The Northern Centre's commitment to the MG marque wasn't quite over yet. A team effort, stepped up and delivered an interesting rendition of the famous Village People's hit YMCA. Marelize Mostert organised the group and choreographed the moves to demonstrate a more vibrant Y-MGA! The universally recognisable characters of the policemen, the cowboy, or as in our case the cowgirl, the construction worker, the native American and of course the Macho Man, were enthusiastically represented by club members who danced to the disco hit. The troupe's stars however were the immaculate Y-Type and A's adding relevance to the 70s camp. The audience joined in with performance adding cheers to the chorus. The team effort won 2nd place for the rendition which goes to prove that with a Y-MGA at your side, there's no need to feel down while having fun with the Y-MG Club.



# Gala Black + White Dinner

*Trophies and Awards were presented and speeches made at the last night of the Indaba. Our Centre still had a trick for the old dogs as Sharleen + Dirk Putter tell.*

## The story of our 101 Dalmatians and the black and white evening ...

At a club social evening, we were all discussing what to wear for the black and white evening when it was suggested that we all should consider a group costume to show the unity and friendship that the Northern Centre stands for and so "Cruella and her 101 Dalmatians" was born.

It was to be simple and affordable and ideas were thrown back and forth until it was decided a white T-shirt with black dots would work well but it still needed something special. I was asked to source that something special and found spotty ears and tails at the Chinese market in Centurion. Our doggy collar required a hands on touch and was made from glitter felt with a chocolate coin, branded with an MG badge as the nametag. I hope you have all eaten your chocolate! Extra sparkles were applied to the collar for good measure.

Now the big thing was to get together to assemble the costumes and prepare the shirts. It was agreed to combine the painting and make our doggy collars at the clubhouse on concourse day. I can tell you it was great fun watching everyone getting stuck in and sponging dots onto their T's especially Carla and Kierran, our youngest members, doing most of the work. I'm still not sure who got the most paint on them, the T's or them!

We then had to decide who was going to be our nemesis, "Cruella De Ville" and after some thought, it was decided that Sandra was the right candidate as her hair color was already half way there and that she would fit the part to a T. Sandra threw herself into the role with gusto even dying half her hair black, bravo! Music was sourced by none other than Dirk, so now we had it all together and off to the Berg we went.

The pack all gathered together in our dotty T's, doggy collars, ears and tails and applied black patches for extra effect among much laughter and comradery— and of course the ever present liquid courage. We proceeded to the Main Hall across the grassed lawn and thank heavens there were no doggies lifting their legs along the way. All the doggies behaved, but of course they were terrified of "Cruella, Cruella De Ville, if she didn't scare you no one will". Dirk carried the boom box on his shoulder with our theme song blasting forth and all those 101 Dalmatians followed him like lambs to the slaughter, howling as they went. The DJ picked up on our antics and started playing "Who Let the Dogs In?" adding to the general howling and barking.

The playful pups were followed by Cruella and our "honcho dog" Tony doing a jig. Although we didn't win the "Best Dressed Award" we showed all and sundry what it is to belong to Northern Centre, a club with heart and spirit.

Thank you to one and all for your participation and believing in the breed—spots and all.

*"The greatest pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him, and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself, too."*

*Samuel Butler*



# Letter from London

*Adam + Leandé Fergie our visiting 'Poms on Tour'*

So we arrived at OR Tambo after a 10 hour flight from Heathrow, having had little sleep due to my injured knee - it didn't matter though as we could now look forward to our annual 2-week holiday in sunny South Africa . Time to relax and wind down from our stressful jobs, time to slow down the pace and take a leisurely break of sun and scenery.

But Noooooooooo - Alan and Denise had very different ideas.

To be fair, they did allow us an hour once we arrived by taxi in Parkview, to 'use the facilities', change into shorts and offload most of our luggage, before shoe-horning us, our wash bags and one change of clothes, into what I can only describe as butt-scraping-metal-torture instrument, know as a 1960's MGB - sorry for any offense William, it was so kind of you to lend us your treasured vehicle for the weekend, but with a crutch and limited leg-bending space, it wasn't quite first-class travel.

Sadly, I wasn't able to drive over the weekend so Leandé had to jump into the pilots seat, as we headed off down to the Drakensberg.

Where's the GPS? I asked - Nope.

What about the air conditioning - surely this is SA, we need it? - Nope.

We'll at least we could listen to some music, surely - Nope, no point, you couldn't hear a thing above the engine noise and various rattles - still at least for the first time in 12 years, Mrs F was silent for our 3-hour trip.

*“ sheer beauty of some of the wonderful vehicles I saw.*

Alan and Denise at first led, but were continually frustrated in their V8, at our inability to keep up, so they let us lead and control the pace. We eventually arrived at Drakensville for what I thought would be an car-enthusiasts weekend of engine talk and discussions about 'greasing thrust nipples' (yes you can tell I'm not a petrol-head - sorry), but I was to be pleasantly surprised. In fact MGs were not the fodder for the weekend at all. In deed, we were treated to wild parties, politics, tribal competition, reconciliations... not to mention the amazing evening entertainment - I can honestly say, I've never seen anything like this back in the UK.

I have to say though, that there were many 'car moments' and apart from the sheer beauty of some of the wonderful vehicles I saw, I did take time to also put my head under a few bonnets and nod knowledgeably pretending I knew what their owners were talking about. I could off course impress people with my knowledge of beer and wine on the visit to the Cathedral Peak wine estate and definitely felt one of the pack as a Dalmatian on the final evening.

All in all though, I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed myself as a Pommy out of my comfort zone.

I met some great people and hopefully made a few new friends as well. I'd like to thank Alan and Denise particularly for inviting us, and Pepi for being such a great host. I'd also like to thank all of you reading this for making myself and Leandé feel so welcome.

Looking forward to Cape Town 2020!



# National Indaba History

## *The Nuffield Challenge Trophy*



1

The Nuffield Challenge Trophy was awarded at the prize giving on Saturday night. The trophy has a rich history and two of our Northern Centre members, Alan Uzzell and Denise Tilburn, shared their story about their involvement with the Cup.

Lord Nuffield, patron of the MG Car Club, donated a gold trophy to the UK Club in 1936 to *“enhance the club’s prestige, assist with growth, and add to the enthusiasm of its members”*. The cup at the time cost the equivalent of a new Morris car so the donation was very generous indeed.

As the MG Club expanded internationally with new Centres being formed following the post 1945 boom in MG exports, 4 additional trophies were created. These trophies, of sterling silver, were awarded to Centres in Europe, America, Oceania and Africa. They were originally awarded in 1954, presented by Lord Nuffield with the same purpose of the original Golden Cup. The trophies are all engraved *“Nuffield Challenge Trophy”* and were intended for the annual competition between all Centres of the MG Car Club for the area.

The cups remain the property of the MG Car Club so can only be presented to an affiliated Club and, in the event of a Club ceasing activity in an area, the Cup is to be returned to Kimber House for safe keeping.



2

1. Norman Ewing + Alan Uzzell with the African Nuffield Trophy
2. Nuffield Trophy on display at Awards Evening
3. The Gold Cup: the Original Nuffield Trophy in the UK
4. The American Nuffield Trophy with an added tier, fitted when the trophy was repaired.
5. Lord Nuffield (left) greets Mr Dick on his (then) 70 year old cycle at Earl’s Court 1938.



3



4



5



# National Indaba History

## *The Nuffield Challenge Trophy Presented to the Kwa-Zulu Natal Centre*

It is interesting to note that all the trophies have had some period where they were missing in action and thought lost. The European Cup was missing from 1961-1979, the Oceania Cup went AWOL from 1961- 1987, the American Cup from 1962-1985 and our African trophy was likewise unaccounted for.

The story of locating and collecting the African Nuffield Trophy in 1982 was shared by Alan and Denise:



Alan Uzzell + Denise Tilburn telling the story of the Trophy

National Chairman Norman Ewing had been trying without success to locate the trophy and asked ex-Rhodesian Alan if he might be able to help. Alan managed to contact Bill Thomson of the MG Car Club of Zimbabwe in Salisbury who he suspected of having taken the trophy into safekeeping to prevent it being vandalised and misappropriated.

At first, Bill was rather reluctant to acknowledge its whereabouts, knowing its historic importance. Luckily, Alan managed to persuade him that his intentions were honourable and that the cup would be reclaimed on behalf of the MG Club and returned to circulation as originally intended and an agreement was reached.

Denise requested a close friend of hers who was visiting Zimbabwe a short while later, to collect the Cup from Bill. It was told how there was another round of discussions and more convincing before the cup was gingerly handed over to Denise's friend for passage back to South Africa.

The next challenge, now that the cup was in hand, was to ensure a safe crossing over the border. Sheila realised once she had received the cup that it was worth quite a bit and, that without any formal papers, a border crossing could prove to be problematic. With this in mind the best course of action seemed to be hiding the cup in plain view. With daring foresight, the precious cup was wrapped in newspaper, put in two Checkers bags and casually set on the back seat of the car.

The ruse was successful, and the cup was delivered to Alan and Denise, even if it was a little worse for wear.

The Uzzells proceeded to polish the cup to a shine reflective of its former glory and with great pleasure, presented it, in the middle of the night as such important things can't wait, to an astounded and delighted Norman Ewing who knew nothing about what had been going on. The African Nuffield Trophy had been found and was once again part of the MG Club's tradition.

Bill and his wife Jen were brought down by the National body as guests of honour to the 1982 Indaba in Pietermaritzburg.

The trophy, as per Lord Nuffield's original intention, is traditionally presented to the Centre that best represents the growth and enthusiasm for the MG Club and is now given to the Centre that hosts our biennial Indaba in recognition of the huge effort involved. It was accepted this year by organising chairman Chris Brown from Alan and Denise. When not at a formal function, the Trophy resides in the care of Norman Ewing at his home in Johannesburg.

As Alan and Denise continue to be active members of the Northern Centre, our Centre will always be linked to this very important part of MG history.



Brian Woodram representing the UK MG Car Club, Alan Uzzell, National SA President Tony Craddock + Denise Tilburn



Alan Uzzell presenting the Nuffield Trophy to Chris Brown with Denise Tilburn



# Club Notices + Announcements

*Upcoming Events, Social Evenings + Club Activities*

## Windybrow Game Farm Cullinan

24 June

Bring:  
food + drink  
picnic hampers  
african spirit

Braai Facilities  
provided

9h00  
Meet at  
Clubhouse  
9h15 sharp departure

RSVP  
Pepi  
before  
21 June

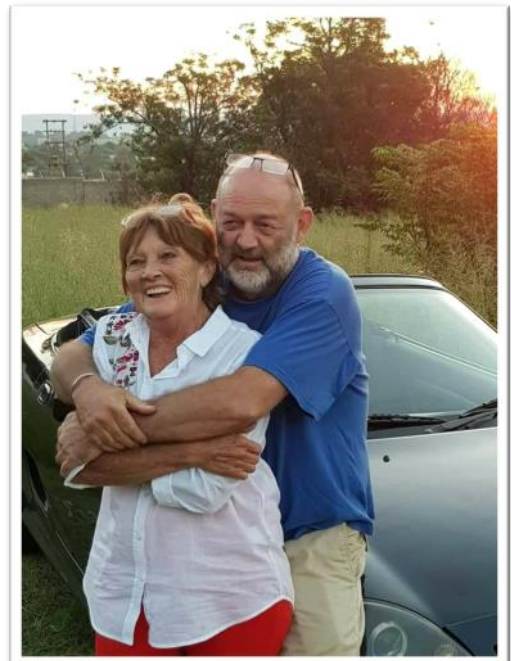
Game  
Drive  
with  
Byron  
Phitides

## Social Evening 15 June



## CHILLI CON CARNE TO KEEP THE CHILL AWAY

ALL WELCOME  
Friday from 17:30 onwards  
MG Car Club Northern Centre Clubhouse



*In Memory of Rosa Westaway*



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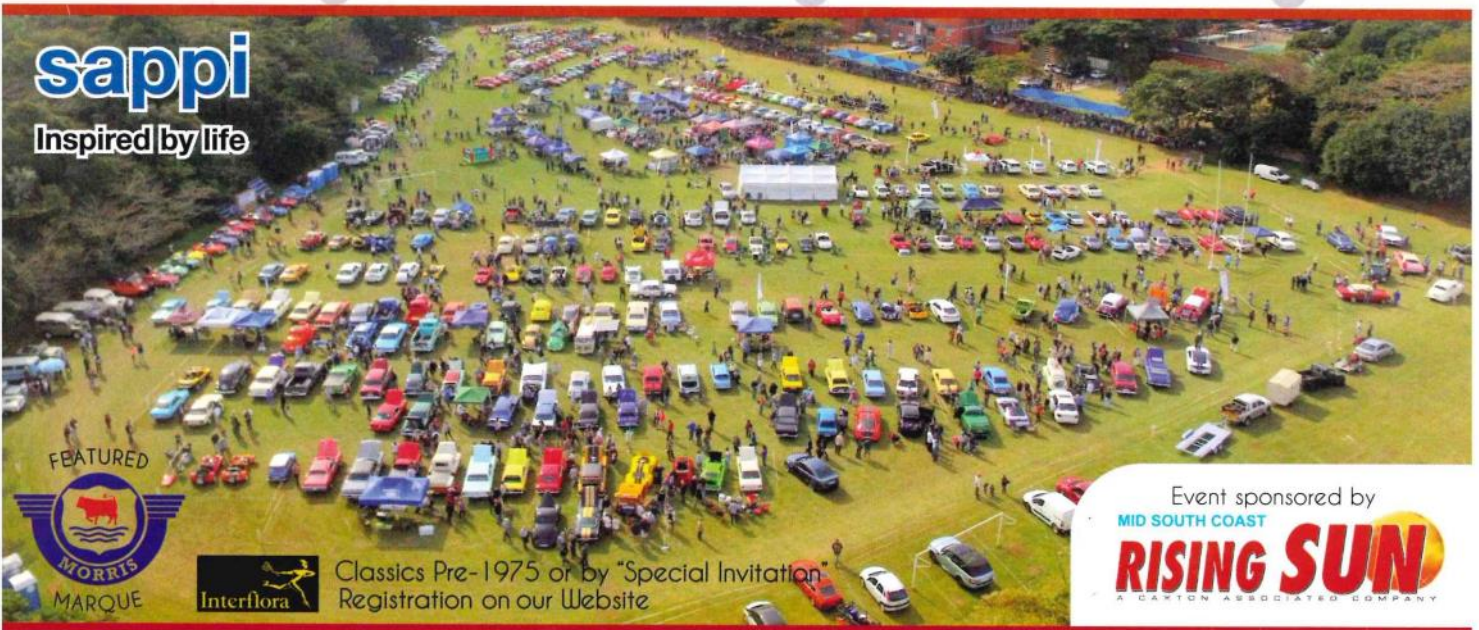
# Club Notices + Announcements

Scottburgh Classic Car Show

THE SCOTTBURGH CLASSIC CAR CLUB INVITES YOU TO THE NINTH

# Scottburgh Classic Car Show

Including Classic Motorcycles



For details contact Peter Fielding on 039 976 1995 or jagmg@telkomsa.net  
Visit our website:  
[www.scottburghclassiccarshow.co.za](http://www.scottburghclassiccarshow.co.za)

**Sunday, 08 July 2018**  
**at Scottburgh High School.**  
Tea Garden, Beer Garden & a wide variety of food available on the field.

Entrance: R40pp for Visitors, R20 for Pensioners & Scholars from 09h00.  
Exhibitors R5 voluntary donation per car from 07h30. All proceeds to charity.

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The Scottburgh Car Show is a great opportunity to escape winter in Gauteng. Spend a weekend at the coast with warm sunny days. Its great to drive along the costal roads with the roof off—the best cure for winter blues.

There will be an area dedicated for MGs, and supported by the Kwa-Zulu Natal Centre.  
An opportunity to continue the National Spirit.



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# Club Notices + Announcements

*Forthcoming Events in Brief*

Point allocation C=Clubman, V= Victrix/tor Ludorum, RR=Regularity Rally, HR=Historic Racing

## JUNE

Monday 4	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	C
Friday 15	Social Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	-
Saturday 16	Youth Day	-	-	-
Sunday 24	Monthly Run	NC	Windybrow Game Farm, Cullinan Meet at Clubhouse 9:00 for 9:15 departure	C

## JULY

Monday 2	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	C
Friday 13	Social Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	-
Sunday 22	Monthly Run	NC	Centenary Run	C

## AUGUST

Monday 6	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	C
Friday 17	Social Evening P+P	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	-
23-26	40th Anniversary Run	NC	Boutique Hotel, Little Pilgrims (adjacent to Numbi Hotel) Hazyview, Mpumalanga	C

## SEPTEMBER

Monday 3	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	C
Friday	Social Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	-
Sunday	Driving Tests	NC	TBA	C

## OCTOBER

Monday 1	Natter 'n Noggin	NC	Clubhouse 19:30 for 20:00	C
Friday	Social Evening	NC	Clubhouse 17:30 onwards	-
Sunday	Jacaranda Run	NC	TBA	C



# Motoring Events

Some Forthcoming Motoring Events not related to MG or the Northern Centre

<b>JUNE</b>		
2	POMC Mampoer Rally	Cullinan
3	Nelspruit Motor Show	Nelspruit
9	Vryheid Cars in the Park	Vryheid
24	Blairgowrie Toy Fair	Blairgowrie
24	Jaguar Regularity Rally	Bedfordview
30	Historic Tour Racing	Red Star Raceway
<b>JULY</b>		
1	1000 Bikes Show	Germiston
6-7	National Rally Championships	Port Elizabeth
8	Scottburgh Classic Car Show	Scottburgh
22	Rotary Classic Car Meander	Brits Hartbeespoort
22	Austin-Healey 100 Regularity Rally	Benoni
<b>AUGUST</b>		
5	POMC Cars in the Park	Zwartkops Raceway
8-12	Magnum Rally	Hazyview
9	Bloemfontein Cars in the Park	Bloemfontein
11	Historic Tour Racing	Dezzi Raceway
17-18	National Rally Classics Championship	Bronkhorstspuit
26	Ferdi's Swap Meet	Midrand
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
1-2	Kyalami Festival of Motoring	Kyalami Racetrack
2	Wheels at the Vaal	Vanderbijlpark
9	VVC Parkhurst Vintage + Veteran Day	Parkhurst
16	Piston Ring Auto Jumble	Modderfontein
22-23	Platinum Regularity Rally	Rustenburg
23	Distinguished Gentleman's Ride	TBC
28-29	National Rally Classics Championship	Secunda
29	Historic Tour Racing	Zwartkops Raceway
30	Blairgowrie Toy Fair	Blairgowrie