



MG CAR CLUB
South Cape Centre
Established February 2007
P.O. Box 732, Knysna, 6570
www.mgcarclubsc.co.za
Affiliated to the MG CAR CLUB Ltd. (UK).

NEWSLETTER NO 02 - FEBRUARY 2010

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EDITORIAL & FROM THE HIGH CHAIR

We are fortunate this month to have a different viewpoint on MG matters in 'From the Running Board', this time from scribe Duncan Paton. As you will see, the editor (whoever he may be) is a bully and for those who have not yet had a turn at this column, your name is on the list – be prepared! Your high school essay writing definitely needs a bit of sharpening. Enjoy Duncan's 'love story'.

We are well into gear for this year's events. Bonnets up at the Waterfront was remarkably well attended by both members and the public despite the event not being advertised outside the Club. The Sedgefield combined MGCC and GRMC breakfast run seems to gain in popularity with the majority of cars being MGs. Although we were a little critical of the organisation at the George Old Car Show, explanations presented by their club chairman were accepted and those who participated enjoyed the day viewing the cars and other displays. I believe Peter Hollis attended the Killarney leg of the David Piper Series and hopefully he will give a description of the events in his motor sport column. His father, Ron, tells us below about his day at the Zwartkops leg of the series.

We look forward to seeing you at our next 'serious' gathering, our AGM on March 2nd at the Angling Club. Except for hopefully replacing the incumbent chairman and editor, we do not anticipate any significant contention, the meeting should be a short one and we can then enjoy a drink and the provided snacks. Prior to that is the Plett breakfast run and then the Parfetts will kindly host us to a braai in their garden at the end of Leisure Isle.

We would like to be in touch with all members who are going to the Cape Centre's Oudtshoorn Indaba in September. Please send your names to either Brian Davidson or myself. While on that topic, I again urge those who have not entered to join us for what I am sure will be a memorable event. Arrangements for

Brian's Karoo Tour are well established. GRMC members have now been invited to participate and there are still a few vacancies. Contact Brian to join this trip which is one of those "not to be missed".

"Compleat Golfer" (sic) is described as South Africa's specialist magazine produced by golfers for golfers. These fundi have voted Jennie Frost as their top handicapped golfer for the year. This award follows her win in the Dutch open and second place in the Swedish open placing her far ahead of her rivals in the international handicapped golfers' order of merit. We are honoured to have her in our midst! Heartiest congratulations to Jennie and best wishes for the competitions ahead.

Many will be aware that Loerie Park is closed for all events in preparation for and then use by one of the Soccer World Cup teams. The GRMC Charity Car Show on May 1st will therefore take place at the High School sports grounds off Waterfront Drive.

Bruce

FROM THE RUNNING BOARD

"Write something for 'From the Running Board'", he said. "OK", I replied, like an idiot. I couldn't turn him down as there were other people listening, and anyway I'd had a few toots and was feeling quite brave. So I got home and promptly forgot about it, until the dreaded e-mail arrived which reminded me of my commitment. So do something!

Now I'm not a petrolhead, and can't tell the difference between twin SU's and twin anything else. You put petrol in at one end and oil at the other, and if it doesn't work after that you call Ricky or Pat. So why am I playing with my MG instead of watching cricket or rugby on the telly. Well it started a long time ago. Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin.

In the late 1950's I was a struggling articled clerk in Manchester. No money, no immediate prospects of a career, and no girl-friend. Life was tough, but I had a mate who owned a red MGA Coupe. He needed a navigator, because he wanted to go rallying. So the deal was done and we joined the Glossop and District Car Club. Their main interests were in night rallies in Derbyshire, North Wales, Yorkshire and the Lake District.

For the uninitiated a night rally in those days involved setting off at about 11 p.m. and following a course of around 150 miles marked by reference points using the 1 inch/1 mile Ordinance Survey maps. The checkpoints were 3 to 4 miles apart, but you had to maintain an average of 30 M.P.H. between each one. We had a stop at half way and then continued on, finishing sometime in the early morning. This was usually followed by a good breakfast somewhere for those who had managed to stay awake.

Needless to say there was often more than one way to get from A to B, and if you took the wrong road you could end up in trouble. It was good fun and we even managed to pick up a few trophies, to say nothing of a bill from a farmer who had to give us a tow at 2 a.m. after we mistook one of his fields for a short cut to the main road!

Fast forward to 1964, I have just arrived in Salisbury from the UK and I haven't got a car. So I rushed out and bought a Midget. It wasn't new but was in quite good condition. I kept it for about a year and it was

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the vehicle that I had when I met my wife. She will have to give her impressions on that another day. I had a lot of fun with it but unfortunately rolled it on a dirt road one dark and stormy night, and shortly after that decided that I had to grow up a bit, so got a VW!

Now it's 2008 and I'm in Knysna. We've retired, the children are off our hands (we think), and I need something else to do. I had seen a number of different looking cars running around Knysna, and regularly stopped in at Frosts to see what they had in stock. Eventually I got my Coupe and the rest is history, as they say.

So the love affair with MG continues. I don't know where it will end, but until it does I'm going to enjoy it.

Duncan Paton

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE SEE THE EVENTS CALENDAR FOR THE BREAKFAST RUNS ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AS THESE HAVE BECOME OFFICIAL CLUB EVENTS. N.B. NOTE THAT CAFÉ FRANCOIS DOES NOT HAVE CREDIT CARD FACILITIES.

Sunday February 28th – Breakfast run to Old Nicks at Plett: - leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there

Tuesday March 2nd – AGM at the Knysna Angling Club at 19h30: Bar facilities available and snacks will be provided. If you are unable to attend, please appoint a proxy.

Saturday March 20th – Noggin: Bring and Braai at the Parfetts at 17h00 at 19 Water's Edge Road, literally at the waters edge on "the end" of Leisure Isle. Come and enjoy your sundowners and braai at Knysna's prime setting.

Sunday March 28th – Breakfast run to Café Francois at Sedgefield: - leave Quays @ 09h00 or meet there

April 19th to 23rd Karoo and Route 62 MGCC Tour: Contact Brian Davidson to secure one of the last places on this fabulous tour. briandavidson@vodamail.co.za / 044 387 1126

HUSBANDS AND WIVES

After marriage, husband and wife become two sides of a coin; they just can't face each other, but still they stay together.

Woman inspires us to great things, and prevents us from achieving them. - *Sacha Guitry*

SICK BAY:

Colin Underwood, Lionel Hewitt and Duncan Paton have been under torture recently but all are recovering well. It is good to see Duncan able to flex his back adequately to both enter and exit the A Coupe! We wish them well.

MAINTAINING THE BREED

See the January 2010 edition of the Northern Centre Newsletter (web address below) for more information about the most significant icon of South African MG racing, Les Miller, who turned 96 recently. We thank the Northern newsletter editor, Peter Noeth for this article.



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Postal address: 11 Westmeath Rd, Parkview, Johannesburg
Telephone number: (011)486-0021 or (011)646-1631
Email address: sportscar@mweb.co.za

The name Miller is synonymous in South Africa with not only motor racing, but also M.G, for no other person has done as much to promote the Octagon and Maintain the Breed in the truest sense of the word in this country as Les Miller. He devoted almost his entire racing career to carrying aloft the M.G. banner, and his post-war stable was to identify totally with M.G. as the words “Ecurie Miller-M.G.” after each car entered was to proclaim in racing programmes across the country.

Les Miller was always one for speed. After leaving Durban High School, Les developed his love of motorbikes into a love for cars and aeroplanes.

He had earned his car racing colours driving first an Austin Seven and then a BSA twin cylinder three-wheeler with a two-at-the-front configuration. In 1934, his first year of competitive driving, Les proved without doubt that he would be the one to watch, being the only record- breaker at the Natal Motor Cycle Club event at New Germany on 16 September though coming second to Norcott on a Levis 500 sidecar.

In 1936 Les bought his first MG, an L Type Magna six-cylinder tourer. He stripped away the bodywork and built his own body – a boat-tailed two seater. This year also saw the formation of the Arrow Drivers Stable. Les, inspired with the idea of starting a South African racing drivers club along the lines of the British Racing Drivers Club of England, formed with a few friends this stable, which operated from a double garage building in Durban

His first Grand Prix was on January 1,1937 at the East London circuit, a track he knew well. His main competition came from a German Auto-Union team, but tyre problems put them out of the running. The MG didn't win the race, but Les maintained it deserved to, coming ninth behind the rest of the big guns of Europe.

In 1940 Les curtailed his racing career and went off to serve his country in the South African Air force as a bomber pilot, flying being his second great love. Racing resumed slowly after the war, and with the chronic lack, of new cars and funds that the war years brought the special builders were soon at it once again. The Durban M.G. Agents, McCarthy Rodway, had on display in their show room a TC rolling chassis complete with polished-up engine and transmission. Once it had served its purpose as a static display, it was sold to Miller who set about it in his inimitable way; thus, “Jasper” was born. Miller's heavy race programme continued with mixed success.

“Spider”, the second TC-based special built by Miller, appeared at the Alexandra Park Circuit, Pietermaritzburg, for the Senior Coronation event on Monday, 26 March 1951, bringing Miller home in second place.

In 1952 Les was entering races as “Ecurie Miller” and the hectic programme continued. In 1954 at the Centenary Races in October there were no fewer than six “Ecurie Miller” entries with Les in the latest edition, the third TC based “Fat Man”.

By 1956, however, Les was entering fewer races. Miller came out of retirement to drive in the 1959 Winter Handicap at the invitation of his old friend Max Scheckter, father of future Grand Prix drivers Jody and Ian Scheckter. Max had asked Les to drive a Simca in the production race, and practising in this, plus the fact that he had changed the conventional racing tyres on “Fat Man” to the new and cheaper radials then available (without sponsorship, cost



was a major consideration) were regarded as responsible for Miller's crash, ending his racing career and hospitalising him for five months.

A tribute in the race programme on that day said of Miller: "His name is synonymous with motor racing in East London. He has probably done more than any other driver to foster motor racing in South Africa."

When in East London, the "Ecurie Miller" cars were housed in the Scheckter garage, and Max's sons were an accepted part of the feverish pre-race activity, asking questions and showing an almost idolatry interest in Les and the cars.

Monkey (those who attended Cape centres or the prawn braai last year will know him!) sent me the following email:

Hi Bruce,

I was surfing the internet looking for info on the MGA Twin Cam and came across an interesting site, which I thought might form the basis for a magazine article.

The website is at: www.britishracecar.com/JoeGunderson-MG-Ex186.htm

It would seem that MG had big ambitions at that particular stage of their history.

I never knew of the existence of this car and thought that perhaps it might be news to many other magazine readers as well.

I also came across some info and pics of the latest MG. I cannot remember exactly where, but Google should be helpful. The car is called the MG6 I think.

Yours Octagonally,

Monkey.

This website is well worth a look and describes more amazing MG history; thanks to George Winter – Ed.

PAST EVENTS:

January 24th: A sparkling, warm, cloudless Sunday morning saw 17 Club members match the weather with 19 of their gleaming, pristine MGs with their bonnets up to show the public at the Waterfront. The planned semi-circle soon filled and the older cars, Tony's TC rebuild project and Bunny's TD, became the hub of the group. Cars varied in vintage from the TC to George's new TF and there were seven each of MG As and MG Bs including B GTs. Great interest was shown by the passing public especially for the rebuild exercise. The owners took a while off to sit in the shade and enjoy a delicious lunch and a beer or two at Café Mario.

Well done to all but especially Tony for making the effort to trailer the TC there. Apart from his beautifully prepared 'Yellow Peril', Frostie Langman's matching shirt and especially his yellow Crocs won him 'Man of the Day' award.

January 31st : Sixteen members, most with spouses, in fourteen MGs were joined by several GRMC members in plastics (almost!!!) and had a pleasantly cool drive to Café Francois. There a breakfast of the usual good standard was enjoyed.



February 14th – George Old Car Show: Threatening cloud greeted the departure of about 25 MGCC and GRMC cars from Knysna in a 'convoy' (if we are allowed to use that dirty word) which built up en route as we 'picked up' Belvedere and Sedgfield members. Finally the MG display comprised 20 Club MGs in addition to at least five other MGs scattered among the other cars. In numbers, MGs were the second largest marque on display after Mercedes. 26 Club members attended. We were able to get our 'drive past' out of the way as the first club to do so with Keith Burton's excellent commentary helping us on our way. A good breakfast was then enjoyed at a nearby coffee shop before we spent time on the fields looking at the displays.



There is always a modicum of "are we going there again this year" when planning our events. However at the end of each show, most participants admit to having enjoyed the day and I think we have some obligation to support our neighbouring town's old car movement. A further benefit is that we canvassed two potential new members.

Ed

DRIVING TIPS:

(I look forward to the response to the first guy who tries this – Ed)

A senior citizen drove his brand new MG RV8 out of the car salesroom. Taking off down the motorway, he floored it to 160kmh, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left.

"Amazing!" he thought as he flew down the N1, enjoying pushing the pedal to the metal even more. Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a police car behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring.

"I can get away from him - no problem!" thought the elderly nutcase as he floored it to 180kmh, then 220 then 240kmh. Suddenly, he thought, "What on earth am I doing? I'm too old for this nonsense!" So he pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the police car to catch up with him..

Pulling in behind him, the police officer walked up the driver's side of the MG, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 10 minutes. Today is Friday and I'm taking off for the weekend. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The old man, looked very seriously at the policeman, and replied, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a policeman. I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, Sir", said the policeman.

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

www.mgclubsc.co.za

www.bridgetthemidget.co.uk

www.mgcc-north.co.za

www.motorheads.co.za

www.motorheadsdiary.com

www.britishracecar.com

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

"South Africa is probably the leading economy in the world. No other country of our size and economic ranking has produced as many globally successful Fortune 500 companies as we have. The only comparable country is South Korea. There is a phenomenal ability for South African companies to grow and go global from South Africa. No other comparably sized emerging market has been able to succeed in doing that; not even the Chinese, not even the Indians."

~ *Dr Martyn Davies, chief executive of Frontier Advisory and director of the Centre for Chinese Studies at Stellenbosch University* ~

AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED:

A man and a woman were asleep like two innocent babies. Suddenly, at 3 o'clock in the morning, a loud noise came from outside.

The woman, sort of bewildered, jumped up from the bed and yelled at the man 'Holy Sh**! That must be my husband!'

So the guy quickly jumped out of the bed. Scared and naked he jumped out the window like a crazy man. He smashed onto the ground, ran through a thorn bush, then started to run as fast as he could to his car. A few minutes later he returned and went up to the bedroom and screamed at the woman, 'What do you mean, I AM your husband!'

The woman yelled back, 'Yeah??? Then why were you running?'

And then the fight started...

THE CLUB CAR REGISTER

Some new members have not yet passed on their car's details to Keith. You are requested to do so without delay to keep the club register up to date. Please send details to Keith Burton (keiella@telkomsa.net or P O Box 1154, Sedgefield, 6573).

Why not visit these restaurants that comprise our Quintet of Cuisines?



PIPER SERIES AT ZWARTKOPS

(Ron Hollis was at the recent PiperSeries race day and writes the following - Ed)

For anyone who may be interested, I attended the Piper Series Races at Zwartkops this past weekend. Lots of interesting classic stuff and excellent racing. Well worth attending. The Zwartkops formula allows free access to all pit areas, grandstands etc - a mini "Goodwood Revival", done SA style, and in the old-fashioned amateur-enthusiast mode. There were fewer foreign cars than in previous years - recessionary effects no doubt - but the local interest was huge and the circuit was full.

For me the highlights were to see, hear, smell and touch a genuine 1957 DBR1 Aston Martin and a 250 SWB Ferrari from the same era (brought out by UK owners), and then seeing both of them giving carrots to (mostly replica) AC Cobras, D Types etc. The single-seaters ran 15 + cars, including some 1500cc F1 cars from the '60's and the classic bikes were also well represented with 2 Manx Nortons from the mid 50's in my opinion heading the desirability stakes. Sarel (in his red Galaxy) and Hennie v.d. Linde, Koos Swanepoel and other previous heroes were all there and racing hard. A wonderful environment for any enthusiast, and the chance to mix it up close with these guys, and smell some good old Castrol R.

Cheers, Ron

FRANSCHHOEK MOTOR MUSEUM CONCOURS AND TIME TRIAL

I was lucky enough to attend the Franschhoek Motor Museum Concoours and Time Trial this weekend. The idea was first conceived by Johann Rupert 3 years ago, and this was the first time that the event has been staged. Saturday was the first running of the time trial, with drivers completing two runs each. A further two runs were possible on Sunday, along with the concours. The museum was also open all weekend, allowing plenty of time to look around.

The variety of cars was astounding, from a Ford Model T from the museum collection, to private replica GT40's and a Ferrari P4, and everything in between. The time trial was supposedly a demonstration, but with Sarel v.d. Merwe and friends none of the driving was slow. One of the GT40's even broke a side shaft on takeoff!

All in all, a wonderful event, and one could walk around the pits and speak to drivers, touch and smell the cars. Below are a couple of picture of the highlights. I hope the event is held again next year!

Peter Hollis



FOR SALE OR WANTED

(This is a free service for members. Please make use of it as it helps to keep our cars on the road. Just send your advert in to The Editor well before the end of each month. The committee has agreed that commercial adverts can also be accepted but these are charged for.)

For Sale: Lucas Altette hooter, in working condition but needing restoration. R200,00

TC spare wheel mount tripod. Excellent condition. R300,00

British Cleartone hooter - looks like the type used on pre-war cars. R150,00

(All offers considered!)

Tony Lyons-Lewis. 083 419 6566 or lionsden@netactive.co.za ***

For Sale: MG ZT 190. 2003 model, it only has 83700km on the clock. It is still in mint condition but will need tyres in the near future. Selling for R119,000 but open for offers.

Contact Lionel Botha at tel: 021 981 8414, cell: 084 553 5805, or www.legendauto.co.za. ***

(The editor has a picture if required)

For Sale: 1965 MGB. Pillar Box Red which has just had a complete overhaul of engine, clutch and brakes and has also 'won competitions'. I am the 3rd owner and it is fully original.

Contact Isidore Sostak (Man. Dir.)

Wingate Brake & Steering Centre, wingate@iafrica.com or 011 334 7030**

Wanted: Pair of front brake drums (wire wheels) for my TF (TD would also be ok). Can be new or good condition second hand with some meat still left on. Allan Hamilton. 082 375 2840. allham@mweb.co.za **

REGALIA

IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS: Jackets will become available in the near future. They will be waterproof windcheaters in Navy with light blue beading and with our Club badge – very smart and most useful. However you will need to order. Please contact Jennie Frost for sizing and to place an order as soon as possible.

NEW SCC SHIRTS: The now familiar light and dark blue club shirts are becoming a feature at car related events. For those who don't have, please phone Norman Frost to arrange your purchase.

A few of the original shirts are still available.

Bumper badges, magnetic name and lapel badges and key rings all with the club logo are available. Please contact Norman or Ross with your enquiries and orders.

Please note that in future, regalia will be available for purchase only at Noggins. Off the cuff sales at Norman's showroom have been too disruptive for sales to continue there.

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2009 ATTENDANCE RECORD

(DERIVED FROM SIGNATURES IN ATTENDANCE REGISTER – IF YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE!)

MEMBER'S NAME	PARTNER'S NAME	This Monthp	Accumulated	Total
Auty Anthony	Norma	-	8	8
Baker Lew	Heather	3	3	6
Bechlars Philip	Martia	-	2	2
Burton Keith	Ella	6	20	26
Bush Marion	Gavin	-	2	2
Cleland Jim	Glen	6	11	17
Clough Pat	Ali	1	7	8
Cooper Ricky	Colleen	6	30	36
Davidson Brian	Jose	5	19	24
Davis Roger	Nita		15	15
Douglas Murray	Anne	2	13	15
Dunlop Denis	Gill	4	13	17
Esterhuizen Tom	Jeanette	6	2	8
Fisher Roger	Alva	1	9	10
Forsyth Don	Marion	4	4	8
Frost Norman	Jenny	4	15	19
Giggins Barry	Joan		12	12
Henderson Bruce		6	25	31
Hewitt Lionel	Rose		11	11
Holliday Clive			2	2
Hollis Peter			3	3
Hollis Ron	Dee	2	6	8
Houseman Marilyn	Dennis	2	1	3
Jones Dave	Fay		12	12
Langman Frostie	Sue	6	19	25
Lawson Ross	Antoinette	1	10	11
Le Feuvre Tim	Sheila		3	3
Lyons-Lewis Tony	Lorna	4	15	19
McCullum John	Louise		7	7
Mc Ewan Tony	Linda	4	2	6
Mentz Bunny	Jan	2	9	11
Metelerkamp Neil	Norma		6	6
Parfett Ed	Jenni	6	8	14
Parker Wilf	Jenny	6	9	15
Paton Duncan	Leslie	4	31	35
Putter Willie	Linnea	1	1	2
Reitz Fritz	Madene		3	3
Rosser Phillip	Amanda	2		2
Roff Anthony	Corrine		4	4
Stannard Bob	Bridget		5	5
Underwood Colin			10	10
Van den Bor Frans	Ellen	2	4	6
Vadas Peter	Vivian		11	11
Vadas Robert	Annabel		3	3
Wessels John	Jane	1	2	3
Williams Denny	Pat	4	2	6
Winter George	Liesel	4	23	27
Woodgate Geoff	Merceda	2	8	10
Yendall Graham	Sylvia	2	10	12

Event no:	EVENT	Date	Attendance
1	A G M	3 Mar	20
2	Breakfast Sedgefield	24 Mar	19
3	Stilbaai weekend	17 Apr	9
4	GRMC Show Day	2 May	28
5	Sedgefield Arms	5 May	13
6	Bloukrans Braai	7 Jun	9
7	Christmas dinner	14 July	25
8	B'fast Old Nick	26 July	8
9	Braai @ Buffels	2 Aug	11
10	B'fast @ Francois	30 Aug	16
11	SGM @ Lush	1 Sept	20
12	Cape Centres	24 Sept	14
13	Mitchells Noggin	6 Oct	15
14	B'fast @ Francois	25 Oct	6
15	Navigation Run	30 Nov	19
16	B'fast Old Nick	29 Nov	6
17	Xmas Braai	11 Dec	26
18	Lyons-Lewis nogg	19 Jan	11
19	Bonnets up	24 Jan	17
20	B'fast Café Francoi	31 Jan	16
21	George Car Show	13 Feb	25

Discrepancies should be reported to the Committee without delay. A point is awarded for:

- Attending any event either organised by the Club or in which the Club is invited to participate;
- Coming to that event in an MG
- Arranging an event or speaking/entertaining at an event.

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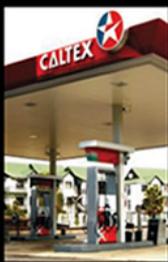


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MGCC SOUTH CAPE EVENTS CALENDAR:

MEETING PLACE: KNYSNA – THE QUAYS AT THE WATERFRONT END OF GREY ST.
 SEDGEFIELD – ENGEN ONE-STOP.

A provisional calendar for 2010 follows. Details and any changes will be announced as the year proceeds.

Sun	28 Feb	Breakfast run Old Nick	Tony L-L
Tue	02 Mar	AGM / Noggin / Knysna Angling Club	Brian Davidson
Sat	20 Mar	Noggin and braai at Parfett's	Brian Davidson
Sun	28 Mar	Breakfast run Café Francois	Tony L-L
Mon	19-23 Apr	Karoo tour	Brian Davidson
Sun	25 Apr	Breakfast run Old Nick	Tony L-L
Sat	01 May	Car Show	Brian Davidson
Tue	04 May	Noggin TBA	Brian Davidson
Sun	30 May	Breakfast run Café Francois	Tony L-L
Sun	06 Jun	Run - Winters' Driving test	Brian Davidson
Sun	27 Jun	Breakfast run Old Nick	Tony L-L
Th-Sun	16-19 Sep	National Indaba, Oudtshoorn	Brian Davidson

The early warnings are for inclusion in your diaries. Unfortunately it may be necessary to change some of these nearer the time so please review the calendar monthly. Details to follow.

In view of the advancing years of many of us, there may be problems with print size, etc. Any CONSTRUCTIVE criticism of the Newsletter and how it can be improved will always be welcomed as will of course, your contributions.

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