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OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER



September
2019



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Please contact Mike Trollope on
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the WhatsApp group.



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Alternatively Please feel free to contact any of the committee members above.

INDEMNITY

All members, their spouses, partners, participating family and friends are required to sign an indemnity form.

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From the Chair



Wow September! And what a special month we have had! Continuing in our celebrations of our 50th anniversary. However, sadly, it does mean that all our 50th festivities are over.

We started with the ladies tea hosted by Maureen Wilmot and organised by Anneke de Groot, who did a great job of catering! I hear everyone had a lovely time!

After the tea that night we had a special Noggin dedicated to Phil Howie one of our founding members and a previous chairman. Phil's son, Robbie Howie is a 7-time Dakar entrant (no Norman it's not called the Paris-Dakar anymore) and a what a man to talk to! The sheer dedication to performing at an extremely high level of motorsport! We got to see his pace notes from some of his stages... it shows you how technical, vague and challenging the instructions are. Unfortunately, he is unable to compete again due to a compression fracture in his back, but he is returning to the race from a management side.... with Fernando Alonso as a driver!

The Friday was then the trip up to Hazeyview for our weekend away to Little Pilgrims Hotel. The weather might have been a bit miserable but NONE of us were! Smiles all round and so much excitement... maybe a little cold but we didn't care! We met up with some other travellers at Alzu petroport where we then continued to White River to have a bit of lunch and inspect the motor museum! I managed to meet Keith Burton for the first time, Keith was the club's first chairman who came up from Sedgfield for the festivities. He shared many golden nuggets of wisdom which I was so so grateful for!

The evening saw loads of catching up with old friends and a braai catered by the hotel! Saturday was a trip out to the Kruger park yes, in our soft tops. We drove through and saw some good game where we stopped for a packed picnic lunch and champagne at Skukuza day centre.

We all went on our own ways to see what game we could spot and thanks to Tania and

Clive for posting a Leopard sighting on an alternative route.

We quickly turn the car around and headed towards the leopard.

On the route we managed to see a Rhino with a baby that was so cute and playful. We then carried on and managed to find the leopard in the tree after eating his kill he decided to take a lekker afternoon nap.

We then continued and only got 100m before spotting another leopard, also with a kill. Just incredible! To see 2 leopards at the same time, who are normally very territorial animals, it was rare and special.

We managed to continue down the road only to see some baby hyenas deciding to turn a KIA's Mudd flaps into chew toys!

An incredible day where we managed to see 4 of the big 5! If only the lions could have played ball!

Saturday night saw our great Gatsby evening. I will include my speech below so all can read.

Then Norman presented the original invoice from the club's first trip in 1969 to the hotel owner! Who was a 17-year-old at the time helping his father!

We continued in loads of celebrations including delicious food, anniversary cake and amazing comradery!

Unfortunately, I had to leave on the Sunday morning due to work commitments however Norman will give you the remaining details in his report.

I would like to sincerely thank Norman and Anita, again. Without you guys this weekend would not have happened! And I would also like to extend my thanks onto Pat and Joe... as I know the preparations have also spilled onto you guys.

Safety fast
Mike

The Chairman's Speech

Good evening dear friends and honoured guests national president and first lady Tony and Annette Cradock and the Pretoria chairman Pepi, our very own first chairman Keith Burton and present committee members, Jon, Norman and Tony

The banner above you talks to what our club stands for the mark of friendship. When I look around the room that motto on the wall it is tangible. I can see this wealth of experience and history among us. It is truly staggering. From some of our founding members like Keith Burton and Norman Ewing. To a wealth of club memories and great stories.

The past 50 years have seen some phenomenal achievements where we have been recognised not only nationally but also leading on the international stage by making friends with Andy Green and Phil Hill! To just name a few.

And when I think of the technical knowledge in the room.... I bet I could place a pile of parts in the centre of the room and I could name any MG from any year and in an hour I could come back and find it in concours condition.

As I think of the clubs past 50 years and look to our next 50 years. There is the challenge for us to aim to get some youngsters involved and share in our hobby and pass this wealth of knowledge! As our cars get older and older and parts become harder and harder to source. It is critical that the club remains as the archive of knowledge for future generations. And the only way for that to be achieved is to continue to share with a younger generation in the passion and enthusiasm.

As fine examples, I have had the privilege of being able to work with both Bruce and Pierre. Who have taken me under their wing and been teachers and coaches for me personally in what can be a confusing world. I will always be grateful to you both for taking me on as your student. And I am excited about what future lessons I can learn.

I would like to thank all the far travellers Keith Burton from Sedgfield And Lynda and Ken Duncan from Umhalanga. Chris and Karen Champion from the Cape

I would like to thank our dear friends from Pretoria centre for joining in our festivities. And a special mention to Pepi. Your leadership is a role model for I hope to achieve.

I would also like to thank my committee that sages of Norman and Tony with the zest of youth in Jon, Sergio and Claudette.

I would like to thank Anneke for the catering the ladies tea on Thursday. The pictures looked really special.

Thank you Anita and Joe for all your hard work for this weekend. Your support really helped us where and when we needed it.

And to the many elves who have worked behind the scenes... we appreciate your support and loyalty.

And finally, Norman for his incredible organisation and hard work to make this weekend possible, we certainly would not be here without him and his determination. And behind every great man is an even greater woman. Pat your support and patience to this club is greatly appreciated! Please can you all join me in a round of applause to the Ewing's!

Please raise your glasses as we toast to the next 50 year!



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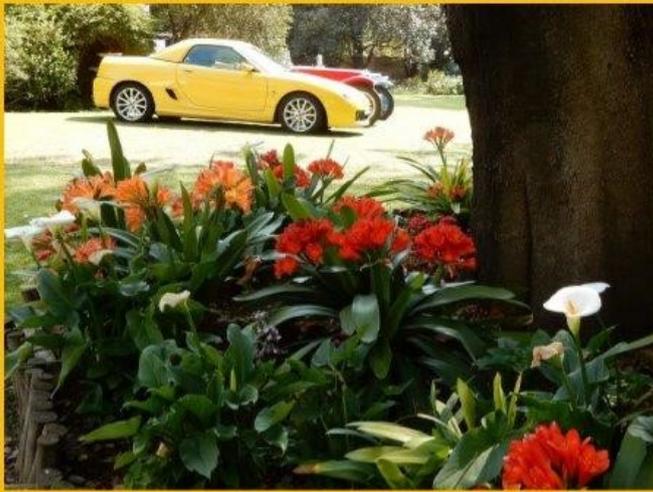
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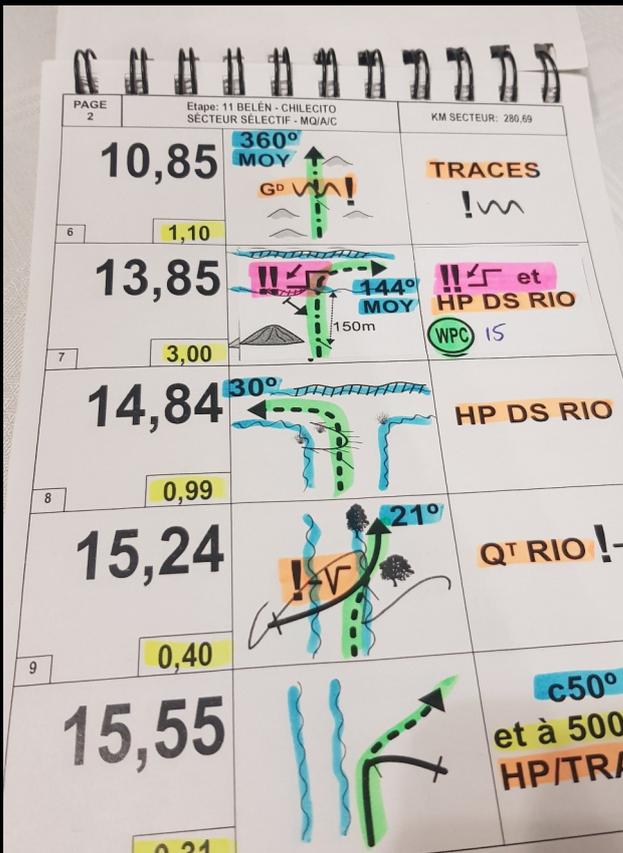
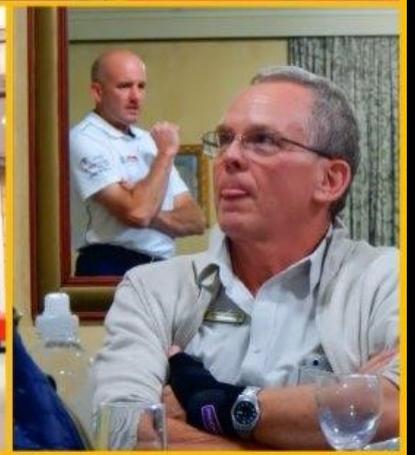
The Ladies Tea



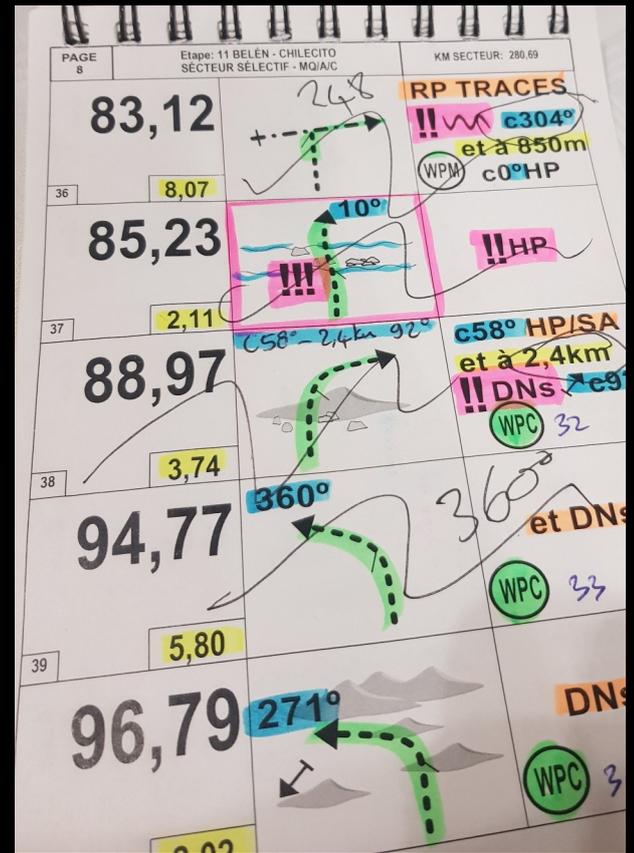
Jhb MGCC 50th Ladies Tea
Thurs 5 Sept 2019



The Noggin: A special evening with Robbie Howie



Rob Howie brought us a real treat to see. His used pace notes from various Dakar stages!!





**A huge thanks to all who
joined us on the Numbi
adventure. The Trip was
about the true core of the
club... Its people!**

“The Marque of friendship”

Wildlife Spotting Kruger Park
Sat 7 Sept 2019







Casterbridge Cars
Nelspruit Fri 6 Sept 2019



The Journey, the sights and the adventure of the travelling



Casterbridge Cars
Nelspruit Fri 6 Sept 2019







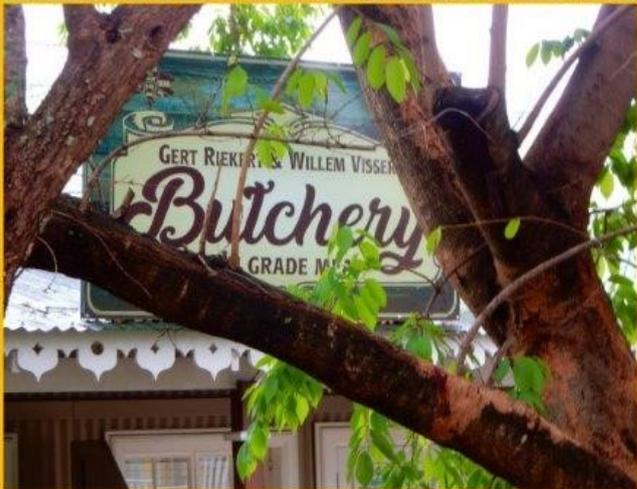
50th Anniv Weekend
Fri 6 Sept 2019

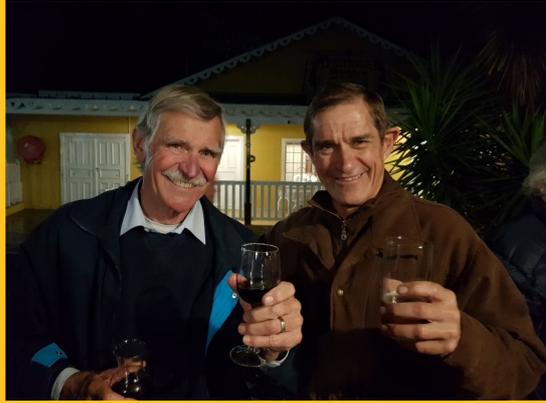


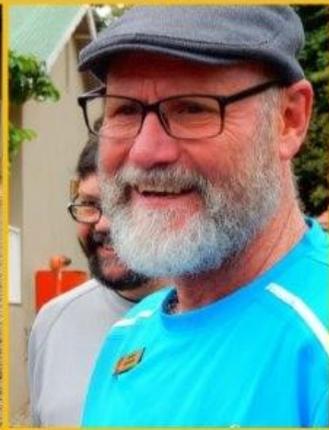
Arriving at Little Pilgrims



50th Anniversary weekend
Sat 7 Sept 2019



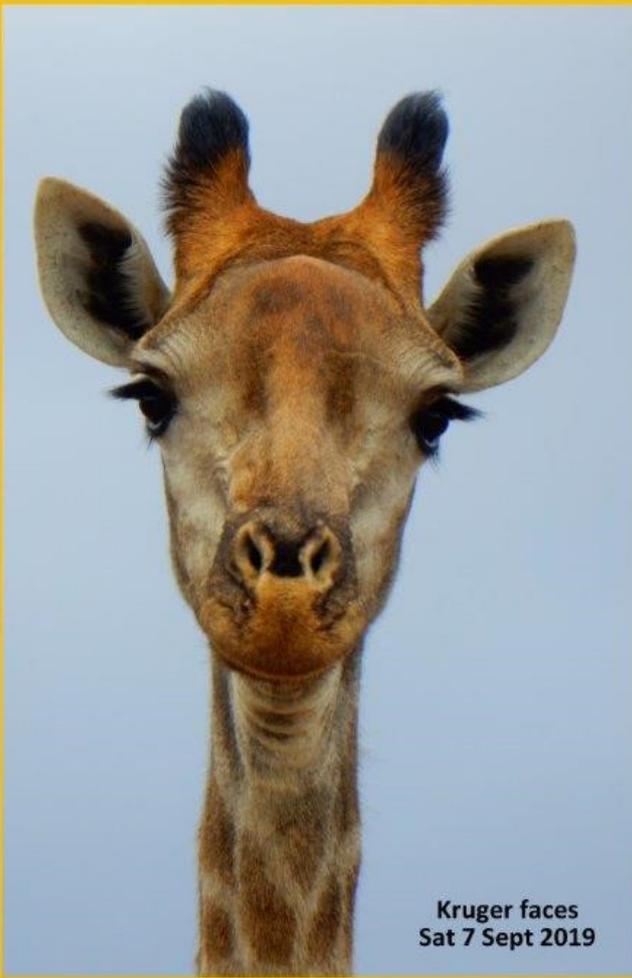




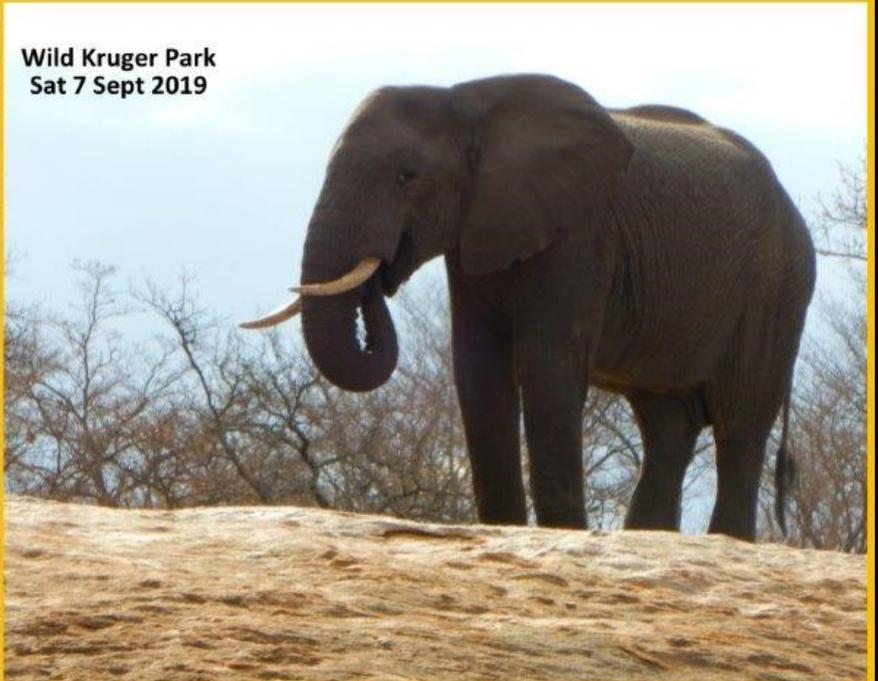
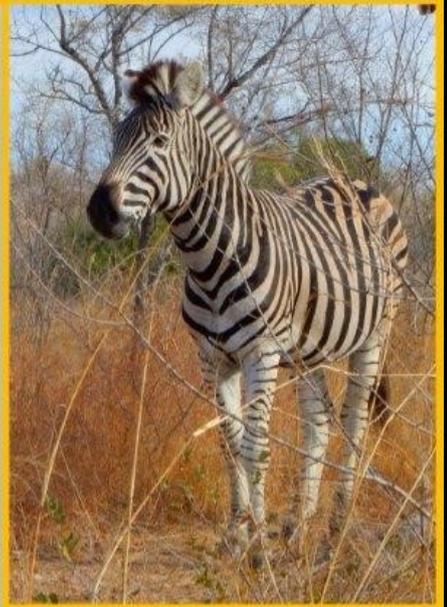
Kruger Park adventures



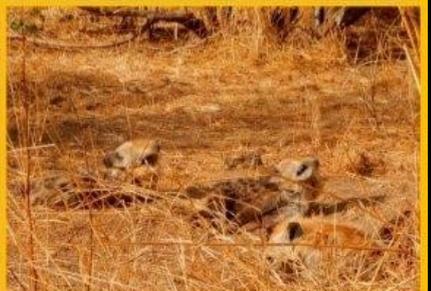




Kruger faces
Sat 7 Sept 2019



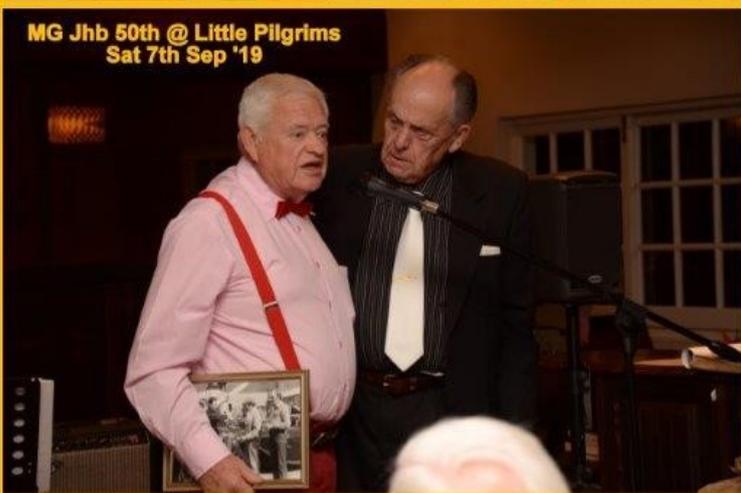
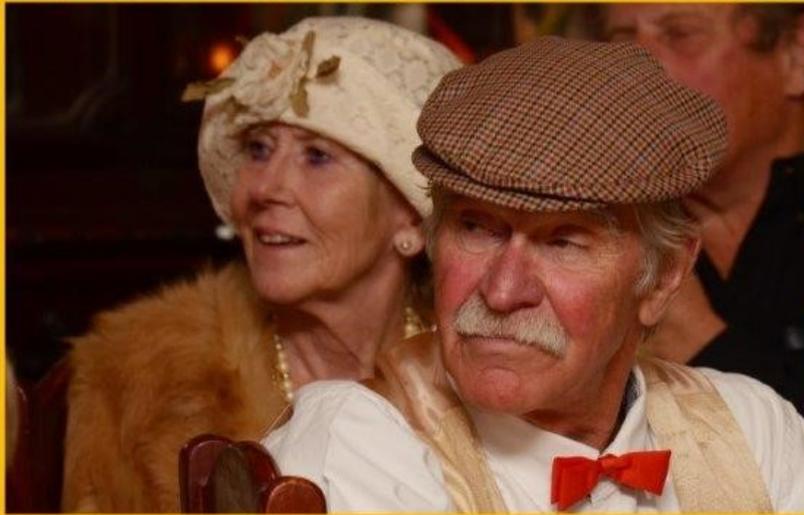
Wild Kruger Park
Sat 7 Sept 2019





The Great Gatsby Evening





50th Anniv weekend
Fri 6 Sept 2019



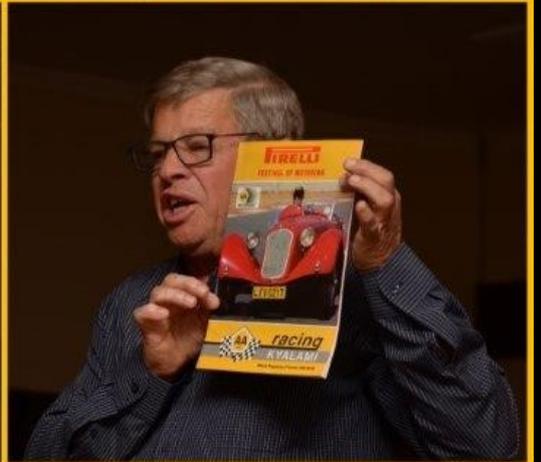
MG Jhb 50th
@ Little Pilgrims
Sat 7th Sep '19

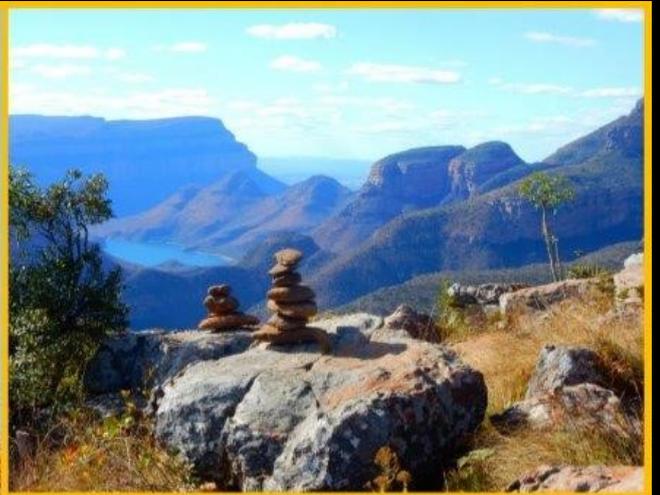
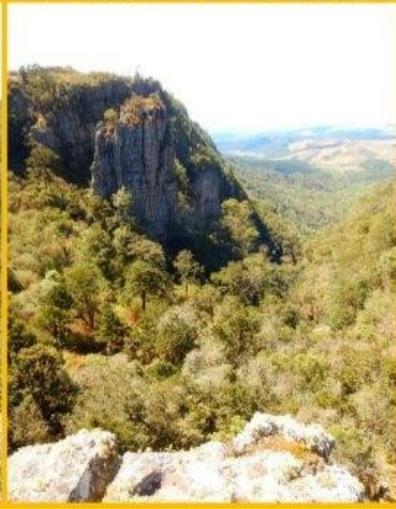
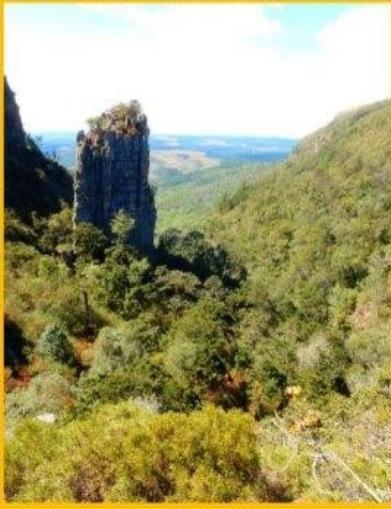
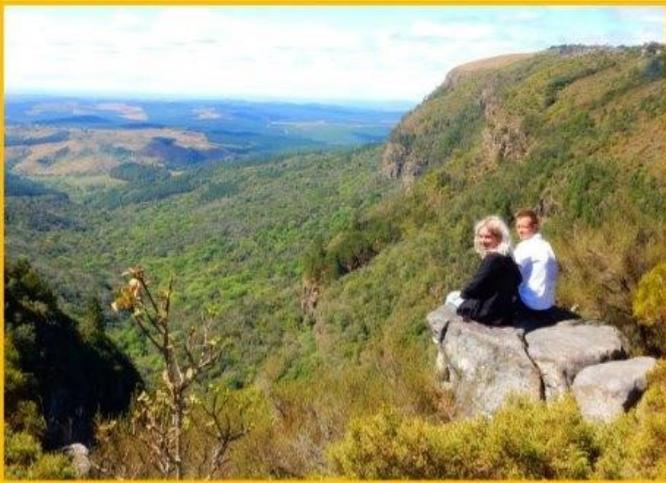




The Auction evening

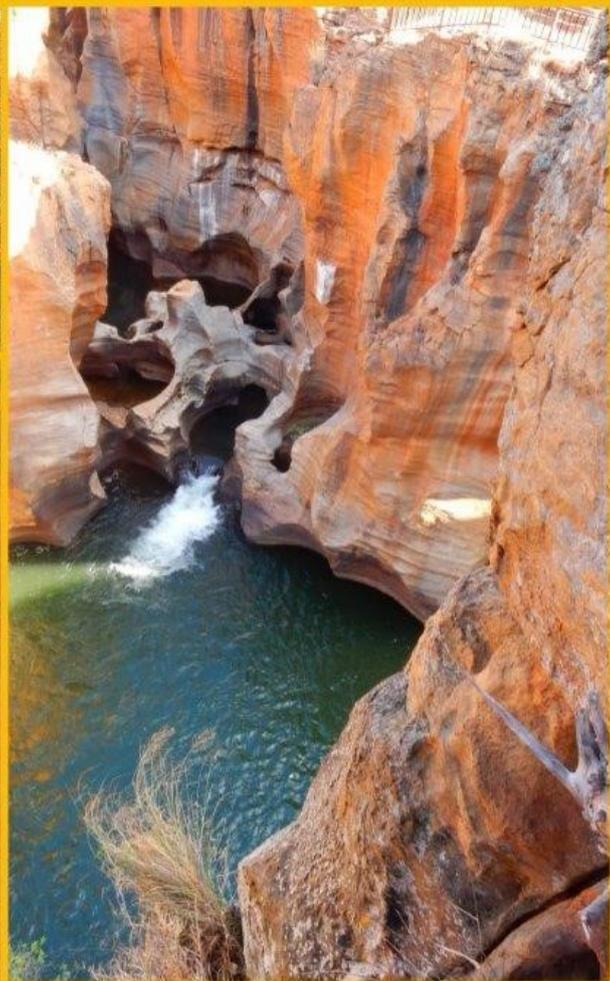
50th Anniv weekend
Auction + movie
Sun 8 Sept 2019



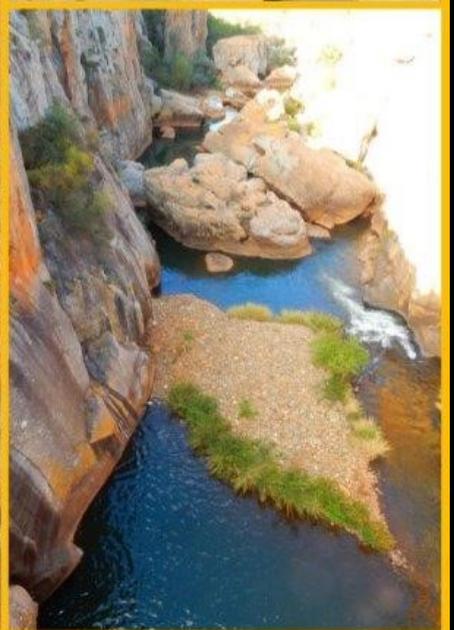




Bourke's Luck Potholes
Sun 8 Sept 2019



Bourke's Luck potholes
Sun 8 Sept 2019



Forthcoming Events

MG Noggin	Social Evening	9th January
SAMCA RUN	Stonehaven	19th January
AGM	Old Eds	6th February

MGA Register

The MGA was undoubtedly the most attractive design of the marque ever built, some may differ but many will agree.

They have become highly sought after, not only in here in SA but worldwide and the current selling prices are proof of this, they may even be considered a good investment in time.

For those who don't know, the MGA was assembled by Motor Assemblies Limited in Durban during the mid 1950's though to early 60's and in fact many of the cars were still being assembled here a year after production in the UK ceased.

Initially only 1500 roadsters were assembled at Motor Assemblies, followed by the Twin Cam , the 1600 roadster, 1600 coupes and Twin Cam roadsters and coupes. All 1500 coupes were built at Abingdon and no official deluxe models (4 wheel disc brakes) were built in SA.

According to local records a total of 652 MGA's were assembled here comprising of 1500,1600 roadsters and coupes with an additional 88 twin cam cars with a combined total of 740 A's.

Apart from the local production many more were imported directly into the country.

Bo Giersing has done a superb job of tracking down

many of these cars but this has been a challenge due to the constant ownership changes and exporting to other countries.

I am assisting Bo in this regard and currently it looks like less than 200 have survived, however as only 88 twin cams were produced Bo has tracked down 66 twin cams still in SA and a few that have left our shores.

No doubt there are many more survivors in various stages of restoration or still stuck away in garages under a layer of dust as was mine that resided like this for 25 years still shod with its 560x15 crossply tyres.

We have now set up a MGA Whatsapp group to share information about these fine cars and at the same time attempt to update the register of survivors.

To date I have 28 members on that group but there must surely be more in the Johannesburg club and Gauteng.

I have also made contact with our friends in the Northern club through Pepi , we plan to merge the two registers.

So if you are reading this article and have an MG A ..or two and are not a member of the WhatsApp group please drop me a note and I will add you to the list.

Randall

0824140438

SAMCA BREAKFAST RUN **TO STONEHAVEN.**

When: 19th January

Meeting point: Blockhouse petrol station @ 9am.

Cost R100 pp

Volunteers needed to help with parking!!



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Norman Talk's

Our Fabulous Fifty

Nineteen sixty-nine was a great year. I married the love of my life. Armstrong walked on the Moon. And Gordon Cobban gave his blessing to a newly formed "official" member of the MG worldwide family.... The Johannesburg Centre! We were young and filled with boundless enthusiasm and a zest for life, not for one moment believing that fifty years later we would be her celebrating our own MG Car Club Centre...but here we are

To celebrate the occasion, it was decided to repeat the run to Baragwanath Airfield...now sadly no longer with a great run and luncheon at the Jack Taylor airfield in Krugersdorp in June, followed by a special week end away to Numbi in MpumalanGa (the place where the sun comes up) in September, as fifty years ago, this was where the very first club run away took place. Making contact with our first base, Motel Numbi, I was to discover that it was now very much bigger now being an hotel, and that a completely new section called Little Pilgrims had materialised next door. Best of all however, was that the present owner Willem Fick back in 1969 was a seventeen-year-oldschoollboy... desperate to get the original booking confirmation document I had, which I informed him was Club history. Once a price had been agreed all thirty six rooms were soon booked and the job of organising the entire event and putting together a book of fifty years of Johannesburg MG memories began.

It was agreed to fly first chairman Keith Burton up from his home in Sedgfield near Knysna. Ella his wife who had accompanied him when we were "thirty" was also invited but was not keen to travel. John and Anita Meiring offered to host Keith, and John and I went off to meet him at O.R.Tambo the day before kick-off...The event was to start on Thursday 5 September with a "Ladies Tea" to try and encourage early members wives and widows of those involved in the beginning to come along. This invitation was opened to husbands as well ...and to my great joy, the tea organised by Anneke Degroot at the home of Maureen and Bob Wilmot encouraged our first secretary Ruth Whytock along as well as Nan Howie..Phil Howie's widow and Anna Battison whose late husband Stuart was there at the very beginning. Keith was truly thrilled to see and talk to such special friends. There was more to come, before our departure for Numbi, for I had proposed to dedicate the Noggin that evening in memory of second chairman Phil Howie and invite his son Robbie who had been on seven Paris-Dakars to be guest speaker...that was a great success as well.

And so, on a wet and slippery morn we set off for Numbi..at 9am from all points in Johannesburg and Pretoria.. With refreshment stops at ALZU and White River where we all ended up in the local pub for mostly soup. Soup? Yup. After which the only motoring casualty was "Midgy", taking on water like a mule to make it to Numbi. It was time for the braai, we would deal with the welch plug or so it appeared on the morrow. So let the party begin.

After a good nights sleep I was able to see that 'patching' "Midgy" for the day in the Kruger Park we had planned was not the right move, and so a drive in the Kruger with the Uzzells guaranteed not only a safe return for dinner, but airconditioned comfort. On our recce some weeks before the event we could see that dancing was out of the question with nowhere to dance, so we decided on a Gatsby Evening with music to talk by. Great!

Unbeknown to us, the cake we had organised, was not the cake Pepi Gaspari was referring to when he took the mike. Daughter Sarah on a cruise in Odessa on our anniversary, had phoned Pepi to please organise a cake, sending him a photo she had lifted from our wedding album before she left! Isn't technology wonderful? We invited Bruce and Carol Dixon to join us in cutting the cake we knew nothing about ,as they celebrated their fiftieth as well

After a sensational dinner of MG delights we were ready to cut the "other" cake, which the Ficks had organised and was nearly a metre across...both being left for local charities

That evening, after dinner I handed out a couple of mementoes..the iconic photo of Keith at Baragwaneth in '79 and that framed Numbi document that Willem Fick had pleaded for all those month ago, and thank you's to Anita and finally Pat for all she had done in my MG life. Then it was time to

Norman Talk's Continued

ask Clive to do what he does best, as we were still short of funds to cover the book, badges and plaques as well as raising funds towards FJ. The following morning started with yet another incredible breakfast selection. Staggering when you think about it, and we wobbled off to the cars for the drive by way of Graskop to the Blyde River Resort for lunch with Judie and Rolf Schweizer. Yup, more food. To be followed by, you guessed it..dinner..

Our final dinner was followed by a Winterstein quiz of epic proportions...and the winners were?...it was great fun and Clive was presented with the final memory stick.

The final evenings entertainment was "The Great Train Race" MG style and the Diamond Jubilee of the First South African Grand Prix at East London with Paul Frere, Les Miller, Doug van Riet et al. More memories. And so after yet another spectacular breakfast, it was time to bid "Midgy" goodbye and be driven home in lounge chair comfort by Mike and Shelly Dixon in an SUV with a fridge!!! John MacKenzie took Keith home in XK comfort, and all that remained was to meet them next morning and see Keith safely onto his flight home, and to phone and thank Ella for lending us Keith.

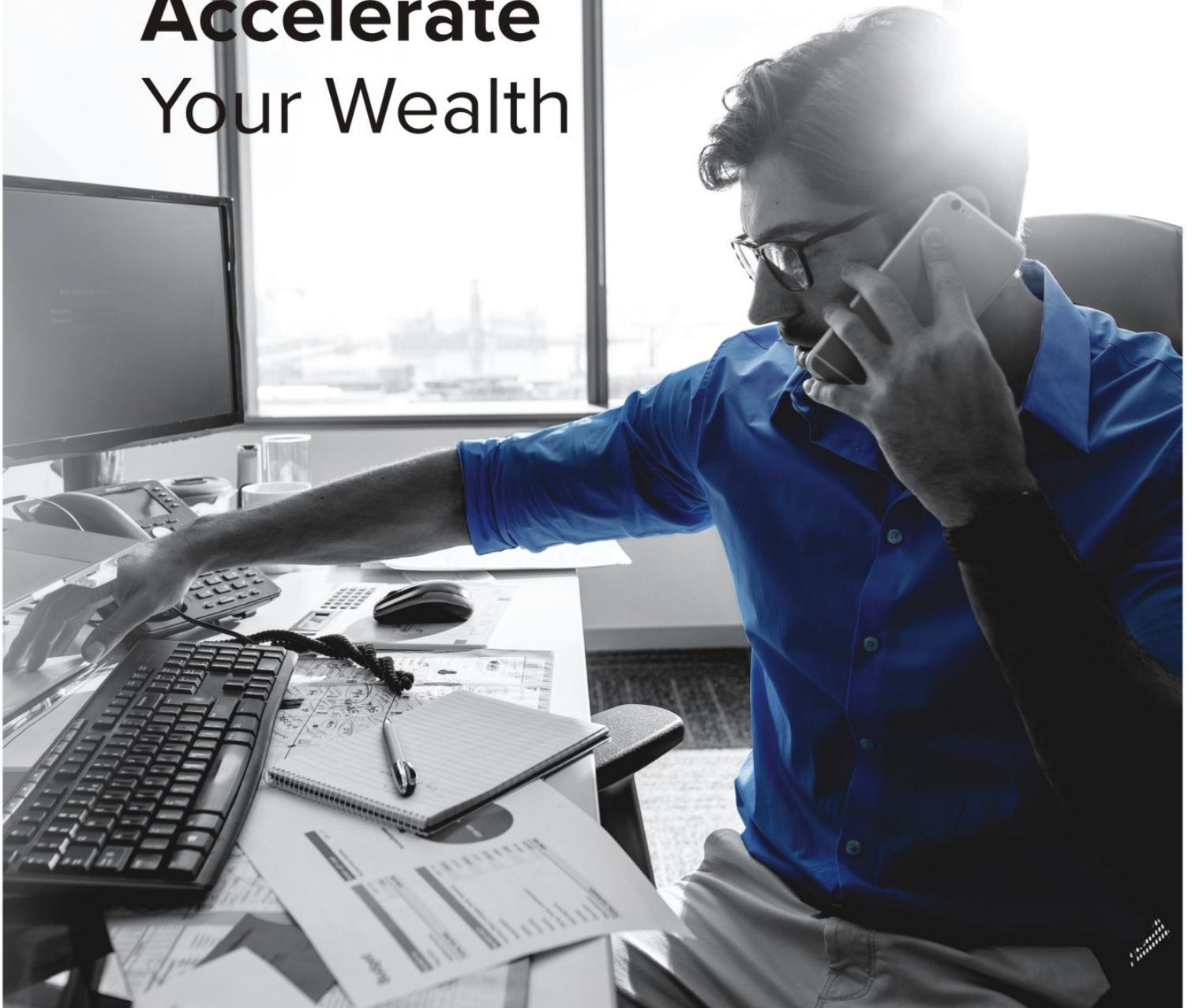
What about "Midgy"? Well it was brought all the way home to the Boundary Houe by Willem and Edna Fick on a trailer behind their Land Rover!!! THAT let me tell you is more than Royal service...it is. just FANTASTIC..I cannot thank them enough..or all of you who made this celebration.. SIMPLY THE BEST...THANK YOU!!!

Octagonally

Norman



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