

T H E

O C T A G O N

February 1963.

THE M.G. CAR CLUB (QUEENSLAND CENTRE)

Proprietors : The M.G. Car Club (Proprietary) Ltd., Gt. Britain.

Affiliated with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport.

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Club Captain : I.M. Michels

Committee : L.E. Batterham. I. Cornes. R. Hiley.
K.F. Horgan. B.J. Neville.

CLUBROOMS

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The official organ of the M.G. Car Club (Queensland Centre).

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EDITORIAL NUMBER ONE

We are, as a club, now entering our ninth active year, and we are indeed fortunate that we are still part of the world wide organisation that is the M.G. Car Club, the biggest one make car club in the world.

For the record, we have over two hundred and fifty members in the Queensland Centre; still the biggest car club in Queensland. This, of course, is largely due to our very lenient required percentage of M.G. owning full members, a mere third of our full total of members.

Whether or not we will be able to continue to accept such large numbers of associate members in the future, depends a great deal on the selection and type of new members joining, or wishing to join our ranks. Have you ever considered that your own standard of behaviour and general demeanour, as responsible members of the Centre, does a lot to attract new members? Needless to say that, by the same means, we can easily repel prospective members. While not wishing to turn these pages into "Plain Talks for Car Club Members", or anything similar, we intend to make our point and hope that a few of 'us' will reflect on it.

One of our greatest assets is the Clubrooms in Wickham Street. This provides us with a place to meet our friends on Friday nights and occasional weekends, and to carry on the Centre's business, hold film nights etc., and is a sort of "home" for all interested members. Attendances are increasing this year, which is very gratifying sign to your Committee. It proves that you are interested and keen to participate in club activities.

Then we are faced with a problem. Being in a prominent spot, many people pass our Clubrooms on Friday nights, and are naturally attracted to the sight of many sports cars parked in one place. The Public, bless their hearts, being the unfortunate mis-guided folk that they are, usually identify sports cars as being souped up Formula Libre racing cars (with mudguards), each driven by young homicidal maniacs bent on wreaking havoc in the public streets. (Occasionally we think they may be right; but of course not when

... are driving !) Therefore, our behaviour approaching, leaving or whilst at the Clubrooms, as long as we are at the wheel of a motor car, will always be harshly judged, and should therefore be exemplary. Should you wish to make a bad example of yourself elsewhere, go ahead, as this possibly reflects only upon you; but please remove your club badge before you do it, won't you?

In the past we have appealed to members to drive quietly in the vicinity of the Clubrooms, (indeed, we have appealed to you to drive quietly all the time). We are becoming more and more concerned of late, at the ever increasing acts of idiocy performed in motor cars on Friday nights outside the Clubrooms. Analysing this serious situation, the following revelations come to light...

1. We have never seen an M.G. driver seriously mis-behave in his car outside the rooms. (We are not saying that one never has, or never will, we simply have not seen same, yet).

2. Most of the culprits, and certainly the worst are the drivers of powerful sedans, (quite often Daddy's V8).

3. Many of the nuisances are not members of the Centre. (This situation is likely to remain, too !)

4. The most irksome drive Triumph TRs, Mini Minors with Lukey Mufflers (proving you need little power to spin wheels whilst turning around), and Chrysler Valiants. We are suspicious of a couple of loud Holdens, also.

5. One needs the mentality of a four year old in order to carry out a "U turn" with spinning wheels; but it's a wow with some thirteen year old girls !

6. The only people who will take offence at this Editorial, will undoubtedly have good reason to do so, and should thoroughly read the Constitution of the Club.

7. The Fortitude Valley Police Station is always happy to receive those who will ignore our appeal to behave as an adult person should, when driving a motor car.

C E N T R E O R G A N I S A T I O N

Although members elect an Executive Committee to conduct the affairs of the Club, there are many tasks which are carried out by various Sub-Committees, chosen from amongst the members. Each Sub-Committee is headed by a Chairman, usually a member of the Executive Committee. Members who are interested in taking part in the organisation of the Club, should volunteer their services for one of these Sub-Committees, which are listed below, with an explanation of their respective functions.

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| <u>Speed Committee.</u> | For the organisation of all types of speed events such as Sprints, Hill Climbs etc. |
| <u>Gymkhana Committee.</u> | Organise all gymkhana type events.
Maintenance of gymkhana grounds. |
| <u>Social Committee.</u> | Organise all social type events such as Barbecues, Club Runs, Buck's Nights, Film Evenings and Scavenger Hunts. |
| <u>Trials Committee.</u> | Organise Treasure Hunts, Night Navigation Runs and Trials. |
| <u>House Committee.</u> | Maintenance of the Clubrooms and other facilities. |
| <u>Octagon Committee.</u> | Writing, printing, compiling and posting of this magazine. |
| <u>New Members Committee</u> | To interview prospective members, introduce and welcome new members. |

Don't forget that your offer of help will be appreciated. The more help we receive, the better the Club will be. If you wish to join one of the above Sub-Committees, simply contact the Secretary or any committee member listed in the front of this magazine. We guarantee you will enjoy working to help your own Club.

Pat Kennedy, who is not above swiping someone else's drink when they are not looking (we are told), excelled himself at the Centre dinner dance in December, when he discovered a whole jug of beer un-attended on a table. Same guy proceeded to drink extensively from this jug until a waiter came along and said, "Has anyone seen the jug of slops I left at this Table?" Exit Mr. Kennedy looking rather green! Poetic justice, we say!

The Working Bee at Lowood featured a rather unusual "ding". Kerry Horgan claimed he could beat the K.J.A. Jaguar 2.4 on foot, for fifty feet! (No, Kerry hasn't got fifty feet). So with Bruce Neville at the wheel of the Two/Four, the ding was done!! And Kerry Horgan won! (The Jag beat him over one hundred feet by a mere toe nail). We have since seen Kerry at the Melbourne Street traffic lights every morning practising, as rumour has it that he has challenged Beechey's Impala!

We were rather enthralled on a recent Friday night, by the sight of a crowd of open mouthed yokels standing on the footpath outside the Clubrooms, listening to a policeman spinning yarns about how fast his patrol motor cycle could go! Isn't it gratifying to know that our justice is in such capable hands?

Did you know that Chris Harding has the only pretty blue 100 m.p.h. Sprite in the world? Has a beaut. suspension too; travels on a dirt surface in excess of 75 m.p.h. ! We love you too Chris!

Denis (Revs) Geary should be seen at the Sprints behind the wheel of an E Type Jaguar and the Centaur/Repco Holden G.T. Jim Tertram is entering his newly aquired Elfin Climax, Bill Gates the Clubman (Bang goes the M.G.T.F. record), Bill Weekes in the Elfin Ford.. in fact the whole G.P. Cars team. Hope they all turn up!

Ten Pin Bowling fans should watch Iain Cornes in action. Throws his whole heart and soul into the business, and invariably lands flat on his face in the lane! Cor!

