



Incorporating the  
MG Sports Car Register

# The BREED

MG Car Club, Cape Town Centre, Suite 276, Private Bag x16 Constantia 7848

[www.mgcc-ct.co.za](http://www.mgcc-ct.co.za)



Affiliated to the  
MG Car Club - England

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

At long last, (due to my persistent nagging) you can read the first part of Geoff Ballantyne's 'Me and My MG' story on pgs. 5/6. Geoff's TD has been around a long time and he loves being behind the wheel (albeit on the wrong side!) Now that sounds like 'fighting talk' doesn't it?

Plenty of MG Memories have been made, either a long time ago or very recently as you will note on pgs. 8/9. Interesting to see what members get up to with their favourite MGs.

Hope to see some of those MGs at Show Day on 6th December. Please remember to wear your masks, it is *not* only about protecting you, the wearer, from the virus ~ it's about *preventing* you from giving the virus to everyone else.

Please send in your articles and photos for the January newsletter by 20th December.

Wherever you go, whatever you do over the festive season take it easy on the roads and have a jolly Christmas.

*'Learn from Yesterday  
Live for Today  
Hope for Tomorrow'*      - Albert Einstein

## Fran

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### Front page photos:

Top:            1959 MGA Twin Cam ~ Viv James

Bottom:      1947 TC ~ Brian James

(photos: Viv James)

### Our bank details:

**Bank:**                                      Standard Bank  
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## FROM THE CHAIR

A number of club members have recently reached the four score mark and this month our National Chairman, Norman Ewing will reach that *MaGic* milestone. Norman has been an ardent MG aficionado all his life and has done a great deal to promote and represent the South African, MG brethren at international level. Congratulations Norman and best wishes for the future from all of us in the MGCC-CTC. Keep that Octagon flag flying!

As we approach the end of this unprecedented year we need to take stock of what has befallen the world and realise normal everyday activities and socialising have been put on hold for an uncertain time. Naturally we would all like to resume club Natters and gatherings, however this is not to be as the resurgence of Covid-19 cases in the Cape Metro is indicative of a second wave. Again, of paramount importance is the continued well-being of our MG members, therefore we should heed the advice of health authorities regarding social gatherings in a confined space with inadequate ventilation. No event or social gathering is worth taking a risk. The Committee is looking at resuming club events in February 2021 - should any member like to comment on this, they are more than welcome to email me: [franjohnson35@hotmail.com](mailto:franjohnson35@hotmail.com) (Fran and I share the same email address.)

The Sunday run from Milnerton to Philadelphia brought out a few MGs, except mine. Having hurt my back it was difficult getting into the TD and even worse trying to get out! Keen to be there at the start our Editor kindly chauffeured me in our 'plastic', what a strange feeling it was watching the MGs drive off without us.

On Christmas Eve, 57 years ago I gave myself a Christmas present I would not wish on any MG owner. Having only had my TD all of 20 days, I was showing the sporty attributes of the car to my friend, by flat pedal speeding down the newly completed N7. Then it happened ~ a sudden loud rumble and knocking from the engine with almost zero oil pressure! Christmas Day was spent in a cloud of misery and despair, however Boxing Day was a hive of garage activity which soon revealed the bearing and crankshaft damage and yours truly with no money. To this day, as many will know, I still have a strong aversion to high rpm.

The Committee and I wish all our MG members and their families a joyful festive season with renewed hope for the coming year.

### Mike

*Something completely different. Recently the renowned English comedian, singer and television presenter, Des O'Connor passed away at the age of 88. As a youngster growing up, he told his mother he wanted to be a comedian one day ~ to which she replied, "oh don't be daft! people will laugh at you"*



**Peter Flowers**

Cell: 078 639 0151

Email: [info@cbparts.co.za](mailto:info@cbparts.co.za)  
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## SOCIAL NEWS

### **New members**

- #1378 Rob Vincent, Melkbosstrand ~ 1957 MGA 082 769 8888 (Robvincent007@gmail.com)  
#1379 John & Linda Benwell, Durbanville ~ 1973 MGBGT 021 9765819 / 082 376 4798 (john@saarp.net)  
#1380 Julian & Diane Daniels, Pinelands ~ 1968 MGBGT 084 610 6006 (julian@danclan.co.za)

\* \* \* \* \*

### **OUT & ABOUT**

#### **Annual MG Show Day / Picnic - Sunday, 6th December**

Starting at 10h30 at the home of Dave and Janet Lyons in Hout Bay. Last year's event at the same venue was a huge success, so please join us once again. This year, due to Covid-19, we have had to restrict the attendance to members and their spouses only.

***We must adhere to all Covid-19 protocols, including social distancing and wearing of masks.***

For the same reason there will not be any Concours judging. Please bring along your own picnic, liquid refreshments, chairs, tables, blankets and umbrellas ~ the club gazebo will not be available.

Please let me know by **Wednesday, 2nd December** if you will be attending.

Email, whatsapp or phone Geoff Ballantyne: 078 405 0889

Dave's home is in Valley Road, Hout Bay. All non-MGs will have to park outside the gate.

Directions: From Constantia Neck proceed towards Hout Bay  
Turn right into Disa River Road  
Drive over the bridge to the T-junction  
Turn left into Valley Road and look out for the MG markers

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ***Forthcoming events in 2021 to diarise:***

- February** Sunday The Chairman's Run (date TBA)  
**April** Sunday The British Sports Car Tour (date TBA)  
**May** 27-30 Cape Centres Gathering in Morgan Bay  
(hosted by MGCC Border Centre)

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 3- Jenny Knott  
4- Gordon Bruce, David Jack  
7- Alex Stewart  
9- Theo Andrag, Ralph Weiner  
11- Norman Ewing, Sean Carson, Tracy Hennings  
12- Rongzi Coyne  
15- Riyana Ismail, Wendy Wilcox  
16- John Whittington-Jones  
18- Abby Lewis  
19- Henk Lombard  
20- Hilda Clarke  
21- Gordon Chunnet  
26- Dave Lyons  
27- Eileen Dallimore, Shirley Roux  
29- Peter Flowers



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**MGTD3869 EXLU - Part 1**

When I was still in school, a son of a friend of my dad's, owned a black TC. This TC appealed to me and it was the start of my affiliation with the MG Marque.

A few years down the line, after completing my national service in the SA Navy, I was in need of transport. My good friend, Tony Lyons-Lewis and I decided to look for TCs, unfortunately at this time there were none available. In late February, 1967 Tony phoned me to say he had come across a TD. This car was of no interest to him as he was still set on looking for a TC (which he only managed to find many years later.)

I decided to go ahead and view the car ~ behind a factory in Epping, I got my first glance of the TD I now own. The car facing me looked somewhat sad and the only draw card was that the car looked like a MG should.

A deal was made with the owner to purchase the car for £ 75 which was the equivalent of R150 and I towed it home the following Saturday.



March - 1967

With a lot of help from my friends we stripped the car down over the weekend (behind my parents garage.) Once the car had been stripped I found many broken or missing parts, some from accident damage and many other parts that were merely missing. Some of the accident damaged parts were; lower control arm pivots and steering arms. Many of these parts were not available in this era and had to be one-off fabrications rather than sourced parts. Not only did this take a great deal of time, but dedication from all those involved.

The TD was never rebuilt to be a concours car, it had to be built on a budget and quickly ~ transport was needed and soon! Due to this tight budget the paint was all sanded and removed by hand, no such luxury as bead blasting or chemical cleaning could be afforded.



March - 1967



MG Car Club Gymkanha, Noordhoek -1969

Woodwork inside the body was badly rotted in places and was refabricated by my father and I. It was made out of Meranti ~ we figured that if Meranti was good enough for boats, it would be good enough for a car.

Early chassis test drives around Pinelands required 3 people for operation. My TD ended up green as MGs needed to be green, black, red or white. Because the body panels were not straight enough for black, white was deemed too bland and every other MG out there, was red. So green was the only obvious choice left! Once it was ready for paintwork it was sprayed in the driveway and assembled in the garage, (no such thing as a spray booth then.)

In December 1967 the TD was roadworthy, although not quite complete, and was firmly pressed into everyday use. The balance of the missing parts were painfully sourced and collected over the coming years.

*(To be continued)*

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Address: 14 Lily Road  
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## Veterans' run to Philadelphia

The first MG Club run since the Covid-19 lockdown was to *The Pepper Tree Restaurant* in Philadelphia on Sunday, 15th November.

Twenty four members and three guests attended, however 2 members did not stay for lunch.

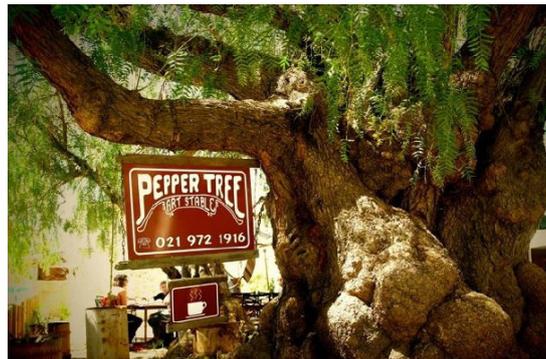
It was most pleasing to welcome new members, Warren Kirkland, as well as Keith & Lydia Hinckley in their 1974 MGB roadster.

There were twelve MGs consisting of:

2×TC 1×TD 6×MGB 1×MGBGT and 2×MGTF (modern)

Annalet and her staff at *The Pepper Tree* were very welcoming. Rosa and I had the Springbok shanks that were delicious, the meat fell off the bone. I hope everyone had a similar, enjoyable experience.

See you all next time! - **Geoff Ballantyne**



Topless Roadsters belonging to:  
l) Darryl & Victoria Dickerson  
r) Keith & Lydia Hinckley



Neil Beck with his magnificent TC



**"Will there be doggy bags?"**  
Miniature Schnauzers belonging to  
Beth and Brian James



Masked MG members ready to roll

## MG MEMORIES

Our Magnette is stored in a garage in Plettenberg Bay as I have run out of space at home and can do work on it when we are in Plettenberg Bay. We took it to the *Century Run* a few weeks ago (which requires the car and the driver to have a combined age of 100.)

Unfortunately myself and the Magnette qualified too easily.

We had a great day out, starting and ending at the Sedgefield Market traversing the beautiful area around Hoekwil. ~ *John Craig*



When driving in our area (Germany) with Fee in 'her' V8, we met this beautiful Classic Bus ~ a 1962 Setra S6.

Since I am also a Classic model born in 1962, I have decided to celebrate my 60th birthday by hiring that Setra S6 for a day to explore the area where I usually drive my MG V8.

With just under 2 years to go, I can't wait! ~ *Eugen Kohler*

We bought our MG in early February, when Covid-19 was just starting to creep out of China. In that short time we did manage a road run and Natter, but lockdown came upon us very quickly. On the 25th March we marked 'End of Freedom Day' by taking the MG to watch the sunset above Camps Bay. On Youth Day, 16th June we celebrated with an Indian take-away picnic at the sea, watching whales blowing. Seeing older kids (who in normal times would have been with their friends) enjoying quality time with parents and siblings, was an unexpected Covid-induced silver lining. ~ *Victoria Dickerson*



Having lived in KwaZulu-Natal for close to 30 years and with family in East London, my MGB can claim to have done mildly angry, track day laps at three different circuits in South Africa. Roy Hesketh (Pietermaritzburg), SA Grand Prix (East London) and of course, Killarney (Cape Town). In KZN we lived in the shadow of the Hesketh Circuit so whenever I heard a club day in progress I would venture up and beg some laps.

During my 16 years of ownership the car has been presented at car shows in Pietermaritzburg (6x), Richards Bay, Port Shepstone, Vryheid, Bethlehem, Knysna, Killarney, Timour Hall and George (4x).

We have certainly enjoyed driving our MG! ~ *Tony Bruton*

'Maggie' being welcomed at the Montagu Indaba by Frank Peché ~ *Celia Baylis*





Here we are, the middle of the Transkei, on our way home from the 1974 MG Indaba in East London. Four of us decided to go through the Transkei, have a day or two on the South Coast of KZN and then go home. I had to stop every 100km or so, to take the distributor out, turn it upside down to drain the oil, clean the points, slide the distributor back into position, tighten the holding clamp and carry on motoring. Problem was solved once I was in Durban. I drilled a small hole in the bottom of the distributor housing and the oil had a way out! ~ Gareth McConkey

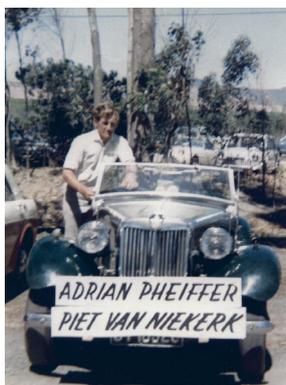
One of the staff at Blue Route Auto's mentioned to me that there was a car in an elderly gent's garage in Rondebosch East. He thought it was a MG that had been there for years, so he took me to the address and low and behold ~ there stood a rather tatty, Magnette. The owner always wanted to rebuild it but his health had sadly deteriorated. After copious amounts of tea and biscuits I crossed his palm with silver and became the proud owner. It was towed back to my business premises where I had eager hands waiting to help me pull it to pieces. After 6 years of rebuild and 'many hands make light work' the end result was this magnificent Varitone Magnette. A few years ago, due to my ill health at the time, I sadly had to find a new home for her. ~ Stuart Leach



Watching my son, Edwin and his co-drivers get a 10th overall (2nd in 2 litre class) at the Spa-Francorchamps 6 hour Endurance for pre '66 GT cars was amazing. ~ Rod Green



Edwin pushing 'Fatman' to the limit!



November, 1967 the MG club was invited to parade racing drivers around the Killarney race track, at the start of the 3 hour Endurance Race. Perched on my car were the GSM Dart team drivers, Adrian Pheiffer and Piet van Niekerk. Fast forward 49 years to December, 2016 when I again had the opportunity to parade racing drivers competing in the 9 hour Endurance Race around the track.

What a surprise and pleasure it was to meet up once again with Adrian Pheiffer, who was then PRO for The Western Province Motor Racing Club.

~ Mike Johnson

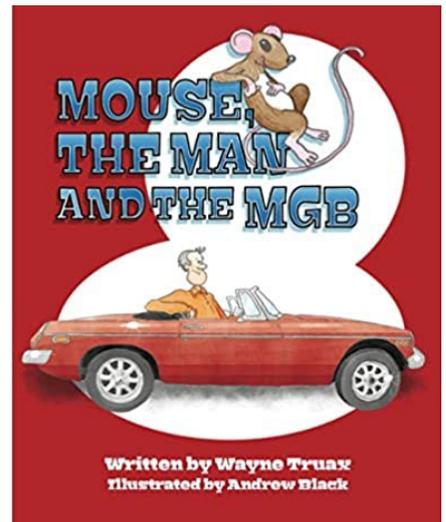


**CORRESPONDENCE**

I have just published the “*Mouse, the Man and the MGB*” children’s book available on Amazon and wanted to let your Club know. The book is based on my experience with a little mouse watching me as I worked on my car, thus I decided to turn it into a fun story.

Thanks,  
Wayne Traux (U.S.A.)

*A mouse, a man and an old car...what could possibly happen? A heart-tugging story about a curious little mouse who falls in love with an old car and the challenges he faces when he tries to help. Written as a reminder that when little ones watch from a distance they may just be waiting to be invited to share in the very thing we enjoy. Readers young and old, especially MGB lovers, will enjoy just turning the pages to look at the illustrations.*  
(Amazon books)



\* \* \* \* \*

To the Chairman, committee and members with best wishes. Norman Ewing - National Chairman

*We wish you a jolly safe **MaGical** Christmas  
and a covid free but fun filled 2021*

love, Pat, Norman and Sarah



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**Contact:** Dino Grasso (*non-member*)  
email: dino@edel.co.za



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The MG Club has no involvement in these advertisements and does not warranty the accuracy or content of the items listed.

The advertisement features a collage of images: a wire wheel, a hammer and tools, and a tyre fitting machine. The text is as follows:

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