



King of the Road

January 2026

The marque of friendship



MG Car Club Port Elizabeth Centre

Founded in 1976

Affiliated to the MG Car Club England



Safety Fast

"King of the Road"

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
M.G. CAR CLUB - PORT ELIZABETH CENTRE**

Website: www.mgccpe.co.za

Facebook page:

Meeting Venue: EPVCC CLUBHOUSE, Conyngham Street, PE

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*Monthly Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the EPVCC CLUBHOUSE,
Conyngham Street, PE from 18.30H onwards.*

***Legal Disclaimer:** Every effort is made to ensure that all information contained in this Newsletter is correct. The Club however does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of articles and readers are required to verify all information before undertaking any operations that may have safety and legal implications.*



Chairman's Chirp January 2026

Greetings and Salutations to my MG Family.

And just like that we are already in the second month of 2026. The first two events for 2026 are behind us and judging by the good attendance and happy atmosphere that prevailed at both events, I could sense that everyone had an enjoyable festive season and are refreshed with re-charged batteries, ready to tackle 2026.

As is evidenced by our events calendar which is published elsewhere in the Newsletter, we have a very busy MG year ahead of us and it seems like we will be having a lot of fun together while bragging with our unique cars.

I wish to highlight some notable events for 2026 which will need early commitment from interested members as a lot of planning needs to be done to make them successful:

14 February, George Car Show.

1 March, All Clubs Day at EPVCC.

29 March, Annual Bowls day against the Alfa Club. We will be asking commitment from those who wish to participate, soon.

26 April, Knysna Car Show.

13 May, our Midweek is our Go-Carting event at Baywest Mall.

1 April, is the Club's AGM

15 to 18 May, Kleinemonde weekend.

26 August, Alles op wiele, Uitenhage (I would like to see a number of cars for this event).

16 September, Visit to VW Museum and plant.

26 September, Port Alfred Car Show.

27 September, Distinguished Gentleman's Drive.

12 or 13 December, Christmas lunch.

If you are interested in participating in all or any of these notable events, please add them to your planning calendar for the year. Further communications containing details will follow closer to each event.

In closing, I would like to remind members to be mindful of the situation we find ourselves in at present in our friendly city. It seems like we are in the midst of another drought so please use water sparingly. We are also experiencing a number of threatening wild fires which sets off very easily in the current drought circumstances, so please be alert and very careful.

We, living in the Kragga Kamma Game Reserve are very concerned about our wild animals, as the severe shortage of their natural food is becoming a major issue and it is becoming difficult to find feed to purchase. Let's hope that we get rain soon, and a lot of it.

Until next time.

Events January 2026

Sunday 25th January Lunch at BluVibez

Apart from our monthly noggin on the 14th January which was extremely well attended our monthly event on the 25th was a short drive from Prestons to the BluVibez Restaurant situated in Sea View overlooking the sea. There was much panic before the event concerning our electricity and water disasters but all came right. Over twenty members attended and I am sure everyone enjoyed their meal. Many thanks to Tracy for the organisation.



MGB KALAHARI ROAD TRIP



During September 1972 I undertook a long weekend trip in my MGB to visit family in the Kalahari. My sister and husband farmed with Brahman cattle in the Molopo district near Vryburg. The farm was situated 186 miles North of Vryburg on the Botswana boarder in the Molopo riverbed. The total distance from Port Elizabeth to the farm was 770 miles (1239 kilos) one way. For me, young, full of adrenaline and adventure, distance meant nothing, especially in an MGB, even when it was only for a long weekend trip!

I left Port Elizabeth at noon on a Friday afternoon and reached my destination at 04:30 am the following morning. The route took me from PE to Cradock, Middelburg, Noupoot, Hanover and on to Hopetown and Britstown. Reaching Britstown I turned onto the N12 and on to Kimberley. At that time, it was already dark. Just outside Kimberley I took the turnoff to Vryburg via Warrington. It was midnight when I stopped at Molopo Motors in Vryburg to refuel. The last stretch of 186 miles to the farm was still ahead. The first 70 miles of the road was straight North on a tar surface before I hit the gravel road. Reaching Bray, a small village on the border with Botswana, I turned West. Then I followed the road next to the

Molopo riverbed (which was dry at the time) for the last 48 miles to the farm.

This last section of the road really tested me and the MG's resilience as I had to negotiate sand strips and at one point had to ride on the middle level of the road to avoid getting stuck in the sand. Finally, I reached to farm gate just before dawn and the "vreudevure" burnt high when out family who had awaited my arrival all night saw the MGB headlights at the gate. The celebration went long into the morning and although my eyes were bloodshot from driving all through the night, there was still time for coffee, rusks and a nice tot of brandy!



Although I never doubted it that the MG would made the trip in a sports car driving on sand strips in the Kalahari my respect for the car drew tremendously. I can also say the engine never over heated. I had the thermostat removed for the trip and used cold NGK plugs on the engine. Also, the roads were open during the night, no traffic, trucks or buses and one could speed as fast as was safe (safety fast) on the long open stretches of road. I recall at one stage a Studebaker Golden Hawk overtook me at 100mph but couldn't keep ahead of me as I was going flat out at 110 mph in top overdrive! Later, the Studebakers slowed down and as we entered Kimberley, I saw him pulling up at a gas station (probably ran out of petrol with its huge V8 engine!)

My return trip the next Tuesday also went well with no breakdowns! I slightly deflated the tyre pressure to improve driving on the sand route. Following this experience in old faithful I vowed never to sell my MGB as this remains the most reliable car I ever possessed.

Deon Rousseau.

Thanks Deon for yet again for such an interesting article. I think you were a very brave man to attempt such an adventure!

For Sale

The car featured on our header page belonged to the late Gary Chapman who as some of you will remember lived in PE before his move to Pretoria.

It is a 1979 LHD MGB but no ordinary MGB as it has a V8 engine with a Rover 3.5l SD1 conversion plus a Cressida gearbox and a V8 suspension. Gary's work was always "spot on" and I am sure this is an immaculate car.

If you are interested in the car contact Heather Chapman on 082 653 1188.



Calendar of Events

A full calendar of proposed events is attached to this email including for all you Formula 1 fans a list of next season's races.

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| 4th February Wednesday | Noggin at EPVCC |
| 18th February Wednesday | Midweek Run Hussars Grill Meet at venue |
| 1st March Sunday | All Clubs day at EPVCC From 9.00am |
| 4th March Wednesday | Noggin Hamburgers |
| 18th March Wednesday | PEDSAC Meet at venue |
| 29th March Sunday | Bowls challenge versus Alfa Club Moths Bowling Club |
| 1st April Wednesday | AGM at EPVCC Catered |



Service Providers

Service Provider and Address	Telephone	Email/Website	Type of Service
Ace Auto Electrical 3 Todd St North End P E	0414842640		Good diagnostics (Paul Allen)
Bearing Man 320 Kempston Road Holland Park P E	0414537330		
Cableman, 303 Kempston Rd Sidwell PE	0414536007	cablemanpe@telkomsa.net	Cables for speedos rev counters and Accelerator
Cape Parts Distributors 11 Paterson Rd North End PE	0414871471		Brake & Clutch Hydraulic Components
Chromeworks,(Peter Rist), 6A Sidwell Avenue Sidwell	0414841533 0828558628	chromeworkspe@yahoo.co.za	Chroming (PETSCC Member)
D N Automotive, 25 King Edward Street Newton Park PE	0413641017 Dave Heckroodt	dnauto@lantic.net	Service and repairs on modern MG's(F & TF)Also Electronic diagnosis
East Cape Clutch and Brake	17 Rundle Street Sidwell	0414511669	clutch and brake components fitment
East Cape Mountings, 39 Rundlell St Sidwell PE	0414515968		Re- manufacture of engine mountings
PE Paint Correction. Andre Meyer	067 3896 042	meyerlunen6@gmail.com	Paint reconditioning
Emgee Workshop Cameron or Paige	0828220175 071 938 8027		MG Spares
Generator House, 5 Goldsmith St North End PE	0414845867	www.theauto.co.za/generator-house	Aubrey Autoelectrical Repairs
Guscott's Engine Rebuilders 55 Kempston Road Sidwell.	0413747300		Specific engineering work on engines of classic cars by Jeff Guscott
Holden- Jones (Russell), MGCC Member	0832566927	russellholdenjones@gmail.com	Water pump and other components repair
Industrial Rubber, 15 Richard Street sidwell	0414534437/0837491876	peindrubber@telkomsa.net	wide selection of rubber profiles
Lokhose, (A & A Murphy), - MGCC Members, 18 Sutton Rd Sidwell	0414532974 0825683605		Hydraulics & Pneumatics
Motor Mod		Fettes Road N End P E	Mechanical Modifications
Nel's Motor Trimmers, 21 Hancock Street N End	041484222	nelsmotorspe@gmail.com	Upholsterer
P E Hydraulics, 46 Sidwell Ave. , Sidwell P E	041451 4332	rakesh@pehydraulics.co.za	Hydraulics components
Powerflow, Frank Street Newton Park P E	0413655855	newtonpark@powerflowexhausts.com	Stainless steel exhausts and repairs
Pro Seals and Bearings, 2 Commercial Centre Commercial Rd PE	0414534678	sales@proseals.co.za	Good selection of seals & Bearings Take sample
Pro Tek Heads, 6 Hammond Street Sidwell	0414539765		aluminium welding ie. Thermostat housing
Ronnie Reed Clutch	75 Haupt Street Sidwell	041 4532227	brake and clutch
The Sports Car Centre, 11 Westmeath Rd Parkview Jo'brg	0116461631 0114860021	sportscar@mweb.co.za	MG Parts Alan & Denise Uzell
Adrian Conte Classic Car Lenses Knysna	083 702 0128		Classic Vehicle Light Lenses
Wheeltech, 31 Fettes Road N End P E	0413733052		Bushes etc
Classic Car Windscreens		julien@classiccarwindscreens.co.za	
Pop's Auto Shop	0829012442 041 0040349	www.popsauto.co.za	Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Club Member
Instrument Technician Richard Grover	011 8962627 082 650 2079	RichardGrover@me.com	MGCC Northerns Member Ex Aero Instr. Technician
A & B Differential & Gearbox	041 2050920 0823896936		Diff & Gearbox repairs
Ludick Trailers	0878222978	john@ludicktrailers.co.za 491 Cape Rd Westering	Car Trailers Reasonable rates