

NEWSLETTER

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This 1962 Landrover is owned by new member Roger Turski and was photographed by Armando van Niekerk on display at Cars@Coffee Pezula on 28 August.

REMARKS

ANNUAL STREET BRAAI

The annual Street Braai, jointly hosted by GRMC and MGSCCC, marks the end of the calendar year for our club activities. The first such event was held as a “Tyre Kicking” experiment in December 2013. The concept evolved in discussion between Norman Frost who traded classics, Ron Hollis who repairs and services mainly English classics and Brian Bruce who collects and restores a range of classics, all within the Arend Street cul-de-sac.

This was an event for sharing and celebrating our cars in a space where they enjoyed precedence. The first event was well attended, earning it a permanent place on the Events Calendar as a Street Braai hosted by Norman, Ron and Brian to celebrate our ownership, maintenance and restoration of classic and collectible cars. In 2018 the event was relabeled as the “Gasoline Alley Braai” and has trended towards being almost exclusively social.

REMARKS

CONTINUED

Regrettably, attendance at this year's event followed the trend of post-covid turnout decline, but those members who did turn up enjoyed the short evening, interrupted as it was by loadshedding and a brief rain spell. Unfortunately, only a small number of Garden Route Members attended, including our newest members and some non-member visitors. They sought and were enthralled by a tour of the street's facilities. We hope that future events will see a warmer welcoming of new faces into the existing social circles, ensuring as a club we are warm, open, and inclusive in our common interest "for the love of cars".

Wake up Members! Please!

Your committee continues to work tirelessly to rebuild the basis of a way forward for the Club, but more than 50% of our membership remains silent and unresponsive to any form of communication! We need your support and participation to revitalize the very essence of what we hold as a mutual interest – **The Love of Cars.**

There is no doubt that in this post-covid era, our world has changed. Many aspects of everyday life that we took for granted as normal, no longer apply. There is an underlying hostility in the world, both natural and social, like a slow burning fuse that presents a clear and present danger to the very essence of where and who we are.

The past year for our club has been characterized by conflict AND transformation. Of course, this is unfortunate and while we may debate the cause, suppressed change has an inevitability that we can seldom control. There are losers in any aftermath, but a new stability will emerge, built on the foundation of our past. And human nature is such that the longer the suppression, the longer and less stable will be the aftermath. All is relative!

In the aftermath of the AGM and following the SGM in June, about half our membership resigned and a few passed away. About a third of current members have joined post-covid (June 2020). This means two thirds of current members are of long standing. All 94 current members have made a conscious decision to remain with or join the Club as it now is. And we have recruited new members at each of our four Cars@Coffee events since July, in addition to hosting many non-member participating owners and their cars that attended.

It is time to move forward. We are fortunate to be able to exercise our privilege of choice. Our mission as a club is to drive, display and show our cars in public, regularly and together. We do this through our "Events with a Message". Preservation is Positive and Sustainable. This is more than about cars. It is a way of life. We are Garden Route Motor Club. We live in one of the most beautiful, ecologically sensitive and threatened environments in our country.

The time has come to look to the future and rebuild Garden Route Motor Club as preeminent in its field of classic and collectible vehicle ownership, preservation and operation. The more we focus on our love of cars, the less prone we are to exhibit tendencies of discrimination against those who are different in any number of ways – including age!

Dates for your Diaries



We are in the process of obtaining approvals to run our first Cars@Coffee event of 2023 on the Wilderness Common on **Saturday 14 January**. Watch this space for more information!

We're keen to find venues for future Cars@Coffee events both east and west of Knysna. Please let us know if you have ideas and want to help build this exciting event series!



The George Old Car Show will be held over the weekend of **11 and 12 February**.

As usual we will be looking to have strong participation in the event from GRMC members and aim to have all our vehicles displayed together as a club.

The overall theme for the show is Italian and we encourage members who own Italian vehicles to enter. Our plan is to divide our display between Italian and The Rest either side of our traditional Club Tent.

Stuart McAllister is our newly elected committee member for "Events to the West" and he will be co-ordinating the club's engagement in the show. Watch out for a message from Stuart shortly with more details!

IN MEMORIAM

A moment of reflection and sadness, remembering members who are no longer with us.

Sadly, **Ed Parfett** passed away recently following a tragic accident at home. He was a member for about 20 years and had recently sold his collection of classic cars and was about to relocate to Cape Town. We extend our condolences to Jenni, sons Michael and Robin and families.

Our friend and colleague, **Dr Mike Wilde** tragically passed away from complications following recent surgery. He will be remembered as a true gentleman and our condolences go out to Jane and son Michael and family.

We previously advised that long standing member and Club stalwart, **Bernd Rohloff** had passed away following a short illness. He was consistently passionate in his love of cars and all things mechanical. He made significant contributions to our movement over many years and will be remembered in the many forums in which he was active. He was always available for advice and in particular, was the source of knowledge on all matters Pagoda! Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ariane and Family.

Annual General Meeting

30 OCTOBER 2022 AT PEZULA

In total, 27 people attended the meeting in person or via Zoom, and apologies were received from 18 members. This means that just over half of the membership did not make the effort to respond.

A full Committee Report was tabled to members, giving detailed commentary on the work done through the year since the previous AGM.

As per the amended Constitution, all elected and co-opted committee members resigned. Abigail Brooks and Brian Bruce made themselves available for reelection.

New nominations for election to the committee were received from Mark Barendse and Nico Sinden. During the meeting, Stuart McAllister volunteered his services from the floor. With no objections from the members present, the committee of five members was elected. Subsequently, Adrian Hodgkinson agreed to a second term as Honorary Treasurer.

At its first meeting, the Committee elected a chairman and agreed the following appointments:

Abigail Brooks	Secretary & Digital
Adrian Hodgkinson	Honorary Treasurer
Brian Bruce	Chairman & Membership
Mark Barendse	Communications
Nico Sinden	Events & the Youth
Stuart McAllister	Events to the West

Abigail, Brian and Adrian continue as the club's fiduciary representatives.

It is important to note that the Committee is comprised of member volunteers. It functions as a collective and decisions are based on consensus through debate. There is no hierarchy.

The minutes of the AGM, including the Chairman's report, and the presentation materials will be distributed shortly.

