

# Newsletter March 2018



## Convenors:

Peter Pretorius – [peterp@afrihost.co.za](mailto:peterp@afrihost.co.za) – 044 5335114 / 0823214724

Trevor Cooper (MG CLUB – [trevcooper@gmail.com](mailto:trevcooper@gmail.com) – 044 3823322 / 0825766104

## FOR YOUR INFO.....

- Regular Breakfast Runs are held on the last Sunday of each month
- Meeting places – KNYSNA – The Quays at the Waterfront at the end of Grey Street
- SEDGEFIELD – Engen 1 Stop

## 2018 GRMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	<p>2- 3- 4 – Fri to Sun</p> <p>25<sup>TH</sup> Sun</p>	<p><i>MINI TOUR</i> <i>PRINCE ALBERT - EVITA ( Pieter Dirk UYS &amp; KAKTUS OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT )- SHOWROOM THEATRE <b>FULLY SUBSCRIBED.</b></i></p> <p><i>BREAKFAST RUN – POT LUCK - PLETT</i></p>	<p><i>ALL</i></p>
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	<p>8<sup>TH</sup> - SUN</p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> Fri</p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> Sun</p> <p>29<sup>TH</sup> Sun</p>	<p><i>BRING &amp; BRAAI AT DEVASELOT - NATURES VALLEY</i></p> <p><i>Pensioners Lunch – Enrico – KEURBOOMS STRAND</i></p> <p><i>BREAKFAST RUN- ZUCCINIS</i></p> <p><i>KNYSNA MOTOR SHOW</i></p>	<p><i>ALL</i></p> <p><i>ALL</i></p> <p><i>ALL</i></p> <p><i>ALL</i></p>
	<p>4-5-6 Fri – Sun</p> <p>19&amp;20th</p> <p>27<sup>TH</sup> Sun</p>	<p><i>JAGUAR SIMOLA HILLCLIMB</i></p> <p><i>LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS – PE</i></p> <p><i>BREAKFAST RUN – POT LUCK PLETT</i></p>	<p><i>ALL</i></p> <p><i>ALL</i></p>
	<p>24<sup>TH</sup>-Sun</p>	<p><i>BREAKFAST RUN – ZUCCINIS</i></p>	<p><i>ALL</i></p>
	<p>15<sup>th</sup> Sun</p> <p>29<sup>th</sup> Sun</p>	<p><i>Tsitsikamma Memorial run</i></p> <p><i>BRAKFAST RUN – POT LUCK - PLETT</i></p>	<p><i>ALL</i></p> <p><i>ALL</i></p>
<p><i>Holy shit it's already</i></p> 	<p>14 - 17</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> Sun</p> <p>26<sup>th</sup> Sun</p>	<p><i>MG ORGANISED TOUR to Nuy Valley &amp; Arniston</i></p> <p><i>GRMC AGM</i></p> <p><i>BREAKFAST RUN - ZUCCINIS</i></p>	<p><i>ALL</i></p> <p><i>GRMC ONLY</i></p> <p><i>ALL</i></p>
	<p>7 – 18 Tour</p> <p>14 -16th</p> <p>30<sup>TH</sup> - Sun</p>	<p><i>AUSTIN HEALEY TOUR</i></p> <p><i>TWO NIGHT TOUR TO GRAAF REINETT</i></p> <p><i>BREAKFAST RUN – POT LUCK - PLETT</i></p>	<p><i>GRMC PARTICIPANTS ONLY</i></p> <p><i>ALL</i></p> <p><i>ALL</i></p>

	13th	CENTURY CLASSIC CAR RUN (100 KM RUN / LUNCH (AGE OF DRIVER & CAR MUST EQUAL MIN OF 100 YEARS )	ALL
	28-29th	MG T-TYPE TOUR	MG ONLY
	28th Sun	BREAKFAST RUN – ZUCCINIS	ALL
	24 or 25th	GRMC XMAS LUNCH	GRMC ONLY
	25th	BREAKFAST RUN	ALL
	???	MG Prawn Braai	MG members only
	???	STREET BRAAI – GASOLINE ALLEY	ALL
	????	Mosselbay Wheels Show	

## Chairman's Chirp

Thus far we have enjoyed an exciting year. Besides all the political changes, which we perhaps can do nothing about, we as GRMC members can feel happy with the events arranged thus far. The highlight in March was the mini tour by 68 members to Prince Albert. It was a different tour which included various activities while others preferred to relax and take in the interesting shops of Prince Albert. From all accounts it was a weekend thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants. For a more detailed understanding of the activities please see the comments received from participants in each of the activity groups. I thank them for their contribution and it certainly has made my job easier this month.

The Knysna Motor Show (KMS) is taking priority at this stage and the committee is putting in many long hours to once again deliver an awesome motor show on April 29. Registrations of the cars and motorcycles have gone exceptionally well and at this stage we cannot accept any more registrations. It certainly is going to be a motor show with some exceptional displays and many great cars not seen on our roads. Entrants have been received from across SA and even as far as Limpopo. You have had a glimpse in the press releases of what can be expected and a further two press releases will follow prior to the event. Please distribute these press releases to your friends. We need all the support on the day to get as many people as possible to attend the KMS. No effort has been spared this year. Our print advertising campaign has commenced, an advert has been placed on the billboard at both entrances to Knysna, banners will be placed in the coming week and the Radio Algoa FM campaign

will begin in mid-April. Dennis Cook has been working hard at posting various elements of the KMS on the KMS Facebook and the “views” and “likes” are increasing steadily . Well done to Dennis!!

I again make a plea, if you have not given your name to Brian Dowding (e-mail [briand47.bd@gmail.com](mailto:briand47.bd@gmail.com) ) for assistance in laying out the field or Marshalling duties, please do so. Similarly the same plea goes for the gate duty on the Sunday to sell tickets – please let Peter Turner know ( E-mail – [turnerjp@mweb.co.za](mailto:turnerjp@mweb.co.za) ) . These activities are extremely important for the smooth running of the KMS. It is not a big ask and only comes around once a year. Please give us your support. We are still well short of the numbers that we need.

The KMS work is calling now, so this is all for now !!

NB : The events for April will include a “ bring and braai” at Devaselot – Natures Valley on the Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> ( Organised by the MG club ). **We will also have the pensioners lunch at Enrico’s Restaurant - Keurbooms on Friday April 13 . PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE FROM THE 11<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 13<sup>TH</sup> AND PLACE IT IN YOUR DIARY!!**

If you are going away for Easter drive safely and if you are getting family just enjoy them .

## Peter

## Prince Albert Weekend

### Pieter-Dirk Uys and the Kaktus of separate development

By Dennis Cook

On the Friday night of our arrival in Prince Albert we were treated to a performance by Peter-Dirk Uys in the lovely Art deco Showroom theatre, resplendent in new décor and an upgrade to state of the art. Theatre goers were also treated to a half dozen of the GRMC's best classic cars displayed out front during the show.



PD appeared on stage in the well-known alter ego, Evita Bezuidenhout, once described as the most famous white woman in South Africa. Tannie Evita proceeded to tell us that what we had learned about the history of our country was incorrect and narrated the story from the time of the arrival of Dutch Colonials in 1652, lingering at the Battle of Blood river and its effect on both Boer and Zulu to the present day, and you may not have known that Jan van Riebeeck arrived not only with the kaktus but was accompanied not by a wife but his mother and a boyfriend!



We were treated to an hour of nonstop poking of fun at politicians and institutions, parliamentary hooliganism, corruption and incompetence. The humour came so thick and fast that it is difficult to single out a few choice wisecracks. She could not, of course, help boasting about her relationship with both Madiba and Arch Tutu, and Cyril's red striped socks made a mention. Evita shows that she cares about our country as she has now become a junior card carrying member of the ANC making koeksusters at Lethuli House!



Evita's story was mostly in English but inevitably lapsed into Afrikaans as some stories just can't be told in English! When it became apparent that many of the audience were originally from the Northern hemisphere, Uys took time to ad lib a few jokes about the English with the audience, after asking for a show of hands as to where people had originated from. Spotted dick and English bread and butter pudding were screamingly funnily derided.



At times one kind of squirmed as moments in our history were derided but a clear message rang out that we can and should work together to create a better South Africa. Pieter Dirk Uys has been the scourge of politicians dating back to the Apartheid days of the National Government, and not just the ANC, and it became obvious that he has a deep and abiding love of South Africa and its people.

## To Die Hell and (Thankfully) Back By Roger Fisher

During our weekend away in Prince Albert 31 adventurous souls ventured on a day away to De Hell. With breakfast at 7:00am it was easy to spot the South Africans and the rest of us. The rest had barely been out of bed, the S.A's had already been up for hours!!!

We set off in 5 vehicles, 12 seated in three 4x4 vehicles, a Toyota Prado, V.W. Transf... and a Ford Ranger. The other 19 shared two Toyota Quantum Mini Buses, one with a driver who had never driven on **any** dirt roads before!!!! (Interesting!!!)



Our trip was a simple one, up through the amazingly beautiful Gorge to the Top, (de Top) of Swartberg Pass (1535 meters), then back down a bit to the start of the road to the valley Gambasklorf leading to De Hell, 40 or so km later.



Our first stop on the Swartberg Pass Road in the middle of the Gorge was a large parking spot named by the locals as "The Dance Floor". Very popular on New Years Eve when around 200 party goers gather with music to dance their way into the New Year.



We were fortunate, to even be able to enjoy the trip, as the first part of the road up the pass was completely washed away last year with severe flooding and indeed closed for 8 months from April to November. The Swartberg Pass road we learnt was the last and probably most difficult venture that Thomas Bain undertook and was completed by 200 convicts laboring hard between 1882 - 1884. They were fed 16 sheep and 1 Oxen per week, and other Bits and Pieces, and locked up in what looked like an incredibly small makeshift Prison at night. We were informed Bain only had 1 wife, but somehow found time to father 13 children!

Whilst we passed some amazing scenery on the trip it was sad to witness the ravages of fires that had caused enormous vegetation devastation. The burnt out seas of Proteas was a dreadful sight. (But later on, when transiting the De Hell Road we were fortunately treated to seas of live Proteas, looking resplendent and colorful.) At the top of the Pass we were informed that after the Swartberg Gravel Road was completed, for the next 16 years a Toll

House existed. The wage for this Keeper was GBP45.00 - yes 45 Pounds per year, and the tolls he was allowed to charge were worked out at 4 pence a wheel for the carts and 1 pence a leg for the animals.



Back now on the road to Hell we stopped numerous times, the first stop being to see a very old Cork Tree. In the late 1700's the first known people to find De Hell descended the track and over a very long period travelling, 16 families comprising around 160 people somehow made their way to the 'lost valley' of Gamkaskloof where they saw a stunning Oasis of Greenery and fertile land. It is here that they stopped and stayed, as did many other generations that followed them. These people were really only discovered in 1902, and the first car to reach them was in 1958 a Morris!!

It was only in 1960 that a proper!?! dirt road was completed, but sadly after then many of the surviving families decided to leave.

We entered the very green and very beautiful valley after nearly 3 hours driving - on, -- in places treacherous single track, very rough winding roads. And then after passing a very lovely looking campsite, we finally arrived at "Ouma-Sannie se Winkel".



This was a quaint but stunning place where we were all met by Annetzie, a 5th generation original property owner, whose great great grandfather was one of the original discoverers. A lovely lady who now lives in Mossel Bay but whose son and wife still live in De Hell with their two young children, educated on site.

We were served a delicious lunch, the first course consisting of a Salad, ingredients, - Grapes, Figs, Cucumber, Apricot, Guava, Prickly Pears, served with homemade bread. This was followed with a main course of Karoo Lamb Chop and veg.



After lunch - with copious amounts of wine provided by our tour guide, we were taken for a short tour of De Hell which included visiting the Old School and Teachers House. There we were told about Lennie Marais who in 1928, fulfilled the following roles - Haberdasher, Midwife, Baker, Teacher, Builder and Farmer. Wow what a multi-talented woman.

Despite the slowness and suffering from a very uncomfortable gravel road in pretty bad condition, I know everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience, - a trip of a lifetime - and thanks so much to Peter, another great Garden Route Motor Club experience.

## And some went to Cooking School....by Jane Wilde.

Some of us attended a very enjoyable morning at The African Relish Cooking School learning to prepare some Karoo Classics with Camilla Comins.

Trevor and Hilary Kells, Alex du Plessis and Jane Wilde thoroughly enjoyed the cooking demonstration and learned quite a few cooking tips from one another.!



Janet du Plessis and Mike Wilde joined in for lunch to taste the fare which was washed down with some jolly good wine per kind favour of Trevor.



A good time was had by all !

FOR  
SALE....



As new condition - MOTOLITA 14" / 18 RIVET / WOODRIM / CLASSIC 4 SPOKE STEERING WHEEL.

I had this on my MG TD, before I fitted its current refurbished Brooklands woodrim wheel. Ideal if you want a bit more leg / tummy room and easier ingress/egress! (Suggest check 1st with the fundis if TD boss size fits other models / makes). Current price of wheel + boss+ badge at Moss UK circa R 4 500—(and that's before freight and duty!).

Asking R 2 250— Cash - no argey bargey! Phone Bunny Mentz 084 300 0990.  
([zambezi.collection@gmail.com](mailto:zambezi.collection@gmail.com))

# *HAPPY BIRTHDAY*

## ***April:***

2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Day

9<sup>th</sup> Jenny Frost

15<sup>th</sup> Billy Matthee

20<sup>th</sup> Duncan Paton

26<sup>th</sup> Ann Griffiths

29<sup>th</sup> Johan Kruger

30<sup>th</sup> Rose Hewitt

3<sup>rd</sup> Jim Cleland

9<sup>th</sup> Allan Waterston

17<sup>th</sup> Neville Mayhew

21<sup>st</sup> Brent Watts

28<sup>th</sup> Otto Witzmann

29<sup>th</sup> Eddie Parfett

30<sup>th</sup> Jinny Price

8<sup>th</sup> Simon Leppard

11<sup>th</sup> Sarie Exton

19<sup>th</sup> Sally Falla

26<sup>th</sup> Paulene Franklyn

28<sup>th</sup> Tabita Rossouw

29<sup>th</sup> Peter Turner

## **Invitation to participate in the 2018 Milligan:**

(Please reply directly to Hannes Geyer should you wish to participate)

## **Newsletter No 1**

Dear Milliganites

I trust that you had good rest over the festive season.

On behalf of the EPVCC I wish to thank everyone that entered the Milligan last year.

The EPVCC wishes to invite all to participate in the 2018 Milligan. This year it will be the 49th consecutive Milligan.

This year the Milligan take place in the Oudtshoorn area. As it is custom, you will arrive on Sunday afternoon 10/06/2018 and depart on Friday morning 15/06/2018. Sunday afternoon will be the scrutineering and Sunday night the Competitors meeting. The rally will start on Monday morning and end on Thursday. Thursday night will be prize giving. If staying in the hotel you will be booked in until Friday morning and depart after breakfast.

We will again offer two categories on the 2018 Milligan namely the Rally and the Tour.

There are a number of new Committee Members on the Milligan this year. Committee will be as follow:

Convener: Hannes Geyer

Clerk of the Course: Llewellyn Faifer – assisted by Peter Fulton

Tour Leader: Jim Boggess assisted by Eileen

Scorer: Tian Geyer

In order to have a smooth handover of the Clerk of the Course, Peter has agreed to assist Llewellyn with this year's Milligan. The other committee members will be advised to you in due course.

The excitement is already building up for the 50<sup>th</sup> Milligan to be held in 2019. With this in mind, there is an added benefit entering the 2018 Milligan Rally or Tour. If your entry is successful this year and you attend the 2018 Milligan, you will receive preference for entering next year's 50<sup>th</sup> Milligan when the entries open. If you are on the waiting list this year due to the over-subscription you will be the first that a place will be allocated for next year when if someone of the 2018 Milligan can attend. If the number of entries increases you will be allocated an automatic place on the Milligan. Either way you can benefit entering this year. Keep a watchful-eye out for this year's entry and return it as soon as possible in order to secure a place for next year's 50<sup>th</sup> Milligan.

Only 30 entries will be accepted. Entries will again be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis. We are in the final stages of finalizing the accommodation. Note that your number on the waiting list will also be on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Once the accommodation is finalized the entry forms will be sent out.

Jim Boggess is planning a number of exciting trips for the tour. This year the tour might not follow the rally route each day. The tour group's route will depend on the day/s when the places are open/available that they will be visiting.

In order for you to do your provisional planning I wish to advise the approximate times for Sunday 10/06/2018. I will advise you in the subsequent newsletters that will follow the confirmed times of the Sunday events. You will also receive a full program of events at registration on the Sunday of the rest of the week. I also include some of the events for the week below.

Sunday 10/06:

+ -14H00 onwards	Registration and booking into the Hotel in Oudtshoorn
+ -15H00	+ - 15H00 +- Scrutineering of vehicles
+ - 18H00	Competitors Meeting
+ - 19H00	Dinner (followed directly after the meeting)

Monday Night 11/06:

Theme Party – The theme will be advised in one of the newsletters that will follow.

Wednesday 13/06:

Free evening when you can visit a restaurant of your choice in Oudthoorn.

Please advise me by return e-mail if you want to remain on the mailing list.

Mark the subject of your all email to me – 2018 Milligan.

If you have any questions feel free to email me – remember to mark the subject of your email as above. Due to the fire of last year many buildings are in the process of rebuilding and thus no Telkom lines are installed yet. The cellphone reception is of poor quality at home and it is advisable to send an email. If you do not receive an answer from me within a maximum of 3 days please check if you have sent the mail to the correct email address.

Looking forward hearing from you.

Hannes Geyer

Cell: 082 38 989 38 Email: hannesgeyer61@gmail.com

Our Website address is  
[www.grmc.co.za](http://www.grmc.co.za)  
 To get on to our Facebook page Google Facebook and go to “gardenroutemc

**CONTACTS**

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