

# Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

No 80

Oct 2013



# TRANSMISSION

If you find you need more information about this club or just can't wait to join ring Peet Menzies on 0417855222.

GPO Box 911 Darwin 0801

In Katherine call 89710605 .

Newsletter enquiries to Ted [longtelescope@gmail.com](mailto:longtelescope@gmail.com)

## Crawling around sheds



*When you rolled up at the Katherine club's shed your eyes could not help being drawn to Heath Vincent's 1971 ZD Fairlane. It is totally immaculate and totally beautiful. He bought it that way from Penrith, a suburb of Sydney. It turns out he actually was after a Falcon of the same vintage but Falcons of this model fetch double the price of a Fairlane. When you consider the Fairlane to be an upmarket, luxury car based on a stretched Fal-*

*con, it seems strange that the Falcon brings the higher price. Never mind, that circumstance has caused Heath to bring one seriously lovely car to grace the streets of Katherine. Just check out all that chrome. And it sounds just as good as it looks!!*



*It says Hummer on the number-plate, but tilting the bonnet reveals a Nissan Patrol diesel with an aftermarket Turbo*

Ever find yourself crawling around your shed? Katherine do it in a different way. Every year they have their annual shed crawl where you will be led, completely blind, to some unreal destinations. After the initial meet up at the Katherine club shed ( a really neat Sidney Williams hut in pristine condition) someone asked where are we going. "It's a secret" was the answer. There were to be no shortcuts at this show, and not knowing the back blocks of Katherine I was careful not to fall behind as I knew if I let the convoy get out of sight, the shed crawl was over for me.

The first stop was RJ Motors, a bloody big mechanical workshop with several trucks and 4wd's in the process of being fixed. Engines and gearboxes in bits are always interesting, but they weren't the main drawcard here. First off there was this ordinary looking Hummer. But on closer inspection, once you tilted the front forward, it became apparent that it was a Nissan Patrol with a fibreglass Rhino body that made it look just like a Hummer. Neat! And it even had Hummer on the numberplate. Moving along a bit was a 45 series Toyota Landcruiser that was definitely on steroids. It seems it had gone underwater during the Katherine floods back last century in 1998 but was making a come back. It just looked tough with some serious wheels and widened guards and running boards. And a roo bar that might have been tough enough for a bull or ramraiding banks ATM's. I was told there is a Chev V8 all finished and ready to slot in under the bonnet.

As you walked around the yard it was a bit like the ever expanding universe where you keep on finding more goodies. There was a tiny Datsun 1000 ute. It might have been the first one they ever made. Remarkably straight too. Naturally there were old Holdens keep-



*A grunty looking Toyota. The guards have been widened to accommodate those big wheels and the running boards have been widened to match.*



*A very original Datsun 1000 ute.*



*Dusty model T has been waiting for a run for quite a few years*

ing it company.

Next stop was right in the middle of suburban Katherine. The house looked like any other well kept home. You couldn't even see a shed from the road. There was no way you would suspect the treasures lurking therein. This was the home of Jean Fullgrabe, and when the shed door was opened and the sunlight peeked in, the first thing I saw was a very dusty model T Ford Radiator. It had a car attached. Jean explained that Roger, her hubby, had been doing it up in the middle bedroom of their house in Adelaide. She also pointed out that she told him it had to go as she was expecting a child and the child was to occupy that very same bedroom. Roger was very obliging. He did move the model T to the end of the bedroom. The baby, Shane, is now 40 years old, but the T is still not finished. Unfortunately Roger passed away about 15 years ago, so it is Shane's job to now get it finished. But the T isn't the only treasure in the shed. There is also a XR V8 Falcon. Jean and Roger bought it brand new in 1968. It isn't in showroom condition but under the preserving coat of dust it is remarkably straight. It hasn't been used for 10 years due to an automatic transmission problem. Out of town is where you expect to find a bit of treasure. Owning a bit of acreage gives a feller some room to collect. I wasn't disappointed when I found Scotty Holden's place. With a surname of Holden you might expect the odd Holden around. Expectations were answered in



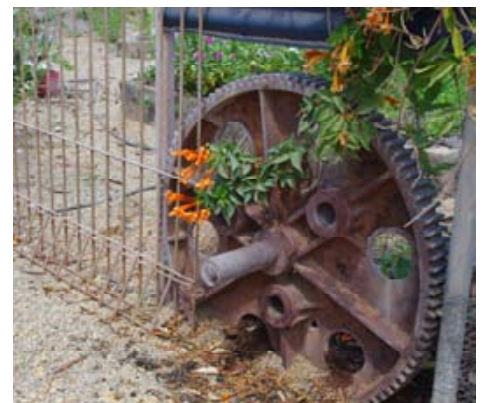
*Above: Dusty XR V8 Falcon purchased new in 1968.*

*Right: You can guess there is something good in the shed when there are rusty garden ornaments.*



*Left: Scotty Holden has mobs of this stuff.*

*Right: As I said before, the garden ornaments give it all away.*





full! There were old Holdens all over the place. Some were straight, some were flat, some had been cut in half or run over by a grader and some were just lovely. But Scotty takes all this a bit seriously. He has done up Holdens for his Kids. His daughter, named Emily Jane, has a EJ Holden. His son, Hamish Ryan, has a HR Holden. Scotty's place is so good we will be revisiting it later.

A quick drop in to Arnie Whitehouse saw what was probably the equivalent of antimatter compared to Scotty Holden's. No rusty stuff here. The shed was brand new, big and chock full of high performance Fords. A genuine XY GT Falcon rubbing up against a GT Mustang. Another cool XY GT ute plus late model Ford Performance Vehicles could give the impression this was a Ford only show. But that is not the case. There were also 2 MGB's. Lovely!

The last stop looked promising as you drove in the driveway. Another rural setting with bits of old machinery as garden ornaments. Then I spied the neat Blue Ford hotrod and I figured we were at Doug and Yvonne Glassons place. I figured right, but as I had only ever seen Doug in a couple of different cars it never occurred to me that he might have such a treasure trove. I didn't bother counting the cars here. I probably can't count that high anyway, but it isn't just cars, there is stuff, and lots of it. It seems his sheds just keep getting bigger to house it all. And there is all kinds of stuff there too. It's just great!

And to top it all off they have a Barbie at the end. With real food too and all the trimming. A shed crawl, what a neat idea!

*I reckon it's a lot better to have half an FJ than no FJ. Some things are just nice to have around.*



*That's the remains of an FJ next to the tractor. A grader driver used it for practice. But not everything out there is in rust. There is no shortage of cared for Holdens*

*And in every crowd you get someone that needs a souvenir.*



*Old Holdens will always generate a conversation*





*Classic GT Falcon or GT Mustang or maybe a new GT Falcon. Along with a couple of MGBs, that is the sort of thing to find in Arnie Whitehouse's shed.*



*But once again it was the gate sentries and garden ornaments that let us know we were coming to a significant collection. This was*



*Yvonne and Doug Glassons place. A proverbial treasure trove of not just cars but "stuff" in general. See the cheesy grins on their faces. Just being there makes you feel good!*



# The Bay to Birdwood Classic



*The numberplate on the old Falcon sums up the feeling of the whole event perfectly!*



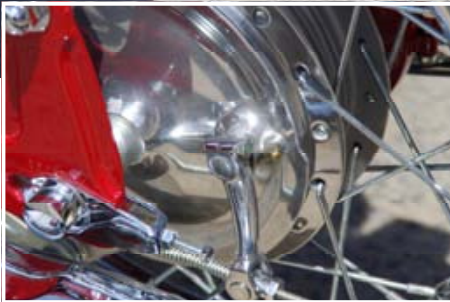
*How long since you have seen a Fiat Bambina. This one was brand new and it was for sale for a cool \$20500*



*The "ACME" plate had me stumped for a while. I knew it was a Road Runner but acme? then days later, out of the blue I remembered the instant boulders. Just add water....*



*Beaut Valiant cruising the main street of Birdwood. All these vehicles were strutting their stuff and we hadn't even entered the venue yet.*



*My heart jumped for joy when I spied the Honda 305 Dream, my very first motor bike. At C77E the engine number prefix was very close to mine at C76E. This one was finished much better than Mr Honda ever could manage. I dribbled all over it was so lovely. Even the grease nipples were polished. But*

*when I dragged Shirley over to show her I discovered the swinging arm bolt was loose and sticking out by 4 cm. Luckily she had seen the owner ride it in and was able to take me to him. After I had heard the story of the bike (this was a cosmetic only restoration, the engine has never been opened. Fantastic!) I broke the news about the problem swinging arm bolt. He was able to shove it back in no worries but still had to ride the bike home. I think he would have been looking down there pretty often on the way back as the nut was nowhere to be found. Look hard at the right photo and you can see the offending bolt sticking out.*



*If you wanted to get really serious about your entry you could enter the concours d'elegance section for judging. Naturally you had to be dressed in clothes of the same era as the car. Same deal with hairstyles and accessories, even the money in your pocket. Then the contestants were paraded on the stage one by one to tell their story. The lady pictured was driv-*





*Comrades Narder took dressing up to a new level in their 1963 Gaz 21 M Volga. Apart from the clothes, the car was loaded with bits and pieces that citizens would use back in '63 like cases of Vodka, aeroplane tickets and the like. And the car itself is an ex KGB staff car. Check out the number-plate. And of course there is that attitude.....*

**Heaven on earth** is all around Adelaide, South Australia, on the last Sunday of September each year. I was in the area for the Bay to Birdwood Classic rally. It is a one day event where the classics travel from the seaside suburb of Glenelg to the small town of Birdwood, where there is housed probably the biggest collection of old motor vehicles in Australia. This year's event was a bit different as it ran via a different route than the traditional. Less suburban, faster and a bit of freeway travel, but still plenty of room for spectators both in suburbia and the small country towns. Because of the different route, rumours abounded that attendance would be poor. The rumourmongers, as it turned out, were dreamin'. There were 1556 cars entered. Because I generally loathe big cities I had managed to find accommodation in various country towns away from the big smoke, but as the magic Sunday got closer, more and more classic cars began to appear on the roads and most of them heading in the direction of Adelaide. Things were warming up. I was getting excited! And the day before the event I headed towards Tanunda in the Barossa Valley. On the back roads I travelled there were not a lot of cars, but a large percentage of the ones that were



*Jan Vaughan bought her Mini brand new in 1968 and it has served her well over all those years. Darwinites may remember it on the streets as she was a nurse here in the 1980's for ten years*

*The weather was perfect. There were a lot of convertibles all with the roof down.*



there were of the classic variety. And in every town there seemed to be one or two model T Fords, mostly on trailers. This was looking to be an interesting trip!

Here I have to admit that although I had paid my entry to the Birdwood event, I was not to be there as an entrant. The event coincided with another event I had entered, "Lizzies Convene in 2013" a Model T Ford international Rally starting in Tanunda later on the same day as the Bay to Birdwood. I had started the trip towing the model T on a trailer from Darwin with my 1970 Oldsmobile convertible. It was quite a sight. The big red Olds with the model T behind. Perhaps the General Motors car with its whopping 7.5 litre V8 couldn't handle the old Ford hanging in there so close behind it, but by the time we reached Hayes Creek, a mere 160 Kms down the track, the temp light came on in the Olds and it was seriously overheating. Since we were such a short distance into the trip and I expected higher temperatures travelling through central Australia, and the model T rally was the main event on the trip, and in the interest of not damaging the Oldsmobile, I decided to take it home, swap vehicles and tow the trailer down with the trusty old Nissan Patrol. Disappointing, but better than wrecking the engine and getting stuck 1000's of Km from home.

So we were in Tanunda, with, apart from all the classic cars driving around, 150 model T Ford's. Great! And although we were entered in the Bay to Birdwood, we didn't have a suitable car. It had to be 1956 to 1977, so we were to be spectators. We chose the venue at the finish to view the spectacle. That spectacle started a long way before we got there. It seems that everyone with any kind of classic car brings it out into the sunshine on this day. Motorbikes too! I happened to glance in the rear vision mirror to see a bike catching up quick. Behind it was a cavalcade so long that I never actually got to see how far back it went. Even on the occasional straight bit of road the other end still wound back out of sight. As we got near to Birdwood, even though half a dozen had passed us, they pulled over to regroup. I assume they wanted to reorganise for their grand entry into Birdwood. But it may have been to reorganize one of them that insisted on passing when there were cars coming from the opposite direction. But their column was at least 2 Km long, a lot of motorbikes, and most of them classics, Pommie and European with the occasional American. Quite a sight.

But we arrived in Birdwood before them. And the atmosphere was electric. The roads were all lined with spectators. The general idea was to get a parking spot then get out your deck chairs and wave the entrants in. Half of the spectators were in really neat classic cars too! Absolutely everywhere you looked were neat cars. Driving or riding or parked up, they were everywhere. There were just as many cool sets of wheels outside the venue as there were in. But we went inside to have a look. Here you enter a different world.



*The day is one big picnic*

*Its been a while since I saw a Mk 3 Zephyr*



*Ian is not much into walking but driving his Triumph Stag is not a problem.*





*No matter where you like your bikes to come from, they were here but there were lots of smicko Jap classics*



*Remember the Bellett? They were well represented.*



*Spotless Corvette had all is original papers and sales brochures on display in the boot*



*Looks like a caravan from the back. Is actually a 1978 Bedford/Dolphin motorhome. 202 power.*



*With an entry number of 0005 the owner of the Packard was obviously keen.*

*It seems red is the colour of choice for convertibles on this day.*





# **MVEC CHRISTMAS DINNER**

## **30th November 2013**

PLACE Nightcliff Sports Club

*TIME* 7.00pm for 7.30 start

*COST* members and guests \$25.00 per head

*Children under 16* \$12.50

*Children under 10* Free

*Bring a small present for your child if you would like Santa to hand it out*

**Please make sure your payment is in by the 18<sup>th</sup> of November for catering purposes, or you may miss out. Place payment in an envelope in the lectern at the Hangar with name and number of people, or online BSB 633-000 Acc.142473552 include your name and Nightcliff Sports so payments can be verified or mail to PO box 911 Darwin 0801 before the 18<sup>th</sup> November.**

**KRIS KRINGLE**



**To enter into our Christmas Kris Kringle raffle, each person is asked to bring a present under \$10.00 and you will then receive a ticket in**



# Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club Inc.

GPO Box 911 Darwin Northern Territory 0801

Established 1986

## 2013/14 Committee Nominations

Committee Position	Nominee's Name	Nominated by 2 members (Name & signature)	Nominee's Acceptance (Signature)
President		1	
		2	
Vice-President		1	
		2	
Secretary		1	
		2	
Treasurer		1	
		2	
Committee Position 1		1	
		2	
Committee Position 2		1	
		2	
Committee Position 3		1	
		2	
Committee Position 4		1	
		2	
Committee Position 5		1	
		2	
Committee Position 6		1	
		2	
Committee Position 7		1	
		2	
Committee Position 8		1	
		2	

**This Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October we will be having a get together for brunch at the BBQ area opposite Lake Alexander in East Point reserve, starting at 9.30am. Cost will be \$5.00 per head**

### **AGM**

**The MVEC AGM will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November at the QANTAS Hangar McDonald Street Parap starting at 6pm followed by a BBQ.**

**All members are urged to attend.**

**All positions are open, a nomination form is included in this newsletter and at the Hangar the completed form can be returned to the Hangar, posted to MVEC PO BOX 911 Darwin 0801 or emailed to [mvec@internode.on.net](mailto:mvec@internode.on.net) before the 8<sup>th</sup> November if possible. Nominations may also be called from the floor on the night if all positions are not filled.**

## WOTS ON THIS YEAR

**The year is getting on. Come along and enjoy!**

On the 2nd Wed of every month there is a members meeting at the hangar 7.30 pm plus bbq beforehand. Also there is a working bee at the hangar the following Sunday.

**20 October** 2013 Fannie Bay Breakfast. See prev page

**9 November** 2013 AGM See prev page.

**12th November** 2013 The last air raid. At Adelaide River. See blurb in last months Transmission.

**30 November** 2013 Christmas Dinner at Nightcliff Sports Club

If undeliverable return to  
MOTOR VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB  
GPO BOX 911 DARWIN 0801

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**The Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club  
extends it's thanks to  
Shannons Insurance  
For it's continued support for  
the club**