

# Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club



No 105

Mar 2016

# 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)

## Binalong



Now that's an engine. Cast your mind back to 1988 and you may remember this baby cruising the streets of Darwin. Its owner, Stuart Saunders drove it from Darwin to Adelaide and Canberra during the Bicentennial Rally. That's not all that's in Stuarts shed.

## Where the heck is Binalong?

**Stuart Saunders** was driving his vintage Darracq around London 40 yrs ago, it was his everyday go to work car. When he decided to move to Australia he brought it with him along with some of his other sets of wheels which varied from a late model Ferrari to a Honda motor bike. Since then the collection has grown enough for him to open a small museum in the neat little village of Binalong, not all that far from Canberra. In it are some pretty neat sights and some totally unique vehicles, and the whole town looks like it is hasn't changed since the olden days but possibly Binalong's greatest claim to fame is the ratio of Amilcar owners per capita of population. Stuart has one, so do 3 other members of the town which has a population of not many. Not many divided by 4 is unusually dense for these vehicles. But there is a lot more interesting stuff in this collection.



*Here is something you don't see everyday. A replica Daytona Ferrari engine crafted completely from wood. Even the sparkplug leads and clips are made of wood. It came up at a Bonhams auction in Sydney where it sat in the open without a glass case and wandering fingers had busted bits off. There wasn't a lot of interest so Stuart just kept his hand up and it became his. It turns out they made a couple of these in America, how this one came to be in Australia is a mystery. If you rev it too hard the exhaust tends to catch fire..*



*Stuart's 1927 Darracq was his daily driver back in London. Note the fabric covered Weymann body. The wooden frames are not jointed but attached by strips of steel, so the wooden bits never touch and so they never squeak. There is horsehair and silk beneath the fabric*



*Another car Stuart brought out from England with him. A 1972 Ferrari 363 GTC4. He has had it since 1974 and it is still smicko complete with original handbooks and tool-kit. It still gets used regularly but it has had that 4390cc V12 engine with its six twin throat Webers, out of the car. It wasn't because it wore out, he over revved it a bit in a hill climb and bent a valve. Reckons it is remarkably easy to work on. Does 7000rpm without breaking valves.*



Here's a way to keep the weight down in a motor vehicle. Build the body out of wicker. Stuart built the frame and a bloke in Canberra wove the body around it. The car is an Amilcar and its popularity is what makes Binalong famous. They raced these cars back in England as a cyclecar. To be eligible for that class they had to be less than 350 Kg hence the wicker body. It uses the same principles of construction as a balloon basket. Note the 2 actuating shafts sticking out of the brake backing plate (top pic). Two pairs of brake shoes share one drum. One shaft is for the foot brake, the other the hand brake. The lower pic shows how they both fit.

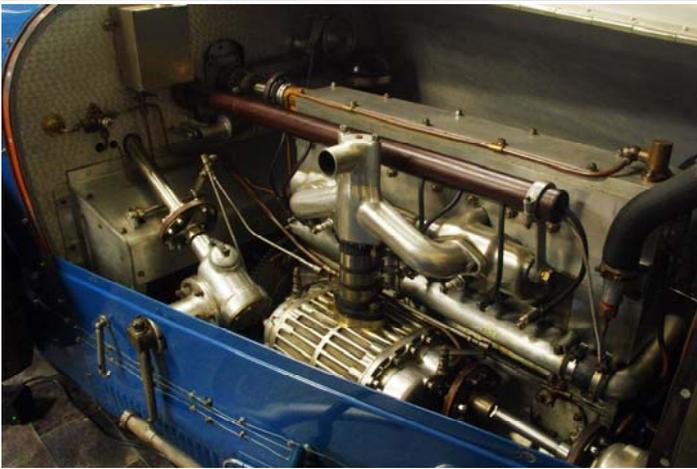
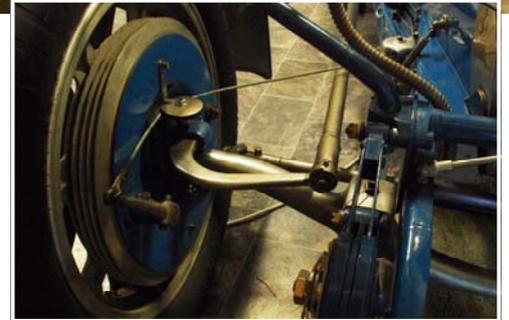
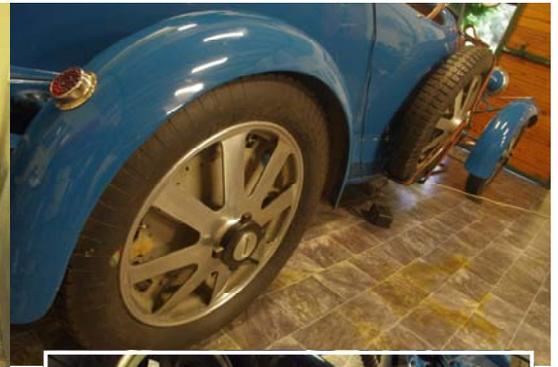


Most of what you see around here is made in Europe, so just to give it a bit of an international feel Stuart is working on a 1938 Packard. The car in the photo is of a model on the shelf, but the straight 8 engine is real. The rest of the car is currently at the panel shop.



Left: A highly modified Norton International that allegedly doesn't leak oil, is on loan to keep the Norton FI company. (right) This is a detuned replica of the rotary engine bike which won the Isle of Mann senior TT.





*1923 Type 43 Bugatti. This a stretched version of the model 35 Grand Prix racer.*

*2.3 litre engine supercharged. It is possible Bugatti were the first maker to use cast alloy wheels. All the shiny steel around the front axle and steering gear is just that, bare steel with no plating. Stuart informs me it doesn't go rusty. The occasional, perhaps yearly rub with a bit of wet n dry keeps it looking lovely. This is 1 of 16 Bugatti that were at Motor-classica in Melbourne recently.*



*If you haven't seen one of these for a while don't sweat! There is only one Binalong Special. It was built right here. Sits on a Jensen chassis similar to the Interceptor. Has Mk 2 Jag front end (same as Jensen) and E type independent at rear. Engine is early carby type 5.3 litre V12 Jag with Borg Warner auto. It runs a supercharger at 6.5 lbs.*

*The car is a tourer. Holds 100litres of fuel. There is a spot in the tail for a spare wheel, but luggage is restricted to behind the seat, being room for a toothbrush and more importantly, a corkscrew.*

*Pulls 25 Mph / 1000Rpm in top gear and is well silenced which makes for cruisy cruising. When it rains you get wet.*

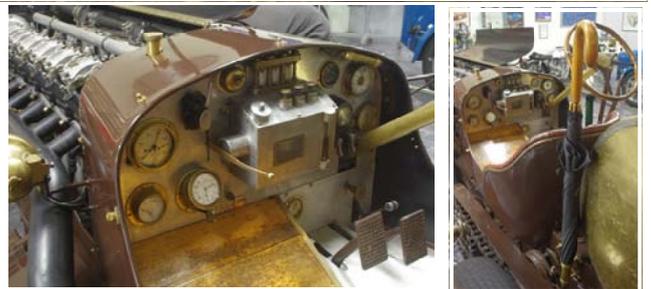


*Trade schools seem to think their modern day apprentices don't need cutaway 1970's vintage Falcon powerplants and were going to bin this display. Stuart has also scored a couple of relatively late model cutaway engines from motor companies. They don't want to be displaying anything but their cutting edge models.*



*To my eyes anyway, this 1908 MAB is what made my heart beat the fastest. Stuart found its remains rotting in a paddock near Wagga Wagga. The rest is his story... Manufacturer: Malicet et Blin of Aubevilliers, France. This car was built in 1908 and was found in Wagga Wagga being one of 2 chassis imported into Australia early last century. Its history is unknown but at some time it had been used on a property and was fitted with the remains of a truck deck. It was mechanically complete apart from the engine of which only the bottom end and cylinder blocks remain. The car has been dated from contemporary catalogues showing the range of chassis MAB built for cars and on a larger scale, for trucks. Everything from the flywheel back has been retained apart from the clutch which is a 1940's Dana-Spicer unit which copes with the torque. The engine has been replaced by a 27 litre Liberty aero engine made by Packard in 1918 to make the sort of racing car that was used at Brooklands after WWI. It produces 400 HP and 1000 Ft Lbs of torque. It is a V12 weighing in at 7 1/2 Cwt and is similar to the engine that powered "BABS" the car that gained the world land speed record in 1927 at 170 Mph. It actually has one of BABS rocker covers which replaces one that cracked on a tour of NZ in 1990.*

*At touring speed it consumes 9Mpg. Cruises comfortably at 80Mph and tops 100. Engine revs to 2000 Rpm and runs at 1000Rpm at 53 Mph. Weighs 32 Cwt with 50/50 weight distribution, handles great. Brakes: Terrible. As well as the Bicentennial rally it competed in the first Targa Tasmania rally covering 2000 Kms in 5 days. Neat!*





*You might find anything in a collection like this There is a London Austin taxi next to a Bolwel. I remember the Bolwel Nagari as a fibreglass kit car that you put whatever engine you fancy in it. Because it weighs next to nothing a 186 Holden made a pretty mean performance car. This example (the red car in the pic) sports a 351 Ford, but not just any mouldy 351. This is a Shelby version with 4 valve heads and 10.5:1 compression and a 780 Cfm Holley. All up weight of 790 Kg it must be something else to drive.*



*This not just a collection of any old wine. All these bottles are to commemorate a particular motoring event.*



*And what collection wouldn't have motorbikes. They don't all have to be performance jobs. Stuarts 350 Honda that he brought with him from England is amongst them.*



*Models are something you find in just about every collection. But in here some of them are a bit more substantial. There is a half scale Bugatti, a 12" scale steam locomotive, steam traction engine plus your normal small models. Did you pick the aeroplane?*





I couldn't leave out a mention of the Rolls Royce Meteor engine. The Meteor is the supercharged version of the Merlin engine. At 27 litres it powered the Centurion tanks of the Vietnam era. The perfect powerplant for another one off special car.

So next time you are cruising in the Yass, NSW area, drop into the Binalong Motor Museum where you will find Stuart in the workshop hard at work on something really neat..



# HOLDEN Vs FORD

## SHOW 'N SHINE

### Charity Fundraiser




**HOLDEN Kerry's Automotive Group**      **Hidden Valley Ford**








**Sun 01 May 10am - 2pm**

AT **DINAH BEACH** CRUISING YACHT ASSOCIATION      JUST DOWN FROM THE TIPPERARY WATERS SHOPS  
68 FRANCES BAY DRIVE, STUART PARK

- ◆ NEW MUSTANG & HSV CLUB SPORT on display
- ◆ CLASSIC CARS, HOT RODS
- ◆ FAMILY FUN ◆ KIDS CORNER
- ◆ FOOD & DRINKS, LICENSED BAR (no BYO)
- ◆ AUCTIONS & RAFFLES including A SANDMAN PANEL VAN SURF BOARD
- ◆ QUICKEST PIT CREW COMP

**PARTICIPANT entrant fee \$10**  
Pre-register please to 0417 262 918 or John.Palamountain@shannons.com.au

**ULTIMATE DECIDER BY PUBLIC VOTE!**      **PUBLIC entry by donation**

Want more info? Darren 0437010650 DBCYA 8981 7816





ALL PROCEEDS TO **variety** the children's charity

# Mini Muster BMC Round Up

## Sunday 11th September 2016













**Carina State School: 1413 Creek Rd. Carina South Brisbane QLD**

**Mini & BMC Swap Meet Starts 7am**

**Car Show entry 7.30am**  
Entry \$5 per Person  
Children Under 14 FREE

*Show n Shine Vehicle Competition Entry Extra*

**Parking is as you enter. If entering as a group or club, assemble before entry.**

**# Lucky Gate Prize # Huge Show n Shine # Traders # Raffles # Auctions # Entertainment #  
# Hot Food # Drinks # Mini & BMC Merchandise # Lots of Trophies # Commercials #  
# Large Commercials # Plus Much More #**

**Contact** John: 0432322437  
E: minimusterbmcroundup@gmail.com  
Website: www.miniownersclub.com.au













*A social gathering for like-minded car and bike enthusiasts. Held on the Second Sunday of the Month. Just a short leisurely cruise out to Howard Springs. Bring along your car/bike of any make, model, age or originality and catch up for a coffee and a donut.*

*When - Sunday 13 March 2016*

*Where - Howard Springs Bakery  
290 Whitewood Road, Howard Springs*

*What time - 9am - 11am*



*The intent of Cars, Coffee and Donuts is for like-minded people from across all parts of the Darwin car and bike scene with a love and a passion for automotive life and culture to gather and chat over a coffee. No matter what car/bike style, type you drive or the automotive circle you hang out in!! Oh and who doesn't love donuts from the famous Howard Springs Bakery.*

**There is a rumour floating around that this event has been called off. That rumour is not true. This event is on for sure.**

### RILEY RMB 1952

Very original, low mileage.  
20 years of Riley Club magazines  
Some books and spares  
\$7500

Brian 0427381469  
club rego till March 2017 if required



### 1979 Honda Accord

You are invited to remove anything off this car or take the whole thing if you should desire. It has been in the same ownership since 1981.

Eric 89277167

### 1982 Cadillac Eldorado Coupe

Give away . pick up only.

Mick 0408 837 348.

### Metal Polish

Another product I received in a sample bag is Miroxol metal polish. From the owner of a car with brass bits I can assure you this stuff is heaps better than any other polish I have ever used. After 5 months of neglect it was a breeze to get the brass on my model T up to show off grade. Didn't even raise a sweat.

Nobody sells it in Darwin but you can get it over the net  
<http://www.miroxolaustralia.com.au/>

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



### Free stuff

Get your free ads in here  
Give stuff away, sell stuff, get information, find a lover. Got a story to sell? Whatever you like.  
Email Ted at [longtelescope@gmail.com](mailto:longtelescope@gmail.com)  
Or phone 89886049

**Deadline.... The end of the month.**

### Previous editions

All previous editions of Transmission are now available at [mvec.weebly.com](http://mvec.weebly.com)





### **Darwin City Brass Band**

As part of the commemoration of the 74th anniversary of when the Japanese bombed Darwin the Darwin City Brass Band had a concert in the old QANTAS hangar. As has happened before when symphony orchestras and other music ensembles have performed here, the vehicles and machinery and stuff act on those sound waves every bit as good as the donuts hanging from the Sydney opera house ceiling. The acoustics in our hangar are impeccable. And the sights in the background are a whole heap better than any other music venue.  
Great!

## WOTS ON THIS YEAR

### Heaps! 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.

On the first Friday of every month there is a chrome bumper cruise at the Fishermans wharf. Attracts around 100 cars. Starts between 6.30 and 7.00 pm.

**13 Mar** Inaugural Coffee Cars and Donuts at Howard Springs. See flyer page 8.

**2 May** Mayday. Cruise to Adelaide river Historical Railway precinct .

Meet at hangar to *leave at 9AM*

**8 May** Aviation museum open cockpit day . Cook snags for Legacy. Show off your vehicles.

**24-28 May** Model A national rally rolls into Darwin. 93 A model Fords in town.

**9 July** Gangsters Ball at Berry Springs Dress up and dancing Ted 89886049

**10 July** MVEC vs Holden club cricket match at Batchelor

**17 July** Darwin to the Doo. Join the ferals with a car show at Taminmin library at Humpty Doo. Always a good turnout.

Working bee this Sunday has some above average fun jobs.

- Help pull the head off an XJ6 Jaguar.
- Start up some of Leo's engines and make sure they are running ok. Leo's shoulders aren't what they used to be and he needs some not so delicate persons to swing those cranks. A good chance to find out the intricacies of these magnificent old machines.
- Start the Thornycroft truck

There is a spreadsheet listing wots on for the next couple of months attached.

## Stuff on the net

This video is actually a promotion for an auction back in 2013. It's a bit sad that such a wonderful collection was broken up, but just enjoy the sights!

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=6IYISQ6DVwk&vq=medium](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=6IYISQ6DVwk&vq=medium)

And generally the thought of a steam powered aeroplane is the subject of a joke but it seems they actually built and flew one back in 1933.

<http://www.flixxy.com/besler-steam-airplane.htm>

And for a bit more reading check out

<http://blog.modernmechanix.com/worlds-first-steam-driven-airplane/>

## In memory

One Sunday morning, the Priest noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the Church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The 6-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the Priest walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Alex.' 'Good morning, Father,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?' The Priest said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the Service.' Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, 'Which service, the 7:30 or the 9:00 ?'

## Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club "Whats On" for March April & May.

Type	Vehicle/s	Month	Date	Depart From	Departure Time	Destination or Details
The Hangar Working Bee	All Members	Mar	Sunday, March 13, 2016	The Hangar	8:30 to 11:30	Come and give us a hand to keep the Hangar looking clean and tidy, bring the next generation with you and teach them how things work and show them some of the Territory's History. Learn how to start one of Leo Izod's historic engines. Ph: 08 8942 0758
Bikes, Cars Coffee & Donuts	All Members	Mar	Sunday, March 13, 2016	Howard Springs Bakery	9:00 to 11:00	An all Car and Bike Club event for like minded people. Come and have a chat, a cuppa and a donut from 9:00 to 11:00 no matter what you in or on. 290 Whitewood Road, Howard Springs. John Palamountain 0417 262 918
Chrome Bumper Cruise	Cars	Apr	Friday, April 01, 2016	Fishermans Warf	7:00pm	Get yourself some Fish & Chips and come down to Fishermans Warf and check out the Classics, Gassers & Hot Rods till 8:00pm then join the cruise through town and head on out to Truck City at Berrimah and then home. Pete's Tip: Come Early and get a good spot to park as some nights there are over 60 cars and parking becomes difficult.
Morning Highway Blast	Bikes	Apr	Sunday, April 03, 2016	Caltex Berrimah	8:30am	Adelaide River Pub, Meet at the Caltex Berrimah for the first big ride of the season with a run south and back. Pete 0459 818131
Club Meeting	All Members	Apr	Wednesday, April 13, 2016	Hangar	7:00pm	The Monthly Meeting to discuss club matters. Come and have a chat, listen to what's happening and maybe take part in our next project and it's planning. There's usually a sausage sizzle and maybe a couple of tasty pies donated by Tim from Outback Bakeries to be had for a small donation. 08 8942 0758
The Hangar Working Bee	All Members	Apr	Sunday, April 17, 2016	The Hangar	8:30 to 11:30	Come and give us a hand to keep the Hangar looking clean and tidy, bring the next generation with you and teach them how things work and show them some of the Territory's History. Learn how to start one of Leo Izod's historic engines. 08 8942 0758
Bikes, Cars Coffee & Donuts	All Members	Apr	Sunday, April 17, 2016	Howard Springs Bakery	9:00 to 11:00	An all Car and Bike Club event for like minded people. Come and have a chat, a cuppa and a donut from 9:00 to 11:00 no matter what you in or on. 290 Whitewood Road, Howard Springs John Palamountain 0417 262 918
ANZAC Day	All Members	Apr	Monday, 25th April	QANTAS Hangar	9:00	Open Day at Club 08 8942 0758
Morning Highway Blast	Bikes	May	Sunday, May 01, 2016	Caltex Berrimah to Darwin River Dam	8:30am	Darwin River Dam. Stuart Highway South through Noonamah right onto Cox Peninsula Road, left onto Darwin River road to the Dam. Back via Old Bynoe Road to the Highway and then Noonamah Pub for a squash. Pete 0459 818131
Picnic Day cruise. Adelaide River Railway Museum	Anyone	May	Monday May 2 2016	QANTAS Hangar	Leave at 9am	The Picnic day public holiday was actually a railway picnic day, so it is fitting to be at the historic railway precinct for the picnic day celebrations. Come for a pleasant cruise and check out their latest restorations at Adelaide River. Ted 89886049
Chrome Bumper Cruise	Cars	May	Friday, May 06, 2016	Fishermans Warf	7:00pm	Get yourself some Fish & Chips and come down to Fishermans Warf and check out the Classics, Gassers & Hot Rods till 8:00pm then join the cruise through town and head on out to Truck City at Berrimah and then home. Pete's Tip: Come Early and get a good spot to park as some nights there are over 60 cars and parking becomes difficult.
Aviation museum open cockpit day	anyone	May	Sunday May 8 2016	Aviation Museum Winnellie	tba	Cook snags to raise money for Legacy. Show off your car or bike and check out the open cockpits of the planes. Finer details next month's meeting.
Club Meeting	All Members	May	Wednesday, May 11, 2016	Hangar	7:00pm	The Monthly Meeting to discuss club matters. Come and have a chat, listen to what's happening and maybe take part in our next project and it's planning. There's usually a sausage sizzle and maybe a couple of tasty pies donated by Tim from Outback Bakeries to be had for a small donation. 08 8942 0758
The Hangar Working Bee	All Members	May	Sunday, May 15, 2016	The Hangar	8:30 to 11:30	Come and give us a hand to keep the Hangar looking clean and tidy, bring the next generation with you and teach them how things work and show them some of the Territory's History. Learn how to start one of Leo Izod's historic engines. 08 8942 0758
Bikes, Cars Coffee & Donuts	All Members	May	Sunday, May 15, 2016	Howard Springs Bakery	9:00 to 11:00	An all Car and Bike Club event for like minded people. Come and have a chat, a cuppa and a donut from 9:00 to 11:00 no matter what you in or on. 290 Whitewood Road, Howard Springs John Palamountain 0417 262 918