

# Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

No 14

**OCT 07**

# TRANSMISSION



If you find you need more information about this club or just cant wait to join ring Peet Menzies on 89814746 GPO Box 911 Darwin 0801 In Katherine call 89711325 Newsletter enquiries to Ted propellers@bigpond.com or 89886049

**The voice of the Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club**

## PROGRESSIVE

**What's a progressive dinner?** One a bit better than last time you would reckon? One way to find out is to be there so I cautiously climbed on the bus. We headed out from the Parap hangar and as we cruised along Fannie Bay towards East Point I knew exactly

how a tourist feels. Beer in one hand camera in the other. Great! Just to make us feel more at home as tourists, Jeeves our driver took us for a tour of the military relics at the point only to find they have blocked some of the roads and had to reverse the coach out. Sure enough, a car saw us and drove up



*A bunch of terrorists? No Just a bunch of motor vehicle enthusiasts acting like terrorists!*

close behind. No worries though and soon we were disembarking at the most ideal spot to watch the sunset at the top of the cliffs. The council had even installed seats for us and fences so we couldn't fall off after absorbing too much alcohol. This is one seriously beautiful spot at sunset and even before the seats were installed I have seen endless tourist buses disgorge their cargo here resulting in severe overcrowding. When I paid the modest fee to cover the evening I had not realised that Brian and Lyn Bates, the organisers, had hired a bunch of heavies to clear the spot so we had the whole place to ourselves. As the sun headed towards the horizon in all its glory, we were invited to partake in a glass of bubbly and some fine delicacies were passed around. Now being a beer drinker I am a bit careful tasting these wines but what was on offer here was most definitely pleasing to the palate and as I drained the bottle into my glass I mentioned to Brian it was not bad at all where he pointed out to me there were a lot more bottles to be gotten through before we left this venue. At the same time more and more plates of different goodies kept appearing. This was pretty good !!

Well the sun had one glass too many and fell into the sea and Jeeves invited us to get back on the coach. Soon we were exploring the Nightcliff foreshore and once again we disembarked on the lawns above the cliffs (was this a test). Here we were given the next course, a prawn cocktail. Now I have had plenty of these where you demolish it with one bite. But tonight's dish was not lacking in size or taste. This progressive dinner started great and was progressively getting better. Back on the bus again and after meandering the back streets of Nightcliff Jeeves pulled up outside Pauline and Trevor Feehan's home. We ambled in to their garden to soft music and formally laid out tables with more wine and a caterer to feed us the main course. About this time my dear wife informed me she was enjoying the wine so much and that I did such a good job of driving home last night I had set the precedent and was driving home this night also. No more wine for me. Just a quiet beer. I am such a devoted husband....

The main meal was faultless and no washing up. There were even plastic cups for those who still had a full glass of wine when it was time to get back on the bus. (you had to leave the flash glassware at Trev's) A bit of winding around Rapid Creek just to confuse us and Jeeves



*Les and Melanie reflect on what a great place to get forgotten by the bus driver*



*Chris and Cathy Armitstead soak up the sunset*

emptied us out at the Water Gardens. Once again we had the roofed area and tables to ourselves. (the heavies had been there first no doubt)

This stop was for desert. Brian pointed out to all that there were enough pieces of each type of desert so everyone could have one piece of everything. Well with an invitation like that I had a piece of everything and cream and icecream and although it looked and tasted great, I had to concentrate a bit to get through it all. Maybe that was my experience progressing.?

Back on the bus again to where? Here I must digress and mention a little story which unfolded during the bus parts of the evening. One young lady went to great pains to collect tickets on the bus and for the first half of the evening was totally unsuccessful. After the main course she hit the jackpot and collected 3 tickets. For the rest of the night she tried her hardest to sell the 3 tickets and at one point tried to corrupt our president with passionate kisses. Ah , the scandal!

With great skill Jeeves delivered the same bunch of souls back to the hangar, but those souls were of a much more relaxed state compared with when they embarked several hours before. But the evening was not over yet! Liqueurs and ports were passed around with the tea and coffee.

To sum it up... A ripper night, a credit to the culinary and the organising skills of Lyn and Brian Bates.

And the night was progressive for sure!!  
Be there next time!

Remember the Hemi barbie? Well here is the first of a couple of eqally impressive ways of burning your snags. Perhaps we need to upgrade "The Gorilla" (for those uninformed few, the Gorilla is the club's trailer mounted barbie.)



## LONDON SCIENCE MUSEUM

Science Museum. The words will make some people shudder with thoughts of high school and dissecting cane toads n stuff. Science is actually responsible for the cars and good mechanical stuff that we are all enthusiasts of. Scientific theory is where it all started. When in London recently I found they had an early model "Watt" steam engine so I just had to have a look. I alighted from the taxi (looked just like Ben Munneke's taxi but it was new) in front of a building that looked like it would have been at home in an old Roman movie. Step inside and after you got past the anti terrorist stuff you were in a different world.



*1903 Mill engine. Drove 1700 looms at once. Bloody beauti-*



*1777 model just to get the ball rolling*

Lucky I got here at opening time.....

First up was the Watt engine. Not a replica but the real thing built in 1777. But this good stuff went on as far as the eye could see. Right next door was a Newcomen style atmospheric engine. This one was built in 1791 and was at work for 127 years till 1918. Even your Southern Cross diesel will have to try hard to beat that. These two engines are massive beam engines. Not restored or running. Just preserved and there. Its bloody fantastic. About here dear wifey went off to do her own thing and left me drooling over all these goodies. But this stuff went on and on. The room I was in was bigger than our hangar and it was chock full of this stuff and this was just a portion of the ground floor. There were many floors above, each with a different subject. After countless early steam engines (some of the later model ones sported a flywheel attached to the beam),

I forced myself to move on past the largest mill engine I am ever likely to see and through a door to the world of outer space. They had an engine from a Saturn 5 rocket (went to the moon and back) A used space capsule (they landed in the sea under parachutes) and a larger space vehicle straight out of a James Bond movie where the front opens up and swallows other smaller spaceships. But the real amazing stuff was they were shooting missiles with



*The Rocket in person. Keeps getting better!*

explosive (but not nuclear) warheads back in the days of flintlock muskets. Moving on and the next room has just about anything you could think of. There underneath aeroplanes and stuff hanging from the ceiling way above was Robert Stevenson's Rocket. The actual fair dinkum Rocket. I had to give it a cuddle. I think it was about here I realised the Pommies are pretty good at preserving their heritage. The early steam engines I mentioned at the start were rescued from the scrap heap about 1880. The Rocket had a couple of minor bits missing but was certainly recog-

nisable as the machine that started the ball rolling in the train department all those years ago. As I traveled around UK I found a few brand new replicas of the Rocket. The Science Museum also had the opposition, Richard Trevethic's locomotive too. There was a 1931 Foden truck, there had to be a model T Ford, but there were one off models of other cars including a jet engined 1950 convertible Rover. They



*How many good things can you see in here?*

reckon they didn't proceed with it as it used too much juice. I reckon it would have scorched the grille of the car behind you when you took off from the lights! There was a speed boat Miss England, Built in 1929 with a 950hp aeroplane engine, built for Henry Segrave to break the world water speed record. She did 91mph making it the fastest single engined boat but the Yanks had two engines and took the record.. There was a V2 rocket, one of the beasties the Nazis fired at England during WW2, also a buzz bomb from the same source. Babbage's difference engine from 1892 is an early mechanical calculator, amazing stuff all hand made from brass.



*That's a Rocket powered Messerschmitt hanging near the Hurricane*

Their popular cars they have in a rack stacked 6 high. It goes on and on but I had but one day here. Amongst the subjects on other floors were time and plastic. The time display had an amazing collection of timepieces through the ages and as I was perusing it occurred to me they may have John Harrison's se-

ries of clocks here.(Harrison invented the chronometer, they made a mini series a few years ago, "Longitude" about him.) Although they had a display about Harrison they didn't have his clocks, they are at Greenwich and yes, I did see them, but they wouldn't let me photograph them. They are indescribably beautiful and are still ticking away keeping perfect time. Up we went. Did it ever occur to you that Bakelite is the original plastic. It came about just by one man's determination. Leo Baekeland reckoned he was on the right track. He wouldn't give up and viola. He came up with something we all know. They called it Bakelite after him.

The afternoon was getting on and we still hadn't made it to the top floor, after all there was lots of other good stuff including a maritime section. We finally did make it to the top and what would you expect to be hanging from the roof of a museum? Planes! There were dozens of them. First off there was a collection of every aeroplane engine ever made. There was a propeller off an early fighter where the machine gun fired through the revolving prop and there was no synchronisation with the bullets. They had to change the prop fairly often. They had Spitfires and Hurricanes hanging from the roof alongside a Vickers Vimy bomber and a Schnieder racing floatplane. They were thoughtful enough to put the Pitts Special upside down. A slice from the middle of a Boeing 747 and a massive collection of the beginning of aviation. They had the original Wright Bros. Flyer but the Yanks wanted it and gave them a replica for it. One notable exhibit was a steam powered plane and yes, it crashed. About this time the security people were emphatically suggesting we leave. If you ever visit this place allow a couple of days. Apart from all the fantastic stuff they have there the other amazing thing...

Its Free. And , I found Wifey!



*Incinerate your pursuer in this 1950 Rover jet powered car!*

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT 2007**

**This report covers the 2006/2007 Activities and Operation of the Motor Vehicle Enthusiast Club Inc.**

### **Meetings**

#### **MVEC**

This year we continued with the committee meeting starting at 5.30 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, followed by a sausage sizzle before the general meeting at 7.30 Attendances at meetings have remained steady at around 30 people.

#### **NT Motoring Council**

We have attended all meetings of the newly formed NT Motoring council and assisted in helping at events when volunteers were available. Most notable was the BBQ at Hidden Valley for Senior Australian of the year Phil Herreen during his visit to the Territory

#### **MAGNT**

We met with Museum management and signed the Hangar agreement for the next three years.

#### **MVR**

MVEC committee members met with MVR re concerns expressed by members with the proposed Club Registration Scheme, which is on hold at the moment due to MVR "having more pressing problems"

### **Club Events and Activities so far this year**

We have operated this year without an activities coordinator but thanks to the work put in by the committee and club members we were able to successfully continue with our club events. Particular thanks go to Brian and Lyn Bates for the ongoing planning and organising of food and drinks for the events.

- Following the last AGM our first event on November 26<sup>th</sup> was brunch at Darwin River Dam and a visit to Robert and Maureen Newman's place to check out the tractor collection
- December 16<sup>th</sup> it was off to the hub in Palmerston for our Christmas dinner, members attending had such a good time the venue has been booked for this years dinner on the 8<sup>th</sup> December
- On February 19<sup>th</sup> club members provided WW2 vehicles for the service at the cenotaph namely Dodge weapons carrier, Chevy Blitz and 3 Jeeps
- February 25 was early breakfast at East Point
- Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup> we had brunch with the Katherine mob on the Harbour foreshore near the deckchair cinema
- Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> April saw us double booked, the speed demons were off to Shannon's All Club day at Hidden Valley and thanks to Ron and Aileen's catering were well fed as well, also thanks to John Palamountain from Shannons for covering catering costs.
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April Rowan Charrington Brian Bates, John Lear, Bob (bloody) Kennedy from Victoria and myself did a sausage sizzle at the Aviation Heritage Centre Legacy day with MVEC donating our takings rounded out to \$200 to legacy.
- 25<sup>th</sup> April MVEC member's Jeeps assisted in carrying TPI veterans at the head of the ANZAC day parade through Darwin
- 29<sup>th</sup> April and it was brunch at Marlow's Lagoon where an enjoyable time was had by all who attended
- 20<sup>th</sup> May saw MVEC members take part in the National day of Motoring sponsored by NT Motoring council
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June the second successful Shannons motoring extravaganza was held with

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

- MVEC doing the sausage sizzle and exhibiting members cars
- 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June, Garrey and Lorraine Colliver organised a great weekend at Mandorah
- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> July to the touring group under the guidance of Ray Grimshaw headed off on a most successful 4wd cruise to Broome and back
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July The great MVEC versus CHCC cricket match at Batchelor saw MVEC take the trophy
- 2nd August sunset dinner at DTBC with 90 members of the Vauxhall club from around Australia organised by Trev Feehan
- 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> August the Rejex rally was run thanks to Graham Toner and Laurie Feehan with the financial side of things under the expert control of Barry and Jan Stach
- 25<sup>th</sup> August we catered for senior citizen of the year and ex Speedway champ Phil Herreen's visit at the Hidden Valley Complex
- 26<sup>th</sup> August Trev and Pauline's mystery run around Darwin was great fun followed by sunset BBQ at East Point
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September Katherine flying fox festival courtesy of Katherine Branch and Shannons where thanks go to Kath and Noel Neil and John Palamountain, regrettably attendance by Darwin members was down this year
- 29<sup>th</sup> September was progressive dinner time thanks to the organisation of Brian and Lyn assisted by Trev and Pauline it was a terrific event, a great time was had by all

### Hangar Operations

**February** 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> saw us open the Hangar for the bombing of Darwin commemoration that included a visit by veterans who served here during WW2 and sponsored by Darwin Council.

Thanks to the artistic efforts of Tom, John Price, Leo, Trev Feehan, Brian Bates, Ron Blanchard and Stuart to mention a few we were able to construct a realistic replica of a typical WW2 rest area complete with period music and military vehicles parked outside, brought back memories for a few old timers. Thanks also to the helpers on the day

**Saturday** March 24<sup>th</sup> our Birthday bash at the hangar for MVEC's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, MVEC members from Katherine were able to join us to celebrate and celebrate we did to Ron and Aileen's music with our dancing queen Lorraine getting everyone up and shuffling until late.

**Saturday** 11<sup>th</sup> August as part of the Darwin Festival, the Duo Lointaine again put on a magic performance with around 300 people in attendance.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** Fathers open day at the hangar a very successful day with Tom Rowan and Stuart starting up machinery and truck engines to the delight of visitors

### **Baz Lurhman Film Australia**

MVEC Members supplied all vehicles used in the Darwin segment for the epic starring Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman. Leo and Robert Newman also supplied machinery and a Tractor for use in the Kununurra sequence

**Hangar facilities** were put to use for servicing the visiting combined Vauxhall Clubs vehicles and the Tail end Charlie Chamberlain tractors, enacting the original Redex round Australia rally when a Chamberlain tractor followed the rally as backup

**Visitors** have increased this year with a corresponding increase in donations towards the running and upkeep of the club and its assets, special thanks are due to the efforts of Leo and Tom for being there to keep the Hangar open. Thanks also to Howard Moses, Ron Green, Barry McKenzie, Pete Van Her-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

rick, Rowan Charrington, Trev Feehan, and others who gave up their time to keep the place open when Leo was again forced to go to Adelaide for treatment to his shoulder.

Thanks also to Bob Archibald, Tom, Bob Sharp and Pete Van Herick who keep the grass and weeds around the Hangar down

**Insurance**

During the year our club insurance was transferred from TIO to AUSTNET through the NT Motor-ing Council giving the club a broader coverage and a saving of around \$1600.00

**Financials**

Financially our Bank balance has grown from last year, full details are in the audit report.

Our treasurer Ron will step down this year and I thank him for the effort he has put in to keep our fi-nances on the strait and narrow.

The master of the grant Stuart has also been successful again, thanks to his efforts the club received a federal grant to purchase a Honda Motor Mower a Whippersnipper and new pads for the vehicle hoist

**Membership**

Our current membership is around 270 made up of, family and single members and includes members in Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and includes 3 life and 3 honorary members. 38 new members have joined this year and 29 members have not rejoined since June,

**Committee**

Without a committee the club couldn't function and the members this year have continued to uphold the high standards set by past committees in the running of MVEC thank you all.

**From the Bulletin of 1916**

Mrs Cocky: " It'll be our silver weddin next week, John. Will we kill the pig?"

John: Wot's the good o murderin the pig for what took place twenty five years ago?"

Peet Menzies

President

13/10/2007

One day, a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very sexy nightie. "Tie me up," she purred, "and you can do anything you want."

So he tied her up and went golfing.

\*\*\*\*\*

A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs, "Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!"

The husband said, "Oh my God! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?" "Doesn't matter," she said. "Just get out"



The Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

Extends its thanks to

**Shannons**

**Insurance**

For its continued support for the club

# Cars on the World Wide Web

By John Price



Though not currently owning one I have always had an interest in motorcycles, and this month I have found a web page that covers Australian built veteran and early vintage motorcycles. [users.senet.com.au/~mitchell](http://users.senet.com.au/~mitchell) Leon Mitchell from Adelaide has created his own web page and covers Australian bikes like Blue Bird, Bullock, De Luxe, Lewis, Peerless and Victor Blackburne motorcycles.



Also on this same site is quite an extensive rundown of Lewis Motorcycles.

From the web page:

*Vivian Lewis established a bicycle business in Adelaide, South Australia in 1892. As the motor age dawned in the late 1890s Lewis embraced motorcars and motor cycles with enthusiasm. Vivian Lewis Limited went on to produce a large number of motorcycles - by Australian standards at least - before production ceased in the mid 1920s. On this web site, we try to capture some of the vibrancy of the motor age at the Lewis Cycle and Motor Works.*



## Wots Left This Year

**We have three events left on our MVEC calendar this Year plus a request for volunteers from John Obolevics for the Australia Day Ute run 2008**

*For information on any of the below give Peet Menzies a call on 89814746 hmenzies@ozemail.com.au*

**On the Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> of this month**, sunset will be at **6.46pm** so your committee has decided to hold a sunset vigil

**Place:** Overlooking the Dripstone Cliffs

**Time:** from around 6pm.

**How to get there:** Follow Trower Road to its end at Brinkin you can't miss it

**What to bring:** Chairs a small table food if you wish and drinks plus a light

**We will supply:** Tea and Coffee

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November: Buffet Breakfast**

**Place:** the Sunset Lounge at the Skycity Casino, we need an indication of numbers for this by 22<sup>nd</sup> November as we pay a deposit for more than 10 people

**Time:** 9am

**Cost:** \$12.95 per head, less for seniors and Kids

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Dinner** (more details in next newsletter)

**Place:** The Hub Palmerston. Time, menu & cost in next months newsletter.

**Presents:** as is our MVEC custom everyone is asked to bring along a gift costing no more than **\$10** for the Christmas raffle,

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

**PRINT  
POST**  
PP 545393-00032

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA

### The Australia Day Ute Run

Let Peet know if you would like to be involved

1. The Ute Run will be conducted on Saturday 26 Jan 08.
2. The run will depart the Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex (HVMSM) at 1230 pm sharp. Arrive at the Winnellie Park Greyhound Club approx 1.30 pm.
3. Request Qty x 3 volunteers to help at the main gate at the HVMSM. Period 10am - 1230 pm. (2 1/2 hours).
4. Request Qty x 2 volunteers to help run the Push-A-Ute competition. Period 1.30pm - 3.30 pm. (2 hours).
5. Request Qty x 2 volunteers to help out with the Muffler Throwing competition. Period 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm. (2 hours).
6. Request Qty x 2 volunteers to help out with the Thong Throwing competition. Period 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm. (2 hours).

*For information give Peet Menzies a call on 89814746 hmenzies@ozemail.com.au*