

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

No 150

AUG 2022

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
Newsletter enquiries to Ted
longtelescope@gmail.com

Show time



Wow! what a roll up. The show people think so much of our old cars that they requested we again come to be part of the grand parade. And with such a great roll up I think we were pretty close to **the** Grand parade. Lots of waving and honking to excited kids as we cruised round the arena, it was a good show.

And once we finished on the oval a far percentage parked their cars up on display inside the show-grounds. They generated a lot of interest. And there were a couple of cars we hadn't seen before making their debut. Stay tuned for future issues their stories.

We will call him Jack. Not his real name and like Jessie last month he would prefer to remain anonymous. But I have permission to reveal that Jack and his collection are someplace in South Australia.

Have you ever heard it said that he who wins has the most toys? I have also heard it said that he who wins has the most memories. Well Jack is right up there in the winners circle as not only does he have biggest mobs of neat stuff, but some of it goes right back to when he was a very small child. A baby in fact. He has the very pusher that his parents bought to push him round in. Not only that, but he even has the receipt from when it was bought. I guess his parents didn't chuck anything out either.

I was shown through Jack's shed at the rear of his house some years ago. It was pretty neat. Big, and lots of interesting cars and engines and that general good stuff you find in interesting sheds. I had a good time there, but on parting Jack invited me, next time I'm down to give him a call and he will show me the shed on the farm. That was quite a few years ago and I finally got round to contacting him and arranged a visit to the farm.

The shed was one of those gigantic sheds you see parked in farms all over Australia. I suppose having a portable steam engine parked outside the door could have suggested there was something other than stock feed or fertilizer inside, but it was parked in a way that blended in with its surrounds. You had to step inside through a normal sized door before the WOW got you. Here was a serious collection of just about anything that ever existed and although a lot of it had been collected from other sources there was a significant lot of it that was tied up with Jack and his family.

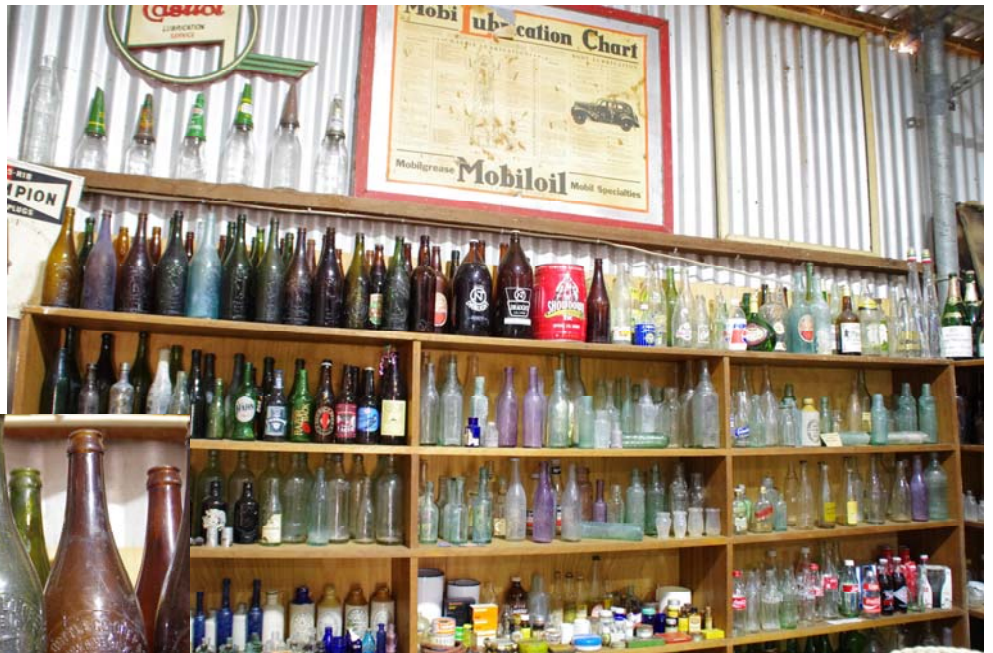
The first thing I noticed when I walked in the door was the beer can collection covering the end wall. It got a bit out of hand Jack says. And this is not all of it either. There are boxes more in another shed. And Coke cans too, and when I look at the photo I took, I can see there on the same wall a collection of alarm clocks and taps, not to mention display cases with glassware, cast iron pots and bottles. And this is from the first step inside the door. Cruising through the shed you get to see stuff that you would see every day in years gone by from baby stuff to early TV sets and radiograms to one that you would have dribbled over back in the days where the TV radio and record player were all side by side in the same cabinet, and musical instruments including a pianola. Cruising on through the shed were tractors from the early 1900's mixed with old cars and more tractors and trucks not quite as old. It was all pretty fantastic and after a long lap of the shed, I was informed "but wait there's another shed." So off we go outside to another equally as big shed round the back. On the way naturally there is more good stuff including the remains of an Avro Anson aeroplane. Jack tells me he built this shed only a couple of years back to bring some of his gear together as it was stashed in sheds all over the place. At the last minute he decided to make it a bay longer and it was lucky he did because it is chock a block already. But the first thing you see as you walk in the door this time is a whopping big army tank bristling with guns. It works too and those guns don't actually shoot bullets but they look and sound like they do. They run on propane gas which is pretty lifelike.

It would take a whole book to tell you the story of every beauty in this collection so here is a bunch of photos of a cross section which I hope will give you the vibes of what Jack has collected. While you are cruising through, don't forget to see the stuff in the background.



Cans, millions of em. Jack admits it got a bit out of hand . There are boxes more of em in another shed too. Once you have a collection the problem is people give you more of them...

Bottles too . Oil bottles above and Darwin stubbies bob up anywhere there is a collection. But check out the different coloured beer bottles from the war era. They couldn't get the pigment to make the bottles amber coloured hence the odd colours.



And this coke bottle from Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands was discarded by the Yanks in WW2. It has the date 7/44 cast into it.



And here we not only have the pusher that Jack spent his infancy in, but the receipt for it as well. Note the phone number C6322 .



Fancy a Port? General motors issued a commemorative bottle.

A bunch of PMG pole insulators. The label in the glazing states "made in occupied Japan 1948"



The more you check out the contents of these display cabinets, the more you see of memories of long ago.



More family stuff. The rocker was unloaded in 1853 at Port Adelaide by his forefather. Commode was his Grandmother's.



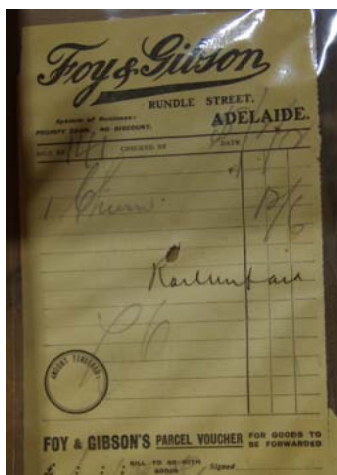
These cash registers are all in pounds shillings and pence. Note the closest one even has halfpennys.



Valve radios from the days when everyone sat round them and a radiogram with built in TV that you would have died for.



Note the receipt on the butter churn for 12/6 . Foy and Gilson have no phone no . I guess phones were not a necessity in 1912. Or maybe they were just smarter.

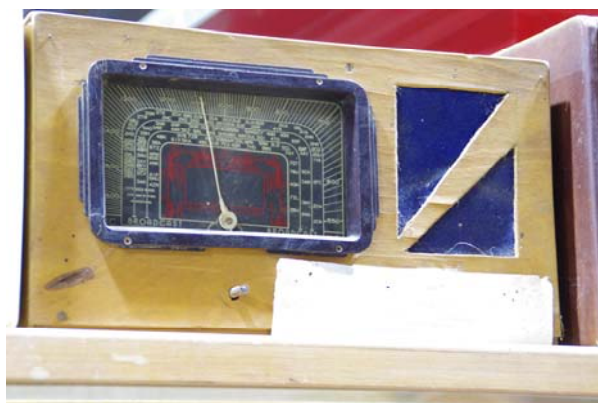


In this lot something would stand out for everyone. For me it was the Cats Whisker tin. Remember making a crystal set? Well in the collection was one Jack had made at primary school in 1955, plus a one valve radio which was the next obvious step from the crystal set. Imagine school kids today being allowed to do good stuff like that.



Jack's crystal set cheated a bit with the use of a diode instead of a crystal.

His radio is a beauty. Not bad for primary school.



Once upon a time when they laid a railway sleeper they would whack a nail into it with the year on the nail head. They did that from 1929 up until 1973. For some reason they didn't make any in 1930 or 31, hence the gap. Jacks collection is missing the last one of 1973



A 1920 20hp Moline tractor. American made but not much of a success as underpowered. one forward gear and one reverse. It did have a diff lock and turning brakes which was unusual for this era, but was used more as a stationary engine than a tractor.



This is the end where the driver sits. Not a very substantial machine.

Jelbart tractor from 1916. 6/10 HP at 625 rpm. Single cylinder piston port 2 stroke engine. 3 speed gearbox. The transfer port for the engine is external and is the pipe you can see with a 90 deg bend in it around the end of the engine. They claimed that when it was hot it would run on just about anything including mutton fat. And a bit more comfort for the driver, a roof. Made in Ballarat, Vic.



1920 SCAT. The previous owner has converted the seats into laybacks. The remains of the upholstery show it to have been quite a comfy car in its heyday. The pocket behind the front seat is for the side curtains.



*1923 Fordson F tractor.
4 cyl 251 cubic ins. Runs buzz
coils. They also quote the HP as
12 at the drawbar or 22 at the
belt.*

*Has 3 speed transmission which
gives a top speed of around 8-
9mph. The original owner of this
tractor owned 2 farms about 30
kms apart and spent considerable
miles driving the tractor back and
forth between them. So when Jack
bought it , top gear was quite
worn out. He had to find a donor
vehicle to fix it.*

*Between 1917 and 1928 they
made 747681 of em in USA and
7597 in Ireland.*

*And just as a matter of interest, Ford model T engines
were of 177 cu ins. The early Falcon pursuit engine was
170 cu ins.*

*This tractor is 251 cu ins and the later Falcons were
250 cu ins.*

*Oil bath air cleaners were pretty common equipment once
but this tractor sports a water bath air cleaner. Even has
a unscrewable plug at the bottom to drain the mud.*



A vision splendid

OTA tractor (Oak Tree Appliances) Coventry England 1949 model. The Ford script on the front was due to the powerplant from a Ford Prefect. The advertising back in its day promoted the idea of "don't wear your tractor out on little jobs"



1924 Case tractor. 4 cylinder 381 cu in engine is mounted sideways.

1935 C35 International truck



The Graham Bros truck is a gem but check out what is on the tray behind. In danger of going right through the tray is a V12 Lycoming engine from a La France fire truck. An ex fireman reminisced driving a La France ladder truck down Port Rd in Adelaide on the way to a fire at 80mph.

This type of engine started life in Auburn cars. When they finished up they sold the machining to La France who bored it out 100 cu ins and fitted twin ignition which is the format that powered their fire trucks.





Jack's grandfather traded in a 1927 Buick on this brand new Ford Prefect. He isn't certain if that was a backward step.



1953 Customline.

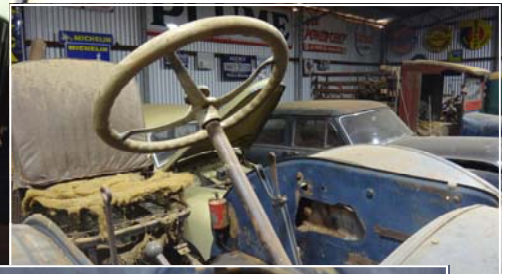


Field Marshall tractor. Powered by a large capacity single cylinder 2 stroke engine. It could be started with an explosive cartridge or with a crank using a nifty decompressor that automatically resets via a wheel running in a groove on the flywheel. (see pic below)

Or you could put a cartridge in here.



The Lanz Bulldog tractor also had a large single cylinder 2 stroke engine. To start this one you took the steering wheel off and engaged it in the slot on the end of the crank. That was your starting handle. While driving these tractors you had to be conscious as to lug them at very low revs as they had a tendency to stall and immediately start up backwards. Plenty of farmers have reversed over their implements in this way.



And heading across to the next shed there are some treasures out in the sun.

The 12 HP twin cyl portable steam engine powered a 30 stand shearing plant on Yancannia station, one of Sydney Kidman's properties 200 miles N of Broken Hill. Prior to shearing time a team would cut wood for 6 weeks to keep up the demand for steam.



Here's something you don't come across every day. A dunny with mechanism so that when you raise or lower the lid it causes a cast iron disc to spin which gets rid of the turds by centrifugal force. They then drop into a pit. No need to flush.



Here's another nifty idea. A permanent fence strainer. The bottom part is buried so you don't see it and those large blades in the ground give it stability. Wind your wire strands around a bit and tension each one with a handle. When the fence sags a bit just turn the handle a bit and presto, all is good again. Were popular on railway properties. From 1880.





Avro Anson fuselage and Armstrong Siddeley engine. The bloke that bought this cheap from the war surplus sales after WW2 at Pt Pirie, found 60 gallons of fuel in the tanks when he got it home. Not a bad deal when you consider fuel rationing was still in force at the time.

A Stoewer. Stoewer cars are fairly rare but of tractors, no one seems to have ever seen one before. They made 200 of them but it is so rare that descendants of the Stoewer family came over from Germany to check it out. By the way, its pronounced Steaver.



Into the door of the next shed, right in front of you is a whole bunch of aircraft engines. There is a small selection shown here. The one above is a Mk2 Rolls Royce Merlin from a Fairey Battle aircraft. To its right is a Rolls Royce Derwent engine from a Gloster Meteor, the 1st jet aircraft used in Aust from 1946 to 63. And the biggest daddy of em all is a Curtis Wright Cyclone R3350 B29 bomber engine, 3350 cubic inch with 18 radial cylinders. That's one big engine, if you divide 3350 by 18, the answer is 186. That is one 186 Holden in every one of those cylinders. No wonder it could pull 2400 Hp at takeoff. This engine came from an aircraft that was used in the atomic bomb tests at Maralinga in SA in the 1950's





And big engines are pretty neat but I think the thing that really grabs your attention is the tank



Back in the 1980's Jack realised it would be nice to have a Stuart tank and went through the motions to find one to do up. After a long and unfruitful search he came across the remains of a General Grant tank that had been bought by a feller near Al- bury Wodonga, as army surplus in 1953. These tanks were sold as they had been superceded by the Centurion. The gent had bought 3 of them, one to cut down to make a bulldozer with the other two to cut up into bulldozer blades, or for repairs to bulldozer blades and any other use he might have for a bulk supply of steel. The tank Jack found was one of those not used as the bulldozer, but as the steel warehouse. It was far from complete, basically just the remains of the shell but did have one gun but no breechblock, and no turret. So the search started to find all the missing bits. The big bits turned up in all sorts of places. He advertised for bits in Vic and received a reply from a sawmill operator in WA who had up-graded his plant and had two 671 GM motors for sale, the very engines required, one left hand and one right hand. The left and right hand engines are different but both spin anticlockwise and feed into a gearcase with a single output shaft. The engines are at the rear of the tank with the drive at the front. There is a 5 speed gear-box and if one engine fails, it can be locked out and the machine continue to function on one. With engines and transmission intact the search went on. Jack's father had a collection of old farming magazines dating back to the 50's so they painstakingly searched through them looking for articles where farmers had used the

army surplus tanks. He then visited these farms to find out if there were any remnants of them left. Surprisingly there were, and a dashboard turned up near Mildura, someplace else he found a set of headlights and a siren. (yep this tank had a siren) Other places turned up all sorts of little bits. Swapmeets turned up a 24 v Homelight generator, and there were some 24v tail lights for sale that are the same as Jeeps and some Harleys, except for those examples they are 6v. The seller decided his lights were not very saleable with 24v globes. He was happy to be able to unload them to Jack cheap. The cone that supports the turret turned up as did the turret from Corowa (it weighs in at 3 tons). A place near Melbourne came up with a set of tracks and a complete set of NOS idlers and the engine compartment doors, but to me the most amazing find was the radio. Jack's wife took their gramophone into the local repairman and the feller remarked to her that he had a radio on the shelf that fitted their tank.

The tank is back to standard armament with a 75mm and a 37mm gun plus a 30 calibre Browning machine gun. The guns have all been fitted with a device that injects and lights propane gas to simulate live firing. The frequency is adjustable on the machine gun but is set for the bigger guns and is very close to the 15 secs it actually took to reload the real thing.

Upon seeing the tank a local bloke reminisced he had been a tank driver in the war and explained that these tanks had replaced another type that had proved inferior to what the Germans were using. With the release of the General Grant tank it turned the tide to the Australian's advantage and they then had no problem out-gunning the Germans. He was happy to say that this model tank saved his bacon for sure.



The breech end of the big gun



There is a 24v Dunlite lighting plant inside the tank. It may have 2 engines but there is only a generator on one of them and the turret power is electrical. So if the tank is not moving along the turret can run out of power.



There is a lot more to see after the tank. Here is a Fiat, Hart Parr and an Imperial made by A.H. McDonald in Ballarat.



And the idea of 4WD tractors is not new. Massey Harris were offering this one in 1932.



Aveling and Porter steam roller with compound steam engine hence the one bigger cylinder and one smaller.

A sad story for the Ronaldson and Tippet tractor. This tractor had an aluminium block. The owner had pulled it to bits to do it up but it was wartime. He donated the aluminium castings to the war effort. Jack has all the steel bits, the crank, clutch etc. Is hoping he will come across the missing bits some day....



Chamberlain model 40k . This one is no 193. They stated at no 100 so is the 93rd one they built. Note the chunky cylinders sticking out the side.

Here is the same Chamberlain model 40K but with a difference. This one is a custom job. Has had a GM371 3cylinder diesel engine . Has power steering off a Holden car. Even has a Holden steering wheel.





*John Deere tractors stood out because they looked new. Turns out a mate had bought a tractor collection from the States but he didn't actually want them all. No probs Jack had the surplus.
Engine is 2 cylinder diesel 360 ci. There is a v4 petrol starter motor. That motor has an electric starter.*



Now that's a tractor! International V8 diesel.

Remember Turf Cigarettes?



*Spark intensifiers.
Used when you are oiling up plugs.*



Well that's a bit of a cross section of Jacks collection. He has been at it since he was about 12 yrs old. On hols at a shack someplace and checked out the local dump and came back with a Lewis motor bike engine..... And he still has his eye out for anything interesting.

MVEC vs CHCC Annual Cricket Match

By Suzy

On Sunday 17th July 2022 the Annual MVEC vs CHCC was held at Batchelor Oval on a glorious dry season day. MVEC was hoping to retain the trophy & CHCC was keen to win it back & win bragging rights for the year. Both teams were eager to take the field & with lots of fans watching they put on an entertaining match.

Both teams had a couple of gun players who had the talent to score runs & keep the fielders busy.....providing they could stay on their feet!!!! The runs flowed freely at times so the scorer was kept busy. The CHCC won the day easily 61 – 57 runs, all members & fans enjoyed a BBQ lunch under the shady trees & now we look forward to next year.

Best players – MVEC : Adam & Gary
CHCC – Greg, Jason & Scott



Fans enjoying the day



MVEC players fielding



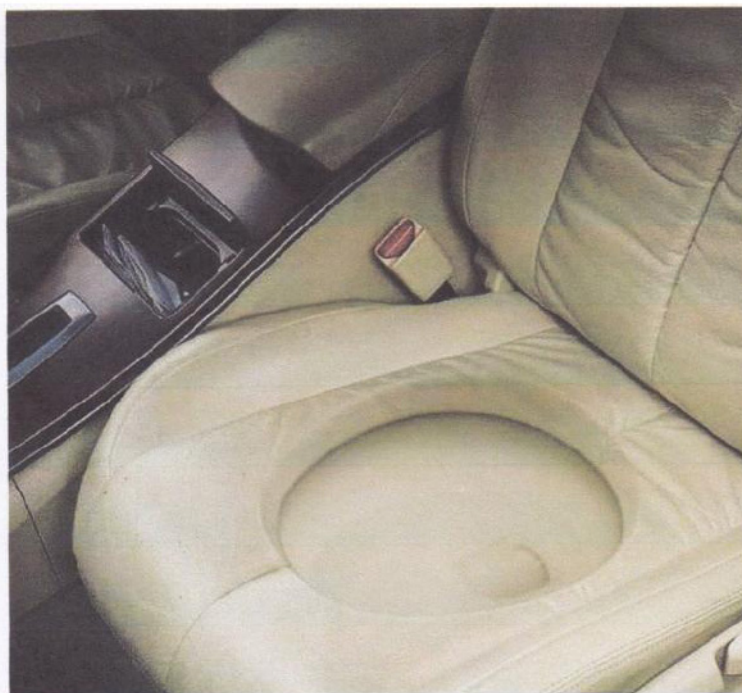
Peet presenting the trophy to Steve, the president of CHCC

Lunch being enjoyed by the fans



The Car Dunny

While being able to 'go while on the go' has its benefits, the implications of things going wrong while seated on your automotive throne are too horrible to contemplate. That did not deter Cadillac, which in 1947 invented an in-car dunny so drivers involved in a 10,000 mile endurance run weren't continually stopping when nature called. That should have been the end of a silly concept, but in 2012 a Chinese company installed 'piddle panels' into car seats with a storage tank in the boot. That idea mercifully failed as well but five years later Toyota announced that its Innova people mover could be equipped with a full-sized camping toilet mounted behind a screen in the luggage area. Hard to believe, but true!



Stuff on the net

Does this look like a cool old car? Actually it is brand new . A bunch called Pur Sang in Argentina will build you a replica anything, but they specialise in Bugattis. They make a fair dinkum replica too. No arty farty computers or electronic crap in these cars. Even the methods they use to build em are the same as back in the day. And they make everything, castings and all.

Check out <https://pursangargentina.com/>

But to me a Pursang will always be Bultaco's scramble motor bike.



2006 Toyota Rav4 (auto) starter motor

As new 300-500 km. Non genuine.
\$300 ono.

Please ring Ranid on 0431 269 360
ranidmay@yahoo.com

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
Or phone 89886049

Ford Capri Convertible parts

Starter motor (brand new) will also fit Mazda 323
Pop up headlight assembly
Gm mastervacs booster brand new suit 60's GM
car.
All free.
Ted 89886049
longtelescope@gmail.com

Previous editions

All previous editions of Transmission are now
available at mvec.weebly.com

ED—EL Falcon or NC Fairlane

Fuel tank sender wanted.
Ted 89886049
longtelescope@gmail.com

Remember 2022-2023 club memberships are now due, renewal forms available at the hangar.

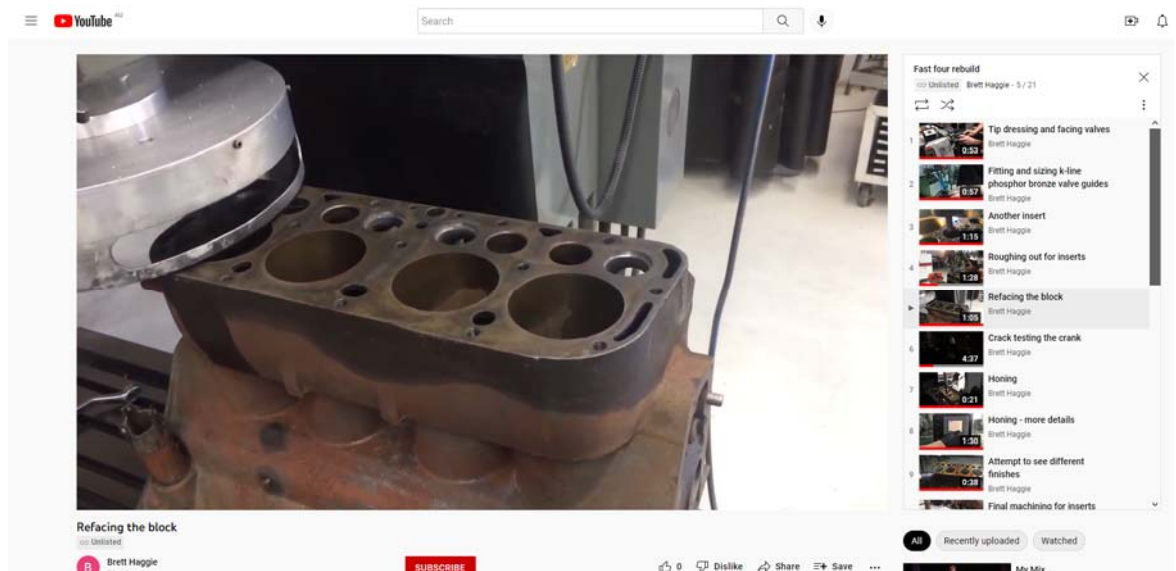
Info wanted for a book a bloke is writing.

Here is a chance to test your knowledge.

This photo was taken in 1906 in front of the Hawthorn (Vic) town hall. The bloke in the front passenger
seat its the mayor. The question is, what make is the car?



Stuff on the net.



Have you ever wondered what exactly happens to your bits of engine when you take them to the machine shop. Here is a set of 21 short videos that show exactly what happens to a Fast Four Dodge engine in a modern engine reconditioning workshop.

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9VzqDrRTUy7XwBNcyHA7FLbj2xGvRBFD>

And then if you fancy, you can see how they do it in a not so modern workshop. I guess you have to give them credit for getting things done that would have gone to scrap here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGSREiVEuKY&t=140s>



My flight was being served by an obviously gay flight attendant, who seemed to put everyone in a good mood as he served us food and drinks.

As the plane prepared to descend, he came swishing down the aisle and told us that "Captain Marvey has asked me to announce that he'll be landing the big scary plane shortly, so lovely people, if you could just put your trays up, that would be super."

On his trip back up the aisle, he noticed a well-dressed rather Arabic-looking woman hadn't moved a muscle. "Perhaps you didn't hear me over those big brute engines but I asked you to raise your trazy-poo, so the main man can pitty-pat us on the ground."

She calmly turned her head and said, "In my country, I am called a Princess and I take orders from no one."

To which, without missing a beat the flight attendant replied, "Well, sweet-cheeks, in my country I'm called a Queen, so I outrank you. Tray-up, Bitch."

WOTS ON

13-14th August weekend is the Coomalie Fly In event to commemorate VP Day. Saturday will be the main fly in day with a church service being held on Sunday at the Chapel. Richard Luxton will be running a tour of the WW2 camp sites highlighting the military history of the Coomalie site. Camping is available for the weekend for all club members & day visits for the fly in & Church service are encouraged.

Darwin Military Muster- Sat 13th August 2022 (see attachment) Club members with WW2 vehicles are invited to display them for the day. Please let the club know if you would like to include a vehicle in the display.

MG Club is holding a run to the Bark Hut for lunch on Sun 14th August 2022. All MVEC club members are invited to attend, meeting at the United servo at the Palms Resort (AKA Free Spirit Resort) 10am for 10.30am depart.

Club monthly meeting on Wednesday 10th August 2022.

No working bee this month.

The Darwin Military Museum will be commemorating the
50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War at the

Darwin Military Muster

Come and see the only
Vietnam-era Centurion Tank
on display in the NT

On Saturday 13th August 2022

09:30 – 16:00

Activities planned for the day include:

Free Bouncing Castle,
Pony rides, WW2 Jeep rides,
Face painting, balloon art by
Hyper the clown and lots more
Swing Dance NT will be performing
ADF equipment displays
The US Marines display

New displays include
- A working Centurion Tank
- Civilian experience of war display
- Women and war display
- WW2 weapons display
- A WW2 Cletrac tractor
- WW2 military vehicle displays

Live broadcast by the team from Territory FM 104.1

Performances by Nat and Max Duo (Max Fredericks and Natalie Pellegrino)

Sausage sizzle, bacon and egg sandwiches, hot dogs and more

Food and drinks including, Tommo's famous pies will be available to purchase from
Gunners Rest Café.

and much, much more!



Admission price:

