

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

No 155

June 2023



TRANSMISSION

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

PO Box 994 Parap 0804

Newsletter enquiries to Ted longtelescope@gmail.com



Saskia Coleman and her Vespa Sprint bringing back good memories.

Saski Coleman and her 1968 Vespa Sprint. "LOLA"

As an 18 year old Saski realised she needed a motorbike but Dad being Dad wasn't all that keen on the idea. Although he was a Scotsman, Dad frequented the Italian Club and as clubs do, they ran raffles. This time it was for a Vespa scooter. Dad totally pissed off the Italians by being a Scot and winning the raffle.

They would have preferred an Italian to have got it. When he got home with the words "have I got a deal for you" Saski became the new owner of the scooter. He gave it to her.

Vespas were a bit rare in Darwin back then, it may have been the only one here, but as she rode it all over the place and then parked it, when she returned she would often find someone had left their card or a note attached to it. Sometimes people would just like to talk. This was a vehicle that made people happy. One time she and her friend rode 2 up to a bicycle hire business and left the scooter while they hired a tandem bicycle for the arvo. When they returned, the proprietor of the bicycle hire remarked how popular the Vespa had been, just being parked there. Biggest mobs of people had wanted to hire it. He thought he might buy some scooters to hire out. That was back in the 1980's. Perhaps that's why scooter hire became popular here.

Then a taxi did the usual trick of turning across in front of her at Parap. She and her friend escaped serious injury but the Vespa was out of action for a while. The only bike shop that was interested in fixing it for her was Dynacycle at Stuart Park. The Vespa was Saski's only transport and after a couple of months she was getting sick of catching buses or walking. Then one day she received a phone call from the bike shop "we have good news, we have found a buyer for your bike" the caller stated. Great! I just wanted it fixed, she explained. No wonder they took so long, but she did get it back and all was well.

Moving along Saski had picked up a boyfriend along the way. He had decided the Vespa needed some deep maintenance and pulled it to bits to fix it up, but they had a falling out and went their separate ways, but ex boyfriend took a bunch of the Vespa parts and refused to give them back. The dirtbag! So Saski was left with only half of her bike. Pretty useless. She moved on and was working overseas so left the parts in storage at a friend's shed. Unfortunately the friend died



The numberplate LOLA is short for Lolita, that's Saski's alter-ego name. It is also tied up with her past. She was a roller derby player and ran with the name "Lola Derby"



while she was away and the shed was cleaned out and the rest of the Vespa was lost forever.....

Then, about ten years ago she found a Utopia for Vespa lovers. "Planet Vespa" in Ho Chi Min City in Vietnam restore old Vespas to whatever specification you like. You get to choose the colour and whatever accessories you fancy, and they build you the scooter you like and ship it over to you. (I checked out their website and found Darwin the 2nd most expensive place in the world to get one sent to. The only place dearer was somewhere in Canada. The rest of Australia was ok, but not Darwin)

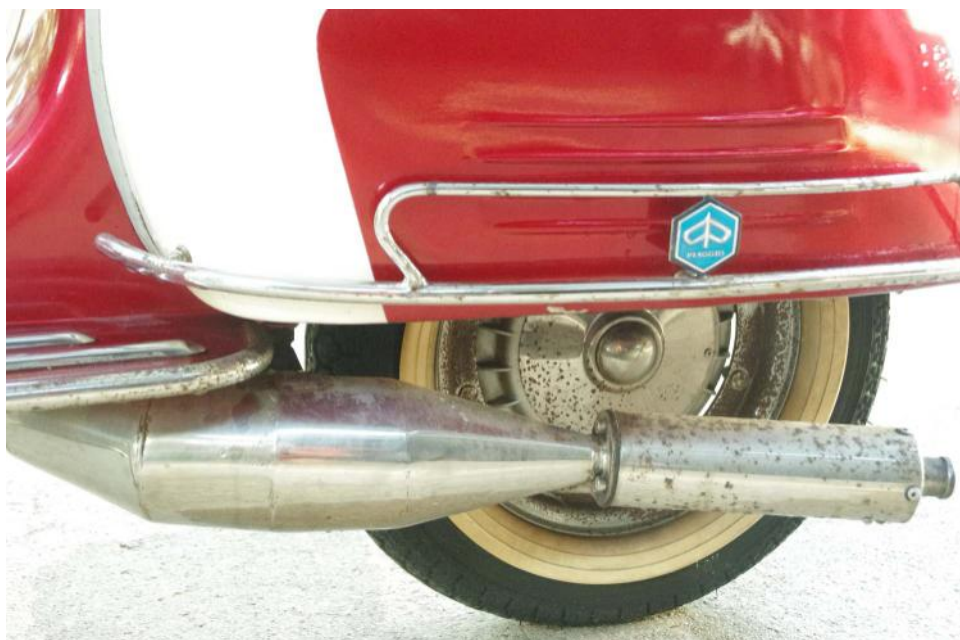
Anyway the bike you see in the pics is the Vespa she chose and it is a beauty.

And by the way the word *Vespa* translates from Latin or Italian as "wasp."

And I found a road test of this bike in Cycle World magazine from September 1968. A small part of the text states "What a shame more motorcyclists don't set their feet on the floorboard of a scooter like the Vespa 150 Sprint, and zoom it around the block. They would then discover that scooters are really fun! True, the Vespa is not the tool for transcontinental hauls, or even daily commuting on freeways. But the little four-speed two-stroke is just about unbeatable for use as cheap, foolproof, and reliable transport around town, to the beach, or to the hills."

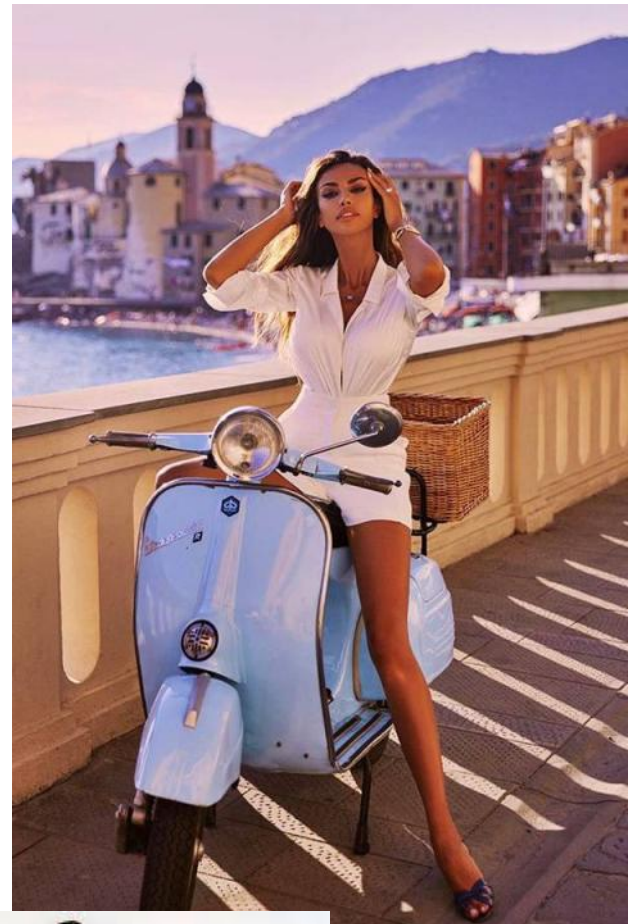
You can read the entire article at <https://magazine.cycleworld.com/article/1968/09/01/vespa-150-sprint>

But beware, you may find yourself checking out Planet Vespa and end up with one in your lounge room.



Whats this hiding down below? An expansion chamber exhaust. Gives it some more herbs and a slight crackle but certainly is not noisy.





Vespa has been around for a long time and appears to be a necessary fashion accessory for movie stars and any forward thinking lady.



Trevor Wehrmann's shed isn't one of those that have all the goodies laid out nicely in rows and with info boards explaining it all. I guess it reminds me of home. He just has loads and loads of good stuff. Plenty of dust and cobwebs to give a bit of ambience to the place. Some of the bits are left overs from jobs a long time ago and some of it is gear he has acquired quite recently. The

house blocks are big in country South Australia and in Trevor's case he makes good use of the fact as he needs several sheds to fit his stuff in.

The first stop on the tour was his most recent acquisition, a 39 Ford hotrod. Actually only the back is 39. Built by a husband and wife team, the wife decided she liked the shape of the rear of the 39 and the front of the 1937 Fords, so they had a fibre-glass body built grafting the 2 shapes together. The only obvious problem is a bite from the back of the front guards to accommodate the doors opening. It has been registered and in use for quite a few years but Trevor is swapping the motor as it has an odd noise. (He reminisced about a V8 Fairlane. A mate had commented it was making noises so he pulled the motor down to find that in one cylinder the piston was missing. There was a gudgeon pin in the conrod and it was going up and down in the bore, but compression was lacking. The piston had shattered and was in the sump. Anyhow a hone and a new piston fixed it. It ran fine with no after affects). So Trevor's not taking any chances here, and he has 6 of these 308 Ford motors around the shed to choose from. And the car is set up with gas. Not really the thing for a hotrod. Its going to be running on petrol soon, and with a carby, none of this electronic injection crap!

The next shed is the one that really got my interest, not because it was big or flash because it was neither. It was just full of stuff that took me back through all the years that I have been working on motorbikes. I was so engrossed in the stuff in the shed that it never occurred to me to take a picture of the whole scene. And I couldn't take a picture of everything that I could relate to, there was just too much of it. Mostly parts from old bikes, BSA, Matchless, Triumph, Montesa and mobs more. The deeper you looked, the more neat stuff you could identify. Even outside there was heaps more that would-



37 or 39 Ford. Its a bit of both



Cut outs in the front guards for the door openings are a legacy of mixing 2 different models



n't fit in the shed. And then there was the biggest, newest shed. That one is filled mostly with motor bikes. Once again I somehow got overwhelmed and forgot the wide angle picture of the panorama before me, but I did get some of the highlights.

Trevor used to ride solo bikes at Rowley Park in Adelaide back in the days and his 2 valve Jawa is amongst the collection along with several other solo bikes. Why all these bikes when he has no intention of riding them? Because having them makes him feel good. Makes me feel good too!

Check out some of the stuff....



Remember the P76? One of their claims to fame was the ability to fit a 44 gallon drum in the boot. Well this car has a 100 litre gas tank in the boot. Horrible! It will go.



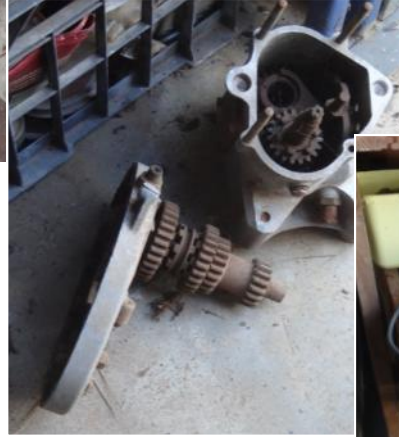
Central in the photo is a layed down Jawa solo bike, but check out all the stuff in the back-ground. I love identifying bits that are familiar.



The main subject here is the Montesa Cappa 440 but once again look deeper and you can't miss the Matchie single and a lot of other bits.



Hiding under the forks is a Goggomobile twin cylinder engine and all sorts of stuff.



Matchie tank and seats, gbox stuff, Monty bits...



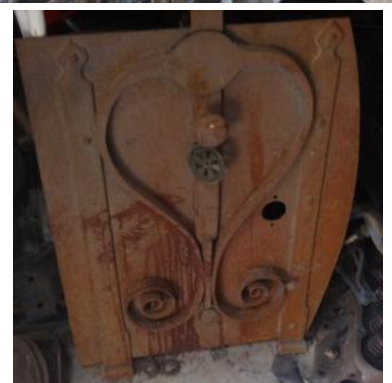
Tilbrook sidecar and its mudguard.



Front end off something, more Matchless, Falcon bumper. What else can you identify?



And the most ornate door from a wall over.



Next shed

TQ replica project under construction. Powered by 2 valve Jawa. Fitted with wheel barrow wheels for moving around the shed.



An early fibreglass side car, a Dolphin, made in Adelaide



Check out the sidevalve BSA 500 outfit and you will notice it has had a Matchless OHV head grafted onto it. It also has an SU carb bolted on backwards. Why? Because it runs better that way. Also check out the chains around the fork links. During hard riding the girder fork links were prone to snapping off. The chains would hold it all together while you slowed down! Serious stuff!



You will find all sorts of bikes here, His sister's Yamaha Chappy.



The bike hiding in the corner is Trevor's 2 valve Jawa that he used to race at Rowley Park speedway in Adelaide back in the days. Next door is a 350 BSA and an Ariel Red Hunter



More speedway bikes. A 4 valve push-rod Weslake and a Godden peeking from under the blue cover. Upside down is a 1954 350 JAP that used to frequent the 1/2 mile and 1 mile track.



Bsa Thunderbolt

Armstrong Siddeley Cheetah engine from an Avro Anson aeroplane.



Its not all old stuff in here. There are 3 fairly modern day BMW's. One came from a bloke that got tangled up with a shieler and needed some spare dough in a hurry, another came from a bloke that reckoned he was gonna lose his licence due to poor eyesight, so he sold the bike. But it turned out he didn't lose his licence after all. Too late, the bike was sold.



That's a nice Water Bottle Suzuki to the left and a whole row of stationery engines. Oldest of them is the 1911 JAP.





A 1935 Hudson destined to become a rod and a Falcon ute is a future drag car.



And in every unlikely spot you will find an engine peeking out.



That's Trevor in amongst his collection.



Electrical stuff

Hi Fellow members. I live at Wagait Beach. I'm a retired Auto sparky. Had a business in Tennant Creek for 25 yrs. I've got a lot of left over parts. Solenoids. Solenoid overhaul kits. Brushes, bushes, spot lights, some Alternators for older models. Voltage regulators. The list goes on. If your hunting for an odd Auto Elect. part contact Max 0418856143

Free stuff

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Email Ted at longtelescope@gmail.com
Or phone 89886049

Previous editions

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

Citroen 1951

11BL engine rebuilt
Older restoration.
\$12000
Keith 0404725985
akking@tpg.com.au



Wrong Napier

Apologies to Linton Sharp and Andrew Repton. It has been pointed out that in the last issue of this publication I wrote about a Napier which I described as belonging to Linton Sharp. Linton did have his Napier present but the vehicle I featured belongs to Andrew Repton. My humble apologies to both gents.

1967 Mustang

289 V8 auto 72000 miles, orig vehicle.
Never registered in Australia. \$40000.
Jackie

0417 844 257 or sid.jackie16@gmail.com



The Rejex Rally is coming on 5 & 6 August this year and we've had an absence of MVEC members in recent years.

Feedback from MVEC members and other classic car owners has been taken on board and since from the 2021 event onwards there has been a revised mix of activities to make it more appealing to older cars. This year's event will see navigational challenges as we cruise from Darwin to Pine Creek on Saturday 5 and then Pine Creek to Katherine on Sunday 6. There will be stops along the way for fun car themed activities. Both the navigational and other activities count towards event results as well as the driving tests. Classes for vehicles are in fifteen year increments so event participants will be compared with similar vehicles. There is also the overall handicap results which use a formula based on vehicle age to penalise newer cars and rank everyone's results.

This is fantastic event for families and cars of all ages. It is made all the better when there is a diverse mix of machinery and participants, and I would ask all MVEC members to give it another go.

Entries are open until 25 June 2023 at <https://namsc.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/51806-2023-jakes-steel-welding-rejex-rally>.

If you have any enquiries or would like more details, please give me a call or send me an email.

Kind regards,

Adam Cullen

Event Director

2023 Jakes Steel & Welding Rejex Rally

ancullen@yahoo.com.au

Grocery Day in Russia

Mikhail Ivanovich was late getting to the state grocery to pick up the week's allotment of meat and vegetables for himself and his wife. Today, he found himself at the end of a very long line of tired and hungry people bundled up against the January weather, all waiting for their weekly ration.

He'd been waiting about a half hour, shuffling ever so slowly towards the grocery shop with the rest of the crowd, when the grocer stepped out and in a loud voice announced that there was no more food and that everyone should go home, and come back on Thursday; maybe they'd have some bread and eggs.

Mikhail snapped. "How am I supposed to feed my family," he cried out. "We're starving, and I demand at least some vegetables to make soup! Why is our government starving us?" It seemed no one was paying him any attention as they all slowly made their way home, but suddenly a man wearing a black trench coat and a fedora stepped out of the shadows and sidled up to Mikhail.

"You should be careful what you say, comrade," the mysterious man warned Mikhail. "Not so long ago, comments like that made in public would get you shot." Mikhail looked at the man for a long moment, shook his head in disbelief, then turned to make his way back home.

When he arrived, his wife greeted him at the door, and noticed he was empty-handed. "What, they've run out of food? Again?"

"It's much worse," replied Mikhail. "They've run out of bullets!"

A farmer had three daughters, all young and very pretty. He guarded them with a shotgun. Friday night came and he heard a knock at the door. The farmer answered with his gun. A young man in suit and tie stood there with flowers. The farmer exclaimed "What do you want boy?" The young man replied "Hi, I'm Eddie, I'm here for Betty, we're going out for spaghetti, is she ready?" The farmer laughed and said "You are a clever young man!" Eddie replied "We rhyme. all the time!" "Well come in, Betty will be ready to go soon." A second knock at the door. The farmer again answers with his gun. Another well dressed man stood there with flowers. The farmer exclaimed, "Young man what do you want? " The young man sheepishly answered "Hello, my name is Joe I'm here for Flo, I would like to take her to a show, may she go?" The farmer laughed and said "you are a clever young man." Joe said "We rhyme. all the time!" "Come on in Flo will be ready to go real soon!" A third knock at the door. The farmer again answers with his gun. Another well dressed man stood there with flowers. The farmer exclaimed, "Young man what do you want? " The young man said "Hi my name's Chuck. " The farmer shot him.

Nobody actually perished at MVEC's **LOST** rally recently. Possibly it was because contestants had to brush up on their driving skills right at the start. First thing they had to park close to a marker without hitting it. Then there was the egg and spoon race with the navigator balancing an egg out the window while the driver eased his way round a witches hat and back. Sounds easy but you never noticed the bumps in the grass before. And then there was the navigation and questions about places that most Darwinites had never heard of before.



Impeccable parking with smooth egg delivery and keen observation saw Garry and Lorraine Colliver as the victors. They won donuts from our sponsors Tim and Nya.



Geoff and Ruth had a head start with 96 yr old Chev but settled for 2nd place donuts.

Dean and Matty Somers in this magnificent Charger were well placed but retired early with a dodgy battery.



Tim and Nya Modra high speed cornering with the egg. Then Nya navigated for Rod barker as he didn't have a passenger. I wonder if Tim asked her to drop Rod's egg. She did.



Frank and Jade Schembri in their lovely Chev powered Jag ate the 3rd place donuts.

Jack and Maureen Burr not taking any chances getting the smicko Holden too near that scabby looking witches hat.





MOTOR VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB INCORPORATED

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

JULY 1st 2023 to June 30th 2024

FAMILY NAME.....GIVEN NAME.....

SPOUSE/PARTNER (Children Under 16 yrs.).....

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: Number/Name.....

SUBURB/TOWN..... Post Code.....STATE.....

POSTAL ADDRESS.....Suburb/TownPost Code.....STATE.....

PHONE.....MOBILE.....

EMAIL (please print VERYclearly).....

Annual Renewal Fee: \$40.00

NOTE:Membership renewal is due on 30th June each year. A grace period of 90 days is provided but if your Membership is not renewed by 30th September each year then any Club Registered Vehicle you may own is considered, by the NT Government, to be Un-Registered as at that date and you will need to Re-Join the Club.

PAYMENT AND APPLICATION DELIVERY: PLEASE TICK BOX TO INDICATE METHOD

- ☐ POSTED TO: MVEC-GPOBox 994,Parap. NT, 0804
- ☐ DROPPED OFF AT:THE HANGAR WITH PAYMENT.
- ☐ PAID ONLINE: Acct: Bendigo Bank: BSB 633-000 Account 142 473 552

Please add your Surname and the word "Membership" to any E.F.T Payment or it will be considered a cash donation.

Email your Renewal to: mveclub@bigpond.com Phone (08) 89424839

Special Interest Vehicle / Motorcycle Details(Use an extra sheet if necessary)

No	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	TYPE _(Car / Bike)	CONDITION	REGO
1						
2						
3						
4						

* OFFICE USE ONLY PAYMENT RECEIVED ☐

CARD ISSUED ☐

DATE.....

CLUB MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

Hey MVEC members. Fancy waving the flag and showing off your vehicles interstate? Here are 3 genuine invitations to you to attend something you won't find in the Territory.



Patrons:

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC
Governor of South Australia
and Mr Rod Bunten

Chair:

Mr Michael Neale

Attn: Mr Peet Menzies

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club Incorporated Northern Territory
PO Box 994
Parap 0804 Northern Territory

CC: longtelescope@gmail.com

Thursday 30 March 2023

Dear Mr Menzies,

It is my great pleasure to formally invite you and all members of the Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club Incorporated Northern Territory to the 2023 Bay to Birdwood, to be held in South Australia on Sunday 22 October 2023.

The attendance of interstate guests – together with their club registered vehicles – plays an integral role to the success of the Bay to Birdwood and reinforces that this is truly one of the world's great historic motoring events.

On behalf of myself and the wider History Trust of South Australia team, I extend this invitation in good faith and I look forward to seeing you and many of your club vehicles at the event.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Neale', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Michael Neale
Bay to Birdwood Chair



Government
of South Australia

GPO Box 1836 Adelaide
South Australia 5001
Karna Country
Telephone 08 8151 3200
ABN 17 521 345 493

history.sa.gov.au
Giving the past a future now!



2023 Federation Motorfest

We invite the Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club NT members to enter the 2023 Federation Motorfest events which are being held from Monday October 16th to Friday October 27th 2023.

Again the various day outings will take you to many well-known, and some not so well known places of interest.

For this Federation Motorfest we go to destinations which range from the lower mid north to the Fleurieu showcasing so much of our great state of South Australia.

We trust that as many of you as possible will take advantage of this wonderful programme and avail yourselves to as many Federation Motorfest events as possible.

Please be aware that you do not require a specific vehicle to enter any of these events. You may use any vehicle you wish to, including your current model family car.

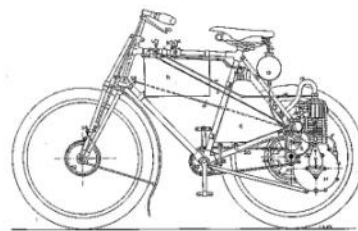
Happy Motoring.

The 2023 Federation Motorfest Committee



**The VETERAN and VINTAGE CAR
CLUB of AUSTRALIA - ACT Inc.**

**2023 National Veteran Vehicle Tour
Griffith, NSW
2 to 8 October 2023**



Tour Director – Rob Woolley
ph: 0409 549 485
robwoolley275@gmail.com

Tour Secretary – Narelle Spackman
ph: 0429 885 448
griffith2023@vvccaact.org.au

Attn: Mr Peet Menzies

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club Inc.
Northern Territory
GPO BOX 911
Darwin NT 0801

Email: longtelescope@gmail.com

Dear Mr Menzies,

I would formally like to invite you and all members of the Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club incorporated Northern Territory to the 2023 National Veteran Vehicle Tour Griffith NSW, to be held in Griffith, NSW from the 2nd October to the 8th Oct 2023.

The tour will cover various place of interest in and around the region of Griffith, NSW over the week.

We trust that as many of you as possible will take advantage of this National Veteran Tour being run by the Veteran and Vintage Car Club of Australia, ACT Inc.

Regards
Narelle Spackman
Tour Secretary

All correspondence to Narelle Spackman, Tour Secretary
griffith2023@vvccaact.org.au
GPO Box 2349, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601
<https://vvccaact.org.au>





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Free Entry, Family Friendly Event
Live Music, Drinks and Snacks Available*

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