

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

No 17

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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

DUCATI TERRITORY

IAN BRUNTON

Lots of us enthusiasts know the term basket case and it immediately brings to mind a pile of rusting bits that was once a gleaming vehicle. Talking to Ian Brunton, the term basket case came up quite often, but when you feast your eyes on the



860 GTS Ducati looks 100mph standing still

beautiful bikes gracing his driveway it is hard to imagine he has created these lovely things from a pile of parts.

Actually the first thing I saw in Ian's carport was a Mini and a HR Holden.

As it turned out son was out driving the Mini which is Ian's and the vehicle I was checking out was his wife Anne's. She guards it jealously (there is not enough money in the world to buy it off her) but Ian is the mechanic that keeps it running right. I never knew they built Minis with auto transmission but Anne's is testimony that they did and its 4 speed too! She took me for a spin round the block and it was a total blast. Took me back many years as I reminisced as I followed a Mini with a "HOT BRICKS" sticker on the back window. It did a 90 degree turn off the main road without slowing down. Amazing stuff!

This car was not bought in pristine condition. It had the head off and was a bit sad. Ian had a Mini Clubman at the time so was already bitten by the Mini bug. He asked Anne what he should buy next. An automatic Mini van was the reply. Ian did not realise they ever made such a vehicle so a 4 speed Mini was pretty close and when he saw this one advertised he bought it with the knowledge that he already had quite an assortment of spares for it. The head on the Mini was cactus so he replaced it with one of his spares. Anne must have been impressed as her Mitsubishi Colt vacated and I can tell the Mini is close



Carport full of beautiful machinery. No modern stuff in sight and all vehicles on full rego

to her heart when she told me there was not enough money in the world to buy it!

The spares inventory is quite amazing. Ian has dismantled several Minis and has a computer inventory of all the bits he has, all stored under their part numbers. He can see at a glance if he has the re-



Anne took me for a ride in it. Not cramped but no wasted room

quired part. Having a peek in the small shed it is amazingly compact as there is no wasted space. The containers are very logical. B1 for box 1. 51 for a 5 litre icecream container. Ian has trouble coming to grips with distressed machinery that crosses his path. The soft side of his heart takes

control and he invariably brings the machinery home where it can be cared for. Coming across a complete automatic Mini at the Humpty Doo dump he dismantled it and all the bits are now part of his inventory. When people realise what he is doing with these cars, they have given him wrecks that have been sitting around their yards. One example was gifted to Ian because it was full of Redback spiders. Always Ian accepts and removes all the useable bits into his spares inventory.

The Clubman was used extensively by his sons so Ian acquired himself an earlier bull nosed Mini which is still used by his

youngest son. There is also a HR Holden. This was once a hoon car owned by his oldest son. It had a few bodgy modifications including an all synchro 3 speed box with a floor shift which periodically selected 2 gears at once which had the instant effect of making sure you didn't go anywhere. Son decided to

fix the car up which by this time had substantial rust in the floors and sills, the plan being a V8 and 5 speed gearbox. Part way into the project interest waned and it sat around for a year or so until Dad bought it off son and now it has lovely cloth upholstery on the bucket seats and a 186 in front of the venerable and indestructable Powerglide auto. A 2.9 diff has the motor just above idle cruising down the highway. A recent trip to Adelaide and up the east coast showed up the old problem of fibre timing gears on Holden sixes. Near Hay it decided to

give up. It now runs an alloy gear. The Holden has been part of the family for about 15 years and doesn't look like giving up for a long time yet.

But Ian's interest really is in the bikes. Removing the covers removed two beautiful Ducatis. A 1974 860 GT and a 1978 860 GTS which is the last Ducati be-

fore they switched to Desmodromic valves which have no valve springs. The 1974 was bought as the basket case, the 1978 was not even that. It was just an accumulation of parts which came together mainly because of Ian's aversion to seeing "distressed machinery" laying around and good natured owners of various bits of these bikes donating their bits and Ian assembling



His and hers taken to the max. This one's Ians

them into something worthwhile and exceedingly beautiful. I had a sit on these bikes and the clutch on the earlier bike has stronger clutch springs with the result that not only does the clutch not slip, ever, but using it is serious wrist exercise. The later one is a lot easier to use and you don't even have to kick it as it has this massive starter motor. When it is running you don't have to be able to see it to know that you are hearing a Ducati. They certainly are not a quiet engine, but exude a beautiful staccato sound which seems to be amplified by the fins and mixed with the sound from the twin exhausts sounds just like heaven! Having a snoop in the shed I noticed another beautifully painted tank and seat base, not to mention a frame hanging from the carport roof. Its possible there could be another Ducati throbbing around here one day. And one thing was noticeably absent in this home. The modern car did not exist!

Presidents Report

Happy New Year! 2008 looks like being a very big year for our club with an outline of planned activities included in this months Transmission with the finer details to follow.

The year kicked off with the Australia Day Variety Club Ute run with MVEC supplying the judges for the Ute Push and Thong Throwing competition, thanks go to Trev and Ron for judging this event and Judy, Shirl and Ted for the Ute push judging,

At 5.30 it was of to Les and Marylyn's for our Australia Day BBQ and examination of Les's collection of treasures including the 1929 Buick 6 cylinder sedan that was bought off eBay, and then we finished the night with the screening of "The Worlds Fastest Indian" in the magnificent home theatre. A big vote of thanks goes to Les and Marylyn for their hospitality, we will visit again no worries.

Our next big event is the Bombing of Darwin commemoration with the opening of the Hangar from 17th to the 19th of February from 9am to around 3.30pm all members welcome and please bring your old cars, a clean up day at the Hangar is planned for Saturday the 16th. Starting around 9am

Keep in mind first General meeting for the year is February 13th preceded by the sausage sizzle so see you there

Regards
Peet Menzies



1981 900SS Ducati

Geoff Smith

Red Ducatis seem to be oozing out of the woodwork lately. Geoff Smith has owned his 900 SS from 1981. It was new then and was silver. For reasons Geoff doesn't understand he changed it to red. He says he regrets repainting it. I reckon it looks great! Feels great too. But don't get the idea that Geoff is only into high performance stuff. In his words the most useful vehicle in the stable is his Postie bike. (its red) It can carry a carton of beer plus 3 litres of milk and a loaf of bread. (all at the same time too). Next door in the stable is a Ducati single coming together slowly and with great care and precision. Parked under the house is a 1927 Chev Capitol. It didn't take much persuading to get me coming for a burn round the block. Touring in style it is a ton of fun to ride in. The lack of front brakes does not bother it at all. The Chev runs an electric fuel pump and an SU carb which has it starting easily and hums along the road without a care. In short, it hoons. You just have to remember



1927 Chev Capitol

to stop and oil the tappets every 100 miles with the oilcan. By the time you read this, the Chev will probably be on display at the hangar.

Just like all of us enthusiasts Geoff doesn't restrict himself to one or two vehicles. Next to the Chev is a beaut Vauxhall ute in the process of getting made brand new. Geoff spied this car years ago at Night-cliff and fancied owning it . It just had the right vibes as Geoff's Dad used to own one. One day out of the blue it was parked with a for sale sign on it. The bloke was after the earth for it but Geoff just had to own it. A bit of bargaining to get it to a realistic price and he became the proud new owner Geoff had a bit of engine trouble which resulted in acquiring another engine to keep the car on the road. . At some time earlier in the vehicle's life it had a problem with the



Riding in the Chev is a blast!

engine which resulted in fitting a good engine which Trevor Feehan had laying around. Trevor, not being one to chuck stuff out held on to the broken engine and when Geoff bought the car, Trevor gave him the original engine. Geoff has rebored it, reground the crank and had hardened seats installed in the head to run it on unleaded fuel., so the Vauxhall will get it's original donk back again. Meanwhile he acquired the rest of the sedan the spare motor came out of with the intention of restoring that as well. There is also a 1949 4cyl 2l series he intends to build into a hotrod. Geoff does all the work himself and has neatly fit all the gear under his house. He has even converted his bar to a sandblasting booth. Somewhere in the story he had to visit Phil Kerr's to buy a brake line. There just happened to be a beaut



Vauxhall ute

Customline (they're all beaut really) parked out front. Geoff remarked to Phil how nice it was (bad move) and Phil pointed out it was for sale. Actually it wasn't just one for sale. There were 3 more that came with it. The others were for spares. Geoff had to but a new shed for his rural block to put em on. Then he hired a tilt tray

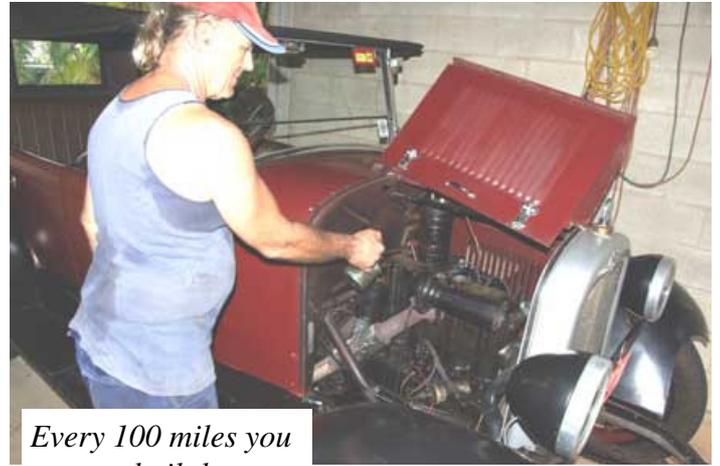


Business view on Ducati



Vauxhall is pretty on the inside too!

truck to bring em in from Dundee. Now Geoff is so inspired with all these cars he has bought himself a tilt tray truck to move em around the place and the good news for everyone else is he and his truck are available for hire. Now you can get someone who knows first hand the effort involved in owning these vehicles and will treat them accordingly. Geoff is offering discount to MVEC members. Ring him on 0417843728.



Every 100 miles you stop and oil the tap-pets



*Need something moved? Call Geoff on 0417843728
Discounts for MVEC members*



No collection is complete without a Customline

The Aussie Day Ute run was an absolute blast. We arrived at Hidden Valley over an hour before the show started and already there were 4 rows of cars the entire length of the pit area. Most of the cars were utes and they were underneath a sea of fluttering Aussie flags. It wasn't a bloke only show either. By 12 o'clock there were 8 rows of cars and we moved onto the raceway. There wasn't actually enough room to fit all the cars out there at once. There were 4 ranks the length of the starting straight and still mobs of cars on the track. I hope I have given the idea of some heavy traffic, but the general atmosphere was ecstatic. After another half lap of the track we were out onto the street with a cop escort. We cruised out to Casuarina, down Bagot Rd and Stuart Hwy to the Greyhound Club where there were Aussie events, Ute pushing, muffler tossing and thong chucking. This was the first time I had driven the 1921 Ford T in traffic and I was a bit apprehensive at first, but with the positive feedback from the spectators on the side of the road I quickly learnt to honk the aaaaaoogah horn with one hand, the honka horn with the other and wave with the other? I discovered a couple of days later we were awarded best pre 1960 vehicle. A ripper day. Be there next year!!

But wait. There was more for MVEC people. We were invited to a good old Aussie BBQ at Maralyn and Les Wilson's. Les' absolutely amazing collection of trucks and cars had the blokes dribbling while the ladies adjourned to the most picturesque garden setting in Darwin. (You see, while you are relaxing by the waterfall spilling into the crystal clear waters of the pool, you can always see the beautiful collection of vehicles in the corner of your eye.) And to finish off a perfect day there was the movie "The Fastest Indian" in Maralyn and Les' cinema .





Cars on the World Wide Web

By John Price



For this month I present a web page titled 100 years of cars. The web address is

<http://www.victoriawax.com/100yearsofcars.htm>

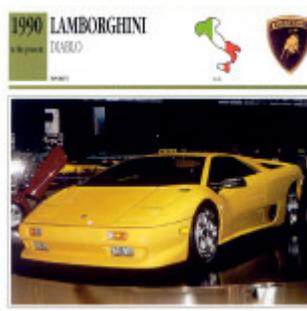
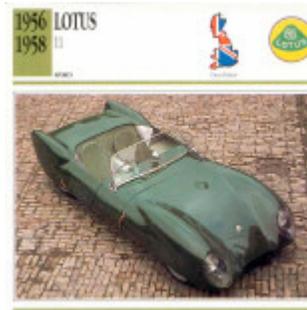
It is a web page hosted by a small North American Classic Car wax manufacturer called Victoria Car Wax. The page features a catalogue of many cars from last century. On this page as you scroll down you will find a list of manufacturers.

Bradshaw	Bentley	Berkeley	B...
MW	Borgward	Brabham	Bri...
ristol	British Salmson	BRM	B...
gatti	Buick	Cadillac	Cat...
pparral	Charron	Checker	Chenar...
vrolet	Chevron	Chrysler	Cis...
Mercedes	Clement	Cle...	

Click on one and you are presented with a thumbnail view of what looks like an index card with brief information on the card.

Click on these small images and they will open a larger image more suitable for reading and printing.

And whilst it won't list EVERY model made by a manufacturer it does seem to list a fair range.



All people interested in the Alice Springs trip

Meeting at Ben and Marie's 21st Feb
contact
Ray Grimshaw
0889831763

**GOT SOME STUFF TO SELL OR
GIVE AWAY OR SWAP.
PLACE AN AD FOR FREE
RING OR EMAIL ME**

89886049

propellers@bigpond.com

Deadline to get your add or article included is the first
weekend in the month.

TILT TRAY HIRE



Call Geoff

0417843728

**Discount for MVEC
members**



This is an Arabian Twin Cam Ute

Rock n Rod Show Sept 20th

Have a "Drive in Era" car?

Have any neat car your like to show off?

Fancy dancing but never got round to it?

Heres your chance to show off your car and have a go at
rock n roll dancing. Heaps of fun!

Proceeds to Cancer Council

Need some dance tuition?

Contact Ted

propellers@bigpond.com



The motor vehicle Enthusiasts Club

Extends its thanks to

Shannons

Insurance

For its continued support for the club

WOTS ON THIS YEAR !

For info on any of these events call Chris on 0419 489 816

FEBRUARY..... 13th Monthly Meeting
16th Clean up hanger for open days
17th-18th-19th MVEC Bombing of Darwin Hangar Open days

MARCH.....12th Monthly Meeting
16th Berry Springs Rec Reserve(John Price)

APRIL9th Monthly Meeting
20th CHCC/MVEC Cricket Match
Friday 25th Anzac Day Adelaide River for members wishing to attend

MAY11th Adelaide River Pub and Ted Mumme's home. It's mothers day
14th Monthly Meeting
18th National Motoring Heritage Day

JUNE11th Monthly Meeting
14th - 15th Shannons Motoring Extravaganza
30th Talbot Crossing re-enactment begins

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JULY.....19th Progressive Dinner
20th Town Run
5th - 8th 9G Chamberlain Katherine to Kath.
27th Alice Springs Shannons Motoring Extravaganza

AUGUST2nd-3rd Rejex Rally
13th Monthly Meeting
16th-17th O/night Mandorah
Wed 20th Crossing Re-enactment concludes

SEPTEMBER6th Katherine Flying Fox Festival
17th Fathers Day Open Day
10th Monthly Meeting
20th Rock N Rod Show
21st Mystery Run

OCTOBER8th Monthly Meeting
11th AGM
19th Bark Hut/ Deck Bar

NOVEMBER12th Monthly Meeting
16th Les Wilson's

DECEMBER10th Monthly Meeting
13th Xmas Party