

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club



No 28

Feb 2009

TRANSMISSION Aussie

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 propellers@bigpond.com

It's great to be an

Darwin sure is a good place to be on Australia Day. No matter what your interests are there is sure to be something on to keep you busy. For petrolheads there is the Aussie Day Ute Run and for a double bonus, afterwards we were invited to Shani and Tim's place for tea with a difference!

As we have come to expect, the ute run was a blast! I can't begin to describe how many utes there were because I can't count that good! But there were

new utes, old utes, dirty utes, little utes and some real bloody big ones. It's getting bigger every year and to demonstrate there were a couple of Prime Movers. There were a few rock ins too. That is cars that weren't utes. I have to admit guilt here. I took my "63" Falcon.

It's a sedan but no one threw rotten eggs. Absolutely everything had Aussie flags on it. Some vehicles you could barely see due to the number and size of the flags. The cops provided an escort for the first 100 cars. Rest assured a hundred was merely a drop in the ocean but the rest of us settled



There were Aussie flags and utes and even more Aussie flags!

into a beaut cavalcade and the route was well serviced with spectators and the interaction between the cars and the crowd was great. One spectator held up a large hunk of cardboard with "honk your horn" on it. My musical horns had a bit of laryngitis at the start of the day. They were loud and clear by the end of it.

And as the arvo became evening we were at Shani and Tim Modra's. Tim has built a beaut wood fired

oven in his back yard. By farming out his vehicle collection across the country he made room for a bunch of us Vehicle Enthusiasts and with a 2 minute instruction course by a master chef even the most hopeless of cooks (me) was able to create a pizza

masterpiece. They had all the goodies to top any pizza you could imagine, plus some stuff that you might not have imagined. The dough was all prepared in balls which you could fling like they do in the movies or roll with a rolling pin. Even I was able to do it and the result was so good I ate it all



It wasn't just a bloke thing there were girls too



*Ray Campbell's Austin ute lead the show.
Colleen and Stan dressed in the period of their '28 Chrysler
Can you see the wind up key out front?*





Felicity and Bob Sharp having a hard time with all those Pizzas! Photo by Shani

*Kathy and Chris Armitstead can still wave the flag...
Photo by Shani*

by myself. Just shows what you can do with a master instructor eh! And you could keep on making em till you fell over. The oven is a work of art. Down deep there is cement mixed with sawdust which acts an insulator to keep all that heat in. There are firebricks lining the cooking chamber with a layer of concrete over them. Then the concrete with sawdust and the whole lot rendered on the outside. The dimensions of the door in relation to the chamber within are quite critical and the tucker that came out of it this night showed Tim obviously got them right. And it's not just for pizzas either. The way I see it anything you put in an ordinary oven can go in here, it just looks and tastes better and is a lot more fun this way. A bit like old cars eh? If you got an invite to Shani and Tim's you'd be a mug if you missed out!



Tim with his creations. Real good tucker!



1904 Oldsmobile



I mentioned a car made with stuff from, amongst other bits, a 1924 Chev, a model T Ford, a marine engine and a vintage stationary engine. Someone said "sounds like a real hotrod!" Maybe it is, but that's not exactly what the sculptor has in mind.

Leo Izod came up with the idea of building a working replica of a 1904 Oldsmobile. Why Oldsmobile I asked? Back in the days Leo's Dad owned Izod motors the GM dealers in Darwin and one of the brands they sold was Oldsmobile. In 1948 there were 6 of them imported into Australia, 3 came to Izod motors. They sold 2 and Leo's dad kept the third for himself and Leo learned to drive in it. That was the link with Oldsmobile. The 1904 model was built from photos on the net and some very basic dimensions. He knew it was 66" wheel-base. With some line drawings of the vehicle he was able to calculate all the other measurements necessary to build the replica. In the photos the appearance of the diff looked identical to a model T Ford A great place to start. There was one great difference. The Olds was chain driven. No problem for Leo! He attached a sprocket to where the crown wheel goes and cut windows in a Ford Diff housing

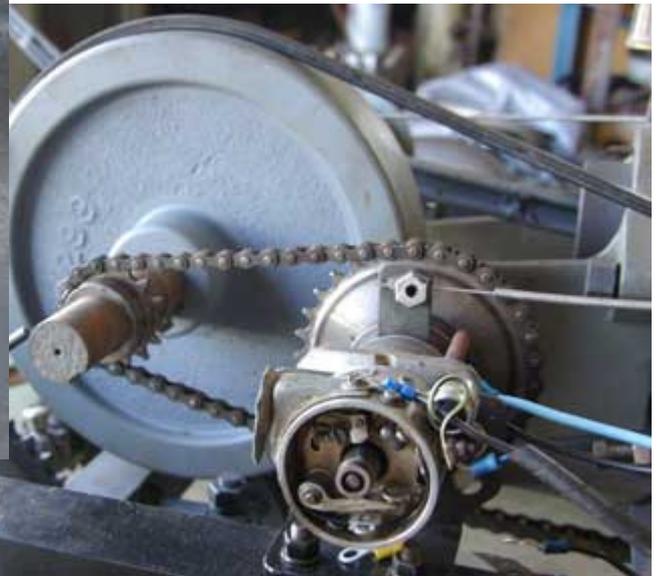
Dual spark plugs!

and threaded a chain through the holes. It looks just like it was like that from new. The hubs need to be Ford to fit on the axles and the rims are Ford but a smaller diameter than the average T. The very last model T's sported the smaller wheels. Up front the stub axles and hubs are 1924 Chev with Ford T rims and spokes. The front axle is fabricated by Leo with springs cut down from 24 Chev items. There is another cantilever pair of springs which connect to the tiller steering. They came off a horse buggy. Tie rod is Ford T. The rear springs are from a 1920 Dodge.





Holden distributor chain driven



Chain driven T Ford diff



*Horse buggy front suspension.
Chev hubs and stub axles. Ford
spokes and rims. Check out the
tiller steering.*



*Here you can see the ingenious use of some
Wisconsin conrods. Simplest clutch you
ever saw.*

The engine is a beauty. Leo extracted it from the far bank of the Daly River opposite the police station. It had no piston or conrod. They were probably removed before WW2 and sent to Darwin for repair, never to return because of the war. It is a Pasley engine from 1907-1908 vintage with 4 1/2" bore and 7" stroke. Quite a rare engine. It used to be a hot bulb engine but Leo has made a hottie out of it replacing the hot bulb with a spark plug. There is also a large plug opposite the exhaust valve to facilitate removal of the valve. Leo has also drilled and tapped it to take a second spark plug. It's a real hottie! Of course a hot bulb engine has no means of making a spark plug fire so there is the remains of a Holden distributor that has been severely cut down to utilise the points cam and points. This is chain driven off the crankshaft. The points feed into the coil off a four cylinder motor bike coil of unknown origin. You need electricity to make a coil work so driven off the flywheel by a belt there is a combination generator and starter from a 2 stroke inboard marine engine.

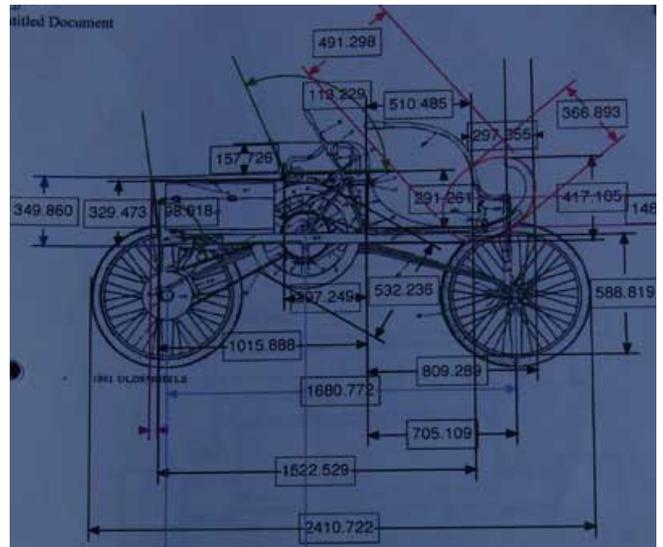
The transmission begins with a flat belt about 4" wide. The clutch is a vertical lever attached to an idler pulley. When the idler pulley takes up the slack in the belt you are off!! The idler pulley is supported by a pair of Wisconsin engine conrods. Elsewhere there are Briggs and Stratton conrods used as radius rods. The flat belt feeds into a 1924 Chev gearbox. The main purpose of the Chev gearbox is to get a reverse gear. The vehicle is intended to use only top gear when going forwards, but if someone needs a tow there is 1st and 2nd. From the g/box output is chain drive via a 2:1 idler shaft and chain to the modified Ford diff which gives another 12:30 reduction. Brakes are the Ford drums on the back wheels which were the handbrake when on a Ford.

The engine is liquid cooled as it was in 1904. The original radiator was a 10 gallon water tank which just bubbled away in a box behind the seat. Half the box was fuel tank, half water tank. To make the vehicle a bit more useable in traffic and especially in our hot climate Leo has manufactured a radiator which in itself is a work of art. He has brazed a bunch of truck cores into copper pipes which make the tanks. This will sit vertically at the back of the vehicle and have electric fans behind it out of sight. The whole vehicle oozes ingenuity and there are no bodgy bits. Every piece has been manufactured with much thought and great care. At this stage there is no body but you can rest assured when the project is finished you can read all about it right here.

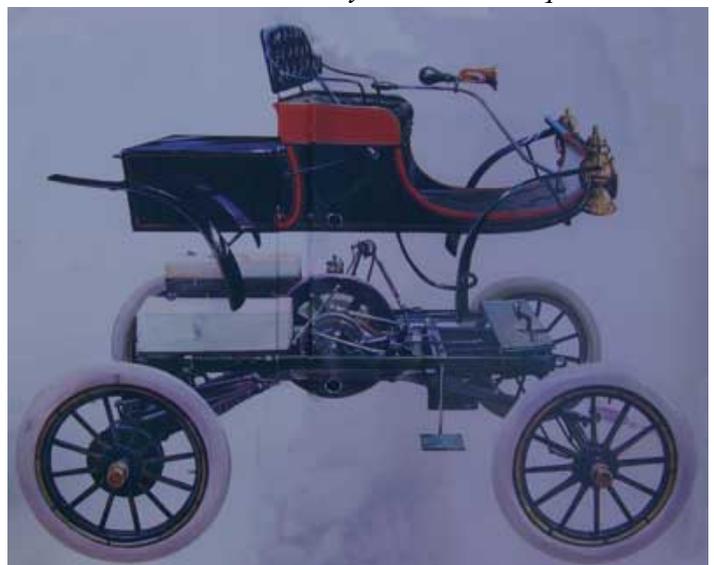
A quote from the original Oldsmobile owners manual. "Don't imagine your car runs well on equal parts water and petrol."



This is what it will look like when it's finished. Check out the model T lookalike diff



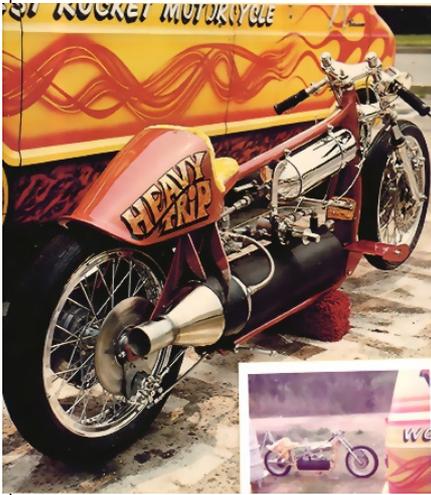
By starting off with the dimension of the wheelbase he was able to calculate every dimension required.



Curved dash model refers to the curved up bit at front. Had a 2 speed epicyclic gearbox. Original could pull 20mph. Leo's model will eat it!

Checking out the net to see if there might be some interesting sheds out there I came across this beaut site called "The Vintagent-Everything Old Motorcycle" <http://thevintagent.blogspot.com/>

There are not only sheds in this site . All sorta bike stuff. One bit that caught my eyes was "Rocket Cycle" There is some interesting stuff here. "Arvil Porter built several Rocket Bike dragsters around 1975, which reached speeds of 200mph in the 1/4 mile. Some interesting problems arose, not so much during construction of these specials (after all, they're basically just a rocket engine with two wheels...), but during their use on the racetrack. First, it appeared after every run that the rear wheels had been locked the entire time...



which turned out to be the inverse problem of most sprinters; rather than wheelspin, they had wheel DRAG, as the wheels weren't keeping up with acceleration! When the rocket ignition button was pushed, the tires would squeal as if they were spinning under power, but they were spinning to catch up (there is no drive through the wheels on a rocket bike)."

Second issue, and much more dangerous, was the g-force affecting rider consciousness during a run; ie, the riders would often pass out from their blood flowing into their legs and away from their brain...some early remedies included using duct tape very tightly on their legs! The ultimate solution was the purchase of surplus Soviet jet-fighter pilot g-suits, which pressurize around the legs to keep the blood 'up top'.



Professor Archibald Low who experimented with anything mechanical electrical or radio was good enough at his stuff that the Nazis tried to get rid of him. Firstly by shooting him then by offering him a strychnine laced cigarette (remember, smoking *is* a health hazard). Lucky they didn't succeed as the prof came up with all sorts of good military inventions. He thought speedway racing in England could use a little boost, and arranged a demonstration at Wembley track, with 90,000 people watching.



The rocket engines are angled up a bit so the bike doesn't achieve orbit!



Dr. Low (right) and Jackson look over their rocket bike. Low plans an all-rocket-driven cycle this year.

There is another form of rocket at <http://www.fasterandfaster.net/2007/09/fearsome-1975-yamaha-tz750-dirt-tracker.html>. Back in 1975 Kenny Roberts had to ride his underpowered Yamaha a bit hard to beat the Harleys. To get a bit more power they stuck a TZ750 2stroke road racer motor in the flat tracker. He left em for dead. The missile went so fast the AMA (they probably had shares in Harley Davidson) banned it after one victorious race! Awesome stuff check it out and read the rest of the story on the net.



The new classic car rego scheme is now up and running

If you would like your new “enthusiast” plates you can go to the MVR anytime with your old plates and they will give you your new ones. No need to wait till rego renewal time. No charge either!

When your rego needs renewing you take your vintage car to any rego inspection place you like (including MVR). Get your green slip same as for normal rego.

You need two copies of form R42 “**Application for Club Vehicle Registration**”. You can get em from MVR, the hangar or off the net. When you have filled em in take them with your green slip to one of the authorised signatories in the list below to get em signed. He will keep one copy and peruse the green slip and you then take the other copy and the green slip and presto! You can get your el cheapo vintage rego same price as it used to be. At the same time the rego people will give you a new log book. You gotta fill it in every time you use your car and you will have to produce it when you next register your car. And maybe some other time too.

Too easy!

For the purpose of the Club Registration scheme the following club office bearers are approved signatories

President:

Peet Menzies:

PO BOX 2855 Darwin 0801

Ph 0417 855 222

Email hmenzies@ozemail.com.au

Vice President:

Brian Bates

6 Bald Circ. Alawa NT 0810

Ph 89851474

Email brianbates@internode.on.net

Treasurer:

Chris Armitstead

1/10 Glyde Crt. Leanyer NT

Ph 89881076

Email carmitstead@inghams.com.au

Secretary- Public Officer

Stuart Duncan:

91 Wanguri Tce. Wanguri NT 0810

Ph 89279640

Email mvec@bigpond.com

Authorised Committee Members Darwin

Leo Izod

18 Hakea St. Nightcliff NT 0810

Ph 0418 851 770

Trevor Feehan

11 Evans St. Nightcliff NT 0810

Ph 89851540

Email pfeehan@optusnet.com.au

Authorised Members MVEC Katherine Branch

Noel Neil

PO BOX 713 Katherine NT

Ph 8972 1241

Terence Ross

PO BOX 434 Katherine NT 0851

Ph 8972 1668

Email centmot@bigpond.net.au

One of our members

Was at the dump shop yesterday, and noticed that there are 2 Rambler hubcaps from the late 1960's - early 1970's there, plus a BMW alloy wheel from the early 1980's.

Get there quick.....

Free Ads

Got some stuff to sell, swap or giveaway. Maybe you are after something or some advice or knowledge? Here is your chance to tap into a network of like minded enthusiasts.

To have your free ad here email Ted at propellers@bigpond.com or phone 0889886049

Deadline end of the month.

Peugeot 505 SR. 1984 Saloon

5 speed, 2 litre , Weber carburettor, an excellent car, comes with plenty of spares, workshop manuals, service receipts for 12 years,

Peugeot factory mag wheels, new tyres, towbar.

Wholesale price to members \$1900.

0408714115



Morris Minor

1957 2door

Excellent condition

Disk brakes

\$4500

Mel 0408714115

THE IRISH PROSTITUTE

An Irish daughter had not been home for over a year. Upon her return, her Father cussed her. 'Where have ye been all this time? Why did ye not write to us, not even a line? Why didn't ye call? Can ye not understand what ye put yer old Mother thru?'

The girl, crying, replied, 'Sniff, sniff....Dad....I became a prostitute...'

'Ye what!?!? Out of here, ye shameless harlot! Sinner! You're a disgrace to this Catholic family.'

'OK, Dad-- as ye wish. I just came back to give mum this luxurious fur coat, title deed to a ten bedroom mansion plus a \$5 million savings certificate. For me little brother, this gold Rolex. And for ye Daddy, the sparkling new Mercedes limited edition convertible that's parked outside plus a membership to the country club..... (takes a breath)..... and an invitation for ye all to spend New Years Eve on board my new yacht in the Riviera and... ..'

'Now what was it ye said ye had become?' says Dad.

Girl, crying again, 'Sniff, sniff....a prostitute Daddy! Sniff, sniff.'

'Oh! Be Jesus! Ye scared me half to death, girl! I thought ye said a Protestant. Come here and give yer old Dad a hug.'

**The Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club
extends it's thanks to**



**Shannons Insurance
For it's continued support
for the club**

WOTS ON THIS YEAR

- Feb 19, 21,22. Bombing of Darwin Commemoration.
Hangar open 9am-4pm on these 3 days. Thurs Sat Sun. Actual date of bombing is Thurs.
We hope to have some WW2 Vets visiting
- March 1 Meet at Parliament House carpark end Mitchell St to check out Charles Darwin Exhibition at Parliament House. Followed by lunch at Deck Bar across the road.
15 Trucking Assoc Cruise. 100 smicko trucks to cruise Darwin to truck show at show grounds. Raises money for kids. More info next month.
- April 19 Open cockpit day at Aviation Heritage Centre. MVEC run the barbie. Can show off your car too. MVEC donates heap of cash to Legacy
- May 9,10 Power Cruise
17 National Heritage day of motoring
23,24. Shannons Car Show
- July 19 MVEC vs Classic Holden Car club cricket match. At Livingstone reserve. A blast!

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

**PRINT
POST
PP 545393-00032**

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

A Department of Water Resources representative stops at a Longreach farm and talks with an old farmer. He tells the farmer, I need to inspect your farm for your water allocation. The old farmer says, 'Okay, but don't go in that field over there. The Water representative says, 'Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me. See this card? This card means I am allowed to go WHEREVER I WISH on any agricultural land. No questions asked or answered. Have I made myself clear? Do you understand?' The old farmer nods politely and goes about his work. Later, the old farmer hears loud screams and spies the Water Rep running for his life and close behind is the farmer's bull. The bull is gaining with every step. The Rep is clearly terrified, so the old farmer immediately throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs..... ' Your card! Show him Your card!'