

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club



No 29

MAR 2009

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

In Katherine call 89710605 . Newsletter enquiries to Ted propellers@bigpond.com

What a good bunch!



MVEC members can sleep well knowing they have donated \$2000 towards the Victorian Bushfires Appeal. You can tell that crime is not much of a problem in Darwin as Shotgun security guard Trevor Feehan takes it easy while Brian Bates hands over the cheque to local businessman Tony Milhinhos. Tony is a real good bloke and matched any donations dollar for dollar. That means the bushfire appeal got another \$2000 from Tony. Top stuff! The club also donated \$1000 to the flood victims in Queensland.

On the 67th anniversary of the day when the Japanese bombed the heck out of Darwin MVEC has traditionally thrown open the hangar doors and invited Darwin's public inside. This year was no exception. There are still cannon holes in the framework of our hangar from this occasion. We had a steady flow of people checking out our toys. Historic cars and machinery seem to be a subject that appeals to all ages as the large numbers of family groups demonstrated. The historic locomotive "Sandfly" is together again and attracted a lot of attention. Members brought in their cars and other toys but the most notable part of the event in my eyes was where our leader, Peet Menzies, allowed a member of the press to photograph his beloved Studebaker Grand Turismo Hawk. He has previously shunned numerous attempts from the local press to feature it in their newspaper. I think the difference is this time they sent a lovely lady photographer. Not only did she photograph the car (and Peet). I saw her drive it!



There was a great variety of vehicles and machinery on display



It was a real family day! Sandra, Ashleigh, James Holland and Jed Coles check out the bullet holes from the war. You wouldn't want to be standing there when it happened!



Ashleigh Holland had no problems operating the vintage Telex machines. This particular machine's claim to fame is it was the machine that let the world know the fate of Darwin after Cyclone Tracy. More recently it played a key role in the movie "Balibo".

No its not a Willys Jeep. It's a Ford Jeep. It belongs to Peet Menzies and as you can see everyone loves it!



Barry Stach's immaculate Mustang received a lot of attention. Adults sometimes drooled a bit.

M3A1 SCOUT CAR

Brenton Schevlin bought his M3A1 scout car along for the open day and what a fitting display it was for the commemoration of a World War 2 event. I can assure the readers this is one fun vehicle. Brenton took a bunch of



us for a burn around the district. We ended up at the WW2 military precinct at East Point. This took a bit of military precision navigating as he had no idea of how to get there. You see Brenton has only been in Darwin a couple of weeks. Obviously he has already got his chief toy on site, so what would you expect someone who drives a mint example of WW2 armour, to do for a living? Brenton is a Tank Commander in the 1st Armoured Regiment. He also has a Ferrett scout car. And how do you come to own a vehicle like this? You just have to be in the right place at the right time. A mate was having a mid life crisis. He needed some room in the shed as his wife decided she needed a sports car (isn't it good to know there are families where they are all petrolheads). Maybe they needed some dough to buy the sports car too!. Anyhow Brenton ended up with the scout car and you can see he is a bit happy about it all.

This vehicle is in amazingly original condition. Although it is LHD it was an Australian Army vehicle from new during WW2 and continued to be a service vehicle right up till the 1970's spending its later years with the CMF which was the equivalent of today's Army Reserve. It still runs its original 6 cyl sidevalve engine and it runs and pulls very well. Gears are very crash and the brakes are not quite up to modern standards but if someone were to cut in front and jam on the skids, well the consequences would be the worse for the cutter inner eh! There is a rail right round the passenger compartment. It is for machine guns to run on. They can traverse 360 degrees. Just right to get that moron who cut in and jammed on the skids! There is also 1/4" armour plating all round. It makes the doors a bit heavy but a small price to feel safe. The bonnet is real heavy. Even the grill is armour plated. It is louvred. When the baddies are shooting the grill louvres are closed so the radiator is protected. I reckon you could drive it in 5 o'clock traffic and be perfectly safe from road ragers.

In the back there are storage compartments. Inside them are all sorts of period webbing and it all appears brand

A bunch of motor vehicle enthusiasts go scouting for a pizza for lunch. Peet is making obscene gestures to the Nazi standing behind me



Brenton drives his baby. He seriously enjoys driving it!



That's Brenton the commander with his scouts in the back Mike Wright and Geoff Samuels. Geoff and Brenton both own Ferrett scout cars.

new. It turns out it is brand new. It was all made for the film about the Normandy landings called "Band of Brothers."

This vehicle is built by the White truck company and weighs 12400 pounds (maybe that's why it takes a bit to stop it), the engine is a 110 hp Hercules and was meant to have a top speed of 50mph. The armament list reads like it is dripping with 50 and 30 cal machine guns and "provision for" a 45 cal submachine gun. Carries 750 rounds of .50 cal, 540 rounds of .45 and 8000 of .30.

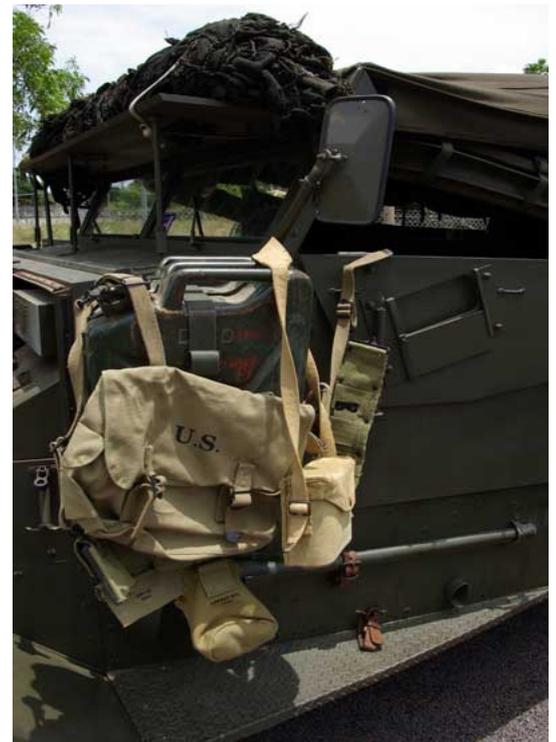
And to give you an idea just how good this Scout Car is, it carried away the award of "Best Military Vehicle" at the NRMA "Motorfest"



That's not a winch out front. It is a roller that makes crossing steep banks easier. Armour plate louvres for the radiator. You can close em!



No useless gimmicks here. Everything in functional.



Brand new webbing in the lockers



The generator is as big as the engine in a modern small car

Cars on the World Wide Web



March and this month I would like to introduce you to a site dedicated to vintage British trucks and buses



“Classic Commercial Motor Vehicles” which can be found at <http://ccmv.fotopic.net/>

Glorious names from the heyday of road haulage, when British-made commercial vehicles dominated the scene in the United Kingdom and overseas, illustrated here with superb photos

Here you'll find photos of **Albion, Atkinson, Austin,**



Bedford, Bradford, Bristol,

Coles, Commer, Dennis,

Dodge, Douglas, ERF,

Foden, Ford,

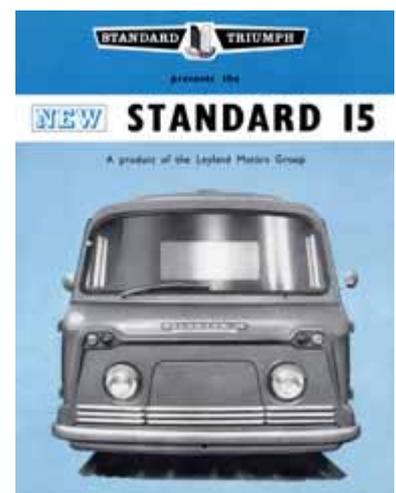


Fordson and Ford Thames,

FWD, Guy, Haulamatic,

Hydrocon, Jensen, Jones,

Karrier, Lacre, Land-Rover,



Leyland, Morris,

Morris-Commercial,

Morrison, Pacific,

Pagefield, Rotinoff,



Rowe Hillmaster,

Scammell, SD, Seddon,

Seddon Atkinson, Sentinel,

Smith, Standard, Taylor,



Thornycroft, Trojan, Unipower, and Vulcan.



Sandflies!

I reckon every bloke was young once. Shiellers too! And when they were young they played with toy cars. And toy trains. When they grew up most of them got to play with real cars (especially the people in this club) but not many got to play with real trains. Especially steam trains. So when the opportunity came up to restore a steam locomotive, especially a steam locomotive with a history tied up with Darwin a couple of our members jumped for it!

The locomotive is "The Sandfly." Back in 1889 the wife of Darwin's judge, Mrs Pater, broke a bottle of champagne over it's girders and named it "Port Darwin". It was a newsworthy event back then. The Northern Territory Times describes "the footplate is covered with a neat cab to protect driver and fireman." Ernestine Hill adds in her book "The Territory" "to protect the driver and fireman... perhaps from a shower of spears." On the same day "There was an adventurous little jaunt as far as the engine yards without the slightest mishap" This was for Darwin's social elite! The next day it "made a cyclonic rush of twelve miles an hour" on its way to Pine Creek. So you can see this was a popular little engine in its day. Leaves Thomas the Tank Engine for dead!

Somewhere along the way the locals started calling her the "Sandfly" It has been suggested this is because she travelled all day to and from the port area near the mangroves and she was as small as a sandfly.

This little engine has been around. She was built in USA and was originally a contractor's locomotive during construction of the North Australia Railway. Later she was sold to South Australian Railways, Darwin in 1889. (NT was part of S.A. back then and was actually "The Northern Territory of South Australia"). Then transferred to Commonwealth Railways ownership on 1/1/1911. (This is at federation when the NT stopped being the Northern Territory of S.A. and became "The Northern Territory" as we know it.) She worked right through WW2 in amongst the action and right up until she was withdrawn from service in 1958. She was then sent south, preserved and stayed at Port Augusta railway station between 1960 and 1982. As a young bloke I remember her well. She was restored again in 1984 and placed on display on the platform at Keswick station in Adelaide. Then on 2 August 2004, Sandfly was transferred to Darwin as a passenger on the rear of the Ghan train, for display at the Berrimah passenger terminal. For reasons that I don't understand, Sandfly missed the Berrimah terminal

and ended up on the Darwin Wharf. I remember being surprised then shocked that such a historic let alone beautiful piece of machinery should sit on a wharf in the salty sea atmosphere. Not a good place for something made of steel! Luckily in 2008 someone in a position to do something about it noticed the poor old Sandfly rusting away. Our club was contacted and got the job of restoring her. Quick as a flash Sandfly got picked up with a crane and a truck and delivered to our hangar. Just as quick a dedicated team got stuck into the job.

Tom Bertenshaw, Rowan Charrington and Kurt Mussiger and Peter Soulos became the team and completely pulled Sandfly to bits, cleaned, sandblasted, welded, painted, polished, generally fixed and put it all back together again.

Now I interrogated these fellers. Tried to get some vibes about what its like to pull a 120 year old locomotive completely to bits. I tried Nazi stuff like big lights in the face, rip their fingernails out and that sort of thing, but all they would say is "pull bits off, sandblast it, paint it, put it back on." You'd reckon they would be just as excited as those kids I talked about at the start! I quietly reckon they had a ball!

Well, Sandfly is back together again now. It looks absolutely fantastic. These blokes have done a ripper job and the next mystery is what happens to Sandfly now? It is not certain at this stage where she will end up. She is safe at the moment on display at our hangar but her fate has not been decided.

Wouldn't it be unreal if she was spotted steaming along the few miles of line still existing with the Adelaide River Railway Station. I'm in one of the carriages and I'm excited!!!



Renee, Meagan and Darren Hardy admire the refurbished "Sandfly" during the bombing open day



Clockwise from top left: Removing Sandfly from tilt truck: Cylinder Head and bits systematically laid out waiting reassembly: Boiler removed : More engine parts waiting reassembly: Starting reassembly from the wheels up.



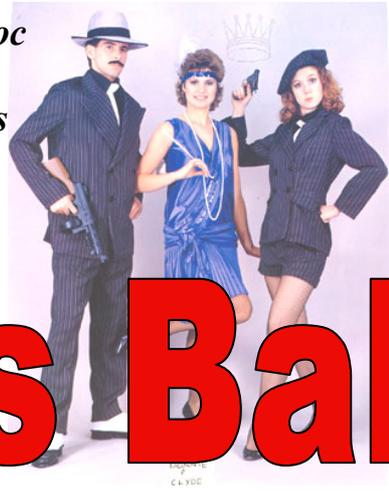
Stop Press!!

The owners of Sandfly, the Museums and Art Gallery, reckon the job which has been done on it is so far above expectations, they have invited MVEC to submit an invoice for another \$10,000 for the job of restoring it. Gives you a bit of an idea of the standard of work. Well done fellers!





*NT Ballroom Dancing Assoc
&
Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts
Club*



presents

The Gangsters Ball

Live music by **“THE CELLMATES”**

Ballroom & Rock n Roll dancing

Sat 11 July 2009 7pm

**Berry Springs Recreation Reserve Hall
Cox Peninsular Rd , Berry Springs (Next door to the school)**

Due to prohibition era all alcohol is bootleg and you will have to bring your own.

**Please bring a plate of supper.
Soft drinks on sale. Tea and coffee provided.**

Heaters, Rods and Tommy guns welcome please ensure safety is on.

**Dress: Formal as the 1920's prohibition era. Prizes for....
best gangster and moll couple
best gangster car**

Bring your van or swag and stay the night. Alternatively accommodation available nearby at Lakes Resort. For accommodation book well in advance.

**Entry \$15 kids free Counterfeit notes not accepted
Bookings welcome
Contact Ted 89886049 or propellers@bigpond.com**



6 Cyl Perkins Diesel Engine

120 HP

3100 RPM

Normally aspirated

Complete with bell housing, starter and gearbox

\$4000 ono

Serge 89886250

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.

Good Blokes Dept

The Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club acknowledges the grants provided by the Darwin City Council (\$700 for Open Day banners), the Northern Territory Government Community Benefit Fund (\$2000 for English wheel) and the Australian Government Volunteer Grants Program (\$1900 for Laptop (Katherine) and data projector). And a heartfelt thanks too!



COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Helping Build Better Communities



GANGSTERS BALL

Elsewhere in this magazine there is a flyer for the Gangsters Ball. This event is something that is entirely new and will be loads of fun. It is an event which will combine the vintage car movement with the ballroom dancing fraternity and anyone else that cares to get in the spirit of FUN!

This is a get dressed up in your best wardrobe event but the name of the game is to be dressed as you might have been if you were a gangster in the 1920's or 30's. Double breasted suits and machineguns would be the norm I reckon. You will be sure to bump into Elliot Ness or Al Capone and mates. Don't forget these blokes had girlfriends too. Some might have been called "Molls"

They drove cars too!

Ever been tempted to try dancing? Here is your chance. The band "Cellmates" will be out on bail just for the night and are a very talented duo. Ballroom to fair dinkum rock n roll is the norm for these jailbirds.

They will be sure to play "Jailhouse rock"

The venue is an enormous hall built just for our climate without walls.

Don't want to drive home. No probs there is 10 acres to put your swag or van complete with showers.

Want to book a table to sit with your mates? Ring Ted 89886049.

Be there!

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



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

Rego Blues?

If you have any dramas when you try to register your club registered vehicle, John Kirwin is the contact at the MVR. In the event of problems he has asked you to call him on 89247218

WOTS ON THIS YEAR

- March 15 Trucking Assoc Cruise. 100 smicko trucks to cruise around Darwin to truck show at showgrounds. Cruise 9am Cnr Wishart Rd, Berrimah Rd .Raises money for kids.
- 29 **Mystery Run** Start from Hangar at 10am Bring own lunch, chairs and tables, and an **up to date street directory** of greater Darwin area. (or phone book) Run will conclude around 1pm, for lunch, within 50km of Darwin GPO, but be prepared to travel at least 100km
- 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
- July 11 Gangsters Ball at Berry Springs Community Hall. See flyer in this issue. Don't miss it!
19 MVEC vs Classic Holden Car club cricket match. At Livingstone reserve. A blast!

If undeliverable return to
MOTOR VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB
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POSTAGE
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AUSTRALIA

A blonde was on vacation and driving through Darwin . She desperately wanted to take home a pair of genuine crocodile shoes but was very reluctant to pay the high prices demanded by the local vendors. After becoming very frustrated with the "no haggle on prices" attitude of one of the shopkeepers, the blonde shouted, " Well then, maybe I'll just go out and catch my own crocodile, so I can get a pair of shoes for free" The shopkeeper said with a sly, knowing smile, "Little lady, just go and give it a try"! The blonde headed out toward the river, determined to catch a crocodile!

Later in the day, as the shopkeeper is driving home, he pulls over to the side of the bank where he spots the same young woman standing waist deep in the murky water, shotgun in hand. Just then, he spots a huge 3 metre croc swimming rapidly toward her. With lightning speed, she takes aim, kills the creature and hauls it onto the slimy banks of the river. Lying nearby were 7 more of the dead creatures, all lying on their backs. The shopkeeper stood on the bank, watching in silent amazement. The blonde struggled and flipped the Croc onto its back.

Rolling her eyes heavenward and screaming in great frustration, she shouts out.....THIS ONE'S BARE-FOOT, TOO"!