

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

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TRANSMISSION



The voice of the Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

If you find you need more information about this club or just cant wait to join ring Peet Menzies on 0417 855222
GPO Box 911 Darwin 0801
In Katherine call 89710605
Newsletter enquiries to Ted propellers@bigpond.com or 89886049

Gangsters !



Da Godfather Mike was out to get the mug that spilled beer on his Red Corvette at the Gangsters Ball. With Daniel driving and Camille distracting the guards he had his revenge. They used Steve's Rugby for the raid and as you can see they copped the odd bullet but got away successfully! Steve's car was awarded the best Gangster car despite those bullet holes!

The Gangsters Ball was a blast. It was the greatest gathering of criminal minds in the history of the Northern Territory. About 130 impeccably dressed hoodlums of both genders set out to impress. And impress they did. For the gents, double breasted suits were the order of the day with their lady partners lifting their dresses to reveal a lot of leg, always topped with a garter often retaining a most ladylike handgun. Some ladies were not so discreet and used their bra. And there were the teenage gangsters too, and gangsterettes, always armed of course. The band, the "Cellmates" performed impeccably as they were released on parole for the night. They didn't have time to change from their prison garb and had to perform with their clothes emblazoned with the broad arrow. And to dance without getting tangled up with your gun was a skill that had to be learned during the night. There was at least one undercover cop at the function but being so overwhelmingly outnumbered there were no arrests. Steve Hall, thanks to his bunch of thugs using stand-over tactics was awarded the best gangster car despite it having copped the odd bullethole from a gangland shootout during the evening. And regardless of the point on the flyer that counterfeit money would not be accepted, Stan Perron tried to pass off a bunch of it. Not bad copies either. Lucky Dan the doorman had his Tommy Gun loaded!

Family gangs were the name of the game. Chelsea, Rachael and Carolyn take it easy but Trevor has always got the Tommy Gun close just in case!



Colene is totally cool to the goings on behind. Stan is attempting to unload some of his counterfeit loot and Bob is having none of it. Maureen is worried about the spent bullet shells hitting her. Shirley is happy as she is the only one in a safe place!



Young wiseguy Jack Coles found being a gangster is a hard life with Rachael and Chelsea Gargan pushing him around



Judi caught Geoff in a compromimising position. As you can see, his gun is almost covered!



Now this is what dressed to kill really means. Melanie's dress was her Mum's and is genuine 1920's . Came from Harrods. Still has the label!



The Coles gang. Gary has been able to hand the main gun over to Jack. Jed lost his coat in a punch up. Rose in perfect gangster style just couldn't resist showing some leg!



Jenny came all the way from Byron Bay to find a reliable hitman. John "Vince" always has his violin case handy. You never know when a job will come up!

Is it a house, is it a shed?

Generally my writings are about the contents of sheds but Sylvia and John Halden's place in Geraldton, WA, is notable just as much for the building as the contents.

You see they caught the bug years ago with the purchase of a 1941 Chev yellow taxi from Tassie. It'll fit under the carport says John. As the collection grew they built a shed in their tenant's backyard next door but let's face it who wants to have their toys in next doors back

yard. So they decided to convert their front yard with extensive lawn and garden, into a shed. The bonus, less mowing! No half measures here either. The shed was to go from boundary to boundary. This may conjure up the thought of a massive corrugated iron structure but in fact the shed is disguised as a house. From the street you appear to be looking at a typical large brick house with a staggered front and a double garage. The windows look like any other house as does the front door. The difference is when you press the doorbell, there is one of those security cameras associated with it and when the door opens you don't step into the entrance of a house, you step into wonderland, surrounded by classic vehicles and all sorts of associated memorabilia. Naturally there is a pit.

The next arrival after the Chev was a 1938 Buick Taxi. John remembers seeing this car in a very sad state laying at peace in a paddock. A local farmer retrieved it and obviously spared no effort to bring it back to new condition. Years later the vehicle was advertised as part of a clearing sale. John was keen to keep the Buick in the area because of its local history and approached the owner with an offer to purchase before the sale. The owner intended it to be a drawcard to his auction and was expecting a high price and had no intention of letting it go early. So John and Sylvia bought the vehicle at auction at a lesser price than they had offered. When it is on show they get a lot of positive feedback from locals. It is quite common to receive comments of "I had my first date in this taxi" or "this was my wedding car." It brings back fond memories. Somewhere here the Chev and the Buick became his and hers cars. They discovered a perfectly original FJ Holden in a Shannons auction catalogue. Trouble is the auction was in Sydney. You can't get much further away from Geraldton. So they bid over the phone. The FJ now lives in the shed. John used to drive a lend lease truck and wanted to fix one up just for good memories sake. A very dilapidated but very complete and unmessed with example became available. They completely stripped and rebuilt it, including a new tray and canopy. Surprisingly there was little wrong



Shut the door and it looks like any other house!



The Buick is actually Sylvia's. That's John's Lend Lease Chev behind her



Buick 8 engine looks like an early Holden but goes on foreverrrrrr!

All these cars have billboards displaying their complete history from new including photos and bits of memorabilia.

Check out the taxi meter in the Buick.



Original business card.



There is good stuff everywhere you look!



FJ is totally original . When it starts the sound takes you straight back to those old days!



The Chev is John's. His n her cars!



The Toyota wasn't classic when Sylvia bought it. It was brand new!

with the engine. It was recently completed and has had a few minor runs to sort it out in preparation for a major trip with the military vehicles club.

The other classic wasn't really acquired as a classic. Sylvia's everyday car, she bought brand new. It is a 1980 Toyota Crown Wagon. It's on its third trip around the clock, still on its original engine and still looks great!

Classic Cars n Coffee

The last Sunday in the month for the duration of the dry season sees a bunch of petrolheads meet at the car-park next to the swimming pool on the foreshore at Nightcliff. Bring your pre 1980 cars and motorbikes from 9am till 11am. Nobody is gonna go crook if you wish to stay longer. No money to pay. Just rock up and meet other like minded people and their vehicles.

What a great idea. I have no idea who started the idea but it's been going a couple of months. After everyone left I found there is a take away food van where you could buy a coffee if you forgot to take it.

And I am informed there is a cruise on the first Fri nite of the month. Meet at the fisherman's wharf 7.30–8pm. There is a fishnchip shop there if you fancy getting a bit early. From 8 till 11 they cruise for a bit then stop and have a social, then cruise a bit more. Young blokes in their moderns come too. Everyone gets on great. Real good stuff.





That's Neil and his beloved Diamond T

There is also a brand new looking FX Holden, new FJ Holden, Chev truck, a Fordson tractor. They all look brand new. Neil has actually trimmed his collection down from 16 cars. But he hasn't even remotely slowed down collecting. He has vast collections of other "stuff" and it's all in lovely condition and sorted into the relevant departments. Just about every oil bottle or tin ever made. Hurricane lamps, Tilley lamps, Petrol cases, petrol bowsers, car radios, traps, tools, and just about anything that's interesting. And there are 2 items that remain unidentified as to their role in the development of our civilization....

Neil Harding's extraordinarily fantastic collection.

The first thing I noticed about the Diamond T truck was the numberplate. Any Darwinite will reckon NAH stands for North Australian Haulage. But not this time. This one lives in Geraldton in WA. The owner of this beauty is Neil Arthur Harding (NAH) and he first fell in love with the model back in 1962. It had a 34 foot semi attached. When it was offered for sale Neil didn't have the necessary cash and it went into the logging business and was flogged to death. Many years later the loving memories had not subsided and he let it be known he was looking for one. This one turned up in Geelong in Vic. Originally it had a turntable with a semi but the owner had lengthened the chassis, and fitted it with a new tray. He discovered it via a friend in the Diamond T Club. Neil was worried the owner would not sell it but after a bit of sweet talking the owner stated he wasn't selling it cheap. When he mentioned the "high" price Neil couldn't believe his luck and accepted it immediately. It is a 1955 630 series. Once it was in his shed he set to rebuild it as new. That massive grille was covered in small dents and chips from stones. You would never know it now. The restoration is impeccable. The stainless has had the dents knocked out and polished to new. The chrome is redone. The paint is perfect, as is the interior. And when you ask Neil which is his favourite vehicle there is no hesitation in pointing out this one. But it certainly isn't the only outstanding one in his gigantic shed. When you enter you are confronted by the most immaculate Customline. He bought it unseen and when it arrived it turned out to be one of those deals you wish you could forget about. He left it laying around for ages but it wouldn't go away. One day a panel beater mate offered to restore the body and paint it, in exchange for a pretty ratty 39 Chev Neil had laying around. The end result is a top to bottom, inside and out seriously beautiful Customline. To give you an idea how beautiful, the week before a bloke had offered him \$25000 for it. He declined the offer.



FX Holden is lovely. There is an FJ to keep it company



You won't find a better customline!



The odd jack!



Beautiful antique sewing machines by the dozen. They all work too. Everything in Neil's collection works!

I trust you will excuse the bit of dust on the vehicles. I rolled up at Neil's out of the blue and didn't give him time to whip around with the feather duster!

The scooter is a Triumph Tiger S. In 1956 they were built to compete with the Lambretta scooter. Powered by a 250 BSA motor, this example has 25000 miles on the clock. Motor bike is M20 Beezer.



A Tale of two Datsuns

Actually there are a lot more than two. Mike Sawyer from Humpty Doo raced them successfully for many years with his brother Andrew as navigator. Rally driving was their specialty. As the years progressed the interests moved on to other things, but the spark was still there and a year or so ago Mike noticed an ad for a pile of car stuff. In amongst it was a Datsun 1600. For nostalgia's sake he decided to have a look and offered \$200 for a shell. No lights or wiring, no engine or transmission. Just a shell and quite a sad one at that. Apart from the rust it appeared it had copped a tree in the front. The owner refused the offer and stuck to his price of \$500. Mike thought he would like a Datsun again so paid the asking price and trailered the shell home. A couple of days later while checking out his purchase he found an old rego form in the glovebox. It had the name "Ian Izod" on it. Mike remembered selling one of his cars to this bloke years ago. He looked around and found small mods that he had done years before. He realised he had bought back his own car. The idea was to fix it sometime, maybe in a year or so. He still had a racing engine laying around the shed. Lots of other bits too. Jump forward a few months.

Mike & Andrew's Dad, Geoff, was sunning himself in Europe where it's a bit warmer than Victoria in the winter. In conversation with his sons he remarked that they are rerunning the Repco Reliability Trial that he competed in back in 1979. This one is called "Back to Repco." Geoff's 79th birthday is coming up about the same time so these two sons decided he needed a birthday present. How about a competitive classic rally car so he could enter! So in 2 months they have converted 3 Datsun 1600's, a 1978 240k, an 85 Bluebird and a R39 Skyline into one smoko and very fast rally car. They had to cut the front off the one he bought and weld in that part off another wreck. The engine is untried but was a tough motor when pulled out of a retired car years back.

Geoff has organised his navigator for the event. It's Les Shadwick, the same bloke who did the job back in the days. The job has progressed though. He is called co-driver these days.

By the time you read this Geoff will be back in Australia and the Datto will be in Victoria and there is one accessory in there that was never fitted in Darwin. This car has a heater. And the sons are adamant. Dad does not have to give the car back after the race. It's his to keep!

Happy birthday Geoff !!!



Engine is 1800. 4x45mm Weber throats. Makes some serious intake noise when stomped!! Has pod filters. Brackets on top of shock tunnels for extra bracing!



As you can see this car is built for some serious stuff!



1954 2 door Morris minor,
Needs restoration.
All new rubbers \$600 ono .
Contact Mick 0428827179

Project Triumph TR7
2 Door sports car, 1979,
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MG TF 1250
\$26,000

1954 build - engine no XPAG/TF 30442
recent partial restoration from chassis up
recond engine, gearbox. timber replaced where neces-
sary new wiring loom new wheels and tyres
recond brakes new exhaust system
body very good - no rust
colour - Alfa red with black interior
upholstery is non-standard and 'sad'
paint looks great from a distance! - but a bit rough up
close non-original bumpers, steering rim. good torneau -
soft top original a few spares incl a grill surround that
are unobtainable (could be worth a \$ or 2)

kakadukerry@bigpond.com



1950's ute wanted

Something along
the lines of a Vauxhall
or a Mainline
but anything considered.
Prefer something that is ready to be
driven
Should you have an appropriate vehicle
that needs a change of carer
please contact Brian
89843044
0408 802 881

**MVEC FATHERS DAY CAR SHOW
AT THE HANGAR
SUN 6TH SEPT**

Here is a beaut opportunity to show off
your vehicles and other toys
Be there with your cars!

Trailer

Unregistered 6 x 4 , has rusted floor, good tyres, vinyl
cover over steel frame.
\$100
Stuart 8927 9640 (ah)

Katherine Festival Car Show

27th August
Don't miss it
Free camping
If you missed the flyer in last months
Transmission give us a ring
89886049 or propellers @bigpond.
com



**1989 White Toyota airconditioned
'coaster bus 'motor home.**

Fully fitted out. Sleeps 2 in single beds-- built-in table
and 2 seats---90litre s/steel water tank---90 litre fuel
tank---fridge---microwave--annex--UHF CB's---CD
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\$32,000 PHONE Stan 89270117

WOTS ON THIS YEAR

Aug	16	Working bee at hangar
	22	Katherine Flying Fox Festival car show. Holden club leaving Wishart 8am
	23	Mystery Run Palmerston to Dripstone cliffs for sunset tea. Meet at 3pm in carpark between Police Station and Council Chambers (off Chung Wah Tee). Bring your own everything.
	30	Shannons Club Day. Meet at hangar 8.30am. Cruise to Hidden Valley raceway and hoon legally on the track. Hoon for free too. And tucker free. All from Shannons!
Sept	6	Fathers day car show. Good chance to show off your cars!! Be there with your cars!
	8	Hudson Fysh & Paul McGinness T Ford reenactment arrives Darwin
	9	Monthly meet at hangar
	13	Working bee at hangar
October	14	Monthly meet at hangar
	31	AGM
Nov	28	XMAS Dinner at Cazalys

And for the duration of the dry season.....1st Friday nite of the month meet at Fisherman's wharf 7.30-8pm for cruise. Open to anyone!

Last Sun morn of the month Classic Cars n Coffee at Nightcliff pool carpark. Bikes too! 9-11am

If undeliverable return to;
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AUSTRALIA

90 years ago two blokes, Hudson Fysh and Paul McGinness, two returned World War 1 fliers, set off from Longreach in Queensland via the gulf country to Darwin . Along with a local driver George Gorham, their task was to search for suitable landing fields for the great England to Australia air race. There were few tracks, let alone roads back in those days.

Their 1350 mile drive in a 1919 Model T Ford was the catalyst for a new airline. As they came to understand the hardships of living in the isolated outback, the concept of the Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services (QANTAS) was born.

A bunch of fellers, all of them Model T owners have restored the model T and are driving it from Longreach to Darwin via the original route they used back in 1919.

That includes plenty of bits where there are still no roads!

Fancy welcoming them into Darwin with your classic car? On the 8th Sept they will roll into Darwin supported by a bunch of pre 1930's vehicles from our club, and with other classic vehicles following. We will rendezvous with them in front of the Winnellie showgrounds at 12.30 to escort them to our Qantas hangar and a big deal reception with Pollies and Qantas executives and welcome speeches and food and all that stuff.

