

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

No 40

Mar 2010

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
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In Katherine call 89710605
Newsletter enquiries to Ted propellers@bigpond.com or 89886049

THE MOST AUSSIE UTE

As soon as you rock up at Jack and Maureen Burr's place you can feel this is Holden Territory. Jack and Maureen have always had Holdens. Jack started out with an FJ Special, then an FC Special. In 1970 they decided to drive to Darwin from Perth. In a Holden naturally. An EK this time. Naturally it was a Special and for you non Holden types EK's were made in 1961 and 62. Roads were

pretty rough up north back then and bitumen was pretty scarce. When it did exist it was pretty narrow too! The attraction of visiting the official hottest place in Australia, Marble Bar, had them travelling late at night. They ended up charging through a deep patch of bulldust and as anyone who has driven through bulldust knows, you can't really tell what's under the bulldust. The bulldust hole had a sort of step up cliff at the far end and when





Holden Territory for sure



*Top: A fairly idyllic camping spot near one Arm Pt WA
Centre: The Dog Fence near Maree SA Photos.. Maureen*

*Jack and his Aussie Ute
Photos..Maureen*



they hit it most of the front suspension parted company from the car. Can you imagine it. Marble Bar was a fairly out of the way place back then and in the middle of the night Jack was groping round feeling in the bull-dust to find all the bits off his front end. Lucky it was a moonlit night! Well he did find all the bits and got them all back together again and even though the wheels were at strange angles they crawled into town by about 10 o'clock the next morning. The local mechanic did a wheel alignment with a tape measure and all was apples and they were able to continue on to Darwin. In Darwin the radiator was giving a bit of trouble and Jack dropped into Suttons, the Holden dealer in Knuckey St. It was where the Le Grande apartments are these days. The salesman took the EK for a spin. Jack was a bit worried the salesman was going to run it out of water but he made quite a good trade in offer and they became the proud owner of a brand new HQ Kingswood. (shock horrors, they stopped making Holden Specials) It cost \$2900 with mudflaps Maureen recalls. They had that car for 25 years. It survived Cyclone Tracy with just a slight bit of damage to the paintwork. Then it was commandeered by the government. Social Security took it over. But once again it survived and was returned in the same condition that it was taken and they were paid for the miles it had done. After years of good service it was sold to a young bloke who restored it.

A quick flashback ... What happened to the beaut EK after they traded it in? This is the question Maureen and Jack's friends were asking at the time. They were at the old Bagot Park Speedway for a special night. The French Hell Drivers were touring Australia doing their stuff and the venue they would generally use would be the local speedway. So how do you reckon they all felt when the Hell drivers appeared and one of their cars was the EK Holden. I saw the French Hell drivers in Adelaide and rest assured they could destroy cars in a lot of very spectacular ways. Some of the party were sad to see the end of the EK, but some were pleased it ended its days in such a spectacular way. Somewhere about here Maureen and Jack must have had a blue as they had his and hers cars. In 1976 Jack bought a 1973 HQ Ute. It had belonged to a painter. You could tell as it had 1/2 inch of paint covering the back. Since then the list of places they have driven the ute sounds like the words of Lucky Starr's song I've been everywhere man. Mt Isa, Burketown, Boroloolo, Birdsville, Innaminka, Camerons Corner, Leigh Creek, Oodnadatta, Wave Hill, Top Springs, Inverway, Halls Creek, Broome, Derby Cape levique, Gibb River, Duncan, Dunmarra, Adelaide, Broken Hill and in all that time the ute has never had a puncture or a breakdown.

But its latest bit of fame is, at the Australia Day Ute Run it was awarded the Best Decorated Ute. Jack fitted as many Aussie things as he could find. There were hay bales, a dingo trap, rabbit traps, a camp oven, an esky (chock full of coldies), a swaggy complete with rum bottle, a skull, a swag, HQ numberplates and of course a large AUSSIE FLAG!

Jack has a spare ute out the back and out front he has a 25th Anniversary Premier Holden that he will restore when he has a spare 5 minutes.

Jacks shed is a bit different than most of them. I actually have never seen a shed that's quite as clean as this one. Maybe jack has got nothing to do. Fair dinkum you could eat your tea off the workbench or even off the floor. Never mind, its full of all kinds of good clean stuff. There is Jacks antique spanner display on the wall, spark plugs of ever type. Enamel signs and oil cans all in perfect order with no dust or rust, oilcans, the list goes on but the thing there is not is disorganisation or dirt.

I had better stop writing and go and clean my shed.



Jack points out that the Pegasus (that's the flying red horse for the rest of us) normally flies to the left. The Mobilfluid is unusual in that it flies to the right.

Below: Need an oilcan or two?



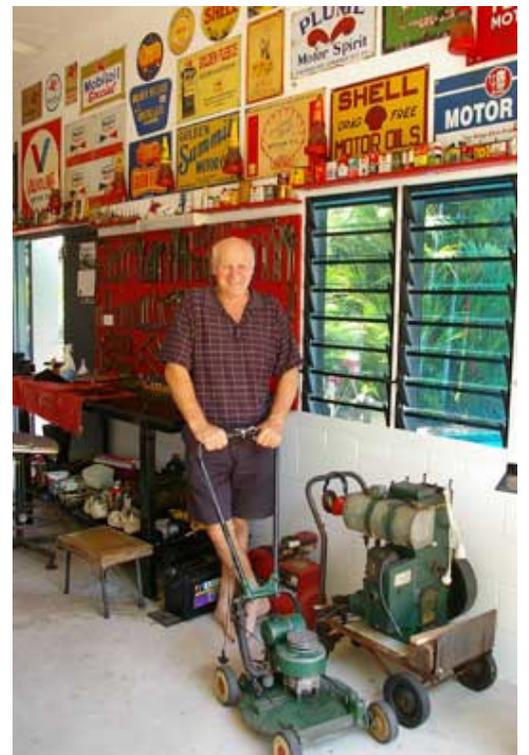
If ever someone made a special spanner chances are Jacks got one of em. Check out the shine on the bench too. Jack is working on fitting a drive plate and ring gear to a stationery engine so it can sport a starter motor. Naturally it's Holden parts. Notice the rag to keep the bench clean!



HQ Premier 25th Anniversary. All original and unmolested for when he gets a spare minute or two



That's pretty close to the original Victa mower. Runs beaut too. Lister D stationery engine to keep it company.



And everyone needs a spare ute

And there are enough enamel signs to cover the opposite side wall. Notice the Holden calendar





*Steve's Dad George grew up with this 1940 Pontiac (top) and 1928 Rugby (bottom)
Photos ..Steve*

WHY DO YOU LIKE THAT CAR

Car enthusiasts come up with all sorts of reasons for owning particular cars. Steve Hall comes up with a couple fairly original ones like "I reckon it looks good" and "it was cheap", but I think nostalgia has a lot to do with it as well. You see Steve's Dad, George's first car was a 1928 Rugby. It's no coincidence that Steve owns a 1928 Rugby.

As a young lad Steve would be fascinated by his Dad's adventures. George got his

Rugby when he was just sixteen years old and he had no drivers licence. The Rugby was a bit tired and got through a considerable amount of oil, so considerable that he used to visit all the service stations in the area to bludge their secondhand oil. There was a Taverners Hill on the road at Paramatta. George used to relate the time when with mates in the car they had to drive up the hill. It was such a challenge for the Rugby that pedestrians on the footpath were overtaking them. The pedestrians were probably in a bit of a hurry to get away from all the smoke! Like Steve's, the Rugby was a tourer but some of the roof bows were busted and he had to carry mates in the car so they could hold the roof up. There was another hill at Dead Mans Creek. The Rugby didn't



Steve's 1928 Rugby on Display in the hangar

have enough grunt to get up so he did a U turn to go back and get a bit of a run up. Trouble was, he ran another car off the road in the process. No licence remember! George shot through pretty quick and survived to drive another day.

Maybe it was to celebrate getting a licence, who knows, but Dad's next car was a 1940 Pontiac. Real flash! Saturday arvo's job was to rub boot polish into the scratches. It made them go away. It had a woodgrain dash and a pearl steering wheel, oozed class and being single and the only feller around Punchbowl with a car, he did alright in the shieler dept.

So when Steve reckoned he needed to get into this old car stuff he thought about his first car. A 1963 Hillman. Nope he didn't want another one of them! He set out to find a Pontiac same as Dad's. Six years later he still hadn't found one, but what should bob up on Ebay? Not the Pontiac, but a Rugby. It was over on the East Coast and Dad was camped about 100 Km away. Steve rang him



Steve with his Pontiac at the hangar. No bootpolish needed anymore. Steve says it's a 1940 Deluxe. On the dash it says Silver arrow. On the left fender it says Silver streak. Whatever its called it's a beauty!

up and asked him to check out this car. Steve didn't let on what sort of car it was. After the purchase they trailered it back to Darwin. Every time they stopped on the way back there was an audience checking it out.

The search for the 1940 Pontiac wasn't interrupted by the Rugby and last year it came to fruition. This time the vehicle bobbed up in the Trading Post. It had been in the same family in NSW most of the time. The original owner's wife had transferred the title to her grandson in 1995 but he had since sold the car to a WA buyer who then dismantled it. Then Steve came along and brought it to Darwin. Originally brown, Steve had it painted a really shiny and dark shade of black. No need for boot-polish here. The engine is running fine and the car just needs a few minor problems sorted before it's on the road again.

Unfortunately Dad passed on before the Pontiac came on the scene but he did get to drive the Rugby.

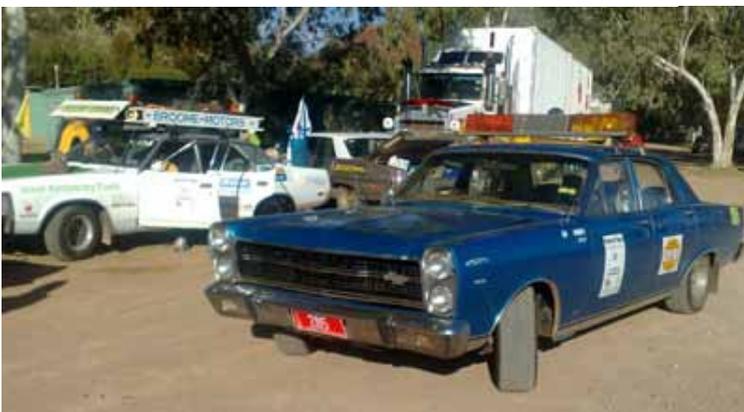
There are more cars in Steve's garage. There is a 1970 Ford Fairlane he has used as a Bash car, also a 1976 Rolls Royce and the latest, also found on Ebay is a 1966 Pontiac Parisienne which is to be the next generation Bash car. And is the collection complete? What do you reckon? There is an FX Holden Ute there somewhere in the dream.



Steve's Rugby won the award for "the best Gangster car" at the Gangsters Ball last year. Mobsters Daniel, Camille and Mike.



*1976 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow.
Why? It was cheap!*



*Steve's Fairlane at the Variety Club bash
Photo..Steve*

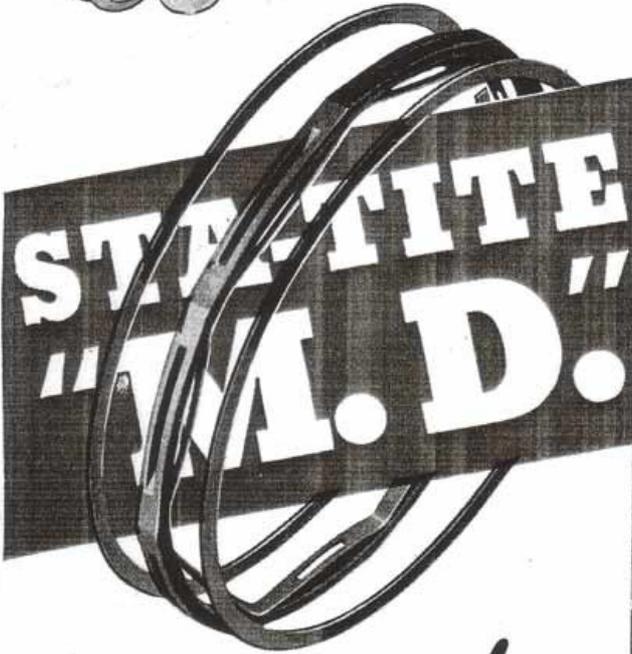
The latest Pontiac, a 1966 Parisienne. The next Bash car. Because he likes the look of it!



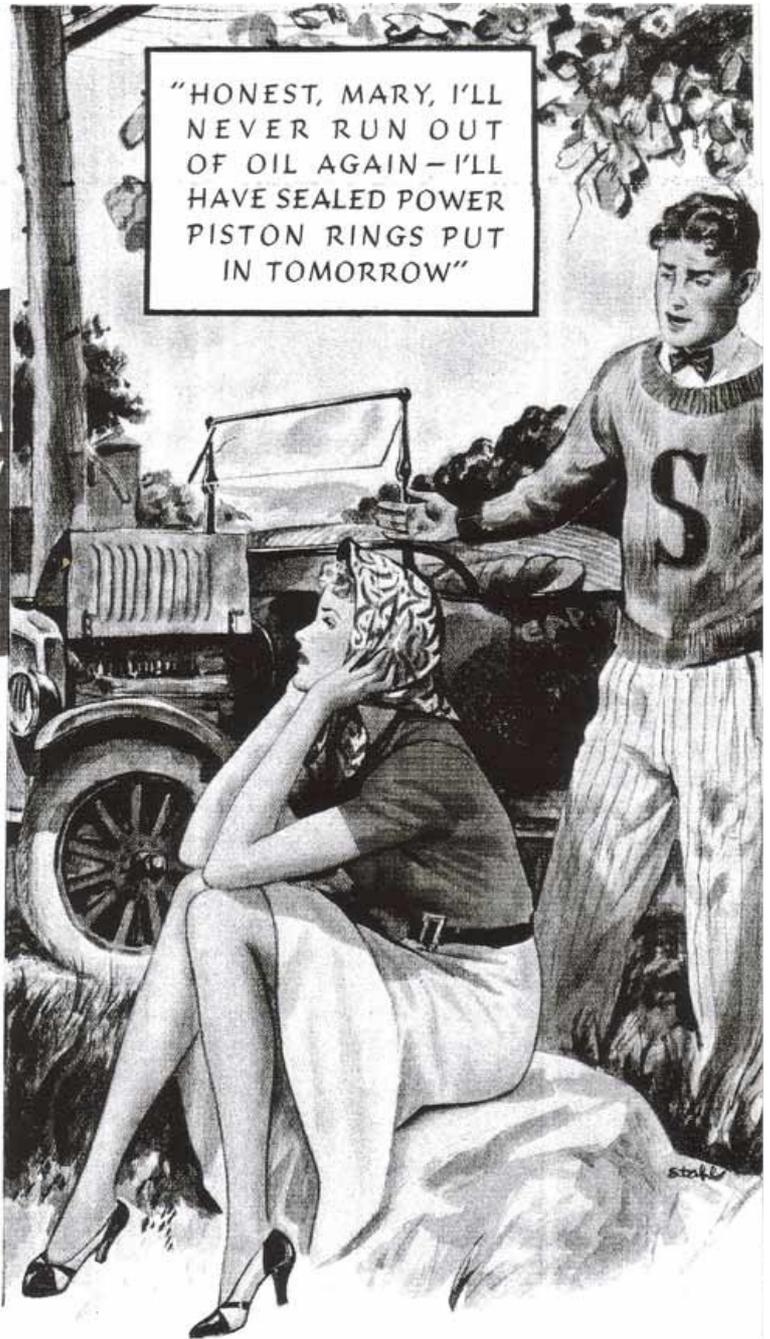
*George with Steve's Rugby.
Note the rego number
Photo..Steve*



OH! DOCTOR!
SHE'S USING 11 QUARTS
BETWEEN CHANGES!



*Cures the
worst oil
pumper!*



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IN TOMORROW"

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BEST IN NEW CARS! BEST IN OLD CARS!

Stuff on the Net

Whether you have any particular affection for Chevs or not you are sure to drool a bit at this article.

It seems a feller, Dennis Albaugh in Iowa , USA has collected an example of every Chevrolet convertible they ever made.

The personal and private collection consists of 110 + Chevrolet convertibles... all years from 1912 to 1975 and Corvette convertibles from 1953 to 1975.

That is a Chevy convertible from every year of manufacture EXCEPT 1939...

The reason? - Chevy didn't make a convertible in '39 -- and ended its convertible line in '75!

His 'boy toys' include his own 18 hole golf course, copied somewhat after Augusta National.

And it says he made his fortune selling farm chemicals

Check it out at http://www.georgechapin.com/files/every_chevy_vonvertible.html

While you are at this website, named “Just a website” check out the bit under the heading “aviation” it has a very interesting article about an American bomber and a German fighter during WW2. It restores your faith in human nature.



XT 600 (Tenere). 640 big bore kit, new tyres, gold rims. Hasn't been started for a few years. Found it in the chook house when we moved house. Was wondering where it got to. \$500. (If it doesn't sell, the kids will get a really fast go-kart soon)!



1986 CR 125 (Honda). Found it on a beach in the Cocos Islands. Rebuilt the motor, new tyres, no brakes. Haven't started this one for a few years either. You guessed it, it was behind the XT. \$500.



XL 185 (Honda). Another Cocos bike. After a few months the local Cocos Malays decided to save me a trip to the dump and kindly brought this one straight to our house. Last rode it about 3 years ago. The chickens were roosting on this one. \$200.



1975 International truck. 345 V8. 6 tonne flat top tray. Beautiful paint, new tyres, new brakes, needs work to complete. \$6000. Contact Tim Modra on 8928 1182 or tim@modramob.com.au for more details.



1924 -28 Dodge parts

- 2 Front Guards
 - 2 Running boards, cut in half, why I don't know
 - 2 Rear guards
 - 1 Rear Tourer tub.
- Come and take it away, too much stuff in the shed
Ph Eddy 0437 426 468

Wedding Cars

Fancy driving a lovely bride around in your classic car? Claire is after cars for her wedding on 6th August Ring her on 0402 699546 or CxJones@skm.com.au



The motor vehicle Enthusiasts Club
Extends its thanks to
**Shannons
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For its continued support for the club

Wots On

17 March Working bee at hangar
14 April Monthly meeting
18 Working bee

22-23 May Shannons motoring extravaganza

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An elderly man in rural Darwin had owned a large property for several years. He had a dam in one of the lower paddocks where he had planted mango and avocado trees. The dam had been fixed up for swimming when it was built and he also had some picnic tables placed there in the shade of the fruit trees. One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the dam to look it over, as he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a ten litre bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the dam, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his dam. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him, 'We're not coming out until you leave!' The old man frowned, 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the dam naked.' Holding the bucket up he said, 'I'm here to feed the crocodile.'