

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
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In Katherine call 89710605
Newsletter enquiries to Ted propellers@bigpond.com or 08 89886049



An absent minded bunch of vintage car enthusiasts socialising in the middle of the highway trying to get run over?

Well apart from the getting run over bit, that's about it. MVEC members were invited to be part of the opening of the NT Governments new zillion dollar shortcut from Palmerston to Darwin, and this bunch were actually the first cars on the new highway. There wasn't much chance of any more traffic running them over as the polliies were still involved in back patting and nibblies in the middle of the road. So it was a once in a lifetime chance to hang out on the road and be safe.



*Above: The house next door. Notice the raised roof section to accommodate the hoist.
Below: The hoist with the raised ceiling above.
Left: 1920 and 21 Rolls Royce plus visting Alvis*



The House Next Door

It seems to be a common problem that owning one Rolls Royce Silver Ghost leads to another. Graham Singer's excuse is that his 1920 Ghost is showing signs of age. It looked lovely in my eyes but he assures me it is time for a rebuild and it may be off the road for a couple of years. Horrors! Fancy not being able to drive it for such a long time!. But the solution was simple. Go get another one! He knew of a 1921 model that was for sale down Sydney way. Being careful by nature, he took a few tools for the drive home to Queensland and the route was the inland way via Tamworth. He picked the perfect weekend for the trip. Early October he might have expected crisp mornings with lovely blue skies but in fact the skies were not even grey, they were more like black. As he drove on the weather got worse with high winds bringing branches down across the road and rain driving horizontally. He ejected his adult son who had come for the drive. Son continued

with Graham's wife Dorothy who was following in a car with that modern luxury, a heater. The Rolls Royce, incidentally, is a tourer. It has a hood but no side curtains. With the rain horizontal it travelled right through the car and continued on its way but as the journey progressed it became sleet for a while, then changed to snow. While all this magnificent weather was happening, you might expect a Rolls Royce to cruise on effortlessly. It didn't. At first it seemed to be down on power a little. These vehicles run a magneto and a distributor with two spark plugs per cylinder. You can run on either system or both. Graham tried it on maggie only and it died. The maggy was not working at all. As the hills got bigger the engine began to misfire and pretty soon he had to stop and investigate. One of the contact breaker points had come off. In those few tools he took along there was a new set of points, and



Above: You can just imagine the snow blowing right through The 1921 Silver Ghost

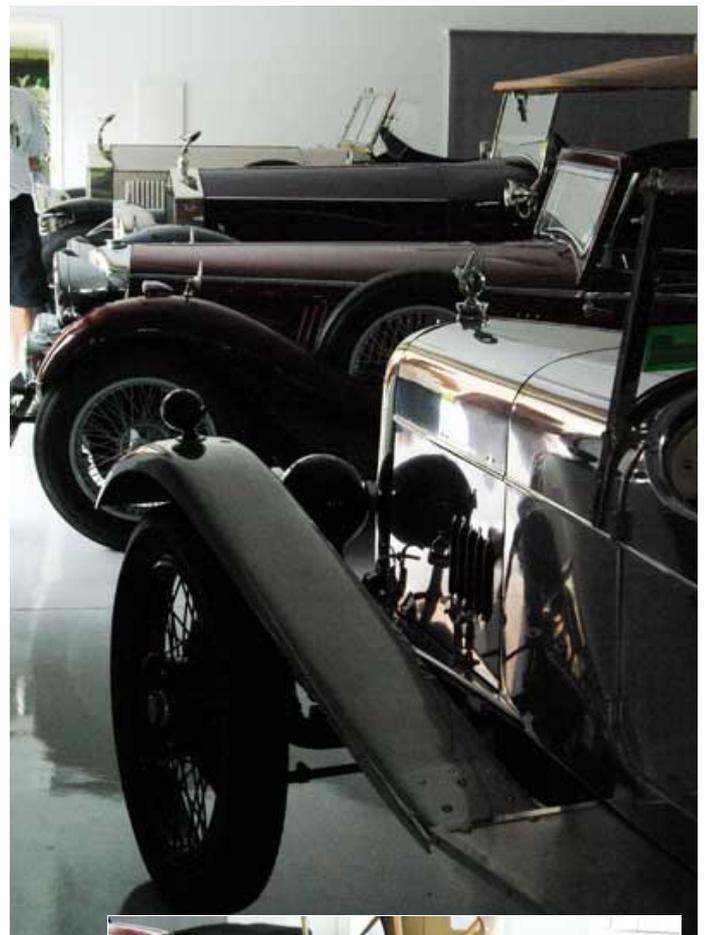
Right From Top: 1933 Aston Martin long chassis Le Mans and 1926 Alvis 1250.

: The Alvis. The hand crafted panels are soooo lovely!

:Alvis, Alvis, Ghost, Ghost

:Alvis dash. 100% original

This car is simplicity. There is no water pump and fuel is gravity fed.



with those installed you might reckon the Rolls would be running smoothly but once again you would be wrong. With the temperature gauge not having moved from its at rest position it was not quite warm enough to run properly. Graham managed to scrounge an old carton and taped it over the radiator. That had the desired effect, and with the engine running at something closer to a normal temperature it ran as it should.

There was an overnight stop at a motel and with the next day a dry one, the magneto awoke from its slumber and has been running fine ever since.

And so the new car found its way into Graham's new shed.

And what a shed!

At first glance the house next door is nothing remarkable. So when I rolled up at Grahams it didn't attract my attention at all. Just another nice looking brick house with a tiled roof. Big deal! But on closer inspection it has four front doors and they are all roller doors. The house next door is not a house, It's Graham's shed. Brand new, it's only just finished and still waiting for the shelves to be mounted. There is a car hoist in one of the bays and lighting is so good it will dazzle you. Even lights around the skirting for when you are working under the hoist. The floor is painted with gloss paint so he can wipe up the oil drips.(lets face it, old cars are meant to leak oil) This shed is absolutely spotless! And it even has it's own dunny!

But what is just as impressive as the shed itself is what is parked in it. There are the two Silver Ghosts, a 1933 Aston Martin keeping company with a 1926 Alvis plus



The super clean shed makes you wonder if Graham might have been a doctor or a surgeon at some stage. He assures me he has never operated on a human.

on the day I was there, a 1935 Speed 20 Alvis was just visiting.

Although Graham's 1920 Silver Ghost looks smicko, he has owned this car for 32 years and it is over 20 years since the last engine rebuild. He has driven it all over the place and this is one of the pair that drove to Darwin last year to meet up with Graham Mead who had driven his Ghost up from Perth.

1926 Alvis 1250

Back in 1980 Graham obtained this vehicle from the dean of architecture at the local uni and was able to trace every owner from new. It was completely worn out. Mechanically every bearing and bush had to be replaced and the aluminium body was beyond restoration. But the amazing thing was that the car had never been tampered with. It was 100% original and 100% complete. Even the lights and gauges were intact so everything that needed to be remade could be copied from the original. The wooden frame for the body was rotten but it was intact and could be copied. And the vehicle was able to be restored to exactly as it had been when it came out of the factory when new. It won first prize at the state concours event 8 times in a row until it became something of an embarrassment to enter it. But it doesn't spend its life just sitting in the shed. All these cars are there to drive. This one has worn out 3 sets of tyres. They have driven it to such places as Wilpena Pound in South Australia.

The body was hand built on an English Wheel by a local craftsman who did his apprenticeship with Aston Martin. The guards are the originals rebuilt by a master of his trade. If you look really carefully you can see a change in the colour of the aluminium where he has gas welded replacement bits.

*Just a few more reflections from the Alvis.
You can't really get enough of it!!*



Cockpit view of the Aston Martin



Aston Martin engine bay is just as spotless as the rest of it



The name of the Aston Martin is embossed on the radiator shroud





The interior is just as impressive. It is about 20 years since the car was restored. The condition of it now is testimony to the workmanship that went into it.

Dean with his Alvis. Resurrected from a pile of junk he swears he will never sell it!

1935 Alvis Speed 20 drop head coupe.

Dean Prangley once wrote an article about these cars which resulted in a gent contacting him with the story that he had one. Dean went along to check it out and found the so called car was actually a pile of junk in a shed. It had been used as a racer at some stage and had 11 inches cut out of the chassis. All the woodwork had holes drilled in it, probably to get rid of some weight and there was a horrible attempt at fibrelass bodywork on the rear. But Dean bought it. That was back in the nineteen eighties. Six years later in 1992 it was finished. During that time he added the 11 inches back in the chassis, manufactured both doors, and basically built the car back from the windscreen. Not to mention rebuilding everything mechanical. One thing that didn't need reconditioning is the gearbox. These 4 speed all sychro boxes are reputed to be indestructible. The fact that it needed no work after 75 years seems a pretty good testimony. The end result is a stunning vehicle. The sound of it just idling is enough to get you excited.

Dean is adamant he will never sell this car!



Check out the toolkit and oilcan attached to the firewall





Please excuse the modern vehicle amongst the classics

East Point

Despite a rainy morning a whole bunch of enthusiast's fronted for MVEC's first social event of the year. The rain conveniently stopped so the barbie could be fired up and with a couple of expert cooks we had a real flash brekkie/ morning tea/ early lunch.

The gathering was at East Point one Sunday morn and with about 40 members, some of them newcomers, it was a great show. With the new faces, there were naturally some new cars. (maybe that should read old cars we haven't seen before)



You can't go wrong with three chefs. That's Brian, Bob and Pauline.





*Engine bay is simplicity.
Mechanics heaven!*



*Paintwork is vivid white and is spotless.
Marks in photo are shadows.*

Making it's Debut at the East Point function was this beaut Ford 100E Prefect

Jim West's first car after he left school was a Ford Consul. He spied this 1954 Prefect in the local paper and as it looked just like the Consul he snaffled it up quick. The bloke that was selling it refused an offer twice what Jim paid, because Jim was going to restore it and the other young blokes were going to soup it up and race it. It was barely going but all that was needed was a new coil and a carby kit and away she went. The brakes received an overhaul. One problem that became apparent was over heating. It boiled regularly. It turned out there was no thermostat in the system. Installing one instantly fixed the overheating, but Jim got through about 5 coils before he decided there was something else amiss. The problem this time was the lack of a ballast resistor. Now that there is one in the circuit the Prefect runs sweet. Jim has only owned this car about nine months. He has had it repainted and done up the interior but the engine internals are untouched and it runs and looks just great!



As with everything else on this lovely car, the instrumentation is not off the planet. But it works and does the job perfectly. The starter is one of those knobs on the dash. When you pull it, you pull a cable straight to a switch on the firewall. There is no solenoid. You can also operate the switch from under the bonnet. Handy when you are tuning the motor. You can operate the starter without having to get in the drivers seat.

CAR TROUBLE

A blonde pushes her BMW into a service station. She tells the mechanic it died.
After he works on it for a few minutes, it is idling smoothly.
She says, "What's the story?"
He replies, "Just crap in the carburetor"
She asks, "How often do I have to do that?"

Stuff on the net

They call it catastrophic.

<http://princerupertrailimages.blogspot.com/2010/04/cn-2699-engine-failure.html>

It seems a 200 odd ton Canadian locomotive was pulling hard when its 183 litre 4400HP V16 engine developed a bit of a problem. One piston complete with cylinder and head detached itself from the rest of the engine and exited right through the roof of the train. The cylinder and head landed on the footpath but the piston managed to go right through someone's roof and embedded itself in the lounge room wall while the family were watching Funniest Home Videos. Lucky it didn't break the telly!



Above is the hole in the roof, below is the ceiling and below right is the piston embedded in the wall.



Divorced Barbie

One day a father gets out of work and on his way home he suddenly remembers that it's his daughter's birthday.

He pulls over to a Toy Shop and asks the sales person, 'How much for one of those Barbie's in the display window?'

The salesperson answers, 'Which one do you mean, Sir?'

We have: Work Out Barbie for \$19.95, Shopping Barbie for \$19.95, Beach Barbie for \$19.95, Disco Barbie for \$19.95, Ballerina Barbie for \$19.95, Astronaut Barbie for \$19.95, Skater Barbie for \$19.95, and Divorced Barbie for \$265.95'.

The amazed father asks: 'It's what?! Why is the Divorced Barbie \$265.95 and the others only \$19.95?'

The annoyed salesgirl rolls her eyes, sighs, and answers: 'Sir..., Divorced Barbie comes with: Ken's Car, Ken's House, Ken's Boat, Ken's Furniture, Ken's Computer, one of Ken's Friends, and a key chain made with Ken's balls.'

1977 Triumph Stag.

Hard top soft top, 3L V8 automatic, body work and paint job in good condition, complete motor rebuild 2 years ago with low mileage since and all receipts available, starts runs and rides just beautifully.

\$12,000 ONO

Mobile, 015722366

Home, 08 89324113



2 off **Citroen Owner's Manuals**, English language printed 1973, covering 4 speed and 5 speed manual and the 4 speed hydraulic gear-change, models DS-FE, DS 20, DS 21 and DS-FD. Both these books were supplied to me when I purchased second hand Citroen DS23 models. I think it likely that these books although not specific to that model, were supplied with a new DS23.

1 of Autoclima Operation and Maintenance Handbook, for aircon units fitted to many D series Citroens, written in Italian, English and French.

1 of Citroen Vinyl Folder for owner's manual. All originals and in good condition. Any Offers?

Ray Smith 0427 613 418

raysurvey@bigpond.com

Vanguard Station Wagon

1961 phase 3, 2 litre six, 3 speed column shift, good basic car.

Make an offer.

Peter Bate 89277040



Gangsters Ball is on again in July.

Double agent Audrey Grace is one us car enthusiasts and also a dance instructor. She has offered her services to any members who might like to have **dance lessons** before having a whirl on the dance floor at our upcoming ball.

Ring her on 89483089

1978 Mercedes 280E Sedan

Unregistered. Bought as project car but now it has to go. Overall condition is good, front brake callipers overhauled, new front brake pads plus new battery . fitted. Includes a set of genuine Mercedes mag rims (not fitted) 2 workshop manuals one in English one in German. Asking \$500.00 ONO

Phone Craig 0419 860 355

Give away FREE

Lada Niva 4wd

3 of em, two rolling of which one is running plus one for wrecking, plus spare motor and gearbox

Located at Fanny Bay

Steve 0417805670

Wanted

1955 - 1965 BMC medium version Banjo, 4.3 to 1 ratio, rear axle, as used in MGA, Austin A50, A55, A60, etc, Sherpa Van, Morris Van or Morris Oxford.

Contact Stuart 0405 402 745.

Hercus metal lathe

Offers or swap for something interesting (maybe a 6' redhead with green eyes)

Ring Dick 89327264

HR Holden

Needs restoration, but does come with many spares, extra motor and gear box, extra set of doors and windows , assortment of chrome strips, set of chrome steel mags, starter motors, radiator, diff housing, drum brake front end, some gauges and head lights, tail lights. \$700 for the lot .Contact Mick 0428827179.

The motor vehicle Enthusiasts Club

Extends its thanks to

Shannons

Insurance

For its continued support for the club

**Wots on this year
Lots!! Come along and enjoy**

On the 2nd Wed of every month there is a members meeting at the hangar 7.30 pm plus bbq beforehand. Also there is a working bee at the hangar the following Sunday.

March	19	100th anniversary commemoration of Palmerston becoming Darwin. 9am meet at hangar to travel down Cavenagh st, then right into Knuckey st. Pre 1930 cars park in mall until approx 2pm
April	10	Combined Classic Holden Car Club run to Bark Hut. Meet Coolalinga United 10am
May	15	Australian Historic Motoring Federation National Motoring Heritage Day. This event is now to be coordinated by MVEC making it just right for our members to participate. Mark the date!
	21,22	Club run o/night Peet and Judes place Mandorah
June	18	Fund raising at hangar with band (SIDS for kids)
	27	Club run to Adelaide River Railway Precinct with Classic Holden Car Club

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

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AUSTRALIA

July	9	Gangsters ball at Berry Springs Hall. Get dressed up. Have a go at Dancing.
	17	CHCC/MVEC Shannons Trophy Cricket Match at Batchelor
	30 31, 1st	Rejex Rally
August	21	Club run Jim Coopers amazing Ford collection plus late breakfast at Charles Darwin Nat Park
	27	Club Run Katherine festival or Alice Springs Transport Hall of fame reunion
Sept	4	Fathers Day Open Day HANGAR. Show off your cars.
	18	Club run
Oct	8	AGM
	23	Club run Daly Waters pub anniversary
Nov	20	Club run
	26	Christmas dinner at CAZALYS
Dec	9	Chris and Kathy's Christmas show