

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club



No 101

Oct 2015

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
longtelescope@gmail.com

Town Car



One of the prettiest cars I have ever seen, I took this photo a couple of years ago at a Model T function. It not only caught *my* eye as it won one of those awards where everyone votes for *their* favourite. Then last year when I was in WA, a bloke handed me his card. It had a small

photo of a car on it. I recognized it instantly. Bob Sellar was the gent's name and when I was in SA next I made sure I visited him and his car. It was an interesting visit. And naturally there were more cars.....

Bob Sellar started playing with old cars back in 1970 when he laid his hands on a model A Ford. He obviously didn't madly rush into it as the job was only finished last year. And the result is a brand new, just out of the showroom car. But just because the model A took so long doesn't mean Bob has been totally idle. There have been quite a few finished projects through his shed in those years and some of them are still in the shed and still gleaming, and there is still a project under way.

Somewhere in those earlier years there was a 1923 model T Ton Truck. He also scored a horse drawn bakers van which, with a bit of modification, made an excellent body for the ton truck. The inaugural Bay to Birdwood run's programme booklet in 1980, shows Bob's Van as entrant no 1.

Somewhere in the story there is a '36 Oldsmobile and just to keep a bit of a spread in year models there is a 1961 Mk 2 Jaguar and a Mercedes SLC from 1979.

The attraction to the Mercedes, for Bob, is that it was a car that he would have liked when they were new but were so expensive to be out of the question. One thing I found surprising about this car was the price of a water pump Bob recently replaced. Somewhere around \$70. I had assumed bits for a Merc to be over the top. But this isn't a car that he has restored, it's just a low mileage car that has obviously been well cared for all its life.

The same deal with the Jag. Bob found it 11 years ago while looking for a Daimler V8 of the same vintage. The Daimlers were a bit scarce but he reckons he did the right thing getting the Jag instead. The Daimler V8 was only 2.5 litre and was a bit slow **compared with the Jag's 3.4 litre 6**. I still love the smell of these pommie cars with all the beaut polished woodwork inside.

And the current project is a model T speedster. He has it to the rolling chassis stage with mods to make it lower. He was able to source an engine that had been rebuilt, but had



A model Ford. It is 100% smicko.

Considering it took 44 years to restore that might not be surprising. But there were several good reasons (cars) for the extended job.



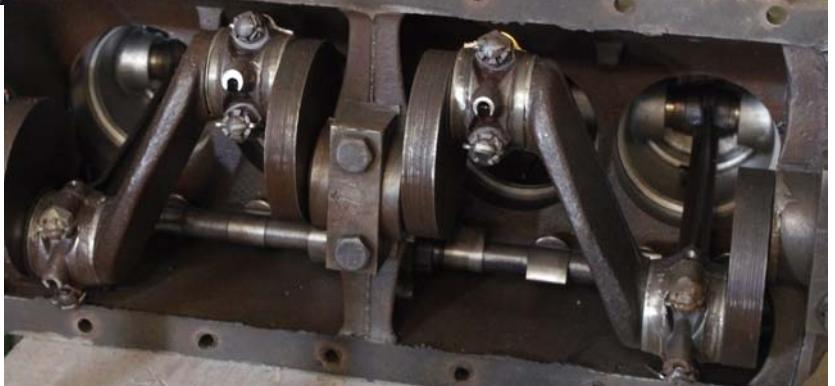


Above: '61 Jag and '79 Mercedes, nice cars to decorate the shed.

Right: Model T speedster is the current project. Note the nifty brackets to lower the front end and others to stabilize it.

been fitted with a model A crank which is a bit beefier. The catch with this modification is the conrods at the big end are wider and connect with various parts of the block. Consequently the bolts and bits of the conrods

The rear end has had a z added to get the height to match the front. That is a model A crank in the T engine. The A has bigger diameter journals. Note the ground off big end nuts for clearance off the block. They didn't grind enough off to clear the sump!





Bob cranks the 1913 Ford Town Car. The coachwork (by Bob) is second to none, and the interior appointment just makes you feel good.. Check out the lace curtains.

themselves had been ground off and just clear the bottom of the block where the sump bolts on. Bob got this motor at a reasonable price and it appears unworn but the previous owner warned of a rattle he could not fix. With the sump off Bob found a couple of shiny spots where it appears the conrods are still hitting. A bit more grinding and chances are he will have an excellent engine and for an excellent price.



But to my eyes, the crowning glory of the Sellar's collection is the 1913 T Ford Town car. He started out with just a chassis, engine and lights, and no real plans as to what style car it would be. Early thoughts were of a buckboard when a friend suggested a town car. The friend had drawn a sketch of, and had timbers steam bent, for the body of such a vehicle but the project had stalled. The friend then offered to sell the steam bent timbers, so Bob took up the offer and for the next 5 years and about 1500



The Chauffeurs office is also pretty cool. There are no rough edges anywhere on this car. And it has travelled untold thousands of miles since 1983.



Maybe drivers in 1913 had better eyesight. That speedo is a long way away from the driver.



man hours from 1979 to 1983 the project became a real car. The original bodies made by Ford had a windscreen that folded up and away, and a fold down roof for the passenger compartment, but this was also that part of Bob's life where he was bringing up children, and being a bit short on time left those functions out. The wheels are of the type that have wooden spokes as well as wooden felloes, with a steel rim permanently attached. Wooden spokes are one thing but the wooden felloes decided the wheels would be sent interstate to be completely redone. Apart from that Bob did just about everything. The woodwork is second to none and many of the brass fittings are things he has picked up at swap meets and the like, and although they may have originally been used for something totally different, you would never pick it. And other parts he has manufactured. The mudguards and valances are totally his work.

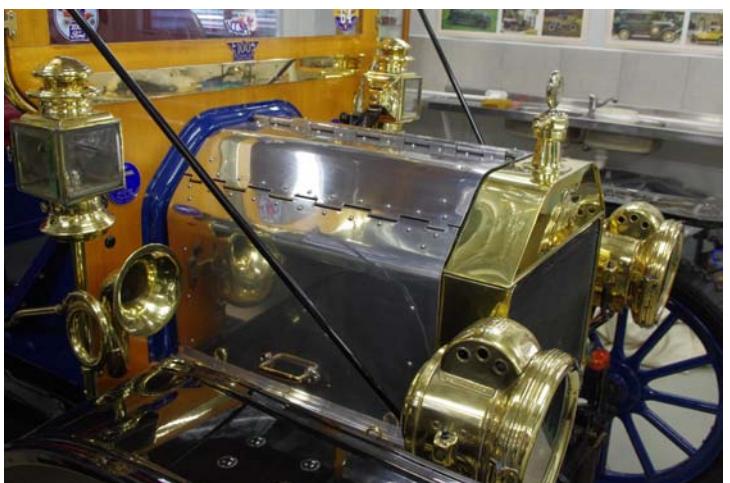
And since it was finished in 1983 it hasn't been one of those vehicles that just sits around and gets polished. This one has done some serious miles while being driven all over the country and used at all kinds of functions.

I first saw this car at the model T national rally in the Barossa Valley, SA a couple of years ago where it won the people choice award. It came as no surprise to me, Shirley and I both voted for it. To actually get to sit in it was a blast!

The Authentic picnic basket on the back has everything you need for an enjoyable picnic. You can tell its not modern by the bone handles on the cutlery!



Left: The wheels run wooden felloes (the bit that is around the end of the spokes) The steel rims are not detachable. If you get a flat you change the tyre, not the whole wheel.



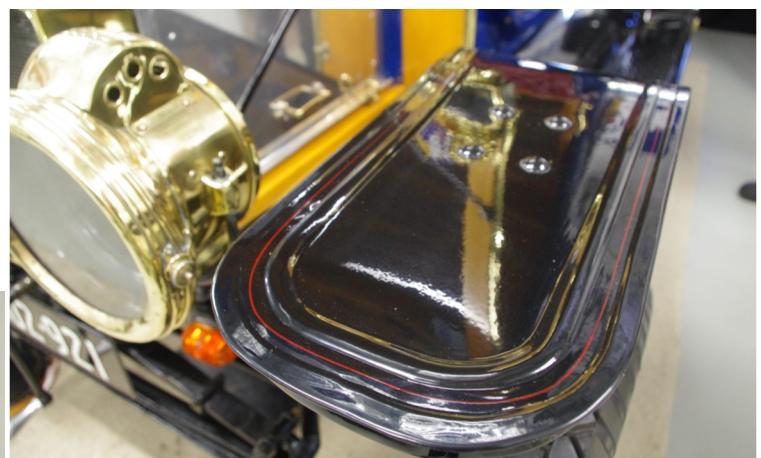
Everywhere it is polished brass or aluminium. The latches and fittings are either manufactured by Bob or adapted from something that is functional and looks the part.





Left and above: Photos of the woodwork during construction. Those are seriously bent timbers!

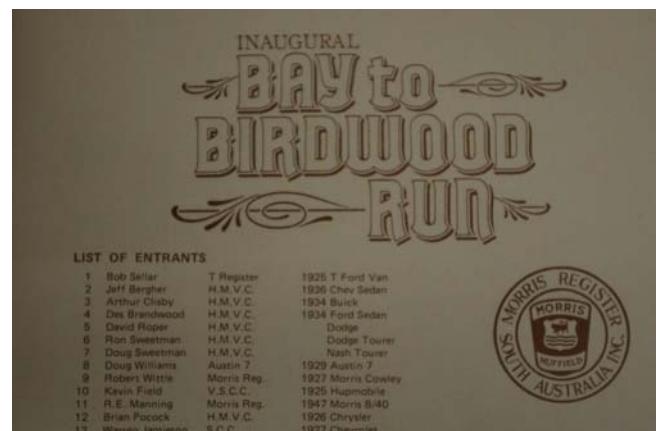
Below: Fenders were built by Bob. That paintwork is over 30 years old and shows no sign of deterioration. An indication of the quality of workmanship throughout this vehicle.



Even the rack for the spare is a work of art. Check out the scrolls. And because of the nature of the wheels it is really just a spare tyre. You have to change the tyre while the rim stays on the car.

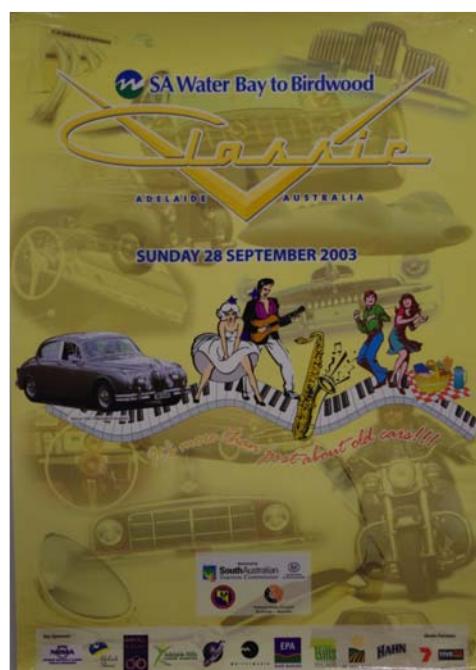
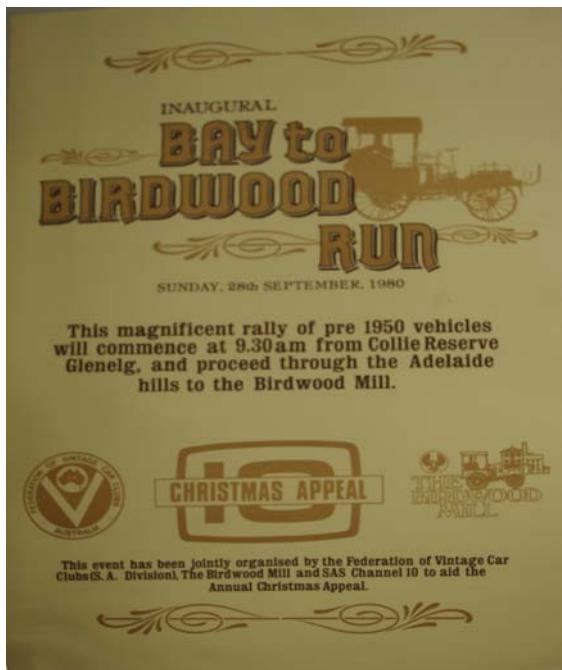
Below: The programme for the first ever Bay to Birdwood Rally (the biggest in Australia) shows Bob as entry no 1.

Below: Its just as smicko underneath as on top!





Every shed worth its salt has good stuff adorning the walls. How long since you saw the flying red horse at a Mobil station?



And most sheds seem to have a collection of toy cars in amongst the real ones. This shed is no different.



There is a bit of rocket science and inventive genius in here too. Bob was launching a book at one stage and needed a bit of an introduction. He built this rocket, and with it suspended on a thin invisible wire across the hall, he ignited a bunch of sparklers at the engine end. With it being pulled across the venue by an equally invisible tow wire, it really did literally launch the book!



Tim and the Valiant ready to take on Alice Springs.

All photos by Tim

The Red Centre NATS

through the eyes of a couple of MVEC attendees, especially Tim Modra.

Can you imagine it? A 1000HP drag car pulling into the drive through lane at Macdonalds and having the problem that the young chick taking the orders couldn't hear the driver over the racket of the engine. A lady spectator also told me the burnouts got a bit boring because all she could see was smoke. After a pop, then another pop, she could hear cheering from the other side of the smoke. That indicated another competitor had worn through his tyres and finished his run. These are just a couple of stories from Darwinites that headed down to Alice Springs for the Red Centre Nats.

Tim Modra entered his Valiant panel van. Some of his friends had intended to attend but pulled out at the last minute. Even his brother decided he had recently travelled up for the Rejex rally and that would be enough for the time being.

Bad move for all of them. They have lived to regret their actions!

In Tim's words it was just Great! And to be part of the first event of something so big and special generates some really good vibes. His brother Eddy is still spewing that he didn't go.

The entry was \$75. For that you received a promotional number plate with your entry number on it, a T shirt and some stickers. Some of those stickers identified your car as an entrant and got you into the events. You also got a buddy pass to get your co driver/ girlfriend/wife, entry. Because of all the



withdrawals at the last minute, Tim still has the buddy pass unused, but here was a chance for some publicity for his "Outback Bakery" at Fannie Bay. With his last port of call at the signwriters, with his business name proudly adorning the sides of the classic Valiant, he headed down the Stuart Hwy by himself to be part of the biggest procession of its type anywhere in Australia. The organizers were hoping for 200 entries, they received over 460. One of the members of the steering committee was the manager of Motor Vehicle Registry in Alice Springs. They were able to arrange a permit system that enable cars that were normally not eligible for rego to get a permit to drive on the street with restrictions. These cars had to have lights and indicators but it was pretty cool to see small cars with blowers sticking up through the bonnet up to roof level driving on the road. The owners of the cars thought it pretty cool too and there were plenty of photos being texted to mates interstate of doing things that would have been impossible back home.

The entry entitled you to take part in as many of the events as you liked but you didn't have to nominate in advance. If you were watching and it took your fancy you could hop in and have a go. There was burnouts, drags, 3 grass driving events, motorkhana on the bitumen at the casino, and a show and shine car show.

As well was the street parade 14 km right through town. The grass events consisted of travelling through a slalom type course under a stopwatch. The catch is that grass doesn't offer much traction. Tim had a go and reckons the optimum speed was at a fast idle, but most reckoned it was heaps more fun to floor it. There were some Finke race buggies there to give a demo too. By the end of it all there wasn't much grass. It was a bit like a ploughed paddock. All fantastic fun, but the one part of the event that would have been worth dying for was the street parade. Right from one end of Alice to the other the streets were lined with totally enthusiastic locals. Kids were holding up signs asking for revving up engines or to do a burnout. At the start of the cruise the drivers were given a short talk from the MVR people, then the police. They could rev up motors, make lots of noise but no burnouts and no driving like morons. And everyone was well behaved, some of the high powered cars would drop



A pleasant change. A 1976 Toyota Corona. Spotless!



The Falcon was smicko on one side, all busted arse on the other.





back a bit to allow a bit of a gap so they could smoke it up a bit catching up but would never get over 60 kmh. With 300 cars cruising it was quite a sight. It took about 30 mins for one car to complete the cruise, with about 1 ½ hours of cars passing one spot for the spectators. One might have thought with the truck show a week or so before the locals might have thought it all a bit ho hum, but not so. They loved it!

And Tim pointed out one of the really good things about this event was the variety of the cars. This wasn't one of those events where noses were turned up at a slightly imperfect example. There was absolutely everything here from elite show cars to unrestored classics and vintage. It was cool to see a generic little sixties or seventies Mazda with a big blower sticking out of the bonnet. There were cars with small patches of rust showing. One XY Falcon was pristine and restored on one side, yet rusty and dented the other. A lady was driving a ute about 5 feet high ala a monster truck, and show cars with mirrors under them. They even removed some of the wheels so you could see underneath better.

And as well as the local cars from Alice Springs, they came from Darwin, Tennant Creek , Katherine, Perth, Cairns, Brisbane, Melbourne, Kununurra and New Zealand. Plus heaps of other places.

And with all these whacked out cars coming from all over you might have expected them to take all the prizes home with them. Not so, 60 of 95 prizes stayed right here throughout the Territory and the Grand Champion of the event coming from Palmerston.

If all this sounds pretty cool, keep it in mind for next year. 1-4th Sept 2016



Tim's Valiant stood out in the crowd. At the show and shine he had it decked out with the traditional tools of his trade.



Check out the height of the blower! Check out the plate!







Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club Inc.

GPO Box 911 Darwin Northern Territory 0801

Established 1986

President's report for the Motor Vehicle Enthusiast Club Inc.AGM 2014-2015

Welcome to this year's AGM.

On a sad note two regular contributors to the running of the Hangar, Felix Schuster and Kurt Mussiger passed on earlier this year

Committee

A thankyou to the committee who have again put in a great effort this year, Mike has taken to the membership task like a duck to water and spends his time hammering at the club computer whilst Bob looks after the supplies with his magic card on Wednesdays, Leo opens the hangar each day from 7.30 in the morning till 5.00 in the afternoon five days a week and on Saturday morning until his trip to see who has thrown out good stuff at the tip at around 1pm.Brian Bates is moving from vice president to the committee this year and I thank him for his work and advice over the years. Also thanks to Marilyn who has come on board to collect and bank the weekly takings. Rowan a regular contributor to the running of the hangar resigned this year and I thank him for his invaluable input over the years.

Membership.

Our membership including Katherine is nudging the 700 mark.

The membershipfee of \$35.00 for Singles and Families both in Australia and overseas,commenced at the start of this financial year. The joining fee for new members was reduced from \$20.00 to \$15.00 at the same time.

Club Registration Scheme

The CRS continues to attract more members due in no small way I suspect by the attraction of cheap registration for eligible bikes and vehicles, Iagain encourage members with club registration to attend at least some club events at the Hangar in the coming year. The scheme was never meant to be a source of cheap registration with no allegiance to the club.

Finances and Audit Report

We continue to bank with Bendigo Bank, our financial position is strong, TreasurerJulie will give the details in her report tonight.

Donations to Charities

This past year MVEC continued to give time and financial assistance tovarious charities in line with one of theobjects and purposesof our club,withdonations of \$400.00 each to Nightcliff and Palmerston Lions clubs foractivities for disadvantaged and disabled children. Member Maja Van Bruggen ran a highly successful Pier to Pier rally from Nightcliff Pier to Darwin Waterfrontin support of Ronald Macdonald house in Adelaide who provide a home away from home forTerritory families with a seriously sick child requiring treatment. Over \$2000.00 in donationswas collected on the day, Legacy received \$500 from the open cockpit day event at theAviation Museum and we also made a donation to Careflight of \$300.00 for help with their new rescue helicopter.

MVEC Katherine

Katherine members continue to further our cause in the area moving from strength to strength. A big vote of thanks for the work and effort put into theirKatherine clubhouse and ablution block. Also for the welcome and help they give to interstate car club visitors travelling to and through Katherine plus organising regular runs and events such as the Rejex Rally events in Katherine.

Model AEnthusiasts

The date for the National Model A FORD Enthusiasts tour to the Territory is set to start onSunday 22 May next yearin Katherine finishing in Darwin on the 29th.The organising committee headed by Chris and Kathy and their dedicated groupof eight are moving into top gear to make sure that everything runs smoothlythey are putting in a great effort to organise this rally The expectation of 100 A models may well be exceeded.

Newsletter



Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club Inc.

GPO Box 911 Darwin Northern Territory 0801

Established 1986

Switching to electronic copies only for the newsletter due to the cost of printing and postage has meant that some members without the internet are missing out, we are working on the solution. For people with internet access newsletters from June 2006 issue to the present day are currently available on the free website

mvec.weebly.com.**Hangar activity and Club Events**

- Leo and Tom have continued as stalwarts of the Hangar assisted by several regulars ensuring it is open five and a half days of the week, not as we have seen posted recently “if there is someone here we are open”
- Thanks to the Chief Minister Adam Giles we are now the proud owner of a deluxe motor bike lift to enable easier access for maintenance work on member’s motor bikes.
- A 55 inch TV has been purchased and installed.
- We have hosted several events at the Hangar including Darwin Rotary Club, MVR Technical Advisory Committee, regular visits by the Darwin Tour Tub bringing interstate and overseas visitors..
- Three open days as listed below.
- Dave Kelso is busy updating the club inventory.
- Tim continues to provide us with goodies free of charge from his Fannie Bay Outback Bakery for our monthly meetings, thank you Tim

Activities have included

- 19 Oct 2014 Fannie Bay Breakfast
- 2 Nov Bike Run from Caltex Berrimah 8.30 a.m.
- 29 Nov Christmas dinner at Nightcliff Sports Club
- 7 Dec Bike Run from Caltex Berrimah 8.30 a.m.
- 26 January 2015 Australia day Ute Run
- 19th Feb Thursday. Open day at hangar for the anniversary of the bombing of Darwin..
- 3rd March WW1 1915 Borella ride celebrations at Fort Hill wharf
- 3rd May open cockpit day at the Aviation Museum.
- 25th April Dawn Service and ANZAC day parade through Darwin
- 24th May Shannons All American Day at the Darwin Showground
- 21st June Bark Hut run poor turn out
- 4th July Gangsters Ball at Berry Springs
- 5th July Bike run from Caltex Berrimah
- 12th July Pier to Pier rally
- 19th July Taminmin Darwin to the Doo run and swap meet
- 24th July Darwin Show Grand Parade
- 1st August Rejex rally
- 1st to 4th Sept Centre Nats in Alice Springs
- 2nd August Bike run from Caltex Berrimah
- 22nd August Katherine show and shine
- 6th Sept open day at the Hangar with health checks courtesy of Dept. Veterans Affairs
- 10th Sept Bike run from Caltex Berrimah
- 27th Sept Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride to raise awareness of prostate cancer

Peet Menzies
President MVEC



MVEC's Christmas Dinner

28th Nov 2015



Nightcliff Sports Club, Camphor St, Nightcliff

6 PM For 6.30 start

Cost	Members and friends	\$25
	Children 16 & under	\$12.50
	Children 10 & under	Free

- Bring a small present for your child if you would like Santa to hand it out*

Payment must be made by 19th November for catering purposes.

1. Place your payment in an envelope in the lectern at the Hangar with names of all attendees, or
2. Pay online at Bendigo Bank BSB633000 ACC 142473552 include name, number and XMAS, or
3. Mail to PO box 911 Darwin 0801, include cheque & names
BEFORE 19 November



KRIS KRINGLE

To enter our MVEC Christmas Kris Kringle raffle, **each person** wishing to take part is asked to bring a wrapped present up to \$10.00 value to receive a ticket in the draw.
Each person in the draw will receive a prize

Undercover Park

Looking for an undercover park for a vintage caravan for 6 months, the duration of the wet season.

Please phone Ben 0413993173 if you can help or have suggestions for any possibilities.

Landrover

Bizzos and bolts to hold spare wheel on bonnet.
Sliding window latch.

Give away

Contact Ted.

longtelescope@gmail.com



Dodge Phoenix parts wanted.

Geoff has a pair of Dodge Phoenix. One is a 1964 Anniversary model, other a '67.

These are both one owner, unrestored and 99% smicko. To make them 100% he needs help in locating a couple of bits. If you can help or have suggestions where he might obtain these bits plse call Geoff Williams 0886486069 0407797357 or geoffery.williams8@bigpond.com

For the 64 model

Gold front fender Chrysler star emblem (pictured)

Clips to hold stainless embellishment to sill panel beneath doors.

For the '67

1/4 vent winder mechanism for RHS front door

And for a HZ Holden SLE Statesman, a cable operated door mounted mirror for LHS. (pictured)



Free stuff

Get your free ads in here.

Give stuff away, sell stuff, get information, find a lover. Got a story to tell? Whatever you like.

Email Ted at longtelescope@gmail.com

or phone 89886049

Deadline...the end of the month

1955 Austin A55 ute

Has been shedded for last 20 odd years but recently evicted into the weather. Runs but uses oil. Vehicle is straight, complete and unmoledested. Located near Hawker SA.

Real cheap. Make an offer.

Geoff Williams 0886486069 0407797357



The Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club



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

WOTS ON THIS YEAR

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.

28th Nov Christmas Dinner see flyer for details.

A husband and wife are shopping in their local supermarket.

The husband picks up a case of VB (Victoria Bitter beer) and puts it in their cart.

"What do you think you're doing?" asks the wife.

"They're on sale, only \$20 for 24 cans" he replies.

"Put them back, we can't afford them" demands the wife.

They carry on shopping. A few aisles farther on, the woman picks up a \$40 jar of face cream and puts it in the basket.

"What do you think you're doing?" asks the husband.

"It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful," replies the wife.

Her husband retorts: "So does 24 cans of VB and it's half the price."

proof of global warming

1720 1900 1950 1970 1980 1990 2006

