

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

No 16

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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 89814746 GPO Box 911 Darwin 0801 In Katherine call 89711325 Newsletter enquiries to Ted propellers@bigpond.com or 89886049

Merry Christmas





Audrey still cruizin in her beloved MGB

Audrey Grace

When I visited Audrey to check out her MGB I discovered there is a lot more to this lady than meets the eye. With lots of stories of Darwin back in the days, she has had petrol running in her veins all along. When on holidays in Adelaide she set about justifying the purchase of a new motor scooter. Running the office for her father's business, Que Noy's Tyre Service at Stuart Park meant driving her car a short distance to work plus getting the mail from the post office. She came to the conclusion it would be a lot more fun to ride a scooter. (No helmets then) A visit to Baggio Motors in Adelaide and she was the proud owner of a brand new Rabbit scooter. That was about 1968. She still has the scooter, it's been continuously registered and still runs fine. I had a feel of it. The clutch is beautifully smooth and the gear change is still tight, smooth and effortless. The speedo shows 9649 miles and the engine has never been apart. Not bad for 40yrs. Back to the MGB. Back in 1972 Audrey realised she needed a small runabout car. After looking around a bit her teenage son spied the MG at Port Darwin Motors and said to her "Mum buy this". That settled it and Audrey once again become the owner of a cool set of wheels. Again she still has the car and it is still registered and going well, but back to the story... Cyclone Tracy came along in Dec 1974 and although it mucked up a lot of things in Darwin the MG came out unscathed, rag top and all. In January 1975 Audrey's 14 yr old son had to get back to school in Sydney and with the house in less than good condition Audrey decided to drive down there till things got fixed up a bit. With her possessions in a pillowcase she headed out of town in the MG followed by the son and her brother in his Landrover. The Stuart Hwy wasn't quite the road as it is today and she

lost the exhaust system near Alice Springs. Being evacuees from Darwin the government put the car on the train to Pt Augusta but she still had to get the last 200 miles to Adelaide and still with no exhaust. At each overnight stop she rolled out her swag (a pillowcase) in the spacious area behind the front seats in the MG. With a new exhaust system at Adelaide she made it to Sydney OK but spent a bit longer there than planned. 18 years in fact.

Audrey remembers cruising Sydney one day and pulling into a servo to get some petrol when a bloke followed her in and told her he wanted to buy her car. Audrey was a bit taken aback and said to the bloke

"like, if I sell you my car what am I supposed to drive around!" I thought about this a bit and realised that this event was more than 30 years ago, Audrey was a young lady in her prime, of Chinese blood driving a convertible sports car, very unusual back then, very attractive to a single bloke. Luckily for us by 1993 Audrey had enough of Sydney and returned to the place she grew up and as an extra bonus she brought her vehicles back with her.

Long time Darwin residents will remember Bagot Park Speedway, where speedway fans could get their fill of action close to home. They would host the "Powder Puff Derby" for those petrolheads of the fairer sex. One of Audrey's prized possessions is the winner's trophy.

So if you are waiting at the traffic lights and a British Racing Green MG pulls up beside you....Be careful!



The Rabbit still going fine!

Cars on the World Wide Web

By John Price



This month I've found a web page called

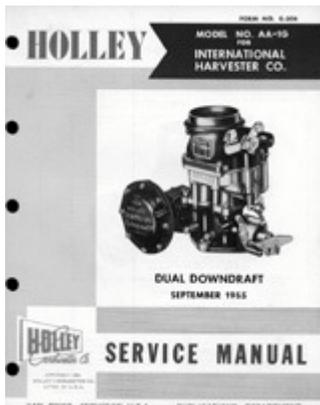
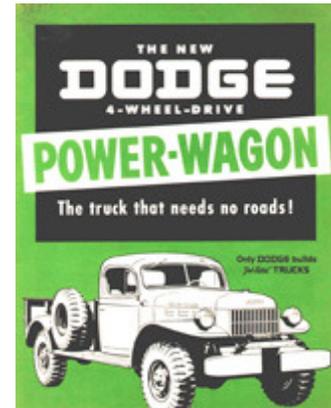
"The Old Car Manual Project."

Here you can find many old classic car brochures and manuals, including carburetor manuals and wiring diagrams.

Go to www.tocmp.com and look around.

The front page lists new items added the web page, while there is a search tool in the top left and a navigation bar on the side.

Below is an extract from the web page explaining what the site is about.



The Old Car Manual Project is a library: a central place where anyone can come to get the information they need. How this happens is by volunteers scanning their hard-to-find documents into a digital format, so that everyone can have access to the information in them.

Why are we doing this? Why not? But really - one of the hardest parts of restoring or servicing old machines is getting decent technical information. Often, it's difficult, impossible or expensive to obtain. We think that this kind of information should be freely available, as a public resource for the preservation of our industrial history.

Who are we? We are some Guys Who Like Old Iron.

Is there a commercial interest behind this? No. This project is non-profit. Our philosophy is that technical information which is already in the public domain should be available for free on the web. After all, that is what the "Information Superhighway" was supposed to be all about in the first place - information.





Ben Munneke latched onto this Sunbeam outfit back in 1971. Being a 1949 model it wasn't that old then. It had been bought for a station in the area and somehow had made its way into an engineering shop in Alice Springs where Ben acquired it. Ben shipped it to Darwin and rode it for a bit in 1973 but sent it south to Adelaide as he had nowhere to put at the time. Good move. It saved it suffering Cyclone Tracy in 1974. 1977 saw it arrive back in Darwin in a trailer behind Ben's Dad's Combi Van when he travelled here on hols. Not that Ben would be content to just ride it around yet. It went to Lionel Gray's place in Humpty Doo and then to Adelaide River where Lionel had a motorcycle museum there. At this stage it was started regularly. From here the bike travelled back to Darwin and made the rounds of Ben's business, Ben's Place (unusual name), Vintage & Classic and finally.... Sportscar City. I first saw it a few years ago sitting up on the mezzanine floor. Somewhere in this story, another of our members, Trevor Feehan, sorting through a bunch of papers from Alice Springs found the original purchase receipt from 1949. On to Xmas time 2007 and bingo. It's on the ground and hopefully by the time you read this its hooning the streets of Darwin. But wait.. there's more! Cast your eyes around Ben's workshop and there are always a bunch of neat cars.

What a life eh? Playing with cool cars and earning a living from it! But some of these belong to Ben and in true enthusiast style he does not restrict himself to one car or to one make. Here is a brief list of Ben's toys..

Bentley. This vehicle once belonged to the mayor of Darwin, Alec Fong Lim. Ben used to service it for him 15 years ago. By the time it came into Ben's possession it was sadly in need of attention inside and out. Ben has had the car retrimmed twice. The seats were originally leather. Ben had them redone in grey velour. Much more suitable for our climate. Exterior is silver. Looks lovely. Ben has used it many times as a wedding car.

Ford model A. Ben was on his way to Canberra during the Centenary of Federation rally when he spied this Model A in Tennant Creek. Obviously the disease had seated firmly in his mind. Ben travelled through Tennant Creek again during the Camp Quality rally. 2 months later it was in his shed at home.

Ford model T. Now the story with this one is a bit quirky. Ben bought it from Katherine member Noel Neil 12 years ago. Sometime later Ben needed a few quid to get his new Sportscar City premises built. He had a buyer for another of his business' but needing



that few dollars more he sold the T to another club member Graham Simpson. The trouble is the deal selling the business didn't eventuate and Ben found himself with a pocketful of cash but not enough to build his shed and no Model T. Never mind, seeing Graham was a mate he got to ride and drive in it plenty of times as Graham's navigator in the Rejex Rally. Now the wheel has turned full circle he has bought the T back from Graham.

1942 Ford Ute. I remember Ben pointing out this vehicle in one of those "get you into trouble" magazines that are full of cars that you would like. Next thing you know its parked in his driveway. When it arrived it was a towtruck with a derrick in the back and dual

wheels. Now it's a well bodied ute with normal 2 rear wheel setup. Runs ohv V8, aircon, cruises lovely, looks lovely.

Morris Minor. Where else would you get a Morris Minor but from a cop. This little bus was a bit smokey but Ben fixed it up and ran an 1100s head, it was a good performer. A bloke convinced Ben to sell it to him but part of the deal was to fit a Datsun 1500 motor. He attached a ute gearbox as was heavier duty and the deal was done. As in normal Ben style, 18 months later the bloke offered to sell it back. Ten years ago Ben became the owner of the Morris for the second time.

Trouble is, Ben is leaving us. After spending most of his working life here and sitting on committees that ensure the hassle free ownership of the vehicles we all enjoy Ben and his lady Marie have decided its time for a change. Later on next year you will have to travel interstate to see Ben, Marie and the collection.. All the best Ben!



Happenings From the President

Christmas dinner at the Palmerston Hub this year was a great success with the Angel room filled to capacity thanks to the efforts of committee member John Price and our treasurer Chris Armitstead, it was also an honour to have NT Treasurer and Transport Minister Delia Lawrie MLA and advisor Brett arrive in time to start the draw for our Kris Kringle winners.

Upcoming events for your diary for January and February 2008:

- **There will be no general meeting in January** but there will be a committee meeting at the normal time of 5.30 on the 9th
- **The next general meeting is on the 13th of February at 7.30 pm** following the committee meeting and sausage sizzle
- **Australia Day Ute Run.** The Ute run is always a great success so bring out the old Ute and come along, if you don't have a Ute come anyhow. The run starts from Hidden Valley and ends at the greyhound track, there will be no mad wheelies this year, instead there will be other entertainment including Ute pulling and thong throwing contests for which MVEC will be supplying the judges. Watch the NT news for start times
- **Australia Day BBQ.** The Australia Day BBQ is at Les and Marilyn Wilson's place starting at around 5.30pm bring your own food and drinks. The address is 1051 McMillan's Road Knuckeyes Lagoon, between Stevens and Farrer Roads Les will leave one of his old trucks out the front.
- **Bombing of Darwin 19th February.** Advice this year from DCC is that the Hangar, Aviation Museum and East Point Military Museum will be replaced on their list of official visits for veterans, instead tours of the greater Darwin and surrounding areas to see the changes since WW2 are planned, however transport will be provided for veterans and family members who may wish to visit us. We will have open days from Sunday 17th to Tuesday 19th, volunteers on any of the three days would be welcome.

Boy this year has flown and on behalf of Judy and myself I wish all our members a merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

Peet Menzies

XMAS PRESENT BLUES?

**Need a pressy for that special someone
who already has everything?
Get into these beaut MVEC polo shirts.
They have MVEC'S logo and are in
MVEC colours.
All sizes, no matter what shape you are
they are \$40.**

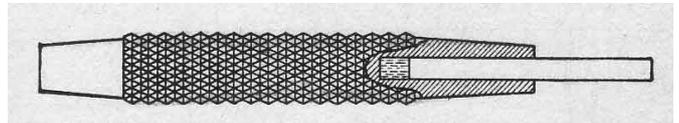
**Get em from the hangar
There is other club stuff there too**

**Stubby holders
Metal bumper bar badges**

**Pens
Rejex`T shirts
And all sorts of stuff
At the hangar**

An Improved Pin Punch

In assembling small machines, says a correspondent of the American Machinist, it is often necessary to have a variety of pin punches. The usual onepiece punch bends or breaks, and has to be scrapped. The accompanying cut shows a simple pin punch which can be made in several sizes to suit. Both ends of the punch holder are hardened, while the punch itself is made from long piece's of tempered drill rod. When a punch breaks or bends, the workman grinds off another piece of the rod to replace the broken one. A drop of oil in the holder is sufficient to hold the punch in place, and by heating the holder the oil boils and forces the punch out. Punches of this sort are stiffer and better than those turned from solid tool steel.



Removable punch ends

**2 TRAK rims suit Tojo or Nissan
Spoked 15" x 12.5" tyres not much chop**

1only 4 stud 14" Peugeot rim
1only 6 stud (dual rear type) Mazda light truck rim

All free at the hangar
Compliments of Peter Bate

SLOGAN. We are getting a club banner and need a slogan to put on it.
Have some good ideas? Call Peet.

I visited the local cemetery yesterday.

There I saw four pall bearers walking around with a coffin.

Two hours later they were still walking around with it.

I thought to myself: "These bastards have lost the plot!"



Stuart Highway, Alice Springs



Negotiating Top End creeks



Both cars made it

What Roads

The touring dept of our club is planning a trip to good old Alice Springs next year.

They have chosen next year to coincide with a bit of history reenactment. You see back in 1907 a couple of blokes Harry Dutton and Murray Aunger reckoned it would be fun and a bit of a challenge to drive Dutton's Talbot car from Adelaide to Darwin. They almost made it, but they broke a minor transmission part near Tennant Creek. Not to be beat they left the car and came back next year in a more powerful model and brought the bits to fix the first car, and drove both of em to Pine Creek and then kicked back on the train the rest of the way to Darwin.

The second car still exists and still goes and they are going to drive it up here again, but with younger drivers. The MVEC trip is to meet these fellers when they arrive in Alice.

The dates of the Alice trip will most likely be:-

Depart Darwin 21/07

Highway Inn 22/07

Tennant 23/07

Alice 24/07

Talbot arrives Alice 25/07

Car Show 26/07

Possible Drag racing 27/07

Depart Alice 28/07

Tennant 29/07

Highway Inn 30/07

Darwin 31/07

Will most likely start meetings of those interested at Ben and Marie's on the 20/02.

Interested? Call Ray Grimshaw

08 8983 1763

For Sale
1976 Mercedes Benz V8

Car was running when parked a while back
Cheap \$150
Len Coker
89322518
0497844764

Shed for rent

Please call
Margaret Black
89813996

Cars, Projects, Stuff for Sale

Due to the impending construction of a large covered work area, I am in need of space to put the building, and would like to have some things leave the block so that I can keep the better half happy. So , if any of the following sound interesting to you please contact me:

Suzuki SS40V Hatch – new 3 cyl motor, 4 speed, runs and drives great
VL Calais sedan – strong 5ltr V8 & Trimatic, mags, disc brake LSD diff, sheep skins, needs boot floor (supplied), runs and drives well
Variety of Peugeot 404 and 504 vehicles - wreck or restore
Mitsubishi JA Starion – perfect but needs engine
Variety of Mercedes Benz sedans – some to wreck, some for restoration
HR Holden sedan – drum front end – good for parts
Cordia Turbo hatch – no engine/gearbox – good for parts
VC & VH Commodore – all parts

There is other gear also.....what do you need?? – give me a call and I may be able to help you out

Jared (h) 8988 4562 (w) 8999 8292

Wanted :-

G63B Mitsubishi Engine to suit a JA Starion (or any other engine that will bolt in)

Lee-Enfield SMLE .303 rifle actions – to make into the smoke dischargers located on either side of a Matilda tank turret. These can be in poor condition as they are for display (not discharging smoke!!). I have the correct licences to hold these – please contact me if you have something that may suit.

Any leads on armoured vehicles or parts to suit

Jared (h) 8988 4562 (w) 8999 8292



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

A crusty old Marine Sergeant Major found himself at a gala event hosted by a local liberal arts college. There was no shortage of extremely young idealistic ladies in attendance, one of whom approached the Sergeant Major for conversation.

'Excuse me, Sergeant Major, but you seem to be a very serious man. Is something bothering you?'

'Negative, ma'am. Just serious by nature.'

The young lady looked at his awards and decorations and said, 'It looks like you have seen a lot of action.'

'Yes, ma'am, a lot of action.'

The young lady, tiring of trying to start up a conversation, said, 'You know, you should lighten up a little. Relax and enjoy yourself.'

The Sergeant Major just stared at her in his serious manner. Finally the young lady said, 'You know, I hope you don't take this the wrong way, but when is the last time you had sex?'

'1955, ma'am.'

'Well, there you are. You really need to chill out and quit taking everything so seriously! I mean, no sex since 1955! She took his hand and led him to a private room where she proceeded to 'relax' him several times.

Afterwards, panting for breath, she leaned against his bare chest and said, 'Wow, you sure didn't forget much since 1955!'

The Sergeant Major, glancing at his watch, said in his serious voice, 'I hope not, it's only 2130 now.'

If undeliverable return to;
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GPO BOX 911
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Christmas Greetings

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates.

"In honor of this holy season" Saint Peter said, "You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven."

The first man fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. "It represents a candle", he said. "You may pass through the pearly gates" Saint Peter said.

The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, "They're bells." Saint Peter said "You may pass through the pearly gates".

The third man, Jack, started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's panties.

St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And just what do those symbolize?"

The man replied, "These are Carols."