

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club



No 24

Sept 2008

TRANSMISSION

If you find you need more information about this club or just can't wait to join ring Peet Menzies on 89814746.

GPO Box 911 Darwin 0801

In Katherine call 89711325. Newsletter enquiries to Ted propellers@bigpond.com

REJEX

When it gets written into the rules that thou shall have fun upon pain of disqualification, you would reckon that everyone would have at least a little bit of it. At this years running of the REJEX Rally, that is exactly what happened but there was a lot more

than a *little* bit of fun to be had. I am not sure what it is that makes it so good, but Rejex caters for everyone. Obviously petrolheads are catered for as you can seriously strut your stuff and smoke the tyres and spray gravel, revs, noise and all that. But doing all that doesn't



Yvonne Glasson & Cindy Mayfield leave the blokes in the dust



There were tiny little cars that went beep beep beep but completed all the sections without getting lost even though they were hounded by a mafia staff car. And there are always the fellers with the bullet proof nerves that will chuck a car with wooden spoked wheels around like they are in a Hollywood car chase. Every car in the event has at least one navigator in the front and up to half a dozen in the back all giving helpful advice to the totally relaxed bloke or lady at the wheel. Sometimes the navigator gets lost and has to stop and study the map. (I can relate to this one).

While one car load of driver, navigators and advisors are negotiating the track hounded by that infernal stopwatch, it provides an action packed spectacle for all the other drivers/navigators/advisors/mechanics who are waiting their turn or have tackled that section already.

You gotta be a game feller to beat the Mafia. They bought it on Ebay. Grant & Mark Davis and hitman Allan Fisher. Those are bullet holes in the door!



Dorothy the dinosaur had a ripper tail too. Expertly driven & navigated by Bob, Alicia, Del and Toby Edwards. See those fingers wiggling?

necessarily get you round the course any faster... Other drivers were able to tackle the course still with tyres spinning but with utter precision. Maybe a cruisy Sunday drive around the witches hats? No problem. For the 1960's American cars, just fitting the vehicle between the witches hats was a challenge.



Heath Vincent, with Jason Heath & Joe Vincent push the Mk1 Zephyr a bit hard !

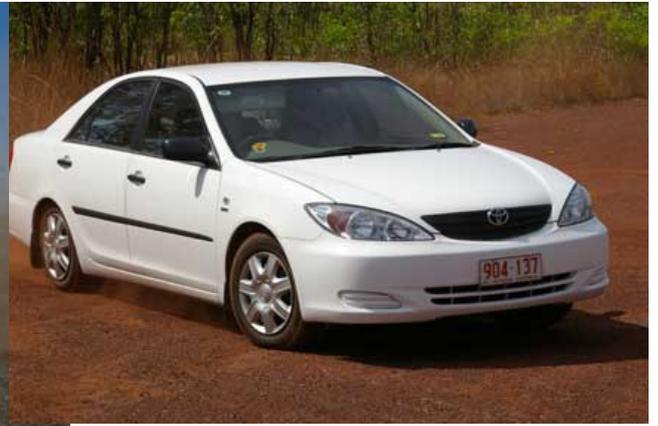


Grant & Tara Davis realised a teenage dream in beating the v8's in the Mini!!



Part of the battle of the utes challenge, Jamie McInnes & Derrick Tessman. With a navigator "permanently lost" and a driver "directionally challenged" the 1966 1300 Mazda went well!

I copped a lens full of gravel to get this picture!



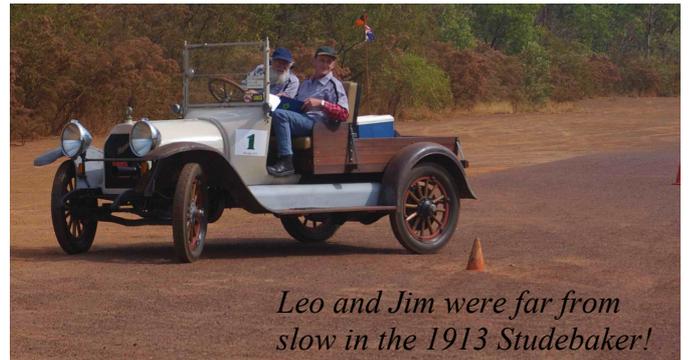
Sue Little and Karen Archibald abandoned their hobbies for the weekend to blow the cobwebs from the family Camry!

ent and at first glance is a bunch of witches hats laid at random. The navigator is handed a map of the route through them, with the odd bit in reverse. The stopwatch starts as the car starts and stops when the vehicle finishes the section with penalties for knocking over any witches hats. Sounds easy? You should try it!



Col Darley and Jamie Hamill are not at the back of the line. This section you had to start in reverse. That's the starting gate they're in! The '76 Datto ute runs a cam and a Weber. Great!!

Pine Creek retreads. That's what you do here to make it thru the day. Alex, John & Danno ran a bit short on tyres under the '83 Gemini.



Leo and Jim were far from slow in the 1913 Studebaker!



Anthony Feehan & Sam Ward showed some smooooth driving and were the outright winners.



Sometimes you just have to chill out and take it easy!



Frank with the machine he excavated

Steam Power

Frank told me on the phone, "You'll know my place by the stuff in the yard". As I cruised along a typically tidy and very green road among the farms at Rangiora near Christchurch in NZ I spied a set of very large spoked steel wheels, a few vintage tractor implements, then a yard cluttered with old mechanicals and certainly some steam engines amongst them. I reckoned I was there. Frank appeared from his house and guided me away from all these goodies to a very large shed. When I stepped inside I entered another world. It was chock full of steam traction engines! And the odd bit of space here and there was taken up with stationary engines and vintage tractors and such.

Frank Heron is a boilermaker. At about 80 yrs young you might reckon he used to be one but when you see his engines and his workshop you realise he hasn't stopped yet. When I say boilermaker, I mean he makes those boilers you see from the old days with thick sheets of steel tapered at the edges and rolled and riveted. The machines in the shed are testimony of his work, and not only that, he has restored a significant amount of the traction engines running in the area. The first machine you are confronted by Frank recovered from a river bed nearby where it had laid since 1938. It is a 7HP Marshall and was actually completely buried in the riverbed and Frank found it from the recollections of its owner. You see the gent had it parked in the riverbed and was using it to pull stumps at the time when he began to feel crook. Seriously crook in fact with pains in the chest. He was too crook to operate it and with a fire going in the boiler and unable to tend it he heard something go whoosh and assuming the

boiler had blown, he got himself to hospital and lived to tell the tale. It was a couple of years before he got back to the engine and by then the river bed had begun to claim it. Years later Frank got wind of a rumour about an engine buried under a riverbed and followed the rumour until he found the owner and with the

blokes recollections of "up against a tree" last time he saw it, Frank started digging and bingo he found it! This was in 1978. It wasn't perfectly preserved though. Bits had been removed and someone had tried to pull the crankshaft out with a tractor with the result they had broken the flywheel. Nevertheless most of the bits were lying around in the dirt and Frank was able to extract it. The alleged blown boiler was only the fusible plug blowing which is a built in safety device which is designed to melt and release the boiler pressure when the water falls below a predetermined level. Frank made and fitted a new plug and the boiler is fine. With parts from another engine which had different problems he was able to restore it to its former glory and the result is testimony to his work. He has now owned it for 29 yrs. But wait there's more! Just across the shed is a gleaming



This baby has severely pitted wheels just to demonstrate how rusty the whole machine was. The rest is like new

blue engine with the numberplate NO 1 TRACTOR. This baby is a 3HP Foster it is one very rare tractor and it sports a brand new boiler. Some time back Frank offered a feller in England a complete unrestored engine the same as this one, for the princely sum of a new boiler plus \$10000. The bloke accepted the offer and in time the new boiler appeared on Frank's doorstep. The machine Frank wanted to restore was seriously rusty and he has left the wheels with their deep rust pits as a demonstration of how sad this machine was before he rescued it.

Conversation with Frank enlightened me about some things regarding riveted boilers that always had me puzzled. The main thing was how they managed to forge the plates of steel so they formed a perfect seal when riveted. As it turned out they didn't necessarily seal perfectly every time. They "caulked" the seams when necessary by using an ingenious method of drifting the metal around the riveted area and the result was a gas tight seal just at the edge of the riveted plates. There were other "tricks" for minor leaks too. Chook pellets in the boiler acts much the same as Bars leaks in a radiator. "Rust is the boilermaker's best friend" was a common and true statement. Frank told me of the sight at Marshall's. (Marshall's was one of the bigger manufacturers

written with chalk all over the steel. It is reassuring to see 10 or 11mm all over.



\$6500 roller!

And there is a seriously large plough that mates with the machine when it gets back together. He started collecting this stuff about 30 yrs ago. The massive shed he built especially to build the collection in. There is an office in the shed. This is full of photographs and advertisements, models of hot air engines. The list goes on.

Around the outside is more historic stuff. Every piece has a story, like the massive jinker with wooden wheels built to haul the 32 ton generators for the hydro power station at Lake Coleridge nearby. Or the massive roller made from 4 massive traction engine wheels. He not only knows the model engine each pair came off, he knows the serial number too. This traction engine business is a bit fierce too. A lot of 7 wheels sold recently on "Trade Me," which is the NZ answer to Ebay, for \$6500!

I need to point out Frank's wife Joy is just as keen on the engines and is also a powerhouse of knowledge on the subject.

But it's not all old stuff here. They have gone partners with their son Gary and his family in a model replica of the big Garrett engine. At a engine rally recently where they were taking kids for rides in a carriage behind the replica, one young feller complained that "that kid was getting more rides than anyone else" He was a bit surprised when told "that's because that kid owns it"

And to top off my visit, the next day while cruising along as a passenger on the Tranz Alpine Railway, I saw two traction engines with period caravans in tow, steaming along a country road.



McLaren engine is naked for restoration of boiler

of steam engines back in the day) There was a 40 acre paddock full of boilers quietly rusting. (Sounds a bit like old Holdens eh?) They actually filled the boilers with water and changed it regularly to help with the rusting process. These boilers were left there rusting for 4 to 5 years to help them seal properly.

Frank has a McLaren engine pulled down at the moment. The crown in the boiler needs replacing. The massive crankshaft is sitting on the shed floor. The counterweights are held on with U bolts. It's all very serious stuff with all the lagging removed from the boiler and with thickness results



Grandson is rarin to go!!

Australian Motorcycle Museum

When your sweet lady decides she has seen enough cars and machinery to last her a while and you discover a venue that should not be ignored, what can you do? The answer is easy. Send her shopping and everything is apples. Off I went to the Australian Motorcycle Museum just a couple of inches on the map from Coolangatta, Qld. Cripes, two hours later and 140 km of mad freeways I was most of the way to Toowoomba. But this will be worth it, wont it? There was a big shed and farms all around. In through the front door and there in air-conditioned comfort is by far the biggest collection of bikes I have ever seen. There are bikes everywhere, but just in case you get worn out checking them all out there is a lounge with beaut seats to have a rest and a cup of tea complete with cakes and bikkies. All included in the \$15 entrance fee. To welcome me was Lorraine Smith. She and hubby Allen started collecting bikes years ago storing them in the house. You know, 5 bikes in the bedrooms, nine in the lounge, more in the kitchen, verandah and shed. So they decided to build a shed and display them in a proper museum. With a bit more room they could get a bit more serious about it all and the collection is growing all the time. This place is a bit different as you always see the Pommie bikes with all that polished alloy and the old square tank early bikes. This place has mobs of those but it also has mint examples of all those Jap bikes the other fellers had back then. Kawasaki triples of every capacity. Water bottle Suzukis, rotaries, Hondas and Yamahas. Most of them are in excellent original condition, not restored. Chances are if you rode a Jap bike from the 60's to the 90's there is one of them here. There are mobs of European bikes too. Just about every Ducati ever made, same for all the other European makes. Some of them have never been ridden. Remember when Norton was developing their rotary? Not only do they have one of the very few produced, they have a rotary John Player Norton as well. Naturally they have a John Player Commando too (common). How bout a Marusho or an Ivory Calthorpe? Horex? Penton is one I do remember, just! They have got a 1200cc Munch Mammoth and a couple of Heskeths. One bike you definitely won't see anywhere else is an Australian speed record holder. A cigar shaped streamliner, it was originally built with a Merlin V12. That's a 27 Litre Spitfire fighter engine. Later it had a Ford 351 and currently sports a 302 Ford V8. That's the engine that broke the record. For you people who like cruisers how bout the "Rapid Transit". The power plant is a Chev V8 and it has rego plates. There are around 180 bikes in the shed and they are about to build an annexe so they can get some more. The walls are covered in memorabilia plus a few more bikes. A great way to spend a day and the leave pass only cost me a couple of evening dresses. Cheap!!

Check out [http://](http://www.australianmotorcyclemuseum.com.au/)

www.australianmotorcyclemuseum.com.au/



Bikes to satisfy every taste. Munch Mammoth on right. Its bloody big!!



The Tank Transfer says "Rapid Transit". Its powered by a Chev V8. The inset is sign on windscreen. Has rego plates !!



Merlin powered cigar. Has retractible trainer wheels.



Early 450 Honda. Elvis rode one through a fence in the film "Roustabout". Lovely!!

Cars on the World Wide Web

By John Price



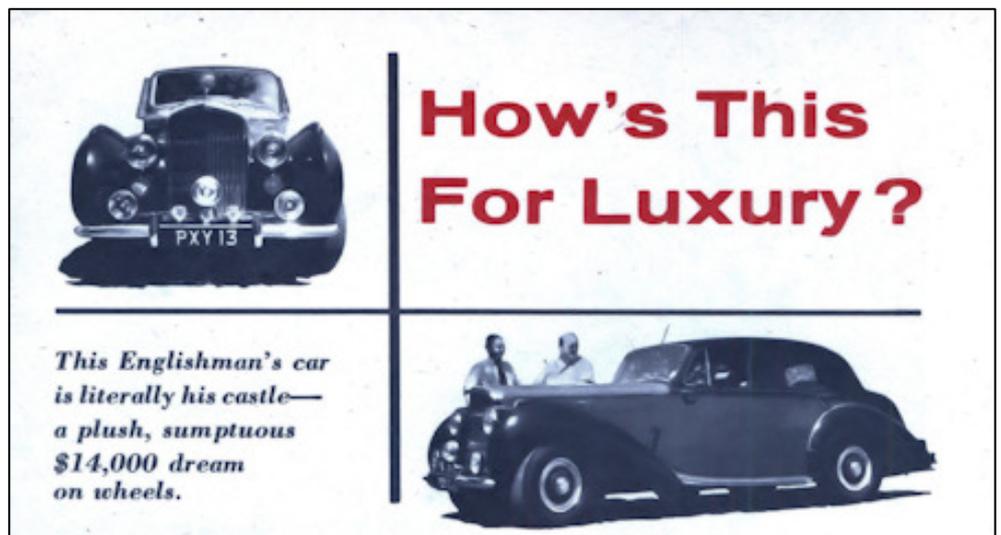
Some of you will possibly recognise the magazine Popular Mechanics.

At the website

<http://blog.modernmechanix.com>

someone has gone to a lot of work and scanned many issues of this magazines from the early 1900's. They contain articles on the weird and wonderful mechanical inventions and ideas. Like this one that allows you to cook your dinner while driving. It only takes an hour for this pressure cooker to finish dinner utilising the heat of your exhaust pipe, while you're enjoying a leisurely drive.

Or perhaps you just wanted to read the 1956 edition about the luxury of one man's Bentley Countryman Saloon. The Bentley's rear seat armrests have concealed cocktail shakers and glasses, canapes, nuts and olives. The Trunk holds a picnic basket for four, electric tea kettle, ice bucket, glasses and whiskey.



Perhaps you'd like to take your dog for a ride in the car. What about a dog sack that allows the dog to safely ride on the running board??? Besides just the odd and bizarre, there are also articles that showed how things work, Do It Yourself instructions for many ideas, and a few articles predicting the future of things mechanical. I found it extremely interesting reading the 1968 article of "What will life be like in year 2008"

There are articles on this web are mainly from Popular Mechanics, Popular Science, Science and Mechanics. The articles cover a wide range of different categories, but I've only ventured so far through the Transportation category.

Tractors Tractors and good stuff

Janet and John Spark of Rangiora, NZ caught the tractor collecting bug back in the 70's. Being a farmer he had a few old tractors and stuff but somewhere along the way he decided it would be good to hold on to the old ones he already had. They used to cruise the countryside smelling them out Janet told me she would be looking in yards while John was looking in the paddocks under trees. Allis Chalmers was the brand John was most interested in but was pleased to welcome anything mechanical into the collection. Consequently there is a vast array of vintage tractors plus stationary engines and motor cycles all housed in a large purpose built shed that is nearly full. Every item there had a story. One of the larger items was an Allis Chalmers model L bulldozer which had seen action during WW2 in the Pacific. The Americans used it for clearing and construction work and it found it's way to NZ for use in forestry after the war. In the main shed all the machines have been restored to pristine condition. John went to great pains to have all his examples as they were when new. One problem he had with his T.E.A. Fergie was the tyres. The size it was originally fitted with is no longer made. He unsuccessfully searched all over the world for them but eventually found a pair locally on a header. Parked next door is a 1920 R&P tractor. It had innovative back wheels where it laid its own track and picked it up after driving over it. One of only 3 in the world. Did you know Austin made tractors? There is one here. A row of grey caterpillars stand in front of a row of the familiar yellow ones. On the 7th Dec 1931 Caterpillar changed its colour scheme to highway yellow. A 1918 GMC Sieve Grip is a serious looking machine. It has written on the side "8 to 10 horse pull". It turns out Hart Parr made special tractors for the Kiwi and the Aussie market. Cast clearly into the radiator shroud is "Australian Special" and "New Zealand Special". The Kiwi one had the exhaust out the front instead of out the top. I think the Aussie one had a taller gear. There was examples of all sorts but clearly the most represented make was Allis Chalmers. The first Allis Chalmers they ever bought was in 1942. They ran it for 18000 hours before trading it in during the late 1950's. It then took them till 2001 to find it again and buy it back to be part of the collection. Nearly half the collection is Allis Chalmers. What we call a Blitz is called a puddle jumper in NZ. It keeps a series 2 Landrover company. In a smaller room is a large collection of photos and brochures while in an adjacent shed is the carefully catalogued parts inventory and store. Not only is there a large selection of NOS parts but manuals and publications of just about every piece of machinery that ever was. Unfortunately John Spark passed on recently but the collection he has put together is safe in the hands of Janet and his brother.



Just about every Allis Chalmers tractor ever made is represented here!



This 1918 Sieve Grip tractor has a cast arrow pointing the way above the front wheel just in case you get lost.



Everyone knows CAT stuff is yellow eh? Wrong! They used to be grey until 7th Dec 1931



And naturally there is lots of stuff outside patiently waiting.....

More about WOTS ON

Ben and Marie are leaving us for Queensland and there is a barbeque at the hangar at 6.30 pm on Sat 20th Sept. Food will be provided. Ladies please bring a plate of salad.

There will be another farewell dinner to Ben and Marie at the trailer boat club on Sun 28th Sep at 5.30 pm. Ring Ray Grimshaw to make a booking. 89831763 leave a message on answering machine.

Also on the 20th there is an overnight camp at Peet Menzies seaside resort at Mandorah. This is a bring your own everything show. There will be a campfire in amongst the sandhills and the view in the morning looking across the Harbour at Darwin city is one of the best around.

A nice drive and a beaut social night away from the big smoke.

A group will leave the hangar at 3 pm to regroup at Berry Springs Nature Park at 4pm.

At 4.30 they will leave for Mandorah.

If you are late or should you prefer to travel alone.....

Directions to Peets Place...From Stuart Hwy...

Turn right at Berry Springs turnoff (left if coming from Katherine) and follow Cox Peninsular road to its end. (From when you turn off the Stuart Hwy to Charles Pt Rd is around 75 km)

Turn right into Charles Point Road then left into Wagait Tower road and follow it to the end, turn left then Peet's block is 3rd on the right. The road is bitumen all the way, travelling time is around one hour from Stuart Highway.

Anything else.... Ring Howard 0408714115

The AGM has been moved from 11th to 25th Oct. It will be at Les Wilson's at Knuckeys Lagoon at 6pm.

Food is provided . No charge but bring a chair.

Fancy doing a bit for your club? Consider nominating yourself for a position on the committee.

In particular we are after a catering officer and an events coordinator.

Nomination forms at the hangar or can be emailed to you.

Xmas Dinner is at Cazalys restaurant 13th Dec 7pm.

Cost is \$25 each and bookings need to be made and paid for by mid Nov.

Please bring a present with a maximum value of \$10.

After having dug to a depth of 10 meters last year, Scottish scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Scots, in the weeks that followed, English scientists dug to a depth of 20 meters, and shortly after, headlines in the UK newspapers read:

'English archaeologists have found traces of 200 year old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the Scots.

One week later, 'The Kerryman,' a southwest Irish newsletter, reported the following:

'After digging as deep as 30 meters in peat bog near Tralee, Paddy O'Droll, a self taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Paddy has therefore concluded that 300 years ago Ireland had already gone wireless.

The question is:

What Do Retired People Do All Day?

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting.

Well, for example, the other day my wife and I went into town and went into a shop.

We were only in there for about 5 minutes.

When we came out, there was a cop writing out a parking ticket. We went up to him and said, 'Come on man, how about giving a senior citizen a break?'

He ignored us and continued writing the ticket.

I called him a Nazi turd. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tyres, so my wife called him a shit-head. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. Then he started writing a third ticket.

This went on for about 20 minutes.

The more we abused him, the more tickets he wrote.

Personally, we didn't care. We came into town by bus.

We try to have a little fun each day now that we're retired.

A group of kindergarteners were trying very hard to become accustomed to the first grade. The biggest hurdle they faced

was that the teacher insisted on NO baby talk!

'You need to use 'Big People' words,' she was always reminding them. She asked Chris what he had done over the weekend.

'I went to visit my Nana.'

'No, you went to visit your GRANDMOTHER.

Use 'Big People' words!'

She then asked Mitchell what he had done.

'I took a ride on a choo choo.'

She said, 'No, you took a ride on a TRAIN. You must remember to use 'Big People' words.' She then asked little Alec what he had done.

'I read a book,' he replied.

'That's WONDERFUL!' the teacher said. 'What book did you read?'

Alec thought real hard about it, then puffed out his chest with great pride and said, 'Winnie the SHIT.'

Alice Springs – July 2008 By Ray Grimshaw

Well here we are Sunday morning and at the Extravaganza. Still cold all the Darwinites in Jeans and jackets. A good drive down. Ben's Ford had carbie problems in Katherine required Needle and Seat to fix. The Rover started to get the shudders out of Tennant. Must have been the points although they were new. Took the cap off and we all spoke severely to them in their naked state - no more problems????? The Pommy cars had the usual oil leaks but no more problems.

On the way down there were various comments in respect of Swedish Backpackers but I will leave any elaboration to the others – photo evidence is available. (Editors note..The rumour is that Ray was found in a compromising position at the Devil's Marbles with a pair of Swedish backpackers. We wont be showing the photos as this mag is not xxx rated)

Friday night at the Transport Hall of Fame for the unveiling of the Talbot. A good night. Temperature –3. Saturday morning was the drive through town with 100 vehicles following the Talbot. It was back on the trailer very quickly so unfortunately there was no time for photos with the old and new Talbots. Sunday was the Extravaganza held at the Showgrounds. Congratulations Alice, 300 vehicles on display from the Talbot, Ford T's, Dune Buggies, Bikes to classics and then moderns. With the number of people it seemed the whole of Alice turned out. There were even some stationery pumps which would have kept Leo happy. The locals were really appreciative that members of MVEC, Nameless Nomads and Classic Holden had made the effort to come down. The Darwin attendees were:-
1942 Ford Jailbar Ute Ben Munneke
1955 Sunbeam Rohan and Marcia Charrington
1965 Rover Mark 3 Coupe Ray Grimshaw
1925 Dennis Fire Truck Fire Crew captain Mark Bustolin
Classic Holden Car Club 6 vehicles from FJ to Monaro.

The trip back was uneventful until we arrived in the hot country north of Katherine. The Rover started to get the vapours and bubbling – Menopause had set in. Dr Ben to the rescue told the patient not to go so fast and to slow down (geriatrics can understand that) and so back to Darwin.

So ended a great few days good company and imaginative discussions over the radio

There was a man who had worked his whole life in a pickle factory.

One day he came home and told his wife that he had been fired from his job.

She began to scream and yell, 'You have given them twenty years of devoted service. Why did they fire you?'

'For twenty years I've wanted to stick my pecker in the pickle slicer,' he explained, 'and today I finally did it!'

The wife ran over and pulled his pants down to see what damage had been done.

'You look okay,' she said with a sigh of relief. 'So what happened to the pickle slicer?'

'Well,' he said with hesitation, 'they fired her, too.'

Ford XD

in fair condition ,
runs on LPG
\$2000 ono
contact Allan White for more details on
89881171.

Morris 1100

needs a good home or even a bad one.
Unloved classic
\$500
Contact Steven on 0417299455

Info wanted

Can anyone tell me where I can buy coloured or
otherwise seatbelt webbing.
Please contact Ted 08 89886049
propellers@bigpond.com

Free Ads

Got some stuff to sell, swap or giveaway.
Maybe you are after something or some
advice or knowledge? Here is your chance
to tap into a network of like minded enthu-
siasts.

To have your free ad here email Ted
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Deadline first Sat in the month

Peugeot parts

Cheap
4 alloy rims and tyres
Tommy Radbone
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Wanted

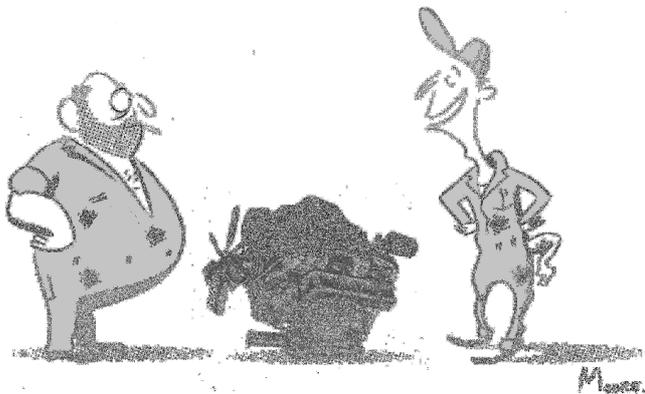
XL Falcon Carby

Even a loan of one would help solve a
problem
Please call Ted 08 89886049
propellers@bigpond.com

Crockpot

The club is after a crockpot to use with
its nickel plating kit
Call Stuart 89279640 or drop off at the
hangar if you have a spare

A CARtoon from our resident cartoonist Steven Moore



"I turned the motor over like you said . . ."

**The Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club
extends it's thanks to
Shannons Insurance
For it's continued support for the club**



**Regrettably due to unforeseen
circumstances the
Rock n Rod Show has been
cancelled**

WOTS ON THIS YEAR

For info on any of these events call Chris on 0419 489 816

September

20 Barbie at the hangar to farewell Ben Munneke who is leaving us
20 / 21 Mandorah o/night paaaaartyyy!!

October

8 Monthly Meeting
25 Agm changed from 11th Oct
19 Bark Hut/Deck Bar

November

12 Monthly meeting
16 Les Wilson's

December

13 Xmas Party

If undeliverable return to
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5 Month Management course

Lesson 2:

A priest offered a Nun a lift.

She got in and crossed her legs, forcing her gown to reveal a leg.

The priest nearly had an accident.

After controlling the car, he stealthily slid his hand up her leg.

The nun said, 'Father, remember Psalm 129?'

The priest removed his hand. But, changing gears, he let his hand slide up her leg again.

The nun once again said, 'Father, remember Psalm 129?'

The priest apologized 'Sorry sister but the flesh is weak.'

Arriving at the convent, the nun sighed heavily and went on her way.

On his arrival at the church, the priest rushed to look up Psalm 129. It said, 'Go forth and seek, further up, you will find glory.'

Moral of the story:

If you are not well informed in your job, you might miss a great opportunity.