

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club



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TRANSMISSION

If you find you need more information about this club or just can't wait to join ring Peet Menzies on 0417855222.

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



What can I say? Kelly Colliver's smile says it all...

Merry Christmas



He then bribed the driver to take it to his place instead. Another one was rescued from being buried in a big hole. A burnoff was about to devour another, the list goes on... They are now safely under John's care and although most of them are out in the weather there is a big shed to be erected to make it bit easier for them. There are no plans to restore these babies but they are a source of bits to keep others on the road.

In the existing shed the story is a bit different. There are still Dodge and International utes

Dodge City

Its not hard to see why John and Melanie Schmitz copped the name "Dodge City" on their rural property. There is a Dodge or International ute or truck quietly resting under every tree. John is a caring sort of bloke and he rescued each of these lovely vehicles from a sad fate. One of them was on the way to the tip when John flagged down the driver of the truck that was carting the uncared for Dodge to its dismal fate.



and trucks, but these vehicles have been part of John and Mel's lives and will be restored in time. John's International ute started his interest in classic vehicles. He wasn't interested in cars but he needed a ute that he could put a motor bike in. There was a Holden ute available at the time for \$1500 or the Inter for \$300. The International got the job and that started the love affair . Years later even this one got a bit tired and a beaut blue Dodge came along. It had a hemi engine and still runs well. Melanie has taken possession of this one. She has fond memories of it and the time she arrived in Darwin at 4am after flying from England to get married to John. She was carrying her wedding dress as hand luggage as it was too bulky to fit in her suitcase. John picked her up in the Dodge. The roads in the rural area weren't sealed then so the Dodge was a bit dusty plus the dogs were in the back. Melanie couldn't have the wedding dress in the cab as John wasn't allowed to see it so after carrying it all the way from England it went in the back with the dust and the dogs..... There is a large station wagon version of the Dodge too. It has just had the mechanicals reconditioned. Just right for putting a couple of bikes in the back John reckons. These are big utes but towering over them all is an International ACCO 4X4 ex army truck. It's got winches either end and I was curious about how John came to own this one? At one stage he owned a 4wd and reckoned it would be good to have an-



1100CC transverse v twin MotoGuzzi. Serious grunt! Fairing is removed for maintenance. At right is the Laverda RGS, the end of the line.



other one again to go fishing. There was a 4wd International advertised at Tennant Creek. With the picture of his International ute in his thoughts he rang the feller in Tennant Creek. "If I rode my motor bike down would I be able to put it on the back?" he asked the owner who replied that you could fit 20 of them on if needed. So John bought it and the Tennant Creek bloke generously offered to bring it up on another truck. At the agreed time, late at night, John waited at the intersection of the Stuart Hwy and Berry Springs Rd . He was a bit surprised when a low loader rolled up and unloaded the ACCO! But it's a beauty! It runs perfectly, is in beaut condition. And it's perfect for our climate as the windscreens fold right out and the hatch in the top of the cab makes a beaut sunroof. It doesn't go fast but it gives me the impression as being fairly



Innovative features include the petrol filler in the fairing. Also racing seat converts to pillion with quick release of bobtail fairing.



John takes the ACCO for a cruise. You can park it anywhere you feel like!

unstoppable. But John's passion is really about motor bikes. European ones. His first Ducati has a name. Its called Myrtle. Myrtle doesn't go at the moment. She is in an advanced state of disassembly so she can be a new 1976 860 GT again. The engine is together but the rest is carefully spread around a workshop/ caravan. This is the bike that started a love affair that John has never looked back on. In the bike sized shed next door is a lovely row of modern classics. His latest and newest bike is a 1996 1100 Sport Moto Guzzi. It's the last model they made with a 2 valve head and carbies.

John reckons the newer ones are like appliances. They work fine and are convenient but they don't have a soul. You can't have a relationship with them. All the bikes in this shed definitely have a soul and a personality. Next door is a 1978 Le Mans Guzzi, The epitome of European motorcycling. I timed my visit poorly as both the Guzzis were missing their back wheels. They were at the powder coaters getting made new again. The 1100 was also getting new back wheel bearings as he will be riding it interstate shortly. The wheel bearings are massive in this bike. It has extremely long legs, you have to slip the clutch in first gear to stay at 40kph passing the school. You can guess from that the top speed is seriously fast.

The other side of the black Le Mans is a 1200 Laverda Mirage, a triple with the cylinders spaced at 180 degrees. Then there is the RGS Laverda. Built in 1984 and was the end of the line for the brand. Talk about different personalities though. This bike has a 120 degree crank. The result is an ultra smooth engine and you ought to hear the sound from the exhausts. It comes on gradually and then slowly this beautiful bark rolls on. You would be a feller with a lot of willpower if you didn't get having it do this pretty often. The other Laverda sounds more like a lumpy twin and nowhere near as smooth. Still a bloody ripper though.

Now most of this has been about John's toys. Melanie has a small Honda covered up at the end of the shed but her latest toy is a Mini.

Not an old one but the latest and greatest Cooper S. Back in the sixties when you saw Cooper S on the boot you knew to respect that car as it was probably going to blow you away. The new Cooper S is much the same. It's a lot bigger than the original one but they have made it so it has similar features as the original. A big chrome circle in the middle of the dash isn't the speedo anymore but it brings back the vibes. Press a button and the roof vanishes and you can put it in drive and use it as auto or you can change gears by flicking levers on the steering wheel. Either way it gets motivated very quickly and during the dry season when it gets a bit cooler, should you get a cold backside there is a button to warm each seat.



The first International and Melanie's Dodge



You wouldn't expect the bikes to stay outside when there is a cyclone looming would you! They have good table manners too!



Melanie in her Cooper S. The perfect vehicle for our Top End climate!

1934 Custom 1925 Rolls Royce.



land speed record holder or a 1938 Reo with the first production fifth wheel trailer. Once inside it was a shame to rush such a fantastically presented collection, but such is life. The idea throughout the museum was to depict a scene typical of various eras in motoring but in some-way connected with the LA area. The first diorama was a severely bogged 1911 American car bogged in mud. There was real steam rising from the radiator while the driver attempted to lever the car out of the ruts with a log while his immaculately dressed lady went on reading her book in the back seat. Period workshops were

PETERSEN AUTO MUSEUM

There gets a point where you have seen so many museums they all seem to have the same old stuff and you are tempted to skip the next one. For a petrol head or for anyone to miss the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles would be a serious shame. Circumstances lim-



adorned with the likes of a 1903 Cadillac right next door to Laurel and Hardy in a custom built Model T made to bend for the stunts they did in their movies. 1920's and 30's street scenes had immaculate examples of cars of the era. Nothing was just plonked there, it had to be part of a recreated scene. There were speed shops from the thirties and drive in bur-

1911 American is bogged and boiling

ger joints from the fifties. Naturally there was a convertible Cadillac in front! Hot rod shops were the go



1938 REO The original 5th wheeler



1934 Thompson house car. Studebaker Chassis



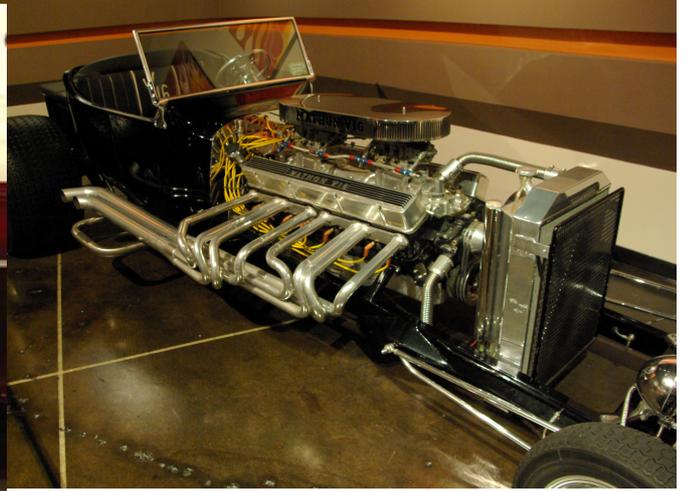
1957 Nuclear powered Packard. A beauty!

and there was even a nuclear powered Packard from 1957. It had only one central wheel. They never actually got game enough to put the reactor in it though! The most surprising section showed the idea of caravans and motor homes is certainly not new. Examples of the venerable model T ford decked out with a very comfortable fold out camper on the back rubbed shoulders with many, some of them quite large, mobile homes. Some of the names were obscure but Chevro-

ited my visit to a few hours. A few days would have been beaut. You don't even get out of the car park before you lays your eyes on Art Arfons jet powered



The Rolls Royce from the front. Has round doors!



Rod has two Chev V8s joined for V12

let, Ford and the likes were amongst them with all the mod cons.

Hot rods and customs were well represented with some significant early examples including one "Big Daddy Ed Roth" machine. Same deal with motor bikes.

Lovely examples of bikes you would expect but some unusual stuff too.

In the movie cars section what would you expect? Herbie naturally and maybe the Batmobile. They were there for sure, but amongst them was Greased Lightning and remember the villain in "The Great Race"? The body of the car

could be raised about 8 feet high while the car was hooning along. They have that car too.

But the crowing glory for this museum is a section called "Treasures of the Vault". The dozen or so vehi-

that is already outstanding. It starts off with the most whacko Rolls Royce. Some people think you don't customize Rolls Royce. Wrong! This 1925 Phantom 1 was sent to Belgium in 1934 to have a fashionable aerodynamic body fitted. Amongst other stuff it had

twin sunroofs, round doors and a large fin and at a cursory glance looks like the batmobile. After passing through several owners it was found derelict in a junkyard around 1950. It's back to concourse now and is stunning! Typical of the other cars is a 1939 Bugatti cabriolet given to the prince of Persia as a wedding present and a 1962 Chaika, a Russian convertible limo used by the Russian Premier for parades. And amazing customs and limousines really



Deussenberg straight 8 is impressive in a 1934 Ford

beyond description.

And most of these vehicles have the tag "Collection of Margie and Robert E Petersen" This couple have good taste!



cles in this collection stand out so much in a collection

Professor Fate's car is VW powered



Not a Knight's helmet. It's a caravan!

Christmas present ideas

With Christmas coming up you may have problems finding a pressy that's a bit different. Maybe this is a hint to my dear wife. Some people who's limbs have gotten a bit tired are happy to cruise round the streets in little motorised



Sweet as she is we are not promoting the young lady, it's the V8 powered vehicle she has under her shoe that we are interested in!

chairs they call gophers. That is fine but I would much rather something with a bit more get up and go. With myself in mind a company in America is selling an alternative with just a bit more oomph and much better audio specs. You can buy it so you just hop on and drive off or a kit where you put your own choice of engine in.

It comes standard with a small block Chev V8 and at 5000rpm is doing 25MPH.

More info at www.hossflyinc.com



How about a Jaguar

Jaguar is a name that always makes my ears prick up in classic circles. How about a brand new Jaguar C Type.

In Dunedin NZ they are creating these vehicles to the original specs. Hand built body and all. Lovely!

The plane in the background is for sale too!

Check it out at www.coventry-classics.com

Cars on the World Wide Web



Won't be long til you hear the old HO HO HO and Christmas trees lighting up the place, so this month I thought I'd look for people who had decorated their cars with a Christmas theme.



This month's web page is <http://www.crashstuff.com/top-25-funny-christmas-car-decorations/>

And here you get ideas for your own Christmas Automotive decorations if you choose.

But seeing as it is the Christmas season it's obviously time to bring the elves out again



The link was too convoluted so I've placed a link on our home web page at <http://users.on.net/~mvec/elves.html>

and when you click the link listed it will take you to a video of our dancing elves.

Be aware this may take a small amount of time to download.

You can also choose a number of different dances for your performing elves.

Until next year Merry Christmas.

Good Vibes

On the morning current affairs TV program on channel 9 recently, Peet Menzies' Jeep got some real good publicity and with it so did our club. Broadcast live to all of Australia they cruised down Stokes Hill Wharf in Peet's jeep. The celebrations were centred around the release of the movie *Australia*. The Announcer publicly thanked MVEC members for supplying the vehicles for the movie and pointed out that this very Jeep (Peet's) was the one that Nicole Kidman starred in.



You can't get better publicity than this!

More good vibes

Dr Chris Burns, the patron of our club made a speech regarding MVEC and its members in Northern Territory Parliament recently. After reading a transcript of what he said about us you couldn't help feeling good. He basically pointed out all the things we did which Peet stated in his annual report. But Chris being a polly gave it a bit of flair and stated "This club is a shining example of volunteers, getting together to pursue their interest in vintage cars and at the same time, devote their energies to improving the social and historical fabric of the Northern Territory."

In summing up he said "I congratulate the members of the Motor Vehicles Enthusiasts Club on their adventures and their community spirit. Their endeavour are enviable and really valued by the community."

What a great bit of news to finish off the year!

Wanted

A 6 blade fan wanted by 'Stan the man' to adapt to his HOT Chrysler.

Also a 13" used tyre for a second spare on a car trailer.

phone Stan 89270117.

Noel Neil is moving into his salubrious new premises. The problem is there isn't as much room as there was, so some things have to go.

Perfect Christmas presents

1955 Mk1 Consul

Good condition

\$5000

WW2 Ford Jeep

Running but needs restoring

Offers wanted

Contact Noel 89721241

Holidays for me

Due to a tradition I have no intention of changing, there is no Transmission in January, but don't worry I will spend my month off searching for something good to report on.

You can still email any ads or stuff to be included in Feb's edition.

Until then

Merry Christmas

Happy new year

Ted

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



NOT MUCH LEFT THIS YEAR

For info on any of these events call Ted on 89886049

December 10 Monthly meeting at the hangar. Get the low down on the new club rego scheme

13 **Xmas Party!!**

Jan 2009 26 Australia day ute run

Hidden Valley motor sports complex. Leaves at 12.30pm

They are after judges for thong and muffler throwing comps.

The president and committee at Darwin & Katherine wish everyone Merry Christmas and a happy new year!!



Kelly has car parts! Have you been naughty or nice?

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A turkey was chatting with a bull.

'I would love to be able to get to the top of that tree' sighed the turkey, 'but I haven't got the energy.'

'Well, why don't you nibble on some of my droppings?' replied the bull. They're packed with nutrients.'

The turkey pecked at a lump of dung, and found it actually gave him enough strength to reach the lowest branch of the tree.