

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

No 31

May 09

TRANSMISSION



If you find you need more information about this club or just cant wait to join ring Peet Menzies on 0417 855222
GPO Box 911 Darwin 0801
In Katherine call 89710605
Newsletter enquiries to Ted propellers@bigpond.com or 89886049

The voice of the Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

There are lots of cool cars in **Katherine!**

I found myself in Katherine one Sunday morning. Not on any Sunday but the very Sunday they have their annual garage crawl. Circumstance didn't allow me to stay till the end but what a neat cruise it was. I had received an email "meet at Central Motors 10am" Not being a Katherinite I guessed Central Motors to be in the centre of the main street. Wrong!! Lucky I had Bill Harding's mobile number. A minute later there was a gleaming black MK V Jag coming down the road. I followed it like a

hungry Barramundi after a lure. Half the population of Katherine seemed to be at the real Central Motors. No mucking around here. After a quick g'day we were off. I had no idea where to, I just kept my eye on that classic car in front. First stop was at Di and John Leo's. They haven't actually lived at this address for long, It is a rural property. Just right with plenty of room for plenty of neat cars. Outside the shed was a '49 Chev truck ticking over just so smooooth. It was pretty



Yvonne and Doug Glasson's cool 38 Ford. Sounds even better!

smooth all over actually. They brought it up from Victoria years ago and it has been getting better and better. Under the bonnet was a shiny new looking aircon compressor. Someone remarked it is genuine original equipment, just original on some other vehicle. The covers came off a very original HZ premier but as my mind is preoccupied with the Gangsters Ball I couldn't help notice the black Chev Impala with Cop lights on the roof. This was a car with a story. It seems it first came to the Territory as a drug courier vehicle for a well known bi-



Ronny Hillen's 1946 Buick is remarkably straight. Photo Bill Harding



And a second one for spares



Eight spark plugs all in a line. Original and runs OK.

kie crowd. It then came into the hand of another Katherine car enthusiast who painted it black to be a blues brothers mobile. Because TV was black and white then they had no way of knowing the Blues bros car was dark blue, not black. Ah well! It looks good and has been in the Variety Club Bash, and with the designation "Car 54" TV viewers from the sixties can have a good laugh. (The name of the TV show "car 54 where are you" speaks for itself. The officers involved were not the brightest)

Next stop was Ronny Hillen's place. Wow! Under a massive roof were all sorts of goodies. Lifting my eyes above the classic Falcons (I am a Falcon Feller you know) there was a 1946 Buick. Untampered with, unrestored. Overhead valve straight 8 in running condition, this car was covered in dust and cobwebs but amazingly straight and complete. Not showroom condition, far from it but still runs it's original paintwork. A good wash and polish would probably make it quite presentable, especially with the tyres inflated! But Ronny has two of them.

Many years ago in Toowoomba, Queensland, when Ronny was a teenager, the original owner told him that if he could get it started he could drive it. The spark plug spanner of the



Noel and Kath Neil's 1948 MG YA. Noel's Aunt bought it brand new! Di Leo reckons Auntie had good taste in cars.

trail bike he was riding fitted the Buick plugs and he had it going in no time. Years later Ronny was able to buy the two vehicles from the gentleman's estate. He just needs a spare minute to tissy up the one in the shed. The other is for parts. The parts mobile suffered a mishap on its trip from Toowoomba on the truck. The bonnet came loose and wedged itself along side denting up the side. Even with this damage



Di and John Leo's Chev Cop car.

the spare car is in remarkably good condition.

After a brief look at an EK Holden ute I had to make tracks for home, but even though I only made 3 of the six stops I was surrounded by a wonderful cavalcade of vehicles.

Leading the cruise was Greg Bird's Maxwell of about 1924 vintage. He came by this vehicle about 20 yrs ago. It was obviously a fairly pretty vehicle then as Greg hasn't touched it cosmetically. Mechanically it's a different story. He sent the engine to a feller in Victoria to be reconditioned. It came back \$10000 later but after it was installed the 4th cylinder big end bearing expired after about 5 miles. Attempts to contact the engine reconditioner failed and it became apparent the bloke had retired and left for places unknown. Local car enthusiast and fixer Noel Neil remade the faulty bearing only to have it fail again in the same time frame. After the third time he decided there was something fundamentally wrong and decided to investigate further. The problem he found was the rear main bearing. This being an engine with an oil pump, the feed for number 4 big end came via a drilling in the crankshaft from the rear main, the main being fed with oil pressure from a drilling in the block. There needed to be a groove right around the main bearing journal so the big end received a continuous supply of oil. As there was no groove, just a hole, the big end received just an extremely short squirt. Short enough in fact to have the big end fail in a few miles. Noel cut the groove and the Maxwell is still running fine. Unfortu-



The Chev boot is enormous. Holds a keg of beer with ice no worries. The fitting next to the tail light is so you don't have to open the boot to get your glass filled!

nately the hassles dampened Greg's enthusiasm for driving the car long distances as parts are getting harder to get and more expensive so these days restricts the journeys to the Katherine area, the longest he has undertaken to the Mary River Roadhouse on the Kakadu Hwy.

Terry Ross, better known to the locals as "Ducks" shot through before I could interrogate him and photograph his Austin Princess Vanden Plaz with its Rolls Royce engine. Ah well, next time!

Kath and Noel Neil cruised in their MGYA. Noels Aunt bought this car brand new in 1948. It cost 849 pounds. It had been a one owner vehicle when Noel obtained it from her estate.

Noel let an old skeleton slip out while we were looking at the Buick... years ago at a drag meeting on the airstrip where the Katherine museum is these days, \$10 to the timekeeper caused his Model T Ford ute to record a better time than a Buick 8!

Yvonne and Doug Glasson's OHV V8 powered 38 Ford was a pleasure to follow with its beautiful lines



Bill Harding's Mark V Jaguar. Pommy motoring at it's best!

and cool exhaust note. There was Iain Locke's out of the showroom HJ Holden ute and of course there was Bill Harding's black, bloody beautiful Mk V Jaguar .



The discussion is about Di and Bob Leo's 1949 Chev truck which was idling away so smoothly. It all looked nice and shiny and new under the bonnet but the aircon compressor didn't quite match the era. "Original equipment" someone said. Someone else pointed out "yea but original equipment on something else"!

Bill Harding's 1929 Buick Roadster (7th body made that year by Holden) Photo Bill Harding



Luke Drennan's Chev Impala "DROOPZ" Great!

Ute Territory! Greg and Vicki Bird's Maxwell leads the way for Iain and Jodie Locke's sparkling HJ Holden. Iain is the Katherine Club's Vice Pres.



An unlikely couple. The Maxwell and DROOPZ. Everything gets along well in Katherine!



Tim and Shani's Pizzas were so popular on Australia Day we reinvaded their home to do it all again. The idea was to create a Pizza then sample a bit and leave it on the chopping block for everyone else to try. The idea worked like a charm. The pictures tell the story!!

Courtney, Adrienne and Eddie Furlan at the first step in Pizza creation



Eddie and Adrienne at the next step. Tim keeps an eye on proceedings



Shani gives the tick to Lyn's magnificent creation!



Maureen lets Stuart and Bob test it first!



Bob's masterpiece!!



Lyn is worried Bob outdid her

Plenty of junior petrolheads here too! Up front are Ty and Jake Modra. Then Angas Modra and Jed Coles. Adrienne and Courtney Furlan at the back.



And Adrienne and Courtney were pleased with their results!



There's consequences when you get it wrong!

Mystery Run by Stuart Duncan

After starting at the Hangar, members drove through Cullen Bay, Darwin City, Charles Darwin National Park, Berrimah, Palmerston suburbs, Virginia, Freds Pass and Girraween before finishing at the Howard Springs Nature Park for lunch.

The final distance was not the 100km allowed but I am told some members went close, after having to detour through Berrimah due to Tiger Brennan Dr being closed whilst they resurfaced the road. Then some got stuck behind a house on the move.

Everyone reported they enjoyed the drive, answering questions along the way and I don't think there were any domestics along the way.

Some members took just over an hour, whilst our President took nearly 3 and half hours to complete and because of his late finish (an hour after everyone else) we all had a late lunch.

John & Judy met us for lunch, after visiting the Humpty Doo bike swap meet earlier in the day.

Winner with 44 out of 46 correct answers – Liam Samuels & Mum Judy.

2nd correct answers with 43.5 and last to arrive – Peet & Judy Menzies.

Another mystery run will be held in August with a Darwin history theme.

Members who attended

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Rowan & Marcia Charrington | 1955 Sunbean Talbot |
| Chris Armitstead & Cathy Cousins | 1928 Model A Ford |
| Mike Fawcett & family | R/T Charger |
| Bob & Maureen Archbold | 1957 Zepher |
| Terry Baxter | 1950 MGTD |
| Liam, Geoff & Judi Samuels | 1955 Morris Minor |
| Robert & Maureen Newman | BMW 528i |
| Howard Moses & friends | 1974 Citroen D |
| Sam Henry (visitor) | Humber Super Snipe |
| Garry Colliver | modern |
| Peet & Judy Menzies | 1943 Jeep |
| Pancho & Josephine Nelder | Triumph Stag |
| Stuart Duncan | 1972 VW Beetle |
| Les Wilson | Valiant Ute |
| Ray (visitor) | Austin 7 (replaced with Morris Cowley) |
| Steve Hall & friends | Rolls Royce |
| Geoff & Ruth Smith | 1927 Chev Capital |
| John & Marlene Lear | Modern |



Photo Stuart Duncan

Cars on the World Wide Web



This month we bring you the SOUND of cars on the world wide web.

At www.horseless.com/horn.html you can HEAR the sounds of vintage horns.



They refer to the Brass era and display vehicles from 1908-1913, this web page shows pictures of old horns and when you click on a link it will play the horn.



The same web site has another page at www.horseless.com/engine.html where you can listen to the sounds of vintage engines idling away.



Fathers Day Car Show

If you would like to display your vehicles at the car show on Sept 6th please email your list of what you plan to display to
propellers@bigpond.com

Free stuff

Get your free ads in here. Give stuff away, sell stuff , get information. Whatever you like. Email Ted at propellers@bigpond.com or 89886049. Deadline.. The end of the month.

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Editors note

This edition of Transmission is a bit early. That's because your action reporter is forced to go away to collect stories to keep you interested. Where? Find out in later editions! The next edition should be back to the normal schedule.

Make sure you have the **Gangsters Ball** and the **cricket match** in bold on your calendar of things to do!

A lady walks into Tiffany's. She browses around, spots a beautiful diamond bracelet and walks over to inspect it. As she bends over to look more closely, she inadvertently breaks wind.

Very embarrassed, she looks around nervously to see if anyone has noticed her little accident and prays that a sales person doesn't pop up right now.

As she turns around, her worst nightmare materializes in the form of a salesman standing right behind her. Cool as a cucumber and displaying complete professionalism, the salesman greets the lady with, 'Good day, Madam. How may we help you today?'

Very uncomfortably, but hoping that the salesman may just not have been there at the time of her little 'accident', she asks, 'Sir, what is the price of this lovely bracelet?'

He answers, 'Madam, if you farted just looking at it, you're going to shit yourself when I tell you the price.'



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

WOTS ON THIS YEAR

| | | |
|------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May | 2,3 | Country music festival in Katherine. Beaut Ute competition |
| | 9,10 | Power Cruise |
| | 17 | National Heritage day of motoring |
| July | 11 | Gangsters Ball at Berry Springs Community Hall. Cops (Elliott Ness and mates) welcome too! Press your pinstripe suit. Oil your machine gun. We now have two live professional acts (real good rock n roll plus middle of the road stuff) plus another playing recorded music. Don't miss it! |
| | 19 | MVEC vs Classic Holden Car club cricket match. At Batchelor oval. A blast! Leave Wishart at 8.30am. Lunch supplied bring drinks and chairs |
| Sept | 6 | Fathers day car show. Please email your intended exhibit to propellers@bigpond.com |

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An Aussie truckie walks into an outback cafe' with a full-grown emu behind him. The waitress asks them for their orders. The truckie says, 'A hamburger, chips and a coke,' and turns to the emu, 'What's yours?' 'I'll have the same,' says the emu. A short time later the waitress returns with the order 'That will be \$9.40 please,' and he reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact change for payment.

The next day, the man and the emu come again and he says, 'A hamburger, chips and a coke.' The emu says, 'I'll have the same.' Again the truckie reaches into his pocket and pays with exact change.

This becomes routine until the two enter again. 'The usual?' asks the waitress.

'No, it's Friday night, so I'll have a steak, baked potato and a salad,' says the man. 'Same,' says the emu.

Shortly the waitress brings the order and says, 'That will be \$32.62.'

Once again the man pulls the exact change out of his pocket and places it on the table.

The waitress cannot hold back her curiosity any longer. 'Excuse me, mate, how do you manage to always come up with the exact change in your pocket every time?'

'Well, love' says the truckie, 'a few years ago, I was cleaning out the back shed, and found an old lamp. When I rubbed it, a Genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, I would just put my hand in my pocket and the right amount of money would always be there.'

'That's brilliant!' says the waitress. 'Most people would ask for a million dollars or something, but you'll always be as rich as you want for as long as you live!'

'That's right. Whether it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the exact money is always there,' says the man.

The waitress asks, 'What's with the bloody emu?'

The truckie sighs, pauses, and answers, 'My second wish was for a tall chick with a big arse and long legs, who agrees with everthing I say.'