

# Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club



No 62

MAR 2012

# 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  
[propellers@bigpond.com](mailto:propellers@bigpond.com)



## Steams Up!

You may recall last months article where Rowan commented that it was unlikely that the historic Sandfly locomotive would ever run. These sweet ladies kindly posed with the engine during the preparation of "A Minutes Warning".

If you listened carefully you could hear it steaming!

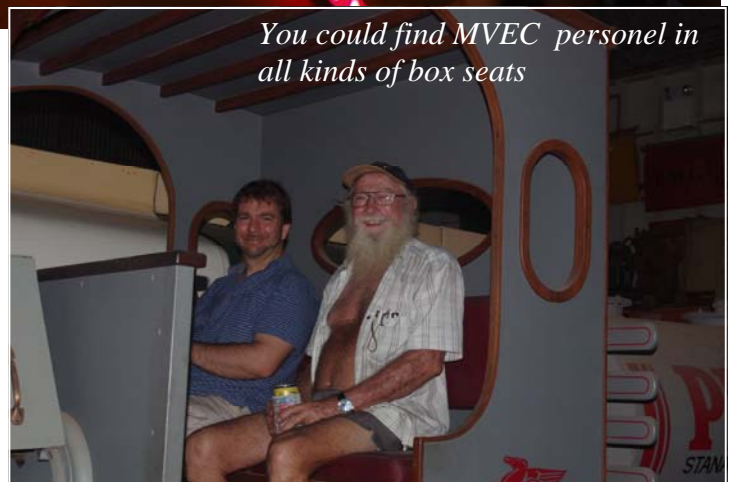
*From left: Peta Squires, Hannah Woerle, Jessie Weyand, Emily Arthur, Elizabeth Bolton, Janelle Aupa'au, Sian Tiedeman*

# A Minutes Warning!

Just imagine. A bunch of Darwin's loveliest ladies strutting their stuff around the stage right in the middle of our cars and trucks and machinery at the old QANTAS hangar. I wasn't dreaming either. This was the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day Darwin had the heck bombed out of it by the Japanese and the Hangar didn't miss out, it still sports some serious cannon holes compliments of those afore-said Japanese fighters. One local young lady, Matilda Alegria, designed and directed the event entitled "A Minutes Warning". There were 22 pieces of wearable art, each told the story of a specific part of the attack. The main hall of the hangar saw the normal assortment of cars and trucks moved aside to make way for a large stage. That was adorned by various relics of 1942 including mortars, machine guns and shells. Lots of speakers and lights set the scene and as the advertised time of 6pm came closer the largest crowd ever to fit in our hangar kept getting bigger and bigger. A singing duo attempted to keep everyone entertained until the sun set enough to get the required ambience, but you could tell the crowd was anxious to see the main show. And when the first model stepped out, deliberately but slowly, to the eerie metallic noise of a bombed



*Armour model: Brodie Carr  
This piece represents the protection required during war. The dress is constructed from aluminium, a common material used in military equipment.*



*You could find MVEC personel in all kinds of box seats*



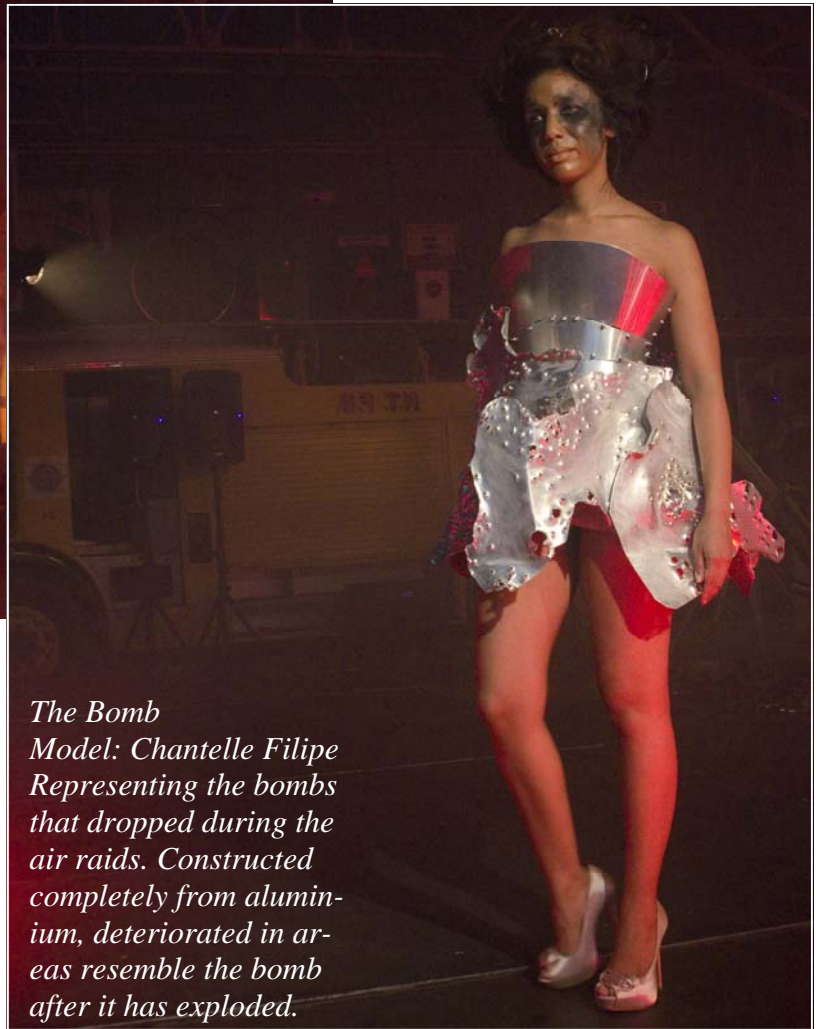


*USS Peary*

*Model: Janelle Aupa'au*

*The USS Peary was directly hit 5 times during the air raids. This piece represents the impact that the bombs had. The sharpness of the corset resembles the breaking of the ship and it's disappearance beneath the water.*

out Darwin, there was no cheering or cat calling or clapping. The audience was spellbound. There were up to four girls on the stage at a time and as the show went on there were explosions complete with smoke and flames, but the girls marched on determinedly. It wasn't until it was all over that the applause started. And then there was plenty. And the wearable art? Normally dresses are made with a sewing machine. Some of these pieces were made with a hammer, tin snips and welder. They even used a shotgun on one of them. But they certainly depicted aspects of the war. A really enjoyable evening, something different, something young, and what a show for free. And as an extra bonus we MVEC members were VIP's and had champagne and enough nibbles to call it tea, afterwards!



*The Bomb*

*Model: Chantelle Filipe*

*Representing the bombs that dropped during the air raids. Constructed completely from aluminium, deteriorated in areas resemble the bomb after it has exploded.*



*Soldier*

*Model: Kimberley Nicholson*

*Soldiers embody the protection of our country and the individuals who dedicate their lives to service during the war. The 4 soldiers accentuate the body to reflect the human form beneath the uniform. Sharp structured lines represent the strength and hardship which is endured.*



*Clockwise from top left:*

*Fire Bell*

*Model: Taara McLaren*

*This piece resembles the shape of a bell. Signifying the point when the fire bells rang when the Japanese began their invasion.*

*Soldier*

*Model: Jasmine Flavell*

*There are four soldiers in the display.*

*Angel*

*Model: Elizabeth Bolton*

*This piece represents the lives lost during the Bombing of Darwin*

*Neptuna*

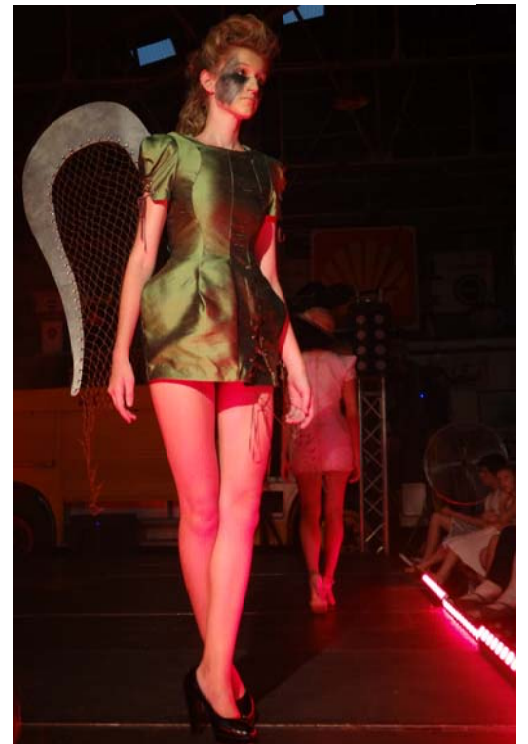
*Model: Krystal Eldridge*

*Dedicated to the ship that remains at the bottom of Darwin Harbour, the inspiration behind this dress is taken from the deteriorated buoy hanging in the Darwin Military Museum. The soft blue reflects the water surrounding the hidden ship.*

*Graveyard Shift*

*Model: Laura Capel*

*This piece honours the soldiers and civilians who lost their lives during the Bombing of Darwin and subsequent raids. The shoulder armour represents the burden that is carried by families and friends in the aftermath.*

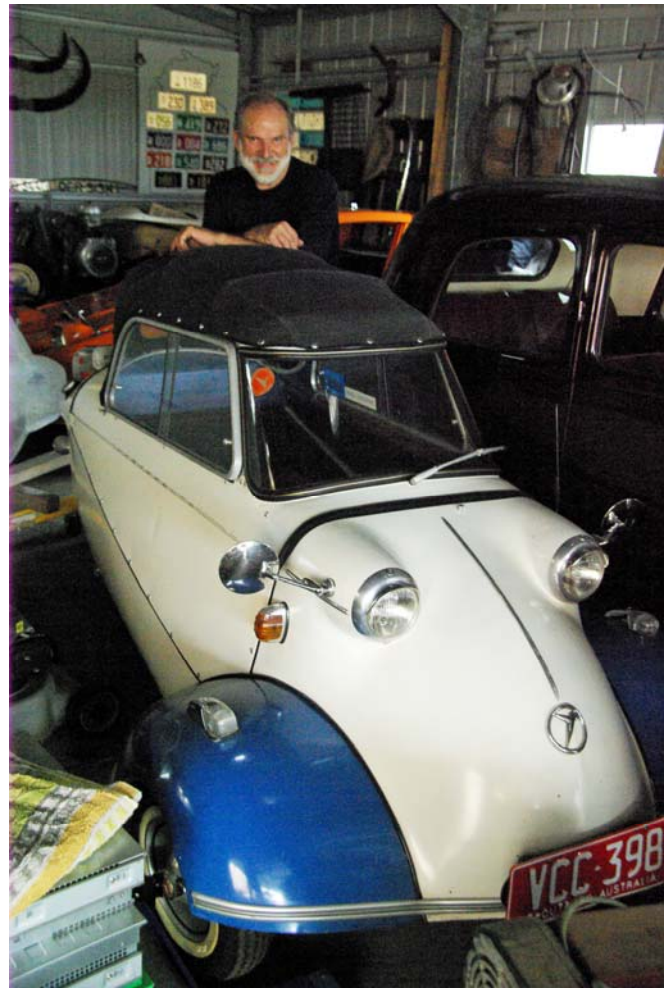


## A BIT DIFFERENT

Sometimes all these old cars all seem to be a bit too similar. Everyone seems to have an old Holden or Ford or even a Valiant. Dion Rinaldi decided these were not the cars for him. He wanted something a bit different. It didn't have to be big to be different but he couldn't actually find that something locally so he just lifted his sights a bit. To England in fact. Searching on the internet he found a BMW Isetta, or to be a bit more accurate it was a pile of parts that was once an Isetta, or part of one as it turned out most of the parts were missing. At this stage Dion had never actually seen one, so he knew it was that bit different. He did get to see one on the TV show Heartbeat, one of those Pommie nostalgia programs set in the 60's. The one that he had found was a 1962 model and since it fitted that criteria of different, he went ahead with the deal and engaged someone to pack it up in a box and get it on a ship as deck cargo to Singapore. From there Perkins picked it up and brought it to Darwin. That was back in 1991. Then the fun began...

When you fix up an old Falcon or Holden, if you can't figure out what is supposed to go where, you just go find someone else who has one and check it out. You can't do that if you have the only one in existence, same deal when it's the only one in the Northern Territory. You have to have certain powers. The ability to think like the person that built it in the first place helps. Getting the necessary bits was not straightforward, but with perseverance he was able to get the parts from England, Germany, France, NZ, USA, but the most surprising was the drive couplings which he was able to buy new from Uruguay. It seems these cars were very popular over there (they made 167000 of them) and they were still making bits. He had a wheel posted from NZ. Lots of hours and 2 years later he drove it out of the shed and it certainly was different. So what would you do then?

Dion found another one. This one was in Australia though. The advert stated it had been restored and was a LHD model and it was in Sydney at a garage. Off to Sydney he went with trailer in tow. When he arrived at the address he discovered narrow streets with nowhere to park and upset everybody by parking on the footpath. Apparently the sticker lickers down there get seriously violent when you do such things. And when he entered the garage he found the "restored" Isetta to be under a pile of rags and assorted junk and to be missing the brakes and exhaust and to be not very flash at all. But he bought it. And with a quick getaway he missed the sticker lickers. This was a 1958 model and was RHD. Why they advertised it as LHD is anyone's guess. Maybe they had two of em and they sold the LHD restored car just before Dion arrived. Maybe they were just chronic liars. Even the picture in the advert was of another car. But this time he had another car to cheat off, mostly anyway. The latest car had two wheels on the back. The 1962



*Dion with the Messerschmitt. The roof lifts up to get in. Seats 2, one behind the other.*



*Messerschmitt and Isetta at the 1st Shannons show in Darwin. Below: Messerschmitt controls.*





*The 1962 Isetta won the judges choice award at MVEC's car show in 2005.*

model has only one. This lack of the fourth wheel is nothing to do with being a later model. It seems that in England at the time a tricycle cost about £1 to register whereas a 4 wheel car cost £4. So they produced three wheel Isettass especially for England.

Dion took it home and pulled it to bits, completely. The good news is that it is getting close to being back together again. And if it ends up anywhere near as good as the first one it is a real head turner. Dion likes a job to turn out with quite a high level of finish. The problem here is he actually painted it 5 times and he hadn't got a finish he was satisfied with. In disgust he put it back in the shed and walked away. Wouldn't you know it something different bobbed up in his face. A model T Ford Speedster! The ad was for an urgent sale, not going. If it was a sedan or a tourer he wouldn't have been interested but a speedster came under the category of different so the Ford came into the collection. Actually

*There is nothing that has not received attention.*



*Small cars can make working easier. Photo: Dion*



*The original 62 model at left. 58 on right in as found condition. Photo: Dion*

*You can see the many layers of paint. Once Dion started into the body preparation he found 14 different colours under the paint.*



*The underbody has been painted with just as much care as the upper. Photos: Dion*



*Twin rear wheels or single.  
Photo: Dion*

that was a couple of years ago and the T has since been finished and has moved on. Why? Because Dion has so many cars that have different controls that he found it a bit stressful to remember which pedal to press on what car. And the Ford being totally different to anything was the one to go. And with that break he was able to then get the appropriate finish with the paint job on the second Isetta.

Somewhere in amongst the time frame of this story is a couple more definitely different cars. One is a 1958 Messerschmitt KR200. The advert said "you haven't got one of these". That would be like waving a red flag in front a bull! Naturally Dion bought it. There wasn't much to fix up. Basically he just cleaned it up. It has a 197cc single cylinder 2 stroke engine and everything about it is totally different.

The other is so different the Qld motor vehicle registry had to modify its database to acknowledge it ever existed anywhere. The vehicle is a Bond "Bug". This is a performance car built for yuppies in England in 1973. They made 1400 of them and you can just imagine a cute little Pommie chick in a vinyl miniskirt in it. It came in one colour (orange) with a 750cc engine and with only 3 wheels it was meant to go fast. Dion found it on a used car site on the net advertised as a wreck. It was! Trouble was the photos were taken in winter (it was winter) and 80% of the car was buried under snow. Never mind. It met the criteria "different". Dion had someone box it up, on a ship to Singapore, then to Darwin. That was about 1998.

When it arrived and he could get his hands on it he confirmed it was a wreck. The fibreglass body was seriously busted and the steel bits rusted. But Dion learns fast. Using the busted bits to make moulds he rebuilt the whole body a lot stronger than it originally was. Where there was steel reinforcing he would use stainless to stop it rusting in the future. Everything on the car is now brand new. By measuring all the engine internals and then studying parts lists he was able to find parts from other vehicles with the same dimensions and so was able to get new replacement parts. Austin 7 bearings conveniently fitted the crank and the



*The Bond Bug was judged best restored at the inaugural Shannons motor show in Darwin in 2006. Currently has 41 miles on the clock. Photo: Dion*

*The decals have been accurately reproduced.*

*Below: The 750cc powerplant, as new and Spotless!*



engine has wet cylinder liners which he was able to source from England. The alternator is from a small Daihatsu as it was the smallest one on the market. Currently the Bug has 41 miles on the clock since the resto. All this car needs to be complete is the teenage Mod chick in a miniskirt!

A suburban shed full? Not on your life! There is more!

A 1955 Citroen Traction Avant. A Froggie car you might reckon. Nope, this one was built in England at the Slough factory. There was obviously a bit of trouble between the two countries at the time. The Citroen badge, a chevron, on the French models is proudly displayed on the outside of the grille, where you would expect it to be. On the Pommie built cars they wouldn't allow it to be out there on display. It is mounted behind the grille, in front of the radiator. Crazy!

This car has done only 39000 miles. Dion bought it off an old bloke in Melbourne. It had been in storage from 1967 to 1984. That accounts for some of the low mileage. It still has all the rego labels from new and a logbook from day 1. To give you an idea how original it is, it won a concours event during its previous ownership. These days it doesn't get a lot of work, maybe one run a year. The wheels for this car are a bit different. It uses 400mm tyres. That size does not convert to any inch size, they were made just for the Citroen. It seems Michelin used to own Citroen so maybe that explains it. Dion was quoted locally \$528 each tyre plus \$40 for each tube. A bit of chasing around and he had them delivered for \$280 each including the tube. They came via the Citroen club in England and arrived 6 days after ordering them. And they were Michelin X. They make one run of them per year.

And everyone knows you need some stuff to fill up those bare bits of the shed. Dion has 7000 numberplates, a spark plug collection, a jack collection, 50 shifters....

And word gets around you collect stuff. In the weeks before I was there he had been offered a Vespa ute, two Zetas and a Mini Cooper S.



*Citroen Traction Avant. They ran this body style from 1934 to 1957. This one was built in 1955*



Here you can see where the engine resides in the 4 wheel Isetta.

Some of the number plates too....

*Model T Ford speedster. Just one more car that's a bit different. Photo: Dion*







# VELOSOLEX

SHAYNE HARRIS 2012

The Velosolex is a power assisted bicycle, as its name suggests:

- *Velo* the French for bicycle and,
- *Solex* from the manufacturer, whose name is commonly known amongst vehicle enthusiasts for carburettor manufacture.

After fuel shortages during World War II, the Velosolex was released in 1946, providing a cheap form of transport. The two stroke single cylinder, 45cc engine had an amazing fuel consumption of 1.5 litres per 100km, that is over 200 miles per gallon.

The Velosolex pictured here is a 45cc model, engine number 180337 constructed in 1952. While the front rim is damaged, and the baggage rack is not from the same era, it is an attractive running example of the early Velosolex.



As time went by, the Velosolex engine capacity was increased to 49cc and an automatic clutch made negotiating traffic much easier. Production has continued, albeit off and on and Mopex still sell a derivative of this autocycle today.



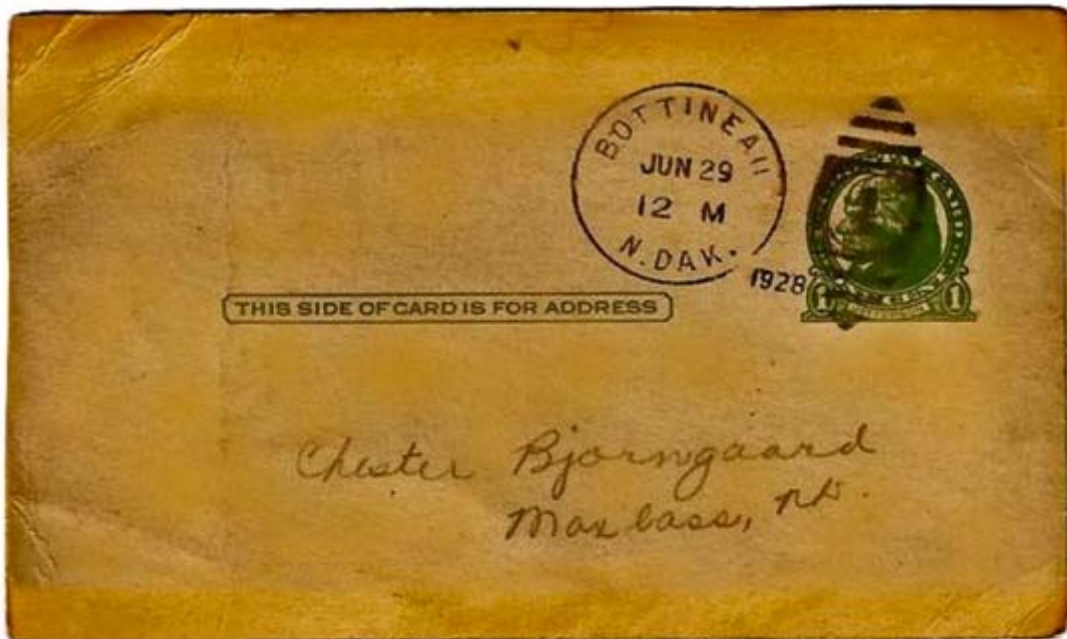
There is also a practical electric alternative, styled as a retro Velosolex, the esolex provides all the things necessary for modern autocycling, and all for less that 2c/100km.

Unfortunately the two Velosolex pictured here were stolen from the wharf while being imported. They have left gaping holes in a collection and are sorely missed. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Shayne Harris 0418 944 359

Can you Imagine this happening today.....

This is a post card sent to a customer by a Ford dealer in 1928. Now you know why I have a T model Ford.



Dear Sir:—

We're writing this letter to you today because we want to help you get your money out of your Model T.

It's still as good a car as it was the day the new Model A Ford was announced and there's no need to sacrifice it.

The Model T Ford is still used by more people than any other automobile. Eight million are in active service right now and many of them can be driven one, two, three and five years and even longer.

Bring your car to us and let us look it over. You'll be surprised to see how little it costs to put it in tip-top shape.

New fenders, for instance, cost from \$3.50 to \$5.00 each, with a labor charge of \$1.00 to \$2.50. Tuning up the motor and replacing commutator case, brush and vibrator points costs only \$1.00, with a small charge for material. Brake shoes can be installed and emergency brakes equalized for a labor charge of only \$1.25. A labor charge of \$4.00 to \$5.00 will cover the overhauling of the front axle, rebushing springs and spring perches, and straightening, aligning and adjusting wheels.

The labor charge for overhauling the average rear axle runs from \$5.75 to \$7.00. Grinding valves and cleaning carbon can be done for \$3.00 to \$4.00.

A set of four new pistons and rings cost only \$7.00. For a labor charge of \$20 to \$25.00 you can have your motor and transmission completely overhauled. Parts are extra.

Very truly yours,  
Bottineau, N. Dak. C. R. GLEASON CO.





## **Military Museum Run 18th March**

**Our next run will be on this Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March to the new Military Museum at East Point for brunch and to inspect the museum.**

**Details:** Meet at the Hangar for departure at 9am sharp then travel to the museum in convoy via the Darwin CBD. (Route details on the day) You **do not** need a club registered car to attend

**Parking:** The front row of the parking area marked with witches hats will be reserved for our MVEC vehicles

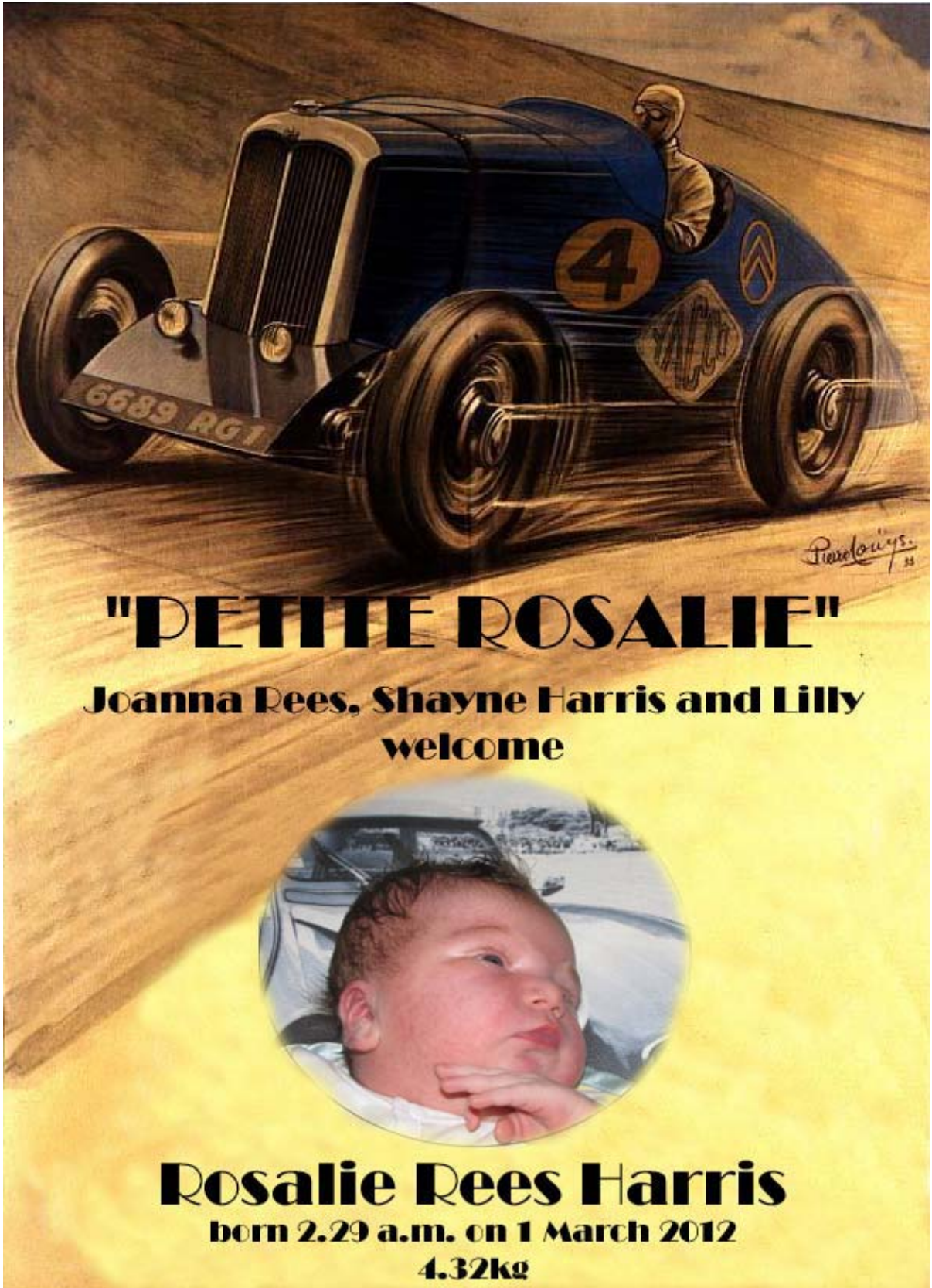
**Museum:** Free entry courtesy of museum chief Tom Lewis

**Brunch:** Will be provided by museum canteen

**Cost for brunch:** \$5.00 per head MVEC will subsidise the balance.

**You can always tell a motor vehicle enthusiast.  
But you will never match a Citroen enthusiast**

**Welcome Rosalie Harris. May you experience many Citroen miles.**



### **Tyres suit Rav 4**

Unused  
\$25

Mike 89852084

### **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 [propellers@bigpond.com](mailto:propellers@bigpond.com)

or phone 89886049

Deadline...the end of the month

### **2 Honda CX 500's 1978, 1979**

Workshop manual. Some spares.

\$350

Arthur 89833588

Howard Springs

This ad was in last month. Unfortunately one number was missing from the phone no. The phone number is complete this month

### **A10 BSA or Triumph Bonneville**

Or any early 1960's motorbike wanted as something to fix up.

Ted 0406 851731

### **Wedding invitation**

On Sunday the 20th of May Fiona and I plan to have a informal wedding whilst we are on holidays. I was hoping you could pass my details onto club members that might be interested in driving us around for photos etc. I was hoping someone with a 50's-60's jag/ Merc or similar would be able to help but also open to suggestions as I understand the challenges owners may face with club rego etc.

My phone no. Is 0427 924545

Email is [d\\_s\\_meyer@hotmail.com](mailto:d_s_meyer@hotmail.com)

Regards  
Dale Meyer

### **And another wedding invitation**

Love is obviously in the air this dry season. We have another blushing bride that would like to be transported a few Km around the Humpty Doo area on the afternoon of 30th June.

Preference is for a classic muscle car or a large American type with plenty of chrome.

Please call Pat 0418925865

### **Looking for shiny mirrors n stuff for your classic car?**

Tony Don has started a new web based business and has some good stuff. Its in NZ so you get a good discount via the exchange rate. I have found some spotlight lenses for my Jag that I have been after for years.

Check it out [www.classicarmirrors.com](http://www.classicarmirrors.com)

### **2500 Triumph TC Sedan 1977 auto.**

Complete with new suspension. Car has not been used for 2 years. Has lots of extras including complete reconditioned gear box plus same model car for spare parts.

\$2100 ono.

Ph Pancho 89831118

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



## WOTS ON THIS YEAR

**What a year this will be. Something for everyone. 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.

Meanwhile.....

- .- **18 March** 2012 Military Museum Breakfast and Perusal. Free entry to Military Museum Contact Peet MENZIES. 0417855222.
- **7 April** 2012 Australia Day Ute Run. Laurie FEEHAN.0417 834 884
- **20 May** 2012AHMF National Day of Motoring. Chris ARMITSTEAD. 0419 489 816
- **26 -27 May** 2012 Shannons Extravaganza at Darwin Show Grounds.
- **9-10 June** 2012 Coomalie Overnighter. Motor Bike Run, Car Run and Invite to Katherine. Steve HALL 0417 831 955 will provide transport for swags from Hanger to Coomalie for bikers swags.

If undeliverable return to  
MOTOR VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS CLUB  
GPO BOX 911 DARWIN 0801

**PRINT  
POST  
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AUSTRALIA

- **7 July** 2012 The Gangsters Ball. Berry Springs. Get dressed up. Dancing. Mayhem. Camping optional Ted 89886049.
- **15 July** 2012 MVEC Cricket Match. We need players!
- **22 July** 2012 Taminmin Display, Shed Show BBQ afterwards. Invite to Katherine. Brian SMITH. 0407 881 167
- **29 July** 2012 Shannons Day at the Track. John PALAMOUNTIAN. 0417 262 918
- **19 August** 2012 Progressive Dinner. Steve HALL. 0417 831 955
- **2 September** 2012 Fathers Day Open Day. Peet MENZIES. 0417855222.
- **30 September** 2012 Observation Run. Steve HALL. 0417 831 955
- **21 October** 2012 Shed Show Ford Brunch. Neil BROMLEY. 0400 420 120
- **24 November** 2012 AGM then Xmas Dinner at Nightcliff Sport Club. Steve HALL.417 831 955
- **26 January** 2013 Australia Day Ute Run.
- **19 February** 2013 Bombing of Darwin Open Day.