

Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club



No 63

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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.
GPO Box 911 Darwin 0801
In Katherine call 89710605 .
Newsletter enquiries to Ted propellers@bigpond.com

Morris Minor

“Just follow the recipe in the manual, a piece of cake.”

Warren Kleehammer, Chef and Morris owner.



A nicely restored Morris ute? Yep, sort of. If you see it next to you at the lights, don't bother trying to drag it off....



The ute as found.

Pic: Warren & Suzy

His and hers stuff isn't such a new idea there are his n hers towels, glasses n stuff. I have even seen his and hers dunnies. Even cars. We have his n hers cars in my family, mine is big and red and convertible, hers is small and sporty and red and convertible. What is a bit unusual in the story I am about to tell is Warren Kleehammer's car and his wife Suzy's car are both Morris Minors. At a cursory glance they are basically the same, his is a ute and hers a Station wagon. That's about where the similarity ends, you see Suzy's is basically just as it came out the factory, maybe with a new radio and an airconditioner, but Warren has

stuffed a Commodore V6 under the bonnet of his and under that innocent looking skin it is quite a bit different. This car is definitely a sleeper. It all started back in about 1984 when a friend gave him a Morris Minor. At that stage Suzy didn't even know what a Morris was. She was brought up to speed on the subject when Warren brought it home. He fixed that car right up and for 25 years it was their day to day car. It was clocking up 1000km a week running back and forth to work from their rural Victorian property. As that car was given to them,

recently they followed the example and gave it to a friend's daughter. She had learned to drive in it and since her Dad is a trimmer for a large airline and retrims large airliners, we will assume the Morris will be pretty flash in the interior dept. The dad is also quite an accomplished welder with experience in car bodies. And the daughter, she is a baker, but has put herself through night school as



Test fit of the V6. There is not much firewall left. See Warren's foot where it isn't.

Pic: Warren & Suzy



Don't expect gloves in this glove box. The fire- a wall has been moved back so far you can just fit a row of fuses.



The fabricated transmission tunnel. All made from some pretty hefty gauge steel. Pic: Warren & Suzy

panel beater and spray painter. These little cars have this effect on people. (beware, an advert has just appeared in the ad page in this publication) So we expect the little Morrie will go on for a long time. But naturally that is not the end of this story, just the start. With Morris in the blood, you get to appreciate these cars. They will never let you down and even with a flat battery, they have a crank handle. They will always get you home. And working on them, Warren is in the food dept, he reckons you just follow the recipe in the workshop manual and it works. It's a piece of cake! And some people (me) seem to get hold of cars that cause you to tear your hair out when you want to buy some body parts. It's not a problem with a Morris. There is this beaut place called Morris Minors Australia in Moorabin in Vic where you can buy anything for these cars. Yep anything!

After some years had passed, the affection for the Morris obviously hadn't worn thin as Warren started looking for a ute, naturally a Morris ute. After looking for a long time he was coming to the sad realisation that he wasn't going to find one. About 1992 one turned up but it wasn't at all flash. But since it took

Those wide rear guards are made by welding 2 guards together lengthwise. Pic: Warren & Suzy



him so long to find this one he forked out \$500 and took it home with the intention to restore it to original. This was going to be one big job. Out of the blue the thought came to him that since it was going to be such a major job to fix it he might as well go all out and modify it. By chance he had taken another car to a workshop for a service and there was a VN commodore with the bonnet up. He grabbed a tape measure and measured the engine. And it would fit! In Warren's own words "the nightmare began". Because it was a modified vehicle and had something around \$8000 worth of engineers consultations, somewhere in the story it was subjected to a flex test. It failed miserably. That resulted in massive reinforcement of the chassis and addition of a large crossmember. Naturally the standard floor couldn't accommodate the bellhousing or gearbox and so it is fabricated from some fairly hefty sheet steel. A Ford 9 inch diff at about 3:1 handles the power ok but the all up weight of 1400 Kg accounts for a lot of that reinforcing. One interesting thing about the body work is that is all lead filled. That also probably accounts for a bit of those Kgs. Speaking of Kgs Warren admits he

Dash has Commodore instrument panel in front of driver. Aircon ducts are under the seat. Same deal for radio. Steering column is tilted up for easy access. From a Tbird. Pic: Warren & Suzy





That protrusion from the cab contains the aircon.

Morrie is yet to receive a Torana front end.

Pics: Warren & Suzy

sported quite a few more of them when he was building this car. To be able to get in and out he fitted a Ford Thunderbird steering column which allows you to tilt the steering wheel right out of the way for entry and exit.

Naturally it is airconditioned, but in such a small car that never had such luxuries even when new, where would you put the evaporator and fan? This is a ute and there is plenty of room back there. Warren has put it all in an extension in the cargo area and ducted it into the cab. The radio is under the seat. When he mentioned that the V6 Commodore engine would fit, he meant it just fits. It is a shoehorn fit for sure. It took 6 hours to change the spark plugs and leads and

involved removing the front wheels to gain some access. Those wheels were standard Commodore 15" x 8" but they have had the centres moved in by 1". And of course cars of this era are meant to have nice shiny hubcaps. Knobs were added to the rims to clip the hubcaps over. One thing the Morris missed out on when it was new was a rear bumper. They just never got one. Warren has shortened a HQ Holden bumper and with a rechrome it looks perfect, just like it was standard from new.

All this happened over about ten years, but only a little way into the project Suzy realized that "Woody"

Morris Traveller, aka "Woody".





Woody recieved the same completed makeover as the ute but was put back together just the same as was original. Pics: Warren & Suzy

Morrisies were “so cute” and that she needed one. So soon there were 2 projects on the go at the same time, but the Woody was a restoration, not a custom. As I said before you can get anything for them. Would you believe even the individual pieces of the woodwork were available? A lot of the original bits were useable but it saves a lot of time and trouble when you can buy the replacements pre cut. And don't get the idea that Suzy was just an onlooker while all the work was done for her. She was right in there getting her hands dirty just like the rest of us do.



The woody frame was completed before being installed as a complete unit.



Twin overhead glove boxes

That's Suzy working on her own car.





And with every collection there is always a good bike. Warren bought the Yamaha XJ900 new in 1985. At 220000 Km it got a hone and new rings. Since then it has been another 27000 Km. Sounds as sweet as can be!
Pic: Warren & Suzy



Multiple views of the Woody. With the back seat laid down it is quite spacious. Note the aircon under the dash on the passenger side. It is freezing cold.



*Below left: The Woody engine bay.
Below Right: Same view with the ute. Note the position of the firewall.*



SHANNONS INSURANCE
MOTORING
EXTRAVAGANZA



WINNELLIE SHOWGROUNDS

**26th-27th
MAY 2012**

15th March 2012

To all car and bike club members,

The 5th Shannons Motoring Extravaganza is fast approaching and I trust everyone is busy preparing their motoring art for the event to compliment your club display.

Shannons provides the event as a thank you to the clubs and their members who support Shannons and at the same time giving members the opportunity to show off their pride and joy.

It gives clubs the opportunity to promote their events, raise their profile and grow their membership. Should you know others with interesting vehicles that are not members of a club, by all means provide them with an entry form. The more the merrier.

Many local motor trades associated businesses are showing excellent interest in supporting this event.

**NB: All businesses and clubs are required to provide a Public Liability Certificate of Currency.
This is a mandatory compliance for businesses and clubs**

The three pavilions will once again be used as well as the lush grassy oval for the displays.

Catering will be in the same location as it has been for the previous events.

Attached is the entry form. I ask that all clubs designate a co-ordinator and collect the entry forms from their members and submit to me in one batch before the 11th May so I can do the space allocation.

Please submit your entry form thru your club coordinator.

There will be no charge to put your vehicles on display however as this is a charity event whereby all gate takings go to charity, normal admission fees will apply. This is not considered too much to ask of members to support their club.

I anticipate this year's display will be bigger than ever with many new vehicles coming out of backyard sheds for the biggest totally automotive show in the Northern Territory and the premier event in which to show off your vehicle and your club.

Hopefully we will get a contingent from Alice Springs once again making the trek this year.

Yours Sincerely

John Palamountain
Business Development Manager
Shannons
0417 262 918



SHANNONS MOTORING EXTRAVAGANZA



Winnellie Showgrounds
26th - 27th May 2012

ENTRY FORM

Entry No.....

(Office Use Only)

Name.....

Address.....

Phone number (H)..... (B)..... (M).....

Email address.....

Vehicle details – Make..... Model..... Year..... Rego No.....

Standard/ Modified (Please circle) Car Club (if any).....

Modification Details.....

If you are a car club member, please submit your entry form thru your club coordinator.

Your vehicle will automatically be entered in the Show n Shine by completing and signing this form.

There is no charge to have your vehicle on display

By completing and signing this form the exhibitor agrees to participate in the Shannons Motoring Extravaganza in a responsible manner, towards the grounds and facilities, other entrants and their vehicles and agree that as a condition of my participation, Shannons Insurance shall be under no liability whatsoever for death, bodily injury, loss or damage which may be sustained or incurred as a result of my participation, however caused, whether by negligence or otherwise.

All vehicles are required to be on site and assembled on Friday 25th by 6.00pm for display Saturday and Sunday. Vehicles may be removed after 4.00pm Sunday or after 8.00am Monday however there will be no security in place Sunday night.

I also agree that my vehicle shall remain stationary for the duration of the show until 4.00pm, unless permission is given from the organisers to move my vehicle.

Entry close off date is Friday 11th May.

INSURANCE: If your vehicle is insured with Shannons it is protected whilst at this event.

If you are not insured with Shannons please check with your own insurer re protection at this event.

If you are not insured at all you will have the vehicle on display at your own risk.

Both now and in the future, Shannons are able to provide you with information about other insurance needs you might have. (please delete if you do not agree to a call from Shannons)

Signature of vehicle ownerDate.....

For all enquiries please contact:- John Palamountain Business Development Manager NT Ph: M 0417 262 918

Please send completed entry forms to Shannons PO BOX 86 BERRIMAH NT 0828 Fax: 89 844 961



**All gate takings to Rotary Club Of Darwin
Community Projects**



**1929 Chevrolet Truck Wheels
Wanted**

Seeking two 20x5" rims to suit spoked wheels

Please phone Serge 89886250
Any leads appreciated

Morris Minor 2 door sedan 1957

In excellent original condition and runs really well.
New carpets and new shocks.

Has original wheels on vehicle, also supplied is a
set of mags with brand new tyres plus a complete
set of disk brakes fresh from Morris World.

\$5000 Serge 89886250



Car Trailer

This is MVEC's old car trailer for sale.
Very solid.

\$2000 contact Shayne 0418 944 359 or
shayne@pioneertracks.com

Shannons Extravaganza entries...

Please drop your entries into the hangar
by the 11th of May. All the entries from our club
will be submitted together

We will be doing the Legacy day BBQ at the Aero
Museum on the 29th. In the past we have generated
a considerable amount of dollars which has all
been donated to Legacy.

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

or phone 89886049

Deadline...the end of the month

1955 F100 and a Harley

The F100 has been fully restored asking \$30,000

Harley excellent condition \$25,000

Allan Hass on 0417 846146



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



WOTS ON THIS YEAR

Heaps. 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.

- **20 May** 2012 AHMF 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.
- **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

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GPO BOX 911 DARWIN 0801

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- **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

An engineer, a physicist, and a lawyer were being interviewed for a position as chief executive officer of a large corporation.

The engineer was interviewed first, and was asked a long list of questions, ending with "How much is two plus two?"

The engineer excused himself, and made a series of measurements and calculations before returning to the board room and announcing, "Four."

The physicist was next interviewed, and was asked the same questions. Before answering the last question, he excused himself, made for the library, and did a great deal of research.

After a consultation with the Australian Bureau of Statistics and many calculations, he also announced "Four."

The lawyer was interviewed last, and was asked the same questions. At the end of his interview, before answering the last question, he drew all the shades in the room, looked outside the door to see if anyone was there, checked the telephone for listening devices, and asked "How much do you want it to be?"