

# Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club



No 78

Aug 2013

# 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  
[longtelescope@gmail.com](mailto:longtelescope@gmail.com)

# Humpty Doo



It was promoted as "Come to Taminmin", "Come to Taminmin or else" and "Darwin to the Doo". Who cares, it was a great turnout and in true rural style some of the stuff there was in its working clothes. Some were all polished up in their Sunday best and others were just there. Beaut variety and always

something different. I was so busy yakking to people I never actually got round to collecting any specific info about any particular cars there so the best I can give you is a few photos. This is the second time the friends of the Taminmin Library have put on this show. Make a point of being part of it next time. You won't regret it.



*Main picture: Les Wilsons AP6 immaculate Valiant ute always stands out in a crowd.*

*Above: Local Pollie Kesia Purick attempting sweet talk to Pancho and Jo so they will sell her the Triumph Stag.*

*Below: David Hirst has found a speck of dust on his flash new Mustang*





Vic registered mild mannered original looking FC Holden actually sported a modern Commodore V6



Two smicko Chevrolets, both red and real cool. When they started them up, one was extra lumpy, one was totally smooth and standard. But if you really want power you can't go past a big truck!





*This is what it looks like at the start. Which way do you go?*

## REJEX! I have been in the Rejex

Rally before ( No I didn't spell it wrong, it's a sling off at the Redex trials of the 1950's) As a matter of fact at the same time I first got involved with this club I entered the Rejex Rally. I was in a Mazda Rx7 back in those days. The event is a leisurely drive down Hayes Creek way interspersed with motorkhana routines on the old WW2 airstrips along the way. You would line up at the starting gate in front of a sea of witches hats, and with the aid of a map you would attempt to travel through them and back under the watchful eye of the timekeepers who would tack on 5 seconds everytime you ran over a witches hat or went the wrong way around one. Driving the Rx7 was a matter of relaxing meditation at the start line, then wheel spinning acceleration to the first witches hat, a flick of the steering wheel and yanking on the handbrake to get the rear end sliding. In an instant the next witches hat comes into sight and its full power again and another handbrake turn and so it went on. Lots of tyre smoke and gravel flying. Navigator yelling the direction about to which witches hat I should be heading (she had to yell to be heard over the screaming of the engine). It was 30 odd seconds of pandemonium but amazingly, most of the time we would come out the other end without having taken any wrong turns. And whether you did get it right or got it wrong you

*Watch those smokies complete with guns, cigars and beer guts.*



*And naturally where you find Smokey you will find the Bandit. The black Transam is actually a white Honda under the stick on vinyl disguise.*





*Lil Angel on the numberplate but the ladies therein drove like the devil. Day 1 they were dressed as policewomen complete with batons to whack you with. Day 2 it was fairies complete with wings. They had a ball!*



couldn't help having a big cheesy grin on your face when you finished each run.

A quick calculation of specific things in my life reveals that first time was 13 years ago. And circumstances have kept me from entering for the last 5 years. It was time to do it again.

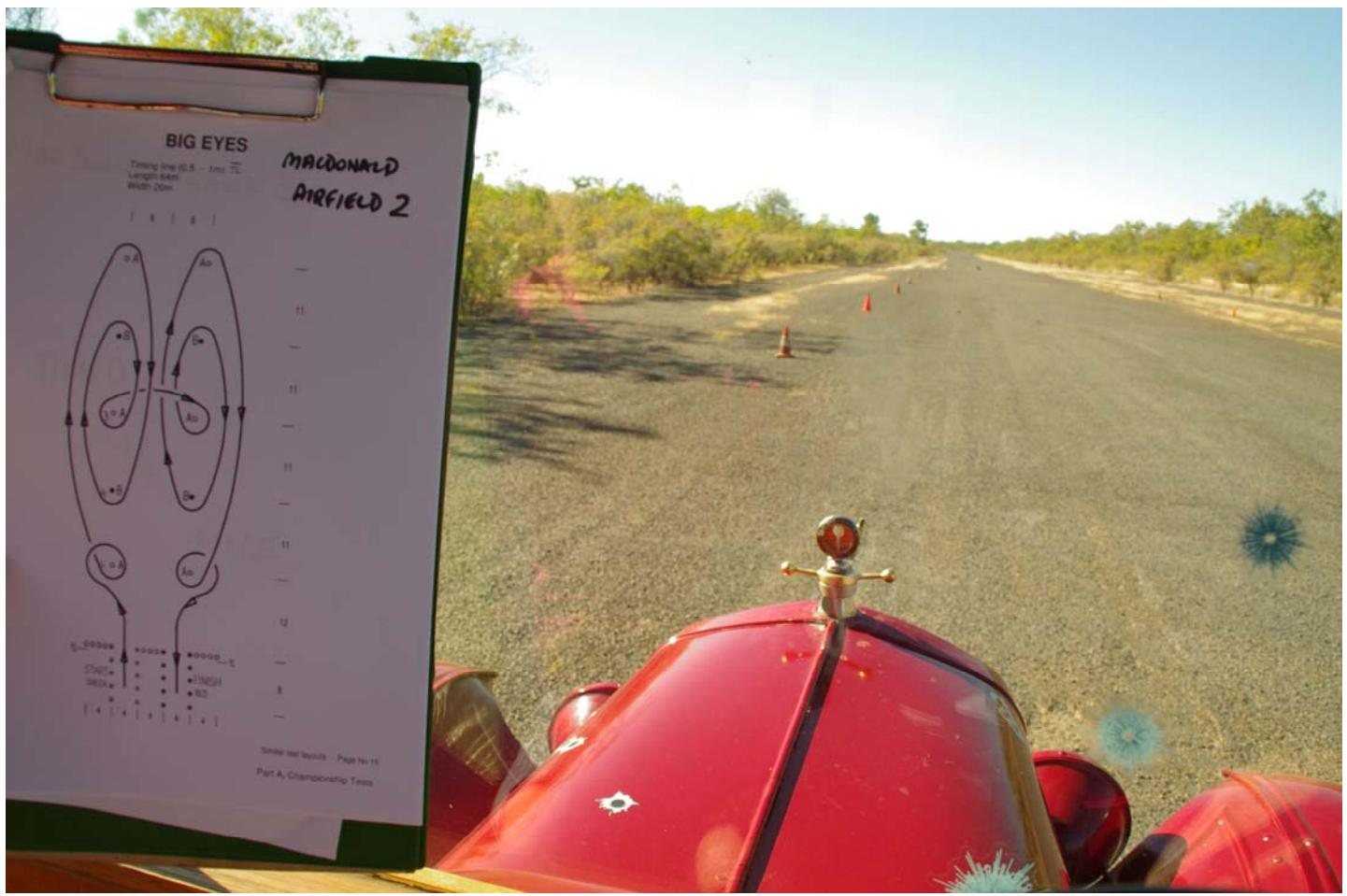
The biggest change, from my point of view anyway, was the vehicle I entered. This time was my 1921 Ford. And to make it even harder, this is no sedan or sporty tourer. This is a passenger vehicle with a very high, substantial and heavy wooden body. Top speed of 60 Kph is probably not a real problem, but those spindly 30 x 3 1/2 inch wheels with equally spindly wooden spokes were certainly a worry (I have actually broken them before).

We lined up at the first routine. Things had progressed over the years. Shirley was given a handful of tennis balls. It seems you didn't just have to navigate through the witches hats, now there were buckets next to some of them and you were supposed to drop a tennis ball in each one. You sit at a dizzy height in our Model T and when the ball was dropped into the first bucket with great precision it merely bounced out and rolled away. So at each following bucket Shirley actually alighted from the vehicle and placed the ball in the bucket where it stayed. The

problem was getting back in and sitting down in great haste she sat on a plastic drink bottle which emptied all over both of us. Shirley was not impressed. Not a good start to the weekend. Never mind the next routine was near Manton Dam, about 60 Kms away and with no doors on the Ford, clothes dry quickly. And we cleared the routine there and the spokes didn't break. Things were looking good!

The next routine was about 100 Km on at Fenton airstrip, west of Hayes Ck and that's where it all started to come together. Each routine was a (hopefully) non-destructive test of those wooden wheels. We were actually getting to the stage where the wheels were losing their grip and sliding on the bitumen. I certainly remember having to countersteer in the middle of one turn. What a blast! And Shirley still had to yell directions over that revving engine. It just wasn't revving quite as high as the Mazda. And then there





*Above: You have to relate the map to those witches hats out there.*

was the standing 1/4 mile. We did get into high gear!

The bit we couldn't figure out was how we could blast round the track at breakneck speed in the Mazda and not get lost, yet in the relatively docile speed the old Ford could manage, there were a couple of times in the middle of a routine where we had to come to a complete halt, study the map, and have a short conference before we could decide which witches hat we should head for next.

But the effect was the same. You couldn't help smiling when you got to the end.

There were a bunch of old wooden wheeled cars involved, and at the other end of the scale were the high tech high performance cars. These fellers (and ladies) at a cursory glance were deadly serious about getting their times down, but once again when they finished the routine the same ear to ear grin was there. In between there were the everyday sedans, station wagons and utes you might see your neighbour driving to work. There were immaculately restored classic cars, smicko classic cars that have never actually aged, a couple of 4wd tourist coaches and the odd hotrod. But the common denominator with all these ve-



*Above: A real family affair. There are 6 kids in the back!*



hicle was that the people inside them were having a ball.

This is an event for all ages too. Some of the drivers and navigators were probably driving because they were too old to walk. Others had the kids in the back seat. Tim and Shani Modra had all 6 kids strapped into their 4wd ex tourist coach as they negotiated the course. Another 4wd Oka coach was piloted by a young feller I guessed to be around 13. And there were several cars with drivers so young they were looking through the steering wheel rather than over it.

With kids learning just what a car can and can't do in a situation like this, the roads have got to be a safer place in the future.

Want to be part of some serious fun? Be part of Rejex first weekend in August next year.



*Austin 7 turned amazingly fast. Check out the grin on the face. And at the end of the weekend he was awarded the biggest trophy. Made the smile even bigger!*



*Junior driver gets last minute briefing from the time-keeper and below you can see the necessity of the periscope to see over the steering wheel.*





Rejex attracts all sorts of vehicles. I know there have been cars built especially for it but this one tops them all for sure! Last year, 6 weeks before the event Droopz, from Katherine, decided he had to build a Rejex car. The engine and transmission were no problem. He had a 1990 Camaro sitting in the shed. As a street registered drag car it was really too hot to use on the road and there being no drag strip in Katherine he had tired of it and it lay abandoned in the shed. It had no objection to donating its powerplant. By chance he found a chassis in the long grass. It turned out to be a 1955 Customline. Someone had gone to the trouble to fit power steering off an XD Falcon to it. So far so good. A brake kit from Hopper Stoppers and a diff from an EL Falcon wreck had the rolling dept sorted. But a body was a bit of a problem. He looked at Chevs, Fords and came upon a lot of brick walls. Enquiring after suitable units often brought the reply "I am going to do it up" He did find a 38 Dodge grille but still no cab. Then he was invited to check out an old truck wreck. It turned out to be an old Bedford tipper with a split windscreens. Perfect. Well almost. He had to chop the roof 7 inches to get the right look. And lots of checker plate in the floor (and the roof) and a Perspex windscreen.

And when he rolled up in Darwin for Rejex last year, straight away Trevor Feehan recognized the cab from a truck he used to drive. He worked for the Dept of Civil Aviation maintaining remote airstrips. The last time he saw it they were stuck on the southern side of the flooded Edith River back in the 1970's. They left it there and made it home via other means. That was the last time Trevor had seen it. He pointed out the faded remains of the DCA sign on the door.

There is a door with a similar sign hanging on the wall in the hangar.



## Triumph 1978 TR7

Totally 100% original condition.

This car has not been restored or messed with. Just done its roadworthy and full rego for 6 months. No work to do on this car, just needs to be enjoyed and used.

\$8000

John 0438852986

## 1985 Mercedes 190E LH Drive

Good for restore or parts

\$300 ono

Mick 0428827179

## RILEYS THROUGH THE RED CENTRE

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August a contingent of some 19 Rileys (and 7 backups) will roll into Darwin completing a South to North crossing of the continent, accompanied by 47 Riley enthusiasts. Of the 19 Rileys there will be 9 pre WWII vehicles.

The “Rileys Through The Red Centre” is a follow up of West to East crossing of couple of years ago.

MVEC members are invited and encouraged to welcome the Rileys into Darwin at a catered BBQ at the Hanger at 6pm on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> August .

MVEC members are further invited to join the Riley enthusiasts at the Trailer Boat Club at 6.00 pm on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> August for the sunset and dinner.

The visitors have been invited to avail themselves of the Hanger facilities. This will enable interested members to see the vehicles at their leisure on the Thursday and Friday.

Unfortunately as the only active Riley owner within MVEC I will be overseas from the 26th, but I ask you to please attend these functions to make the visitors welcome and extend Territory hospitality at the end of their adventure. You will see some very interesting vehicles and meet some great people.

Brian Bates

Vice President MVEC

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



## 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 [longtelescope@gmail.com](mailto:longtelescope@gmail.com)

or phone 89886049

Deadline...the end of the month

## Stuff for you to do

### Sun 25th Aug

Come for ride to Wangi. Meet at Noonamah pub 9am. Bikes, cars all welcome.

Contact Ted 89886049

Or

Go to Katherine festival for the weekend

### Sat 24th Aug

0915 am Depart United Coolalinga

12-2pm Lunch at MVEC Katherine Clubhouse Gorge rd

2-6pm Car show Council Chambers

6 till stumps Dinner and camping @ Pete & Sandy's Urella rd

Sunday morning brekky and return to Darwin at your leisure

Contact Wilko Van Syl

[wilkovansyl@bigpond.com](mailto:wilkovansyl@bigpond.com)

0401117977

**Wed 28th Aug** Dinner for Rileys (see box to left)

### Sun 1st Sept

Fathers Day Open day at the hangar. Bring something to show off to the dads on the day.

## Wanted

Room on a truck or trailer from Brisbane to Darwin for a frame measuring 4m x 1m x 40cm

Ted 0406 851 731

## Wanted

Someone to pay to do minor mechanical repairs to an MG. Engine mounts, wheel bearings etc.

Contact Peter Hurley 89321510.

[kajanpete@icloud.com.au](mailto:kajanpete@icloud.com.au)

*Right: 2 Rejex cars that got it wrong at Emerald Springs*



**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.

**24 August** 2013 Drive with Holden Club to Katherine festival see previous page

**25 August** 2013 Motorbike Run to Wangi Falls meet Noonamah Pub 9am cars welcome too.

**28 August 2013** Rileys Dinner at the hangar. See previous page.

**1 September** 2013 Fathers Day Open Day

**22 September** 2013 Mystery Run

**20 October** 2013 Fannie Bay Breakfast

**9 November** 2013 AGM

**30 November** 2013 Christmas Dinner at Nightcliff Sports Club

Please note change of email address for correspondence for this  
newsletter    [longtelescope@gmail.com](mailto:longtelescope@gmail.com)

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

**PRINT**  
**POST**  
**PP** 100003160

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA

**A priest** turns up at a hotel, collects his key from the desk and says to the manager "I hope the porn channel is disabled!"

The manager replies, "No its just normal porn you dirty bastard!"