

# 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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Newsletter enquiries to Ted  
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## If it's made in America it's welcome



How long since you saw an S series Dodge Phoenix? This might have been the actual car I was offered at a car yard in Adelaide as a youth, when I bought an XK Falcon instead. There was mobs of neat stuff like this at the Zippel cruise.



Being the owner of an Oldsmobile, they always get my attention but this '59 Olds 98 was the cream on the top. The owner bought it as a pretty ordinary car and just slowly it got better n better.



*Left: A Dodge cruises past. Don't you love those fins! That's our hosts Camaro on the right.*

### Adelaide's Zippel cruise

Some Time ago when visiting Adelaide someone mentioned to me they were attending a Zippel Cruise. The term was new to me and it was explained that it was exclusively for American cars and hotrods and that they get in order of 400 cars attending. There was a website that I checked out . Sure enough it was for Yank cars only but I made a mental note of the invite of a ride for interstate owners visiting without their cars. So when I found myself in Adelaide on a freezing cold but clear Adelaide Saturday night I found myself and Shirley as guests riding in the Chev Camaro of one generous Adelaide enthusiast. We rolled into the carpark of a large shopping centre to the south of Adelaide called Collonades. There was the odd cool car driving around but they all looked a bit lost. After five minutes we moved to the car park on the other side of the centre and paydirt! There were neat cars everywhere, and dozens of em. And lots more were pouring in. I met the organizer and the bloke that gave the event its name, Grant Zip-



pel. Something like 20 years ago he and a few mates decided to go for a cruise, and it had just grown from that. Just American cars and hotrods are welcome though. If Aussie muscle cars come for instance, no matter how neat they are, they will be asked to leave. I was told someone came with a Morris Minor and was asked to leave, but he explained it was V8 powered and was a hotrod. They let him continue. There is no distinction about age here so there were modern examples too. The odd Dodge Ram and stuff like that. But the stuff that makes my heart beat faster is the 50's and 60's and early seventies cars and there were literally hundreds of em. It made a feller feel good just being there. There was earlier stuff too. And although most of it was brand new looking there were cars in good used condition as well as ratmobiles and hotrods.

We arrived late in the arvo but before it got dark everyone jumped in their car and headed off to the next meeting point, another shopping centre called Castle Plaza, halfway across town. This time the cruise completely filled the carpark from one end to the other. I noticed the odd modern car in amongst the crowd. I imagine they were owned by unsuspecting citizens that were already parked there when the masses arrived. I also noticed a lot of cool cars that weren't there at the start. Some enthusiasts don't bother driving with the cruise the whole night. As it cruises across town they just jump on board while in their own locality. Others take in the whole night. After maybe an hour in the second location we were off to a third shopping centre to the north. Once again a fair percentage of cars from the start but a good number of new ones from the local area.

It was just plain heaven.

Check our <http://zipsautogallery.net>



*This device was hanging on the rear window of the 48 Chev. I believe it to be an early type of aircon but I never got to talk to the owner. There were just too many of them.*



*The red Thunderbird convertible is probably where my interest in flash cars started. As a kid I can vividly remember fighting my way through the crowd at the Royal Adelaide show to stand alongside one of these. The crowd was about 6 deep all round it and I watched in awe as a gent pushed the steering wheel to one side to get out of it.*





*The lady owner of this Edsel had 5 more of em at home!*



*Hey you could be cruisin Colorado Boulevard in a nostalgia movie!*

## THE NEED FOR SPEED

After the Perkolilli races were flooded and the road was bogged up we gave a bloke a ride into the track. That feller turned out to be Rosco McGlashan, someone not unaccustomed to high speeds. That led to an invitation to check out his latest car, so when we got to Perth and headed for the address, I assumed us to be heading for a warehouse or workshop someplace. But following the instructions on the gps we ended up at Rosco's house right in the middle of suburban Perth, and his beaut new car parked in the shed alongside. Before I got close enough to see the car I did see the sign on the front of the shed, it looked just like any other speed limit sign. Except it said 1000 MPH speed zone. Then I saw the car. It sure looks like it might do 1000 MPH. Note that's miles per hour, that's about 1600 kilometres an hour. Fairly fast. Rosco invited us inside, you would never pick him as someone obsessed with going faster than anyone else. Just your average Aussie. Inside his house where lots of blokes have their glass cabinets with models of cars, he has the glass cabinet and it's full of model cars but they are all of land speed record cars and all sorts of stuff associated with them. Some are of cars that held records like Donald Campbell's Bluebird and the Thrust SSC which was the first car to break the sound barrier a few years back.



*The sign gives you the warning that things are a little bit different in here*

*Just what every Aussie bloke needs in his shed. Although the main body and strength is a 3' steel pipe there is a V shaped deflector shield underneath to protect it from the shockwave coming up from the ground at high speed. The rear bodywork of Thrust SSC was pretty well demolished during its record breaking run from this shockwave.*



There are other models that are of cars being built to go faster still and to break that big one, to be the first to go 1000MPH. That is Rosco McGlashan's goal. On the wall are certificates for speed records broken and photos of being presented with his Order of Australia medal by the Governor General of Australia and there are the medals themselves.

This story really started when Rosco was 12. Donald Campbell broke the land speed record on Lake Eyre in his car "Bluebird". I remember seeing it on display in an Adelaide department store. It was pretty impressive. It had a different effect on Rosco. He decided he wanted to go even faster than Campbell and quit school at 12 to chase that goal. Over the years he had several firsts. He built the world's first V8 motorcycle and raced it on the dragstrip, same deal with jet powered cars and he was also the pilot of a rocket powered go cart I spied at the Fremantle museum some years back. And naturally he progressed to land speed record attempts with a series of vehicles all named "Aussie Invader". These cars are different to Donald Campbell's in they are not driven through the wheels but from the thrust from a jet engine. In 1994 he attained 500MPH in Aussie Invader 2 but later on he got out of whack at 600 MPH and drifted off the track. He managed to run into the speed measuring equipment which it ingested into the hotted up mirage fighter jet engine. That was the end of the working life of that car. Aussie Invader 3 attained 638 MPH but because of bad weather he couldn't do a return run in the allocated time so although the one run was faster than the existing record he couldn't claim it. Rosco reckons when you are going at these speeds on the salt lake you become aware of the earth's curvature and he can't help but lift his arse off the seat so he can see further over the horizon. "You never know there might be a roo about to hop out in front of you" He says its entirely subconscious, you don't know you are doing it but there is a camera behind his shoulder and he gets in trouble because when he sits up it blocks the view of the camera.

So when Thrust SST broke the sound barrier, the next goal was 1000MPH. Rosco is good mates with all these other go fast people round the world but it seems the big difference between his car and theirs is the price. The latest Aussie Invader is the fifth and while the opposition's vehicles are valued in tens or hundreds of million dollars, Rosco has kept tabs on what his car has cost him to date. The cost is "\$2.80 plus one carton of beer". With all his accomplishments he is well known and persons and companies are pleased to assist in the project. He might ring up a firm that specializes in aluminium and point out that he needs some special wheels that will be capable of 10000 rpm. It's not uncommon for them to reply with a "no worries" and to do the research, build and de-



*One of Rosco's awards certifies him travelling at 801 KPH over 20 years ago. He is no newcomer to travelling fast!*



*And Rosco has been doing it so long and so well he is a recipient of the Order of Australia medal.*

liver them. It makes them feel good to be part of the project. So he has quite a team, a lot of them university students doing the technical calculations and design. They come round every Wed for a working bee. Then they tell Rosco what to do and he does it during the following week. The main part of the car is a big three foot diameter steel pipe. Apart from being a convenient shape and immensely strong, it is heavy which turns out to be an advantage as when the rocket motor (did I mention it is rocket powered) ignites, they don't want it to accelerate too fast as the wheels may not be able to run up to speed quick enough and if they start to skate and turn at different speeds the car would be uncontrollable. When I say not too fast, 0-1000MPH in 20 secs is what is planned. Once up to speed it is throttled back to maintain that speed over the measured mile. Then they have to slow down and stop, fill er up and do it again in the other direction within 1 hour. Incidentally this record attempt won't be on a salt lake. Salt just does not give enough traction. It accelerates so fast that the wheels wouldn't keep up on salt. This will be done on a clay pan someplace. It needs about 31 Km of straight line to do the job. And how do you mark a 31 Km straight line on the ground? Easy. Drive a 4WD vehicle with a GPS 31Km on any compass bearing. The wheel tracks are the mark to follow at 1000MPH. One possible spot for this to happen is out Birdsville way but access would be a problem as there is quite a lot of gear that has to travel with the car and the support team. Another possibility is in the USA where there is a suitable spot that is totally surrounded by private properties. This makes it easier to keep nuisance types out of the way. Aussie invader 5r is designed to fit in a 40 foot ship-



*The front wheels. These are the worlds first set designed to travel at 1000 MPH. There are 6 of em containing \$80000 worth of materials. At 1000 MPH they are spinning at 10000 RPM and subject to 50000 G's trying to tear them apart. And they are donated!*



*Rosco is just like any young bloke trying to get a shieler into his car. Shirley declined so I volunteered to get in (sorry Rosco!)*



*The driver seat. A hissing sound as the canopy closed over you (a bit like Darth Vader breathing) and you are all on your own. Should I press the start button?*



ping container once the nose cone is removed so shipping it overseas is no big deal. On that subject of nuisance types there was a shieler reporter from a TV show in Canada that does stories on extreme sorts of stuff. She somehow found out about Rosco and his Aussie Invader and would regularly ring him up and waste his time with fairly mundane questions. She wanted to bring her crew over and make an episode. Rosco wasn't all that interested and she always asked loads of questions that gave the impression she didn't have a clue. He suggested she have a good read of his website and get up to speed on the subject before she bother him again. So all was quiet for a short time then she rang again and explained she knew all about it now and was ready to come over to do the filming. There is one thing, she asked, would you be able to start it up for me? That was the end of that.

So when is the big day? To put a date on it is impossible. Once the car is finished and on the site of the record attempt the biggest problem is the weather. In a good year there may be only 2 or 3 suitable days and only 2 or 3 hours during those days, and because the run is over such a long distance it may pass through more than one weather pattern along the route.

And when that good day comes up don't expect him to go straight out there with the pedal to the metal first time. The first run will be fast no doubt, but nothing like 1000 MPH. If all is well they will do it again and again, getting the vehicle sorted until eventually they will go for the big one.

It has a nice ring to it. The fastest person on earth. And an Aussie to boot. Good luck Rosco!



*The injector for the rocket engine is from an Atlas rocket (ICBM). He had to get permission from Homeland Securities in America to use it. The rest of it is designed especially for the car and runs on a mixture of bio kerosene and liquid oxygen. Full power is 200,000HP.*

*The design came from Rocket Labs, a small company in NZ that has done some amazing things along the subject of rockets. They say "Space is open for business"*

*Check em out <http://www.rocketlabusa.com/our-mission/>*



*If you have been around for a while there is a fair chance you have seen the footage of Colonel John Stapp using himself as a crash test dummy stopping a bit quick from 630 odd MPH and subjecting himself to 43 G's. Rosco has the rocket engine off Col Stapp's sled right there in his shed. Check it out in action at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4tuvOer\\_GI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4tuvOer_GI)*

*Rosco in his younger days piloting his rocket powered go kart on the drag strip at 250 MPH. Check out his website, there is lots more interesting info there.*

*<http://www.aussieinvader.com/>*

### CAR TRAILER

5.8m x2.4m, 2 spare wheels, checker plate, 12 and 24 Volt, registered

\$5500 Stan 89270117

### Bike owners in the rural area!

Dick Grylls of Darwin Classic Motorcycle Repairs has offered to do bike inspections while you wait rather than having to make appointments. Just phone first. 89882885

Located at Doxas Rd Humpty Doo / Noonamah

### Wedding cars

Emily gets married on 24th July and is after something flash to deliver her to the church on time.

Contact her at [townsend.emily@jkc-Ing.com](mailto:townsend.emily@jkc-Ing.com) or 0423 637 724

### Alvis 4.3 Litre

Peter Graham is trying to identify all these cars left in the world. A Mr G Lee owned one in Darwin in 1964.. If anyone has any recollection of it could you contact [peterg@1927.com.au](mailto:peterg@1927.com.au)



### Rejex Rally

This year is the 60th anniversary of this totally Territorian event. For a description see Transmission no 78 Aug 2013 at

[http://mvec.weebly.com/uploads/2/9/4/7/29472177/78\\_aug\\_2013.pdf](http://mvec.weebly.com/uploads/2/9/4/7/29472177/78_aug_2013.pdf)

This years event goes to Katherine. Contact the editor for an entry form. Entries have to be in by 12th June. A ripper event, especially in an old car.

### Thinking of buying a new 4WD, or maybe a boat?

You had better check out this link first!

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/2150iFXF5Vc?rel=0>

**The Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club  
extends it's thanks to  
Shannons Insurance  
For it's 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

## Wots On

Quite often there isn't a lot happening where we old car owners can go for a drive and hang out and admire each others cars n stuff. Maybe you sometimes think there isn't much happening with club oriented events. Maybe you'd be right.

With a club as big as this one the committee have their hands full just doing the housekeeping of the hangar and keeping the books in order. Not much time left for events.

Maybe you have an idea for an event that would involve club members and their cars. It could be a barbie at Darwin River Dam or Batchelor or maybe at your place. It could be a car rally or just a drive to someplace. Maybe you would like to show off the stuff in your shed. Absolutely anything. If you reckon it might be fun then there is a fair chance someone else might reckon it would be fun too.

So here is a suggestion for you to run a club event. Just one. If a dozen people did just one there would be something on every month and wouldn't that be something. If you have an idea come to a monthly meeting and bring it up or if you want to do it more discreetly you can contact me, Ted, your editor 89886049, anytime.

And reserve 4th July on your calendar for the MVEC Gangsters Ball where you can dress up as a suave crook and dance to good old R&R as well as ballroom dancing on the same night. Its worth coming just to see the ladies idea of gangster fashion accessories. And you can show off your car at the same time. And if you get into the bootleg grog you can camp right there for the night.

The other must attend is Darwin to the Doo on the 19th July. It gets bigger each year.

And of course if you play cricket, and even if you don't, it's all good fun at the MVEC vs Holden car club annual cricket match at Batchelor on the 5th July. If you sleep over at the Gangsters Ball at Berry Springs you are already half way there.

The Motor Vehicle Enthusiasts Club presents



# THE GANGSTERS BALL

**LIVE MUSIC BY "BONNIE & CLYDE"**

**ALIAS HIDDEN AGENDA**

**BALLROOM & ROCK N ROLL DANCING**

Sat 4th July 7 PM

Berry Springs Recreation Reserve hall

Cox Peninsular Rd, Berry Springs (next door to the school)

Due to prohibition era all alcohol is bootleg and you will have to smuggle in your own.

Please bring a plate of supper to share.  
Tea and coffee provided.

Any kind of guns welcome but please ensure safety catch is on.

Dress: Formal as the 1920's prohibition era. Prize for best gangster couple

Please note there are no drinks or food on sale. Bring your own.

Bring your van or swag and stay the night.

Entry \$20 kids free

Contact Ted 89886049 or [longtelescope@gmail.com](mailto:longtelescope@gmail.com)



**Bring your gangster car and have it be part of the show**

## WOTS ON

### 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.

**3rd May Sun.** Open cockpit day at Aviation museum. MVEC will be running a sausage sizzle, proceeds of which are donated to Legacy. Helpers are needed. Plse contact Peet 0417855222 if you can help.

**4th July Sat nite.** Gangsters Ball at Berry Springs. Get dressed up and have a ripper night. Dancing. RnR.

**5th July Sun.** Cricket match MVEC vs Holden club at Batchelor.

**19th July Sun** Darwin to the Doo. Car show and swap meet at Humpty Doo

## Space filler (stuff on the net)

Someone else's view of the Zippel Cruise. Check it out...

<http://anygivenreason.com/2013/02/february-zipple-cruise/>



## CRABS!

A lawyer boarded an airliner in Darwin with a box of frozen crabs procured from his holiday fishing trip and asked a flight attendant to take care of them for him.

She took the box and promised to put it in the crew's refrigerator.

He advised her that he was holding her personally responsible for them staying frozen, mentioning in a very haughty manner that he was a lawyer, and proceeded to rant at her about what would happen if she let them thaw out.

Needless to say, she was very annoyed by his behaviour, but bit her tongue and carried on with her duties.

Shortly before landing in Melbourne, she used the intercom to announce to the entire cabin,

"Would the lawyer who gave me the crabs in Darwin please raise your hand?"