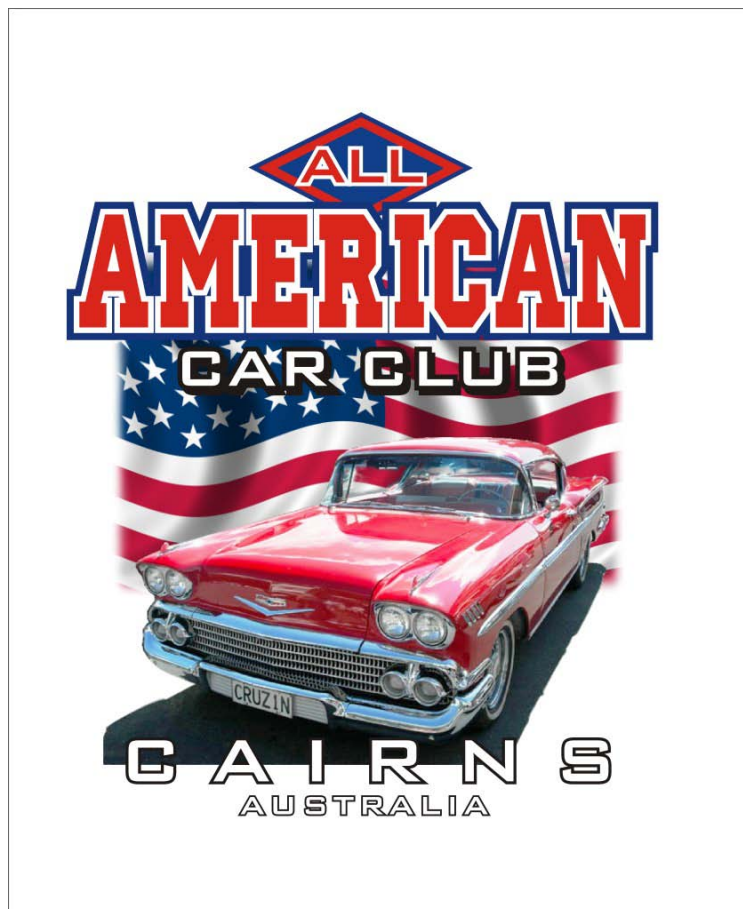


CLUB TORQUE

All American Car Club of Cairns Newsletter



Inside this edition:
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Issue #12, 2011

Please address all correspondence to:

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All American Car Club of
Cairns (Inc.)
PO Box 13N
North Cairns. QLD 4870

**Club meetings are held at
Yorkeys Knob Community
Hall
Wattle Street, on the last
Sunday of
every month, commencing
at 10.00am.**

Membership Fees \$45.00
(due each September)

President

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President's Page

Firstly, I am sure we were all saddened to hear of the passing of two worthy club members, Kenny Irwin and Hans Tatari. I would like to thank those that attended Hans's funeral on Friday 11th November to say our final farewell to an old mate. Hans's family and friends appreciated your attendance. Vale Kenny and Hans.

There have been some important issues raised recently by club members. These proposals have been set down for mention at our next monthly meeting and motions will be raised to vote on these issues. They include such things as minimum attendance at club events by club members, the club's view on application procedures for club registration, initial membership requirements for new members, advertising requests on our website, to name a few. Some of the motions may require our Constitution to be amended for them to become effective. Have your say and attend our final meeting of the year on Sunday 27th November 2011.

Kurrimine Beach weekend appeared to a "hoot" from all reports I received. Unfortunately I was unable to make it. However, it has been proposed that the next Kurrimine Beach "Hop" will be toward the end of May 2012. Bookings for accommodation are now being taken.

There appears to be more and more activity on our website of late. Jump online at www.americancarclubcairns.com and check out the latest info. Post something on our forum or reply to a post, it is an effective way to communicate to other members within our club.

Safe cruzin' to you all, and remember

"when cruisin' with the club, be responsible and keep up with the person behind you"

Cheers

Robert

OBITUARIES

REMEMBERING HANS

We were all sad to hear of our long time club member Hans Tataris death. He was active in the club for many years until he became ill and was always up for a cruise, a weekend away or a car show.

We all have our special memories of Hansie, a couple of my favourites are, we had a cruise to Fixtures Flats near Gordonvale, Hans offered to do morning tea, he made a huge cake, loaded it into the Corvette and headed off. I am sure you can guess what happened next, the cake slipped off the seat, the car was covered with cream. Never mind, with the help of a knife and spoon it was all put back together again and enjoyed by everyone.

Also on a couple of trips away to Townsville and Charters Towers Hans had a bit of trouble with the police on the way home, they pulled him over for speeding(in the corvette), He was very upset about it , as far as he was concerned he was not speeding he was just overtaking other cars and you have to go fast to do that.

After talking to Hansie's family at the funeral they told us that when they were going through photos they found a couple of interesting items, a photo of the Beach Boys with a note thanking him for cooking for them, many years ago, and one from Stevie Wonder, it sounds like his younger life was pretty good.

He was a true character and will be missed.

Safe Cruisin' Hansie but watch out for those "bloody coppers".

From Helen.



KEN IRWIN

On the 22nd August our Club lost a true Aussie icon, Kenny Irwin, so I would like to tell you a few things about this iconic gent. In his earlier years Kenny was in the Navy, which we don't know too much about, but we are sure there would be a story or two to be told. It was when John started driving trucks in Geelong, Victoria that we first heard of him.

Some of our friends were interstate truck drivers and they spoke of this legend who was the "iceman" and "bandit" combined before the movie even existed. This bloke would do double distance mileage to avoid the "scalies" and Transport Regulating Board cops. He carried a motorbike on a rack behind his Kenworth, and used it to scout the route where he was most likely to avoid them.

We took these tall tales with a grain of salt, until one day John was loading at the Ballarat Paper Mill, and there also was Kenny. The dispatcher told Kenny he had two loads, 14 ton and 16 ton, and asked which one he wanted, Kenny said "load them both on."

His legend still persists, a quick search online, and you find Kenny mentioned often, even by drivers too young to have held a licence when Kenny was on the road.

In 2004 Kenny was inducted into Road Transport Hall of Fame, immortalised by his picture and story hanging on the wall of fame in Alice Springs. Ken was very modest and humble about this, but he knew what an honour it was and how proud he was to be honoured by his peers.

It was 2001 that Kenny joined our Club with his '67 L/H drive red mustang. He was a regular at our monthly meetings and always loved coming to our outings at Kurrimine Beach.

In 2003 some of our members participated in the "Ultimate Aussie Supercruise" to Alice Springs. Kenny was one of them. I can remember him sleeping on the table under the picnic area at Tenant Creek Caravan Park, during the night we had a storm, Kenny was the one that stayed dry, everyone else was concerned about the large gum trees falling on their tents. At our motel in Alice we all settled in and Kenny decided to do his washing, but he grabbed a container of which he thought was soap powder, but unfortunately for Kenny it was bleach. He was the only bloke in Alice Springs that had tie-dyed green stubbie shorts, and they were certainly the cleanest.

Kenny was always the first one to help you out if you had any mechanical issues on the trip, as well as his own radiator problem. We all had a great time with lots of memories. Later that year Santa really got to Kenny, when he gave him a present of a new pair of green stubbies and a box of soap powder.



Innot Hot Springs was another good Club weekend .Kenny came up with us one year where we all had accommodation at the caravan park. After our usual dinner and shenanigans with the locals at the pub we all came back to warm up by the fire and a few more nightcaps. When it was time to go to bed, Kenny decided to pitch his tent in front of our units. It was the funniest thing we had all seen in a long time. To start with the ground had a slight downward slope, mixed with a fella that had had too much to drink, trying to erect a tent was in no way easy. Kenny gave in and said "bugger, I'll just lay on top of it, and wrap the sides around me" That was where he was in the morning, I don't think he had even moved until I gave him coffee.



Kurrimine Beach was another one of our weekends that Kenny liked to come to, and it wasn't far from where he lived at El Arish. Two occasions in particular come to mind. Up until now Kenny hadn't dressed up before, but when he walked in dressed up as Mickey Mouse everyone looked in amazement and just started to laugh. He was outstanding, the kids loved him.

The second time the theme was to come relating to the letter of your first name.(e.g. K for Kenny). By the time Kenny walked into the pub everyone was there including the locals. The whole venue was stunned for about 5 seconds, and then absolute laughter broke out, you see standing before us was this amazing big , and I mean BIG kangaroo with a beer in his paw. To this day I haven't seen anything that tops that costume. It was made by Kenny and one of his mates, from a pair of overalls and some foam. He certainly made us all laugh.



Bill, Kenny's son tells me that he was still making the nurses at the local hospital laugh. You see Kenny had two chipmunks tattooed on his bum from his old Navy days, and I believe these little "tatts" caused a fair bit of mischief.

As you have read from our tribute, Kenny was a real character, and a pioneer in a lot of ways during his trucking days. Kenny will be sadly missed by those members who knew him well, and for those who didn't then I hope this has given you an insight into this true dinkum aussie bloke, and our mate.



Paula and John.

"Horsin Around"

" KEEP ON TRUCKIN"KENNY

This is an excerpt from the Road Transport Hall Of Fame website....

[Ken IRWIN inducted 2004](#)



Ken Irwin first started driving in 1956 in a tray truck for Robert Purnell of Geelong. He soon moved on to the big jiggers when he started to drive a tanker for Knights of Kilmore.

In 1958 Ken bought his own truck, a Dodge, to run Melbourne to Adelaide. In the late 1960s Ken ventured across to Perth in a new F88 Volvo and the very first Fruehauf tri-axle trailer in Australia. The week-long journey was the beginning of Ken's love affair with Australia's great outback and open roads.

Ken carried 16 spares on top of his loads. After he changed the last flat, he would sit on the side of road, sometimes for a day, mending each and everyone before he'd continue on his way. Those days on the side of the road would have been awfully boring if not for the Honda 75 Motorbike that Ken had mounted on the back of the cab just in case he had to scout for scabies. Later came a Scania. With bunk beds and room for a party, Ken's new black Scania looked a treat when he brought it home for the first time. Unfortunately, it was a far cry from what it looked like, not long after, on the side of the road after catching fire. It was just a sad pile of melted metal.

The old Kenworth Ken brought home wasn't the eye-opener the Scania was. No sleeper and as narrow as a doorway. It only took a few uncomfortable trips before the dog box was added and the green paintwork was replaced with a hot fiery red with the words "Desert Venturer" sprawled across the Kenworth's long nose. Every mine site in Australia, no matter how small or remote, saw the Desert Venturer at some point. Ken was the initiator of the Geelong (Vic) Transport Drivers Social Club. The club was formed in 1974 and Ken is now a life- member. The road transport industry is richer, in both character and heritage, for having the likes of Ken Irwin work within its ranks.



Minutes from the Meeting: 30 October 2011

Meeting Opened	9.56am
Attendees	Per Attendance Register
Visitors	Bruce Dawson
Apologies	Jeff Pointing, John McAlaster, Robert Hall
Acceptance of Minutes from previous meeting	Moved James Seconded by Kel
Business arising from last meeting	Nil

Secretary's Report

- **Incoming Correspondence** Suncorp Metway, member's rego fees, Charters Towers Restorers Club, Top of the State Newsletter, Bearing Chatter News letter.
- **Outgoing Correspondence** Club rego letter to Ronald Vis

Treasurer's Report

- **Monies Incoming** \$1485.00
- **Monies Outgoing** \$ 339.00 PO Box, petty cash, newsletter, stationary, stamps, newsletter, QHMC SUBS

Newsletters Editors Report Wayne did not attend. No comment.

Events Co-Ordinators Report

A breakfast meet and eat at Villa Romana on the Esplanade Cairns from 8am on 6th November for a social gathering and a short run around town.

AACCC Christmas party will be on Sunday the 20th November at Holloways Beach 11:30am start, \$20 buffet adults, \$10 children, If you want to participate in the secret Santa, a limit of \$10 pressie, so if you bring a pressie you will receive a pressie, Parents should bring their own children's pressies.

Acceptance of Reports Mover: Bruce, Seconded: Kel

General Business

QHMC Insurance restricting the concessional rego, we voted to leave as it is. Their report was to remain as is until further discussion.

Newsletter editor should be aware of his role in the club. Duties include creating the newsletter and delivery of electronic copy to print shop. It was suggested that if he needs help stapling and placing stickers that there is committee members who would help out at the committee meetings.

On the topic of the newsletter going internet only, it was decided to have further discussion and continue to post hard copies as is until further notice.

It was decided to encourage members to use the forum to discuss meets, shows, runs and to write stories, post photos etc.

Members should get a news letter link to the site every month, and also put in a link for people who don't require a hard copy link.

It was asked if we the AACCC put a one off yearly contact sheet for every member, phone number only. A separate sheet would be enclosed and stapled to the newsletter. It was mentioned that we do this after the AGM.

The AACCC is a social Car Club. If you a member we would like to know who you are. We can't make you come to all meetings but say at least 3 a year and also encourage members to join in on the runs afterwards

Paula, has put forward a proposal that if you wish to become a member of the AACCC that you must attend to a club meeting to fill out a membership so we know who you are. Christy seconded it and there was a unanimous show of hands.

It was decided to look into selling the large club tarp on our AACCC web site to start with or trading post. The motion was moved by John, James seconded it, and carried unanimously. Aaron to put it on the web site starting at \$600. Paula to supply Aaron with a photo or two. We are hoping to exchange it with 2 3x3 quick shades.

There was no raffle.

Kel has T-Shirts, Cap & Stickers.

Christy has lotto.

Meeting Closed: 10:46am



News

As we move towards electronic Newsletter, I have decided to start a links section each month. There is of course almost unlimited content on the net, so to avoid overload, I will only include just a few of the very best links I can find. Members are of course encouraged to send me their very best links for inclusion.

Last month, I included the story about the recent sale of the "World's Oldest Car". The idea was to provide a notable recent news story that appeals to our general interest in motoring. If people like such stories, please let me know. If you think it drifts too far off topic, please also let me know.

All suggestions for the future content, links, features and direction are very welcome.

Please contact Wayne Brocklebank on 0450091301 or [waynewayne78@live.com.au/](mailto:waynewayne78@live.com.au)

Links

<http://www.prewarcar.com/>

This is a very active and informative website from Holland that covers the whole world of classic/collector motoring, including American Cars. The post-war section is just as good.

<http://www.lov2xlr8.no/broch1.html>

An amazing collection of sales brochures for seemingly every American car produced prior to 1990.

<http://chevy.oldcarmanualproject.com/#year>

Workshop Manuals for most Chevrolet models up until 1960. Extremely useful for owners of older cars.



Features

Some Photos From Kurrimine Beach



The 1952 Spohn

Is this the first manufacturer to produce Harvey Earl's big tail fin design??

by Wayne Graefen: "Post WWII the business of coachbuilding took a significant downturn. Companies that survived the war looked for business but often had to seek other opportunities. The Spohn Carosserie in Ravensburg, Germany had bodied the vast majority of pre-war Maybach cars as well a building bodies on many other chassis.

A few dozen US servicemen brought in their American cars. Among them was the car I recently purchased. It was not until I had the car home summer of 2011 that I learned the chassis to be 1940 Ford DeLuxe. The car, however, is titled as a 1952 Spohn, the year it was coachbuilt.

Customers chose design elements from Spohn's sketchbooks to personalize their car. The most popular element was the tail fin and boattail trunk of the GM, Harley Earl concept car called Le Sabre which was first shown to the world at the Munich Auto Show in 1951. A few dozen US servicemen brought in their American cars. Among them was the car I recently purchased. It was not until I had the car home summer of 2011 that I learned the chassis to be 1940 Ford DeLuxe. The car, however, is titled as a 1952 Spohn, the year it was coachbuilt.

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EVENTS



SUN NOV 27TH MONTHLY MEETING TO BE HELD AT COMMUNITY HALL YORKEYS KNOB, CNR WATTLE & CUNNINGHAM STs AT 10:00am.

WED DEC 7TH COMBINED CAR CLUBS CRUSIE TO ELLIS BEACH MEET FROM 6.00pm

SUN DEC 11TH LUNCH RUN TO CROSSROADS CAFÉ IN DAINTREE. MEET AT BUNNINGS SMITHFIELD AT 10.00 am TO LEAVE AT 10.15 am.

FRI DEC 16TH ANNUAL AACCC CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CRUISE.MEETING AT HUNGRY JACKS AT DFO SHOPPING CENTRE AROUND 6pm TO LEAVE ON DARK.DESTINATION TO BE ADVISED.

SUN JAN 28TH MONTHLY MEETING TO BE HELD AT COMMUNITY HALL YORKEYS KNOB, CNR WATTLE & CUNNINGHAM STs AT 10:00am.

DATE CLAIMERS

AT ANY STAGE ON THE DAY OF A RUN IF THE WEATHER LOOKS DOUBTFUL PLEASE CONTACT EITHER **JAMES ON 0417 451 676** BEFORE HEADING OUT OF TOWN.

