

SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND
VETERAN CAR CLUB

DECEMBER 2023



WE ARE ON FACEBOOK !

www.rvvcc.org.nz

November Club Captain's Run



SIDE CURTAINS - December 2023

The magazine of the ROTORUA
VINTAGE AND VETERAN CAR CLUB

Clubrooms: Neil Hunt Park, Tarawera Rd, Rotorua

Postal: PO Box 2014, Rotorua

Email: rotorua@vcc.org.nz

Website: www.rotoruvintagecarclub.org.nz

Vero Insurance: Phone 0800 658 411 and quote your VCC membership number

Club Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of month (except January), 7.15pm for 7.30pm start

OFFICERS

Chairperson - David Tomlinson

Secretary - Hayden Duncan
021 939 705

Treasurer - Dennis Whimp

Club Captain
Terry Wadsworth

Asst. Club Captain
Fleur Tomlinson

Committee
Ronald Mayes
Neville Harper
Geoff Nitz
Alan Judd
John Newson

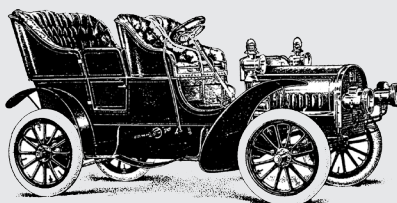
Mid Weekers - vacant

Side Curtains Editor - David Tomlinson
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Beaded Wheels - Ronald Mayes

Librarian - Dennis Kenny
Librarian - Ronald Mayes
Cards/Flowers - Doreen Green

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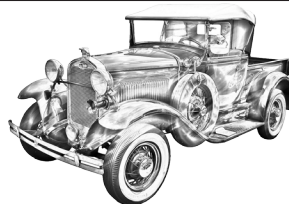


Cover Photos

Front - Bill Skelton & Maurie Crowe
Back - Bill Skelton's Funeral

CLUB CAR PHOTOS

If you want your club car photo on the clubroom wall then get in touch with Doug Green, and he will organise a time and place for a photo shoot. It would be good if we could have all member's car photos on display.



Chairman's Report

- November 2023

by David Tomlinson



November 2023 was a very challenging month, starting off with so much promise, with a good turnout at club night, and a hot sunny day for the Club Captain's Run out to Waiotapu Tavern for lunch.

Less than 2 weeks after he drove his little 1929 Austin 7 on the club run, long time member Bill Skelton passed away. Then a day later, we lost another branch member when Maurie Crowe passed away.

There was a good turnout of branch members at Bills' funeral, which celebrated a long life well lived, and a parade of club cars trailed the hearse to the cemetery after the service. Adelai wishes to pass on her heartfelt thanks to all the members who attended and all those who have provided her with support since Bill's passing. It was lovely to see Adelia at our Xmas Social last week supported by her daughter Robyn and son-in-law Paul.

Maurie's funeral was held a couple of days later, and was a much smaller affair, with just a committal at the cemetery, with no formal service. A number of branch members attended, and there was a large number of Police present too, supporting Maurie's son who is a serving officer. After the committal a number of members went back to the Buried Village café, and I have heard many tall tales were told.

Then just a few days later we heard that newer member Tony Lipanovic had passed away after a long illness. Most members will be more familiar with his wife Jude, who drove a Toyota Corolla in last year's Sulphur City rally.

On behalf of all branch members I wish to pass on our sincerest condolences to Bill, Maurie and Tony's families. I would also like to thank all branch members for the support they have given during this difficult time.

In addition to the bereavements we had two vacancies created on the branch committee, the first due to Ken Thomas and his wife Jude ceasing their membership of the VCC. As our constitution provides for a variable number of committee members, and we have more than the minimum, it is not likely we will look to fill this vacancy before our AGM next May.

Maryann Scott also tendered her resignation as Treasurer at the November committee meeting, but I am happy to report that Maryann will continue to process our accounts as she has done superbly for the last 18 months, but Dennis Whimp will be our formal Treasurer, having been appointed to the vacant position by the committee. Dennis will be the point of contact for matters related to the Treasurer for members, event organisers and will attend the committee meetings and speak to the financial reports. Thank you Dennis and Maryann.

In December we had an awesome BBQ Xmas Social dinner at the Distinction Hotel, and we will return there for our High Tea run later this month. Larry Freemantle's 1952 Morris Minor Special will be our car in the room for December. Just a reminder we have no club night and no edition of Side Curtains in January, but we do have our Lakefront Car Show, details later in this issue. I encourage all members to bring a car or two or three along (my record is 9!) to make this a successful event. If you have any questions about the event, contact me directly.

Lastly, I wish to you and your families a relaxed festive season, and I hope Santa believes you exhibited good behaviour in 2023.

Around and About *by the "Green Volvo"*

Congratulations to Ronald Mayes. One of his photos of the Sulphur City Rally made the cover of the Oct/ Nov copy of the Beaded Wheels. I believe that this is the first time a Rotorua photo has made it there. Ronald has been providing Beaded Wheels with the Rotorua Branch report, excellent photos and the occasional article for over 10 years. Thanks for an invaluable service to our branch.

Thanks to Fleur and Sharon for putting up the Christmas tree and decorations at the clubrooms. The fibre group were thrilled to have them there for their Christmas function and asked me to specifically thank those responsible.

I see that cars are continuing to change hands. Terry and Sandra Fitzpatrick have sold their completely original and rare 1973 BMW 2002 TII after 42 years of ownership. Ralph Bennett has sold his 1938 Buick to a new Whakatane owner. Ralph purchased the car in 1988 and after a 4 year restoration, put it on the road in 1992. It was extensively rallied throughout NZ. There was a shed full of spares that went with the car and I see the new owner is advertising the spares for sale in the latest copy of the Beaded Wheels. Hayden Duncan has had his newly purchased and very nice 1976 Hillman Hunter Estate out on the last two club runs. Terry Wadsworth had space in his garage so has added a lovely restored Austin A35 van to his collection. It goes with the Morris Oxford and the Massey Ferguson tractor that was given to him. But there is still some space so Terry is still looking. He is definitely addicted. Chairman Dave has just erected another hoist (ex-Bob Mackay) in his workshop so I guess that leaves a bit more space for another fleet addition.

Alan Judd took his Porsche on the latest Targa rally and had a ball. He gave an interesting talk on it at the last clubnight and said that closed road rallies like the Targa are being dropped around the world. NZ is one of the few places left. Which may explain why Mike Lowe who is now based in Australia brought his 1980s Volvo over here for that event. Garry Gerrard settled a long standing itch when he took his MG to Hampden Downs for a clubday event earlier this year. 50 or so laps at speed had the adrenalin working.

Webbs latest Classic Car Auction only saw less than half the cars sold as many didn't get near the reserve or in some cases attracted no bids. All the cars were immaculate and there were some very high reserves. A 1974 VW beetle sold for \$33,000, a 1972 Mercedes Benz 280S sold at \$66,125, a 1966 Jaguar S type at \$26,000, a 1960 Jaguar XK 150 fixed head coupe at \$213,000, a 1973 Toyota Crown Super Saloon at \$33,000, a 1964 Morris Minor Traveller at \$25,875, a 1986 Jaguar XJ6 series 3 at \$10,925. There was a 1994 Toyota Supra that had been modified to produce 600 hp which was unsold on a bid of \$110,000. It reminded me of Hayden's uncle Dan's 1990 Nissan Skyline R32 that was our October car in the room. He had modified it to produce 600 hp and was working to get it to 700 hp.

A big welcome to our new members:

Evan Buckley who has number of club eligible vehicles including a Triumph 2000 Mk1, a Vauxhall Chevette and a Hillman Hunter Estate.

Julian Munro who joined as he got his licence so that he could drive one of the family cars in the Sulphur City Rally.

Mark Davies who has a 1928 Austin 16/6 and a 1951 AC Buckland.

We look forward to seeing you all at our branch events.

TOOLS FOR LOAN? by Ronald Mayes

I don't know if this is a common occurrence between club members or a new idea. Last week I had to buy a disc brake caliper piston spreader (\$40 from Supercheap) so I could fit new pads to the Triumph 2000's front brakes, as the pistons were rather tight in their cylinders. This is not something I have to do very often - it is 60,000 miles since I last had to do the job on this car - so the tool will likely sit idle for some time.

Also sitting in the garage are two sets of coil spring clamps, a valve spring compression tool made by Dad many decades ago, a U.S. made brake lining riveting set, a pair of brake hose pinchers, Sykes-Pickavant tapered-joint separating tools large and small, and a jig I made for checking front wheel alignment - it proved to be as accurate as a garage's one. There may be more tools deep in the drawers! I even have an engine crane!

I am happy to lend these to anyone who needs them, as long as they come back promptly, clean and undamaged! There are probably other tools in the workshop which I have forgotten about...

Horopito Motors/Ohakune Trip April 2024

by Hayden Duncan

Hi everyone, the Rotorua Branch will be running a club event to Horopito Motors (Smash Palace) on the 6th and 7th of April 2024. We will leave early on Saturday morning and stop at the Chateau for photos of the cars and to regroup, then head over to Smash Palace for a roam around, and lunch/afternoon tea. There is a \$10 per person entry fee. Later we will visit the Tangiwai memorial, then to dinner and an overnight stay in Ohakune.

On the Sunday we will head over to the Army Museum at Waiouru, then slowly make our way back home. The entry fee for the Museum is \$15 for adults, discounted to \$10 for seniors. The museum has a very good café onsite too.

We do need to get an idea of interest for numbers to be catered for, let me know if you are keen on taking part. We will flesh out the itinerary a bit more in the February issue of Side Curtains.

Accommodation options include:

Powderhorn (suites, chalets, and apartment and a house), suites at \$299 per night for 2 people. The apartment has four bedrooms, and the house has three.

www.ruapehumotel.co.nz

The Peaks Motor Inn

10 x studio ensuite rooms, up to 3 people per room, from \$159

Kings Ohakune Accommodation

Ensuite rooms from \$165

Snowman Lodge (most rooms have to share some facilities)

Snow Haven (studio units)

EIGHTY FIVE YEARS AGO!

by Ronald Mayes

I have to hand a copy of the English Autocar magazine from September 1938 and interesting reading it makes. Apart from all the advertisements for engine reboring and other services and parts we seldom have to worry about today, or would not be able to source, such as “restored” tyres. “Instead of buying new tyres have your dangerous smooth tyres regrooved with deep-cut, non-skid, fully guaranteed tread for 1/3 the cost of new tyres.” But a car radio “able to pick up all UK and European stations” would cost about 18 pounds. And there are many pages of advertisements for new and, particularly, used cars.

A new Morris Eight would cost about 100 pounds, a Ford Ten 150, a Rover about 350 and a Rolls-Royce 25/30 about 4000. Wage ranges are hard to find but 3 pounds per week would have been quite common.

Used cars: Hundreds of cars are advertised! A 1937 Morris Eight could be had for 80 pounds or a 1935 example for 55 pounds. There is a whole page devoted to this model, the adverts in fine print and I needed a magnifying glass to read the tiny, faint print.

Rolls-Royces are a different story: despite the small numbers built there are over two pages devoted to used examples, from late 1920s to mid-1930s. Rebodyed examples are common and buyers could keep up with their neighbours by buying an early 1930s example and have a new body built for it by one of the many coachbuilders advertising in the magazine. Expect to pay about 350 pounds for a 1932 20/25 limousine or up to double that for a Phantom II. But go back to 1920s examples and you could have a 1925 20 hp with an “attractive modern sports saloon body” for only 80 pounds.

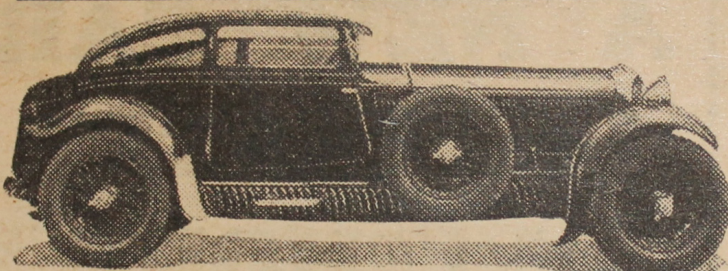
ANOTHER CAR FOR SALE IN 1938!

by Ronald Mayes

That spring issue of Autocar magazine has this interesting Bentley Speed 6 for sale. It is none other than the Gurney Nutting-bodied sportsman's coupe built for racing driver and chairman of Bentley Motors Woolf Barnato. For many years it was publicised as the car in which he raced the Blue Train from Cannes in the south of France to London to win a wager, and even featured in paintings by Alan Fearnley and Terence Cuneo, but he had not taken delivery of it at the time of the race and actually used his "everyday" car, an H J Mulliner saloon-bodied Speed Six.

And look at the price in 1938! The car deteriorated over the years and in the 1980s, after being found in a very poor condition, was fortunately rescued and restored. Its value now? Well into the millions!

OF EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST



1930 Speed 6 **BENTLEY** Special Streamline Coupé by Gurney Nutting. Specially built to the order of a world-famous racing motorist. Fitted numerous extras. Indistinguishable from new. Exceptional bargain at..... **£250**

November Car In The Room

1933 Rolls-Royce 20/25 *by David Tomlinson*

With much prior measuring, I managed to squeeze my 1933 Rolls-Royce into the clubrooms with about 50mm to spare...

I have owned this car since April 2018, but have really only managed to drive it regularly since the end of 2021, other than a short spell in 2022 when the clutch failed. The car is a “small horsepower” Rolls-Royce, with a 6 cylinder 3.7 litre engine, which was bought new with a Freestone and Webb limousine body by a widow, Mrs Bryan, of London. She owned the car until her death in 1966 and soon after it found its way to New Zealand. I am the fifth New Zealand owner since that time, with the last owner keeping her for 20 years.

The car has a “six light” (3 side windows each side) aluminium limousine body with glass division between the driving compartment and the rear, and folding seats allowing up to 7 passengers including the driver. The car is largely original, but was black when new, and is now black and maroon. Mechanically the car is near original, other than now running a 12V coil instead of its original 4V coil, and a new alloy cylinder head replacing a rotted out original cast iron one 3 years ago. The front cabin is near original, but I have a receipt that shows the leather seats were re-upholstered in 1953. The rear cabin still has its 90 year old Bedford cloth upholstery, complete with 90 years of stains, and it still has its original headlining.

The most modern addition was the fitting of a Laycock type overdrive on top gear, which lets you cruise close to 60mph on good level roads. The gearbox is a 4 speed manual, with synchro on 3rd and 4th gear. It has fairly stiff steering, and weaves a little at high speeds, but I have driven it from Upper Hutt to Rotorua twice in the last two years, and drove it from Rotorua to Martinborough and back earlier this year. It is surprisingly economical, certainly using much less fuel than my more modern V8 Rolls-Royces.

11th Annual Rotorua Lakefront Car Show

10am - 2pm, Sunday, 21st January 2024



ALL CARS, BIKES & COMMERCIALS WELCOME!

Join us for the 11th edition of this fabulous event. Numbers have increased every year with almost 500 vehicles on display in 2020 and a good number in 2023.

The venue is the Rotorua Village Green at the lake front, off Whakaue Street. This is an informal car show open to any individuals or clubs to display their vehicles. Drivers and visitors will be encouraged to make a gold coin donation during the event for St Johns Ambulance.

Car clubs are welcome to display their vehicles in a group. During the day drivers and their companions can enjoy their own picnic lunch under the trees, or take advantage of local eateries, including Rotorua's "Eat Street" which is at the southern end of the show area.

Come and see Rotorua's newly developed waterfront boardwalk, as well as many other attractions. This event has been very popular with locals and holiday makers alike. Vehicles range from early vintage to almost new.

For more information email info@rvcc.org.nz or check our Facebook page for updates. See you there!

For newer members not sure of the drill, bring your car(s), any interesting vehicles, they don't have to be old, and ideally have your car(s) on the lawn by 8.30am to help with marshalling in the 300 plus cars that may arrive on the day. Motorcycles and trucks also welcome!

CLUB NIGHT - December 13th

Neil Hunt Park - 7.30pm

Car In The Room: 1952 Morris Minor Special

Followed by tea and coffee.

High Tea Run Sunday, 17th December

Meet at the clubrooms for first car away at 12 noon, arriving at the Distinction Hotel for for a High Tea. Please make sure you are at the club rooms before 12 noon, as it is important we all arrive at the venue in good time.

There is a \$10 charge per person, but it will be an exceptional repast, with tea and coffee being served. You can pay with cash at the clubrooms on the day, or online as per an email which has been sent out to all members who are electronically connected to the world.

You are welcome to come along in your modern car too.

Midweekers Wednesday, 13th December

We will meet at the club rooms at 10.15am for morning tea, then take a scenic drive of 27km to visit Pat Burr's property in rural Ngakuru for a picnic lunch and view her model village that she sets up at Christmas every year.

It is a bring your own picnic, thermos flasks, tables and chairs etc. A fine day has been ordered so don't forget the sun screen and hat, but should the order for a fine day fail Pat has a very good shed (the envy of many members).

COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
Dec 2023	13	Midweekers	10.15am	Clubrooms	11
	13	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	17	High Tea Run	11.45am	Clubrooms	11
Jan 2024	21	Lakefront Car Show	10am	Village Green	10
Feb 2024	14	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	18	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
Mar 2024	13	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	TBA	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
Apr 2024	6-7	Overnight to Ohakune	TBA	Clubrooms	6
	10	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	TBA	Club Run	TBA	TBA	

www.rvcc.org.nz

The branch website aims to meet the needs of our members, to promote our branch nationally, and to potential new members. If you have any suggestions please contact David Tomlinson.

Please also make sure you “Like” our Facebook page to keep up to date.

Contributions to Side Curtains

This is your magazine! Please feel free to share anything you think might be of interest to the membership by sending it to the editor, preferably by email, and a picture says a thousand words, so include photos where possible. Members taking part in club runs or events hosted by other branches are encouraged to pen a short piece about their experience to include in the next issue going to print. All items to the editor by the end of the month.

November Car In The Room



Maurie's Funeral



Bill's Funeral

