

SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND
VETERAN CAR CLUB

DECEMBER 2024



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www.rvvcc.org.nz

Rotorua Heritage Week 2024



SIDE CURTAINS - December 2024

The magazine of the ROTORUA
VINTAGE AND VETERAN CAR CLUB

Clubrooms: Neil Hunt Park, Tarawera Rd, Rotorua

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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
rotorua@vcc.org.nz 021 939 705

Treasurer - Dennis Whimp

Club Captain
Terry Wadsworth

Asst. Club Captain
vacant

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

Library - Dennis Kenny, Ronald Mayes

VIC Inspectors - Ronald Mayes, Geoff
Nitz, Hayden Duncan (numbers above)

Flowers - Doreen Green

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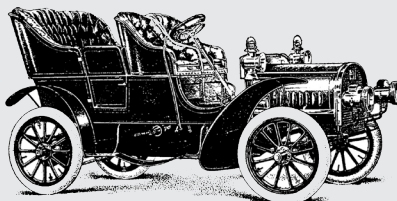
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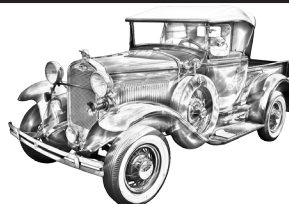
Cover Photos

Front - Rotorua Heritage Week 2004

Back - Christmas Social evening

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 2024

by David Tomlinson



November started with Dennis Whimp's 1996 Volvo 960 Royal as our car in the room. I had only seen the car for the first time in September, what a monster, with amazing room in the back for passengers.

November was busy for the branch and my involvement in other car clubs events too. We had a club run to the Waikato Branch Swap Meet at Karapiro, which I missed as I was displaying our 2024 Mustang at the USA Day in Tauranga, then we had cars on display for the Council's Heritage Week program the following week.

I also went to the early December breakfast meet at the Hamilton Classic Diner (winning car of the day with our Silver Cloud) then on to a R-R Club event in Auckland, while Neville Harper took his Studebaker to the Tauriko breakfast meet, also winning a prize.

We had a great Christmas Social the night before this edition goes to press, and we have a car in the room for December along with Xmas nibbles afterwards, and a Country Picnic Run instead of a High Tea run this year, details later in this issue.

Fleur and I will be overseas from Christmas Day until 19 January in colder climes on the other side of the world, so we will have little opportunity to keep in touch while away. At December's club night I will make sure any questions about the Car Show in January are answered, let's make it a great event with a great turnout.

Lastly, this is my 100th issue of Side Curtains as editor (with Fleur's assistance early on), and my last. The committee resolved in November that new ways of communicating with members will be developed moving forward, without a formal printed magazine.

Rotorua Cultural Heritage Week

VCC Display, Saturday 23 November *by Ronald Mayes*

We were invited to display vehicles on the lawn in front of the Rotorua Public Library, as part of the city's Cultural Week events. With all of the health and safety restrictions only 6 vehicles could be displayed, and they had to remain on site from 8.30am to 1.30pm.

We had eligible club vehicles from most decades: Crispian Rakel's 1929 Essex Super Six, Dave Tomlinson's 1959 Bedford J1 truck, John Newson's 1961 Rover 100, Alan Judd's 1963 Jaguar Mark II 3.8, my 1964 Vanden Plas Princess 1100 and Hayden Duncan's 1976 Hillman Hunter Estate.

There had been very little publicity in the local paper about our participation and I expected it to be somewhat boring, but a small but steady number of people turned up and took interest in our cars and it wasn't often that we had no one to talk to. Early were a couple on holiday from the U.S. I asked them what they thought of the outcome of the presidential election and it turned out they were very pleased - I refrained from making any comment. The lady was so interested in the Princess 1100 she asked to be photographed sitting in the driver's seat.

TIME FLIES! *by Ronald Mayes*

For how long have you owned your club car? After having my Princess 1100 on show the other weekend I checked its records and found that it was close to 60 years old that day, having been shipped to New Zealand in October 1964 and registered to its first owner on 1 December that year. I bought it in April 1969 so it has been part of my life for over 55 years! The 1970 Triumph 2000 became mine in 1973 so I am beginning to understand its maintenance requirements and the 1977 Triumph 2500TC? It is new on the scene, appearing only in 2002. (The 1999 Honda Accord V6 is just a pup, born in 1999 and appearing on our doorstep in 2009...)

Around The Garages *by Dennis Whimp*

With this being the last magazine, I thought it worthwhile to comment on what I know is going on in some of the garages as unless you are talking to the owners of vehicles, you have little inkling of what is going on. Apologies if I have missed you out.

Ralph Bennett is an inspiration as he toils away on the 1953 Humber Super Snipe Mk 3. He has repaired the panels and prepped and painted it himself, changing the colour from green to blue grey, which is the same as the original colour.

Les Martin is anxiously awaiting the return of his fully complied 1961 Chev Impala 4 door pillarless sedan. A dream car that has had the engine out and being rebuilt. Les hopes to have it on the road for Christmas after a 15 month journey of frustrating delays.

Malcolm Foster has sold his Mk 4 Zephyr and replaced it with a 1992 low mileage 5 litre V8 Mustang convertible. He says that having a V8 should be on everyone's bucket list.

Mario Klutman's 1930 Ford model A seems to have a problem with the advance and retard mechanism so Roger Nelson has offered to take it for a couple of days and see if he can get it sorted. If it ends up running like Roger believes it will, Mario might have a problem getting it back.

Peter Stanaway now has two Rover P6's. He has been slowly refurbishing the road legal 1969 automatic over the past two or three years. A chance meeting saw him acquire a very sound 1974 manual model which will be the December car in the room.

Larry Freemantle has just got his 1999 Toyota MRS spyder back from the painters. Larry picked up the low mileage mid-engine rear wheel drive sports car from a paddock 12 months ago after it had been left there for a number of years. And just to keep the vintage fleet going, Larry has recently refurbished and passed on a 1959 Morris Oxford and a Ford Prefect.

Crispian Rakel's vintage Essex has had the carburettor and intake manifold worked over by Evan Buckley so it now runs sweetly. Evan learnt a lot off the internet as not even his father who was an old school mechanic was familiar with the carbie.

Evan Buckley has now got the 1980 Valiant road legal and all his other projects and work are getting in the way of completing the 1966 Triumph 2000. When you are in the trade you hear about lots of bargain old cars and Evan gets tempted and has an ever-changing fleet.

Mark Davies has got the 1951 AC motor back from the reconditioners and it is awaiting installation. Mark was lucky enough to track down the original motor for this very rare car. But like all of us, work and other important projects take priority over the hobby.

Peter Castelli is just waiting to take the body off his 1947 Buick Super 51 sedan. It is fairly well stripped down. He has done lots of minor restoration work including checking out the engine condition.

Kevin O'Conner is slowly working out reassembly of his 1935 Buick series 40 limousine. The beautifully rebuilt doors didn't fit. He now has two of them fitting as they should. He is finding out that these old cars are not always perfectly symmetrical which leads to all sorts of problems when it comes to reassembly.

Doug Green is doing a lot of thinking about his partially completed Graham Paige convertible sedan. I can sympathise.

Chairman Dave now has two four post hoists in his huge storage shed. At the recent Jag club visit, there must have been at least 16 vehicles and a boat on display. Most were Dave and Fleur's. We all owe Dave a huge thank you for producing such an excellent magazine for the past 99 issues. Maybe this will mean he will have a bit more time to spend in the man cave.

November Car In The Room *by Dennis Whimp*

1996 Volvo 960 Royal

A couple of years ago I was working on bits of my 1930 Buick roadster and was thinking that once I had it on the road, would I use it for long club runs. The answer was “probably not”, so I decided to get a modern classic that would be club eligible in the near future.

Criteria would have to be a rectangular car (none of these flowing curves), rectangular headlights, not prone to rust, minimal or no chrome as the thermal destroys it, leather upholstery and rear wheel drive. I didn't want a Japanese car as these never break down. That is not in the vintage car tradition.

After much searching on the internet for cars in the 1970 to 1990 era, I realised that rusty vehicles were \$10,000, ones with little rust were \$40,000 and mint examples were \$60,000 plus. So on to the 1990 to 2000 year models. I settled on a 1995 Volvo 940 4 cylinder high pressure turbo similar to what the Swedish Police used as high speed pursuit cars. That got me into Volvo cars. The 940 and 960 models used the same bodies.

The 9 series of Volvos was the last of 30 years of evolution and were the last rear wheel drive cars that they built. Bodies were all hot dig galvanised. The 3.0 litre 6 cylinder all aluminium overhead cam was the first 6 cylinder car engine that Volvo had built. Porsche assisted in the design. The first few years of production resulted in porous castings and many of the motors were replaced under warranty. They also had problems with the cambelts only lasting 20,000 km. So 6 cylinder models needed to be post 1994. A specialist coachbuilding company Nilsson took the 9 series bodies and created ambulances, hearses and limousines. One of the first limos was for the King of Sweden,

hence the name Royal.

The Royal badged cars were 6 inches longer than the standard model with all that space taken by the rear door and rear passenger legroom. They became the standard for many embassies and were referred to as the Swedish Bentley. There is only about eleven of these Royal models in NZ, and worldwide, only a 1000 were made. I managed to find an ex-embassy Royal resting in a Levin paddock and hauled it home. It had a flagpole on the front and a fridge between the back two seats. But it needed more work than I was prepared to put into it so was destined to be a garden sculpture until a couple of Volvo fanatics saw it, rescued it, and now have it running and road legal.

I knew of another Royal in Rotorua that was just being used as a trailer tow vehicle. It was just treated as a car and lived outside. The owner had decided that things were starting to go wrong and he needed a more modern vehicle. I was very happy to take it off his hands. The car had been imported from Japan by him in 2004 and he was basically the only NZ driver. He wanted reliability and made sure that anything that was needed was attended to. He thought it had never been in a supermarket carpark, hence the very straight body with no little dings. The paint was in poor condition so I had some panels repainted and re-clear coated.

I feel a fraud taking this to Vintage runs as it is a quiet luxury cruiser with all mod cons. There is just enough wrong with it to keep me interested, especially with all the electronics that have not responded kindly to Rotorua's sulphur environment. Once I get the 1930 Buick back on the road, I am not sure how much use it will get as the Volvo is such a beautiful ride.

Side Curtains, 1970-2024 *by Ronald Mayes*

In 1969, at the beginning of the Rotorua branch's existence, a regular newsletter began to be produced, becoming Side Curtains from November 1970. It appeared in foolscap size (remember that?) obviously typed out on the special paper required and printed on a hand cranked Gestetner printer (remember them?). Early issues in the club library bear no editor's names, but by July 1973 Brian Rollo (president) and Syd. Halliday (secretary) were obviously involved.

On checking the bound volumes in our club library (a little difficult in some recent years as some volumes have been bound in reverse order!) I found some familiar names in the editorial lists: by 1976 Bill and Adelai Skelton shared the editorial duties and did so for 5 years, Phil. Monk 1981 when the magazine began to be produced in A5 size. Diana Nelson 4 years from 1984, Lois Thompson 1994-1995, Ralph Riseley 5 years from 1998 and Angie Brunton 3 years from 2003. Andy Watson was editor and chairman for 3 years from 2008 during which time I joined the club, then John Peters 4 years from 2011.

From July 2015 Fleur and from October David Tomlinson took over and, with this issue, a record 9 years and 100 issues of Side Curtains!

But printing and posting costs have increased dramatically. The internet, with every branch's magazines available on the national VCC website, means that the club library on meeting nights is no longer filled with members competing for and reading the latest offerings from other branches, and few copies of Side Curtains are picked up.

So this will be the last issue of Side Curtains. The committee voted at its November meeting (with a single "against" from this writer) to discontinue its production. We must thank David, with his commitments to chairmanship, family and business, for his ability to produce the magazine for so long. I just hope that details of club events and other information can reach all of our members, not all of whom have internet access.

November Run to Karapiro Swap Meet





Rotorua Vintage & Veteran Car Club

proudly present the



12th Annual Rotorua Lakefront Car Show

10am - 2pm, Sunday, 26th January 2025



ALL CARS, BIKES & COMMERCIALS WELCOME!

Join us for the 12th edition of this fabulous event. Numbers have increased every year with almost 500 vehicles on display in 2020 and a good number in 2024.

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@rvvcc.org.nz or check our Facebook page for updates. See you there!



ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO ST JOHNS AMBULANCE ROTORUA

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CLUB NIGHT - December 11th

Neil Hunt Park - 7.30pm

Car In The Room: 1974 Rover 3500S

Followed by tea and coffee and Christmas bites.

December Country Picnic Run

Sunday, 15th December *by Dennis Whimp*

Country picnic at 1868 SH30, Horohoro.

Meet at the clubrooms from 10.30am. First car away at 11am for the scenic route. Approximately 70km through Ngakuru etc. For those who want to drive directly there, it is approximately 24km from the clubrooms to Mario and Gwen's property using the State Highway.

Park in a freshly cut paddock. Then walk to the picnic spot. Bring your lunch, your drink, a cup, seats, insect repellent, sunscreen and a smile.

Hot water, tea and coffee will be available. Gwen has a wonderful flower garden.

Any queries phone club captain Terry on 027 295 7957

December Midweekers

This is no midweekers run planned for December.

COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
Dec 2024	7	Xmas Social	6.30pm	Distinction Hotel	
	11	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	15	Country Picnic	TBA	TBA	11
Jan 2025	26	Lakefront Car Show	8am	Village Green	10
Feb 2025	12	Club Night	7.30pm	TBA	
	16	BBQ Run	TBA	TBA	
	TBA	Midweekers	TBA	TBA	
Mar 2025	12	Club Night	7.30pm	TBA	
	16	Chairman's Run	TBA	TBA	
	TBA	Midweekers	TBA	TBA	

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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



Christmas Social evening

