

SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND
VETERAN CAR CLUB

FEBRUARY 2017



WE'RE NOW ON FACEBOOK !

www.rotoruvintagecarclub.org.nz

Lakefront Car Show - 22 January 2017



SIDE CURTAINS - February 2017

The magazine of the ROTORUA
VINTAGE AND VETERAN CAR CLUB

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Website: www.rotoruvintagecarclub.org.nz

Sun Alliance Agency Number: HO 0300146

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

OFFICERS

Chairperson - David Tomlinson

Secretary - Dennis Whimp

Treasurer - Terry Fitzpatrick

Club Captain - Angie Brunton

Asst. Club Captain - Kevin Scott

Committee

Lois Thompson

Terry Wadsworth

Steve De Jeu

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John Peters

Patron - Bob Mowbray

Mid Weekers - Bob Mackay

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Beaded Wheels - Ronald Mayes

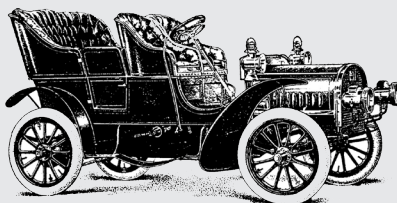
Librarian - Roger Couchman

Asst Librarian - John Kirkland

Cards/Flowers - Doreen Green

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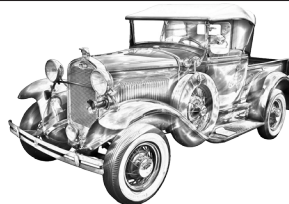
Cover Photos

Front - Red beauties, Lakefront Carshow

Back - Ronald & Princess, 1969 & 2016

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

- January 2017

by David Tomlinson



2016 finished on a high with our Xmas function, a great club run out to the country for High Tea, and there was also a mid week run just before Christmas. It would probably be fair to say 2017 started with rain, and wind, and more rain, but despite a poor forecast leading up to our Lakefront Car Show, and hideous weather all night until about 8.30am on the day, hardy souls from as far as Auckland, plus many from the Waikato, Bay Of Plenty and Taupo area, turned up, and by 10am we had about 80 cars in the domain. St Johns will receive around \$700, and they also displayed two older ambulances and a couple of new ones, although one of the new ones did have to make a fast exit early on with a callout.

I really want to thank all club members who brought vehicles along despite the early signs that the day would be trying. Although water pooled on the green with the overnight rain, it drained away quickly and by 10am you needed sunscreen. While there were a couple of showers around the middle of the day, the event was well attended, and with late arrivals, including an Auckland group showing up very near the end, we had approximately 130 vehicles displayed on the day. A few club members displayed more than one car, and I managed to get five there before 8.30am, one at a time in driving rain. One car club contacted me later in the day surprised the show had gone ahead, saying their club had been advised by text message on the morning that we had cancelled the Show. At no point was there any discussion to cancel the show, it is disappointing that their club were told this. With the commitment and publicity entered into, we had to go ahead, and the improved weather and good result for St Johns vindicates doing so. We got newspaper footage and photos the week before the show and the day after, including coverage on the Daily Post's Facebook page. We did get a few strong inquiries about joining the branch too. Special thanks to the Autohaus for loaning us a brand new Ford Mustang (and their BMW Isetta which sadly did not end up on display due to last minute transport issues).

As well as my pledge in my last column that I would try and get five vehicles to the Car Show, I said that I would try and use a recent purchase on the High Tea run. Indeed my son Sean and I did turn up in a 1929 Essex Super Six sedan I bought in November, and managed to complete the run on its first serious outing, and other than an exciting time heading down a steep hill and me finding out how poor its brakes really were, the car performed faultlessly.

February and indeed the upcoming year are already full of great activities and opportunities for our Branch members. Monthly club nights, club runs and midweek runs start this month, and we have been formally invited to two shows put on by other vintage groups. Elsewhere in this issue you will find details of the local Rotorua Tractor Show, to be held on Oturoa Rd just off SH5, and members are invited to display their cars at the show, particularly older vehicles such as pre-1931 models. On the same weekend (but on both days) we have also been invited to have members display their cars at what may be the final Glenbrook Steam and Vintage Festival. If anyone is interested in attending the Saturday at the Glenbrook event, please contact me as soon as possible so arrangements can be made with organisers. Those wishing to display at the Rotorua Tractor Show can contact John Kirkland for more information. His contact information is on the officers list on page 1.

We had forecast that Neil Chave from Taupo Branch would attend our February meeting to talk to us about their branch's 50th Anniversary Rally in March. Neil was at our Car Show with his immaculate Rover 110, but advised me that he may not now be able to attend our club night. I will briefly detail their entry form on the night if he cannot attend. We have cars queuing up already for club nights "in the room", with a 1924 Packard for February, and a Land Rover for March. Let me know if you would like to show your car. We will also have visitors from Canada attend our February club night, and we will be given a presentation of a trip to the northern parts of Canada in a 1947 Dodge.

Our first club run for February will leave the club rooms at 1pm on Sunday the 12th, and will be a 2 hour run south of the city followed by afternoon tea at the clubrooms. Unfortunately I will miss out as I will be attending the Concours d'Elegance at Ellerslie that same day. There really is a feast of classic car activity around the Auckland, Waikato and BoP regions over the next couple of months.

The committee has its first meeting of the year on Monday the 13th, and it appears we will have up to two written offers for the Bedford K truck to consider, more on this in the next issue of Side Curtains.

I hope all branch members can take part in at least some of our activities in 2017.



The Rotorua Tractor and Machinery Club
invites you to our annual

Tractor and Machinery Working day

and swap meet

Where: Corner of SH 5 and Oturoa roads, Mamaku

When: Sunday February 26th 2017

Gates open at 10.00 a.m.



Entry \$10, children 12 and under free. Swap meet sellers \$20

Venue kindly made
available by
EF and E Cullen

The presence of the
Mamaku Volunteer Fire
brigade is
appreciated.



Vintage tractors, Ploughing,
Stationary engines,
Refreshments,
Hay making (weather permitting),
Vintage cars, Swap meet,
Bouncy castle,
Horse ploughing

MYSTERY CARS FROM LAST MONTH'S ISSUE OF SIDE CURTAINS



*1952 Armstrong Siddeley
Utility Coupe*



*1964 Hillman Zimp
by Zagato*

AN EXPERIENCE WITH ELECTRONIC IGNITION *by Ronald Mayes*

I bought my 1970 Triumph 2000 automatic in 1973 at 32000 miles and its odometer now reads over 224000 miles. Its engine has the early Mark II 9.25:1 compression ratio, on later models this was changed to 8.8:1. This car was always subject to pinking unless the ignition timing was retarded from the specified 8 degrees BTDC to about 6 degrees or even less. The engine received piston rings, main and big end bearings, crankshaft thrust washers and its second decoke and valve-grind in 2005 at 199000 miles.

With the dropping of the octane rating of petrol from 96 to 95 there was little effect on performance but the distributor spindle was last year showing signs of wear and causing timing scatter, so an identical distributor in better condition from a low mileage but very rusty car was fitted.

Recently trouble has been experienced with rapid wear on points' cam followers, with frequent need to check gap and timing. Time to fit an electronic ignition kit!

Neal Lindsay of the Triumph Car Enthusiasts' Club imports Lumenition Magnetronic kits from the makers in England so we fitted one, along with a 12 volt coil to replace the 6 volt plus ballast resistor system. (To obtain a fatter spark, the resistor is switched out when starting the engine. I have twice seen "failures to proceed" when faults have occurred with this system.) Spark plug gaps were increased from 0.025" to 0.035". The timing was set to 8 degrees BTDC before we replaced the points with the kit and the engine started immediately on the first attempt, no timing scatter and 8 degrees advance showing with the strobe light.

On a road test all went well, it was difficult to initially tell whether the performance was better than before but coming home to Rotorua, on the long climb from Greerton to Pyes Pa School the car certainly felt more capable.

Next day I started the engine but the tachometer failed after a few seconds (I had fitted a 2.5PI instrument panel with tachometer some years ago – its wiring loom plugs straight in to the 2000's.) This happened several times and eventually it showed no signs of life. Contact was made with Lumenition and a Triumph specialists in the UK – both said the early current-sensing tachos could have problems with electronic ignition systems and to replace it with a later voltage-sensing one. Neal said the fact that it worked perfectly on the test drive and on the journey home to Rotorua could point to a connection problem, so I cleaned all of the low-tension line connections, and those on the back of the tachometer. At the first start it worked for few seconds, then failed, but on the second start and ever since, it has worked perfectly.

Results: I haven't done enough mileage to compare before and after fuel consumption, but I have advanced the ignition timing at idle to 10 degrees BTDC with no signs of pinking and have been able to reduce the idling speed from over 700rpm to 650. I have not needed to make any mixture adjustments. Starting, hot or cold, is rapid, the car feels livelier and the engine runs smoothly with that touch more sparkle to its performance. Summer heat used to affect idling when the engine was hot, now I can come home and the engine will tick over nicely without missing a beat..

Conclusion: electronic ignition was well worth fitting in this case (but I will keep the coil, ballast resistor, set of points and condenser in a box in the boot "just in case!")

High Tea Run - 18th December

The run was to start about 1.15 pm, we thought “yep, have a bit of time to get there” but running a little late. On our way I thought better top up on fuel as one could end up anywhere out in the country.

We saw a few cars that were involved on the run as we made our way to the club rooms hoping we would get there in time for our papers, only just made it.

We got told be observant but “no questions”. An easy run then we detoured off the highway a bit then we saw some cars in front of us that were behind us that never passed us. When we got back on the highway obviously they took a short cut. We went on some short metal road that was a bit dusty but had some great views on the way. Well back in the day most roads were unsealed.

We arrived at the venue and were given some photos to look at then asked to name where we saw them. Well not that easy as we only got one out of six right. Only one couple got two right so they won.

The tables were set up with food for our High Tea picnic, but we had to do a table raid as our table was missing some goodies that other table had. Heaps for every one to enjoy, some went all out to dress up for the era of their car. It was a very enjoyable afternoon for all, so thanks to our club captain Angie and all others who helped with the run and at the venue. We had about 16 cars take part.

Terry ‘n Chrissy in the Morris Oxford.



From the VCC

The Vintage Car Club of New Zealand is creating a number of new online features that will be of advantage to members.

The first one is now up and running. At a recent meeting of the Club Executive it was suggested branch monthly magazines and newsletters were made available for reading on the Vintage Car Club of New Zealand website.

Magazines are now able to be read by going to <http://www.vcc.org.nz> and clicking on "News from our Branches" on the menu down the left side of the home page. Then click on the magazine you want to read.

Each magazine will be posted as soon as it is received and will appear in the alphabetical order of the branches. The current monthly magazine for each branch will be removed once the current months is received.

There are a number of magazines already on the site. You can read them at vcc.org.nz/news-from-our-branches

Ross Holden

Communications & Marketing Officer

Vintage Car Club of New Zealand (Inc.)

VCC Taupo Branch will host the

WILLIAM DREW GOLDSMITHS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY LAKE TAUPO RALLY

10th -12th March 2017

Golden Anniversary Presentation Dinner
will be held at the Taupo Golf Club on the Saturday evening

Entry forms will be available at the club rooms

Taupo Branch Chairman Neil Chave will attend our February
club night to give us a presentation on the rally.

For further information contact:

Eric Foley - ph 07 378 7006 or tfoley@jabiru.co.nz

STEAMING FOR
40
YEARS

2017 STEAM & VINTAGE COUNTRY FESTIVAL



AT THE

GLENBROOK VINTAGE RAILWAY

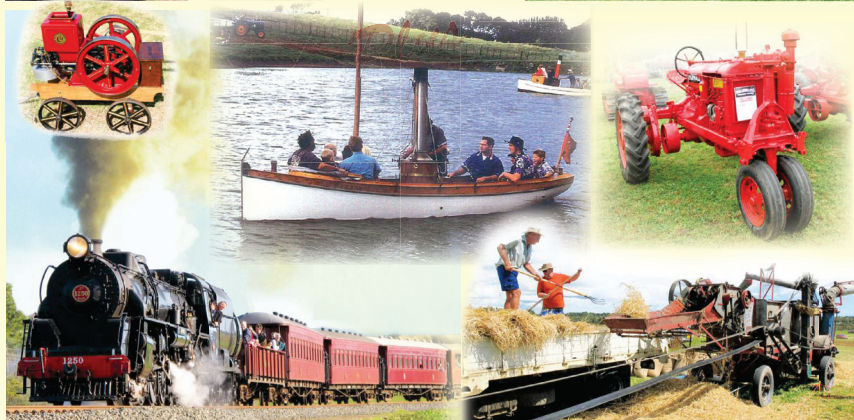
Near Waiuku, 50 minutes south-west of Auckland

SATURDAY 25TH and SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

9AM TO 5PM

Featuring

- Steam Trains
- Traction Engines
- Horse Ploughing
- Vintage Tractors
- Steam Boats
- Vintage Cars
- Steam Cars
- Vintage Aircraft
- Models
- Big Band Music
- Kids Activities
- and Much More ...



ADMISSION – Adults \$10, Children Free (Rides Optional & Extra) PARKING – FREE

Follow the Drury – Waiuku, or Pukekohe – Waiuku Route, Turn into Glenbrook Station Rd (signposted)

Further information: Ph 0508 123 487, or email the organiser at: rosscrook@ihug.co.nz

www.gvr.co.nz

BUY, SELL, SWAP...

FOR SALE

1931 MG M type



Genuine complete car. NZ new with full history. Boat tail body type. Correct number chassis, engine. Fitted with optional 4 speed gearbox.

Purchased 2009. Restoration work carried out: engine rebuilt, new wiring , repaint (pillar box red and black), upholstery. Receipts for all work available.

Numerous spare parts include engine, gear box. Car is located in Rotorua.

Deceased estate. Must be sold. All offers considered.

Contact: Lesley Miller 07 357 4670 or 027 488 4576 Email: nzrobles@xtra.co.nz

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FOR SALE

Cylinder head and rocker cover gaskets (new old stock) for Standard Vanguard 1948 to 1961 (and Triumph Renown 1950 to 1955) - offers.

Roof rack, light weight vintage German Engelmann brand. 75 kg load limit, wide gutter mounting adjustment range (used on a Triumph 2500), excellent condition, \$75 ono.

Smiths Rear Window Heater, self adhesive. In its box, unused and as new, complete with wiring and instructions. \$10.

Ronald Mayes, (07) 347 8490 Email: randgmayer@gmail.com

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If you would like to place an ad here just email details to the editor or bring it along in print on a club night. A picture of the item is a good idea too! Ads will be run for two consecutive issues unless you ask otherwise.

MYSTERY VEHICLES

Two more British cars from the 1960s. The first was a prototype which was stymied by the E-type Jaguar, the second a rare coachbuilt example of a well known marque that was soon to be extinct.



NEXT CLUB NIGHT - February 8th

Car In The Room: 1924 Packard Six

Speaker: Chris Bamford - *Chris and his wife are visiting from Canada, and he will give a talk on a journey in his 1947 Dodge to the northern most point in Canada.*

Followed by tea, coffee and biscuits

Upcoming Midweek Runs *by Bob Mackay*

22nd February Midweek run

Meet at the clubrooms at 10am for morning tea. We will then drive to the i-Kawerau information centre to pick up Forest Entry Permits (\$5 per car) before proceeding to the Tarawera Outlet for a picnic lunch. On our return journey we will visit the Tarawera Falls.

February Club Run *by Kevin Scott*

12th February - Clubrooms

We will leave the clubrooms, first car away at 1pm, and cruise out to the south of Rotorua for 2 to 2-1/2 hours, returning to the clubrooms for afternoon tea. More details will be given at the club meeting on February 8th.

Also in February

12th - Ellerslie Concours d'Elegance

25/26th - Glenbrook Steam Festival - see page 8

26th - Rotorua Tractor & Machinery Show - see page 4

COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
February 2017	8	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	12	Club Run	12.45pm	Clubrooms	11
	22	Midweekers Run	10am	Clubrooms	11
March 2017	8	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	12	Chairman's Run	TBA	TBA	
	22	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
April 2017	12	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	16	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
	26	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
May 2017	10	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	14	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
	24	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
July 2017	9	Swap Meet & Show	7.00am	Paradise Valley	
August 2017	26	Sulphur City Rally	TBA	TBA	

Branch Facebook Page

Our Facebook page now has over 130 likes! This is the quickest way to get any notices regarding our events, club nights or any other activities, so if you are on Facebook search “Rotorua Vintage Car” and LIKE our 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.

www.rotoruvintagecarclub.org.nz

The committee endeavours to have the branch website meet the needs of our members, and to promote our branch nationally, and to potential new members. If you have any suggestions for additions or improvements to the website please contact David Tomlinson.

December High Tea Run



