

# SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the  
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND  
VETERAN CAR CLUB

FEBRUARY 2018



ROTORUA



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[www.rotoruvintagecarclub.org.nz](http://www.rotoruvintagecarclub.org.nz)

# Posh Picnic, December 2017



# SIDE CURTAINS - February 2018

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** - Dennis Whimp

**Treasurer** - Terry Fitzpatrick

**Club Captain** - vacant

**Asst. Club Captain** - Kevin Scott

## Committee

Bob Mackay

Roger Nelson

John Peters

Lois Thompson

Terry Wadsworth

Cliff Wickham

**Mid Weekers** - Bob Mackay

**Side Curtains Editor** - David Tomlinson

rvcc.editor@gmail.com

**Beaded Wheels** - Ronald Mayes

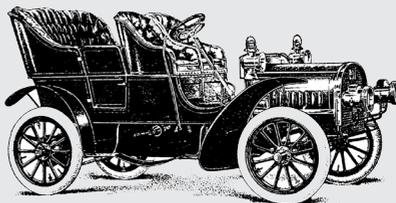
**Librarian** - Roger Couchman

**Asst Librarian** - John Kirkland

**Cards/Flowers** - Doreen Green

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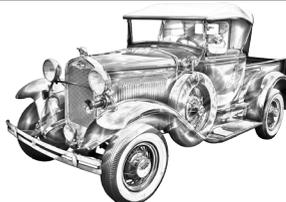
## Cover Photos

Front - The Harper's 1931 Studebaker

Back - Lakefront Car Show 2018

## 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

## - December 2017

*by David Tomlinson*



After our December club night we had a Posh Picnic run to a former branch member's home at Pukehina followed by a lovely high tea. I even took Alex along to terrorise their wildlife. It was a good run through rural roads, followed by making our own way home.

As well as an impromptu mid-weekers run in early January we had our Lake Front Car Show which was very well attended by both exhibitors and visitors. There was a lot of positive feedback and one visitor was quoted in the Daily Post the next day saying it was better than the annual Intermarque Concours show in Auckland!

We have had a few members experiencing poor health recently, and many of you will know Cliff Wickham is currently recuperating in hospital. There is a message from Cliff's family on page 6 of this issue.

Please note that this month's BBQ Run has a change of date, moving back a week until Sunday 25th February. Also in early March there is a request to provide a few cars for a Riding For The Disabled Market Day in Ngongotaha, see page 5 if you are interested.

March Club Night will feature a 50th year badge presentation by the VCC North Island Club Captain to Peter Stanaway, and we will also be given a presentation on a tour of Route 66 in the USA recently undertaken by a group of BoP branch members.

Just before this issue went to press I displayed my 1968 Rolls-Royce at the Intermarque Concours d'Elegance at Ellerslie in Auckland. A number of great cars were on display, including Amelia Earhart's Packard coupe, but the show was marred by consistent heavy rain and very strong winds. It just goes to show that any major event, no matter what time of year, is at the mercy of ever unpredictable weather gods.

I hope that all members will be able to take part in at least one branch activity in 2018. We will work hard to create an exciting program.

# Car In The Room - November 2018

*by Dennis Whimp*

## **1931 Studebaker President series 90, 7 passenger sedan owned by Neville and Carol Harper**

Our November club night had the highest car we are ever likely to get into the clubhouse. Neville inched the Stude over the door sill and the rear downward curve of the sedan roof cleared the clubhouse door lintel with zero clearance. To get it out, we used well -proportioned passengers that overcame the very stiff springs. Neville explained the history of the car as he knew it and Reg Munro filled in with his early apprentice work experience monthly fettling the vehicle.

Gerhard Husheer owned the National Tobacco Company with its headquarters in Napier. By 1930 he had become one of NZ's wealthiest businessmen. Each year through the depression he purchased a new top of the line chauffeur driven limousine without trading in the old vehicle. Four Studebakers, a Chrysler and in 1934 a 21 foot long 12 cylinder Pierce Arrow. At least four of the cars ended up on a farm stored under tarpaulins under pine trees at Golden Springs where Reg's job was to start and run them once a month. They then went to Norm Parkinson, a Rotorua Builder. Bryan Jackson acquired at least two of the vehicles including the 1931 Studebaker which he restored in 1972 for the Haast Rally.

In 1980, Neville saw the Studebaker at the Rotorua International Rally and was smitten. A 1983 herald advert had the two ex Husheer cars for sale and a deal was done for the 1931 Studebaker. On the way home, the car stopped dead. It had stripped a cam gear and was towed back to Auckland for repairs. Since then the car has had few mechanical issues and virtually no work to the body or upholstery. It is regularly used and been to three International rallies.

This is the longest wheelbase car that Studebaker ever made at 136 inches. The engine is a 337 cu. Inch (5520cc) straight eight 9 bearing crankshaft that develops 122hp. There are separate electrical systems each feeding 4 cylinders. The gear box has a freewheeling function which is real hairy when going downhill with such a heavy car so it is not used.

It is a testament to the original very high quality restoration and Neville and Carol's care, that 45 years after the restoration, the car still looks as though it has just come off the assembly line.

# FROM THE SECRETARY

by  
*Dennis Whimp*



## **Peter Stanaway's 50 Year Continuous Membership Award**

The branch meeting Wed 14th March 7.30 will be a special celebration where Kaaren Smylie, the North Island Club Captain will present Peter with his 50 year badge. Kaaren along with a few of the other Tauranga members will also tell us about the joys of travelling Route 66 in convertible mustangs. A meeting not to be missed. There will be a special supper to wind up the evening.

## **Minor Flooding to the clubrooms**

### **Earth excavation and possible concrete work**

During recent deluges, it was found that water is entering the clubrooms through the back door. Investigations show that there is a large sealed catchment stretching back to Moana Terrace behind and above the clubrooms. During deluges, water discharges off the high flat area, down the bank and over the retaining wall. Debris off the banks including rotting leaves have slowly filled the flat grassed area between the clubrooms and the retaining wall. That area is now above the floor level.

We will need to get a bobcat to dig out at least 10cm along the complete building length and possibly concrete the area to make it easily cleaned. (We don't anticipate putting the spouting up again because of the leaf problem). The work is more than a shovel and wheelbarrow exercise by club members. If any club members know of any good cheap sympathetic contractors who could do this work at minimum cost, please let me know.

## **Art Deco Street Parade**

**Saturday 17th February, Napier 12.30pm to 2.30pm**

This is the 30th year of the Art Deco celebrations and to recognise this, there will be 30 of the best cars from around the country and the world. Included is the 1935 Duesenberg J Phaeton previously owned by Carole Lombard, plus huge Packards, V16 Cadillacs, Hispano Suizas etc. The street parade is limited to 300 pre 1946 vehicles and at the end, they are all parked on Marine Parade. The side streets are also full of interesting period vehicles. You can wander around and talk to the owners. A wonderful opportunity to see a collection of cars all together that you are unlikely to see up close again.

## **National North Island Easter Rally**

Waikato branch advise that the closing date for entries to this year's North Island Easter Rally has been extended to 12th March, but the earliest members can enter the better. A reminder too that all vehicles in this rally must have a current VIC as this is a VCC National event.

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## **Riding For The Disabled**

**Market Day - 4th March 2018**

Riding For The Disabled are holding a Market Day on Sunday 4th March at 110 Parawai Rd, Ngongotaha from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm.

They have asked if the Vintage Car Club members would bring about 6 cars (not each!) to display to add to the atmosphere. Would need to have the cars there between 10.30 and 10.45 am.

If you are interested give Terry Fitzpatrick a call on 348 4355

# A Message From Cliff Wickham's Family

Our Cliff is a high performance race car. His hard drive has overheated and he has blown some circuits and hit the wall.

His body-kit was damaged in the process. His CPU (subconscious) is fully operational. His keyboard (conscious mind) gets a bit sticky but is intact and works.

He has a great diagnostic team (his doctors and nurses) and a great support crew, but Cliff is the Master Mechanic. He has to do the repairs and bypass the blown circuits.

In order to do this he needs his workshop (his mind) to be clean, uncluttered and quiet (free of negativity).

He needs high performance tools (positive words), high octane fuel (love), but most of all he needs time and space to perform his repairs.

He may be out of the race for a while but he is not down and out.

We appreciate and love all of you in his support crew and thank you for your understanding in keeping your visit brief and positive.

# Christmas In Christchurch *by Ronald Mayes*

We spent 3 weeks down south, including delivering a 2002 Honda Accord to son David. It went so well and we enjoyed the drive so much we didn't want to hand it over to him! Cook Strait crossing in the Aratere was comfortable and the drive from Picton via Murchison and Lewis Pass excellent - good road and little traffic on the day SH1 via Kaikoura was opened.

The Canterbury VCC branch doesn't close down over the holidays: Boxing Day saw a run to Woodend (didn't attend that, instead met a member who had bought a Vanden Plas Princess 4 Litre R which I knew; he also has a 1947 Bentley Mark VI in which he had literally travelled the world and which I drooled over) but I took David's Triumph 2500TC to the VCC picnic and car show at Little River on 1 January. I placed a discreet for sale sign on it and a local Triumph club member made a cash offer without even trying it out! He wanted another retirement project (there will be some things to fix...) and it joins a Triumph 2500S, late Mercedes-Benz roadster and a Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit in his garage.

There must have been well over 200 cars there, rare ones included a 1923 Hispano Suiza tourer, 1938 Rolls-Royce Phantom III V12, lots of red MGAs (but no twin-cam coupes) but the star of the show for me was a Ford Model A - see the photos and description. It even won a race around the reserve against a very late model Aston Martin!



## HELLO – My name is ANGUS

After 80 years of hard work, abuse and neglect my paint has faded and my chrome has gone all rusty.

For the first 20 years of my life I was a proud touring car around North Canterbury. Then when I got tired and past my best they turned me into a farm truck. When I couldn't haul heavy loads anymore they used me to fill a hole in a hedge so that the cows and sheep wouldn't get out. The hedge grew all over me and I was forgotten about for another 40 years.

Then one day Harry and Bruce found me – 'oh what a joy'. They converted me back into a car once again and then last year after much hard work on my engine they drove me from Christchurch to Cape Reinga and back, via Ninety Mile Beach, East Cape and the Forgotten Highway. That was the furthest I had been in a long time, I am proud to say that I made the journey there and back without any problems.

My days of laying idle are over and I am happy to be part of Bruce and Harry's dreams and I am thrilled they named me Angus – I think it suits me don't you?

**SO CHILDREN ARE ALLOWED TO TOUCH ME EVEN IF YOU HAVE STICKY FINGERS, *but* REMEMBER I'M OLD, SO PLEASE TREAT ME WITH RESPECT AND DON'T CLIMB ON ME.**

Have a Happy Day,

# Drama On The Highway *by Ronald Mayes*

No events other than our lakefront car show were planned for Christmas and January (the Canterbury branch, however, was busy: a run to Woodend on Boxing Day and the annual picnic and car show at Little River on New Year's Day, which I attended) but Maurie Crowe kindly planned a mid-weekers' run on 10 January.

The route planned would take us north out of town on SH5, then via Okoroire and back roads to Tirau for a cafe lunch. Many of the usual suspects appeared at the clubrooms with a good range of British cars, a single German one – and a few modern cars. Gloria was a little reluctant to go, the thought of the summer heat turning a dark blue Triumph into a mobile sauna put her off, until I suggested we take our 18 year old Honda with its air-conditioning (we had just delivered the similar Accord I had found for our son in Christchurch - 1000km of very pleasant and comfortable motoring so we had become used to travelling in even more luxury than a big Triumph!)

We headed off about 10:30am, following Roger and Diana Nelson in their Triumph Stag until they took a quicker route through town and got ahead of us. Waiting in the queue at the Countdown traffic lights in Fairy Springs Road we were shocked to see a small car travelling north at high speed - on the wrong side of the road. It swerved across to the correct side at the lights and disappeared into the distance. No sign of any pursuing police cars, but a short time after we had turned left at the Ngongotaha roundabout we saw it again – this time upside down in the middle of the road.

It had overtaken Bob and Pat Mackay's Vitesse at about twice their speed, then the Nelsons' Stag, again very closely indeed but on their left. The driver lost control on the verge, veered across the road and clipped another car before hitting the bank and overturning. The young female driver was soon removed from the wrecked car, yelling blue murder. Despite "serious injuries" (according to the Daily Post) she was to appear in court the next day on charges of unlawfully taking a vehicle, endangering traffic, refusing to have a blood specimen taken and breaching parole conditions.

Roger and Diana, and others, were obviously shaken by the close call but wished to carry on. We regrouped at the SH27 junction, had a pleasant drive on quiet country roads and had an equally pleasant but slightly late lunch in a reserved room at the Enchanted Cafe in Tirau, with much spirited conversation .

Postscript: 8am Saturday 13 January: I was turning right from Fenton St into Ti St in my Triumph 2500TC. An SUV ahead of me had just completed a U-turn to head south down Fenton St when a 1990s Japanese car emerged from Ti St at high speed with tyres squealing as it turned left into Fenton St, narrowly missing the SUV. Moments later a police car with lights flashing and siren sounding appeared in hot pursuit. Keep your wits about you when driving, the roads can be dangerous places anywhere and at any time...

# BUY - SELL - SWAP

**For Sale:** Bosch GL769 Contact Set and GL179 Condenser, for 1970s BMC and Triumph cars. New! only \$10 each. Ronald Mayes ph 347 8490 or randgmayes@gmail.com

**Wanted:** Anyone know where I can buy some under-bonnet sound-proofing material? Nothing suitable in SCA, Bunnings or Mitre 10. The original moulded-cardboard material in my Princess 1100 gave up the ghost decades ago and its replacement is self-destructing. Any help much appreciated! The car is now in the hands of the painter in Papamoa - he repainted our Triumph 2000 10 years ago so it should look “almost like new” (on the outside, anyway) when he has finished. Ronald Mayes ph 347 8490 or randgmayes@gmail.com

**Wanted To Rent:** lock up garage space for small car when it returns from the paint shop and until I can make garage alterations to accommodate it. (I thought of widening front doorway and parking it on carpet in hall but house management not keen on that idea..) Ronald Mayes ph 347 8490 or randgmayes@gmail.com

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## FREE PROJECT FOR THE AMBITIOUS!

Here we have, free of charge, a 1923 Morris Cowley bullnose chassis with wheels, motor and box, a few other parts including 2 radiator cowlings and some boxes, but no body or interior parts.

Located at Ngongotaha, for more info phone Alan Dick on 07 357 2024



# Lakefront Car Show 2018 *by David Tomlinson*

What a great success this year's Car Show was, despite the Metservice doing everything they could to put people off. Right up until the morning they forecast rain, but it was gloriously fine all day, other than a very light shower hours after the show wrapped up.

We had over 300 cars on the lawn, including St John Ambulance putting on a great display and providing collection volunteers.

Cars started arriving early and by 10am we had over 200 cars, with a steady stream still arriving. Zephyr/Zodiac, Morris Minor and Triumph were the most numerous, but there was a very eclectic mix old old and new, common and unusual, sedans, coupes, convertibles, utes and even a few motorbikes.

We had a rare Rotorua built Heron which made the item in the Daily Post the next day, the only genuine "Morris Minor 1000000" in New Zealand (yes, 1 million!), an 80 year old cyclops pedal car piloted ably by a pre-schooler, small air cooled cars up to several large and loud V8s.

Every year there is one car that stands out for me, and this year it had to be the Morrie 1000000 which was also very well presented. Amongst unusual vehicles present was a left hand drive Zephyr convertible, a DAF with belt drive, a BMW Isetta and a Bentley R-Type saloon.

It was great to see many member vehicles present, several members brought out at least two cars, and I managed to get 6 there, but I did park 3 in town the night before. Thanks to Roger and John for helping me shuttle some back to Ngongotaha at the end of the day.

I would like to thank all members who came along, especially those who helped out on the day, and those who displayed a vehicle (or two!).

I think the feedback from this year's from many who visited will mean that next year's show is already marked down on their calendars.

# CLUB NIGHT - February 14th

Neil Hunt Park - 7.30pm

Speaker: Kevin Scott

Followed by tea, coffee and biscuits

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## BBQ Run - 25th February 2018 (\$10pp)

Please note this is a week later than the usual club run day.

Meet at 2.45pm for a cuppa at the clubrooms. First car away 3.15pm with a BBQ dinner at 5.45pm. Cost per person \$10 for dinner.

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## Upcoming Midweek Runs *by Bob Mackay*

### *Wednesday February 28th Midweek run*

In my absence Maurie Crowe has kindly arranged a mystery tour with a café lunch. Meet at the clubrooms at 10am for morning tea and all will be revealed.

### *Wednesday March 28th Midweek run*

Meet at 10am for morning tea at the club rooms. The day will be another mystery tour with a café lunch. After lunch it is hoped that we can visit a small interesting collection, at the time of writing this still has to be confirmed.

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*It was St Patrick's day and Paddy was flustered not being able to find a parking space so he could get in and celebrate with a Guinness.*

*"Lord," he prayed, "I can't stand this. If you open a space up for me, I swear I'll give up drinking me whiskey, and I promise to go to church every Sunday."*

*Suddenly, the clouds parted and the sun shone on an empty parking spot. Without hesitation, Paddy said, "Never mind, I found one."*

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# COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
February	14	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	16-18	Brits at the Beach	various	Whangamata	
	25	BBQ Run	2.45pm	Clubrooms	11
	28	Midweekers Run	10am	Clubrooms	11
March	4	Brit-Euro Car Show	10am-3pm	Howick, Auckland	
	14	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	18	Chairman's Run	1pm	Clubrooms	
	28	Midweekers Run	10am	Clubrooms	11
April	11	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	15	Night Run	TBA	TBA	
	25	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
May	9	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	13	Night Run	TBA	TBA	
	23	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	

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## 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.

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[www.rotoruaVintageCarClub.org.nz](http://www.rotoruaVintageCarClub.org.nz)

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

# Member Cars - Lakefront Car Show 2018



# LAKEFRONT CAR SHOW 2018

