

SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND
VETERAN CAR CLUB

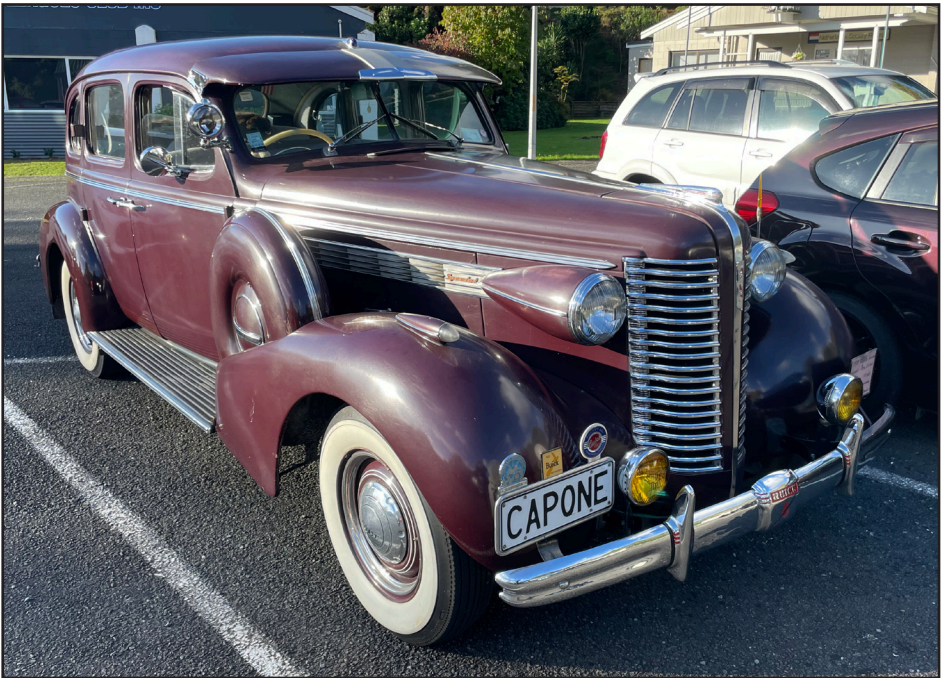
JUNE 2023



WE ARE ON FACEBOOK !

www.rvvcc.org.nz

May Twilight Run



SIDE CURTAINS - June 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 - Dennis Whimp
021 731 678

Treasurer - Maryann Scott

Club Captain
Terry Wadsworth

Asst. Club Captain
Fleur Tomlinson

Committee
Ronald Mayes
Neville Harper
Geoff Nitz
Alan Judd
Ken Thomas
John Newson

Mid Weekers - vacant

Side Curtains Editor - David Tomlinson
rvvcc.editor@gmail.com

Beaded Wheels - Ronald Mayes

Librarian - Dennis Kenny

Librarian - Ronald Mayes

Cards/Flowers - Doreen Green

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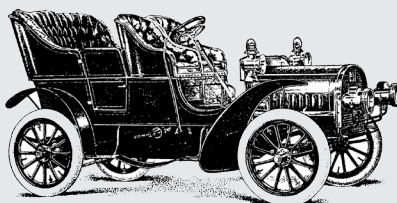
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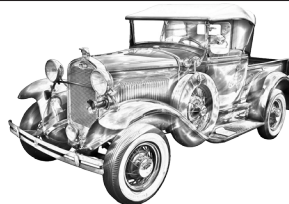
Cover Photos

Front - 1966 Austin Healey Sprite

Back - 1966 Austin Healey Sprite

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

- June 2023

by David Tomlinson



Our May AGM passed relatively uneventfully, with no nominations for Secretary, but as you will read in Dennis' column in this issue we may have a new, young and enthusiastic Secretary now on board. The AGM was certainly enhanced by having Tony Perks' Austin Healey Sprite in the room to keep the night upbeat and interesting.

In June we will have our prize giving after a short run, with afternoon tea back at the clubrooms, and then we have our major annual events in July and August.

Please note our July club night will be the first Wednesday of the month (5th July) as we will do our final shake down for the Swap Meet on the Sunday 9th July. The Swap Meet, as ever, is the financial backbone of the branch. We do have some problems looming though, as the same core group of organisers, and largely the helpers on the day, are doing the work year in, year out, but we are all aging. Our branch does have over 100 members (including partners, children etc), but only a fraction of the overall membership help out on the day, yet we all save \$100 each in our annual subscription due to the event's income. As time continues on, we will all continue to age, and there will come a time (not too far away) where the support from branch members for the event will not be adequate. Then, our subs will double, so some thought needs to be put in to how this continues in the future. I really do

hope we get a good membership support this year, it is vital. And of course the weather always helps to play a good role too.

In August we will host our Sulphur City Rally, entry forms will be out any day now. Looking at numbers at some other nearby annual rallies, it does seem that numbers are finally on the increase again. We had a very good turnout of 48 cars last year, I hope we break 50 this year. The event always receives excellent feedback from all that take part.

In May we held our twilight run, as many felt the night run was too arduous on the older cars (and drivers!), but there still was some feedback about the event being held in trying conditions late in the afternoon in autumn. Some years ago we had a very successful “breakfast run”, perhaps this is something that next year’s organisers could consider. The roads would likely have less traffic on them early on a Sunday, than late in the afternoon.

The VCC AGM will be held in Nelson in August, and I have yet to register, but I expect I will attend. There are some significant changes ahead, we will have a new national President, and you may have read in the latest Beaded Wheels that the cost of that magazine is skyrocketing, so that will no doubt be discussed.

On a similar vein, while we continue to keep costs of this publication very low, content sent to the editor each month is probably the worst in my 8 years producing the magazine. I think this is something we need to review and address too. Perhaps a review of everything we do is needed?

FROM THE SECRETARY

by
Dennis Whimp



This might be my last From the Secretary as one of our newer members, Hayden Duncan, has offered his services as the Secretary. I will help as the Secretary's assistant until he gets the run of what is involved, but I will no longer be a committee member. Hayden is from the computer age and I guess our records will now be stored in the cloud.

The National office is trying to update all their forms to be on line electronically for easy storage and recovery. These will then be able to be accessed from your cell phone or computer. As Hayden is new to the club, please give him every assistance. Please also wear your name badge as he needs to put faces to the names he deals with.

We have not had a clubhouse custodian for a number of years. In fact not since Mel Cooper's chairmanship. On taking on the Secretary's role, I also became the clubhouse go to person for bookings and maintenance. I am happy to continue in this role unless someone else would like the task.

I hadn't realised what a fantastic job being on the committee could be. I've worked with a great bunch of committee members who I have got to know well. We are a social club with a shared interest in motor vehicles, and the committee meetings have been as much a catch-up as transacting the business of the branch. My life has been greatly enriched by my time on the committee. Rotorua is exceptionally lucky

that Dave took over the chairmanship when he did. He is passionate, organised and dedicated, and gets to the point when business needs to be transacted. And of course he has got Fleur and the whole family involved. Reading other branch magazines gives an insight into the difficulties other branches are having getting a chairperson. Waikato struggled last year and Tauranga is struggling this year, despite both having over 300 members.

The legal requirement to have a new complying constitution for all the branches by 2025 continues on with some branches having special committees writing lengthy tomes on what is required. I am sure that the branches and National will come up with a complying constitution that we can adopt within the next two years.

The Te Aroha vintage car auction at the start of May had many who attended very surprised at the high prices bid. The vehicles had been in the barn and most hadn't been moved or run for 20 to 40 years. Regos had mostly long expired, tyres were flat, no batteries and generally they were not in the best of condition. Only 6 of the 36 lots were in running condition. Auction Fever hit and many of the vehicles went for \$20,000 to \$50,000. My informant thought that some would need at least that again to get them back on the road.

AUSTIN 7 CENTENARY *by Ronald Mayes*

2022 marked 100 years since Herbert Austin's 7 hit the roads. The December 2022 issue of Classic and Sports Car magazine featured the model in a lengthy article. The Rotorua Public Library has a copy on its shelves which you can borrow at minimal cost and, like me, learn a lot about the model and the changes made in its 15 year production run.

May Car In The Room

1966 Austin Healey Sprite Mk 111A

by Dennis Whimp

Tony Perks had his very tidy Austin Healey Sprite as the May car in the room. The following comes from his notes of the talk he gave.

A Brief History of Austin Healey. The company was established in 1952 between the Austin Division of BMC and the Donald Healey Motor Company. Leonard Lord represented BMC and Donald Healey his firm. The first Austin Healeys were known as the big Healeys or the 100's. After 3 years of this model, out came the 100-6s. These were expensive cars, so a sports car that was very affordable was required. Hence the birth of the Austin Healey Sprite (AHS). The AHS was produced in 1958 until 1971. The first model was the famous Mk 1 Frogeye. It was announced by the press in Monte Carlo on the 20 May 1958.

The Frogeye had an A series 948cc with twin SU carburettors producing 43HP @ 5200rpm. The engine came from the A35 van; the rack and pinion steering came from the Morris Minor 1000. Suspension was from the A35. The design was the first mass production of a sports car with a unibody chassis. This was also use on badged copies of later models being the MG Midget. The AHS was made to be the successor of the Austin 7. Its price was to be the same as the Morris Minor 1000 of 600 pounds but it came out at 800 pounds. The MG Midget was produced from 1962-1980. The AHS had the following models. 58-61 Mk 1, 61-64 Mk11, 64-66 Mk111, 66-69 Mk1V

and 69-71 Mk1V (UK only).

Tony advised that he actually purchased the car for his wife Dianne. It is in her name and the certificate of registration shows it as an Austin Healey Sprite Mk111A. They have owned it since 1998. Seat belts were installed in the rear so as to take the kids to school.

The parts to construct this car were sent to Australia in Completely Knocked Down form for assembly by the Pressed Metal Corporation, Enfield, NSW. The Mk 111A came about by having lots of parts left over from 1965, so they decided to do a special run in 1966. It came with a couple of extras; the chrome wire wheels and the chrome strip down the sides of the car which was standard on the MG Midget. 800 of these were produced. The car came to NZ in 1973. Tony and Dianne are the sixth owners in NZ. They find the car fun to drive and it gives them lots of pleasure.

FOR SALE

1992 Honda Prelude SI two door coupe, first registered in 1993. 4 cylinder 2.2L manual. 4 wheel steering, 78,000km. White, and in pristine condition. One NZ owner for the last 28 years, Japanese assembled.

Contact Reg Quin
07 347 9349



Photos from past Lakefront Car Shows



Photos from past Lakefront Car Shows





Rotorua Vintage & Veteran Car Club
proudly present the



The 42nd Annual Central North Island Swap Meet & Car Show Spectacular

Paradise Valley Raceway
7am - 2pm, Sunday, 9th July 2023



FEATURING VINTAGE, CLASSIC, MUSCLE CARS & HOT RODS

Hundreds of vendors, with items of interest to all collectors of cars, motorcycles, hot rods, automobilia, automotive books, old toys, model cars and trains. Almost everything antique or collectible.

Hot food and refreshments available

INQUIRIES

SELLERS: Neville Harper 07 348 2412 or 027 494 7249, email daharpers@gmail.com

CAR SHOW: Bob Mackay 07 332 3849, email bob.mackaynz@gmail.com

GENERAL: Alan Judd 022 049 5492, email judd21a@gmail.com



Admission -
Seller's vehicle and driver
\$10 per site

www.rvcc.org.nz

All others -
\$5 per person
(Accompanied children FREE)

CLUB NIGHT - June 14th

Neil Hunt Park - 7.30pm

Car In The Room: 1976 Ford Escort Mk2 1.6 Sports

Followed by tea and coffee.

Prize Giving Run Sunday, 18th June

Be at the club rooms by 1.30pm with the first car away by 2pm.

At the end of the run there will be afternoon tea and our annual prize giving at the clubrooms.

Midweekers

As this issue went to press there was no planned activity for the midweekers in June, or beyond.

VCC AGM 2023

The VCC National AGM will be held at the Beachside Conference and Events Centre in Nelson on 12 August 2023. All members are welcome to attend.

VCC “Daffodil Day” 2023

After putting options out to branches the VCC will hold “Daffodil Day” on Sunday, August 20th. This is the weekend before our annual Sulphur City Rally.

COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
June 2023	14	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	18	Prize Giving Run	1.30pm	Clubrooms	11
July 2023	5	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	9	Swap Meet	7am	Paradise Valley Raceway	10
August 2023	9	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	26	Sulphur City Rally	8am	Clubrooms	
Sept 2023	13	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	17	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
October 2023	11	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	15	Club Run	TBA	TBA	

www.rvvcc.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.

May Twilight Run



May Car In The Room

