

# SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the  
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND  
VETERAN CAR CLUB

MARCH 2023



**WE ARE ON FACEBOOK !**

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

# Brits At The Beach February 2023



# Brit-Euro March 2023





# SIDE CURTAINS - March 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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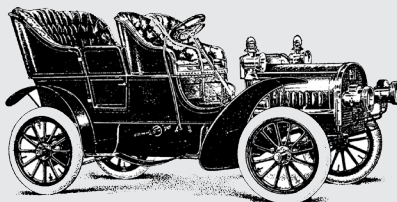
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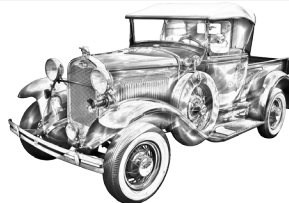
## Cover Photos

Front - Hayden in a 1928 Bentley 4.5L

Back - February's BBQ Run

## 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

## - February 2023

*by David Tomlinson*



What a busy month, despite, including and in avoidance of terrible weather. We finally got to see the Kenny's MG in the club rooms at our February club night.

The next day Fleur, Alex, Sean and I took off to Whangamata for Brits At The Beach, taking 3 cars for what has turned out to be the final event. The Munro family took 2 cars too, so we had 5 branch member cars at the event, and other branch members visited the event too. The festival had to finish prematurely as we all evacuated the Coromandel early on the Sunday. At one point our 5 branch cars where one behind the other as we approached Waihi. The continued lower numbers of the event, combined with the weather this year scything through the registrations at the last minute has seen the organisers decide it will be the last one, due to the energy and costs involved in hosting the event. It really has faced numerous challenges over time, and this year half the roads in the area were closed. The Ellerslie Concours planned for the same weekend was cancelled at the last minute due to the incoming cyclone.

Our first club run for 2023 was the BBQ Run which took us out to a kiwi fruit orchard near Te Puke where an excellent lunch was had in hot, warm weather. Nothing to complain about here, except for a few km of dusty metal road to get the cars dirty!

Art Deco was also cancelled due to the weather, but the older "WO" Bentleys touring NZ still stayed their planned two nights in Rotorua, with the first night being warm and dry, and many club members got to look all over their cars, with very amenable owners meeting with us. One of our new members even got to sit in the pilot's seat of a Bentley 4.5 Litre. Despite ferry

cancellations, cyclones and other challenges, they all seemed happy with their time in New Zealand.

March started with the annual Brit-Euro car show in Howick, Auckland, that had to be cancelled last year twice, and was touch and go this year due to soggy grounds. It went ahead with some parts of the park roped off as no-go areas, and the day was hot and warm. We got a vintage plane flyover before midday, and the two-seater Spitfire based at Ardmore flew over on two separate occasions in the afternoon.

We had 4 branch members with cars at the event, I took my 1933 Rolls-Royce, Alan Judd took his new Morgan, and John Newson and Joelene Hossack took a pair of Rovers. It was down slightly on the expected numbers, and there were some last minute planning headaches for the organisers, but it was a very good show. I have had at least one car at every Brit-Euro, it is a very big, great show. It was somewhat telling about classic car owners though that all exhibitors got a flyer for a rest home in their goodie bags! My favourite car this year was a large white Lancia Flaminia coupe.



Please note the AGM is only now 2 months away, we will be needing a new candidate for branch secretary, and it is always good to get new faces on the committee. It is not an arduous task, and helps shape the club's direction. The branch really is only the sum of its members, and their enthusiasm.

# FROM THE SECRETARY

by  
*Dennis Whimp*



When I heard the Cyclone Gabrielle wind in the early hours of the Tuesday morning, I wondered whether the clubrooms were going to get a big oak through the roof. Some of those big trees behind the clubrooms have some rot in them. A quick trip past the rooms later on Tuesday showed heaps of leaves and twigs all over our roof and the oak trees remarkably intact. The Bridge club building roof was being water blasted clean to clear the debris off. The Dutch club had a lucky escape as a large plain tree came down with branches across the roof but minor if any damage. There have been some horror stories of post war club cars being buried in muddy water and debris and not worth repairing.

We had a wonderful viewing session of the pre-1931 Bentleys on tour from Britain. The drivers were most talkative about old cars in general, and especially what else they had in the garages back home. My favourite was the 1924 3 litre 2 seater that was a road going version of the 1924 3 litre racing car "Old Smokey". The 2 seater owner casually mentioned he had Old Smokey in the garage at home and had it out here for the 2010 tour of NZ. A quick google of 1924 Bentley 3 litre Old Smokey came up with the story of the racing car that was rescued from South Africa and restored by this chap's dad. In my next life, I think I would like to be a vintage Bentley owner, but will have to choose my parents. One of the other owners casually mentioned that his current project was to slip a 24

litre aero engine into a 1934 Rolls Royce which will really spin its wheels.

Congratulations to Shona Wickham and Pat Burr who took out the P80 plus overall winner's prizes in the Feb 4 East Coast Rally put on by the Eastern Bay of Plenty Branch.

Anyone going to Wanaka will find that the Wanaka Warbirds and Wheels Museum closed 2 years ago following the passing of its passionate owner, Robert Duncan. Among the outstanding exhibits was the 1934 Duesenberg Model J that was purchased new by the actress Carole Lombard. It was probably one of the best vintage car museums behind Southwards. I understand the cars are being stored and may go on display elsewhere in the future. There is another much smaller collection nearer to home in Te Puke. If anyone wants to purchase well sorted vintage or veteran cars, Roger Hill of the Tauranga Branch is reducing the size of his collection. See the advert in the latest Bay of Plenty Branch magazine available at the national office web site.

We have in the clubrooms a Banford Stationary engine that was loaned to the club about 35 years. The owners are keen to sell it and are looking for an offer of around \$1,000. It probably weighs half a ton and will take some shifting. If anyone is keen let me know and I can give you the owners contact details.

Please wear your name badges to all of our activities as we have many newer members.

## February BBQ Run *by Fleur Tomlinson*

Well we could not have asked for more perfect weather, the sun was shining, no rain in the forecast and only a gentle breeze. After all the rain, wind, thunder and cyclones we have just endured this was rather a blessing.

We all met up at the club rooms around 10ish for a 10.30am set off, but closer to 10.45am after we all finished catching up and chatting. Men hovering over bonnets up and cars arriving in the car park, ladies enjoying the sunshine and chit chat. We were soon given our instructions for the day and off we went.

The run took us first up around Lynmore, back past the club rooms heading out towards Te Puia then back towards Pukehangi. We cruised along Paradise Valley Road out towards Ngongotaha, Hamurana, Tauranga Direct Road in the direction of the Tect Park turning off towards Te Puke. With only a small stretch of gravel road it was pleasant country driving. Soon we reached the driveway of our destination. WOW what a driveway lined with vines of kiwifruit.

Soon settled and picnic attire unpacked we were admiring our lunch venue and what a venue it was. Beautiful trees, plants, flowers and of course for the boys, cars, and what a collection of race cars there were. Ford Capris, a Volvo, Abarth 600 and a highlight of a near new Nissan GTR turned up. There was also a Ford Escort and a few other



toys on display. Our hosts were amazing showing us around talking about their cars, home etc. They very kindly had a wheelbarrow of avocados for us to help ourselves to, to take home as they had so many of them on their trees they were almost throwing them away.

With Kevin busy on the BBQ lunch was soon ready and what a lunch. Beautiful sausages, patties and salads. We sat in a beautiful garden setting enjoying our BBQ meal and conversation. To finish off a massive chocolate cake was presented and passed around and enjoyed by us all.

With full bellies it was time to depart back to Rotorua. Thank you to Pat and Shona for putting on an amazing run and also to your helpers for making the day very enjoyable. Now we all wait till prize giving to find out who gets the joy of putting on the BBQ run next year.



# Scout 750 e-bike *by Ray Oakley*

Due to a medical event in 2021 I was told that I would not be able to drive for six months. Although Anne would be able to drive me anywhere I still wanted to have some independence so googled electric cruising bikes and found the Scout 750 advertised at a dealer in Auckland. I thought it would be the ideal bike for commuting to the shops and around town and I liked the look of it as it was a bit different as well.

The bike is a Scout 750 and is made in China and sold in numerous countries with various other branding such as Cheetah in the USA.

It's looks are based on the old Indian Scout and is very retro looking. I also have a carrier and leather saddlebags that can be fitted on the back. It can be pedalled or has an independent twist hand throttle with a headlight and rear light for night riding.

## Specifications

Alloy frame and guards, 750 watt Bafang rear mounted rear hub

48volt 17.5Ah battery, 2 amp charger 4-6 hours

5 level pedal assist, 26 x 4inch tyres

Front shocks, Sprung seat

Hydraulic disc brakes, 7 speed Shimano Altos derailleur

Max speed 37km/h, Range 40 -90km

The bike is very comfortable, easy to ride and is a great cruiser.



# February Car In The Room *by Dennis Kenny*

## A trailer load of bits to this MGM 1929-1930 Midget

This MGM was purchased in Auckland in March 1979. It was a trailer load of bits and pieces but appeared to be about 75% complete. It was brought as a retirement project hence the long restoration period.

The person I purchased the car from had started a wooden frame build but apart from being a pattern it was in very poor condition. Items included: chassis (M1502), complete engine (29592A) and the name plate stamped AbingdonM1009. All metal work panels were included - guards, valances, original old metal panel doors, the radiator and shell, were both only suitable for patterns, headlamps, fitted brake drums, road springs, wheels, 3 speed gear box, plus diff and many small important components were all there. There were no MG bonnet catches or door handles or windscreen frame.

The England MG Car Club advised me that the car was sold by University Motors on 20/2/1930 to a woman in London. No other history of the car is known.

Restoration was carried out by myself; this included the chassis, springs, brakes etc and a greater part of the of the woodwork. It was fortunate that a fair amount of the original woodwork was available for patterns. I managed to get hold of a very good drawing of the wooden frame which was very helpful.

The engine, gear box, diff etc were rebuilt and checked over where necessary. These projects were carried out by old school tradesmen, as were all the metal guards and panels. Club members who worked on the car were the late Bill Clouston and Stan Everson, with other personalities – Kevin Saunders (upholstery and vinyl) Dean Longhurst (electrical) and Peter Bjarnesen (woodwork) and Te Ngae Panel beaters and painters.

Initially it was intended that the car would be an all-metal panel body, however this proved to be too costly, so I decided to have a fabric body from the firewall back as were the very early M Types.

This consisted of the wooden frame being covered by 3mm ply and then covered in vinyl.

Several missing small parts were sourced from the UK, with the radiator, radiator surround and wheels being fabricated in New Zealand. Due to some of the parts not being available the car is not an exact reproduction of an M Type. I have fitted Brookland screens in place of the original M Type screen. Bonnet and door catches are all of an alternative compromise. The front guards are of a cycle pattern and the car comes without a hood.

After what was a long restoration, I finally took the car to VTNZ in November 2011. It came through with a few minor problems. The main concern from their point of view was the lack of a high stop light. This problem was overcome by an exemption from the Vintage Car Club of NZ.

It is a great little car and quite interesting to drive. However, I cannot see myself driving it at 60mph as what was their original tested top speed.

Specifications: Inline 4-cylinder single OHC: 847cc: Max power 20BHP: Non cross Flow head: single SU Carb: 3 speed manual transmission: Rear wheel drive: Brakes – drum all-round: Number produced approx. 3200.





# CLUB NIGHT - March 8th

Neil Hunt Park - 7.30pm

Car In The Room: 1961 Rover P4 100

Followed by tea and coffee.

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## Chairman's Run Sunday, 19th March

Meet at Creative Stone, 14 Hall Rd around 10am for first car away 10.30am. The run will be a relatively short run on mainly rural roads. At the conclusion of the run there will be a complimentary luncheon with tea and coffee back at the start venue. Please BYO any other drinks.

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## Midweekers Wednesday, 15th March

The March Wednesday run has been brought forward to Wednesday 15th March. That is to coincide with the Bay of Plenty midweekers run. They will be arriving at our clubrooms at 10.30am for a cup of tea, and then leaving to drive out to the Tarawera Landing for lunch at the café. We have been invited to join them for the run and lunch. Approximate numbers will be needed at the next branch meeting so as we can advise the tea rooms. They normally don't carry a large stock of food. Dennis Whimp is co-ordinating this run.

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## Stags Out And About

It looks like the reason we haven't seen our branch Stags lately is they are on a Stag group trip around the country.



# COMING EVENTS

|           | Date | Event          | Time    | Venue                   | Page |
|-----------|------|----------------|---------|-------------------------|------|
| Mar 2023  | 8    | Club Night     | 7.30pm  | Clubrooms               | 11   |
|           | 15   | Midweekers Run | 10.30am | Clubrooms               | 11   |
|           | 19   | Chairman's Run | 10.00am | 14 Hall Rd, Ngongotaha  | 11   |
| Apr 2023  | 12   | Club Night     | 7.30pm  | Clubrooms               |      |
|           | 16   | Club Run       | TBA     | TBA                     |      |
|           | 26   | Midweekers Run | TBA     | TBA                     |      |
| May 2023  | 10   | Club Night     | 7.30pm  | Clubrooms               |      |
|           | 14   | Twilight Run   | TBA     | TBA                     |      |
|           | 31   | Midweekers Run | TBA     | TBA                     |      |
| July 2023 | 9    | Swap Meet      | 7am     | Paradise Valley Raceway |      |

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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.

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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.

# February 2023 Car In The Room



## BDC NZ Tour 2023





# February's BBQ Run

