

SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND
VETERAN CAR CLUB

March 2016



WE'RE NOW ON FACEBOOK !

www.rotoruvintagecarclub.org.nz

Whirinaki Wander



SIDE CURTAINS - March 2016

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

Sun Alliance Agency Number: HO 0300146

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

OFFICERS

Patron - Bob Mowbray

Chairperson - David Tomlinson

Secretary - Lois Thompson

Treasurer - Terry Fitzpatrick

Club Captain - John Kirkland (acting)

Asst. Club Captain - Vacant

Committee

Terry Wadsworth

Steve De Jeu

Darryl Stretch

Roger Nelson

John Peters

Mid Weekers - Bob Mackay

Side Curtains Editor - David Tomlinson

rvvcc.editor@gmail.com

Beaded Wheels - Ronald Mayes

Librarian - Dorothy Clouston

Asst Librarian - John Kirkland

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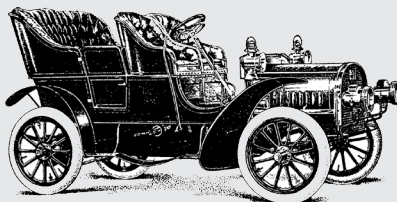
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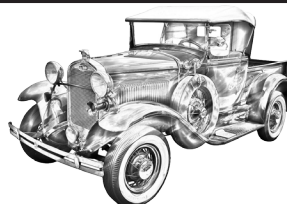
Cover Photos

Front - Fords at the Whirinaki Wander

Back - Whirinaki Wander club 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 2016

by David Tomlinson



As the branch closes in on the end of the financial year and the AGM looms, I have been reflecting on how the branch operates, how it serves its members needs and what is needed to boost membership numbers, and involvement of members in the branch's activities.

As a member of barely a year's standing myself, I have been told of all sorts of reasons our branch has almost 100 full members, yet seems to only operate for the benefit of about a third of that number. Some have said people belong to get cheaper insurance for the classics, but I am not sure that is a valid reason. I have all my cars insured outside of the VCC umbrella, and consider those insurances worthwhile and very inexpensive.

You will see a comment elsewhere in this issue stating that our member involvement in an activity was low due to two activities being close together. Really? Since the 13th of December our club has only had one Sunday run. Does having two runs only a few days apart really affect attendance after such a long period of inactivity? With the clash with a neighbouring branch's annual rally, and other concerns raised with me over the last month, the March club run will be a shorter afternoon run, giving the best opportunity for members to take part. Details elsewhere in this issue. I still like the idea of a longer "poker run", but this can be looked at later in the year, perhaps in tandem with another nearby branch.

I suspect the main reason our members don't take part in any or all of the activities put in front of them is more generally that they just don't see the value in taking part, for whatever reason. Our first branch run of the year was very well advertised in advance, was well promoted at the club night beforehand, but only 14 cars made it to the start line, and although 3 cars joined and we finished with 16 at the end due to a breakdown. Over 80 branch members did not take part.

Moving forward, I believe we need better advance planning of Sunday runs, which was lacking throughout 2015 due to our vacant Club Captain position. Marketing the run and what it will entail and why it will be fun would boost

support, surely. In my first few weeks in the role as Chairman I spoke to a number of members, none of whom I knew personally, asking them what they thought was important for a good club rally or run. I got very little common ground in the answers. Some said more country road driving, some said shorter distances, some said less questions, less competitiveness, others wanted longer runs.

The branch committee does try hard to keep things operating, which is very challenging when one considers that membership levies are \$10 per annum per branch member, and the committee and some of its sub-committees have to concentrate more of its precious time on raising the rest of the money the club needs to operate each year, than it does on trying to provide what it is the membership wants and expects.

I guess all of the above could be considered a “rant”, but consider it more a poor attempt to have all branch members, short or longer term, of any age, to consider how you support the club in the new 2016 year and beyond. Last year’s AGM saw half a dozen people press-ganged into forming a committee, and the branch must consider itself lucky that it worked out and the branch has survived. It was perilously close to going to a Special General Meeting to consider winding up.

I would be very keen to hear from those branch members whose only involvement in the last two years has been to pay your national sub and receive your branch and national magazines. What, if anything, can the branch do to include you in our future activities? Best still, turn up at this year’s AGM and let us know what you want from your club!

On a positive note, Classic Car magazine published a one page article with colour pictures about the January Lakefront Car Show. Other media also supported the event, and all of them want to do more next year. With this in mind, and keeping its low key approach to the fore, I think a significant amount of help in promoting the event will be possible for next year, both for gaining new exhibitors and visitors. I learnt a lot from this year’s event, and I think with a little bit more effort, nothing too serious, we can really make the 5th year a boomer.

Lastly, in my 50 years, I have never crank started a car, even though I had a couple of older cars with back-up crank start systems. I finally broke my “crank virginity” on the February club run when I started up the Skelton’s Austin 7. I now almost wonder if we really need electric starter motors...

Our Dunedin Adventure Trip

by Jill & David Philps



We left home 8:30am, 5th January all excited by a trip that had been in the planning for two years. We had booked a powered camp site at Dunedin Holiday Park in May 2014 with plans to purchase a 'Pop Top' camper to tow down behind the Valiant.

A camper was bought, some modifying done to accommodate a permanent double bed as I didn't want to have to make up a bed every day. A small fridge bought (\$21 on TradeMe) and we were all set.

We met up with Cliff and Shona just out of town and we were on our way to Paraparaumu for the night, at Cliff and Shona's friends. Our ferry crossing was 2:30pm the next day so it was a relaxed start. A smooth sailing and we were in the South Island camping the first night at Picton 'Top 10'. Next morning off to Blenheim to check out the Aviation Heritage Centre at Omaka and the British Car

memorabilia. Well worth a visit. From here we stayed at Richmond then onto Hanmer via Lewis Pass, and what a crappy day it was. Heavy rain slowing us to around 40mph most of the day until about half an hour before arriving at the Springs in sunshine. A lovely soak in the Hot Pools and we soon forgot about the day's driving. Next day onto Geraldine for the night. Sunday the 10th was a sunny day of R and R. From there straight through to Dunedin and set up camp for the next 10 days.



We had booked the train ride to Omarau and back on the Saturday. 3 engines and 18 carriages with a lot of people dressed in their 1930's gear, an enjoyable day had by all. The weather in Dunedin was not summer temperatures. Waking up to 4 deg with highs of around 14/15 deg, and rain. However when it mattered on the public day, Sunday, it behaved and did not rain until the day was over resulting a turnout of around 12,000 people through the gates.

We did the long touring runs, travelling some very scenic, very high country back roads, the trade off being miles of metal roads, but it was worth it. We enjoyed all the evening's entertainment with special guests being Susanne Prentice, Tom Sharplin, Austin Powers and Marion Burns. The final dinner was at the "Forsyth Barr Stadium". We were all very special as this was a first for a sit down dinner on grounds of this venue.



There were something like 140 overseas entrants with a large number from Canada and Australia and many of them already making plans to be here for Taranaki 2021.

We had a great time touring around the area.

Many thanks to Dunedin for a great event.



Arrived back home on Sunday 31st to gardens full of weeds, hay paddocks and lawns in need of a cut, but who cares.

We had a wonderful time. Our little camper did all that was expected even with the weather as wet as it was which helped to keep accommodation costs to a minimum.

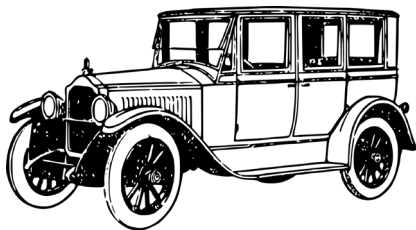
Now looking forward to Taranaki 2021.

Jill and David - Valiant and Pop Top



Whirinaki Wander (Minginui Meander) 21 February 2016

Your Roving Reporter



Thirteen vehicles left the club rooms on Sunday 21st February, in fine sunny driving conditions, for a 100km trip to the Mangamate Waterfalls, stopping off firstly at the Kangaroo Forest Village and secondly at the Murupara Village square, where three more vehicles from the Steiner family joined us for the final third leg to the waterfalls.



The call was for as many vintage-veteran entrants as possible, but unfortunately only 4 made the trip in total. As the return trip totalled something close to 200ks their attendance should be recorded to acknowledge their perseverance and trust in their vehicles.



Evergreen stalwarts Bill and Adelai Skelton in their trusty 1929 Austin 7, started from Rotorua with Albert Litten and his 1930 Chrysler and Brian Old in his 1918 Buick Roadster which has been restored to completely original specifications.

They were joined at Murupara by Alf and Margaret Steiner driving their 1930 Ford Model A. At lunch break there was a 21 question quiz of a non technical nature, and a people choice question. The results of which will be announced at March Club Meeting. The picnic spot by the river had recently been flooded after torrential rain, and on leaving the backup vehicle got stuck and had to be manually pushed out (how embarrassing).



Before leaving the area we did a circuit round the old Minginui forest village stopping for a photo shoot outside the old deserted store and post office. After all this it was “home James and don’t spare the horses”.

Which was interrupted by a short detour to view Alf and Margaret Steiners vintage tractor collection and also Eric and Betty Steiners classic car and beer can collection.

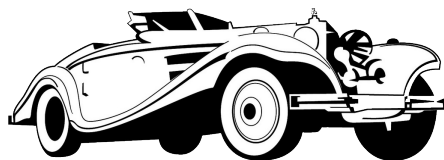
There was a good cross section of vintage and classic tin but strangely enough my pick for the day was not a ford although I must confess I was surely tempted. My lips until the March Meeting are therefore sealed.



Mid-Week Run

24 February 2016

by Bob Mackay



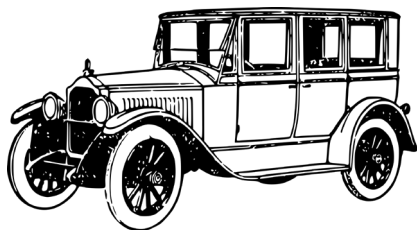
Following a number of apologies we met at the club rooms for morning tea. With the turn out being very low it was decided by those present that we would postpone the visit to Sanctuary Mountain at Maungatautari, have toasted sandwiches for tea and visit Rhubarb Café at Arapuni for lunch.

The weather was fine and sunny, the club cars had a good run, the company was great and a pleasant and enjoyable day was had by all. While we realised that some members were away it was felt that much of the low attendance was attributed to the club having a run on the previous Sunday.

Chairman's

"Birthday" Run

13 March 2016



Due to clashing with Taupo's annual rally, the Crankworx event in Rotorua, and not wanting to move this run back a week to affect the mid-week run, the March run will be shortened and the planned "poker run" will be put on later in the year.

The Chairman's Run will start at 1.00pm at the Clubrooms on Sunday, March 13th. This will be a shortish run, about 80km, around south western country roads, all sealed, keeping main road usage to a minimum. There will be a simple navigation rally option, and a touring only option also.

The run should only take a couple of hours and will finish up with a cuppa back at the Clubrooms, and some birthday cake!

AGM 2016

by David Tomlinson

With the 2016 branch AGM only two months away, I believe branch members and the incoming committee should look at prioritising three things in the new branch year:

The first is members willing to help run the club, obviously on the committee, but also in other areas, such as making our Wednesday club nights exciting and interesting. Failing to achieve this most basic step of our AGM will have the branch continue to struggle between AGMs, and will ultimately falter when some of the long serving people who have helped prop things up cease to do so.

Secondly, we need members who want to take part in club activities. As I am certain you can cheaply and adequately insure your classics outside of VCC membership, and can purchase or subscribe to Beaded Wheels outside membership also, what is it the 50 plus members who have not visited the branch in the last 12 months want from their membership? The branch needs to offer them activities that they wish to be involved in.

Thirdly, we need to communicate substantially better. We are in a modern world, and just because we like older cars does not mean we need to subscribe to a “Luddite” mentality. This improved contact encompasses communicating to and with our branch members, communication and interacting with other nearby VCC branches, and promoting ourselves and our activities to the outside world.

It is important that at this year’s AGM the branch members fill all the committee positions, and fill any other important vacant roles outside of the committee. Further, the membership needs to make sure the incoming committee have a broad idea of what the members want so they can consider the possibility of providing services within a fixed budget, in a manner that will encourage member involvement.

When one considers our annual income from members is around \$1000, and our branch magazine alone at considerably lower costs this last year will cost the branch over \$3000 excluding postage, it is essential that things are run tightly and beneficially from the income derived from the Swap Meet and other avenues.

There will be only 2 months between the circulation of this magazine and our 2016 AGM so now is the time to consider the next year and beyond. It is very clear from last year’s AGM that it is not best left until the meeting itself to think about things.

Upcoming Midweek Runs *by Bob Mackay*

March 23rd Midweek run

The Taupo Wander

Meet at Club Rooms 10am for morning tea before driving to points of interest north of Taupo for a picnic lunch or for those who prefer call at a café.

Window Slips

Late last year the committee decided we should have some simple “window slips” printed that members could keep in their glove boxes in case they spy a vehicle around the Rotorua area that they think might be a good candidate for a club car.

The idea is that you place the slip under their wiper blade and hopefully if the car’s owner is a local, and is interested in being part of a club of people with similar interests in older vehicles, they will make contact with the club or even attend a club night.

We have had 1000 slips printed and these will be kept at the club rooms and members are welcome to take a few on a club night to put in their glove boxes. As you use them come back for more, we would like to limit the numbers taken as they do cost money to print.

Hopefully this initiative will raise our profile and perhaps bring in a few more members. All members are encouraged to help get these out there.



We Like Your Car!

The Rotorua Vintage & Veteran Car Club would like to invite you to meet their members who share an interest and passion in vehicles such as yours.

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at our clubrooms at Neil Hunt Park just off Tarawera Rd at 7.30pm (except January).

We hold regular weekend "rallies" and mid-week drives every month to interesting places in cars ranging from old wooden spoked wheels up to cars made in the early 1980s. All marques and models at least 30 years old are welcome to join in the fun.

Come along to our friendly club night, or contact us through the website below.

rotoruvintagecarclub.org.nz
& we are on Facebook

ROTORUA VINTAGE & VETERAN CAR CLUB

OUR WEBSITE

www.rotoruvintagecarclub.org.nz

Monthly updates for events and our magazine.

We need more photos from members to upload to change its look regularly. Email photos to the Side Curtains editor.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT - March 9th

Car on Display - Vanden Plas Princess 1100



Contributions to Side Curtains

This is your magazine. It's content will only be as good as the information members submit to the editor to include. 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.

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK!

The branch has a Facebook page which has a growing number of new likes every week, with items and pictures being shared around the internet regularly.



Just search for "Rotorua Vintage Car" in Facebook to find the page. Press "like" and you will automatically get notifications of posts on the page.

Efforts will be made to post photos from events and runs, club notices and other items to help members and prospective new members alike.

COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
March	9	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	13	Chairman's Run	1.00pm	Clubrooms	8
	23	Midweekers Run	10.00am	Clubrooms	10
April	13	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
May	11	Club Night / AGM	7.30pm	Clubrooms	

BUY, SELL, SWAP...

1948 Chevrolet sedan

In good condition, shed stored, but started up and driven occasionally.

Open to offers

Contact John 348 7975 (a/h)

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.



Classic camper - this is genuinely on the road in NZ!

Whirinaki Wander



