

SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND
VETERAN CAR CLUB

MAY 2019



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www.rvvcc.org.nz

Night Run - April 2019



SIDE CURTAINS - May 2019

The magazine of the ROTORUA
VINTAGE AND VETERAN CAR CLUB

Clubrooms: Neil Hunt Park, Tarawera Rd, Rotorua

Postal: PO Box 2014, Rotorua

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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
Ph 021 731 678

Treasurer - Terry Fitzpatrick

Club Captain - vacant

Asst. Club Captain - Kevin Scott

Committee
Bob Mackay
John Peters
Terry Wadsworth
Ronald Mayes
Phil Monk

Mid Weekers - Bob Mackay

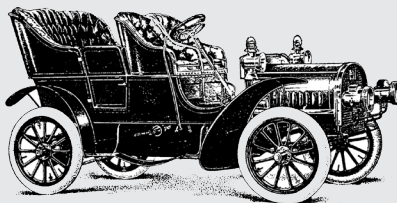
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Beaded Wheels - Ronald Mayes

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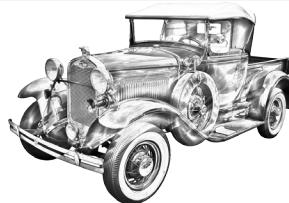
Cover Photos

Front - Rolls-Royce & Bentley club visit

Back - April Club Night

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

- April 2019

by David Tomlinson



April was a slightly slower month in our household. No museum visits, no weddings, but we did the Night Run and took part in a 3 day event with the Rolls-Royce & Bentley club which included lunch at our clubrooms. That lunch was overwhelmingly great, the visitors could barely eat half of it. Amazing what Angie and the crew did! Some of the surplus from this lunch was used to buy plates we can use for future events.

Our car in the room for April was half car, half bike, and accordingly had 3 wheels. It was very interesting to learn more about these modern vehicles that you see more frequently.

April's Night Run saw us travel around Lakes Okeraka and Tarawera and enjoy a meal before and pudding afterwards.

May's club night is our AGM and is a very important event on our annual calendar. We may see some small changes on the committee, and as usual we need a Club Captain! It is an important night to set the flavour of our activities for the next year or so, and is the best forum for you to have your say about your club.

In June we have our Prize Giving which will likely follow a touring run, and then we have the Swap Meet in July and the Sulphur City Rally in August. Lets hope the fine weather we have had so far this year blesses these events, particularly the Swap Meet. Then its back to our usual club runs from September.

I hope we get a good turn out for the AGM, those that put in the hard yards to keep the branch operating will appreciate your guidance, input and perhaps even your assistance.

FROM THE SECRETARY

by
Dennis Whimp



AGM

There are no Notices of Motion received by me (the secretary) for the AGM. However if you want to, as part of general business, raise issues that will improve any aspects of the branch, feel free to do so.

I have received nominations for five committee members but not for a Club Captain. There are vacancies for one more committee member and a Club Captain. If no Club Captain comes forward, the suggestion has been made that there could be multiple deputy club captains to share the workload. We already have four names who would be happy to share the duties. And I am sure that could expand if anyone else wanted to participate.

The ladies from the Rotorua branch of Creative Fibre group (the New Zealand Spinning, Weaving and Woolcrafts Society Ltd) will be at the AGM for the first twenty minutes before the AGM proper starts to explain what they do. As major users of the clubrooms, it will be good to hear them. They have been excellent so far and have brought their own vacuum cleaner which we are able to use. Because of their regular use, they raise any maintenance items that need our attention. Examples include switches not working, the electric range being a health and safety issue (we replaced it) and roof leaks during heavy rain (now fixed).

Clubroom Hire

From time to time the committee is asked if the clubrooms can be hired out. We have followed past committee's precedent. The clubrooms may be hired out to outside groups at the committee's discretion for a minimum fee of \$50 and providing a branch member is part of the group and in attendance. Where it is for a

branch member's family function, the charge may be waived. This is on the understanding that there is a complete cleanup afterwards and our memorabilia is kept safe. It is interesting to note that Palmerston North must have had some large functions at their clubrooms. They have put a minimum charge of \$225 for the hire including their own members to cover the costs of commercial cleaning the next day.

Clubroom Maintenance

After the Rolls-Royce & Bentley luncheon visit, a group of us discussed the need for constant maintenance to the clubrooms to keep them looking sharp. Bill Skelton offered to waterblast the railing fence in front of the clubhouse, which he has done and it looks brand new. The ramp got the same treatment. Thank you Bill from all of us. At the same time, Bob Mackay and I hacked away and removed a lot of the vegetation from behind the building. It had grown out over the roof. Later in the year we will have a working bee to really attack the vegetation and other maintenance works. I will keep you informed.

Farewell to Andrew Thompson

Andrew has shifted off to New Plymouth taking his three Humber Super Snipes with him. He had just got one registered and we were looking forward to having it in the room but that is not to be. Maybe we will see it at the 2021 International Festival of Historic Motoring.



MARCH MID-WEEK RUN *by Ronald Mayes*

This run was ably organised by Maurie Crowe. It began with morning tea at the clubrooms, at which Angie entertained us with a very interesting account of her participation in the North Island Club Captain's Tour earlier in the month. Her Morris Minor Traveller performed very well indeed with a full load of passengers and their luggage on the long journey which took them to Hawkes Bay and then across to Wanganui, much of it not on main highways - her shiny car soon became covered in pumice dust on the many miles of back roads which they took.

We then took to our cars and made our way south on the busy SH5, left at the Murupara road junction and left again to drive past Lake Okaro and end up at the Waimangu Valley café for lunch where a long table was reserved for us.

Conversation flowed and time was getting on so Maurie suggested that Gloria and I set off ahead of the rest so our host for the afternoon wouldn't be wondering what had happened to us. A brisk run back to town in the Triumph 2500TC in light traffic saw us arrive at Dennis Whimp's place in Ranolf St in short order and it wasn't long before the couple in a Corolla rather than their usual Austin 7 arrived after another quick run. We had a pleasant time sitting on the porch until the rest of the party eventually arrived. Dennis then took us all into his workshop and gave a very entertaining talk about his 1930 Buick Model 44 roadster and its restoration. It should not be too long now before we see it on the road. Amongst the many anecdotes we heard was the hilarious one about the local colour-blind car painter: apparently an MG had been taken to him to be painted in green, it came back red. And a Ford Model A received a bright orange finish. The painter's work, though, was of high quality and the secret seemed to be to supply him with the paint to be used.

We were then invited into Dennis' wonderful 1940s house which is filled with all sorts of treasures, notably his books - not just everyday books, he collects early ones and by early I mean going back to the 16th century! A hand-written one from the early 1500s was too difficult for me to read, but later printed copies were easier to follow once we got used to the spelling and letter shapes of the times. A much later treasure (well, 1870s) is a first edition of Buller's Birds of New Zealand with its hand-coloured illustrations.

So ended a much-enjoyed day. thanks to Maurie for the organisation, Angie for her talk and Dennis for his hospitality.

North Island Club Captain's "End of the Summer Wine" Tour

Part Two 7-15 March 2019 - *by Angie Brunton*

Tuesday 12 March Waipukarau - Palmerston North

We left the motel at 9.45am and travelled to the Pukeora Sanatorium lookout before heading in the direction we had arrived from yesterday, then it was on through rural roads with good views of the surrounding countryside and lovely old farm homesteads. We passed the upper reaches of the Manawatu River and then into Dannevirke for lunch at Totara College where the cars were admired by the children. After leaving Dannevirke we headed towards the Ruahine Ranges (which brought back memories for Des of his deer stalking days) then back to cross SH2 and on to Mangatainoka. We stopped at Tui HQ for a cold drink before visiting Jim Chalmers' collection of Austins. It was then through Pahiatua and onto the Pahiatua track over the hills into the Manawatu then via Ashurst to the Manawatu branch clubrooms for BBQ dinner.

Wednesday 13 March Palmerston North- Wanganui

Today was wet at the start of the day we travelled towards Ashhurst before heading through to Colyton and the outskirts of Fielding and onto the Halcombe Mt Stewart road before we had a very nice morning tea at the Woolshed café, Sanson. We then headed to the Harrisville Speedway track very close to the Ohakea airforce base where a few cars had a turn on the track (NOT me!). We then passed through Bulls then followed SH3 towards Wanganui, then onto Marton where we had our picnic lunch at the Marton Museum & Historical Society Village. In Marton a couple of passengers in my car managed to do some retail therapy. We didn't do the afternoon section of the rally but headed straight to our motel in Wanganui. The evening meal was at the Wanganui branch clubrooms and the members had catered the meal which was most enjoyable. There were a few prizes handed out and Des was given one for being a brave man in a car full of women. We also won a prize for having the smallest car with the biggest load.

Thursday 14 March - Wanganui - Taumarunui

A later start today as we were in no hurry to get to Taumarunui we had a very leisurely drive via the Paraparua with a stop at Raetahi for lunch. We bought freshly dug potatoes and carrots and had a home cooked meal at our motel. We had time for a little retail therapy and I was able to check out the Lost World rail trip which I am taking a group on in November.

Friday 15 March Taumarunui - Rotorua

Breakfast at a café in Taumarunui before heading home.

I was very happy with the way the traveller performed. I worked it out that we did over 740 miles and averaged 27mpg. We did have a squeaky spring

I think was due to the heavy load which I will need to get looked at. I was a bit apprehensive before we started because as a city girl I am not very experienced at driving on metal roads. In Dunedin where I learnt to drive roads are sealed and I am very good at hill starts which came in handy the couple of times I had to stop and change into low gear as my double de-clutching skills leave a lot to be desired. My travelling companions did say I improved as the week progressed.

A great tour with good company. Thanks to all concerned for the organisation which went in to the planning of this wonderful journey.

April Car in the Room - CanAm Spyder 3 Wheeler

For something different, Neil Handley displayed and explained that his new three wheel motorcycle was actually a car in New Zealand and you needed a car licence to drive it. You also didn't need to wear a crash helmet, although he always did.

The Can Am Spyder is made by Bombadier Recreational Products of Canada who specialise in snowmobiles. The Spyder is a similar configuration to a snowmobile with rear wheel drive and two front wheels for steering. The body stays upright when cornering, so the rider has to lean. The motor is a 1330cc in line 3 cylinder. All controls are electronic. It is a manual change. Because of the power, it is sold detuned and at the first service there is a retune to standard. VTNZ were a bit foxed when it went in for a WOF as it didn't seem to be either a motorbike or car.

Neil told us he hadn't chosen a three wheeler originally, but his similar sized two wheeler decided to slide out on a corner with his wife on as a pillion. He didn't go into the discussion that followed, but three wheels is the result which he says is now better than two.



April Midweekers

The April midweek run was so popular, we have contributions from the members about the run!

April Midweekers by Jenny Gill

Wednesday April 24th turned out to be a fine, warm day. Twenty-two club members arrived at the club rooms at 9.45am for morning tea. We then drove over the Mamaku Range, through Matamata and onto Waharoa for lunch at the Cheese Factory Cafe. John & I had not been here before but the food was good and they also had a large range of cheeses and other goodies that the public could buy.

After lunch we carried on to Waitoa to visit Jan Shoemark's home to see her very large collection of hand-made mosaic glass pictures and artifacts. They were all very beautiful and she spends many hours perfecting each item. The colours and designs were amazing; such a talented lady!

After viewing everything, Jan gave us an informative talk and showed us how she goes about making the pictures, including how the glass becomes coloured and how it is cut into shapes. She also makes all the picture frames herself, some are suitable for hanging outside and some for inside. It was a really interesting afternoon, thank you Jan for welcoming us into your amazing home.

We left Waitoa and made our way home, with some people stopping for afternoon tea on the way. Thank you Angie for organising today's great club run.

April Midweekers by Ronald Mayes

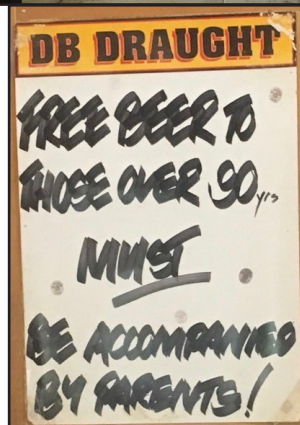
Meeting at our clubrooms on 24 April was the Rotorua Triumph Club? (5 Triumphs), the Rotorua British Car Club? (the Triumphs plus Morris Minor Traveller, Rover, Panther - and there would have been a 1929 Austin 7 but for the length of the outing.) No, a BMW and a Holden were there as well, so it must have been the Rotorua VVCC!

Ably organised by Angie Brunton, the group drove in heavy traffic

to Waharoa for lunch at the Cheese Factory cafe (great location!) before carrying on to Waitoa to visit the home and workshop of glass artist Jan Shoemark. Glass art of every possible description graced every square inch of vertical surface. She gave us a very interesting introduction to her craft, making glass cutting look so easy (it isn't.) Amongst the necessary tools of her trade, she said, was the ever-present packet of Elastopast dressings.

Afternoon tea for some in Matamata, then home in even heavier traffic. A certain Triumph 2500 used most of its 106bhp to ease past a Minor Traveller on the Mamaku Hill, only to be held up in a queue behind a slow, dithery driver in a modern car (not one of us) the rest of the way, and we arrived at the Ngongotaha roundabout just 2 seconds before the Minor. Another well-organised run enjoyed by all.

The photos below were taken by the Mackays during their South Island sojourn in March.



A 1965 BENTLEY SINGLE SEAT RACING CAR?

from Ronald Mayes

Surely not! Rolls-Royce forbade Bentley from involvement in racing when they took over the company in 1931.

But a 1965 Bentley T-Series single seater exists. It was built between 1973 and 1976 on Silver Shadow Special Chassis 2, one of two development, prototype and exhibition monocoque chassis for the Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow/Bentley T Series car (like our Chairman's black 1968 car.) After showing off its new technology around the world it was returned to Crewe in 1973.

Barry Eastick, a driver of vintage Bentley racing cars, heard about it and persuaded R-R chairman David Plastow to let him build a single-seater incorporating the latest R-R technology. R-R supplied chassis, engine, gearbox and brakes and a body was built which looked very much like typical racing cars of the time, but with that Bentley badge on the nose. A supercharger was fitted and the car ran at Bentley Silverstone in 1976. But the engine was too powerful for the gearbox and its layshaft broke. It led the pack in a 1977 race but was involved in a pile-up in the rain which damaged the front end. Eastick gave up racing after that but the car was repaired (minus supercharger but plus mudguards and silencer for road use) and ended up in the USA. Eastick's son managed to buy it back in 2016 and began a full rebuild. It should be back on the track for the Bentley centenary this year. (Source: Classic & Sports Car, October 2018)



CLUB NIGHT & AGM - May 8th

Neil Hunt Park - 7.30pm

AGM & presentation by the FIBRE GROUP

Followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

Upcoming Midweek Runs *by Ronald Mayes*

May Midweekers - 29th May 2019

Meet at clubrooms for morning tea at 9.45am, then a short run to see a place of interest, lunch at a café then a drive on to another interesting location.

May Club Run - Sunday May 19th

NOTE: One week later than usual due to Mothers Day.

Meet at the clubrooms by 1.30pm for a short run and back to clubrooms for afternoon tea. If wet we will have something in the clubrooms. See you there.

Library News *by Roger Couchman*

Time to vacate that cold Garage and catch up with the latest motoring books donated by Terry FitzPatrick. These are:

Bathurst 1985/86 - Barry Naismith

LE Mans 24 heures Du Mans

Porsche - Jacky Ickx

Australian Motoring Year 1982-83

Classic Sports Cars - Paul Badre' and Alberto Martinez

The Villiers Engine - BE Browning

Displayed on the Library table.

COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
May 2019	8	AGM / Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	19	Club Run	1.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	29	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	11
Jun 2019	12	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	16	Run & Prize Giving	TBA	TBA	
	26	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
Jul 2019	10	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	14	Swap Meet	6.45am	Paradise Valley	
	24	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
Aug 2019	14	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	24	Sulphur City Rally	8.30am	Clubrooms	
	28	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
Sep 2019	11	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	15	Club Run	8.30am	Clubrooms	
	25	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	

www.rotoruaVintageCarClub.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.

March Midweekers



April Midweekers (Triumph benefit?)



Bill checking out the CanAm before Adelai goes for a spin

