

SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND
VETERAN CAR CLUB

MAY/JUNE 2024



WE ARE ON FACEBOOK !

www.rvvcc.org.nz

April Club Night



April Club Run



SIDE CURTAINS - May/June 2024

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 - Hayden Duncan
rotorua@vcc.org.nz 021 939 705

Treasurer - Dennis Whimp

Club Captain
Terry Wadsworth

Asst. Club Captain
Fleur Tomlinson

Committee
Ronald Mayes
Neville Harper
Geoff Nitz
Alan Judd
John Newson

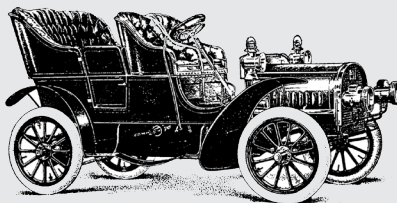
Mid Weekers - vacant

Side Curtains Editor - David Tomlinson
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Beaded Wheels - Ronald Mayes

Librarian - Dennis Kenny
Librarian - Ronald Mayes
Flowers - Doreen Green

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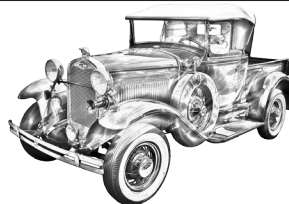


Cover Photos

Front - Terry Fitzpatrick and his BMW
Back - May Picnic 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

- April/May 2024

by David Tomlinson



I start by recording the passing of Terry Fitzpatrick at the end of April. Terry and Sandra were very conspicuous members over a long period of time in their immaculate little red BMW 2002. I would like to pass on our branch's condolences to Sandra and their family.

I would also like to apologise that there was no May edition of Side Curtains, but when it had to go to the printers a lot of important information was not available to the editor. This double issue covers April and May. In April we had Ronald Mayes' Princess 1100 as our car in the room. Our April run was around the top of the lake to enjoy a picnic lunch hosted at the Judd's home in Hamurana. Thank you Alan and George for welcoming us with such perfect weather.

Our May meeting was a little underwhelming, we had no car in the room, and a very low attendance, only 17 members present. We did have a discussion about how we could improve interest in club nights, club runs and the branch activities in general. This was a very worthwhile discussion.

As our May run was to be the Horopito trip, which was ultimately cancelled due to a lack of interest, at short notice a number of members met for a picnic lunch at the Tree Trust in Centennial Park. Perfect weather, amazing autumn trees all around us, and substantial interest in our cars from the many other visitors there that day. I am sure all who attended had a great time. Later in this issue you will see Mark Davies' article

on what could have/should have been the Horopito trip.

Regarding keeping members informed, if you don't get emails about our events, let Hayden know so he can ensure you are on our branch emailing list. Also, follow the branch Facebook page for more immediate notices, cancellations etc.

Our June meeting will have new member Mario's Ford Model A Phaeton as the car in the room, and will also be our AGM. Our financial reports show we are living a little beyond our means, and it would be good to broaden the discussion started at the May meeting about how to encourage a more enthusiastic crowd on club nights and better attendance on club runs. We also need to put our committee in place for the coming year. A few wheels have wobbled over the last 12 months, the incoming committee will be tasked with assisting others that keep the branch running.

Our annual Swap Meet is barely a month away. This most important of all our activities each year needs all hands on deck. If you have not found a spot to help on the volunteers board please talk to Alan Judd about where help is still needed.

The Sulphur City Rally scheduled for the end of August needs to be cobbled together very quickly now. A number of people have offered to look after various aspects of the event, but we do need a team leader to make sure everything is going to plan, and to ensure the event will be a success. I am hoping we can finalise the organising group on AGM night.

Things I would like us all to think about and discuss on AGM night is what we want to do, what is exciting and fun, what is boring and repetitive, what do we need to stop doing, what do we need to do more of. See you all there.

Horopito 2.0 *by Mark Davies*

Having not been a club member for that long, the planned weekend Horopito trip was a good opportunity to join in on a good run with my son Matt..... as we'd be using his car! It was disappointing when the trip was cancelled but after a bit of discussion we decided that as the motel was booked, we would go anyway. In fact we booked a second room and my wife Andrea plus Matt's partner Emma joined us. Thanks must go to Hayden for suggesting such a good run although with only two cars, we did adapt it slightly. We all left home early Saturday morning, Matt & Emma from Auckland in his XJS and Andrea & I from Rotoiti in Andrea's Fiat 595 Abarth with an agreed rendezvous of brunch at Repleat in Taupo.

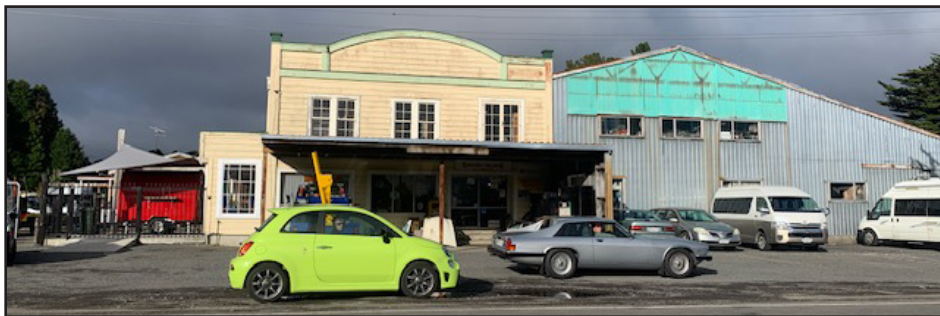


Luckily it was a really sunny morning as Matt had forgotten that he didn't have a working heater so after the early start, brunch in the sun was a good opportunity to thaw out! No heater & travelling for an overnight stay at the mountain was quite a discussion point but, onwards to The Chateau

for a photo then to Smash Palace. Over the years we have passed by many times & even walked the old viaduct but never visited Smash Palace.

What a place! I'm not sure how it is allowed to operate but I think that all car lovers would agree that it's good that it is. From the various film & television appearances, most would be familiar with the piles of old cars & rusty wrecks outside but there are masses of parts under cover and you are free to walk around everywhere. Quite fascinating.





Further down the road we passed the Tangiwai Disaster memorial which we have visited before so it was on to Ohakune to find our rooms for the night at Kings Accommodation. We followed Hayden's suggestion and walked down the road to the Powder Keg for a beverage and dinner then back up the hill - much darker & cooler by now but a warm motel room awaited.

Sunday morning was beautifully clear with a fantastic view of the mountain from our door... but it was cold and the cars had a good coating of ice. With no heater in Matt's car we cleared off the ice then headed down into town to find breakfast where we were able to leave the cars parked in the sun to warm up. Before leaving town we stopped at the Carrot Adventure Park - really very good but probably better with younger children! We then separated, Matt & Emma headed for home whilst Andrea & I went in the direction of Waiouru.

It was good to see plenty of people visiting the museum but on this occasion we decided to just have a coffee in the Mess Tent café and explore the exhibits another day.

The weather was still beautifully clear giving us a great view of the mountains as we headed towards home - not a lot of snow yet but apparently it is supposed to be a good season. Everyone got home safely after a good weekend of motoring. I don't have an older vehicle down here at present but Andrea's little Fiat Abarth didn't miss a beat and keeps a smile on your face... plus we had a working heater. Next time hopefully there will be a few more cars & people.



In the Fiat we covered around 560km whereas, Matt in the Jaguar travelled about 800km for the weekend and averaged 10.3 litres/100km.

April Midweekers *by Dennis Brown & Jen Cole*

Today's run couldn't have had a better foundation. The day dawned fine and sunny. The drive from Rotorua to meet with participants at Te Teko (Texas), was delightful. Autumn shades framing glorious lakes and mountain views. Les & Thelma had organised an exciting program for us.

First, a drive and a short stop at the Matahina Dam and artificial lake formed behind the largest boulder dam in the North Island. Then on to the Aniwhenua dam. For those that are interested, there is some fascinating information in the attached link.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matahina_Power_Station

From Matahina Dam on the Rangataiki River to the Aniwhenua Lake and Dam for a photo op. Onwards to Murapara and the De' Café for lunch. From Murapara it was a 15min drive towards Kaiangaroa, but first, a stop along a tree lined road to take a 5-10min walk through the pines to visit an extraordinary site. Carved in the soft stone under an overhang of rock, amazing rock carvings are from a very much earlier time. Earlier I suspect than the reputed arrival of who we know as Maori, the 1300's. Despite consulting The Net, there is very little written about this site and it's moss covered carvings. Thankfully a sturdy steel mesh barrier has been erected to stop vandalism. The large information board is now illegible due to a fungal coating. If you are interested in previously scarcely known, pre European history of New Zealand, the following link and it's additional chapters are interesting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ktxAlsh2h4>

Next stop Kaiangaroa Village. This was a nostalgic visit for Les and Thelma, as Les arrived as a young boy, with his family from Canada and his formative years were spent here and where they met. It must have been a dynamic time in the country's history with the emerging forestry industry. Sadly, the settlement now is showing signs of stagnation and decay, though lawns are mown and many houses are still occupied. We were entertained by a succession of mini motorbike passes by young children no older than 7 years, often three on the bike and riding with not helmet or hands. Thank you Les & Thelma for a brilliant day and for the work you had done to make it so enjoyable. Photos on the next page.

April Midweekers



May Midweekers *by Dennis Whimp*

It was fine but cold when we left home for the meet spot at Te Puia carpark although the rain radar showed a southerly rain front about to hit, which it did with a vengeance just before we left Te Puia. Organisers Bob and Pat Mackay were there in their modern which had a good heater. I arrived in my recently acquired Volvo 960 Royal long wheelbase sedan that had just come out of the paint shop. I thought it would be great to give it a first club run and see if there were any leaks.

Jim and Ralph were my passengers. Les and Thelma from the coast were there in their Jaguar XK8 coupe and Roger and Diana arrived in the Stag. Geoff and Christine were in a modern. We picked up Shona and Pat on the way also in a modern. Cars with heaters certainly had an attraction.

Bob had plotted an interesting run, some of which I hadn't been on before. Over to Kinleith, then on Old Taupo Road which ran all the way from the back of the mill to Arapuni through beautiful rolling green farmland. The road that ran past the mill was a good reminder of what a potholed road was really like. So many potholes that there was more metal than seal. 15 km/h was too fast. But away from the mill where the only heavy trucks were milk tankers, the roads were in great order.

Rhubarb Café had tasty toasted sandwiches which were ideal as cold rain squalls kept sweeping across outside. We were joined by a good number of cold and wet retired trampers who had done some of the River Trail. My plan was to walk the swing bridge after lunch but those icy squalls and strong winds made the warm Volvo much more attractive. Thanks Bob for a well thought out run.

Notice of Motion for AGM 2023

I move that the branch levy remains the same for the new financial year at \$30 per full member.

Moved by Dennis Whimp, Seconded by David Tomlinson

April Car in the Room *by Ronald Mayes*

I was asked to bring my Vanden Plas Princess 1100 along for an update on its history. Well, not much had happened since I last showed the car some years ago, but last year I did start some renovation work on its woodwork. I got as far as stripping the old, cracked and opaque varnish off the door cappings. Sun and moisture over many decades had attacked it. Strippers wouldn't touch it but I found gentle heat from my old Black and Decker heat gun did the trick, curling up the old varnish so I could lift it off (very, very carefully - it is very thin and easily damaged) with a Stanley knife blade.

I intended to remove the panels and refinish them, with many thin coats of modern polyurethane gloss finish, using my modeller's airbrush. But the humid summer put me off (and my motto "put off until tomorrow what need not be done today - you may have learned to do a better job by then") and they still await refinishing. Medical matters also put me out of action on a couple of occasions. Finally will come the dashboard and, while it is out, an auto electrician will hopefully find the gremlins lurking in the wiring. The picnic tables I will not touch - they are fine. I could have gone on for hours talking about the car, and the Vanden Plas company, but I noticed one visitor had nodded off so I decided I had said enough and I had better not bore everyone to sleep!

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Rotorua Vintage & Veteran Car Club Inc

The Branch AGM will be held at 7.30pm on 12th June 2024 at the Rotorua VCC Clubrooms, Neil Hunt Park, Rotorua.

Agenda items will include:

Apologies, Minutes of last year's AGM, Chairman's Report, Financial Report, Election of Officers, General Business

Only financial members may vote. Nomination papers are available from the club Secretary on request, and at the AGM meeting.

Elections will be held for the following positions:

Chairperson, Branch Club Captain, Assistant Club Branch Captain, Secretary, Treasurer, committee member (between 3 and 6 may be elected)



Rotorua Vintage & Veteran Car Club
proudly present the



***The 43rd Annual
Central North Island
Swap Meet &
Car Show Spectacular***

**SUNDAY, 14TH JULY 2024
PARADISE VALLEY RACEWAY
7.00am - 2.00pm**



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

**Admission - Seller's vehicle and driver \$10 per site
All others - \$5 per person (Accompanied children FREE)**



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

AGM & CLUB NIGHT - June 12th

Neil Hunt Park - 7.30pm

Car In The Room: Ford Model A

Followed by tea and coffee.

June Prize Giving Run Sunday, 23rd June

Meet at the clubrooms at 1.30pm for a short scenic drive followed by light refreshments and prize giving at the club rooms.

BLISSFUL PHOTOGRAPHY & OCTANE FIX ONLINE PRESENTS..

TAURANGA

Motorfest

2024

2ND
NOVEMBER
2024
10AM-2PM



**PUBLIC
ENTRY
GOLD
COIN**

CAR ENTRY - \$10
**SECURES PREMIER SPOT IN THE
SHOW & ENTRIES INTO THE PRIZE
DRAWS & RAFFLES**

CALLING ALL CAR ENTHUSIASTS!

At this unique exhibition, you'll witness a spectacular display of vintage, classic & modern automotive masterpieces as well as some special guests!

**TAURANGA CROSSING MALL
2 TAURIKURA DRIVE,
TAURIKO**

**REGISTRATIONS
& MORE INFO:**
taurangamotorfest@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
June 2024	12	Club Night & AGM	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	23	Prize Giving Run	1.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	TBA	Midweekers	TBA	TBA	
July 2024	10	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	14	Swap Meet	early!	Paradise Valley	10
	TBA	Midweekers	TBA	TBA	
Aug 2024	14	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	TBA	Midweekers	TBA	TBA	
	31	Sulphur City Rally	8am	Clubrooms	
Sept 2024	11	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	TBA	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
	TBA	Midweekers	TBA	TBA	

www.rvcc.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.

“A Police Escort”



I knew it would have to happen sometime. “UNDER WRAPS” - to a new home in Auckland. Upsetting to see it go, but I believe to a good place to the new owner with Austin interests.

Bill & I have had fun in the Austin Chummy (not to mention the scary times). Covered many miles over good roads, not so good roads, ups and downs and Chummy never let us down (if it did Bill knew what to do and off we'd go again) but we didnt have much more than a puncture. Chummy's specialty was gymkanas, loved them was so much fun. After 34 years time has come to say Good Bye to Chummy & the Summit Cup. Adelai.



May Picnic Run

