

# SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the  
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND  
VETERAN CAR CLUB

NOVEMBER 2024



ROTORUA



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

# October 2024 Car In The Room



# October Poker Run



# SIDE CURTAINS - November 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**  
vacant

**Committee**  
Ronald Mayes  
Neville Harper  
Geoff Nitz  
Alan Judd  
John Newson

**Mid Weekers** - vacant

**Side Curtains Editor** - David Tomlinson  
rvcc.editor@gmail.com

**Beaded Wheels** - Ronald Mayes

**Library** - Dennis Kenny, Ronald Mayes

**VIC Inspectors** - Ronald Mayes, Geoff

Nitz, Hayden Duncan

**Flowers** - Doreen Green

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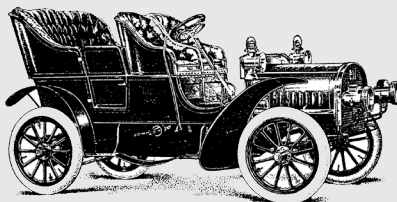
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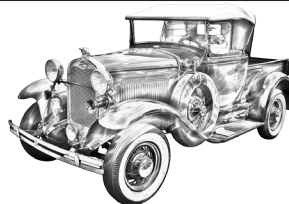
### Cover Photos

Front - Manson truck, Ross Brothers

Back - Adelai checking out truck parts

## 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

- October 2024

*by David Tomlinson*



October started with Jim Gordon's lovely Ford Capri 3.0 Ghia as the car in the room at club night. What an outstanding example it was too.

The weekend after club night saw Fleur, Alex and I go on a long 3 day run around the Coromandel in our recently acquired Silver Cloud, staying the night at both Coromandel Town and Whangamata respectively. A highlight of the trip was taking the Driving Creek Railway train just by Coromandel Town. If you have never done this, it really is a great way to spend an hour or so. This saw us miss the October Poker run, not often I miss club runs. There was also a long midweekers run at the end of the month to the Waikato.

In November, our club run will be a group run over to the Waikato VCC Swap Meet at Karapiro. As our club rooms will be in use, the muster point will be at my workshop at 14 Hall Rd, Ngongotaha, be there before 8.30am. It is OK to bring a modern, we will not be displaying cars at the event. We will also look at consolidating the cars we take over to make finding parking easier.

On the first Saturday in November, I took my 1933 Rolls-Royce up to the Tauranga Motorfest at Tauriko. The weather was much better than forecast, with 200 cars on display, and a huge crowd checking out the cars. Highlights for me were a really nice De Tomaso Pantera and a Lamborghini Aventador. The following Saturday Fleur and I hosted 40 members of the

Tauranga Jaguar Club at our workshop, showing off our cars and roping in a few others, including a neighbour's Jags and classic boat, and former branch member Ken Thomas' Citroen.

Have you paid your annual subscription to the VCC yet? If you have not received your annual subscription invoice you need to follow this up through the national office or with help from our branch secretary Hayden. It saves the committee a lot of time if members pay in a timely fashion.

In November we will be taking part in the Rotorua Lakes Council Heritage Week, with a range of vehicles displayed near the library on Saturday, 23rd. The cars we will display will include a 1930 MG, 1959 Bedford, 1963 Jaguar, 1964 Vanden Plas Princess and a 1976 Hillman Hunter. Unfortunately, due to the Council's health and safety requirements, we can only display 6 vehicles.

We will be having our annual Xmas Social on Saturday night, 7 December, at the Distinction Hotel. This will be free of charge for all members who volunteered at our Swap Meet in June. All others wishing to attend what is always a great night out will have to pay \$49, and there is a cash bar. The branch will be covering the cost of the private dining room hire. There are more details later in this issue, including contact details to let us know if you are wishing to attend.

The 12th edition of our annual Lakefront Car Show will be held on Sunday, 26 January 2025. This is Auckland Anniversary weekend, and hopefully will see a great turnout.

A reminder that I do not plan to produce any more editions of Side Curtains as editor beyond our December issue, which will be my 100th. We will need either a new editor from 2025, or to change our way to reporting/communicating to members.

## October Poker Run *by Ronald Mayes*

13 cars arrived at the clubrooms for this run, which turned out to be an enjoyable drive, as always, on the quiet roads in the Ngakuru area (but we would not have wanted to be in one area the previous night - lots of tire marks and pieces of tread were evidence of serious hoon activity.)

Two cards were picked randomly before we left the clubrooms and more at a check point en route. Some of the cars arrived before the member with the pack of cards - he had used GPS navigation aids which had taken him down the main highway (SH5) rather than the route we had been given. On we went, up that steep hill after passing the Waikite Valley thermal pools, and eventually arrived at the Waiotapu Thermal Valley where we were allocated a parking area and enjoyed a very good lunch in their cafeteria. A final card draw resulted in John Newson being the winner of a prize.

Before we left, the Thermal Valley staff asked us to drive around the loop in front of the cafeteria and entrance so they could wave and take photographs - a nice gesture and we will be back!

Back to town on SH5 gave our Triumph 2000 the chance of a good run at 100 km/h, which it doesn't often get. Despite its 238000 miles, it still sings! (The only casualty on the day was Gloria's lack of long-range visibility after a lens fell out of her glasses. Fortunately she had saved the microscopic screw which secured it to the frame and, at home, I had a screwdriver small enough to replace it. A tiny drop of superglue will mean the screw will not again fall out.)

Thanks to Neville and Carol Harper for organising the event.

# October Midweekers *by Dennis Whimp*

## Run to J Swaps Workshop, Matamata

Approximately 20 persons in a mixture of modern and club cars turned up at the Ngongotaha Fire station on the last day of October for the run over to J Swaps workshop in Matamata. And what a workshop it was. It had been recently built on the eastern outskirts of the town in what was previously farm land.

The site was around 10 hectares (25 acres) and had 8000 square metres of workshop and 13,000 square metres of storage building. Pepper Street Kitchen Café was a very spacious spot for coffee and lunch and was part of the workshop building, but with a separate entrance off Pepper Street. Our twenty contingent easily fitted into one small corner. On one wall was the largest TV screen I had ever seen. About the size of the end wall of our clubrooms. A continuous video of the Swap operations was played showing all facets of the operation including spectacular shots of major Quarry blasts. The workshop operations manager Paul then took us on a tour of the workshops and gave us an overview of all of Swaps operations.

J Swap is still a family owned and operated business that started in metal supply and has now grown into quarrying, metal supply, civil construction, stock feed and transport. They operate 12 quarries including Henderson's on Mt Ngongotaha. Their biggest quarry is on Taotaoroa Road east of Karapiro in the Waikato which produces well over half of their aggregate. They employ close to 500 staff and have over 750 machines and vehicles. Their philosophy was to refurbish and repair all items whether it is a truck or a massive loader/excavator. Included in the workshop was a machine shop that manufactures parts that were no longer available. To simplify the spare parts storage, most trucks were

Kenworths or DAFs. The parts store had shelving that must have been two storeys high and carried a massive stock of most spares for the trucks etc. Adelai got a ride to the top shelf (approx. 7 metres up) in the specially designed electric mobile elevating forklift platform.

A separate large shed had the makings of a transport museum. There were about 20 restored tractors in there along with a 1952 Morris minor and thousands of models in display cases.

The visit finished off with an excellent luncheon. Thanks Roger for arranging the visit and Diana for sorting out the pre-ordered lunches for everyone. Pepper Street Kitchen is open 7am to 2.30pm Monday to Friday and well worth a stop off even if it is only to see the big wall video.

After this approximately half the group went on to Ross Brothers Classic Car museum at Hautapu. They have a good policy of rotating cars so there are always new vehicles to see. In the machinery room they had finished refurbishing and had on display the largest mechanically driven loader in the world, a 1998 caterpillar 994. It weighed 193 tonnes and had a 78 litre engine that chewed through approximately 180 litres of diesel per hour when operating.

On the other side of the building was the largest bulldozer in the world, a 175 tonne Komatsu 575A-2 super dozer. And between these was the beautifully restored 1927 International 2 ton truck with painted on the door, G, Manson, Contractor, ph. 2696W Rotorua. Good to see your truck on display Graham. When we left Roger was having a good reminisce session with two of the Ross brothers about old trucks and even older truckers.



# October Car In The Room *by Dennis Whimp*

## 1976 Ford Capri Ghia 3.0V6 Mark 2

October's car in the room was the immaculate Capri of Jim Gordon. Jim explained that he has owned this car twice. In 1983 he first purchased it with 49,000 miles on the clock and 5 years later sold it on at 93,000 miles. At the time he was surprised at how easy it was to do 100mph when overtaking. Being a good Ford man he then had a succession of Cortinas, Escorts etc. In 2009, Jim saw the car advertised on TradeMe. It had been owned by enthusiasts who maintained the vehicle in good condition and looked after it. However the dreaded rust had made its appearance and the paint had deteriorated.

After owning it again for a few years, he decided to give it a full restoration to get it back to as new. This ended up being a 10 year process. Mark at Maisey Place Panelbeaters sorted out the rust and the car painters in White Street sorted out the paintwork. The interior of the car is original and still looks as good as when it came out of the factory. The engine has been rebuilt twice as the car has now done over 200,000 miles. Gearbox and diff are original and as far as Jim knows, have not been touched.

Capris were made/assembled England, Belgium, Germany, Australia and South Africa. All the Ghia's were made in Germany from 1974 onwards. The designer of the Capri had worked on the USA Ford Mustang and the Capri was meant to be the European equivalent. The V6 version made 138hp and had a top speed of 123 mph. The Ghia has tinted glass, auto transmission, mag wheels and a number of other refinements. The car has been 6 months on the road again. Thanks Jim. A very smart addition to the branch vehicles.

# October Midweekers



# BEADED WHEELS FOR OUR CLUB LIBRARY

I am still on the lookout for one copy each of the Beaded Wheels magazines for April-May 2024 and June-July 2024 for our club library archive.

- Ronald Mayes

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## XMAS SOCIAL DINNER NIGHT

Saturday, December 7th

Distinction Hotel, 6.30pm dinner

BBQ buffet dinner - cash bar

Only \$49 per person for a night of great food and great company! *FREE for Swap Meet volunteers!*



Please bring a \$5 gift along to exchange and your sense of humour. Wear an item of Christmas clothing too!

Please advise Fleur on 021 181 0191 or Dave on 027 412 8227 if you will attend so that catering numbers can be organised.





# Rotorua Vintage & Veteran Car Club

proudly present the



## 12th Annual Rotorua Lakefront Car Show

10am - 2pm, Sunday, 26th January 2025



### ALL CARS, BIKES & COMMERCIALS WELCOME!

Join us for the 12th edition of this fabulous event. Numbers have increased every year with almost 500 vehicles on display in 2020 and a good number in 2024.

The venue is the Rotorua Village Green at the lake front, off Whakaue Street. This is an informal car show open to any individuals or clubs to display their vehicles. Drivers and visitors will be encouraged to make a gold coin donation during the event for St Johns Ambulance.

Car clubs are welcome to display their vehicles in a group. During the day drivers and their companions can enjoy their own picnic lunch under the trees, or take advantage of local eateries, including Rotorua's "Eat Street" which is at the southern end of the show area.

Come and see Rotorua's newly developed waterfront boardwalk, as well as many other attractions. This event has been very popular with locals and holiday makers alike. Vehicles range from early vintage to almost new.

For more information email [info@rvvcc.org.nz](mailto:info@rvvcc.org.nz) or check our Facebook page for updates. See you there!



ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO ST JOHNS AMBULANCE ROTORUA

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

# CLUB NIGHT - November 13th

Neil Hunt Park - 7.30pm

Car In The Room: 1997 Volvo 960 Royal Limo

Followed by tea and coffee.

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## November Club Run

Sunday, 17th November     *by Dennis Whimp*

The run will be to the Waikato Vintage Swap Meet at Karapiro Domain, Cambridge. Entry fee \$10 per person. Meet by 8.30am at Creative Stone at 14 Hall Road, Ngongotaha (clubrooms and carpark will be busy on this morning). We will try and pool cars.

Contact Dennis Whimp on 021 731 678 if your car has seats available, or you would like a ride. If you are going separately, note that the Karapiro Dam road is closed. There is also a rowing regatta on that day, which means the shared carpark can be quite full.

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## November Midweekers

There will be a midweekers run at the end of November, more details will be sent out to members as they come to hand.



# COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
Nov 2024	13	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	17	Club Run to Karapiro	8.30am	14 Hall Rd, Ngongotaha	11
	23	Heritage Week	TBA	Rotorua Library area	
	TBA	Midweekers	TBA	TBA	
Dec 2024	7	Xmas Social	6.30pm	Distinction Hotel	9
	11	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	15	Posh Picnic	TBA	TBA	
Jan 2025	26	Lakefront Car Show	8am	Village Green	10
Feb 2025	9	Club Night	12	TBA	
	13	Club Run	16	TBA	
	TBA	Midweekers	TBA	TBA	

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

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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.

# October Midweekers



# October 2024 Midweekers

