

# SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the  
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND  
VETERAN CAR CLUB

NOVEMBER 2019



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

# Spring Tour 2019



# SIDE CURTAINS - November 2019

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  
Ph 021 731 678

**Treasurer** - Terry Fitzpatrick

**Club Captain** - vacant

**Asst. Club Captain** - vacant

**Committee**  
Bob Mackay  
Terry Wadsworth  
Ronald Mayes  
Kevin Scott  
Lois Thompson  
Neville Harper

**Mid Weekers** - Bob Mackay

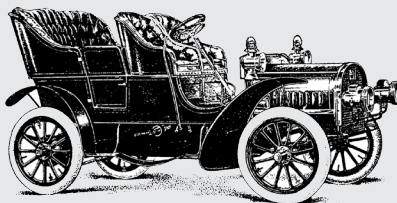
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**Beaded Wheels** - Ronald Mayes

**Librarian** - Dennis Kenny  
**Asst Librarian** - Roger Couchman  
**Asst Librarian** - John Kirkland  
**Cards/Flowers** - Doreen Green

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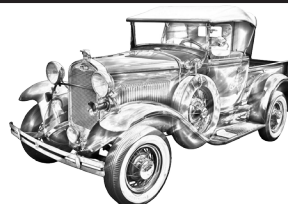
## Cover Photos

Front - Kevin O'Conner's 1935 Buick

Back - Spring Tour 2019

## 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 2019

*by David Tomlinson*



I begin sadly to report the passing of one of our Life Members, Myrtle Fleet in October. The family held a private funeral but a celebration of Myrtle's life was held at our clubrooms, with Ralph Bennett giving a tribute on behalf of the branch, and Adelai Skelton also speaking about Myrtle's involvement in the branch.

Our club night in October featured the Rowson's 1991 Jaguar XJS 4.0 with Ken telling us he bought it "sight unseen" from photos from a South Island vendor. Although it looked a different colour when it arrived, he was very pleased with it.

Our October club run went around the back of Hamurana and Kaharoa, with a picnic lunch in lovely conditions at the lakefront in Hamurana, followed by a visit to see Kevin O'Conner's 1935 Buick restoration. The car is very unusual being a standard wheelbase sedan ordered new by a NZ customer fitted with a glass limousine division between front and back. Kevin is certainly not taking any shortcuts and the car will end up better than new when it is completed.

At the time of putting this edition together the Spring Tour has just finished and a few photos have been sent through. The photos certainly make it look like it was a very relaxed affair. We will have a talk about the tour from Mike Thorne at our November club night. We will also have a talk from David Philps about their recent trip to Europe.

Neville Harper will also be bringing some spare parts along to the November club night that will be free to anyone who would like them.



After last month's club run I had to miss my first ever committee meeting as I took part in three days of the Bentley Drivers Club's centenary tour of NZ, which went from Auckland to Invercargill and back up to Ashburon over three and a half weeks. The 3 days I took part in had a lunch stop at Taupo hosted by the Mayor in mild weather, followed by two days through National Park, Taihape, and then over the "Gentle Annie" to Napier. All in atrocious weather. One couple in a 1925 open tourer with little rain protection got soaked! We had television's '7 Sharp' with us from Taupo to Taihape over 2 days, plus they had been at the start in Auckland, and after dozens of hours of footage we got about 25 seconds of the tour on their TV program! Although I was in a relatively modern 1993 Bentley Turbo R, I still was in one of the older cars on this part of the tour, the majority being less than 10 years old, a few being 2019 models.

Don't forget our Xmas Social dinner on Saturday, November 23rd. This dinner is also FREE to all those volunteers who helped at this year's Swap Meet. Further details for this great night out are later in this issue of Side Curtains. Please let us know ASAP if you are attending for catering purposes.

On 19th January 2020 we will have our Lakefront Car Show, planning and marketing for the event is underway, lets hope for good weather and aim for another growth in attendance. We might even top 350 next year.

Lastly, we left our main branch activity for November free for the "combined branch run" which we succesfully hosted in its inaugural year last year, but sadly no event has been forthcoming this year. We may try and hastily plan a run at club night. If something is arranged at short notice it will be posted on our Facebook page as soon as possible.

Our December run will likely be a picnic run. Lets hope it treats us to good weather.

# FROM THE SECRETARY

*by*  
*Dennis Whimp*



What a great full page article and photo on “Car Enthusiast David Tomlinson, Me and My Shadow” that appeared in the motoring section of a recent Herald and the Weekender. For those that missed it, I will put a copy on the noticeboard. I loved the comment about when driving the Rolls Royce Silver Shadow, “They are a bit like driving a luxury sofa around”. Well done Dave.

Just a reminder that the membership subs are due. To date 111 members (including joint) of our branch have paid but there are still a number outstanding. National has sent out reminders to those who had not paid by the 1st November. In February each year, all secretaries receive three lists, one that has the members by branch and surname order, the second is all members by surname order (including the cars they own), and the third is a list of club vehicles sorted by make and year and who owns them. I have the latest lists and am happy to email them to you for your own information. The lists are not for commercial use and do not include anyone who has asked for their information to be suppressed. If you have changed your cars in the last couple of years, please let either National or me know so we can keep the lists current.

We have the latest Interislander and Scenic Trains VCCNZ member discount offers that I can forward to you. I will put a copy on the noticeboard. The discounted fares are cheaper than senior’s rates but must be booked on line using a special email link. The discounted fares do not apply between 16 Dec and 31 Jan.

I had a phone call from Trevor Appleby who is once again organising the Mad Irishwomen's Rally, this time in conjunction with the South Waikato Branch. It is a weekend back country ramble through farms etc. for 1931 and before vehicles. To be held on 14-15 March 2020 and starting at Wharepapa South school. I have the contact details if anyone is keen.

A big welcome to Les Martin who has a 1959 Chevy Apache pickup. It is a great looking vehicle and we look forward to seeing Les and the pickup and our branch functions.

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## **In Memory of Myrtle Fleet** *By Ralph Bennett*

On Saturday 19th October our clubrooms welcomed family, friends and car club members to a memorial celebration of Myrtle's life.

Myrtle was involved in our car club since its conception in 1969/70, catering for those initial club meetings in their garage and later at committee meetings at their Miro Street address. Roy and Myrtle donated the Fleet Trophy way back in 1983 for the most rallied post vintage car. Myrtle was Club Captain for 3 years commencing in 1988/89. She also did club custodian duties until 1993. Both of these duties she executed with a high degree of excellence.

Myrtle was very keen on driving and enjoyed many rallies, and also joined with other members to form a team. Her contribution to our club over many years has been immense, and she will be sadly missed. The Rotorua Vintage and Veteran Car Club extend sincere condolences to all members of Myrtle's family.

# XMAS SOCIAL DINNER NIGHT

Saturday, November 23rd

Clubrooms, 5.30pm for 6pm dinner

3 course dinner - BYO drinks

Only \$25 per person\*\* for a night of  
great food and great company!



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

**\*\* FREE** for those who volunteered at the Swap Meet

Please advise Angie on 348 4546 or  
Dave on 027 412 8227 if you will attend so  
that catering numbers can be organised.



## September Car In The Room *by Dennis Whimp*

### Jim Gordon's 1969 Ford Cortina E Mark 2 Series 2

I knew that the August car in the room would be an interesting storey when Jim arrived at the clubrooms. He said that the car had been subject to a 7 year restoration. So what did it look like when you first saw it before the restoration? Exactly the same as it is now!



Jim is a fan of this era of English Fords, having owned many over the years. The top of the line Mark 2 Cortina E was not available in New Zealand, only being made in England. At the time there was discussion as to whether the E stood for Executive or Exclusive. Ford simply called it the E.

It had lowered lotus type suspension, uprated engine that produced 10 hp more power than the standard model, solid oak door cappings and dash, a higher trim level, fog and backing lights, collapsible steering column, more chrome and wider chrome wheels with radial ply tyres.

When Jim saw an immaculate model for sale in England, he spent much time getting photographic evidence and correspondence

from the dealer before he finally committed. The car had originally been exported to Africa when new and more recently come back into the UK.

It was with great anticipation that he went to Auckland ten years ago when it arrived at the wharf, to get it Certified, WOF and registered. Those thorough inspectors with their long probes and screwdrivers found bad hidden rust behind the headlights, under the rear wheel arches and in some of the floor. That is when Jim found out about cardboard and fibreglass restoration work. Plus he realised that it had probably been back in England much longer than he thought and probably been on the salted roads. Feeling very dejected, he collected it and drove to Morrinsville without Rego or WOF in the dead of night and then thought about what his next move would be.

For Jim, the decision was a complete restoration so that it would be better than when it left the factory. A complete nut and bolt dismantle. Even the door skins were removed. Into Doug's baths to confirm the extent of the rust, body repairs done and then a perfect paint job. The mechanics were thoroughly checked through and overhauled where necessary. The Oak was refinished. The trim, seats and chrome were reused as is.

And 7 years later, it was back on the road, looking perfect and now Jim knows it is. He did make the observation that even if he had gone to England to check the car out, he would have been unlikely to have discovered the dodgy body repairs as they were so well done.

As well as the modern car, Jim's stable also includes an extremely tidy 1982 Mk 5 V6 Cortina Ghia that he uses as an everyday driver, and a 1976 Mark 2, 3 litre V6 Capri Ghia that is currently having some restoration work done on it. It also has a fascinating storey so we will look forward to that being in the room in the future.

# October Midweekers *by Bob Mackay*

Day break unfolded to a rather unpleasant stormy wet morning with many members appearing to have stayed in bed. The few hardy ones turned up at the club rooms for morning tea and following a lengthy chat session, the rain cleared making way for the sun, the wind was doing a great job of drying the road.

We set off round the lake and up into the Kaharoa area to explore some less traveled tar sealed roads with some members commenting that they had 'never been down that road'. From Kaharoa we made our way to the Waiteti Holiday Park for lunch as guests of Michael Thorne. With the volume and choices of three superb soups I trust that he was not disappointed at a low turn out by club members.

With the sale of the Holiday Park and the new Motor Home (with the Panther on tow), Michael is all set to wander, which unfortunately probably means that we will experience less of his humour on our monthly runs. We thank you Michael for your hospitality on today's run.

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## Wanted

NZ Classic Car magazines - August 2002 (with an advert for our Triumph 2500TC), November 2006 (with its photo amongst other cars at a BoP event), and an NZ Classic Driver issue from the early 2000s with an article about Triumph 2000s and 2500s. (No, they are not amongst the many mags in our library - I have checked!) - Ronald Mayes

## Wanted to Borrow

Engineer's protractor and dial gauge so I can measure Triumph 2000's prop. shaft universal joints' angles and shaft run-out.  
Ronald Mayes, (07) 347 8490 or [randgmayes@gmail.com](mailto:randgmayes@gmail.com)

## **Library Notes** *by Dennis Kenny*

Following on from the large collection of books/manuals etc donated by Geoff Nitz sorting out the most relevant will take a little time. However a selection have been placed on the table in the main club rooms for members to borrow.

These are:

Motor cars of today -1956

Military Transport of World War 1 - 1976

The Motor manual

The Modern Motor Engineer - 4 volume -1962

The Modern Motor Engineer - data sheets

The new VW Beetle

Vauxhall shop manual - Models H&I 10-12 HP

Repcos ignition parts -1940-1969

Austin 10 spare parts

Peugeot 404 - 1960-1972 workshop manual

Hillman 16 HP & 20/70 -1934 - spare parts

Anglia-Prefect etc 5/7CWT - vans

Chevrolet passenger car and truck - service manual -1937

The remainder are on the table in the library still to be sorted.

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## **Beaded Wheels in the Library** *by Ronald Mayes*

We are hoping members may be able to donate any of the following issues of Beaded Wheels, which are missing from our library collection:

#1 - #60 (1969), #287 (2007) to #295 (2010)

#322 (2013) to #330 (2014)

#332 (2015) to 337 (2017)

and #350 (2018)

# CLUB NIGHT - November 13th

Neil Hunt Park - 7.30pm

Speakers: David Philps (Europe) & Mike Thorne (Spring Tour)

Followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

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## Upcoming Midweek Runs *by Bob Mackay*

*November Midweekers - 27th November 2019*

Les & Thelma Forward have kindly arranged this run. We will meet at Paengaroa (across the road in front of the shops on side road) and leave Paengaroa at 9.45am before driving to the Forward's. Don't late we will be gone!

Forward's at Otakiri for morning tea at approximately 10.30am then after morning tea a drive through Edgecumbe to view the stop bank that broke on April 6th 2017.

Then onto Whakatane for lunch at Mata Brewery plus a Tour of their brewery.

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## November Club Run

No scheduled run has been organised as this edition goes to print, but it may be that a run is developed at club night, details of which will be posted on the branch Facebook page.

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## Humour

Motorway Patrol pull over a car. "Your tail light is broken, your tyres need changing and your bumper is hanging off. That'll be \$300"

Driver replies, "OK go ahead. That's half the garage quote!"

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# COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
Nov 2019	13	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	17	Club Run	-	-	
	23	Xmas Social	5.30pm	Clubrooms	6
	27	Midweekers Run	9.45am	Paengaroa	11
Dec 2019	11	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	15	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
Jan 2020	19	Lakefront Car Show	10am	Village Green	
Feb 2020	12	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	16	Club Run	10am	Clubrooms	
	26	Midweekers Run	10am	Clubrooms	

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

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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 Club Night



## October Club Run



## Relaxing on Spring Tour 2019

