

# SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the  
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND  
VETERAN CAR CLUB  
SEPTEMBER 2015



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

# Sulphur City Rally - 29 August 2015



# SIDE CURTAINS - September 2015

The magazine of the ROTORUA  
VINTAGE AND VETERAN CAR CLUB

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**Website:** www.rotoruvintagecarclub.org.nz

**Sun Alliance Agency Number:** HO 0300146

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

## OFFICERS

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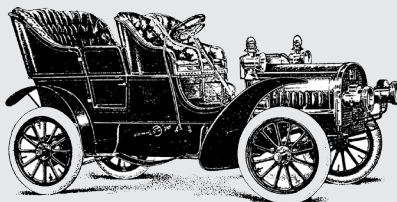
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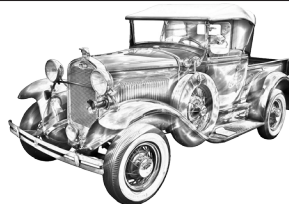
## Cover Photos

Front - Sulphur City Rally, August 2015

Back - Sulphur City Rally, August 2015

## 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

## - August 2015

*by David Tomlinson*



Another good lot of contributions to this month's Side Curtains so I can again keep this month's report brief.

As reported last month, we had a very successful Swap Meet in July and some of the surplus was put towards repainting the darker painted areas around the doors, windows, awning etc around the clubhouse. The club will also be putting on a social night in November (see events calendar) and all those names on the "white board" of volunteers will have their meals paid for.

It was a particularly busy month, starting with a working bee around the gardens (which I was unable to attend due to work commitments), then the DVD night at the clubrooms which was very well received. Shortly after there was a meeting night for the committee, where as well as the painting mentioned above, discussions were held regarding improving the garden area tidied up at the working bee.

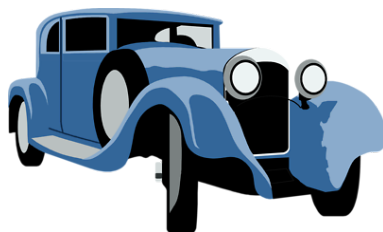
In between these two nights, Angie Brunton and I attended the VCC AGM in Dunedin. Before the final night's haggis dinner accompanied by bagpipes, the AGM adopted the first of the two motions regarding the National Executive (branches will now have one delegate only), and the motions regarding the new ARV class and discipline were both adopted. VCC has a new President in Diane Quarrie and I had the good fortune to sit next to outgoing President John Coomber at the formal dinner, and learnt much about the recent past of the VCC and its executive operation. Next year's VCC AGM will be held in Rotorua with support from our branch. Our sub-committee working towards this also met this last month. We brought back some valuable lessons from Dunedin.

The month finished off with the Sulphur City Rally which is also covered off in more detail later in this issue. On behalf of the branch committee and the wider membership, I want to thank the small band of volunteers who put this event together. It was very well planned, the Friday dinner at the clubhouse was excellent, the first car got away on time, and it was a very enjoyable and challenging course. The feedback from members and visitors alike was very positive, and I am certain members of other branches also appreciated the significant effort put in by a few on behalf of our branch.



# Road Safety Updates

*by Ronald Mayes*



The Age Wise, Drive Wise concern is organising updates for drivers over 65 (there may be one or two members of our club in that age bracket...) and the next programmes will be held on Wednesday, 16 September and Wednesday, 21 October 2015. The free programmes run from 9:30am to 2:30pm and lunch is included. The venue is the Parksyde Community Centre, Tarewa Place, Rotorua.

I took part in this course two years ago. There were about 15 participants ranging in age from late 60s to 95. Recent road rule changes and updates were explained, along with dvds of traffic situations (we had fun guessing the locations – many were filmed in Hamilton or Wellington) and the course concluded with driving test multi-choice questionnaires. After all of the careful explanations it rather worried me that I was the only participant to answer all the questions correctly.

We were also invited to register for practical driving checks at the Taupo motor racing circuit. I jumped at this chance and later in the year joined about 40 others at the venue. A large number of traffic officers from around the region were on hand to run the event, plus 4 expert racing or rally drivers, Chris Amon among them.

After some lengthy road safety pep talks we took part in basic driving skills tests (slaloms, roundabouts, reversing, parallel parking etc) in the concourse area and, one or two at a time, out on the circuit with one of the experts. I had a traffic officer/rally driver who soon realised I was reasonably confident in handling my Triumph 2500 and had me circulating at fairly brisk speeds – great fun – and I was allowed to go out on my own as often as I wished when the circuit was clear!

Included in the track work were emergency stops (he was amazed how good were the Triumph's brakes and thought it must have had ABS) and safe following distances. For this two lanes were set up and a traffic officer spent the day driving his car in one lane while we followed in the other lane, first very closely then 2 seconds behind him. When he hit his brakes so did we. Invariably, when following too close we stopped alongside or even ahead of him; 2 seconds behind kept us clear!

The rally driving traffic officer chatted to me about airbags: He attends many crashes in the course of his work and said that it seems to be a custom amongst the young and bullet-proof to drive with the left hand on the gear lever and the right hand on the top of the steering wheel. When the airbag deploys his right arm is thrown into his face, with consequent fractures to bones in both. The moral of the story: keep your hands away from the airbag housing and on the rims of the wheel at "10 to 2" or "quarter to 3".

Enroll for the update course and if it is offered, go to Taupo! Contact Reade Nikora, Rotorua District (sorry, Lakes) Council, phone 351 8140 for further information or to register.

# South Island Scene (Part 2)

by Dave Mayhew



*(The first part of this article appeared in the August issue of Side Curtains)*

On scrolling over to my next page of instructions I was suddenly told to “ride slowly through the orange cones so that the time keeping marshall could read the number on my yellow bib”, and of course it was just around a blind bend in the road, I never had time to lose my ‘buffer’ of thirty seconds, and being just twenty seconds too soon I managed to get a mention of third. As for the field test at lunch time, well I must admit that I am totally useless as that sort of competition and trying to throw a dart at a balloon flying freely in the breeze from the seat of a high revving Douglas is not quite my cup of tea and I failed miserably.

After lunch at an interesting toy and transport museum, crossing the Crown Range from Wanaka to Cardrona the journey was blessed with 11 bends in the road so short and steep with an advised speed of just 15 kilometres per hour (9.3 mph). On one such left turning bend with my upper body leaning precariously over a gully and my motorcycle laying over at a frightening angle I rapidly changed down from second gear into first when my chain fell off. Fortunately I still had sufficient momentum to continue the short distance to safety. Obviously the chain was far too loose and equally obviously in need of replacing. But more on this later. On that day I managed to ride just 224 kilometres.

The next day was an organised bus trip for the competitors where among other places of interest, we spent sometime at Cromwell’s new \$30,000,000 race track and museum and watched some of the competitors ride a few laps around the track.

The first day of the ‘hub type’ tour was an 85 kilometres ride to Wanaka Warbirds museum where we enjoyed an early lunch, after which the tour continued on, on an unsealed road approximately 70 kilometres to Glenorchy to enjoy a reportedly magnificent view. I chose to return straight back to Cromwell after the museum. My distance for that day was only 133 kilometres.

The touring continued to Alexandra, the coldest town in winter and the hottest in summer, to Arrowtown, an historic gold mining town, and Queenstown, a really ‘go ahead’ tourist town with Bungy Jumping, Jet Boat Riding and Submarine rides in Wakatipu with snow skiing on Coronet Peak in the winter. Then we started wending our way home north up the west coast, firstly to Fox Glacier where we spent the night, then the next day just 160 kilometres out of Fox Glacier my Fly lost all power and I was unable to travel at more than 50 kph for 130 kilometres,

and when I arrived in Greymouth for the night my tappets were found to have a clearance of three sixteenths of an inch, just a tad wider than the recommended three thou'. Once identified the problem was soon cured.

I have already mentioned that our southern hemisphere summer was still hanging on beautifully and just three days after we left Greymouth the residents were kayaking in the streets after a massive flooding downpour. We left Greymouth and enjoyed the journey northward; climbing one steep hill I quite suddenly lost all of the teeth on my final drive sprocket and had to wait for just 30 minutes for 'tail end charlie' to trailer me on to Richmond for the night, where half a link removed from the chain, which was then adjusted to an extraordinary tightness which got me home quiet comfortably to Rotorua.

It seems that my tired chain had done a handsome job of wearing out my cogs. Its interesting to note that in my old age there are things to be learned. I am not disappointed with the problems that my bike suffered, as of the 20 bikes in our group from Auckland including mine 19 experienced problems, mostly quite minor, two fairly major and one that went home in a van.

Overall I rode two and a half thousand kilometres and averaged 30 kilometres per litre, or 3.25 litres per 100 kilometres, or 86.7 miles per gallon, whichever you prefer, and used just one litre of oil. I'm quite happy with that. I enjoyed a very pleasant fortnight's riding.

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## **OUR WEBSITE**

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

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## **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 clubs are encouraged to pen a short piece about their experience to include in the next issue going to print.



# Sulphur City Rally

August 29th 2015

*by David Tomlinson*



There was some nervousness regarding the weather as the Sulphur City Rally got closer to starting, with long range forecasts being unfavourable, but it turned out fine and mild and the rain kept away until the prize giving night.

66 cars were on the start list, with 65 actually making it away from the line, at least one being different from its entry form, and one car turning up to the start line with a flat tyre and ending up getting away last after it was quickly replaced with its spare (so no spare for the rally!).

This was my first Sulphur City, but I had Lois as my navigator and we managed to get through it all without getting lost or needing help!

The weekend started with a gathering of most competitors on Friday afternoon to receive their rally packs, and then a BYO dinner at the clubhouse. The dinner was fantastic, with a soup course, a cooked ham for the main, and a dessert too. It gave people like myself the chance to meet new people, and the chance for other regulars to catch up with each other. Special mention to the kitchen crew, who worked tirelessly all evening, and thanks to the extra few club members who helped tidy up afterwards.

On the Saturday morning some of the organisers had to get out early and put course markers in place, covering some distance doing so. The last of the rally packs were handed out, and briefing got underway a few minutes late, but with everything so well organised in advance, the first car got away on time, and even those like myself down the back of the queue got away pretty quickly. The wait gave me time to take a few photos, and also help chase up the one or two cars who had not got into the queue when they needed to.

The rally was in 2 parts, a straight line navigation section around the eastern part of town then a long run out west, in fact all the way out past Kinloch to

the west of Taupo, with the morning tea and then the lunch being held at Tirohanga Hall near Atiamuri. The morning tea was included in the rally, and was excellent. There was about a 90 minute loop drive around the western Taupo area with questions to test both crew along the way.

Lois and I missed a few silent checks and got some answers wrong, so it was challenging. We were in P60 class with 31 others, a tough class!

After the rally was over we saw a couple of the older cars at the side of the road on the ride back home. One ended up needing electrical repairs and the other ended up on a transporter, but other than that all seemed to go well.

The prizegiving dinner was held at the CT Club and was well attended. It was a very enjoyable night capping off a great day in the car.

I'd like to thank Lois for being a very good and patient navigator, and all the club people that put the event on. A small ground managed the entries and the course plotting, the rally packs, dinner and morning tea, marking of the paperwork and preparing the prizegiving, putting out and collecting rally markers, and much more. Rally competitors did not see all of your hard work, but they greatly benefitted from it. Thanks must also go to the rally sponsors, and as well as being named on the entry pack all sponsors were recognised at the prize giving. I look forward to next year!



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## ***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.

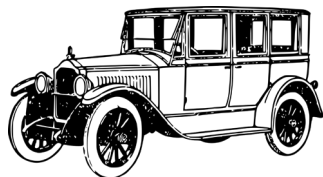


Just search for “Rotorua Vintage Car” in Facebook to find the page. Press “like” and you will automatically get notifications of posts on the page.

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

# Mid Weekers - August 26

by Maurie Crowe



After all the cold weather, we had a great day for our mid week run which started with morning tea at the club rooms, from there thirteen cars and twenty four members travelled to Paengaroa to test drive the new toll Highway which runs from Paengaroa to Papamoa, the contractors have done a great job of this \$400 million.

New road, straight good surface, wide, and land scaped. At the Papamoa end you now continue straight onto a four lane highway all the way to the Mount.

Next it was lunch time so over to Tauranga wharf popular fish and chip shop, which was very busy, working like a well oiled assembly line filling orders. It took about twenty minutes to get our order, the food was good on quantity but very average on quality.

The most important part of the day was next, a visit to Kevin McCardell, master wood carver. Kevin was a policeman for thirty years and now is a self taught wood sculptor creating realistic wood masterpieces. The samples we saw were so realistic it was hard to tell them from the real thing with out touching them. Some of which we saw was a "leather jacket" hanging on the wall, a wooden newspaper spread out with all the days news hand printed on it, the list goes on and on and has to be seen to be believed. Kevin is a very clever man.

A good day out was had by all that participated.

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## BRITS AT THE BEACH 6 - Whangamata, 8-10 October

[www.britsatthebeach.co.nz](http://www.britsatthebeach.co.nz)

Brits At The Beach started at Tairua 6 years ago and now is based at Whangamata. It is similar to the "Beach Hop" but aimed at all British cars and bikes of any age, with a bit of latitude as I have seen Leyland P76s in the mix.

Fleur and I attended last year and while the weather was diabolical, it was a good event, with a good rally on the last day, and plenty to do all weekend. There was a grand parade of all cars (almost 500!) through the town, two separate show days at Williamson Park including a bonnets up day, and a grand prize for best car (a Wolseley 1800 in 2014).

There are events at Thames and Tairua too during the weekend, you don't need to be involved in all of them, and accommodation is easy to get at reasonable prices through "bookabach" if anyone is interested in going. *David Tomlinson*



# SPRING RUN

## SUNDAY 13th September

Clubrooms will be open at 12 noon, bring your lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.

First Car away 1.30pm, run will finish at the Clubrooms.

Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea (tea and coffee provided).

Touring run available. We hope you will join us for an afternoon run.

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**DECEMBER 5-6 2015**  
**57 ORONGO RD, THAMES 9AM—4PM**

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**LOCAL FOOD ▲ COLD DRINKS**  
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or email [info@vintagebarn.co.nz](mailto:info@vintagebarn.co.nz)



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Supported by the Thames Lions Club

# NEXT CLUB NIGHT - September 9th

“Morgan Factory” - a talk by Roger Nelson

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## Upcoming Midweek Runs

### *Midweek run Wednesday 23rd September*

Meet at Bob & Pat Mackay's shed at 10am for morning tea and the opportunity to check on the progress of the Morris Pickup restoration before travelling to Matamata.

We will visit the Tower Museum on Tower Road for a picnic lunch (indoors area available if wet). A booking has been made with the Museum as it is normally closed except by appointment on a Wednesday. There will be a charge of \$3 per person, please bring the correct change.

Following lunch and a look round we will take a short drive to view the Wairere Falls, if you feel fit and wish to tramp to the lookout or the top of the falls bring good sturdy foot wear, for the rest of us a pair of binoculars should suffice. We will then make our own way home, or if you wish stop off at the Opal springs for a hot thermal dip.

### *Midweek Spring Tour 27-28-29 October (return 30th)*

The spring tour of the forgotten highway and Taranaki will replace the regular monthly midweek run, however for those that are not taking part in the tour they are welcome to join us for lunch at the Mihi Café, and maybe join us on the first few miles of the run. A prior indication of numbers would be appreciated by the café management.

### *Midweek run November*

The last trip of the year will be to the Whakatane area, details later.

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## Club Polo Shirts For Sale - size L only

A limited number of club polo shirts have been located and are available for sale on club night for \$10 each.

Only available in a light blue coloured polo, and only in size “L”.

# BUY, SELL, SWAP...

**FOR SALE - Austin A40 Devon**  
Body in top condition reconditioned motor basically complete interior needs re-doing.

All reasonable offers considered.  
Contact Dave on 07 348 1134  
after 5pm, or email [jpridley@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:jpridley@yahoo.co.nz)



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**FOR SALE - Barn Find - Barn fresh in rural Rotorua**  
1937 Chev pickup SWB truck - deceased estate. All complete, wooden flat deck. Been on blocks and in very dry storage for 30 years or more. Wheels turn freely. Very restorable. Expressions of interest to Ian Bishop 07 345 5720 or John Kirkland 07 357 4876.

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**FOR SALE - Morris Minors x 7 - in rural Rotorua**  
All in more or less complete condition - deceased estate. Most are worthy of complete restoration. Can be sold as one lot or individually. Expressions of interest to Ian Bishop 07 345 5720 or John Kirkland 07 357 4876.

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**FOR SALE - 1971 Morris 1100**  
Current rego & WoF. A daily runner is very good condition. Receipts for money recently spent. Phone 021 423 785 (in Rotorua).



**FOR SALE**  
**1922 Ford TT Truck**  
Recent engine work and general refurbishment. New W.O.F and registration. This little beauty was restored a while ago but still shows very well. Receipts for recent engine refurbishment.

Great for parades or advertising.  
A very drivable old vintage truck.  
\$11,000 ono

Enquiries to David Taylor 07 343 9392 or John Kirkland 07 357 4876.  
Email [davidtaylorldr@gmail.com](mailto:davidtaylorldr@gmail.com)



# COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
September	9	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	10
	13	Spring Run	12 noon	Clubrooms	9
	23	Midweekers	10am	Bob Mackay's	10
October	14	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	18	BBQ Run	TBA	TBA	
	27-30	Midweek Spring Tour	TBA	via Forgotten Highway	
November	11	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	14	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
	14	Social Evening	TBA	Clubrooms	
	25	Midweekers	TBA	Whakatane area	

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## VCC AGM 2015, Dunedin - *by David Tomlinson*

As noted in the Chairman's report earlier in this issue, Angie Brunton and I attended the VCC national AGM in Dunedin in August. We flew down on Friday afternoon and after being collected from the airport by a local member we attended the Friday evening session of the Executive meeting. The Saturday saw the AGM proper, and then the afternoon saw the second and final part of the Executive meeting conclude.

Reports were delivered for all operation areas of the VCC, plus an update on what looks to be heading towards a very successful International Rally in Dunedin early next year. The outgoing President, John Coomber, welcomed new President Diane Quarrie to the chair. I got to speak to both John and Diane at various times of the weekend.

The most significant outcome of the weekend was the adoption of a Strategic Plan for the future, which will filter down to the clubs in many forms over the next few months. It was pointed out that in the next few years, if membership remained the same as it is now, over 80% of branch members across New Zealand would be 70 years of age or older. VCC will be encouraging branches to pursue initiatives to encourage growth of membership in their areas amongst younger members of the population, so ensure the continued position of the VCC as the principal organisation administering the affairs and activities of classic and vintage car enthusiasts throughout New Zealand.

# Sulphur City Rally - 29 August 2015





# SULPHUR CITY RALLY

29 August 2015

