

SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND
VETERAN CAR CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2019



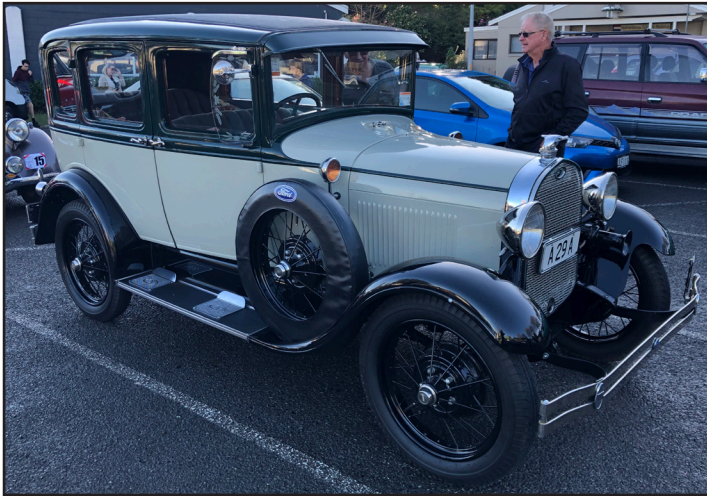
ROTORUA



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www.rvvcc.org.nz

Sulphur City Rally 2019



SIDE CURTAINS - September 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

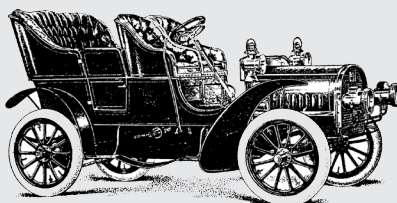
Side Curtains Editor - David Tomlinson
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Beaded Wheels - Ronald Mayes

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

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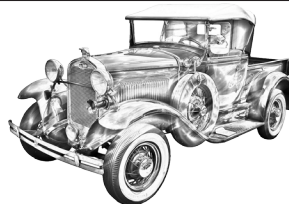
Cover Photos

Front - Daffodil deliveries

Back - Sulphur City Rally drone shots

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 2019

by David Tomlinson



At August's club night we had a very nice Ford Mk2 Cortina on display, presented by Jim Gordon. It is a well travelled car, having gone from the UK to South Africa and back, before arriving in New Zealand. Jim detailed the common story of a car arriving and needing much more work than hoped and anticipated, but the outcome was fantastic.

I attended the VCC AGM in Greymouth a few days later, and despite foul weather, we were all warm inside the meeting which was opened by the local mayor. The most interesting item was a bit of a surprise, and a welcome one, that the VCC will update its "branding" and move towards a more modern logo and slogan for its website, Facebook page and other general marketing. There was a lot of support for the National Day remaining in August and linked to Daffodil Day, which of course presents its challenges to our branch as this clashes with our long established and still very successful Sulphur City Rally. We did do our bit though by delivering many hundreds of bunches of daffodils around our region for the local Cancer Society branch.

As I drove to the VCC AGM I managed to fit in a couple of special visits. On the way down I had pre-arranged to have a drive of a very rare, NZ-new Rolls-Royce Phantom VI which was originally a royal tour car. It is now a hearse carrying much less famous people on a regular basis. Sadly, the day before I arrived it had a small technical issue, and I had to visit it at Bristol Autos in Upper Hutt, and did not actually get to drive it. The unexpected bonus was a grand tour of this very special car workshop, which

included a ground up restoration perhaps half way through of a 1939 Rolls-Royce Wraith, and several other rare cars such as an Alvis TD-21 coupe, and Aston Martin V8 Vantage, a near perfect and very original 1929 Essex Super Six coupe (still with its original floor carpets!), and many other wonderful cars from the early 1900s through to the 1970s. A great visit. On the way home I visited the “WOW” Museum in Nelson which has over 100 classic cars on display as well as the specialty costumery, and I will perhaps report on that in a later issue of Side Curtains.

The Sulphur City Rally was great. Spectacular views on a clear, sunny day, an eclectic bunch of cars, good company and again great food. This year a few fun gymkhana events were added which went down well. The last two Sulphur City Rallies have been “out of the box”, and it will be a big challenge to keep it up for next year. It was good to see a number of newer branch members take part, but we could have coped with more. Please don't forget the Spring Tour, it is almost here now and if you are wanting to go, you should be already involved and have alerted the organisers.

September's club run will be a long distance affair, with a wee bit of competitive stuff, a collection visit, a café lunch and then we return to the clubrooms to celebrate a milestone birthday. This will be a good day out, see details later in this issue as Angie would like to know numbers likely to attend ASAP.

Now the Swap Meet and Sulphur City Rally are completed we return to more relaxed club runs between now and Christmas (Spring Tour aside), then in January we will have our Lakefront Car Show and if it continues to grow, we should see over 350 cars on display. The following year (2021) this will clash with the Vero Festival so we may have to move the date just for that year.

FROM THE SECRETARY

by
Dennis Whimp



Daffodil Deliveries

What an uplifting experience it was delivering the Cancer Society daffodils on Tuesday 27th Aug. Everyone where the drop offs were gave a huge smile and a cheerful greeting. It just confirmed to me how great Rotorua is. We had 12 vehicles delivering and a superb morning tea spread afterwards. All the orders were pre-paid so there was no money to collect. The Daily Post photographer arrived and there was a wonderful article and photo in Friday's paper of Bill Skelton and the Austin 7 surrounded with daffodils. We then took the photo that is on the cover of this issue. People who had already left and missed our photo include Angie, Shona, plus Roger and Keitha. Apologies if I missed anyone as people were coming and going. As with all events involving our older cars there are things that can go wrong. In this case, Neville and Carol were travelling along Fairy Springs Road in the 1931 Studebaker when the back door latch let go. Being a suicide door, it caught the wind, whipped around, ripping out the limiter strap and dented the rear guard.

Sulphur City Rally

A few observations from the day. We all owe a huge thank you to Doug and Doreen plus Lyn and Ken for putting on such a great event. 47 vehicles registered. At the pre start briefing, Doug along with his traditional jokes, explained that this year the rally was not technical, just a pleasant drive with simple questions to answer and a few gymkhana tests that may need a marriage guidance councillor at the end. And how right he was. The drive focused on the scenic areas south of town, Highlands Loop Road, Waiotapu Loop Road including the mud pools, Waimungu, the rear of Reporoa including Goudies Road and then back across Ohakuri Road to an outstanding lunch at the Upper Atiamuri School.

The start had the bumper stand with light and horn. Your car needed to very gently ease forward and push the vertical board to light the light, but not far enough to blow the horn. Certainly not a test for a fierce clutch. More than one car nearly demolished the test and Ken Rowson who was

running it. At the lunch stop, the test was to blindfold the driver and get the navigator while sitting in the passenger's seat to direct the driver to reverse, turning through 90 degrees and back the vehicle neatly in the coned garage area. It was hilarious standing and watching the test. "How do I know where the back of the car is, I only look out the front" as the cones were demolished. "left hand down a bit, a bit more, oh, right hand down lots." "Back a bit, back a bit, why is the car not moving, oh it's stalled." And then there was the driver in the 1964 Rover 95 saloon whose vehicle stopped as he was exiting the garage. Fuel pump not working. An hour and a half later after many knowledgeable mechanics had determined that the fuel pump had packed it in, a chance remark over lunch about dash board switches for duplicate fuel tanks saw a light bulb moment for the owner. That "stop eating" and "I wonder" moment. Sure enough, being blindfolded and reaching for the starter key after stalling at the back of the garage, he had brushed the dashboard switch that shut off the fuel pump. A few reconnected wires from the earlier trials and it was running perfectly.

It was interesting to hear a number of participants saying it was one of the best rallies they had been on, with no stress apart from the garage test. Well done the organisers. And it wasn't a good week for Neville as he had parted from his mountain bike at speed a few days earlier, parting his collar bone and having his arm in a sling for the next 6 weeks with Carol relegated to the driving.

Around The Garages

Peter Stanaway got a touch of nostalgia for the 1939 Plymouth that he sold a number of years ago so he has purchased a 1937 model that is almost identical. It had been stripped and the restoration abandoned. Peter is busy sourcing missing parts and refurbishing the body in his garage. Just the sort of long term project that prevents life being boring.

Thank You

Thank you very much for the lovely fruit basket that was given to me by the club at the Sulphur City Rally after I had broken my collar bone mountain biking.. It was very much appreciated and hopefully it is on the way to welding back together again. Thanks, Neville

Spotted in Australia *by Roger Nelson*

While in Port Douglas, Queensland in early August, I came across a Car Rally which was a bit different. The event called 'The Big Bash' is a charity event run annually in Australia to different destinations each year and the money raised is donated to under privileged children. This year, they raised one and a half million dollars over ten days - a wonderful effort.

The participants consisted of various makes and models of cars. Fords and Holden Station Wagons, Mercedes Benz – some had roo bars on the front, plus quite a few American Cars, all at least over 30 years old and most with roof racks on to carry their camping gear. The cars were covered in decals from their sponsors and had travelled from Bondi in Sydney via some outback roads to Port Douglas, hence the camping gear.

I said to the guys, "You have a long way to drive home?" "No way," they said, "we are flying home from Cairns to Sydney and the cars can go home on transporters!" (Somehow, I don't think we can raise that sort of money from our Swap Meet!!!)



Swap Meet

As from this year, I am standing down from the Swap Meet Committee as I feel it needs somebody with younger blood to help carry the Swap Meet forward. From next year, Alan Judd has kindly volunteered to take over my position of coordinating all the jobs to be done preceding the event.

I would like to thank the Swap Meet Committee for making my job stress free, as each person on the Committee knew exactly what they had to do and I just made sure it all came together. Also I would like to thank all the club members who stepped up and volunteered their services over the years on the day of the event. In the last six years, I was never short of personnel and if I thought I was going to be, some member would fill the gap. Mostly, all I had to worry about was the weather and that was something I could not control.

I was very pleased this year in spite of the weather forecast, that we received the support from both sellers and the public – even better than last year. Management-wise, the Swap Meet is in good hands and I can see no reason why it should not continue to do well.

Roger Nelson - ex Swap Meet Coordinator

Wanted: NZ Classic Car magazine, August and/or September 2002, with advert for our Triumph 2500TC for sale, and November 2006, with photo of it at a Bay of Plenty event.

- Ronald Mayes, 07 347 8490, randgmayes@gmail.com

Entry Forms: Dennis Whimp has entry details and entry forms for the following events: 47th Far North Tour, Journey Through Time 2019 (King Country), Highland Fling 2020

Contact Dennis if you would like a copy of one or all.

August Midweekers *by 34 Ruby*

A change of venue for morning tea put on by Mike, hot savouries, cup cakes, biscuits (yum) tea & coffee.

Next stop to view Murray's interest in rebuilding & repairing stock cars. All were impressed at the quality of workmanship that has gone into these vehicles, not to mention the clean and tidy shed.

For the ladies, Sharon explained her interest in pickle ball, showing us equipment needed to play (bat & ball) this game, not unlike badminton. From here we left the men to further explore the shed while we were treated to Sharon's flax weaving display of Kitties mats, flowers plus explaining the flax preparation (impressive work).

Time now to leave for Mamaku, SH 5, turning left into Mararoa Road to "Mamaku Blue" for lunch, warmth, tea & coffee. After lunch for those that were interested viewed a well put together history etc of Mamaku.

The weather wasn't the best, in spite of that we had 19 members in 10 cars. Thank you Mike, Murray & Sharon.

(The August midweek run was so good, we got two articles, this one from Ronald Mayes. Ed.)

Adelai and Bill Skelton organised this run. The planned start after morning tea at the clubrooms was not practical as it was found, at almost the last minute, that the car park would have been filled to overflowing due to a big meeting at another club in Neil Hunt Park. Mike Thorne came to the rescue at short notice and provided a sumptuous spread at his Waitete Stream Holiday Park. Many of

our regular participants turned up and it took a little while to drag them away and on to the run.

Adelai gave us the orders and it was just a short drive up Oturoa Road to the home of their daughter Sharon and son-in-law Murray Fleet. There we saw lots of “work in progress” on the interesting vehicles in his large workshop, after their two German Shepherds had wagged their tails in greeting before contentedly nodding off. The ladies disappeared into the house on a secret errand to see examples of Sharon’s flax-weaving hobby.

Adelai managed to drag us away from the shed and on we drove, up Oturoa Road and across to the Blueberry Farm café, in time for lunch in a room reserved for us. Only one cook on duty so we had had to pre-order our meals before the start of the run, but enjoyable they were and a visit to the upstairs museum revealed a lot of fascinating Mamaku history. That concluded the official run but a little exploration of the area was undertaken before an a run down Dansey Rd and back to town.

Library Notes *by Dennis Kenny*

A collection of fine old automobile books have been donated to the Club by Geoff Nitz. These are now available to members.

Included are instruction books for:

Bedford S petrol engine	Morris minor MM
Rover 14-16-20 and Rover 1950	Commer Q 1510 pickup
1 ½ lt Jowett Javelin	Austin A40
Hillman Husky Series 11	Skoda 1200
NSU Prima Motor Scooter	

Also other books on welding and brazing, Caltex Passenger and Farming manual specifications, tuning and repairs

Memo to club members: Don’t forget to help yourself to the Classic Car magazines on the floor of the library

Sulphur City Rally 2019



Rotorua Airport, late 1960s



CLUB NIGHT - September 11th

Neil Hunt Park - 7.30pm

Car In The Room: 1967 Chevrolet Impala

Followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

Upcoming Midweek Runs *by Bob Mackay*

September Midweekers - 25th September 2019

Meet 10am at clubrooms for morning tea. We will then drive to Classic Flyers Café and Aviation Museum at Mt Maunganui for lunch at 12pm. Following lunch we will visit the Museum. (Follow the sign for Tauranga airport, the museum is on the right hand side of the road before the airport).

September Club Run *by Angie Brunton*

Sunday September 15th

Club run to Ross Bros Muscle Car Museum Hautapu. Depart clubrooms at 9am or Ngongotaha at 9.15pm, on a scenic touring run with a few questions to Hautapu. We will be joined by members of the Waikato Morris 8 club. Bring your own morning tea to enjoy before our 11am visit to this great collection of cars.

We will then have lunch at the Good Union Cafe/bar in Cambridge. After the run please join us at the RVVCC clubrooms for afternoon tea to celebrate Des' 90th birthday.

I will need numbers ASAP please. Angie 0274754054 or dabrunt@hotmail.com

COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
Sep 2019	11	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	15	Club Run	9am	Clubrooms	11
	25	Midweekers Run	10am	Clubrooms	11
Oct 2019	9	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	13	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
	23	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
Nov 2019	3	BOP Swap Meet	7am-2pm	29 Cliff Rd, Tauranga	
	5 - 7	Spring Tour			
	13	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	17	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
	27	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
Dec 2019	11	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	15	Club 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.

August Club Night



Hongi's Track - Rotorua

The LHD car shown has a very early Rotorua licence plate



Sulphur City Rally 2019

(these drone images courtesy of Brian Holden)

