

# SIDE CURTAINS

The magazine of the  
ROTORUA VINTAGE AND  
VETERAN CAR CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2022



**WE ARE ON FACEBOOK !**

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

## A maroon MG MGB sports car is the central focus, parked on a wooden floor in a large hall. A man in a dark sweater stands behind the car, holding a clipboard. Several people are seated in the foreground, watching the presentation. The background shows a typical hall setting with tables, chairs, and a noticeboard.



## A row of classic cars parked on a grassy field. From left to right, the visible cars are: a dark-colored classic car, a silver classic car, a green classic car, an orange classic car, a silver BMW 5 Series (E28) with license plate 12345, a silver BMW 5 Series (E28) with license plate 67890, and a silver BMW 5 Series (E28) with license plate 12345. A person in a blue jacket is standing near the orange car. In the background, there are buildings and other people.

# SIDE CURTAINS - September 2022

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  
021 731 678

**Treasurer** - Maryann Scott

**Club Captain**  
Terry Wadsworth

**Asst. Club Captain**  
Fleur Tomlinson

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

**Mid Weekers** - vacant

**Side Curtains Editor** - David Tomlinson  
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**Beaded Wheels** - Ronald Mayes

**Librarian** - Dennis Kenny

**Librarian** - Ronald Mayes

**Cards/Flowers** - Doreen Green

## CONTENTS

Chairman's Report 2

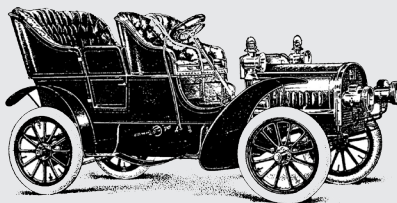
From The Secretary 5

Saving The Planet 8

Sulphur City Rally photos 9

Lakefront Car Show 10

Coming Events 12



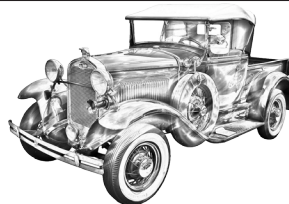
## Cover Photos

Front - 50 Year Badge recipients

Back - 50th Anniversary Dinner

## 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 2022

*by David Tomlinson*



Well what a busy time since the last issue of Side Curtains went out. There is a strong rumour that all Covid restrictions in New Zealand will be lifted the week of our September club night, but there is no doubt that classic car events and activities are back, and then some.

Our August club night featured Michael Thorne's Rover P5B coupé as the car in the room, a beautifully presented aristocratic British V8. Michael gave us a good talk about the car, in the inimitable style that is his own. Thanks Michael.

The weekend after August club night was the VCC AGM held at the new Hilton Hotel on the Papakura motorway roundabout in south Auckland. Topics discussed were the need for a new national constitution due to the new law changes regarding incorporated societies, with delegates signalling the new structure should give more authority to the member branches for voting at the AGM. Once the national body changes its constitution, all branches will have to also do so, before December 2025.

A few branch members attended the 3rd Sunday of the month breakfast meet down at the lakefront the following weekend, in warmer weather than last month.

The last weekend of the month featured two big events, our first Sulphur City Rally in 3 years due to Covid lockdowns, and a celebration of the branch's 50 year anniversary at the end of the rally.



The day before the rally it poured down, and as competitors gathered on the Saturday morning, it drizzled a little, but promised to be a good day. Luckily the day did turn out to be a mild, overcast dry day, albeit it with a cool wind at times. What a great turnout, 47 club eligible vehicles completed the rally, from 48 entries. This is a very good turn out based on our pre-pandemic numbers and other central North Island events this year which were either down on numbers, or in some cases cancelled.

The rally itself went on mainly rural roads south of the city, with the competitive part finishing at the lunch break at Mihi School. The school put on an excellent lunch, and before cars left for an afternoon touring run back to the clubrooms there were 3 quick gymkhana exercises to complete, which surprisingly took very little time to get through.

Cars ranged from 3 vintage vehicles through to several P80 class vehicles. Roads were excellent with the only challenge going up a very steep hill in the Waikite Valley, and later having to go back down it again. We even had 4 ladies teams, and had new branch members who had never rallied before take part. No one got lost.

Many people were involved in putting the rally together, with Kevin Scott steering the ship. A special thanks to all those that with Kevin put the event together, and helped run it on the day. It was a very successful event, and we have already seen write ups in other branch's magazines praising the event's format and recommending other members of their branches take part in next year's event. You can't really ask for much more than that.

After the rally, we had the 50th Anniversary Dinner at the Millennium hotel, attended by over 100 current and former branch members, as well as many of the Sulphur City Rally participants.

VCC President Diane Quarrie and her husband Geoff were in attendance and Diane presented 5 branch members with 50 Year badges, and 3 more with their 35 year badges. Thanks Diane.

The dinner itself was a very good buffet, and went very smoothly and quickly, even with the VCC award formalities between mains and dessert, and the Sulphur City Rally prizegiving at the end of the evening. It was a great celebration on the night, capped off with slices of the 50th Anniversary cake made by Ralph Bennett.

The weekend after that Fleur, Alex and I visited the Ross Brothers Museum in Cambridge with the Waikato Mustang Owners Club, and it had changed quite a bit since our branch run there a few years ago, with some new large machinery in a newly laid out shed, and a few changes to the car collection including an Aston Martin Lagonda. We also got to meet and talk with the oldest of the four Ross brothers who own C&R Developments and the museum. It may be time for us to go back on another club run in the near future.

So that was four weekends in a row that I was involved in car events, and its not even Daylight Savings, let alone summer, yet. Let's hope our delayed 10th Anniversary Lakefront Car Show at the end of October gets a good turnout as people get used to travelling and enjoying each other's company again.

In September we have a club run on Sunday 18th organised by Neville Harper, and for our September club night we will have a guest speaker, Andy Brooking. Andy imports cars from the USA and also leads a tour of America annually, and he will give us a talk about the tours and the adventures to be had within.

Let's all make the most of the impending return to normal times.

# FROM THE SECRETARY

by  
*Dennis Whimp*



What a fantastic weekend was had on the 27th August when we combined the Sulphur City Rally with the branch's 50th Anniversary of becoming a separate entity. 48 vehicles took part in the rally ranging from the 1929 Austin 7 of Bill and Adelai Skelton to the 1991 Toyota Corona coupe of Jude and Tony Lipanovic who had only joined our branch a fortnight before. Over the past 50 years, Bill and Adelai have been on almost all the Miss Ainsworth Rallies, that later became the Sulphur City Rally.

Roger and Diana Nelson must have been on at least 40 of them, as had Bob Ballantyne of Auckland. We owe a special thanks to Doug and Doreen who set the rally route two and a half years ago, (they were cancelled for two years because of Covid) and to Kevin and Maryann Scott who picked it up this year. Kevin had to make some modifications because one of the roads was closed and the metal roads were badly potholed after a very wet winter. In the end it was an all tarseal rally that the competitors were thrilled with.

The lunch at Mihi school was exceptional and Terry's gymkhana events on leaving the school were simple and quick, but difficult. Throwing hoops over cones, balls into buckets and stopping with your rear wheels on a line. Lots of misses and laughs. All rounded off with a cuppa and very tasty baking at the clubrooms. Thanks Fleur and crew.

I along with Geoff Nitz was tail end Charlie for the rally and what a change from 40 or so years ago when it was not uncommon to have

vehicles break down. The mainly post war vehicles are now in such good condition the many drove 100s of km to get here, all with no issues. Bill and Adelai had a puncture but by the time we arrived, Joelene and navigator Angela had helped Bill change the wheel and they were on their way. Kevin had also arranged heaps of sponsors prizes for the prize giving so there were many smiling faces. The 50th Anniversary celebration dinner and prize giving was held at the Millennium Hotel. 109 people attended which included many past members who we have not seen for a while. There was lots of catching up to be had. Chairman Dave had done a great job of picking up the 40th anniversary photos and adding to them to provide a 40min continuous photo show that neatly summarised the branches history and rallies right up to photos from earlier in the day.

Our National President, Diane Quarrie along with husband Geoff were pleased to see a photo of them in the Rotorua 1980 International rally in their 1915 GWK sports roadster. Diane was there to present 50 year continuous membership badges to Andy Bainbridge, Jim Maud, Roger Nelson, Bill Skelton and Dennis Whimp. 35 year badges were presented to Neville Harper, John Peters and Lois Thompson. From deep within the storeroom, Roger found the notice board that he had put together for the 40th anniversary and we had that up at the Millennium. It showed lots of articles and photos of the early days of the club. Well worth a look at if you have the time. We will leave it on display at the clubrooms for the next month, before it disappears into storage for the next special event.

You may remember that we had a working bee a while ago to amongst other things, clean up the bank behind the club rooms, and that Dave Fischer and his band came down before we got there to carefully prune back the native bush that they had planted. They



The Sunbeam Enthusiasts club are using our clubrooms on Saturday, 1st October for their evening meal as part of their 50th Anniversary Cape Reinga to Bluff Tour. They have their own caterer but we need a club member there to open up and ensure the rooms are left clean and locked. If you would like to be there, let me know.

A large wooden bulletin board is displayed on a wooden easel. The board is densely packed with various items related to vintage cars and the Rotonda VVC Club. At the top center, a white card reads "ROTUNDA VVC CLUB ACTIVITIES PREF 1980 COPIED FROM REG &amp; ROGER'S SCRAP BOOKS". To the right, another card says "SLEEN RACER 34 YEARS OLD" above a photo of a car. Other cards include "ROTUNDA TO HAVE CHANCE TO WIN CASE IN RALLY", "LORD-DOWNERS coming", and "Laid Car for the Women Museum". There are numerous small newspaper clippings, some with headlines like "ROTUNDA CAR TAKES TITLE" and "ROTUNDA TO HAVE CHANCE TO WIN CASE IN RALLY". Several black and white photographs of vintage cars and people are pinned throughout the board. A yellow envelope with a red stamp is also visible. The board is set against a dark background.

# TAKE HEART - WE ARE SAVING THE PLANET!

*by Ronald Mayes*

The editorial in the August issue of New Zealand Classic Car magazine, and Greg. Price's column, reveal some interesting facts about internal combustion versus electrically powered cars. We are being encouraged to go electric, the planet's future being dependent upon it, and vintage and classic car owners are being targeted.

But UK classic insurance company Footman James has been doing some serious research and came up with the following facts: Using classic cars is less damaging to the environment than building new vehicles! Certainly, they get less use than daily-driver modern cars, but the key point is that using one of our cars is much less damaging to the environment than the building of a new one.

Building an average petrol-powered passenger car creates a carbon footprint of 6.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide, an electric one a staggering 26 tonnes before it even leaves the factory, an amount almost impossible to offset with zero-emission driving. The average classic car would take 46 years to reach that figure, emitting just 0.563 tonnes per annum.

Electric vehicles rely on electricity from the national grid. Most of New Zealand's power comes from renewable sources (hydro and geothermal) but a totally electric vehicle fleet would put considerable strain on our sources. In many countries coal is burned to create that power, adding even more tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.

See the articles in NZ Classic Car for a lot more details.

# SULPHUR CITY RALLY 2022







Rotorua Vintage & Veteran Car Club  
proudly present the



# 10th Anniversary Annual Rotorua Lakefront Car Show

10am - 2pm, Sunday, 30th October 2022



## ALL CARS, BIKES & COMMERCIALS WELCOME!

Join us for the 10th Anniversary of this fabulous event. Numbers have increased every year with almost 500 vehicles on display in 2020 and again in 2021.

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@rvcc.org.nz](mailto:info@rvcc.org.nz) or check our Facebook page for updates. See you there!



ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO ST JOHNS AMBULANCE ROTORUA

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# CLUB NIGHT - September 14th

Neil Hunt Park - 7.30pm

Speaker: Andy Brooking - USA tours and car imports

Followed by tea and coffee.

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## Club Run Sunday, 18th September

Be at the clubrooms by 1pm! Learn more at club night.

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## Midweekers Wednesday, 28th September - TBA

As this edition went to press details were not yet available.

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## FOR SALE - 1949 Morris Minor Convertible

Well maintained, current WoF and rego, regularly serviced. Original plates. Kept in a dry garage in Waihi. Phone Jan on 021 651 000 or email [jmyg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jmyg@xtra.co.nz)



## FOR SALE - Cyclops pedal car

Cyclops Oldsmobile pedal car (in Rotorua), everything works, has been to the Lakefront Car Show, ex-pat owner based now in the UK, \$1000, contact David Porthouse at [david.porthouse@btinternet.com](mailto:david.porthouse@btinternet.com)



# COMING EVENTS

	Date	Event	Time	Venue	Page
Sep 2022	14	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	11
	18	Club Run	1pm	Clubrooms	11
	28	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
Oct 2022	12	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	16	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
	26	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
	30	Lakefront Car Show	10am	Village Green	10
Nov 2022	9	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	13	Club Run	TBA	TBA	
	30	Midweekers Run	TBA	TBA	
Dec 2022	3	Xmas Social	6pm	Distinction Hotel	
	14	Club Night	7.30pm	Clubrooms	
	18	High Tea Run	TBA	TBA	
Jan 2023	TBA	Lakefront Car Show	10am	Village Green	

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

# SULPHUR CITY RALLY 2022





# 50th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

