



Recent Events

Remembrance Run

A rattling good run based on horse sports completed our activities for February.

Pat Dutton, whose other interest is horses, sent us on a two-hour Bogey time trial, the object being to complete a circuitous route around eastern Wairarapa, finishing at the Woodside railway station, within a set amount of time. The event was this year's Remembrance Rally, which acknowledged former members of the branch

The time set was two hours , and winners, Bob and Lyn Cumming. and their friend Ngairie , travelling in a 1972 Rover, arrived at the Woodside railway station in a time of 1hour and 58 minutes, collecting the handsome trophy. Four other teams finished within 5 minutes of the deadline.

Conditions were blazingly hot, evidenced by melting tar at Woodside. Icecreams at Greytown provided some relief.

- Kevin Ball



To the victors the spoils - from right, Bob and Lyn Cummings and Ngairie Jensen.



Picnicking in the shade of trees at Woodside.

Stretched Gymkhana

A field of 16 entrants, some sharing vehicles, enjoyed an overcast day at the Masterton A & P grounds for the 2023 running of the VCC stretched gymkhana.

The course set by Simon & Alec O'Hara was a tight twisty track around 198 cones and roughly over a kilometer long. It was certainly a test of driver skills to remain on the track and after 3 timed runs in the morning, drivers then had to try to maintain the average speed of those three runs in the afternoon. Closest times saw the field whittled down from 16 to 8, then 4 then the last 2 remaining cars to vie for the trophy, which was donated by Paul Furkett.

Winner on the day was Willie James. A big thanks goes to the entrants, especially those that travelled from the Wanganui and Horowhenua clubs.

A real mix of cars from Francis Pointon's 1926 Model T, 1982 Citroen 2CV to the 1979 Triumph Special of Les Cockeram.

The hard luck story of the day was Ian Ingram's 1974 Vauxhall Viva, which decided it didn't want any more and jammed its rear brakes on. Thanks to Les for trailering it away to be repaired.

A very enjoyable day. Same again next year.

- Simon O'Hara





Mike D'Alton and crew in the Bentley



Francis Pointon in his Model T on the final turn



Willie James's MG at the start of another run



Above: Organiser Simon O'Hara presents the trophy to Willie James

Left: Verdon Heath's Citroen 2CV

March Club Night

Two classic motorcycles and a pair of 5-times national rally champions in one night – now that was a heady and absolutely absorbing club night on February 7.

Rally champs Richard and Sara Mason, both from Masterton, kept us enthralled with stories of their amazing careers – both hold 25 wins in national rally rounds. Amusing anecdotes (including one from Sara: “The year I almost divorced my husband”) and heart-stopping videos of the pair in action drew gasps from the audience.

In-car video footage of competition at up to 200kmh on gravel had us clutching our seats. The speeds were breath-taking, only possible because the remarkable teamwork of the pair. But it was a warts and all production, including times when it all went wrong.

Sara’s motorsport career began on Play Station at the age of 12 or 13. She did her first rally in Nelson at the age of 15. Richard, son of top-10 rally pairing Tom and Alison Mason,

also began early, in karting. He and Sara have a son, Khalid, who at age 12 has competed in his first motorsport event, an autocross. As they say, watch this space.

The motorcycles were classics in their own right.

Jim Phelps brought along his 1952 Triumph TRW, a totally original bike down to the SU carburettor. It had been bought, still in its box, by a Nelson woman, later killed in a road crash. She had given it to a man who used it to visit his fishing traps.

The bike was painted white when Jim bought it, but as he dismantled it he found a tiny patch of the original green and had it repainted. He believes there is one other example of the bike in New Zealand, one painted in Air Force colours. These bikes were very quiet (to reduce the chance of the enemy hearing them) and smooth.

Members will have recognised the second bike. Carterton engineer John Shields brought along the 1937 Indian once campaigned by branch member Will Holmes. John, who began his motorcycling career on trail bikes, approached Will eight years ago because he knew of the VCC veteran's interest in old bikes. Will surprised him by offering him the Indian which, fully restored, will be back at future club events

- Kevin Ball



Richard & Sarah Mason and their Subaru.



LtoR: Jim Laird, Sarah and Richard Mason, Simon O'Hara



Above: John Shields and his 1937 Indian

Right: Jim Phelps and his 1952 Triumph TRW



The third in a trilogy of events the past three weekend days was the fantastic Wairarapa VCC Rex Porter Rally – one of our favourite events of 2022 when we attended for the first time.

The Rex Porter Rally is the Wairarapa VC club's premier event named after Rex Porter who was the first chairman of the club. The rally was a full day competitive rally for cars and bikes in east Wairarapa's picturesque countryside (there were no bikes again this year).

The competitive route was in two stages this year.

Stage 1 was a navigation stage of 56 miles (90 km) with a short bit of gravel, of about 1 mile, which was mainly simple straight line navigation instructions followed by a short portion of directions.

Stage 2 was a timed regularity section, which unlike the VCC Targa had just one timing point at the end of 53 miles (85km) with about 7 miles (11 km) of gravel. This route needed to be changed at the last minute as a result Cyclone Gabrielle due to road damage, so full credit to the organisers for pivoting and keeping the event running.

The usual Stage 3 Touring stage was not run this year. For us, the afternoon involved a lovely drive back to Masterton to re-gas prior to our journey to Greytown.

The stunningly fine day started at the club rooms at the Clareville Showgrounds, with the wonderful variety and ages of vehicles (and people) that make up the VCC club. Our attention was drawn to Scott Thompson's 1929 Riley 9, a car we hadn't seen before, but sadly it was not competing in the rally. It was wonderful to learn a bit about this car (and have a sit inside).

Stage 1 was unlike many MG trials in that this one had simple overriding instruction (vs. several pages), being that the road needed to be signposted by a blue and white sign or an AA sign. We were first car away, which always works for us as it stops Mal looking at other cars and saying, "but they are going that way" and stops him questioning what I am saying (although I have to say that the Targa has helped a lot with that – I try to keep this training going (less successfully) around the house! We have clearly become too suspicious of instructions over the years having been caught out one too many times with the precise 3D cryptic trials which are hosted by the MG Auckland club, and took a wrong turn at one point where the road wasn't signposted down the actual road (the other roads at the intersection were) which threw us for a while until we worked out a point where we should be. I suspect we missed one of the checks due to this– or it could be that the checks are incredibly hard to see being much smaller than the MG club ones and dark green (so very easily disguised). We quickly learned to use commonsense instead of the overriding instructions – and wrote the names of most streets on our instructions in case we needed to go back (or that my concussed brain got confused)! The roads were fabulous especially the side along the back of a stop-bank which had a feel of an English country lane.

Stage 2 provided more amazing roads that we hadn't been down previously, but we did wonder why we hadn't nominated a higher speed (we used 60km/hr for the simplicity of the maths) – then we came to some gravel which we are slowly coming to terms with how to drive it (the grass gymkhana and motokhanas have helped a lot with this). Once back on the tarmac Mal had a lot of fun catching our time up. Amongst all the roadworks and cones as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle, were two which held us up a lot – one traffic light where we stopped for over 3 minutes and one stop go sign where the road worker got into his ute as soon as he saw us coming and changed the sign to stop, clearly that one wasn't moving for awhile. There were only a couple of times we needed to overtake – more commonly it was having to pull over for other vehicles, again we were grateful for our chosen average speed. We had just caught up our time when we came to the final

turn off – onto gravel which was a real kicker at the end of the rally.

Lunch was down at Riverside beach which was a lovely picnic for us, lots of tales of the event, and with the caravan café lady coming over for a chat and reminisce about her early car days in the States. The only neg for the day was that I managed to spill a full cup of hot chocolate on my white overalls which led Willie James to speculate on what Mal's driving had done to me!

After a quick nap and change of clothes, dinner and prizegiving were at the Carterton Golf Clubrooms in Clareville, a setting so picturesque you wonder why it is such an unknown venue. The excellent food and company made for a fitting conclusion to a wonderful day. We managed to pick up a raft of trophies and prizes – I won the Navigators Plate, and we won the Post 60's category and were the overall rally winners – which made the whole event even more WOW. MG FOX did us proud.

An acknowledgement to the event plotter and organiser Chris Giles who was unable to make it on the day due to catching COVID19 a few days earlier. Chris had provided an excellent event, which we thoroughly enjoyed. A huge thank you to those who stepped up and kept the event running – as well as to all the other assistants. Count us in for next year – especially now we have a title to defend!

M+G

Gina Jones (and Malcolm Fleming)



Frances Pointon with his latest project, a 1918 Essex Six, oldest, car in the rally.



The giant and the giant-killer, Ian Stewart's Chev Impala and Malcolm Fleming and Gina Jones' MG Midget



Above: Verdon Heath brought his Saab Sport from Levin.



Results:

Rex Porter Memorial Trophy - Overall Winner
Malcolm Fleming & Gina Jones, 1971 MG Midget

Roy Elwin Navigators Plate – awarded to navigation stage winner (Stage 1)
Gina Jones

Churchill Cup - Best Performance Post 60s
Malcolm Fleming & Gina Jones, MG Midget 1971

RG & R Elwin Cup - Best Performance Post War Car/Motorcycle
Neale Ryder & Joanne Millar, Vauxhall Velox Vagabond 1954

Jones Cup - Best Performance Post Vintage Car
Mike D'Alton & Jane D'Alton, Bentley 1934

WG Laing Memorial Cup - Best Performance Veteran Car
Francis Pointon & Barry Wells, Essex 1918

Honorable Mentions:

Verdon Heath & Viv Spiers, Saab 96 1964 - Overall runner-up

Ian Stewart & Willie James, Chevrolet Impala 1976 - First in timed section (Stage 2)

Finally thanks to our sponsors who provided all the prizes:

White Swan Country Hotel, Greytown

Super Liquor, Masterton

Super Cheap, Masterton

Clarative Media Productions, Wellington

Full Results on our website

Spotted in Masterton this week by Rob Jones was a group of veteran and vintage cars on a 7-day lower North Island tour.. They included ...



Above Left: Michael Taylor with his striking 1930 Custom 8 Packard.

Above: Aucklander Murray Firth with an example of the first ever Bedford truck, circa 1931.

Left: A soft-top Model A.



Upcoming Club Rallies and Events

Club Outings & Rallies.

Sunday 9th April

Club Captain's Run

A tour of the South Wairarapa, followed by a picnic at Cobblestones, Greytown
Meet at the Royal Hotel Featherston at 10am.

Saturday 13th/Sunday 14th May

Motorcycle Reliability Run

Details to come

Club Nights

Monday 3rd April

7.30pm at the clubrooms

The Car is the Star - Jim Laird's Packard

Followed by the speaker for the evening who will be Tinks Pottinger

Tinks is widely known in equestrian sports, winning a bronze medal for 3 Day Eventing at the Seoul Olympics in 1988'

Monday 1st May

7.30pm at the clubrooms

The Car is the Star - Dave Patten's Daimler/s

Speaker to be advised

The Way Things Were

Some curiosities from the archives

More on the strange micro cars from the 50's & 60's. Here's one that was relatively successful.

A Motorised Raincoat?



The Velorex was a three wheel micro car, constructed on tubular steel space frame, The bodywork was made from vinyl, stretched over the frame and fixed with turn-button fasteners. Power was from a two stroke Jawa motor cycle engine, with earlier cars having a 250cc single or twin cylinder engines, while later models boasted 350cc twins and were capable of about 85 km/h.

Built by the Velorex manufacturing company in Czechoslovakia, the design was apparently inspired by pre-war Morgan three wheelers. Post war car production in Czechoslovakia was very limited, so when the Velorex was released in 1950 at a quarter of the price of a standard car, it was much in demand. They remained popular for 20 years with production finally ceasing in 1971, when about 15,000 had been made. About half of that output was exported to other Eastern Bloc countries.

They appeared to drive reasonably well, particularly when compared to some other micro cars of the time. This no doubt, along with the general shortage of motor vehicles behind the Iron Curtain, explains the longevity of the model - the people's mobile tent!

NZ Federation of Motoring Clubs Information

NZFOMC is an umbrella organisation representing over 120 Motoring Clubs in NZ including VCC, Motor Caravan Association and many others. It represents more than 140,411 members in individual clubs, who own more than 121,167 vehicles. Its primary role is interfacing with Regulatory Authorities and in particular, the Ministry of Transport and NZ Transport Agency.

The Federation publishes a newsletter twice a year, which can be found on their website:

www.fomc.nz/newsletters/

The most recent in September has an article about the maintaining supplies of compatible

Club Events Calendar for 2023

Your committee has prepared a calendar of all club events planned for the coming year. As things sometimes change, the most up to date version can be downloaded from the club website [here](#)

Printed copies will be available at Club nights

Other Events



Lions International
LIONS CLUB
OF RONGOTEA & DISTRICT

Presents **A Car Show Day**



Sunday 16th April 2023, Te Kawau Recreation Centre, Wye St, Rongotea from 10am – 2pm
All classics, future classics, vintage, and veterans etc welcome. *Swap and boot sale area.*

Display entry: \$20/vehicle including 2 people. \$5 pp thereafter.

Public entry: \$10 each or \$25/family (Mum, Dad and 2 kids)

Prizes and entertainment, food and drinks for sale. *Eftpos available. All proceeds to charity.*



Arohanui
HOSPICE

Contacts:
Bernard Lilburn - 0274425913 or bernard.l@inspire.net.nz
David Calow – 0272392311 or windings2054@gmail.com



CLASSIC CAR
Breakfast Club
Driving for Charity



2023 Highland Fling!

21 - 23 April 2023

DATES TO MARK IN YOUR DIARY Friday 21st April - Registration

Saturday 22nd - Fling Rally

Sunday 23rd (day) - Fling Rally continues and Field Tests

Sunday 23rd (evening) - Prize Giving Dinner

ACCOMODATION

Before departing Taihape last year, most of the entrants made their accommodation bookings

for 2023, a very wise move. However, for anyone who is considering joining us this year in April it would pay you to make your bookings now, as Taihape is not what you would exactly call a 'sprawling metropolis' with numerous options. Please note: bookings for the Gretna Hotel are being managed by us, and bids for rooms will be taken as soon as we work out what is available.

Entry forms will be out in February

Contact

Kaaren Smylie

VCC NICC

(Vintage Car Club North Island Club Captain)

"Driving our history"

CELL PHONE: 021 66 43 41

EMAIL: nicc@vcc.org.nz

Welcome to New Members

Recent new members:

Allan and Dale Fayen, transfer from Wellington, they have a 1945 Chev pickup.

A big welcome to you, we look forward to you joining us in the various activities of the club. If you have not received a name badge please contact Mike D'Alton (mickyjdalton@yahoo.co.uk) to arrange this. The cost of the badge is \$20 each.

Offers to Members

Bluebridge and Interislander Specials

Both Bluebridge and Interislander are offering special prices for VCC members. Details can be found on our website: [Click Here](#)

Classic Tyres

Hamilton based Tyreline can provide access to a full range of Michelin tyres

More information and catalogue on our website [Click Here](#)



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1948 Austin Ten

Reconditioned motor. The car has been in storage for 20 plus years. It is complete although the guards and windows need refitting. Has been repainted at some stage but needs touching up.

This is an ideal entry level car

Only \$1200 ono

Contact Tom Wilson at Tom Wilson Motors, Martinborough

06 306 9565

ATLAS AUTO SERVICES

Open Saturdays for WOF inspections on old cars, by appointment.

Located in Featherston

Contact Aaron Webster (Wairarapa Branch member)

PH 021 0853 0341

EMAIL aaron@atlasclassic.co.nz

VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CARS

For Rent - Secure Storage Shed Space

- Indoor or outdoor storage.
- Long or short term rental available.
- Discounts for long term and VCC members.
- Access flexible and by arrangement.
- Car, boat, caravan, campervan, farm machinery, etc. No household goods.

Have a look at Trade Me Listing #3332441379 for indicative prices.

Phone Paul on 021-252-0409 with any queries.

The Wairarapa Branch Spare Parts Shed is open on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9.30am to 12 noon, and the first Tuesday in the month from 9am to 12 noon,

Come down to the clubrooms, join Frank, Barry and Jeff for yarn and a cuppa. You might also find the bit you have been looking for.

You can also contact Frank for an appointment outside these hours: 06 379 7167

Wairarapa Branch of the Vintage Car Club of New Zealand

Clubrooms: A&P Showgrounds, Chester Road, Clareville

Postal Address: PO Box 7, Masterton 5840 Branch

Website: www.sporty.co.nz/wairarapavcc

Club Night: First Monday of the month (except January) and June (second Monday) at 7.30pm.

Spare Parts: Open each Tuesday morning following club night and the 3rd Saturday in the month 9.30am -12 noon. Committee meet: Second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm

2022/23 Committee and Office Holders

Chairperson: Graham Hodder - 06 308 9087 027 226 3738, g_jhodder@xtra.co.nz

Secretary: Mike D'Alton - 021 137 2395, secretarywvcc@yahoo.com

Treasurer : Kevin Sullivan - 022 377 8443, kevsully52@gmail.com

Club Captain: Hugh Hunter - 06 306 9847, j.h.hunter@xtra.co.nz

Publications & Newsletter Editor: Chris Giles - 021 433 995, chris.giles64@gmail.co.nz

Social Convenor: Val Ball - 06 377 1236, wtakevin@xtra.co.nz

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Spares: Frank Lipinski - 06 379 7167

Motorcycle Liaison: Kevin Sullivan - 022 377 8443, kevsully52@gmail.com

Custodians: Dave Patten - 06 306 9006, dave.patten28@gmail.co; & Kevin Sullivan

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