

Wairarapa

Zenith

June 2026



Club Captains Run 2026

Contents

Page 3 Report from the Chair
 Page 4 2026 Reliability Trial
 Page 6 Events calendar
 Page 7 VERO Rally & extended stay
 Page 8 Club Captains Run
 Page 13 Contacts
 Page 14 Our Information

Editors Note

We were lucky to finally get some fine weather for the Club Captain's Run. It was a great turnout, and I really enjoyed getting Olive out for a run. I didn't fancy my chances in the quiz without a navigator, as I much prefer to focus on the driving.

I did manage to guess that Dalefield School was established in 1885. I even had time to hop out, turn on the free-wheeling hubs, and engage four-wheel drive for the gravel road up the Waiohine Valley where we stopped for lunch. It was lovely to sit down, enjoy a chat over lunch, then head back and then some of us met at the Top Pub for a quick drink before going home.

This month I took a different approach with my photography and wanted to capture some smiles at the clubrooms before we set off. Judging by the smile on Nick's face, he must have known he was in for a good day.

Next up, I'll be getting Olive out again for the Opening Night Parade during the Greytown Festival of Christmas.

All the best - Dennis
 ++ I was not that great at 2up (Kevin was the better)



Club Night 6th July

Welcome return of Fish & Chips

With St Johns

Giving us a refresher on CPR and other health care options available.

RSVP the secretary with numbers attending by the 30th of June with payment.

More details and cost to follow



Pointon Motors open for WOF's and repairs

Francis is open for WOF's and limited vintage repairs at reduced working hours. Contact Francis at (06) 378 6710

Footnote #1

Francis has had his Knee replacement surgery and expects to be able to do light work incl WoF on vintage vehicles again in a couple of weeks!

Footnote #2 -

For Sale

Francis would like to sell at least one of his cars before Winter sets in.

He is open to offers !

Many thanks to Bob Cumming for arranging the guest speaker for May's club night. Patrick Harlow's presentation was informative and entertaining. We all went home with a greater insight into New Zealand's automotive history. I myself did not realize the number of New Zealand produced motor vehicles. The best would have to be the Hulme F1.



Many thanks also go to Kevin Sullivan for putting together another enjoyable run to Mangaweka. A little disappointing that I was the only car amongst the bikes, but it was a great way to meet others from outside the club and enjoy good company.

Sunday's run up to the Waiohine Gorge swing bridge, followed by a picnic lunch was well supported. Thanks go to Bob Cumming and Hugh Hunter for putting another well organised club activity together. What a magic winters day for an outing. No rain or sand flies to contend with.

A reminder about the AGM on the 7th of June at the Greytown Working Men's Club at 11.00 am. To those wishing to attend the meal afterwards, numbers close on the 31st of May. If your name is not on the list by then you will miss out. Contact Mike D'Alton, the club secretary please.

We have the Winter Wander on Sunday 21st of June and also an invitation to attend the Greytown Festival Parade. More details in the list of up coming events.

“ Did you know “

The concept of the internal combustion engine dates back to 1770, when scientist Count Alessandro Volta conducted experiments showing how gas could be electrically ignited within a cylinder. François Isaac de Rivaz was a French-born Swiss inventor and a politician who is credited with the invention of a hydrogen-powered internal combustion engine with electric ignition, which he patented in 1807. In 1808 he fitted it into a primitive working vehicle "the world's first internal combustion powered automobile. Although de Rivaz's early work is credited as the first use of the internal combustion engine in an automobile, the further development and mass production of the invention never truly began until the late nineteenth century.

Also, in 1807 Nicéphore Niépce was the first to use an internal combustion engine in a ship.

After a week of dodgy weather and with the threat of a dubious forecast 8 intrepid motorcyclists plus Graham Hodder in his 1934 Dodge set off on the 2026 Reliability Trial with Hugh Hunter following along in the rescue vehicle.

The destination was the Awastone Campground at Mangaweka. The route would take us through Mauriceville and across to Route 52, then through Alfredton and Pahiatua and over the Pahiatua Track to Ashhurst. From there it was up the Pohangina Valley to Mangaweka.

As we rode through Masterton the skies cleared briefly and the sun broke through which made me hope that the forecast was wrong. That thought was soon shattered as the wind and light rain returned within minutes. The rain set in as we passed through Pahiatua and it was a grim ride over the track. Once into the Manawatu however the rain stopped and after a refreshment stop in Ashhurst we had a dry run up the Pohangina Valley and through the Rangiwahia district to Mangaweka.

After a decent pizza meal and a few war stories most of us slept soundly in our shared cabin although a couple of snorers and sleep talkers meant an entertaining night for some.

A hearty breakfast on Sunday morning fueled us up for the return journey down Rangiwahia Road through Kimbolton and Cheltenham and on to Ashhurst and home via the Pahiatua Track. The strong westerly winds kept us on our toes but fortunately Hugh's trailer wasn't needed, and we all made it back without incident. All in all, it was an enjoyable weekend with good roads and enjoyable company.

The Reliability Run Trophy was awarded to Dave Clark on his 1967 Triumph Bonneville.



Lined up at the Saturday lunch stop



Dave Clark receives the winner's trophy



A welcome coffee on the way home



Mangaweka Camp with: Dave Henwood, Neville Taylor, Kevin Sullivan, Ian Munro & Dave Clark



Mangaweka camp, Dave Clark with Willie James



June 2026		
Monday 1 st	King's Birthday	
Sunday 7 th	Club AGM	Greytown Working Men's Club at 11.00 am Followed by a meal at \$44 per head. Please pay into the club account - 03-0687-0323649-001 No later than the 31 st of May
Tuesday 9 th	New Committee Meeting	
Sunday 21 st	Winter Wander	Bob Cumming and Hugh Hunter
Saturday 27 th	Festival of Christmas Parade Greytown	Assemble at the 5pm at the Greytown Primary School. Contact :- greytown@greytownvillage.com if you are attending.

July 2026		
Sunday 5 th	Bus trip to visit museums in Maymon, Porirua with a meal at the Cossie Club on the way home.	Cost and travel times by the 31 st of May
Monday 6 th	Club Night	Fish & Chip with St Johns giving a refresher on CPR and other health care options available. RSVP for numbers by the 30 th of June with payment.
Fri. 10 th	Matariki	
Tuesday 14 th	Committee Meeting	
Sunday 19 th	Gravel Challenge	Dave Patten to provide detail
Sunday 26 th	Horowhenua Branch Parts Visit	We will be providing a B.B.Q luncheon for our visitors. All club members are invited to attend. They will arrive approximately 11.00 am

August 2026		
Monday 3 rd	Club Night	Quiz Night with Vintage Machinery Club TBC
Tuesday 11 th	Committee Meeting	
Fri. 14 - Sat. 15 th	National A.G.M & Executive Meeting	Manawatu Branch
Sunday 23 rd	Daffodil Run	Masterton MotorPlex again with the same format as last year. More info to come.

September 2026		
Monday 7 th	Club Night	A film evening will be the attraction. Come along and enjoy the excitement.
Tuesday 8 th	Committee Meeting	
Sunday 14 th	Spring Rally	David Eade with a support person
Fri 18 th - Mon 21 st	Wellington Club - Hawera Run	Arrive in Hawera on Fri 18 th - accommodation at the Tudor Lodge Motel, 158 Waihi Road. Departing on Mon 21 st September. For more details contact Alastair McCarthy - mccarthys@xtra.co.nz
Sunday 27 th	Distinguished Gentlemen's Drive	Registrations open on the 1 st of July Assemble at the White Swan, Greytown at 9.30 am A Fundraiser for Men's Health

October 2026		
Saturday 3 rd	Rex Porter Rally	TBC - it may become bi-annual to help with expenses
Monday 5 th	Club Night	Car is the Star
Tuesday 13 th	Committee Meeting	
Monday 26 th	Labour Day	
Sat 31 st Oct. - Su. 1 st Nov.	Wairarapa A & P Show Clareville	Confirmed
TBC	Bygone era of wings and wheels.	Organiser is Wellington Festival

We, Dave Plant and Diane Hodgson, had an extended stay in Nelson for the March 15 to 21 Vero Rally.

Our travel plans were disrupted before we even left home. We were booked to take two cars across on 9 March - Diane's "normal" car and my green 1991 XJ40 (which I had purchased from fellow VCC and Daimler Club member, Chris Giles, about 18 months ago.)

Mechanical issues with Kaiarahi caused sailings that day to be cancelled. They rebooked Diane's car for the following day, 10 March, on Kaitaki, but my car for the rally was rebooked for 21 March - the last day of the rally.

A frantic call to bookings allowed us to swap the bookings over and then cancel Diane's booking.

At least our car for the rally would be in the correct island on time.

But our troubles didn't end there. When our ship reached Picton at midnight, it couldn't berth as Kaiarahi had broken down yet again and was occupying the link span needed by Kaitaki. After two hours standing off the harbour, a tug crew was called out to clear the berth. Consequently, we got to Nelson at 4.00 am. But we still had a few days to settle down in Nelson before registration day on 15 March.

I had been concerned that the Vero Rally would be stuffy and formal, but it was a fantastic experience, and we both thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Typical fine Nelson weather. Friendly company. Interesting vehicles, and Rally routes that took us to highlights of the region.

Diane has lived in Nelson all her life and I have lived there for nearly 50 years. The runs took us over many back roads that neither of us had been on before.

And on the Wednesday run we went passed the old Hillcrest Hospital where Diane was born, exactly to the day, 76 years before!

There were 559 cars in the rally and around 1200 people. The oldest car being given rally number "1" and our 1991 XJ40 being "551", so there were only a few cars younger than ours.

The following weekend 26,27,28 March we went to the Daimler Lanchester Owners Club Mini-Rally and AGM in Blenheim. Far smaller than the Vero Rally - with 18 people and 10 cars attending.

One of the cars was the Daimler Limo which Tim Shadbolt famously used to tow his concrete mixer while Mayor of Waitakere City in Auckland. It is currently owned by Daryl Brighthouse of Havelock, Marlborough.

Fellow Wairarapa VCC members Dave and Maree Patten, and John and Sheila Clarke were also there. Everyone had an enjoyable weekend visiting the Vintage Machinery Club and The Marlborough VCC at Brayshaw Park and the Sunday Farmers Market. And of course, the "obligatory" Winery, Café, and Hotel meals, drinks, and catchups.

Di and I stopped at an antique shop we had noticed, and I

bought two petrol cans and two oil cans for my collection. But when we came to leave, the XJ40 wouldn't start.

Decision time! Phone the AA or phone a friend?

I called the DLOC club captain Mike King who said, "It's the inhibitor switch. Move the gear selector through the gears to free it up." He was correct. Problem solved. It's never stuck before and never stuck since!

We also spent time catching up with friends and family in Nelson and then went to the West Coast, seeing more friends in Greymouth.

After an enjoyable six weeks in the South Island, our return sailing to the North Island was booked for 21 April - but fate struck again. That sailing was cancelled because of the big storm forecast to hit. After me using the ferry for nearly 50 years without being "bumped" at all, Interislander had cancelled two sailings on the very days that we were



Descending into Kerr Bay, Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park for lunch. Willie and Sharyn James with their MG centre foreground. (Photo credit Di Hodgson).



Leaving Nelson en route to Kaiteriteri on the other side of Tasman for lunch. (Photo credit Charley Cross).

After using Interislander for nearly 50 years without being "bumped" at all, Interislander had cancelled sailings on two days - the very days we were to sail.

We had a great time, the car ran very well, and I'd rather sail safely in calm seas on a ship that is mechanically safe!

Rob Jones

Sunday saw us raise George from his slumber in preparation for the WaiVCC Club Captains run, postponed from an inclement Easter.



There's even a trophy at stake which sadly is not joining the other one on our mantelpiece! I had been invited to our local Coffee and Cars event in the MX5, but George was due a country run. We were seen passing by, gotta say the event has grown hugely with cars spilling over into the Copthorne's front lawns.

Anyway, out to Carterton we went to join a small band of keen people on a cool cloudy day. It stayed that way too. The Waiohine Gorge was our aim, 8 km of metal road at the end, the last couple of k requiring more attention than the beginning but overall, a good road. Picnic lunches loaded we had the drivers briefing, received our questions and directions for along the route and set off at our leisure. As always, the simple questions raised issues, with at least two having potentially double answers!



But it was a fun run in the country, the event being taken out by an SD1 Rover V8. I took photos at the Clubrooms and out in the bush and of the bridge and river. And importantly, Sonya crossing the swing bridge both ways for the first time. Well done darling. There were a few more modern cars participating as well.

A fun run on a grey day but it didn't rain and I reckon it was warmer out on the bush than at home once we finally got there. We accidentally stopped at the Renall St dairy for massive icecreams on the way home, well only a little out of the way!

Hugh Hunter

15 cars and 2 motor bikes 21 people, set off from the club rooms on a very nice day and an easy drive through back roads of Carterton to end up at the Waiohine Gorge car park and the swing bridge. A picnic lunch was enjoyed with Graham providing entertainment cooking sausages and onions for his and Kevin's lunch, tales of a bit of bribery over Kevin bringing banana cake for Graham,

There was a short quiz, with questions to fill out on the way.

Kevin and Dennis had a go at playing 7 up.

The height of the swing bridge was one of the questions, this height was measured by Bob by dropping a fishing line with a weight on it and then laying it on the ground and measuring it, The closed guess was Nick Wilsden who was driving his rover on its maiden journey he was 3 meters short of the swing bridge height and he got 7 out of 8 questions and won the Trophy.

Dennis will have to clean his Land Rover after going quite fast through a very large puddle. (Not that fast! - Dennis)

A very pleasant run with good company.



A few snaps of the WaiVCC club members - ready to set off



A few snaps of the WaiVCC club members - ready to set off



Not to be outdone, Kevin came on his older BSA single



On the road and in the bush



Post run debriefing

**THE
DISTINGUISHED
GENTLEMAN'S DRIVE**

WAIRARAPA

SAVE THE DATE

**SUNDAY 27TH OF
SEPTEMBER 2026**

START & FINISH: THE WHITE SWAN, GREYTOWN

**RAISING FUNDS FOR MEN'S HEALTH –
PROSTATE CANCER AND MENTAL HEALTH VIA
MOVEMBER**

WWW.GENTLEMANSDRIVE.COM

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Parts Department:

A&P Showgrounds, Chester Road, Clareville

Join Frank, Graham and Jeff for yarn and a cuppa when the Parts Department is open.

In this treasure trove, you might also happen to find any bits and pieces you've been looking for.

Located at the clubrooms, the Parts Department is open:

- First Tuesday morning of the Month.
- The 3rd Saturday of the Month
from 9:30am - 12noon.

You can also contact Frank for an appointment outside standard opening hours by phoning (06) 379 7167

Clubrooms:

A&P Showgrounds, Chester Road, Clareville

Postal Address:

PO Box 7, Masterton 5840 Branch

Website:

<https://waivcc.nz/>

Club Night:

First Monday of the month (except January) and June (second Monday) at 7pm.

Committee meet:

Second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm

Wairarapa **Zenith**

June 2026



Club Captains Run 2026