Wairarapa Zenith

NOVEMBER 2026

































Daffoldil Day. An Amazing day out !

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Editors Note

Following on from Daffodil day we were out and about on Labour weekend for a trip in my modern car to Pataka Art + Museum in Porirua. Stopping off for coffee at Pāuatahanui, I spotted this lovely and shiny 1929 Dodge DC presumably awaiting it's owners to have their coffee.

Dennis



Club Night 2nd November

1908 Holdsman Runabout Veteran



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

Club Night 7th December

Members with cars from this era should bring them along.

60s and 70s cars

Report from the Chair

Kevin Sullivan

October has been a busy month starting with the Tin Can Rally. The dodgy weather didn't deter the field of a dozen or so cars including a guest or two that set off from the Masterton Railway Station. The route started with a straight line navigation exercise around the Masterton city centre which surprised a few. We then took a circuitous route to Nireaha for lunch. The homeward journey included a tiki tour of Eketahuna and then back roads home. The route provided an interesting run that included roads that we seldom use. Most importantly the run resulted in a sizable donation to the local food bank.

The club night featured Daimler and Jaguar cars with a number of proud owners showing off their limos.









We also held the vote on the proposal to increase the annual subscription. The result was a resounding no. The national vote was tallied at the executive meeting on the 17th of October and the result was 14 branches voted yes, 23 voted no and the 6 members of the executive who each have a vote all voted yes. As a result the motion was lost 23 to 20. Most of you will now have received your invoice for this years sub which remains at last years figure.

The re-scheduled Daffodil Day Car Show was a great success with around 340 entries and a good turnout from the public. The day took in about $9,000 which with expenses deducted will return about $8,000 to the Wairarapa Cancer Society. The general feedback has been positive from all quarters. Thanks to all members who supported this event and a special thanks to those who assisted on the day. We intend to schedule the event in October in the future to increase the probability of fine weather.

November club night is on the 2nd when we will have a Holdsman veteran on show. Later in the month on the 21st is the Motorcycle Gold Medal trial so a reminder to bikers to get your entry in.

The Christmas Rally and Lunch will be held on the 12th of December with a gentle run to the Mother Goose at Tauherenikau. Cost of the lunch is $45 per head. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

Kevin Sullivan

Events Calendar

November			
Monday 2nd	Club Night		Car is the Star
Tuesday 10th	Committee Meeting		
Sunday 15th	Wai Wheels		To be confirmed
Saturday 21st	Gold Medal Motorcycle Trail	KS	Confirmed
Sunday 22nd	Veteran Run	FP	To be confirmed
Sunday 29th	Mangatainoka Vintage Car Day		To be confirmed
December			
Monday 7th	Club Night		
Tuesday 8th	Committee meeting if required		
Saturday 12th	Christmas Lunch	MD	Mother Goose – (Old Tin Hut Hotel) $45.00 per head
Upcoming Events			
27 Feb 2027	Stretched Gymkhana 2027	SOH	Solway Showgrounds
6th/7th March 27	Citroen Club		The Citroen Club Rally being held in Wairarapa

Tin Can Rally

Simon O'Hara

The forecast for the Tin Can Rally held on Saturday 3rd October was for rain, heavy at times and cool, which was not what we wanted to have, but must have been a blessing for the local firemen as they battled to put out the fire ablaze at the local Farrier Bar and Eatery (an iconic Masterton building constructed in 1951 and noted for its elegant curved shape, thus earning the nickname, "the Horseshoe"). This was the venue we had intended to meet for a mix and mingle at the end of the rally. A hasty change of plans was called for.





Drivers assembled at Masterton Railway Station as the rain started to fall, for a debrief, where they kindly donated canned goods for the local Foodbank. The day started with either Plan A or Plan B of a Straight- Line navigation course, before heading out Te Ore Ore, north to Whangaehu and commencing on some gravel sections of roads. Upon crossing the main highway, instructions led to Mangamaire, before turning south into Kopikopiko Road and continuing to the lunch stop at the Nireaha Hall.





Heaters were turned on in the hall, and much chatter was shared over lunch. The afternoon looped around back west and through Parkville, into Eketahuna, before heading south to turn left into the gravel of Mangaoranga Road, heading through Bowen Road, North Road, Jacksons Line, and back onto the State Highway where most of the participants stopped for refreshments at the newly arranged mix and mingle venue of Wingate Lane Café and Restaurant, who were very accommodating.

Although the day was very wet, and did not record a high attendance, the small group made for a sociable time and many commented that despite their car windscreen wipers getting a good workout (or not working at all), they had enjoyed the rally including driving some roads they had not been on before. It was good to see a range of cars, and of note, to have three Dodges all aged prior to 1930.

The foodbank was very appreciative of our donation. So, we



hope to do this again in the future.

Daffodil Day Snaps













Steam Up On The Thames

From early Victorian times, Paddle Steamers were a common site and a popular form of travel in UK waters. After the launch of Brunel's 32,000 ton leviathan paddle steamer Great Eastern, built in 1858, improvements in screw propellor design reduced the popularity of paddle steamers for ocean going work. Even the Great Eastern had a screw propellor and sails, although the latter could not be used when the engines were running as the proximity of the funnels led to the sails catching fire!

Paddle steamers continued in use in coastal waters. The conveniently wide decks being favoured by operators of coastal excursions and scheduled runs. In both world wars they were requisitioned by the British Government, their wide decks and wooden hulls making them ideal platforms for mine sweeping activities, especially against magnetic mines. Over 50 were used in the first war, and in the second they played a pivotal role in the Dunkirk Evacuation.

This brings me to the subject of my article. PS Waverley was sunk by enemy action at Dunkirk, and the replacement Waverley was launched in 1946. She worked on The Firth of Clyde until 1973, before being donated to the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society. After extensive fund raising and renovation work she returned to service and is now a popular tourist attraction, plying her trade around the British Isles each summer.

We cast off from Gravesend Pier, Kent, on south bank of The Thames some 25 mies east of Tower Bridge. Fortunately, it was a beautiful sunny October day, although there was a fresh southerly breeze blowing across the estuary. (Nb for antipodeans, not like our southerly.)

Our first impression was of her smooth sprightliness. She needs to be quite low in the water to accommodate her paddles, and 14 knots at this level seems quite a lick as we pass the moorings at lower Thamesmead en route to our first stop at Southend on Sea, a further 20 miles downstream. Over 2 km long, the pier here is the longest pleasure pier in the world. We make a smooth arrival at the pier head, and spend half an hour accepting more passengers.

The engine room of the Waverley has a great viewing gallery displaying the length of the con rods and the valve gear. The boilers were originally fuelled from the Lanarkshire coalfield, but oil took over in 1956. The engine is a triple expansion compound turning at just under 50 RPM, propelling her with a unique low frequency rumble, unusual in a reciprocating engine. The cylinders operate at 130, 35 and 0 psi with a long stroke of 66 inches (168cm), producing 2100IHP at 58rpm. It's fascinating to watch the valve gear operating from the viewing gallery.

There are a further 10 steam engines on the ship powering various ancillary equipment. Fuel consumption is 154 gallons per hour, or 11 GPM at 14 knots, pretty good for a 700 ton transport from 1946.

We set off from Southend on the 45 mile journey up to the Pool of London. We have an informative commentary which tells us that we are passing Tilbury Docks entrance. These docks were built downstream to replace the old London Docks. The dock gates look tiny and completely out of scale with the huge container ships seen at Southampton and other ports. That's seventy years of progress.

We then steam under the Queen Elizabeth Bridge, taking the M25 over the river at Dartford, and through the Thames Barrier, built in 1984 to protect London from high tides. Next up is the O2 Arena, and The buildings of Canary Wharf and Docklands on the north bank. The river then takes a big, lazy loop to the south, before we cross the Greenwich Meridian and spot the tea clipper Cutty Sark at the naval museum. West and East Longitudes in one day!

Heading north again, then west along Wapping Reach, with several well known London inns on both sides of the river, and the prime objective of the day comes into view. Tower Bridge was finished in 1894, and remains one of those instantly recognisable London sights of the Victorian Age.

At this point a Port of London Authority tug attaches herself to the bow. This is to assist us when turning in the Pool of London. The Waverley's engine crank is solidly attached to the paddles, so with no bow thruster or other modern equipment, our turning circle is too restrictive to negotiate The Pool, with Word War II cruiser HMS Belfast moored there.

Round we go on the turn of the tide, then, cast off from the tug, we paddle away towards the bridge, bascules raised again like grand pillars of passage. Just time to mention the super yacht 'Kismet,' too big to access St Katherine's dock and moored opposite. Made from Toyota bumpers*, She's over 400ft (122m) long and her 75,000 gallon tanks will take you 6,000 miles. Yours to charter for just NZ$5,000,000 per week.

All too soon we are back at Gravesend Pier, and bid adieu to PS Waverley as she steams away to disembark her Southend clients. A great day out if you've a day to spare in the UK one summer.

Note

* Kismet is owned by Pakistani American Billionaire Shahid Khan. He made his fortune by producing bumpers and other parts for Toyota and other manufacturers in the USA. Didi think of the small part my 2006 Yaris must have provided as we sailed past? Not really!
* More info on Waverley trips can be found online at www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk
* Technical info on the Waverley can be found at paddlesteamers.org. Wikipedia also contains interesting articles on PS Waverley and Paddlers in general..



The Old RN College and Seaman's Hospital, Greenwich
The Greenwich Meridian runs through the Greenwich Observatory, a short distance to the West



PS Waverley in Swanage Bay earlier this year







Our Christmas Function

The Christmas function is confirmed Saturday 12th December. There will be a morning run to the Mother Goose at Tauherenikau.

The cost of the lunch is $45 per head.

Those wishing to attend the lunch should advise Graham Hodder at

g_jhodder@xtra.co.nz

Payment should be made into the branch bank account.

Account Name: Wairarapa VCC

Account Number: 03-0687-0323649-01





Kia ora,

The **Greytown Santa Parade** is on Saturday, 12 December at 2pm on Main Street, and we would love the Wairarapa Vintage Car Club to be part of it. The parade is run by volunteers from the Rotary Club of South Wairarapa.

- Entry is free, and you do not need a float. A walking group with a banner, a decorated ute, or a trailer all count.
- There is $1,000 in cash prizes.
- Entries line up on East Street, which will be closed to traffic this year, so staging is off the live road.
- It takes about two minutes to let us know you are coming: https://christine-eliseev.typeform.com/greytown-parade
- You do not have to register, and you can rock up on the day, but it helps us plan the line up.

A line of members' cars would be a highlight, as many as would like to come. The parade travels at walking pace along Main Street, from Church Street to Jellicoe Street.

Ngā mihi nui

Christine Eliseev she/her

GREYTOWN SANTA PARADE CONVENER ,

Rotary Club of South Wairarapa

+64 (0)272 144 573 | swrotary.org.nz

54th Northland Far North Tour 2026

Friday November 6th

For those who have booked, Dinner will be a simple meal, served starting at 6.30pm. BYO drinks if you wish. The venue will be open from 5.30pm. Please park all cars in the main carpark, dinner will be in a venue opposite our clubrooms. **NOTE:** our clubrooms are not available this year

Rally Packs will be available to pick up either Friday night or Saturday morning; info in rally instructions

Saturday November 7th

The tour will start from the main carpark with the first car away at 8.30am. Please ensure you are at the start by 8.00am for the briefing

With morning tea and lunch, there is the option to BYO, or purchase enroute

Saturday night dinner will be held at the Mangonui Cruising Club at the northern end of Mill Bay, Mangonui. Dinner will be at 6.30pm with pre-dinner drinks from 5.30pm. BYO is not permitted, but the bar will be open
Parking right outside is restricted to drop-off but there is other parking near-by along the road
All meals will be via meal tickets issued with rally rack

Please make payment via direct credit to the bank account below

Email entries to: nvccrally@gmail.com

Direct Credit entry $'s to: **Northland Vintage Car Club Inc**

12 3093 0105509 00

With driver's surname and FNT as **code & reference**

Any issues/questions, contact Peter 021 193 0948

Entries close 31st October 2026

Entry Form 2026

Entrants Name .....

Navigators Name .....

Passengers Name/s .....

Address .....

Phone .....

Branch ..... **Membership #** .....

.....

Email .

Year, Make and Model of Vehicle .....

.....

Entry Fee (Per Vehicle)	**$40.00**		**$ 40.00**
Rally plaque included with entry		**Adult/Child**	
Plaque will be posted if unavailable on time		Number attending	
Friday Dinner (Per person)	**$25.00**		**$**
Saturday Dinner (Per person)	**$50.00**		**$**

NB Child 4 12yrs Half Price.
Under 4yrs Free

Total **$**

SOUTH WAIKATO BRANCH V.C.C.
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM :
2026 T. T. T. RALLY
SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2026

Name of Entrant:: _____

Address:_____

Year and make of vehicle:_____

Entrants VCC Branch: _____

Number attending:_____

Entry class (pick from below):_____

Email:_____

Cellphone no:_____

Veteran	**(**prior to 31-12-1918)
Vintage	(01-01-1919 to 31-12-1931)
Post Vintage	(01-01-1932 to 31-12-1945)
Post War	(01-01-1946 to 31-12-1960)
Post 60	(01-01-1961 to 31-12-1980)
Post 80	(01-01-1981 to > 30yrs old)

- Entry fee per vehicle $30.00: {includes rally plaque)
- BBQ sausages & bread / tea, coffee, hot water, milk supplied at end.
- **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS: Compulsory in all cars.**

Please email: southwaikato@vcc.org.nz

Direct Credit ACC: SWVCC 03 0463 0273363 00
Please include your name under particulars

SOUTH WAIKATO VINTAGE CAR CLUB
ANNUAL T. T. T. RALLY
SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2026.

PROGRAMME :

- Start at South Waikato Vintage Car Clubrooms
- 09:00 Hrs: Begin registration & cup of tea
- 09:45 Hrs: Briefing
- 1000 Hrs: First car leaves designated start area.

At completion of run{approx 3.0hrs} lunch **{byo}or** Sausages sizzle / bread, tea, coffee, hot water & milk available at finish then presentation of prizes.

RALLY INFO :

The rally will once again be set through pleasant country and where possible, Forestry Roads.
As is usual it is a family event. No fiendish navigational rules or instructions written to get you lost.

PERIOD DRESS :

We encourage you and your team to dress for the period when your vehicle was built or most typically used.
We will award a prize for best crew/vehicle combination

ENTRIES :

To assist with organisation, entries should be sent by November 17th however we will accept them up to starting time.

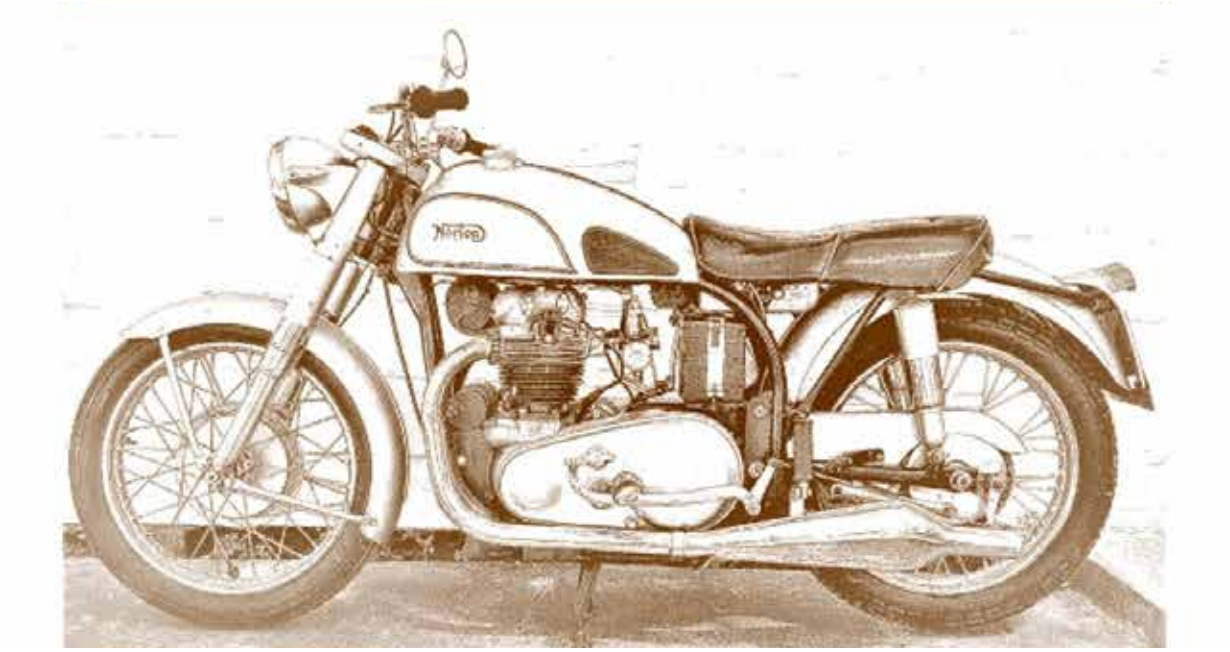
START LOCATION :
South Waikato Vintage Car Clubrooms, Pepperill Road, Lichfield.
(Off SH1 over railway line opposite Pottery shop)

FUEL : The rally distance is approximately 120 kilometres. Please ensure you have sufficient fuel to complete the event.

The Vintage Car Club of NZ
Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

43rd Gold Medal Trial

Saturday 21st November, 2026



Welcome to this, our 43rd Annual Gold Medal Trial.
The Trial will be based at the Branch clubrooms in Chester Road Clareville.
This year the event covers all classes of machine and will be run over roads in northern Wairarapa.
The timed morning route is approximately 75 miles (121 kms) and includes approximately 3 miles (5kms) of gravel road.
Entrants are free to choose the speed range they wish to ride.
Target average speeds will be set by the organisers and will be non negotiable.
The afternoon route will be a touring run of approximately 64 miles.
Route instructions are basic with no fish hooks, no straight line navigation other than 'straight ahead rule applies' i.e. no crossing the centre line unless your instructions request you to do so.
There are no closed road sections so riders must be aware of on coming traffic at all times, especially on narrow country roads.
Allow for wandering stock and high winds and as usual ignore all farm tracks and No Exit roads.

Sunbeam Car Club
Wellington Branch presents...

46th annual

Lake FERRY Excursion



12 Dec

MEET AT THE
FELL MUSEUM
IN FEATHERSTON
at 11:00am

DRIVER'S BRIEFING 11:30am

all welcome

Not just car club members)



VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND

30th NATIONAL MOTOR CYCLE RALLY

Mark this in your calendar for 2027 and start looking at bookings for the ferry and accommodation.

VENUE: Timaru – Headquarters at Phar Lap Raceway
DATES: 12,13,14 February 2027 with a 4 day Hub rally to follow
ACCOMMODATION: Wide range in the Timaru area. Book early please
Designated camping area (for self contained vehicles only), for the duration including the hub rally. Booking on your entry form - book early.
Entry forms will be distributed in May 2026 and be available online.

Enquiries to: 2027natmcrally@gmail.com
Phone Alistair on 0272025007

The Vintage Car Club of New Zealand (Inc.)
The Historic Vehicle Authority of New Zealand

North Island Easter Rally
26-28 March 2027

Proudly Hosted by Manawatu Branch VCC

ENTRIES CLOSE 28th JANUARY 2027
N.B. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE

Please return all pages of the Registration Form with payment to:

Email: ni.easter2027@gmail.com

Or Post to:
CATHY CLEMENTS
Rally Secretary, Manawatu VCC
PO Box 232, Feilding 4740

If you wish to keep a record of your Registration, please take a copy before mailing

2027 SOUTH ISLAND NATIONAL



26th - 29th March 2027

Edgar Centre in Portsmouth Drive, Dunedin

FRIDAY

Registration with Noggin and Natter, at the Edgar Centre

SATURDAY MORNING (ALL DAY)

Rally - non-competitive.

SUNDAY MORNING (ALL DAY)

Timed rally followed by field tests.

Prize giving at the Edgar Centre.

MONDAY MORNING

Morning tea at the Clubrooms before departing home

Parts shed will be open.

vero

For details contact Nicola

otago@vcc.org.nz

VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF NZ VCC

The Southern Backroad Adventures
Optional after tour for pre 1932 vehicles

For information and entry forms / contact Nevin at easttaieri@yahoo.com.

The 2027 Southern Backroad Adventure.

Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th March,

(immediately following the National Easter Rally)



This overnight rally for pre-1932 vehicles, showcases Otago's amazing back road scenery. Leaving Mosgiel's 'Black Sheep Restaurant' at 9.00 am, we will make our way to Clyde, stopping for lunch at Roxburgh.

Dinner will be at the Post Office Cafe and Bar at 4 Blyth Street Clyde, however entrants are free to dine elsewhere if they prefer. Please book your own Clyde accommodation as early as possible. Alexandra is only 8 kms away and is a great alternative if Clyde accommodation is tight.

Tuesday's lunch stop will be at Ranfurly.

For an entry form or more info, email easttaieri@yahoo.com or contact Nevin Gough 0211150312 afternoons or evenings.

Our Information



Clubrooms:

A&P Showgrounds, Chester Road,Clareville

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

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

Contacts

Chairperson	Kevin Sullivan	022 377 8443	kevsully52@gmail.com
Secretary	Shaun Leahy		wairarapa@vcc.org.nz
Treasurer	Graham Hodder	027 226 3738	g_jhodder@xtra.co.nz
Club Captain	Hugh Hunter	027 665 9911	j.h.hunter@xtra.co.nz

Committee

Pat Dutton	027 711 2735	betyjo29@gmail.com
Simon O'Hara	021 141 2332	simonsandieohara@gmail.com
Frank Lipinski	06 379 7167	
David Eade	021 227 7338	
Bob Cumming		

Social Convener		Position vacant	
Custodian		Position vacant	
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Wairarapa
Zenith
NOVEMBER 2026
Daimler
ENGLAND
ROVER
3·5 LITRE
JOHN DEERE
DAFFODIL DAY
MOTOR SHOW
NEW DATE
SUNDAY 18TH
OCTOBER 2026!
See you next year !