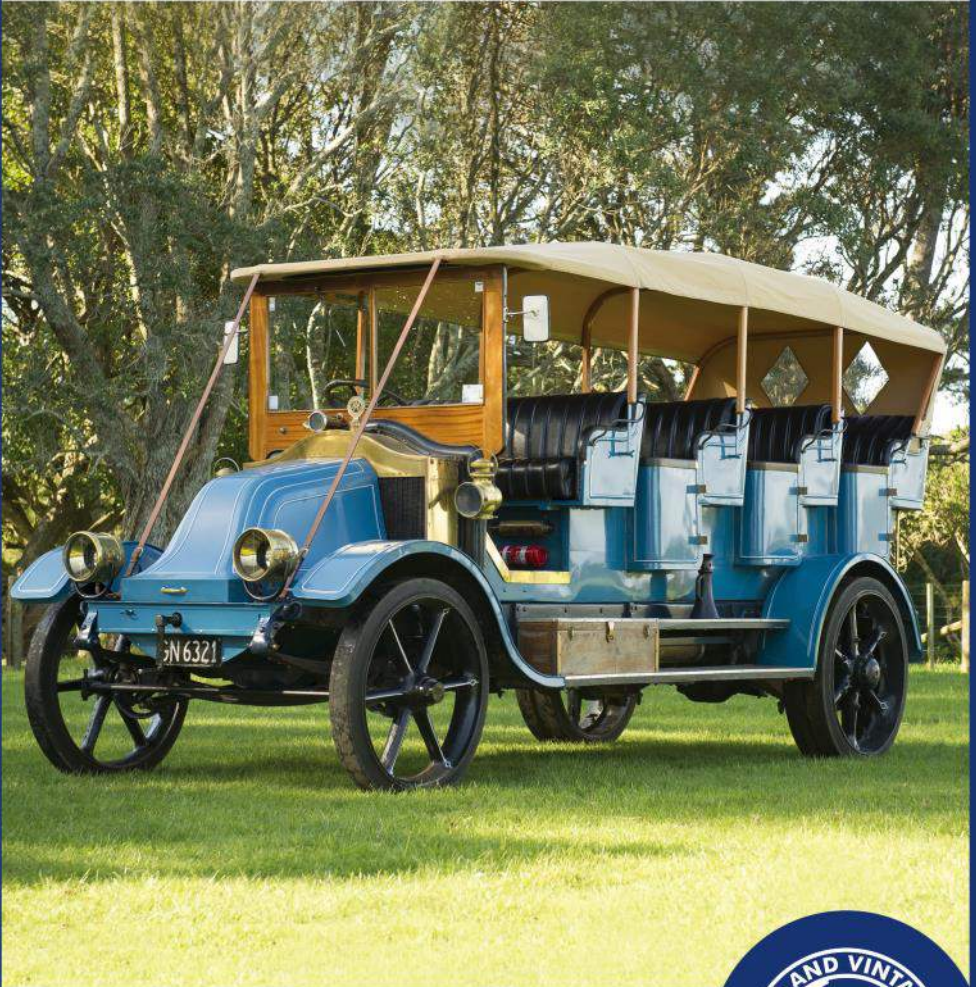




# AUCKLAND VETERAN & VINTAGE CAR CLUB INC.



*The Bulletin*

APRIL 2021



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# Index

## In this issue...

<i>To Bluff and back in the Slow Lane</i>	Page 18-21
<i>2021 Vintage Muster</i>	22
<i>Report of Executive Meeting</i>	23-24
<i>Club Night</i>	24
<i>Gymkhana</i>	25
<i>2021 Experts Rally</i>	26
<i>Vero International Festive of Motoring</i>	27
<i>2021 Experts Rally—Marshals Notice</i>	28

## Regular Features

Chairman's Report	4
Club Captain's Report	5-6
Commercial Notes	7
Motorcycle Notes	8-9
Library Notes	10
Secretary's Notes	11
Mid Week Tourers	12
Vintage Notes	13
Veteran Notes	14-15
New Members	115
Coming Events	16-17
Spares	29
Your Committee	30

## May Bulletin closing date

Cover Designed by Melanie Ball

**Strictly 25 April 2021**



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## Chairman's Report

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Well Covid-19 reared its head again and we were in lock down once more and a large number of events nationwide were cancelled, including the VCC National Bi-Annual Motorcycle rally in the Wairarapa, but then we were now back in Level 1, so those Auckland members who had entered decided to go and do their own thing down there as accommodation had already been paid for. 25 Auckland members and I, along with many more from around the country turned up in Masterton. We had a great 10 days away riding our motorcycles and I arrived back home on Friday 19 March, while the rest got home on the Sunday.

On Saturday 20 March Tracey Winterbottom and myself flew to Wellington for the VCC Executive Meeting, arriving home that evening. Unfortunately I missed the Motorcycle meeting, where a very good guest speaker Chris Taylor, talked about his marathon motorcycle ride from the Pacific coast port of Vladivostok to London.

The Branch's Vintage Muster was held on Sunday 14 March, which was a good event plotted by Tracey Winterbottom, congratulations to the class winners.

From reading the Mid Week tourers report, it would appear they had a great day out, well done to Ryan Winterbottom, the run's plotter.

The Veteran, Vintage, Commercial & Charabanc sections are all going well with lively meetings and discussions. If you're interested in any of these groups, please go along and join them. Now, re the Charabanc Angelique, I'll repeat what I said last month. We do need more drivers and people willing to learn about maintaining this old girl, so if any of you think this is an area for you, please come and talk to a Committee member, or contact John Stokes and Alan Price for more information.

**Club Night**—Robin Elliott arranged two speakers, one from Resene paints and the other from a Waiuku automotive paint spray business who spoke about automotive painting, with a very good turnout of members asking many questions that the speakers answered very well. All in all, a great night.

Our last Branch event for March was the Club Run, plotted by Lynda Spicer, starting from the BP Service Centre on the Southern Motorway and finishing at a great Regional Park on the coast.

**Coming Up**—The rescheduled Brit & Euro Classic Car Show at Lloyd Elsmore Park, Pakuranga is on the 11 April. Come and join our Branch stand. You can bring your motorcycle, car or commercial vehicle. We are taking the Charabanc for the first time and I'm sure the crowds will enjoy seeing her and our other vehicles.

18 April Club Run—will be our Gymkhana over in Waitakere.

22 April Club Night—speaker is Tim Manning who will enlighten us on the art of white metal bearings.

25 April—Motorcycle run leaving the Jolly Farmer, Drury at 1:00 p.m.

Well that's all for now, keep those 2, 3 and 4 wheels turning safely .

*Martin Spicer*

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## Club Captain's Report

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March, with no lockdowns, we have been able to enjoy a month of motoring and events.

John Stokes' Veteran section continues to have good attendances. If you have a veteran vehicle, do go along and join this group.

On 11 March about 26 members from the Motorcycle section decided to go to Masterton and have a rally of their own, as the National Motorcycle event, which the Wairarapa Branch had organised had been cancelled due to Covid. Accommodation had been booked and paid for so off they went.

Tracey and Stephen Winterbottom plotted this year's Vintage Muster. A good selection of vehicles assembled at the start and enjoyed an excellent rally, finishing up with dinner at the Papakura RSA, where I joined them. Thanks to the marshals who helped out. Congratulations to the section winners and overall winner.

The Motorcycle section had a much smaller meeting due to 26 of them being away. Their guest speaker was Chris Taylor, who had ridden a motorcycle from Vladivostok (Pacific coast of Russia) across Russia and through Europe. Everyone enjoyed this interesting speaker and he and his partner stayed talking to members and enjoying our facilities until 6.00pm.

The Mid week Tourers enjoyed another run.

On Club night we had two very interesting speakers, one who owned a spray paint shop in Waiuku and the other was Resene Paints, Product & Technical Manager. They gave a great talk and many, many questions were asked from the floor. They were very open about methods and what can go wrong from their perspective, as well as those issues which "home sprayers" can bump up against and how these can be fixed. After their talk, they spent the rest of the evening with Branch members, freely giving advice. We had about 45 members in attendance which was a good turnout for a Club Night. Thanks to Rob-in Elliott for organising these chaps.

The Vintage section had another good meeting. If you own a Vintage vehicle why not go along to their monthly meetings.

The Club Run held on Sunday 28 March was a re-run of the cancelled event in February. A minute group (just 5 vehicles) attended as unfortunately this event clashed with Beach Hop, Maunga Moana and a National Model A Rally. We chatted at the start and decided we would go as we had all made the effort. We had to change the finishing spot from Tapapakanga Reserve to the Waitawa Regional Park, which is just before Kawakawa Bay (due to the SPLORE music festival being rescheduled). However, before travelling back a few miles up the road to Waitawa Reserve, most of us bought ice creams at Kawakawa Bay and enjoyed these. Waitawa Reserve was a perfect spot for our group, nice quiet beachside reserve with huge picnic tables where we could all sit together. This is the old ICI site where they used to off load explosives. This is a pretty new reserve, only being open for 6 years. If you have not been to Tapapakanga or Waitawa Reserves (on the road between Clevedon and Kaiaua), they are well worth a visit.

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## Club Captain's Report Contd..

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I am open to suggestions for monthly runs, or even volunteer plotters, although this will not be an issue over the next couple of months. April Club run is the Gymkhana and May Club run is the Experts Rally. (Please do not be put off by the name. Russel assures me it is a lot easier this year), so please come out and enjoy these next two events. This is your Club and the plotters of the Trophy events and the monthly runs, which predominantly I have plotted, take a lot of personal time and effort to make these events enjoyable for you all. The Club runs always finish somewhere of interest and if you have any suggestions as to where we can visit later on in the year, please contact me.

### Coming Up:

Sunday 11 April – rescheduled Brit & Euro Show, Pakuranga – contact Martin if you want to take your vehicle and put on the Branch stand, but haven't spoken to him yet.

Sunday 18 April – Club Run Gymkhana – see page 22 for details.

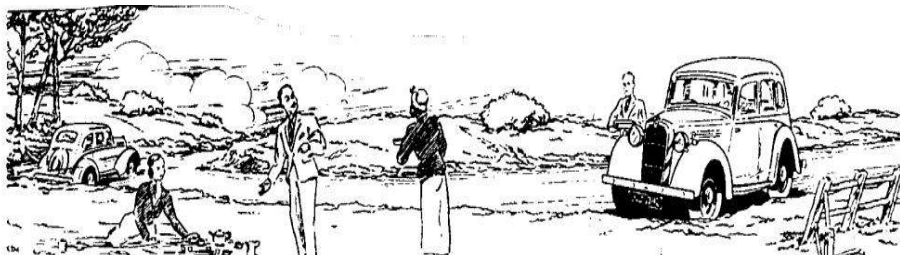
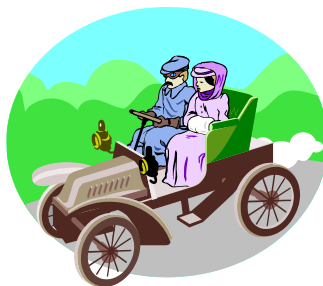
Thursday 22 April – Club Night. Everything you want to know about White Metal Bearings

Stay safe, remember to keep signing in wherever you go, including the Club rooms.

I look forward to seeing you out and about attending meetings, Club nights and other events.

Keep those 2,3 and 4 wheels turning safely

*Lynda Spicer*



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## Commercial Notes

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It has been suggested that perhaps if the Commercial section meetings were to be held on a Saturday afternoon, as all the other sections do, we might survive a little longer, given some of us are not exactly spring chickens now and it is a lot easier these days to just curl up in the Lazy-Boy after dinner, rather than going out for a couple of hours. I canvassed those present at the March meeting and I was surprised to find that the consensus was to leave it as it is, the fourth Wednesday evening. So, until you hear otherwise, that is when it will be! Pat and I have registered to participate in the "Very Vintage Day Out" at the Kumeu Showgrounds on Saturday 10 April. The last time our 1929 Dodge was out, was three years ago on a Daffodil day run, so when our family volunteered to help us make her ready again, we jumped at the chance. A brand new warrant and Rego today (24<sup>th</sup> of March) and all we want now is fine weather. John Perich has been touring the South Island since early March in convoy with 21 other Lilliput Caravan owners and has sent me a photo of a 1952 KD Bedford truck (below) still in regular use, that he came across in Oamaru. John is #2 in this line up. (right)



Murray Firth reports that not only have VTNZ not acknowledged his request for dispensation from forcing his '31 Bedford onto the brake rollers, after patiently waiting three months, but they are still hanging onto his exorbitant fee!

Keep M Rolling

*John Campbell*



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## Motorcycle Notes

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Well first up, I and a large number of our motorcycle members left Auckland and other areas on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March and made our way down to Ohakune for the night. Then onto Masterton, Dave Mayhew from Rotorua and I trailered our bikes there, the others were riding down. This was supposed to be the VCC National Bi Annual Motorcycle rally, but due to Covid-19 it was cancelled, but our group leader Peter Alderdice, said lets go anyway as we had paid for the accommodation. So we did and we all had a great time down in the Wairarapa. On the Saturday ride, there were around 60 riders taking part, I expect there will be a full report from one of our members who did the whole ride from Auckland on the Thursday till when the group got home the following Sunday.

I'm sorry I couldn't be at the March meeting to hear Chris's talk, as I flew down to Wellington at 7am for the VCC Executive meeting and didn't arrive home until 8:00 p.m. that night. *Martin Spicer*

So now to the meeting, your Club Captain Lynda and Jack ran the meeting. The numbers were a bit down as a lot were still coming home from the Wairarapa. Member Graham Viall brought along Jake Garner as a visitor, Graham spoke about his and Jake's bike ride down to the recent Burt Munro festival in Invercargill. A number of members also told funny stories from their past riding their bikes.

### Coming Up:

10 April—The Waikato's Moo Loo Meander

11 April—The Brit & Euro Classic Car show at Lloyd Elsmore Park. Bring your bike along and put it on our Branch stand.

17 April—Motorcycle meeting.

18 April—Branch Gymkhana

22 April—Club Night—Tim Manning talking about white metal bearings

25 April—Motorcycle run, starts Jolly Farmer, Drury 1:00pm.

15 May—Northland Motorcycle Rally Whangarei.

### Guest Speaker:

Chris Taylor spoke about his marathon motorcycle ride, which he did in 2019. He rode a Suzuki DR 650 trail bike. Chris decided he wanted to do this ride before he got any older. The journey was 14,000 kilometres and took two and half months. He shipped his bike to Vladivostok, on the Pacific coast. He new the roads were going to be rough, which is why he used a trail bike. The Suzuki was a second hand one and never missed a beat for the whole trip. The bike was fitted with a huge fuel tank, because fuel stops were over 600kms apart. Chris did the ride alone with no back up. When riding through forests there were signs warning of tigers and bears. He saw many historical sites and learnt a lot about the Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin. He named the bike Hiho (Chinese) and talked to the bike most days. Most road directions were clear, as he down loaded Google maps onto his phone. He also down loaded a translate program to talk to the locals. Generally, Chris felt safe on the trip and he made sensible decisions on the journey through East and West Russia and then Latvia, followed by a fast trip across Europe to finish in London. He said his only regret was doing it alone.

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## Motorcycle Notes Contd..

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Jack thanked Chris for coming and telling this story.

Keep those 2, 3 and 4 wheels turning safely

*Lynda Spicer & Jack Clark*



### ARE YOU ON THE TREE?

We have an email tree to remind you what is coming up and any other relevant information that comes to hand between Bulletins.

You **won't** get bombarded with rubbish and your email address is not visible to anyone else on the distribution list.

If you are reading this and would like to be included, please send me an email at [vintagesunbeam@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:vintagesunbeam@hotmail.co.nz) and you'll be in the loop.

**Tracey Winterbottom**

## Library Notes

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It has been a quiet time in and around the Library of late. Not many books coming in and only moderate lending of books to members. The effects of Covid are still with us and may continue for some time yet.

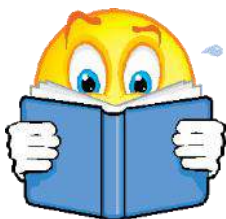
One item of note is that March 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 was the 100 Hundredth Anniversary of the first organised motor racing on Muriwai Beach. This milestone was to have been celebrated by the Historic Racing Club (HRC) who, for some years now have been the holders of the NZ Motor Cup which was first competed for at that first event back in 1921. From then on and each year after that, racing continued at Muriwai until the onset of the Second World War. Later, in 1954, the cup was passed on to the NZ Grand Prix Inc. for the first GP at Ardmore and from then on, the cup has been presented annually to the winner of the NZ GP. Over the years it has been inscribed with the names of many world-famous racing drivers.

The history of motor-racing in our country is well documented in several books on the subject, as well as in all manner of written material and photographs, much of which we hold in our Branch Library.

Regarding those Muriwai days, one book in particular, holds a special place in our Library that book being 'Flat to the Boards'. The book was the result of a long-held desire to compile the history by a founder member of our Branch, Dick Messenger. Dick had raced at Muriwai and over the years he had compiled a great deal of material in the way of programmes, race results, photographs and so on. In the event, however, Dick was unable to complete the considerable task and it was our Barry Robert who encouraged another early Branch member, Douglas Wood, to take up the task.

The complete manuscript, original photographs and copy of the finished book are in the Library for the benefit of our members.

***Chris Wood and the Library Team***—Barry Birchall, Colin Bott, Owen Hayward, Barry Robert & John Stokes



## Secretary's Notes

You may have noticed last month the change for our Continuous Membership Officer. After five years, Glenn Morris has stepped down from this role to free up some valuable time for himself and Marion. A huge round of thanks to Glenn who has worked hard to get a system up and running that makes it easy to validate these continuous service awards and has managed the necessary paperwork with Head Office to ensure these awards are made in a timely fashion. The next few years will see a steep upward curve for 50 year badges as large numbers of those who joined through the 70s, (who were younger than the majority of today's new members) are still active members. Going forward John Stokes has taken on responsibility for this task.

Last Saturday 20 March (at the time of writing) Martin and I attended the Executive Meeting in Wellington, a good day and it was good to catch up with the delegates from around the country - see full report elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Entry Forms will be available next month for the Vero Festival of Motoring and the entry fees have been published. Remember you also will need a VIC for the vehicle you are planning on taking, so don't leave this until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour!

From the Committee table, we have asked a couple of long standing members to review our constitution and make any recommendations back to the Committee, which we would then bring to the general membership. Our website is long overdue for an overhaul and while we were hoping to handle this within the Committee, we may be better off outsourcing this with professionals, which will come at a cost, but also has a number of pros. The Committee is also looking at what would be involved in renovating the toilets, which I think you will agree are looking a little tired.

The AGM is only two months away and I will get on my usual soapbox about new blood and ask you to think about what skills you have to offer. (Not necessarily a Committee position). Please give some thought to this and also what you want to see in your Branch from an activity and administration point of view.

*Tracey Winterbottom*



## Mid Week Tourers

Well another sunny day for the run on 17 March, with 14 participants, started from Drury. Jack Nazer was in his very nice Buick 8, which has 8 cylinders and it is not a V8 and Merv Stowers had his fast and furious Austin 7 out. He had missed going down Hunter Road because of the hill so he went up into Patumahoe Village so he could go left at the shops to pick up the route, very understandable with an Austin 7 with a 3 speed gearbox to avoid the big hill. Murray & Penny Firth had motored from Oratia in their Riley RMB and Murray said to me at the finish that the last time he went over Hunter Road was a long time ago when it was a very good hill climb road, a gravel road back then. Steve & Letitia Driver had dressed up for St Patrick's Day (see photo) and deserve the chocolate fish. We will get it to you next time when you come out. Navigating for Rex Benns was Paul Innes, who was a member when the Harbour Bridge was opened and took part in his vintage Standard tourer. Another member my age was Jo Bielecki who convinced her grandfather to navigate for Trevor Farr, perhaps so she could drive the Bielecki car? The Run itself took us around in a circle over the rural roads in Franklin, through Bremner Road and the new sub-division Auranga, then through Patumahoe, Paerata, Sutton Road and over Cosgrave Road where the School here is called Cosgrove School, don't know why the different spelling, to finish at the Kings Plant Barn and Café where we all had a very nice lunch. The café itself is very good, so if you haven't been here I can surely recommend it to you.

### *Ryan Winterbottom*



### Coming Events:

**Wednesday 21 April**—Usually a northern start, but we have a dearth of destinations and plotters for Westgate starts (hint) and Jack has found a good place in Karaka. Usual **Drury start and time**—BP Service Centre, Southern Motorway, Drury 10:00 a.m. for a 10:30 a.m. departure. BYO everything.

**Wednesday 19 May**—Usually a Southern start, but this time could be a Westgate start, usual time, venue to be confirmed, possibly BYO, so watch this space.

### *The Mid-Week Team*

Jack Nazer

(09) 378 4580

Mike Loosemore

021 027 08848

And the rest (new blood always welcome)



## Vintage Notes

Both Neil Lucas and Neil Bielecki had problems that prevented them from taking part in the Vintage Muster. Neil Lucas' proved fairly minor and he arrived at the March meeting in the Dodge, but Neil Bielecki has a more serious problem with a suspected cracked head in the Renault.

Bob Pickering is making steady progress with his International truck. Welcome to Heather and Arthur Atkins, who have recently transferred from the Bay of Plenty Branch. They bring with them a very nice 1929 De Soto K. Like all of us, Arthur is keen to find a WOF certifier who is sympathetic to older machinery and the group was able to help with suggestions.

The Winterbottom's are now very close to having the Sunbeam back on the road. As plotters, they actually missed out in participating in the Vintage Muster, but will surely be at Waikato Branch's Vintage Venture.

Tracey advises there is still some accommodation available in New Plymouth for the Vero International Festival next year, but don't procrastinate for too long.

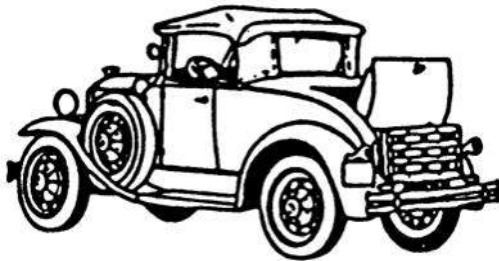
Ryan Winterbottom has found a Commer truck (or 2?) in Gisborne which will help with the restoration of his Commer project.

John Towers' Chevrolet truck is coming on apace, with most of the wooden frame looking very impressive. The equipment up in the Branches barn may be of assistance in shaping some of the panel work.

Harvey Brewer has the growling diff out of his Austin 7. He has quite a selection of crown wheels and pinions to choose from, but they all look fairly well used. Can anyone help?

The 100th Anniversary of Muriwai Beach racing, which Chris Wood was going to attend, was postponed due to Covid. It is still intended to reschedule it, but the new date is as yet unknown.

### *Murray & Penny Firth*



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## Veteran Notes

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John Stokes asked me to cover for him again for the March meeting. I knew numbers were going to be down as there were too many clashes we could not avoid and a yacht race. Grant Stott had bought in two large photos he acquired some time ago. Grant always had an interest in the Chandler motor car and both pictures had an association with the Chandler. One photo was taken about 1928 outside the Mt Wellington Fire Station with a Buick and Chandler fire tenders. Both vehicles had been built on a car chassis which was quite common at the time. The second photo was of Bill Miller's garage in Khyber Pass, also taken about 1928. Miller's had the Chandler agency for a few years and did a lot at the time to promote the car in Auckland. Bill had moved from Chandler to Nash when this photo was taken.

Barry Robert gave us a lesson in the twin cylinder engine. He said the English, for sixty years, had the two pistons going up together while the French had it sorted right from the start as one piston went down and the second piston rose. Doug Hamilton had just purchased a 1918 Scrips Booth of Grahame Power, a neighbour. The restoration had been carried out by Eric Watts in Feilding about thirty years ago and the car had done very little mileage since. Doug would like to uncover some early history of the car. Russell Vincent tells us Kathleen's health issues are grounding him at present.

Tim Edney talked about 1917 Le France 14.5 litre fire engine he had purchased off Warner Mauger in Christchurch, who had bought it in from the States to convert it into raceabout, the fate of so many Le France fire trucks in the States. When the vehicle arrived in Christchurch, Warner decided the vehicle was too good to modify so the work was never carried out. Tim drove the vehicle to Auckland from Central Otago and said he never passed a service station without adding more gas. On a trip to the States, he went back to the small town where the fire truck was stationed for 48 years and suggested to the fire chief and the crew they come out to NZ when the truck was 100 years old and this did happen. He said the crew seemed more interested in hunting and fishing than their old fire truck. Six veteran Le France fire trucks have come into greater Auckland area in recent years. Three have been made into giant raceabouts, two remain as fire engines and one was broken up for spares.

Phil Henley was telling us about his recent problems with the 9 Litre 1913 Mitchell. He had intended to drive the car through to the Hawkes Bay and a few days before he heard a strange noise from the engine and discovered he had an issue with the screw gears. Phil is presently having some new gears made. He has certainly had some issues with that car but is very determined to beat it. Gavin Welch bought the veteran Model T Ford along and told us he had just replaced the brake linings on the Dodge and spent some time after getting the brakes sorted. For some of us it was disappointment when Auckland went into lockdown as many of us had entered the Hawkes Bay Veteran Run held just prior to the Art Deco and didn't make it. Two members from our group did drive down overnight after the police removed the roadblock. Not sure I could have done that today. They arrived in Napier at 7:00am in the morning then went on a run. John Morrison tells me he bought home a trophy for the Veteran section. When I wrote the veteran notes in November, I said there was London Brighton

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## Veteran Notes

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car for sale on the North Shore and said to make contact if you were interested. The car has been bought by Lance Anderson and restoration is under way. Good to see the car finally being restored and to see it stay in Auckland. The Cadillac was found by John McCraw about 1955 in Hindon, just outside Dunedin. The car was probably imported by Dexter and Crozier into Auckland in November 1903 and sold to someone in Dunedin. I am sure with a little research you would find the original owner.

*Barry Birchall*

Right—Miller's Garage




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## New Members

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A most sincere welcome is extended to the following new member. We hope to see you taking an active part in Branch activities whenever possible. Should you or any member require any assistance or advice, please feel free to ask any Committee member. (Refer back page of this Bulletin).

Victor Yukich  
Meadowbank  
1930 Model A Tudor



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# Coming Events

## April

10	Sat	Very Vintage Day out at Kumeu Show Grounds	
10-11		Mooloo Meander (Waikato Branch)	
11	Sun	Brit & Euro Classic Car Shaw, Lloyd Elsmore Park, Pakuranga	
11	Sun	Swapmeet (Northland Branch)	
17	Sat	Motorcycle Meeting—Clubrooms	2:30pm
18	Sun	Club Run—Gymkhana—40 Hunters Rd, Waitakere	1:00pm
21	Wed	Mid Week Tourers	
		Starts BP Service Centre, Southern Motorway, Drury	10:00am
22	Thurs	Club Night & New Members—Speaker Tim Manning	8:00pm
24	Sat	Vintage Section Meeting—Clubrooms	2:30pm
24	Sat	Northern Raid Rally (North Shore Branch)	
25	Sun	Motorcycle Run—Starts Jolly Farmer, Drury	1:00pm
28	Wed	Commercial Meeting & Charabanc Maintenance Night	
		Clubrooms	8:00pm

## May

1	Sat	Veteran Section Meeting—Clubrooms	2:30pm
4	Tues	Committee Meeting—Clubrooms	7:30pm
8	Sat	Motorcycle Section Meeting—Clubrooms	2:30pm
13	Thurs	Bulletin Mailing Night via Email	7:30pm
15	Sat	Motorcycle Rally (Northland Branch)	
16	Sun	Vintage Venture (Waikato Branch)	
19	Wed	Mid Week Tourers	10:00am
22	Sat	Vintage Section Meeting—Clubrooms	2:30pm
23	Sun	Club Run—Experts Rally—Starts Cnr. Kiwi Esplanade & Coronation Rd, Mangere Bridge	1:30pm
26	Wed	Commercial Meeting & Charabanc Maintenance Night	
		Clubrooms	8:00pm
27	Thurs	Club Night & New Members	8:00pm

## June

1	Tues	Committee Meeting—Clubrooms	7:30pm
5-6		Double Fifty Rally (Waikato Branch)	
5	Sat	Veteran Section Meeting—Clubrooms	2:30pm
10	Thurs	Bulletin Mailing	7:30pm
12	Sat	Vintage Section Meeting—Clubrooms	2:30pm
13	Sun	Motorcycle Run	
		Starts BP Service Centre Southern Motorway	11:00am
16	Wed	Mid Week Tourers	
19	Sat	Motorcycle Section Meeting—Clubrooms	2:30pm
23	Wed	Commercial Meeting & Charabanc Maintenance Night	
		Clubrooms	8:00pm
<b>26</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Branch AGM—Clubrooms</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
27	Sun	Club Run	

**Note:** The clubrooms are open on the second and fourth Thursday evenings each month from 7:30pm till 10:00pm and every Saturday afternoon from 4:30pm till 6:30pm.

## Coming Events

# Club Night

**Thursday 22 April  
8:00 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker**

**Tim Manning  
White Metal Demonstration**



## Club Run—Gymkhana

**Sunday 18 April**

**40 Hunters Rd, Waitakere  
Courtesy of member Mike Courtney**

**Time: 1:00 p.m.**



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## To Bluff and Back in the Slow Lane Contd..

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Otautau to Manapouri and then Te Anau for lunch on very quiet roads. Even so, Te Anau was a shock! It is a ghost town, having lost over 80% of it's trade. Some stores shut and others having closing down sales, but no customers. You could fire a shot down Main St with very little risk. There was a little old Cessna float plane at the pontoon on the lake with the motor running and we couldn't resist. Our lady pilot flew us over places that Penny and I had walked in our tramping days. Quite a highlight!

After filling the tank we carried on a little further along the road to Te Anau Downs, staying at Fiordland National Park Lodge. Much cheaper than any accommodation in Te Anau, it was very nice and made our run into Milford Sound the next day a little shorter. The weather forecast was for rain in the morning, so after dinner we took a drive to the Mirror Lakes for some photos while it was fine and calm. Sure enough, next morning it was raining, but as we travelled that iconic road to Milford Sound, the rain stopped and the clouds lifted to reveal a little fresh snow on the tops. The scenery gets more and more dramatic and suddenly we are approaching the Homer Tunnel. The road is being re-sealed here but as we approached, the stop/go man shifted a couple of cones and waived us aside. Waiting here was a Kea with a passion for old trucks. The bird explored the truck from front to back, providing some wonderful photo opportunities and then hitched a ride for the next hundred metres up toward the tunnel portal. I was wondering how we would do in the tunnel with our very dim headlights, but a row of bulbs the length of the tunnel, while giving very little light, at least gave a centre line to navigate by. Out into the sunlight at the top of the steep switchback road to the valley floor a long way below. A lot of engine braking needed.



We had a self contained unit, right on the banks of the Cleddau River, with completely unfettered views – sheer rock walls on either side and vistas of snowy peaks both up and down valley. The unit even had subdued lighting under the vanity that came on automatically when you got out of bed to use the bathroom in the middle of the night. This kind of luxury does not come cheap, but we had decided to heck with it, we are unlikely to come this way again. As a vegetarian, Penny was unable to appreciate the tender venison I had for dinner. Milford Sound, like Te Anau, is suffering terribly from the lack of overseas visitors.

We left this most beautiful of places next morning with clear skies and more stunning views. When we drove through the tunnel we found that the word had got around in the Kea world and we were mobbed by three birds who did everything but stand on our heads. They also nipped a hole in my fabric roof.

Our next stop was the Red Shed on Blackmore Station at Garston, just south of Kingston for two nights. It looked a bit rugged on the outside but within all was very modern and comfortable. On our 'lay day' here we popped up to Kingston to visit the Flyer. Two engines, one with it's steam ticket and the other under cover. They are working on several carriages and a mountain of paper work

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## To Bluff and Back in the Slow Lane Contd..



that will allow them to carry passengers. This venture also will need overseas visitors to be viable. The wind this day was so strong that it was picking up the soil from the cultivated paddocks and forming an impenetrable brown dust storm. Very spectacular, but a lot of topsoil must have been lost. The aim from here was to drive the length of the Nevis road, but we were advised

that, particularly after recent rain, some of the fords may be washed out and risky on our own, so we settled for the first 8km which took us steeply up to the high point and an historic old ski hut built in the 1930s. From Garston, northwards up the eastern shores of Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown's support centre of Frankton for lunch. Here we were right out of our comfort zone! We got lost in the shopping centre car park, ate some overpriced "plastic food" and had a cup of coffee served in a paper cup. We couldn't get out of there fast enough, so carried on to Arrowtown Holiday Park and a much less frantic pace of life.

Next day, we climbed the switchback road to the top of the Crown Range in light rain, then descended through the beautiful wet tussock of the upper Cardrona Valley to the old Cardrona Hotel, where we enjoyed lunch in front of a much appreciated open fire.



In Wanaka we caught up with an old friend before driving just down the road to Luggate to spend some time with VCC Otago member, Graham Taylor and his wife and son. Graham's passion is for BMC A series cars – Morris Minors, Minis, 1100s and 1300s. His son, Daniel collects and restores Toyota Land Cruisers in all their different guises and both of them use their incredible imagination to repurpose old redundant machinery to give it a new life, or turn it into a quirky sculpture. Also, of much interest to me, were all the bones of an early British Bedford like mine.

Luggate to Makarora for lunch for both us and the truck, then over Haast Pass and steeply down through the Gates of Haast. Losing brakes there does not bear thinking about and the very steep runaway escape ramp emphasises that. Then a pleasant drive through virgin forest to Haast for the night.

An easy day to Franz Josef, cloudy but dry, stopping at view points and with very little traffic. We saw hints of Southern Rata flower along the way. We stayed at Franz Josef YHA and walked just down the road to Alice May restaurant for dinner. We were the only guests at the youth hostel so the receptionist gave us the door code and told us to turn off the lights when we left. This time last year she was turning people away.

After seeing those few Rata flowers, we decided to change our original plan. The Otira Gorge is famous for the way the hillsides blaze red in a good year so we thought to try the Otira Hotel for the night instead of stopping at Hokitika. Our long drive did not reveal even one flower – very bad timing, but the pub

## To Bluff and Back in the Slow Lane Contd..

was well worth the trip. The old building has been restored and furnished (probably over-furnished) with huge ornately carved Victorian furniture. Our room sported a four-poster bed and the en-suite had a flowery Royal Doulton basin and toilet with a big cast iron cistern with a pull chain. The whole pub is a museum, crammed with stuff. No theme, as long as it's old. In the owner's absence it is managed by an eccentric retired couple who live just down the road. I would not have missed it for anything!

Next morning it was raining. Hard! The cloud was right down and the visibility was terrible. Even the Rainex wasn't coping! Lights on and away we go. We had thought of going up the Viaduct but we wouldn't have known when we were on it! So back down the road we went and even that wasn't nice as quite a bit of heavy traffic wanted to pass. Soon we were at Jacksons and turned off onto the Lake Brunner road. By the time we got to Moana the rain had stopped and it was an easy drive to Reefton for the night, with plenty of time to look around this historic old town.

Next day, long straight roads until Inangahua Landing where we took a little side road through a lovely valley and back onto SH6. From here to Murchison is through the Upper Buller Gorge and has to be one of the finest drives around. With virtually no traffic we enjoyed it at our own pace. After a good lunch in Murchison, it was a pleasant drive to Tapawera pub with a stop at a rather strange sculpture garden. Not my cup of tea. Tapawera used to be a hop growing region which declined and is now experiencing a great resurgence of this spectacular crop.

Next day we avoided the main roads again, traveling through Dove Valley and Upper Moutere, then Nelson for lunch, through Rai pine forest and to Rai Valley for two nights. We were staying at the old NZ Forestry training camp which was sold to become a motel. As such it is currently struggling, so many of the units



are rented long term. We positioned ourselves here to do a day trip out to French Pass. This is a great little road, initially through farmland, then winding through nice bush and finally breaking out into the open again, contouring round high above the sounds with breath-taking views all around. A very historic place, the narrow sea passage

between D'Urville Island and the mainland, which is French Pass, has a rocky reef extending two third of the way across it, leaving a very narrow channel with a very strong tidal rip. The French explorer, Dumont D'Urville sailed his ship, the Astrolabe through this treacherous stretch of water. A brave (or foolhardy) man. I think he actually clipped a rock on the way through, but got away with it.

On the way to Picton we had a walk at Pelorus Bridge through a decent remnant of the virgin forest before having lunch at Havelock. Queen Charlotte Drive brought us out above the commercial part of the port at Picton, which is stacked with huge piles of pulping logs for export. An extra day in Picton was spent exploring the road out beyond Waikawa and getting a flat tyre repaired.



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## To Bluff and Back in the Slow Lane Contd..

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On the ferry crossing we were entertained by a very good jazz band. Then a short drive to visit my cousin in Wellington for three nights. Donald and Takako took us to Otari Bush and the following day to Zealandia. This is a place Wellington can be proud of. Predator proof fencing surrounds some very good bush supporting a healthy native bird population, including Kaka, Hihi, Saddlebacks and many more and around 1000 Tuatara (we only saw 6!).

We must have had a tail wind next morning, getting off Highway 1 at Levin, skirting Palmerston North and taking the Kimbolton Road all the way to Taihape for the night, with views of a snow capped Mt Ruapehu on the way.

Just North of Taihape, we turned off to go through Mataroa and backroads to Ohakune – really nice. Soon onto a quiet Highway 4, through National Park to Taumarunui, then on the little road east of the river to Ongarue, then following the railway line to Highway 30 and Te Kuiti overnight.

We had planned to come home with one more overnight stop in Raglan, but we were a bit nervous about finding a bed. In the end, we opted for a mad dash through Pirongia and Ngaruawahia. At Huntly, we got onto the Expressway and this was not enjoyable at all! We were passed by a huge group of over 100 Harleys who occupied the fast lane past us for several minutes, pinning cars behind us. This is where we got our only pissed off toot on the whole trip which I must admit I deserved. A slow old truck does not belong on this road. I had been keen to drive up the Bombay Hill but by the time we got to Pokeno, I was feeling very stressed, so got off Highway 1 and followed Great South Rd through Auckland and home with 3128 miles on the clock.

Although the truck is slow, noisy and not that easy to drive, we could have gone all those places in much more comfort in a modern 4WD, we both felt that using the truck made this a totally unique journey that we would not change for anything.

*Murray Firth*



## 2021 Vintage Muster

This year saw seventeen entries for our Annual Vintage Muster, ten competitive and seven touring. The field was heavily weighted in favour of Model A's. Unfortunately, engine troubles meant two non starters.

The run was over 80 miles of sealed roads, starting in Papakura and meandering through Drury, Ramarama, Bombay, Hunua, Ardmore and through the village of Clevedon to lunch at Duder Regional Park. The afternoon saw a shorter section over Twilight and Sandstone Roads to head back toward Papakura via Mill Rd and the Ardmore Aerodrome.

Most people visited at least one of the off course checks and misinterpretation of least line of deviation saw at least half the field miss Cowan Road in Hunua, without being any the wiser!!

A moment of stress for the plotters in the morning when it was discovered a half marathon had closed part of North Rd, Clevedon, but by 11am it was open again so no contingency plan was required.

Thank you to our marshals on the day: John Stokes, Merv & Judy Stowers, Glenn & Marion Morris and Ken & Annette Foot.

Special thanks to Norm & Pat Dewhurst, as with Stephen called back to New Plymouth and me two weeks out of hospital with a new hip, it was all hands on deck to manage the lead car.

We finished back in Papakura where it was straight into the RSA for an early dinner and most people, even those who had to return to the other side of Auckland would have been home before dark. Not going home to get ready for dinner and then have to drive again seems to work well for these smaller events.

This was also the first rally for the year where we are trying our new system whereby the top six go into the hat to see who will plot the next year's event. Honours this time fall to John & Roger Morrison, who are keen to try their hand at plotting and will have plenty of support.

### Results:

#### Fast class

1 <sup>st</sup>	Rodger & Val Ball	1930 Model A Phaeton
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Russel & Jocelyn McAlpine	1930 Model A Phaeton
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alan & Shaaran Price	1930 Chevrolet Roadster

#### Slow Class

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gavin Welch & Sophie Zhao	1925 Dodge
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John & Roger Morrison	1924 Buick Tourer
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wayne & Carrie Roberts	1924 Velie

### *Tracey & Ryan Winterbottom*

Right—John & Roger Morrison  
1924 Buick Tourer  
Plotters for 2022 Vintage Muster



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## Report on Executive Meeting

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The National Executive meeting was held in March in Wellington.

I will cover a couple of things at both the April and May Club Nights, but here is a key point summary. If you are really interested in reading reports in more detail let me know, I am happy to email you a soft copy of the various functional reports.

Vero Insurance – just a reminder that the insurance scheme gives us very favourable rates, based on your vehicle being a club vehicle, **not an every day runner**.

VICs – a reminder you need a VIC to take part in a National Event and that your VIC only lasts 10 years and then requires a renewal. The renewal process is important to capture any changes that may have been made in that time. NZTA recognise our VIC system and can request an audit at any time.

Vero Festival – the programme is out, entry fees have been published and the entry form should be available on line later this month. You are encouraged to enter on line, you will not be sent a paper entry form automatically. Please give me a call if you have trouble using the form on line. I will have a paper copy if you really need one.

Facebook Page – the National Facebook group continues to grow, giving us a social media profile, I also see more and more branches setting up a page – check them out, including our Auckland page. A good way to keep in touch and share stories and skills.

Daffodil Day – August 22, this is our opportunity to **raise the profile of the Club** while raising money for a charity. North Island Club Captain Kaaren Smylie will be doing the hard yards at a National level to get us exposure and provide support. Watch The Bulletin for details on Auckland's activities.

Government Policy – the Management team continue to work with Government agencies on policy that affects us, although getting time with relevant ministers is proving challenging at present. Roger White has attended one meeting where the Clean Air Standard 2023 was discussed. This will have no effect on our vehicles, it applies to new imports only. Vehicles over 40 years will be exempt and vehicles between 30 and 40 years old are likely to have other avenues for exemptions.

Systems – the National Office has had a major upgrade of it's accounting system, streamlining work flows and generally eliminating double handling and multiple sources of data storage. Everything can be accessed with the touch of a button and further down the track it is envisaged that secretaries will be able to access their own Branch data with password protection.

Rebranding – design work has continued on a change of logo for the Club to give it a clean, up to date look. We can give feedback on this as a Branch, (feedback in general at the meeting was positive) and the final logo will be presented at the National AGM in August this year. I will have the logo at Club Night and we'll get it into next months Bulletin. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

There is a Notice of Motion going forward to the National AGM around preparation for on line membership applications and we can discuss this at Club Night.

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## Report on Executive Meeting Contd...

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Also the Club has been approached by at least one small motoring club regarding the possibility of coming under the umbrella of the VCC. At present our constitution does not allow for this, so management have been working on a Notice of Motion to make changes that would allow a one make club or the like (a "special interest group") to join the VCC. A little more work is required but we can discuss this too at a Club Night.

*Tracey Winterbottom*

### **CLUB NIGHT** **22 April—8:00pm**

#### ***WHITE METAL DEMONSTRATION***

Club member Tim Manning, a retired engine re-conditioner will be demonstrating how to pour white metal bearings.

Mark your calendar, car pool and make the most of this opportunity.



Enquiries to Russel McAlpine 0274 735 451

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## Gymkhana

# GYMKHANA

Sunday 18 April

Arrive—1:00 p.m.

Briefing—1:15 p.m.



40 Hunters Road, Waitakere  
(courtesy of member Mike Courtney)

open to **ALL** Club eligible vehicles  
all events based on time  
you'll need a navigator/mechanic with  
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riders  
winners announced at the end of  
event  
coffee cart will be on site

Looking for helpers on the day

Please phone Russel

0274 735 451

## Experts Rally



Four heads are better than  
One  
Join forces and activate that  
Grey Matter

Don't be afraid to give it a go

## 2021 Experts Rally

You mightn't get it perfect but you should  
complete the course  
Spare sets of instructions for your back seat  
assistants  
Start and finish central for all Rally over  
(usually) quiet roads

**See you at the Car Park  
Cnr Kiwi Esplanade & Coronation Rd  
Mangere Bridge**

**Sunday 23 May  
1:30 p.m.**

***Russel & Jocelyn McAlpine***



# Vero International Festival of Motoring



## NINE Months to Go

The Festival is fast approaching. Entry Forms will be available very soon and details are on the Vero Festival Website.

(<http://www.historicmotoring.co.nz/>)

If you haven't already, please register your interest. The organisers are pleased with the number of Vintage and PV vehicles who have indicated they will be there. It would be great to get more Veterans and Motorcycles.

Motoring Day destinations and routes are all set. Vehicles will all be leaving from either Devon St East or West with a choice of long, medium or short routes. Start times will be flexible, allowing you to plan at your pace. Destinations are Tikorangi, Opunake, Hawera, Stratford/Whangamomona. All routes take in many places of interest, with plenty of time for stops where you want. Routes are scenic, and there are gravel sections. Those who prefer to avoid gravel will be given an alternative route.

Thursday night sees a massive street party in Inglewood, which is looking forward to hosting us and then Friday night will be the final dinner event and entertainment.

Don't miss out on this great event.

## Experts Rally—Marshals Notice

# Experts Rally

**Sunday 23 May 2021**

## Marshals required

**Please phone:  
Russel or Jocelyn McAlpine  
(09) 818 4285 or 0274 735 451  
Email—[rjmcalpine@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rjmcalpine@xtra.co.nz)**



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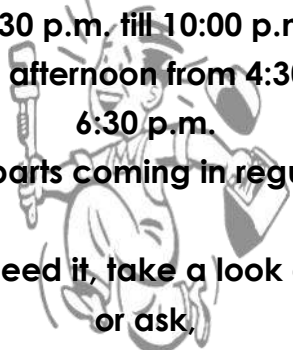
Saturday afternoon from 4:30 p.m. till

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# Your Committee



## Chairman/Motorcycle Rep/Delegate

Martin Spicer (Lynda)

Email: spicerclan2017@gmail.com

Ph: (09) 233 6382  
or 0221 025 954

## Vice Chairman/Clubrooms Booking/Name Badges

Don Green (Brenda)

Email: greend@slingshot.co.nz

Ph: 266 8836  
or 021 073 2642

## Secretary/Privacy Officer:

Tracey Winterbottom  
(Stephen)

Email: vintagesunbeam@hotmail.co.nz

Ph: (09) 232 0246  
or 021 732 209

## Treasurer:

Ian Hubbard (Lesley)

Email: ian@fhp.co.nz

Ph: 0274 426 748

## Club Captain:

Lynda Spicer (Martin)

Email: spicerclan2017@gmail.com

Ph: (09) 233 6382  
or 021 189 3120

## Committee Members:

Warwick Darrow (Trisha)

### Building Maintenance

Email: waktrish@gmail.com

Ph: 520 2882 or 021 203 4562

Robin Elliott

### Entertainment Officer

Email: robaleen@actrix.co.nz

Ph: 0274 922 188

John Morrison

### Entertainment/Inter-Club Liaison Officer

Email: morrison03@gmail.com

Ph: 521 6307 or 022 655 1479

Alan Price (Shaaran)

### Building Maintenance

Email: birdwoodprices@gmail.com

Ph: 833 8575

Shaaran Price (Alan)

### Social Convenor/New Membership Liaison Officer

Email: birdwoodprices@gmail.com

Ph: 833 8575

John Stokes

### Veteran Rep/Spares/Trophy Steward

Email: jcostokes96a@xtra.co.nz

Ph: (09) 236 4582  
or 0272 772 108

## Non-Committee Positions:

### Librarian

Chris Wood (Diana)

Ph: 524 9478

### Beaded Wheels Reporters

John Stokes

### Continuous Membership Awards Steward

John Stokes

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Email: jcostokes96a@xtra.co.nz

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Val Ball (Rodger)

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John Campbell (Pat)

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### Vintage Section Rep

Murray & Penny Firth

Ph: 818 6434

### VIC Officer

Michael O'Kane

Ph: 813 4944

## Insurance:

Vero Consumer Insurance Specialist 0800 505 905 or 356 4501

Agency Number: 0300126

## Clubrooms

Street Address:

Postal Address:

Open:

Club Night:

### Ph: 579 5625

39 Fairfax Ave, Penrose

P O Box 12 138, Penrose, Auckland 1642

2nd & 4th Thursday 7:30-10:00pm, Every Saturday 4:30-6:30 pm

4th Thursday of the month

## Branch Email Address

auckland@vcc.org.nz

## Library Email Address

libraryavcc@gmail.com

## Branch Website

www.avvcc.org.nz

## Branch Honorary Life Members:

Barry Robert

Norm Dewhurst QSM

Alan Roberts



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