



# AUCKLAND VETERAN & VINTAGE CAR CLUB INC.



## *The Bulletin*

DECEMBER 2017 / JANUARY 2018





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## **February Bulletin closing date**

**25 January 2018**

*Cover Designed by Melanie Ball*



The views expressed by the correspondents in this Bulletin are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Auckland Veteran & Vintage Car Club Inc. Any articles of interest, comments, letters to the Editor etc are welcome. All contributions are presented to and approved by the club committee prior to printing. Please forward any submissions to the Bulletin Editor.

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## Chairman's Report

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Hi everyone. Well my first 6 months as Chairman has flown by and it has been a great time for Lynda and I, as well as a learning curve. The new Committee has gelled well and the running of your Branch is carrying on the tradition of looking after your interests. So, what's been happening over the last month?

### **Out and About Reports:**

We had the Te Kauri Lodge at Kawhia over nighter. We had rain on the Saturday morning we left and it continued all the way there, but we had a good scenic drive that was over 200kms but only 5kms were in traffic, the rest was all back roads—see full report elsewhere in the Bulletin.

The Veteran section had a much smaller turnout due to some going on the Far North Tour.

The Motorcycle section had another good turnout of members to hear member Douglas Ormrod tell them his motoring history. Douglas brought along his recently restored immaculate 1960 NZETA scooter and he had also put together a great photo show on the big screen - see Motorcycle report.

The midweek tourers continue with their runs that always finish at an interesting place.

The Commercial section, chaired by John Campbell always have something interesting to look at and talk about. If you have a commercial, large or small, give John a call and join his group.

The Annual Auckland Motorcycle Rally—we were a bit worried a week before the event with only 20 entries, but after I sent out a mass email to members we ended up with 52. The weekend started at the Pokeno Hall for a pie n mash dinner that Lynda put on, 26 attended. Tony Vaughan, last years winner, had done us proud with a great scenic rally route that took us from Pokeno to Port Waikato to Nikau Caves, with a adventure metal road ride on the way back to the finish. The weather was dry for the first time in three years. A big thank you goes out to our marshals who gave us their time, Russel & Jocelyn McAlpine, Alan & Sharran Price, Peter & Robyn Levet and back up trailer guys who were needed Leo Fowler, Martyn Seay and Tony Vaughan. See full report elsewhere in the Bulletin. Club night speaker was Peter Alderdice who gave a talk on how to seal petrol tanks.

By the time you read this we will have had the Branch's Gymnic.

Coming up. Motorcycle meeting Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December—guest speaker will be the world famous Kiwi and team boss of our winning America's Cup boat team Grant Dalton. I have been trying for years to get Grant to come and talk to us, but as you know he's been busy. For those that don't know Grant is also a classic bike racer and he has raced in the Isle of Man Classic TT and is also a muscle car racer. Grant has a large collection of bikes and cars. So take note of the date—all welcome.

Club night—This is the last Branch event of the year, Pot Luck Dinner. If you haven't been before do come along for a festive night out—see advert elsewhere in the Bulletin.

New Years Day Fish N Chip Run—All welcome to start the New Year off with us. We will be leaving the Jolly Farmer Drury at 11:00 a.m. and finish up at Kaiaua for a fish n chip lunch. Over the years we have been blessed with a sunny day, so

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## Chairman's Report Contd...

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fingers crossed.

Well that's it for this year, so Lynda and I would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy Christmas and a great and trouble free motoring new year.

Keep those 2,3, and 4 wheels turning safely.

*Martin Spicer*



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## Notes from your Secretary

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Entry forms are available from the Clubrooms or by email for:

Whanganui Burma Rally Sunday 21 January

Eastern Bay of Plenty Saturday 3 February

A fairly quiet Committee meeting, we have looked into wifi and eftpos availability for the clubrooms but neither really are cost effective for us at present.

We will revisit again next year.

The Charabanc crew have continued their hard work on various refurbishing tasks and hopefully made it to the Gymnic.

I have met with Michael Clark to kick off a website overhaul that is well overdue, this should take effect early next year.

Our facebook page continues to grow in followers and remember to get yourself on the email tree to keep up to date with the latest news.

*Tracey Winterbottom*



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## Club Captain's Report

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I said last month how fast this year is rushing past. Now I find that this is the last Club Captain's report of the year.

November has been a quiet month with just the mid week tourers –see their report and of course the Motorcycle section's Annual Auckland Rally.

The Auckland Motorcycle Rally eventually had 52 starters, up by five from last year which was pleasing, as a week out from the rally, they only had 20 confirmed entries. It was also great to see among the entries, 7 first timers, with 6 of them being members who have joined over the past 12 months. Although the weather was dull and overcast, it did stay fine for them and I believe it was warm and sunny at lunch. The rally took a very scenic route to Nikau Caves Café where lunch was provided. The rally took them out from their base in Pokeno up through Kellyville and over to Mercer where they took a tour over a local farm to see the remains of the largest paddle steamers in their days in New Zealand. You have all, no doubt, seen the hulking wrecks when coming along SH1 and wondered what they were. They were part of the Roose fleet and amazingly they were built on the island where they now stand as wrecks. Leaving Mercer the entrants rode out to Port Waikato and back through onto H22 and down to Nikau Caves café for lunch. One of the routes back was along a 22km stretch of metal road, which cuts right through the lovely hillsides and large farms that stretch through Glen Murray, Nikau, Pukekawa and back to Onewhero. I provided the entrants with a morning tea of scones and muffins before they started and welcomed them back with another bake of scones and muffins and a welcome cup of tea and coffee. The Rally was rounded off with a very successful Prize Giving dinner, held at the Pokeno hall. I decorated the tables with a hint of Christmas. Many congratulations to all the winners and place-getters. The overall winner of the Auckland Motorcycle Rally was David Warren from Warkworth. My thanks also to all the marshals and back up boys, who gave their time so generously to ensure a successful rally.

### **Coming Events:**

**Saturday 16 December**—Last Motorcycle meeting of the year, guest speaker Grant Dalton

**Sunday 17 December**—Annual motorcycle Christmas run finishing back at our farm for the traditional BBQ.

**Thursday 21 December**—Annual Pot Luck Christmas dinner at the Clubrooms. If you haven't been to one of these in the past, then write it in your diary as a must do. Bring along a small gift per person if you want to receive a gift, to put in Santa's sack and not forgetting a plate of food to share, whether it be mains or dessert.

**Monday 1 January 2018**—New Years Day run out to Kaiua for Fish n Chips. I cannot believe that Martin and I have been your Chairman and Club Captain for six months already. It has certainly been a privilege and pleasure to meet so many new and interesting members and look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming months.

And so, as this Bulletin will be the last for 2017 it just leaves Martin and I to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas, best wishes for 2018 and a wonderful summer holiday season.

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## Club Captain's Report Contd...

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That's all from me this month folks.

Keep those 2, 3 and 4 wheels turning safely

*Lynda Spicer*



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## Library Notes

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The New Zealand section gained three books this month. We purchased a copy of Steve Reid's NZ Trucks & Commercials and received a copy of Maori Motorcycles and Century Cars by Peter Barnett from John Stewart and from the HCC of NZ a limited edition copy of 50 years of Veteran Motoring 1967 to 2017. A photo history of the Horseless Carriage Club events and the people and cars that made it go. We also received Steam Cars 1770 to 1970 by Montague & Bird and Steam Car Edition Volume 1 Floyd Clymers Motor Scrapbooks and Encyclopaedia of Motor Cycles by Ronald Brown.

Our Library only pays for one Magazine Subscription and that is the Antique Automobile Club of America (The equivalent of our Beaded Wheels). We have back issues from 1964 and most technical items have been indexed so when a past member of our Branch brought in some American visitors last year we showed them our Library and asked them what car they had to look it up in our index. To the visitor's amazement we were able to pull out an article he had written some years before.

Well this event has now featured in the latest issue of Antique Automobile and our Library gets a mention. This leads me to another magazine, NZ Classic Car, we are missing some of the 2011 and later issues. Can someone help?

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



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# Motorcycle Notes

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We had an overcast day for the November Meeting that only brought out 12 bikes. There were 50 + members in attendance. We had a visitor Paul Greenslade who has a large bike collection.

## Reports:

**Hunua 100 Rally:** Leo gave a short report on the Hunua, saying he came 2<sup>nd</sup> in his class and that the motorcycle class was won by Martin Spicer.

**Te Kauri Lodge Kawhia** overnighter, Martin Spicer, Don Green and Michael Watts gave short reports, see Bob Ballantyne's report in the Bulletin.

**Other:** John Shennan reported on the recent Tauranga classic rally. John Bryant reported on his ride with the Waikato Motorcycle section. Jack Clark told us about the recent Classic Racing Register meeting at Manfield. Don Green told us about his and Peter Bell's trip to Christchurch where they took part in the Ford Cortina rally. They went in Peter's great looking Lotus Cortina and on their way home they joined in with the Te Kauri Lodge overnighthers.

## Coming Up:

By the time you read this we would have had another successful Annual Auckland Motorcycle Rally and the Branches Gymnic at Meadow Brook Farm.

**Saturday 16 December** Motorcycle meeting will be the highlight of the year for the motorcycle section as our guest speaker will be America's Cup Boss and muscle car racer and classic bike racer Grant Dalton, so don't miss this meeting. Lynda will be putting on her great after meeting Xmas spread.

**Sunday 17 December:** Christmas motorcycle run, leaving the Jolly Farmer, Drury at 12 noon and will be finishing at Martin and Lynda Spicer's farm in Pokeno for the end of year BBQ.

## General Business:

Graham Viall thanked the Branch for taking part in the recent Auckland Motorcycle show that was a great success in raising money for the Papakura Rotary Club. He mentioned that since the show started our Branches stand has always been the largest in numbers taking part.

## Guest Speaker:

We welcomed long time member Douglas Ormrod with his 1960 NZETA. Douglas had put together a great slide show on his motoring life. Back in the early 1960's he was a Mod and rode Lambretta and Vespa scooters. His first car was a low-light Morris Minor, he then had a succession of Austin 7's that he restored. One was a great looking alloy bodied one. Douglas then restored a basket-case 1952 MG TD that was awarded a gold medal at a past Branch Gymnic. In recent years he has restored to a high standard a 1960 Velosolex and a 1949 125 BSA Bantam. Douglas bought a very sad and rusty 1960 NZETA model 501 scooter in 2014. It had a lot of holes that needed repairing. It was resprayed in black and white, fitted with new wiring harness, rebuilt engine, brakes and new tyres. Douglas put it on our stand at the Auckland Motorcycle show and won a merit award in the scooter class. We were told the history of NZETA in New Zealand. They are still being made in Czechoslovakia, but with electric engines.

Martin thanked Douglas for coming and telling us his story.

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## Motorcycle Notes Contd...

I take this opportunity of wishing you and your family a wonderful Christmas and holiday season.

Keep those 2,3,and 4 wheels turning safely.

*Martin Spicer and Jack Clark*



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Or call in and see us at 8/2 Lansford Crescent, Avondale

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## Entertainment Notes

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Club member, Peter Alderdice gave us a demonstration on fuel tank leak repairs on November club night – definitely a product worth looking into if you have any problems. Thank you Peter, always appreciate your input.



Our final club night will be on the **21<sup>st</sup> December** and will be our Xmas Pot Luck Dinner, an event which has been extremely popular over the last years. Come along with a share main or dessert plate, a \$5 Secret Santa gift marked female or male (if you wish to participate in the prezzie swap), and join in with the Christmas cheer. (also see our full page advertisement elsewhere in the Bulletin).

Looking forward to the New Year:

**January** club night will be a catch up noggin and natter.

**February** club night will be all about trams. With our "City Fathers" keen on running trams again down Dominion Road and on out to the Airport, you may find this video of the trams that once reigned supreme on 46 miles of Auckland streets from 1902 until their demise in 1956 quite interesting. There is just one set of traffic lights in this 36 minute production and when you have seen it, you can ask yourself, "will this really work?" The movie was produced in 1956 and is narrated by Merv. Smith. One to look forward to.

Jocelyn and I wish you all the very best this Christmas and for the coming New Year. Look forward to seeing you out and about, hopefully enjoying some great weather.

*Russel McAlpine*



## Commercial Notes

Our last meeting for 2017 attracted the usual keen bunch of aficionados, who spent the evening lamenting the absence of club eligible commercials around Auckland these days. A parade to commemorate 100 years since the formation of the Onehunga branch of the Road Carriers Association in 1917 never got off the ground last month, due really to the lack of restored road legal trucks in the district. There were other subjects that arose of course, among



them the fascination many of us have with the "American Pickers" programme on Choice & Duke channels, several nights of the week. Boy, do these guys find some treasures on their travels around the U.S. They seem to have a penchant for motorcycles, and a couple of Indians are shown here. I'm sure the guys in the Motorcycle section are avid watchers!!

I have thought for some time that with the amount of Classic & Retro Caravans that are out there these days, many of them towed behind classic cars and that many of these cars may be owned by VCC members, wouldn't it be nice to think a category could be created within our eligibility system, to have them recognised, or would this open a can of worms? If any of you are holidaying in the Taupo district during the first weekend in February, have



a look at five Classic Car/Caravan combinations on Friday the second, at the Museum on the waterfront. Three of them are VCC members. All told, there will be 44 iconic Lilliput Caravans there for that week, commemorating 30 years since the formation of the Lilliput Caravan Club and the launching of a book to mark the occasion.

Keep M Rolling

*John Campbell*



## Veteran Notes

John Stokes asked Barry Robert and I to stand in for him at the last meeting as he wanted to go on the Far North Tour. I knew the numbers were going to be down as it had clashed with too many events we could not avoid. Regulars Doug Hamilton and Phil Henley were in the UK for the London Brighton run. It is the first time someone entered a car on that run from the Auckland area. Tim Edney had gone off to a one and two-cylinder event, run by Pioneer Motoring Group in Otago. David Oliver went to Waikato Veteran run and several had gone north on the Far North Tour.

To encourage new participants, I have been making the odd phone call and it does work. Russell Forest and his partner turned up. Russell had purchased a 1910 Hupmobile about four years ago and until recently the car has been housed in their lounge. It is not the first time I have found a veteran car in the lounge. Vern Jensen had recently made a new set of wheels for the car as they spotted the dreaded borer in the spokes. The car had been restored in the late sixties in Christchurch by Ian Williams and had come north about thirty years ago, passed through four owners but has never appeared on a club event. Russell had driven the car so it was still mobile, although he does want to tidy up the mechanicals. After a lot of discussion, we decided the early Hubmobiles had used the motor built by the Dodge Brothers for the Model N Ford.

Jim Francis also appeared with a great long note he read out as he talked about his early involvement in the club. I did later extract material from the note and it will be printed in The Bulletin. Dennis Lowe had brought along a new crankshaft he purchased from the UK for a spare Oldsmobile engine. Terry Jenkins told us about his forthcoming auction and the reasons behind it and assured us the veteran would not be sold. Peter Le Gros told us about Lionel Roger's 1937 Bugatti restoration that he got very much involved in. Peter was also able to confirm Lionel had just imported a 1913 Peugeot Bebe from France into Auckland. I am sure Lionel has purchased the small Peugeot in original condition because it had an engine designed by Bugatti. The others present at the meeting were George Urquhart, Barry Robert and David Lane.

The next meeting is at the Clubrooms on Saturday 9 December at 2:30 p.m.

*Barry Birchall*



**Galaxy of Cars & Swap Meet at Western Springs Stadium—18 March 2018**  
Contact John Campbell if you want tickets—(09) 828 7850



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## Mid Week Tourers

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Should we try every month to have optional destinations? Certainly last month we had a bumper crowd at Westgate start, with even more turning up at Mincher Garden, plus some going direct to the Shaw brothers property at Coatsville. Over fifty men and women enjoyed lunch at the garden, then had a guided tour, while others (mostly men) had the time of their lives exploring all that the Shaw's "Car Sanctuary" has to offer. Some men of course did both, before reluctantly returning to the garden for their better halves.

The Mincher Garden is renowned throughout NZ and is continually being developed and expanded, so what one saw perhaps years ago is today much different and next time will be different again. A mini country museum was new to me and the recently purchased Morris Minor "Woodie" looks quite at home and will be actively motored.

Trevor and Noel Shaw, who are long time Club members, were great hosts and I think, really enjoyed our group being there. We had free range of all their collection, while they willingly answered the many questions which we had. A large number of trucks and they also had a small number of British motor cycles. Four cylinder Chevrolets featured largely, I would say that they are one of their favourites. But a wide variety of vehicles are there to enjoy, British, American and Australian. Thank you, Trevor and Noel, we wish you all the best.

As for the entrants, too many to remember them all, but there were some new members, some prospective members and some who were just friends. One who had had a membership form for several years, (which was quickly finalised.) Some from as far away as Warkworth. A resplendent Armstrong Siddeley Star Sapphire, through to a very original Bradford station wagon. A gleaming 1935 Ford roadster and a similarly attractive Buick of circa 1952. Two, two wheelers this time, keep it up Chris!. A very smart "K" Special Bedford, appropriate in view of the Shaw's commercials. I served my time on these and the "specials" were pretty few and far between even when new. A beautiful Australian bodied 25HP Vauxhall also brought back memories for me. Many thanks to Murray and Penny, for the run, also to Barry Burchill who assisted.

### **Coming Events—(Note no Bulletin in January)**

**Wednesday 17 January:** Starts from the Warehouse Carpark, Westgate, 10:00 a.m. for a 10:30 a.m. departure. Jack Nazer has again organised a run to Wenderholm for a picnic lunch. BYO. This proved to be very popular last time.

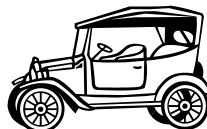
**Wednesday 21 February:** Starts from the Drury Service Centre, Southern Motorway 10:00 a.m. for a 10:30 a.m. departure. Neil & Jan Bielecki are our organisers for this run, probably to the Miranda Hot Springs. BYO everything.

**Wednesday 14 March: NB -- a week earlier than usual in order to suit the host.** Starts from the Warehouse car-park, Westgate. 10:00am for a 10:30am departure. Jack and Gary are organising this run to a collection of Buicks. More details to follow, but BYO everything.

### *The Dewdrops & the Mid-Week Team*

Ph: (09) 232 0245 or email [dewdrops@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dewdrops@xtra.co.nz)

Mobile (as a last resort) 021 051 3770



# Coming Events

## December

16	Sat	Motorcycle Meeting—Clubrooms	2:30pm
17	Sun	Motorcycle—Xmas Run to Spicer Farm Starts from the Jolly Farmer—Drury	12noon
21	Thurs	Club Night—Xmas Pot Luck Dinner & New Members	7:00pm

## January

1	Mon	New Year's Day Run—Starts Jolly Farmer, Drury	11:00am
11	Thurs	<b>No Bulletin Mailing—Clubrooms open</b>	
13	Sat	Veteran Section Meeting	2:30pm
14	Sun	Blue Smoke & Pedals (Waikato Branch)	
17	Wed	Mid Week Tourers Starts Warehouse Carpark, Westgate	10:00am
20	Sat	Motorcycle Meeting—Clubrooms	2:30pm
21	Sun	Wanganui Burma Rally (Wanganui Branch)	
30	Tues	Committee Meeting (February Meeting)	7:30pm

## February

3	Sat	East Coast Rally (Eastern Bay of Plenty Branch)	
8	Thurs	Bulletin Mailing	7:30pm
10	Sat	Motorcycle Meeting—Clubrooms	2:30pm
10	Sat	<b>Veteran Rally</b>	
10	Sat	<b>Veteran Section Meeting—taking place at the Veteran Rally</b>	
16-18		Art Deco Rally	
21	Wed	Mid Week Tourers Starts Drury Service Centre. Southern Motorway	10:00am
21	Wed	Commercial Meeting & Charabanc Maintenance Night Clubrooms	8:00pm
22	Thurs	Club Night & New Members	
24	Sat	Swapmeet (Wellsford/Warkworth Branch)	
25	Sun	Club Run—Tulip Run Starts Terry St Carpark, Blockhouse Bay	1:00pm

**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 21 December  
7:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Pot Luck  
Dinner**



## **New Year's Day Run**

**Monday 1 January 2018**

**Starts: Jolly Farmer, Drury**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.**

**Finishes: Kaiaua**



## Christmas Pot Luck Dinner



# CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER

Thursday 21st December  
from 7.00pm at the Clubrooms



Bring either a main or a dessert,  
enough to share, and if you wish,  
a present worth up to \$5 for Santa's sack.

(If you do not bring a present for the sack, please don't take one.)



## Bulletin Changes

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## CHANGES IN 2018 TO HOW YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR BULLETIN

- ◆ We all know how much postage and printing has increased over the years.
- ◆ We also all know how slow the post is these days
- ◆ To save the Branch and you money we are beginning the process to convert to the digital age
- ◆ **Next year the Bulletin will be printed and posted bi-monthly and emailed on the alternate months. It will continue to be available on the website every month.**
- ◆ Do we have your email address – if not forward it now to Secretary Tracey Winterbottom:  
[vintagesunbeam@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:vintagesunbeam@hotmail.co.nz)

### Months Bulletin Printed & Posted

February  
April  
June  
August  
October  
December

### Bulletin Emailed

March  
May  
July  
September  
November

**Note:** - Did you know on the VCCNZ website all Branch newsletters are published so you can check out what's happening around the country too!

***Your Committee***

# Annual Motorcycle Rally

Tony Vaughan winner of last year's Auckland Motorcycle Rally had the honour of organising and plotting our rally for 2017. Rally HQ was based in Pokeno with Tony taking the opportunity to treat us with a wonderful motorcycling experience which the surrounding area offered with the bonus of low volume traffic.

The pre-rally get together commenced on Friday evening with an enjoyable Pea, Pie and Pud Mash dinner thanks to Lynda Spicer and her helpers. This was followed by dessert and coffee all served in that wonderful old iconic Pokeno Country Hall with all its ambience. A great time to catch up with old friends and meet the new faces joining us for their very first motorcycle rally.

These old halls are full of memories past. One can imagine 'Down at the hall on a Saturday night "with the dance bands in full swing, a lone saxophone dominating, the piano accordion trying to catch up to the man playing the Joanna with the enthusiastic drummer punctuating the wild melody and the merry throng on the dance floor jockeying for position in the Gay Gordons. The old Chev's and V8 patiently waiting in the car park for their masters to return (oops too much nostalgia, I digress)



Saturday morning weather conditions were clear and mild for the 52 rally entrants attending the pre-rally briefing. It was a site to behold to see all the bikes parked ready to compete and follow Tony's well written easily read rally instructions. As per tradition Martin's now compulsory joke

sent the riders on their way with a smile.

On starters orders we were out of the Pokeno Hall car park (yes, that was a compulsory stop) heading a short distance down the Waikato express way amongst all the Aucklanders escaping the city and heading seemingly at a very fast rate towards oblivion. Thankfully it was a quick exit at Pioneer Road to get rid of such crazy traffic and find nice quiet country roads (thanks Tony).

Our instructions then took us to a special "place of interest" which was the brain child of our hard-working secretary Graeme Crawley, directing us to an historic site situated on the western banks of the Waikato river. Here we took in the skeletal remains of two large steam paddle wheel towing vessels, the 210 ft. Rawhiti Sternwheeler and the smaller Free-trade, once part of the sizable Roose Shipping fleet. These vessels were part of the Roose fleet and used for barge and dredge handling work from the late 1890's to the mid 60's. This site is on the property of Rio Vista now owned and operated by the extended family of Arthur Allan Thomas. On leaving this property the contestants then had a route choice of taking a good metal road for a short distance or staying on tar seal. Both options headed in a westerly direction into some very scenic country side through Onewhero, riding to the next rest point at the Cobourne Reserve, close to Port

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## Annual Motorcycle Rally Contd...

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Waikato. Silent Checks! What! Nah, there couldn't have been.

After the compulsory Ice Cream, it was on the bikes again returning near to the Tuakau Bridge before climbing over the hills on Highway 22 passing through the village of Pukekawa. One could not help but think of that infamous case of the Crewe murders when in this part of the world. Such a seemingly quiet village of an event that gripped the whole nation during the early 70's.

Continuing on state Highway 22 in a south westerly direction, we eventually arrived at the Nikau Café and caves into beautiful sunshine for a most enjoyable lunch. This delightful café, situated near the actual West Coast was approximately 80 miles from the start and our hosts Ann and Phillip Woodward who provided us with a great boxed lunch accompanied by tea and coffee and a lemon juice to die for. Nothing was too much trouble for Ann who saw to our every need.

Well-fed and watered we then had choices for the return ride. One, an adventure ride following the coast back to Port Waikato on 20 k of good compacted metal or Two, a short ride back to Pokeno and Three, another route which apparently had a few challenges taking slightly longer to arrive at our destination. All these options meant there was excellent opportunities for riders to stop and enjoy the breath-taking views this part of the country offered. On returning to the Pokeno Hall, our most warm hearted and generous Lynda Spicer had the welcome mat laid out with a cup of tea, coffee and freshly baked scones for all to enjoy.

Saturday evening, time for our prize giving dinner back at the Hall. What a great sight greeted us on arrival. One could have thought, whoops we're in the wrong place, Lynda had dressed the tables to a standard equal to any wedding breakfast. Graeme Crawley had also exercised his competitive mind and prepared place mats with 10 sets of matching pictures on each but with subtle changes for us to identify during dinner. He also provided a selection of socks that had mystery objects inside them that we had to guess their identity and a guess how many "Spark Plugs" were in a glass jar competition.

With the announcement of winners of different categories concluded, the time had arrived to name the overall winner of the 37<sup>th</sup> AVVCC Motorcycle Rally. Congratulations went to David Warren from Warkworth winning the Brian Norton trophy as overall winner riding his immaculate 1961 Norton 600 99 SS.

Thanks must go to Tony Vaughan, Martin and Lynda Spicer, Graeme Crawley and their team of helpers, marshals, and back up people who did an admirable job of ensuring everyone was well informed, safe and able to enjoy themselves.

Another most successful rally enjoyed by all and great to see the new motorcycle members taking part.



## Annual Motorcycle Rally Contd...

### Results:

1<sup>st</sup> Vintage1<sup>st</sup> PV1<sup>st</sup> PWV1<sup>st</sup> P601<sup>st</sup> P801<sup>st</sup> Combination1<sup>st</sup> Lady Rider

Overall winner

Chris Good 1928 Ariel model C

Robert Simpson 1941 Indian 741B

John Shennan 1960 BSA Golden Flash

Dave Warren 1961 Norton 600 SS

David Broadhead 1985 BMW R65

Paul Tomlin 1925 Harley Davidson model J

Jillian Hayton 1974 Honda 175

Dave Warren

*John Shennan*

Below is Dave Warren with his 1961 Norton



**INSTRUMENT  
NOT READING  
RIGHT?  
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## Te Kauri Lodge Overnight Stay

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What a great place. This overnight trip organized by Martin and Lynda Spicer was well planned and very relaxing. We gathered at the BP service centre on the Southern motorway and for those who turned up were treated to nearly all country back roads and very little traffic as promised. We travelled through quite a few roads we have used in the past and others completely new to us. The weather wasn't kind but the scenery in places was wonderful. Lunch stop was in Te Awamutu, where we headed out for the usual toilet stop and to raid the cafes for something to eat. (This was the most traffic we'd seen all morning). From here we headed to the Te Kauri Lodge, quite a long way down the road towards Kawhia, hidden among the trees and bush. You could have been in the middle of nowhere, it was so quiet and peaceful. Don Green and Peter Bell should get the furthest travelled, as they had left 9 days earlier. They had taken Peter's immaculate 1963 Ford Cortina MK1 down to Christchurch for a Cortina rally, then came to the lodge on their way home. We had 2 motorcyclist brave the weather. Rhys Hanna on his BMW and Michael Watts who set off on Friday morning on his Suzuki and spent the night in New Plymouth and then made his way to Kawhia. On our arrival there was a large open fire waiting for us. Time to put our feet up and enjoy a chat and drinks. We were treated to a short talk on the Lodge's beginnings and what it had to offer. We were then given the opportunity to see their small but well put together museum located in the building under the main sleeping area. It contained a lot of the history of Kawhia and relics found within its shores, including the bones and fossil of a 40 million year old extinct penguin that stood 1.6m, the only one known I think in the world, so much so that the Smithsonian in the US demanded it should be sent to them for study. It's on loan to the Hamilton Museum at the moment. Lynda had organized dinner, men on the barbeque cooking sausages and homemade meat patties. Ladies helping with the salads, potatoes and vegies, this was followed by fruit salad and ice cream. A very fulfilling meal for all. After another opportunity to chat and discuss a variety of topics (guess what??? the main one was....cars, owners, & engines) mind you that's what brings us all together, therefore a valuable topic, don't you think? We all headed off to bed around 10:30pm Dormitory style. Morning brought us all together again for a cooked breakfast of bacon and eggs, mushrooms, baked beans and leftover sausages and fried potatoes. With full stomachs and a very relaxed mind we all set off in different directions to head home. Some headed onto Kawhia to see the black sand beach where there is hot water to paddle in, while others headed for home. Those who enjoyed the weekend were Bob and Debbie Ballantyne, Don Green, Peter Bell, Don & Wynne Howarth, Tom Bough and 7 family members, Rhys Hanna, Michael Watts, Russel & Jocelyn McAlpine, Simon Ganley and of course Martin and Lynda Spicer.

**Bob Ballantyne**



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## Jim Francis Story

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Jim is a colourful character who has been in the Auckland Vintage Car Club since day one. Jim will proudly tell you his mum bought him home in the side chair of a 1912 Royal Ruby motorbike. He was still at school when he bought his first motor car, a 1912 Overland. His Dad took one look at the vehicle and told him he could not bring it home so he had to rent a garage in Otahuhu. There were no tyres on the Overland so he went to see Mr Jones, the local wrecker, who had four Overlands about the same year. Jim told Jones he had no money, but required four tyres. Jones said if he worked in the wrecking yard for a day he could take the four tyres. The Overland had very little body as Jim wanted to build a mobile caravan on the chassis so he could take his crippled mum to the South Island. That never happened and the Overland was sold to someone on Waiheke Island. Still at school, he purchased a 1926 Raleigh motorbike which he still owns today and found employment at Andrew and Andrew as an apprentice mechanic. He then went on to purchase a 1911 Martini with a roadster body. That was replaced with a 1914 Wolseley with a roadster body. Then before the war he bought a 1926 Rugby tourer which he paid 25 pounds for.

Jim has always said he had a great war, as for some of the war he was bat man for Colonel Caughey and drove all over Europe in fine motor cars. After the war, he purchased a 1928 Durant but said he could not find tyres for the vehicle so it was sold. His Dad approached him in 1946 and asked him if he wanted to buy into the business. His Dad was selling second hand furniture so Jim knew he would have to buy a small truck. He found a 1910 Delage in Avondale that had been made into a small truck. The Delage had good rubber which was important to Jim at the time. His Dad thought the Delage should have a door so he added it. The Delage was often sighted on the streets of Otahuhu towing a trailer with a load of furniture aboard. Jim acquired a section in Princes Street in Otahuhu that backed onto the water and built his own house. During the construction of the house his neighbours held a party one night and at that party Jim met Nancy who he married. Jim and Nancy were for many years living in the garage until the house was finished.

Jim's good friend Peter Maxwell had sighted a note in Horace Robinson's shop window that indicated there was to be a meeting to form a vintage car club in Auckland. Jim and Nancy attended and Nancy became the club's first secretary. The first run in 1955 was to start from the Cornwall Park and went to Redwood Park in Swanson. Jim had a coach builder in Otahuhu alter the back of the Delage. Jim was on that first club run in the Delage. Nancy was an accountant and the business was doing well so they bought the odd rental house around Otahuhu. Jim never told Nancy, that he never rented out the shed or garage with the house and his collection of old cars, motorbikes and stationery engines started to grow. He purchased a 1912 Zedel from Wanganui, a 1917 Westcott (sight unseen) from Wellington and a 1926 Renault from a builder in Otahuhu. The car had belonged to the Hudson family in Dunedin. Jim had the Renault on the first International Rally in NZ in 1965. There were many more cars and motorbikes that I have not listed here. He also owned a launch built in 1940 for Ted Clark and used by the Navy during the war. The launch was often used to travel to the bach on Waiheke Island or Kawau Island. Every winter the

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## Jim Francis Story Contd...

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'Lady Margaret' would come out of the water and into the boat shed for maintenance.

Most of the old cars, motor bikes and the two boats have been sold, but he has still got the 1926 Raleigh motorbike he bought in 1937 while still at school and the Delage he bought in 1946, and he still lives in the house he built himself in the mid-fifties in Otahuhu. The 1912 Zedel was sent to son David in Australia who has since passed away. The 1926 Raleigh motor bike and 1910 Delage will go to the daughter Irene now living in New York. He last used the Delage about two years ago when he drove the car along the motorway to a car show on the wharf. The police stopped him on the motorway as the officer said he was holding up traffic. He did not get a ticket, because the officer did say to him they will never believe me at the station when I tell them I stopped a 93-year man in a 107-year-old motorcar on the motorway. He went home on another road with his 93-year-old passenger.

This year he will be 96 and his birthday party is going to be in Tonga. Jim will tell you old cars, lots of cabbage and water have kept him alive. He said he made one mistake in life, he should have had more daughters. Jim is a great story teller and loves a good party. Nobody has been in the Auckland Branch longer than Jim, so I felt we should tell his story. We did join him last year at the water front bach on Waiheke Island and Irene and husband Lars were there from the States to help him paint a massive new fence with paint brushes that had seen much better days. Jim tells me he will have space on the wall to mount the letter from the Queen when he reaches 100.

*Barry Birchall*



1910 DELAGE ~ taken 1960 EASTER RALLY, MORRINSVILLE.  
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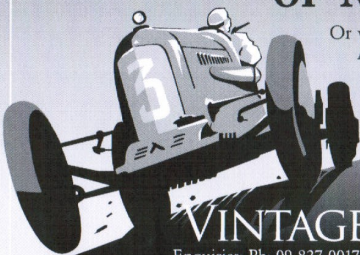
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## Wanted

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If you are in a position to scan photos and email them to me with some captions that would be great. If not, just let me know and I can scan photos and return to you.

All stories gratefully received, from a couple of sentences to a couple of pages. Many of you will have anecdotes from the humorous to hard luck and all sorts in between, so don't wait for me to tap you on the shoulder.

Please drop me an email or call me.

Tracey Winterbottom

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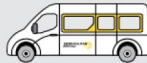
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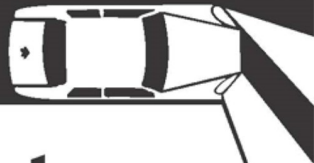
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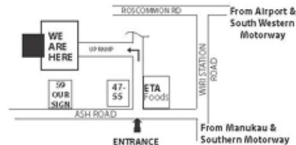


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