



Cruisepaper



A great bunch of noses from the mid-winter Christmas luncheon at Soljans Restaurant.

August-September 2014

www.americanclassiccars.org.nz

Russell's Ramblings

Hi there folks, I just wanted to restate the upcoming changes to the committee structure that was announced at the Club's mid-winter Christmas lunch at Soljans Restaurant on Saturday July 19 and by email on the 27th. Basically the current workload is too great for one person, so I will be stepping down as President in October, and unless anyone has any objections or nominations, Rob Milligan has volunteered to take over President and Enid Service as Vice President.

The committee has also determined that because of the willingness of existing members to fill the vacancies, we see no need to hold a physical AGM this year. Instead we have included in this issue an AGM 2014 voting form for members to agree/disagree with the changes, or nominate themselves for the committee or the above positions, along with the opportunity to comment on club activities. The AGM voting form should be mailed to the address shown, or scanned and emailed anytime before September 19, so the results can be included in the next Cruisepaper.

Most of you will know of or will have met Rob and Enid at various club events, and I'm sure you'll agree that the Club's future will be in very capable and enthusiastic hands. I thank all our members for their encouragement and support during the last two years, but as I will continue my duties as Editor and Webmaster, please don't any of you worry that I won't have enough to keep me occupied.

Ciao 4 now. regards Russell ☺

Committee Members

President & Cruisepaper Editor

Russell Wilson - 5754882 / 021 1448222

russellwilson@ihug.co.nz

Vice-President Rob Milligan – 4836615 / 027 4426378

rob@h2oequip.co.nz

Secretary/Treasurer Dave Roper - 8386800

dave.roper@xtra.co.nz

Feature Writer Rodger Scorgie – 5764844 / 021 581285

park@formula.co.nz

General Duties

Graeme & Gwen Mackay

4161167

conspa@xtra.co.nz

John Bercich

5340154

jbercich@xtra.co.nz

Bruce Skinner

09 2334220

brujan@xtra.co.nz

Kay Scorgie

5764844

park@formula.co.nz

Enid Service

2651228

servicebe@xtra.co.nz



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admin@classiccover.co.nz
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Club run to Classics Museum Hamilton – Sunday June 15

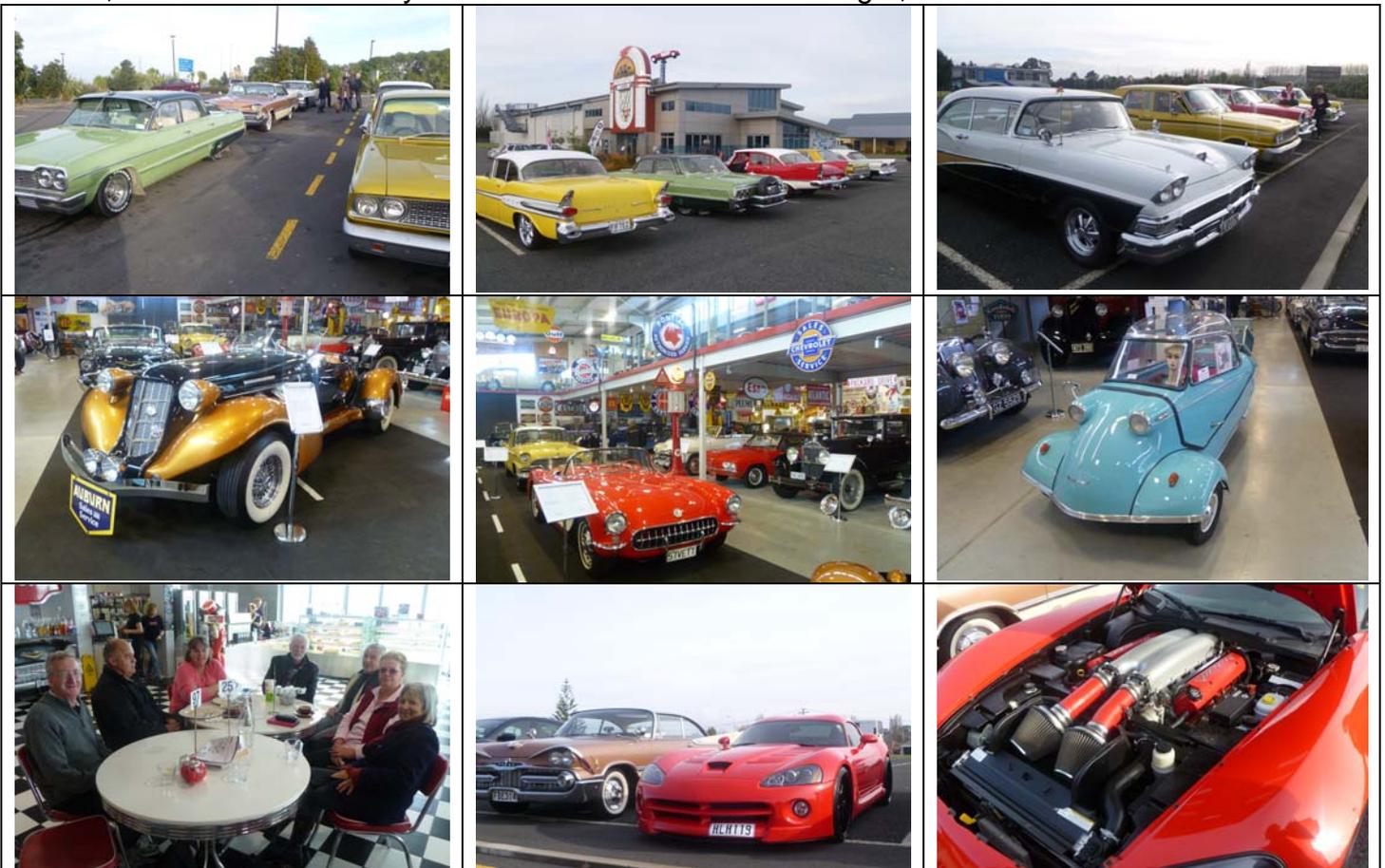
It was probably the early morning rise, along with the temperatures being decidedly on the very cool side that saw only a handful of cars turn out for the club run down to the Classics Museum in Hamilton. Bryan Martin in his '64 Impala, Wayne Sullivan's '63 Fairlane, David & Catherine Parker in the '59 Dodge Custom Royal Lancer, Shane & Julia Beckham in the '58 Fairlane, and Russell & Cindy Wilson in their '57 StarChief rounded out the small but eclectic gathering.

After hitting the road from the BP Papakura at just after 9am, we struck the fog on the other side of the Bombays that stretched all the way down to Hamilton and beyond. Members Murray and Gae Sinclair in their '58 Dodge Kingsway joined the convoy in Huntly to boost the numbers. The lucky few that had heaters in their Classics arrived at the museum warm and toasty, but man was it cold when you stepped out of the car.

Some of the ladies opted to stay in the Classics Diner where it was warm, while the rest of us braved the inner sanctum of the rather coolish museum. Although some of the cars were the same as the last visit, there were a few new notables on display with one of the favourites being an Auburn Speedster replica, in black and gold.

After a good wander through, it was back to the diner for lunch, and most enjoyable it was too with some of the tastiest burgers eaten in a long while. With the fog lifting it was back to Auckland (nice and sunny it was too) in the early afternoon, for a very pleasant day out.

PS. You are not going to believe this (and please keep it to yourself, as I don't think he wants it widely known) but David and Catherine Parker who left Auckland in one car, turned up at the Museum in two vehicles. David had just picked up from Te Rapa the latest addition to his ever expanding collection, a bright red 2008 Viper, 8.4 litre 600+ horsepower Street Serpent special edition, number 13 out of only 15 made! Who would have thought, Dave in a modern! Well I never.



Rob's Ravings July 2014

Hi there members, it has been a while yeah? Figured I had best put pen to paper again, in the absence of other member's articles (hint hint...)

My story goes back to May this year, the weekend of May 24th-25th to be exact. My lovely partner Emma had planned a little mystery weekend for us, to celebrate her half-century milestone. All I was aware of is that it involved a flight to the South Island, leaving 4pm on the Friday afternoon, but that was it! Sounds like fun so far....



Trouble was...I was in the Taranaki that week, with work commitments meaning I was not due to leave Hawera until late Thursday afternoon. I dunno if many of you have driven from South Taranaki to Auckland but it is frankly, quite a few kilometres!

But I travel for a living, so I had a cunning plan. Leave my last client at 4.30pm, out the back of Kapuni, and go like the hammers of hell – within the legal limit of course (Tui...) and get as far North as I can before fatigue takes over...after all, I'd driven down on Monday morning, it had been a big week already.

Now what some of you may not realise is that I no longer work for Grundfos Pumps, who always provided very very good company vehicles, ideal for the long distances they expected their sales force to cover. My new company vehicle, in comparison is a 4WD Turbo diesel Mitsi Triton ute....dynamically a little lacking in umm, finesse shall we say! So fatigue set in fairly early on in the piece and I booked in to the only Motel in Mokau (just south of Awakino) for the night.

Early start in the morning, good thing I'd paid up the night before as I could find nobody around in the morning, despite the office being wide open when I went down. For all I know, it may have been like that all night! Hard case place...try it, you'll like it.

The rest of the trip north was relatively uneventful and I made good time directly to Auckland Airport where Ems was waiting for me at Domestic. The boarding passes said ChCh...where a rental was waiting. By now, I was pretty sure we were off to Akaroa. Turns out, I was right!

Have many of you reading this been to Akaroa, that charming little French settlement way out on the end of the Banks Peninsula? I'd not been there ever, neither had Ems so when we picked up the rental (upgraded from some little puddle jumper to the latest Holden Commodore SV6 Sport wagon..why? Because I could!) we were both pretty thrilled to be heading there together.

And I must say, what a lovely little place! Great drive from ChCh there too, even in the dark. Emma had booked us into a quaint little place she found on the interweb called the Gatekeepers Cottage, up in the hills just above Akaroa township, about 2 km's out of town. The 'hosts' were a young Swedish couple who had only arrived in NZ the week before! Turns out, the owners of the place had gone on holiday and left the place to this couple to look after, guests included! What an introduction to NZ aye!

With only really a day and a half in Akaroa (our flight home was 5pm Sunday, but it's about 75km's back to CHCH) we took in as much of the local sights as we could in town and the surrounds. One cool place was called The Giants House (check it out on www.thegiantshouse.co.nz), which is a local artist Josie Martins property and was built in 1880 as the home for the Manager of the BNZ Bank at the time.



I cannot begin to describe the effort that has gone into the sculptures and gardens here, I will let some of the photos I took do the talking. There is almost no area in the entire grounds that has not had some artistic influence from Josie. Larger than life figurines, everything done in mosaics, even the handrails for the many stairs. Seriously, this woman has just had way too much time on her hands!

On Saturday evening we went back up the hill to the Hilltop Tavern for dinner and a show. Gary McCormick and Sir Tim Shadbolt were doing their very funny comedy routine for a full house, with a raging fire going one end, an absolute howling gale outside, great food and good company, it was a great night out.



Sunday dawned fine, cold and breezy. Lunching at one of the many fine eateries in town I made the comment to Emma that in the entire trip thus far, I had not seen a single American classic or muscle car. Low and behold, five minutes later the main street was (almost) awash with Studebakers, as the local Stude owners club was making the most of the fine weather and were doing a cruise! Uncanny timing I thought! Some very nice examples amongst them too, as my photos would show.

We packed early, deciding to drive back to ChCh via the Summit Road, the alternative route in and out of Akaroa. This road is not for the faint of heart, it is long, very narrow, is all corners as it climbs to quite the height (hence the 'Summit' name at a guess, doh!) offering absolutely spectacular views of both the Akaroa Harbour and the South Pacific Ocean, often both at the same time owing to the unique topography of the place. Just breathtaking...and bloody windy at the top!



With what little time we had, we did manage to detour down to Okains Bay, one of several road accessible beaches around the outside of Banks Peninsular. Despite (or because of?) the remoteness of this place, there was actually quite a well-equipped public camping ground there. I imagine it would be quite some place in summer. But in late May...just deserted and miles away from anywhere!

In no time at all we were back in Auckland and picking up our respective vehicles and heading home. I have to say, what a fantastic weekend away and I would honestly recommend you check it out if you haven't already or for some time. The people are incredibly friendly and hospitable, there is plenty to see and do and accommodation ranges from back-packers to elite, and plenty of each. And it really is a beautiful part of the country. Thanks Emma for wanting to share your weekend with me, I had a ball!

Lastly, before I go, nice to see the winter is finally starting to lessen its grip and we should be able to dust (or dry) the classic fleet off in readiness of the summer cruising season.

Elsewhere in this issue you will have read of some changes afoot within the club, effective from October. Rest assured, the committee and hierarchy are absolutely committed to providing our members – that's you – with cool events, great cruises, great company and ample opportunities to experience each with like-minded individuals.

Don't go anywhere folks... it's going to be a blast! Till next time, shiny side up people!

Rob Milligan



MID WINTER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – 19 JULY 2014

The older you get the quicker the time seems to fly and here we are past the middle of the year already. It seems no time since last Christmas with each month just sliding away from underneath your feet. But what better time to get a reality check in the form of a pre Xmas party and what better place to have it that at Soljans Restaurant & Winery at Kumeu.

This was a first time visit for the club to this venue, and at least for the arrival the weather was looking reasonably good with even some blue sky and sunshine. The Vineyard had allowed us to close of some of their parking to allow for those who were brave enough to venture out mid winter in their classics and this provided an impressive show for the other restaurant guests.

We all met up at around midday and Soljans had set up a special dining room for us, which provided great atmosphere for all thirtyfive of us to mix, mingle and catch up before being seated.

Russell Wilson introduced everyone to the occasion with a few words of welcome and briefly outlined changes to the club administration, confirming that Rob Milligan would become President for the next year and Enid Service would take the Vice-President's role.

Then it was all on for the food and Soljans did us proud with a great spread of Christmas fare including a ham and all the trimmings. There was plenty for all and by all accounts everyone had their fill of the main course, plus a typical Christmas pudding desert to finish off. The club provided wine for each table and from the chatter going on it sounded everybody was more than sated and satisfied.

After the meal Rob ran one of his famous quizzes for all of us to participate in. He had gone to some trouble to prepare a quiz sheet which was distributed to each table with tricky questions on cars, movies and general knowledge. There was great entertainment amongst all as people strained to come up with answers which were not so simple, but in the end there was a draw for the top two places, so the prizes handed out accordingly.

Soon enough it was time to go as there was a wedding to follow in the same room, and staff were a bit frantic to set up. Such is the pressure at a popular venue like Soljans, but it was 3.30pm and by now the rain had arrived, so we all faced a wet ride home and a cleanup next day for the cars.

Not to worry, it had been a most enjoyable club outing, and the food and atmosphere were excellent as well. Another successful event to tick off the program for 2014.





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COOLY ROCKS ON - COOLANGATTA - JUNE 2014

For the first time in two years the weather was perfect for this event. Well almost perfect if you don't count the quick shower later on Saturday night, but for all three days of the Aussie Queens Birthday weekend the weather was not only dry but warm as well. In fact the temperature was a good two to three degrees above normal for this time of year making the typically warm 23 degree days very pleasant for a tee shirt and shorts.

And did this bring out the crowds. An estimated 100,000 fans of Rock n Roll and Hot Rod and Classic cars showed up to soak in all of the festival, that had been running for 10 days culminating in the great car display over the last weekend. Coolangatta was rocking and Rolling with 50s and 60s music from bands such as "The Chevrolets", "The Delltones", "Route 66" and "Little Stevie & the Tailfins" just a sampling of the 50 bands that will feature over the weekend. Even our own Johnny Devlin was enticed out of retirement to join in.

On the Saturday morning Cooly sprang into life with a huge and colourful street parade that included classic cars, semi trailers full of dancers, and more than 50 floats stretching over two kilometres. The crowds watching were 20 people deep in places as they strained to see the action as it passed. There were five huge outdoor stages scattered around Coolangatta with music beating out all day, to keep everybody's toes tapping and providing an opportunity for the many expert Rock n Roll dancers in the crowd to show how good they were.

And the cars! There were plenty of them to drool over. In fact 1300 were registered to be exhibited and it included some real beauties. While there were plenty of well finished vehicles, every now and again there was a beautiful car that showed off the superb finish of a masterpiece. Some of them were exceptional in construction and finish and even with the restored old classics, there were many great cars.

Add to this all the other activities going on, such as the "Miss Cooly Rocks On" glamour pageant showing of fashions of the 50's and 60's. There was also NZ Motor Racing Legend Gentleman Jim Richards making an appearance along with American TV star and car painter Charley Hutton. Not to be forgotten were the Nostalgia Markets, a sea of tents selling all sorts of car accessories as well as clothing from the 50s and everything in between.

You could also take a ride over Coolangatta in the Helitours Helicopter if you've seen enough cars, which was doing the circuit plenty of times around the town. Then there was the Rock and Roll & Swing Dance Championships on Sunday that have traditionally been part of this weekend, featuring Aussie and Kiwi clubs going up against one another yet again.

Plenty of Kiwis to be seen and heard around the town over the weekend including a few from our club. Paul and Neil Roper were two spotted checking out the good gear and neat cars.

Add to all of this the dining and the nightlife of which there was plenty, and you have the recipe for a fantastic weekend which it truly turned out to be.





CAFFEINE & CLASSICS MEET – JULY 27 2014

For a July day it wasn't shaping up too bad with plenty of sunshine about, but with the odd rain cloud around to remind us that we were still in the depths of winter. A real early start was called for to ensure good parking but that wasn't too bad considering the weather.

The event was one of those park and shows, not a club day as such, but a chance to have a look at a good few different cars. It was a regular scheduled event called Caffeine and Classics that is promoted by one of the vehicle insurance groups and held on the last Sunday of every month in the parking areas on the old Smales Farm site next to the Northern Motorway.

We met up as a club next to the Poenamo Hotel just to ensure we were all together and so we could park in a group. We had managed to muster together around eight club cars which was not bad for a mid winter outing.

It was only a few hundred meters to the event site so we arrived good and early around 9.45am and were ensured a good position to park. Cars were pouring in even as we arrived and before long the whole park was full with well over 200 vehicles on display. It was not limited to Americarna and there were cars of all pedigree from old VW vans, loads of minis, japas and all conditions ranging from mint collectables to definitely "work in progress".

The weather stayed fine for the duration of the show which lasted from 10.00am through to 2.00pm but it had started to get a bit dodgy later in the day, so we managed to pick the best time.

We all gathered mid show at the local Columbus coffee Shop to warm up and have a sticky bun and a drink before returning for a good look at all the cars in detail. We slowly scattered as the morning wore on, all going on to other activities we had planned for the rest of the Sunday. An enjoyable get together however to break the week and give the cars a run in the sun.



Brake caliper appearance upgrade

Hi club members, it's John Bercich here, and I just wanted to let you know about a recent project I undertook to enhance the appearance of my 1976 Corvette Stingray. Whilst looking at ways to improve the old girl I started searching for a caliper paint system that would enhance the slot in the wheels, while cruising along and people see you flash by.

Brake calipers come in numerous colours ranging from bright yellow, fire engine red, black and many others in between. After researching and asking questions around town I decided to go with a more expensive product, as it was a complete kit with everything included. The name of the product is POR-15 PAINTING KIT and is made in the USA. The kit does not contain any flammable or dangerous chemicals, and includes 1 quart caliper cleaner, 1 x 8 oz caliper preparation, 1 x 4 oz rust preventive paint, 1 x 8 oz caliper paint, 2x pairs rubber gloves, 1 x roll masking tape, 2 x foam brushes, and directions. Only Uncle Sam gets it right, as I have found regarding products ex U.S.A., which have a money back guarantee. As we have a blue vehicle and we don't want to attract attention, of course, I went for the blue option.

Once we have the beast jacked up securely and wheel or two off, we're ready to go. Tip number one is that as the weather is on the cool side at the moment, it pays to do maybe one at a time, as paint takes a lot longer to go off at 12 or 14 degrees. First of all you spray on a liberal coating of POR-15 Caliper Cleaner, and brush off all grime and dirt with a small tooth brush before washing off with water. Then dry it off with a towel and leave for 10 minutes. Next spray on the POR-15 Caliper Prep, and wash off after 10 minutes and dry with a towel as before. I used a hair dryer to speed the drying process up, but a hot air gun would be quicker. At this stage it looks like the whole job has turned to rust as the chemicals are doing their job, so don't worry. Next we start to paint the POR-15 Rust Preventive Paint on after a good stir. I used two coats, as this is the secret to a good job and long life. Mask off anywhere you do not want paint to go like the bleeder screws, pads, discs, etc. and then let it TOUCH dry (slight finger drag). This takes at least 3 or 4 hrs in the winter, so then brush on your first topcoat of POR-15 colour and let dry as long as you can before the final topcoat. Bingo, job nearly done.

The last tip is that as our rims are close to the calipers in a lot of cases, I would recommend placing a piece of thin cardboard over the caliper ends to prevent scratching the unhardened paint. It is almost impossible to get a big wheel on without touching something, and 9 times out of 10 it will be the new paint. It is a worthwhile project and looks great when finished. There is a very good outlet in Onehunga that sell the POR-15 range and are very obliging and helpful (Auto Industrial Supplies, 277B Neilson Street) and have a range of anti rust products from U.S.A. A lot of the other products on the market just say wipe and spray on, and then it will help sell your car in the weekend. Yeh right! If the job is worth doing, then do it properly. Happy motoring and take a peep through the wheel slots next time you see me. Corvette John



Before cleaning



After cleaning



First rust preventative coat



Top coat complete



Best view alongside about 90mph, but be quick!

Hot Dates for Aug-Sept.

August

- 1 Orewa Cruise Night, meet Cnr. Florence Ave & Hibiscus Coast Highway at 7pm
- 1 Hot Rod Night at the General Store, Whitford from 4pm
- 3 NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau from 7.30am
- 3 Westies Café breakfast, 7 Totara Avenue, New Lynn, 9-11am
- 7 Yank Tank Thursday, Botany Town Centre from 6pm
- 9-10 Chrome Expression Session, Hampton Downs, Waikato
- 10 **ACCC run to Clover Auto Restorer, Pukekohe. Meet at BP Fuel Stop, Southern Motorway, Papakura at 10am for 10.30 departure to arrive approx. 11.15am. After Clover continue to The Village Bar & Kitchen at Patumahoe for lunch about 1pm (where there may be a \$100 voucher up for grabs for best attending ACCC vehicle)**
- 10 Mothers Winter Drag Wars, Meremere Dragway, State Highway 1, Meremere
- 10 The Village Bar & Kitchen Hot Rod Run, 1 Patumahoe Road, Franklin from 2pm
- 10 Wild West Sundays breakfast, The Hanger, 104 Central Park Drive from 10am
- 11 Renegade R&C burger run, Cranks Rest, 2/15 Mercari Way, Albany from 6.30pm
- 15 Hot Rod Night at the General Store, Whitford from 4pm
- 16 Classics in the City show & swap meet, Atrium on Elliot, Auckland City, 11am to 3pm
- 17 Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, BP Northern Motorway from 8.30am to 10.30am
- 24 Mothers Winter Drag Wars, Meremere Dragway, State Highway 1, Meremere
- 27 Burger Fuel gathering, 652 Great South Road, Shop K, Manukau from 7pm
- 31 Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, 10am to 1pm

Sept.

- 5 Orewa Cruise Night, meet Cnr. Florence Ave & Hibiscus Coast Highway at 7pm
- 5 Hot Rod Night at the General Store, Whitford from 4pm
- 7 **ACCC run to Hobbs Wharf Markets, Gulf Harbour Marina, Whangaparoa. Meet at BP Service Centre Silverdale, Northern Motorway at 9am to depart at 9.15.**
- 7 NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau from 7.30am
- 7 Father's Day Drags, Meremere Dragway, State Highway 1, Meremere
- 7 Westies Café breakfast, 7 Totara Avenue, New Lynn, 9-11am
- 7 Historic R & S CC Swap Meet, Pukekohe Showgrounds, Station Road, from 8am
- 8 Renegade R&C burger run, Cranks Rest, 2/15 Mercari Way, Albany from 6.30pm
- 14 Wild West Sundays breakfast, The Hanger, 104 Central Park Drive from 10am
- 14 The Village Bar & Kitchen Hot Rod Run, 1 Patumahoe Road, Franklin from 2pm
- 19 Hot Rod Night at the General Store, Whitford from 4pm
- 20-21 Pukekohe HRC Hot Rod & Horsepower Show, Indian Hall, Ward Street, Pukekohe
- 21 Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, BP Northern Motorway from 8.30am to 10.30am
- 24 Burger Fuel gathering, 2/957 Great South Road, Manukau from 7.00pm
- 28 Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, 10am to 1pm
- 28 Auckland Mustang Owners Show, Te Pai Netball Centre, Te Pai Place, Henderson



Should an ACCC event need to be cancelled, deferred or the venue changed due to unforeseen circumstances or inclement weather, an email will be sent the day before the scheduled event.

Please check your emails prior to departure.

Refer to the latest issues of NZ Petrolhead & NZ Rodder for more information on dates and times, or for a subscription phone Sara on 263 5305.

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