



Established 1996

Cruisepaper



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all club
members and their families*

Dec 2014, Jan-Feb 2015

www.americanclassiccars.org.nz



Rob's Presidential Prattlings

Hi there members, trust all is well in your worlds? I sincerely hope so, as we wind the year down toward Christmas.

As this is my first 'report' since taking over the role from Russell, I was not entirely sure what I was going to say. Which is odd for me, as I am never usually short of a word or two!

So, I am going chose two words...Passion and Thanks. Why passion you say? Easy. 'Passion' is what got me into this Car Club, as I have had a passion for all things automotive and in particular American cars, for about as long as I can remember. The Car Club was 'there' for me during a difficult time in my personal life, I have made some wonderful friends, some close, some merely acquaintances, but all friends nonetheless. As a result, my passion is now for this Car Club, as I feel I owe it that much. I love seeing the club prosper, I love to get involved in helping making that happen, but best of all I love to see you all having a great time at our events. It is *very very* rewarding for me

Which leads me to the word 'thanks'. A big thanks to all of my committee, whom without their individual and combined enthusiasm and efforts thus far, my 'passion' may have been sorely tested! And an extremely BIG thanks to all of you, our members, as it is you that we do this for. And you have repaid us in spades, with very high member turnout at some recent events, including Hobbs Wharf, Kaiaua Pub and last month, the simply spectacular Gibbs Sculpture Farm run. And long may that continue. We'll do our bit, you can bank on that.

As I write this we are a week out from our annual end-of-year Christmas Party. That came around crazy fast! So I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and wonderfully Happy New Year! See you soon.

Take care everyone.

Rob Milligan



Russell's Ramblings

Hi there folks, just to let you know that after some discussion regarding the future of printed matter vs internet communications at the last committee meeting, it has been decided that the Cruisepaper will continue to be printed and distributed to members, but on a quarterly basis from now on. The club is still committed to producing a printed newsletter into the foreseeable future, as we see this as an important link between members, and is something physical to retain for reference to outings and events.

As a more immediate basis of advising and informing members, the ACCCA website (www.americanclassiccars.org.nz) is the quickest and easiest method of communication, with all but two current members having access to the internet and email addresses. If you have viewed the website recently, you will have noticed that club outing stories and photos are posted to the site within a few days of the activity, rather than waiting for up to 6 weeks for an article and the relevant photos to appear in the next issue of Cruisepaper.

Additionally, items of interest relating to our hobby are regularly posted on the news page as they come to hand from a number of sources, so it pays to check every now and then for new additions. The website has been averaging 15 sessions (visits) a day for the last two weeks, with 62% new and 38% returning visitors, with 75% from NZ, so we are getting excellent results for our small club.

Ciao 4 now, regards Russell ☺

2015 membership subscriptions are now due. If you haven't yet paid yours please mail your cheque off now, or make a direct payment to the club bank account today. Please note that if you do not wish to renew your membership subscription, this will be the last Cruisepaper mailed out to you.

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FUNNY FARM



They Walk Amongst Us".

THESE ARE ACTUAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY "THOMAS COOK VACATIONS" FROM DISSATISFIED CUSTOMERS:

1. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
2. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallarta to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
3. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
8. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
11. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."
12. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
13. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."
14. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."
15. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."
16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."
17. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."
19. "My fiancee and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."



KAIAUA via HUNUA – A day in the sun Oct 12th 2014

The day started as usual with us all meeting up at the Papakura Pitstop, on the southern motorway which is good for a coffee and a chat before hitting the road. This time the day's outing had a twist to it with a visit to the Hunua Falls but not before a great cruise through the back of Drury along a sealed but "off the beaten track" road called Ponga Road, that took us through some delightful rural countryside before dropping us neatly not far from Hunua township. Just a hop skip and jump down the road to the Hunua falls where we all had a chance to walk the short distance to the falls and admire the fine native bush and take a look at a real waterfall. A chance also for a quick pitstop for those with Woolworth bladders and then on our way winding through the back of Paparimu and on through to Highway 2 at Mangatawhiri, where we picked up a part of the old State Highway that had been discarded following the roading upgrade some years ago.

Not too many KM's down the road and another left turn this time heading for Mangatangi and finally the Kaiaua Road which is a beautiful drive through magnificent countryside as we wind our way towards the inland coast. The first sight of the Thames water is indication that we have not far to go as we wind down from the hilltops and into the small township of Kaiaua.

This point in the trip is a familiar sight to many Sunday travellers, especially those with classic cars and particularly motorbikes who thrive on the winding coastal roads, and it is all too common to have the snarl of a high powered bike go past and a speed certainly exceeding the limit.

However our more immediate concern is food and with some prebooking already undertaken it was not too much of a wait before we all were able to plough into a great meal of Fish and Chips. The food is always good at the Bayview Hotel and the venue is ideal for clubs such as ours. Always room to sit and the garden bar is very pleasant and well sheltered.

The next hour or two was just taken up talking eating and the occasional beer! And the warm weather continued and was looking good for the drive home which will be via the coast road back through Kawakawa bay and Clevedon for most. A top day and a great drive. You can't beat that.



GIBBS FARM – RURAL SCULPTURED ART – November 2

Of all the recent runs we have done as a club, the run to the Gibbs Farm would have to be up there with the best. Not only did we have a great number of members show up for the run, 24 cars in fact, but the day turned out to be a great outing for all sorts of reasons. Firstly there was the delightful run through the rural West Coast of Auckland, then the chance to inspect first hand the very special amphibious vehicles that Alan Gibbs produces world wide, followed by the viewing of the sculptured art spread all over his spectacular property on the Kaipara Coast.

The day started early with us all meeting up at the BP Truckstop on the Northern Motorway where we moved off in convoy through Waitoke, through Kaukapakapa and north on Highway 16 to the Gibbs Farm near Araparera on the Southern end of the Kaipara Harbour. One of the first glances we had when entering the Gibbs Farm of what was to come, was on a nearby hilltop and it was a huge steel piece of art 36m long called “Horizons” by Neil Dawson which suggested a giant piece of corrugated iron water tank. This was just the start of many spectacular and huge artworks dotted all over the 1000 acre property. As our procession of cars made its way up Barr Road into the property we arrived at the large barn that featured a collection of the Gibbs amphibious vehicles. After setting up our cars for the day most of us took the opportunity to inspect this interesting collection and listen to details of them provided by Alan Gibbs son Thane. From the parking spot we could spot already many of the other spectacular art pieces positioned all over the farm. One nearby huge piece in red that stood out dramatically against the green grass was a double ended trumpet styled artwork 85m in length, lying in a cutting on a hilltop. It comprised of a vast PVC membrane stretched between two giant steel ellipses and was called “Dismemberment” and was created by the UK artist Anish Kapoor. It looked very impressive.

After a spot of lunch a number of the cars drove down through the farm to look at a small nature reserve that included several giraffes and zebras and some time was spent feeding them and watching their ungainly antics. Then a cruise around the sealed roads of the farm gave us a chance to look at the many other works of art displayed. There are almost 20 major pieces ranging from timber arches on the beach to what looks like a chromed rock sculpture centred in a pond. An artist named Jeff Thomson had also created a larger than life Giraffe which looked almost real at first glance. Our time was limited at the Farm and we had to depart by 2.00pm so we all met again back at the barn for a final checkout. It had been a special day and our thanks go to Mary Sarten who did most of the organising.

The weather held to a beautiful afternoon, so it was a nice run home.





South Island sojourn – Dave & Neil Roper

Hi, I'm Dave Roper (67 Cougar), and I assist my brother Neil (34 Ford Coupe, 73 Corvette, 58 Chev.) who has a hobby business selling diecast model cars, motorcycles and tractors etc. at car shows.

The first week in October we loaded up the truck and headed off for the South Island. After an overnight in Wellington we were sitting in the queue to board the ferry when a storm comes (as it does in Wellington) and with the wind howling and rain pouring down, we started to worry that the crossing may be cancelled as it had been coming home last year. However the weather cleared mid channel and the only problem was after being parked on the outside deck, the van was covered in baked on salt spray, so after cleaning it off the windscreen we headed for Christchurch for the McLeans Island three day swap meet. The first stop in Christchurch was to call on a model wholesaler to pick up new stock, and then after staying that night at a friend's place we cruised through the city to check the progress since last year, which still looks like a parking lot with a little new construction going on, but with buildings still being demolished.

The rest of the day was spent setting up our tent and stock at the vintage car club site at McLeans Island, ready for the next 3 days at this very large swap meet (700 plus sites) and car show. We camped overnight at the show grounds that were well set up with showers and food etc., with trading being very good this year as the weather was stunning all week.

This year, as the National Hotrod Show was being held in Dunedin two weeks later, we left the truck in Christchurch and flew back to Auckland on Monday (in time for club committee meeting on the following Sunday).



The following Wednesday we flew back to Christchurch and picked up the van, overnighted with friends, then headed for the next overnight with friends at Oamaru, who had several sheds with some nice old American cars as well as a very original Fiat Topolino. We also took the time to have a look around the old historic area and discovered a car museum with a lot of old race and rally cars and memorabilia. On the Friday morning before leaving Oamaru for Dunedin, we went to another of Neil's friends who had moved into an old school (not any old school, but built of Oamaru stone, 5 acres of grounds and a swimming pool) and had converted classrooms into large garaging and built a new tilt slab house on the grounds, and they had a nice collection of Australian classic cars.

After checking into our hotel in Dunedin and not allowed to get into the exhibition centre to set up until 6 pm we did a tiki tour of the area as I had never been to Dunedin before, and ended up at Larnock Castle for lunch. We got back to our hotel after midnight after setting up our stand for the weekend's National Hot Rod show. The next morning we were off to the Edgar Centre for the show, and although there was a large number of cars in the display, they could have done with more because of the size of the building. At least they were all new, never seen before cars so it was very interesting, (there was even a silver LHD Prowler there). There was a Mopar club run on in the area that finished at the show, which was good for us when they showed up as they nearly cleaned us out of US and Australian Mopar models. We also discovered a dairy in town that makes very large icecreams with the queue right out the door, but we were too full after eating at Lonestar so we went back the following night and had a regular \$3 one, as the \$4-50 was twice the size. Certainly better than Pokeno icecream.



Come monday morning and it was time to head for home, so after an hour and half stop in Christchurch restocking from the wholesaler and picking up tent and stuff that we did not want to drag down to Dunedin, we were away again heading north. We passed a lot of Mustangs leaving the 50th anniversary convention in Christchurch, and at Springs Junction in the Lewis Pass we stopped for a bite to eat and got talking to a guy from Nelson, who was driving a black LHD Prowler. That's two in as many days, and previous to that I had only seen Rodger Scorgies. We arrived at our sister's place in Mapua for an overnight stop 12 hours after leaving Dunedin, so it was good to catch up with them.



We caught the midday ferry back to the North Island, and headed for Hunterville for an overnight with another of Neil's car collecting friends who has just moved from Auckland, to a lifestyle block in the country. I had a sit in his newly acquired Ford GT40, which was very hard to get into, but comfortable with good vision once you were there.

It sure was great to get back home for a rest, a week after leaving on our second trip south.



YOUR COMMITTEE MEETING

The outings we all enjoy don't just happen by accident or by last minute hasty planning but are a result of a number of dedicated club members meeting, not all that often, but often enough to be able to plan a few great events well ahead of time. Committee members put aside an hour or two every couple of months to meet up and chuck ideas around on places to visit and runs we can make. It doesn't involve a huge amount of time but without some planning the club would not function.

As you can see in the photo this is the most recent committee meeting held on Sunday October 19th and we were all putting our heads together working out how best to run the next outing to Gibbs Farm in November, the Christmas run to Mangere at the end of November plus the Toy run, and other events through to February.

It takes a dedicated few to keep the club running smoothly, and it is always changing with members stepping up and others pulling out for all sorts of reasons.

At this meeting we were able to introduce a new club member who stepped straight into the committee role which was much appreciated. Ed Du Plessis has joined us along with Enid Service, both from the Cadillac La Salle Club which has helped us greatly.

If any member feels like participating at the committee level, even if it is just to help put out the food at the next Christmas party, please let Rob Milligan know as we are always looking for new blood along with new ideas on where to visit and new places to see.



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Hot Dates for Dec-Jan-Feb

Dec.

- 1 ACCC at North Shore R&C Toy Run, Vellenoweth Green, St.Heliers from 5pm
 4 Yank Tank Thursday Xmas Lights Night/Concert, Botany Town Centre from 5pm
 5 Hot Rod Night at the General Store, Whitford from 4pm
 5 Orewa Cruise Night, meet Cnr. Florence Ave & Hibiscus Coast Highway at 7pm
 5 Night Speed Drag Wars III, Meremere Dragway, Meremere
 7 NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau from 7.30am
 7 Westies Café breakfast, 7 Totara Avenue, New Lynn, 9-11am
 8 Renegade R&C Xmas Lights Run, meet McDonalds, Coliseum Drive, Albany 6.30
13 ACCC/Cadillac Xmas Lights Run. Meet at 4/100 Alexander Cres, Otara from 5.30 pm (bring your own food, BBQ available) or 8pm for Lights Run to depart 8.30
 14 Wild West Sundays Breakfast, The Hanger, 104 Central Park Drive, from 10am
 19 Hot Rod Night at the General Store, Whitford from 4pm
 21 Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, BP Northern Motorway from 8.30am to 10.30am
 28 Caffeine & Classics brunch, Smales Farm, 74 Taharoto Road, Takapuna, 10am-1

Jan.

- 2 Hot Rod Night at the General Store, Whitford from 4pm
 4 NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau from 7.30am
 4 Westies Café breakfast, 7 Totara Avenue, New Lynn, 9-11am
 10 Nitro Shootout/Comp.Meet II, Meremere Dragway, Meremere
 11 Wild West Sundays Breakfast, The Hanger, 104 Central Park Drive, from 10am
 15 Renegade R&C burger run, Cranks Rest, 10 Mercari Way, Albany from 6.30pm
 16 Hot Rod Night at the General Store, Whitford from 4pm
17 ACCC run to Kumeu Classic Car & Hot Rod festival. Meet at Club site at Kumeu Showgrounds from 8am on first come-first in basis. Map of site location will follow closer to date on email and website. BYO meat (BBQ available) & chair
 18 Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, BP Northern Motorway from 8.30am to 10.30
 23-25 Hibiscus Rodders beach Festival, Orewa
 25 Caffeine & Classics brunch, Smales Farm, 74 Taharoto Rd, Takapuna, 10am-1
 31 1/8 mile night meet/Comp Meet III, Meremere Dragway, Meremere

Feb.

- 1** ACCC run to Galaxy of Cars, Western Springs. Meet Western Springs College carpark, 100 Motions Road at 9am, to depart in convoy no later than 9.15
 1 NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau from 7.30am
 1 Westies Café breakfast, 7 Totara Avenue, New Lynn, 9-11am
 6 Orewa Cruise Night, meet Cnr. Florence Ave & Hibiscus Coast Highway at 7pm
 6 Hot Rod Night at the General Store, Whitford from 4pm
 6-8 Leadfoot Festival, Leadfoot Ranch, Hahei, Coromandel
 7 Meremere Dash for Cash, Meremere Dragway, Meremere
 8 Wild West Sundays Breakfast, The Hanger, 104 Central Park Drive, from 10am
 8 NZ Classic Car Show, Ellerslie Racecourse, Auckland
 14-15 Morrinsville Motorama, Morrinsville, Waikato
 15 Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, BP Northern Motorway from 8.30am to 10.30
 22 Caffeine & Classics brunch, Smales Farm, 74 Taharoto Rd, Takapuna, 10am-1

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 issue of NZ Petrolhead & NZ Rodder for more information on dates and times, or for a subscription phone Sara on 09 263 5305.