



Established 1996

Cruisepaper



Part of the club display at the Leadfoot Festival, Hahei, Coromandel

March-April-May 2015

www.americanclassiccars.org.nz



President Rob's Report

Hello Members! By the time you read this edition of the Cruisepaper, we will be knocking on the door of March 2015 and with it, the onset of autumn. It has been a stunning summer and hopefully the transition from one to the other will be almost unnoticeable and we have a few more months of good cruising weather yet.

January was a mixed month for me. Firstly I turned 52, which was inevitable considering I was 51 at this time last year (!) Secondly, I had to say farewell to an old friend of mine from my Hibiscus Coast Motorsport Club days, who decided (the day after my birthday as it happens) to opt out of this world for reasons only he would have known, leaving behind two beautiful pre-teen children and a devastated wife and family and a bunch of completely stunned friends. So very sad. He was six months shy of his 45th birthday.

And this got me thinking. I believe there is some truth in that cliché “we are all here for a good time, not a long time”. And a lot of our club members have been having a good time of late, with some fantastic club events since the end of last year. You can read about some of these later in this issue, as well as on the Club website. Kumeu in particular was outstanding, with over 20 cars on display and none of the dramas of the past getting everyone parked up.

And I think more than ever it is important to focus on the positive aspects of our day to day lives and not get too hung up on the negative details. If getting out in your classic lifts your spirits, takes your mind off the humdrum of work or other personal things that may be happening in your life, or puts a smile back on your face, then please, take advantage of some of the many events on offer at this time of the year and get out there as often as possible. Call it automotive therapy, if you like!

Life is rarely perfect, but it is what you make of it so before I sign off, I just want to personally thank those members who came down to the Leadfoot Festival with me, to be part of our excellent and popular Club display, and even get the opportunity to convoy up the Hillclimb course and back down again as part of the Saturday lunchtime parade. Just superb. Trust me, it was all smiles! Take care and see you at the next event!

Rob Milligan

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Russell's Ramblings

Hi there folks, hasn't this summer been just one of the sunniest and best any of us can remember for a number of years. I've been so pleased to be able to poke the borax at our inlaws on the Gold Coast in not so sunny Queensland, as they seem to have had continual showery weather right throughout the summer period.

And it's not just at the top half of the lucky country, as a recent three days spent in Sydney had us dodging showers also. We were lucky to have picked up a cut price cruise on the Diamond Princess at the end of January which left Sydney for Melbourne, Hobart, and across the pond to Fiordland, Dunedin, Akaroa, Mt. Maunganui and home to Auckland. Hobart, suprisingly, must be a hot bed for American classics, with five spotted cruising around the town on a beautiful Saturday morning in this lovely town. I know, it's a tough life, but someone has to do it!

I've had a few requests for a reprint of the Club name badge order form, produced some years ago. After a follow up with the supplier it was a pleasant surprise to learn that the price is still the same at \$11.50 each, GST included. The order form is now available for download from the club website, under the 'Membership' heading.

I would also like to welcome the following new members to the club, so please make them feel welcome and say hi at the next club outing:-

Wayne & Colleen Bradley – 1983 Cadillac El Dorado
Allan Huljich – 1963 Chevrolet Impala
Grant & Nicky Knight – 1958 Ford Edsel Citation convertible



Ciao 4 now, regards Russell ☺

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FUNNY FARM



The gender of a computer

A SPANISH Teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

'House' for instance, is feminine: 'la casa.'

'Pencil,' however, is masculine: 'el lapiz.'

A student asked, 'What gender is 'computer'?'

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether 'computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that 'computer' should definitely be of the feminine gender ('la computadora'), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval; and
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.



(THIS GETS BETTER!)

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine ('el computador'), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won.

CHRISTMAS AT THE MANUKAU LIVE STEAMERS - Nov 30, 2014

Our annual Car Club Christmas party this year was held at a venue we had not visited for quite a number of years. In fact only the old hands in the club would remember the venue in Mangere, off Robertson Road, the home of the model steam locomotives and their enthusiastic supporters. It is a great spot to hold a car club outing, with a big grassy reserve immediately adjacent to the Manukau Live Steamers railway track and clubhouse. An ideal spot to pitch our tents and plenty of space for the cars to be displayed.

The day started with some committee members arriving early to have the Marquees setup and all the flags displayed ready for the cars to arrive.

The club members had been asked to meet with their cars outside the Warehouse in John Goulter Drive at the airport so that we could move in convoy to Mangere Centre Park. Over 20 cars had assembled by 10.30 ready for the short run to Mangere. Only one casualty with John Bercich left stranded in his Corvette with a flat tire, to follow on later.

An impressive sight as all the cars moved off along State Highway 20 as we headed first to the Bader Drive exit, through Mangere central and finally into Centre Park. There was plenty going on at the park with Indian Football in full swing as well as the Live Steamers drawing people in for rides around their extensive rail network. We all made it into our parking places and an impressive display of American Iron it was to. The cars attracted quite a bit of attention throughout the day as the many sightseers at the park walked by to check the cars out.

Rob Milligan first welcomed everyone and it was great to see some new faces to the club that had recently joined. A bit of time taken catching up with one another, introductions to the newbies and a hullo to members not seen for a while.

The lunch was special as it always is for our Christmas function and everyone tucked in and enjoyed the spread. Even delicious deserts to follow which made the meal complete.

After lunch it was time for a ride on the trains, particularly for those with children. It is a great facility to enjoy the age of steam in miniature and kids of all ages had a great time chugging around the track. Fortunately the weather played into our hands well with sunshine throughout the day even after a showery start. Rain showers had been predicted for later in the day as well but for our time at the Live Steamers the weather was perfect.

Another event to tick off the calendar that went well thanks to our dedicated committee and the enthusiastic club members who turned up to all make it a great day.





TOY RUN – 1ST DECEMBER 2014

With the Toy Run just the night after our Christmas party which we held on Sunday the 30th November it was a great opportunity to clean up the rest of the food left over, and for most of us the last chance to get together before the hectic run down to Christmas.

With a dozen or so cars turning up from all over Auckland it was a pretty good muster considering that it is quite a job getting away from work and then battling the evening rush hour getting right across town to the Eastern Suburbs. A couple of us from the eastern side of town were able to get to the park reasonably early which enabled the club to stake it's claim to the usual piece of turf on the western edge and mark out the area we needed before the bulk of the cars arrived.

Because the weather this year was looking pretty good a big crowd was expected and sure enough by six o'clock the park was getting pretty chocker.

The Toy Run is held on Vellenoweth Green which is better known as St Heliers Reserve, right on the waterfront drive in behind two huge Morton Bay Fig trees that dominate the front of the park. This large flat area of grass gets jamb packed with classic cars of all descriptions and if the weather is fine like it was this year it is a great attraction.

Being the early starters on the night the club managed to get the food tent in place just where we wanted and all our cars lined up in good view to the passing public of which there were many, with our new club swooper flags marking us out.

It is an event run by the North Shore Rod and Custom Club and is not only a venue for the display of American cars but is also an occasion to benefit the disadvantaged children in the community with the Sallies collecting for the less fortunate kids with presents for Christmas.

It was a fitting finale to the cruising year with all now focusing on end of year work, family events, Christmas day and of course holidays.

Plenty of cruising ahead in the New Year however with the Kumeu Show kicking things off in mid January.



Black swamp Rod Run – 3 January 2015

My son Shane and I were on the launching pad by 10.30am for the 9th annual Black Swamp Rod Run. There were more than 187 cars, which left the Mangawhai School to cruise the Mangawhai-Waipu coast road and back, passing many groups of people along the way lining the route. On arriving at our destination at the Black Swamp Road Orchard we picked our spots under the olive trees and kicked back, listened to the live music, and watched the kids on the slippery slide into the farm pond.

And what a great way to start off 2015, to kick back with some sun block, a couple of beers, and chats with a few old mates to top off a very pleasant day.

Cheers Bryan Martin



Tip for cleaning chrome plating.

Automotive chrome plating is, on average, 0.00001 inches thick. A human hair is, on average, 0.004 inches thick or 400 times thicker than chrome plating!

Most cleaners and polishes contain abrasives which, thankfully, are softer than chromium so there's little danger of damaging the plating. All you're doing is scrubbing the dirt off of the plating.

However, if you use something more aggressive, such as Brasso or 0000 steel wool or stainless steel polish, you're actually removing metal.



So, a heads up - stick to products specifically designed to remove dirt and clean chrome.

Parnell Christmas Fiesta – 6 December 2014

After an urgent short notice plea from the organisers of the Parnell Christmas Fiesta for the club to attend and display cars on the main street, eight members volunteered to turn up on the Saturday morning and fill the quota.



The organisers were well organised (shouldn't that be a given) and met us at the old Auckland Railway Station parking area prior to the parade up Parnell Rise. We then did a loop at the top and headed back down to the coned off parking places outside all the restaurants. Our arrival generated much excitement amongst the shoppers and strollers, with cameras snapping away and people posing beside the cars.

There were musicians, jugglers, stilt walkers and clowns all performing up and down the sidewalks, and many different food tastings on offer for a gold coin donation which went to hospice, all adding to a wonderful carnival atmosphere.

After a wander around the shops perusing all the lovely things to buy, and seeing John and Bronagh Key having a stroll around their local village, we were all off to the lovely supplied lunch at Thai Friends restaurant. The writer has to say that the set menu entrée and main dishes were absolutely delicious, and would recommend that you dine there if you have the opportunity. The food was all washed down with gratis wine, beer, and spectacular looking Thai mint tea in jars with handles on.



At the end of the lunch as we were leaving, some very loud samba style music could be heard, so off we headed to check it out. And you wouldn't believe what we found – three lovely young Brazilian carnival dancers with not a lot of clothes on, but what there was were very colourful indeed. In fact they were so alluring that Bill Tweed and Robert Williams in our group just had to snuggle in and have their picture taken with them. Good on you guys, all the other males were extremely jealous of you.

12.45pm came along, and we were all in our cars ready to start up, to head off in our own little parade down Parnell Rise with people still snapping photos, before all departing to our respective suburbs. All in all, a great way to spend a Saturday morning, especially since the organisers donated \$500 to the club coffers. I'm sure everyone had a great time, and would go back again next year if they ask.



Kumeu Classic Car & Hot Rod festival – 17 January 2015

The committee's decision to change the arrival to Kumeu from a meet up at Westgate and convoy as in past years, to everyone arriving individually at the club's pre-booked site at the showgrounds proved to be ideal in the circumstances. The site was well identified with the new club banner and the two new swooper flags, and members turned up at their leisure and drove straight in, with none of the previous year's site entry dramas. Thanks go to Dave Roper who roped (haha) out our site on the Thursday, and secured us a larger area than we have had in prior years.

However, those of us who were planning on arriving early at 7.30am to set up the gazebos, flags etc., got caught up in a traffic jam that took an hour to get from the Soljans roundabout all the way through to the showgrounds. This would have to be one of the biggest shows in recent memory, with a constant stream of attendees passing our club site all day to park in the centre arena. The swap meet site was also larger than previous years and stretched into the public parking area, even taking up some slots in the centre arena. Also, the trade sites were much more numerous than before, so the organisers should have been well pleased with the outcome for the festival's coming of age 21st year.

The day started out very hot and sunny, but soon clouded with a couple of showers as forecasted around lunchtime and later in the afternoon, which welcomely cooled things down somewhat. There were the usual woodchopping and chainsaw demos, along with a few blasts from a jet powered dragster, which emitted great blasts of fire and smoke to scorch the dry Kumeu grass. All in all a great day out this year, with plenty to see and do on this 21st anniversary year.



Galaxy of Cars Show and Swap Meet – 2nd February 2015

Sunday the 2nd Feb dawned overcast with rain threatening, but nevertheless I got the 1971 Cadillac El Dorado convertible (without functioning roof) out of the shed and headed for the meet point in Point Chevalier. On arrival I was Nigel `no friends' apart from a zealous 20+ group of some English car brand that I don't remember. My lack of memory has nothing to do with my lack of interest in the brand – it just reflects my complete lack of car knowledge apart from colour. This group was mainly brown, grey & green!! First arrival was Dave Roper followed by the Parkers and Thompsons with two cars each which at least ensured a line up of cars. Another member was already on site so that gave us 7 cars in total. The threatening weather did not come to much apart from one reasonable shower, but whereas last year had over 800 classic and vintage vehicles on display representing over 55 enthusiast clubs this year was down by at least a third, but still worth attending. The car show is open to all car makes with strong showings by the English & European brands, but with a sprinkling of American car clubs as well as the Australian Holden and Ford clubs.

Galaxy of Cars is approximately 16 years old and is run by New Lynn Lions Club with its main purpose being to raise money for worthy charities, and at the same time for family and car enthusiasts to enjoy a great day out. Over the years they have raised over \$150,000 and the beneficiary this year was a Childrens Mobility Trust. The G of C had long been located at the back of Motat and this was their third year on their new site at the Western Springs Oval and surrounding fields. The biggest battle they have had is securing their habitual date with the council reluctant to commit until well in to the planning stage.

The swap meet covered both sides of the entry road and the stalwart `swappers' arrived well before the official opening time in the hope of bagging a bargain. My take on the swap meet is a little uncharitable, but basically it is where you go and view other peoples junk with the intent of taking it home to add to your junk. Club member Donna Thompson was delighted to purchase a battered cane bin of paua shells with the intention of adding to and enhancing driftwood sculptures and other pieces in her garden.

Although there was a relatively small attendance by ACCC members, it certainly proved to be an enjoyable day out.

Enid Service



Leadfoot Festival - here we go!

Our weekend started on the morning of Friday 6th February, when we met Rob and the others at the BP Papakura so we could all travel in convoy down to Hahei. With a few stops on the way, including helping out a fellow car enthusiast in a Pontiac broken down on the side of the road (dead battery from running the AirCon all the way from Pukekohe), then on to lunch at the Woodturners Cafe on State Highway 2. Another quick stop at Thames whilst Kerry Bramley and Rob topped up their cars with gas, we eventually arrived at our accommodation at about 3.30pm which gave us time to freshen up in time for our group dinner at Salt Restaurant in Whitianga. A neat evening was had by all, except maybe the Duty Manager who initially had no record of Rob's booking...she got that sorted quick smart as we weren't going anywhere!

Saturday morning up and on the road early, as we needed to be on site at the Festival at 7.30 am. Even at that time in the morning we could see the weather was going to be magnificent, there wasn't a cloud in the sky all day.

From the moment we drove in the gate we could tell how well the event was organised. We had an area reserved for us and boy what a spot, start line to our left and we could see the track (or should I say driveway) all the way up the hill. In no time our cars were parked, club gazebo was up and we were off to explore, or more like find the closest coffee vendor to get our morning fix.

Trevor and I came across this really big marquee so we wandered in and found brand new Indian Motorbikes. Trevor spotted a nice red one to go on the back of our truck, but I like the green one however then I'd have to let Bryan Martin have it so it would match his Impala.

Racing started and what a variety of vehicles and drivers. Our host Rod Millen was amazing as I think he had five cars he was racing. His RX3 flew up that track, and as he said "My Driveway, my Trophy" but he had some tough competition from the boys in those go-karts. The drifters OMG were going sideways around every corner which was some of the best driving I've seen, with both guys and gals. Mad Mike Whiddett screamed all the way up the driveway in his RX7 and Kerry Bramley's grand daughter Capri was so excited when she got his autograph.

Out of all the cars, bikes, off roaders etc, my favourite driver and car was Anne Thomson driving a Blue 1906 Darracq Grand Prix which was built to run in the first grand prix at Le Mans. Also I must have a brag, as my nephew Nick Carpenter and his team mates from Auckland University where invited, and what a thrill to see him racing up Rod Millen's driveway.

I said to Trevor at one stage "Can you believe it, we've just seen Rod Millen race" wouldn't it be great if we could go for a blatt...and I don't mean the sandwich! Well, later in the day one of the organisers dropped by our site and asked for us to go into the parade so we lined up and off we went up, up, up that famous driveway. Trevor couldn't resist and dropped a wheelie half way up. And such a view at the top that I wish we could have had a good look around, but not to be.

I could go on and on with the events of the day as it was jammed packed with excitement and fun.

Later that evening a few of us met back at the venue to watch the live cover band playing all sorts, in the new purpose built stage built between one of Rod Millen's barns and a big pond, with all of us watching from the paddock opposite. Just fantastic. Several 'revellers' even managed to fall in the pond..alcohol may have played a part I reckon! Security took great delight in evicting them from the venue.

All I can say is, if we go back in two years my name will be first on the list and I would encourage you all to come check it out, as it was really a great event and weekend. In the meantime check out the Leadfoot Festival website, there are some awesome photo's – not mention our club website as there should be a gallery there too!

Cheers

Jude Righton



Waiheke Sculpture Walk – 23 January 2015

With perhaps one of the best summers in Auckland that I can remember for a long time, we decided to take advantage of the one great thing that Winston has done for us oldies, The SuperGold Card. Friday the 23rd of January was the opening of the 'Headland sculpture on the gulf' on Waiheke Island, a free sculpture exhibition, so we packed up hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen and headed down to the bus on the waterfront. As most of you golden oldies know, public transport is free after 9am, so the transport part of getting out to the island was all taken care of by the rest of you who are working and paying taxes, so please keep it up.

After oggling the \$430 odd million Russian vodka baron's superyacht Serene tied up at the wharf, the trip out to Waiheke was spectacular with the Auckland harbour on it's best behaviour. Upon arrival at Matiatia Wharf, we elected to start the walk from the bay in reverse, rather than catch the shuttle to the beginning and walk back to the bay. This proved a bit troublesome as the pathway was a bit narrow in places and we had to step aside for the correct way walkers, but hey, why go with the flow when you can swim against the tide.

So how were the sculptures? Some were really fantastic, others were a bit odd, but all had stratospheric 'for sale' prices, so along with being a bit large to fit on our front lawn, we passed up buying anything. After finishing at the beginning of the walk, we elected to walk back to Oneroa town for a nice cold beer (as you do) overlooking the beach, resulting in a 10km walk all up before heading back to the ferry for the cruise home. All in all a great day out in one of the most beautiful places in Auckland, and well worth the effort involved.

Russell & Cindy Wilson



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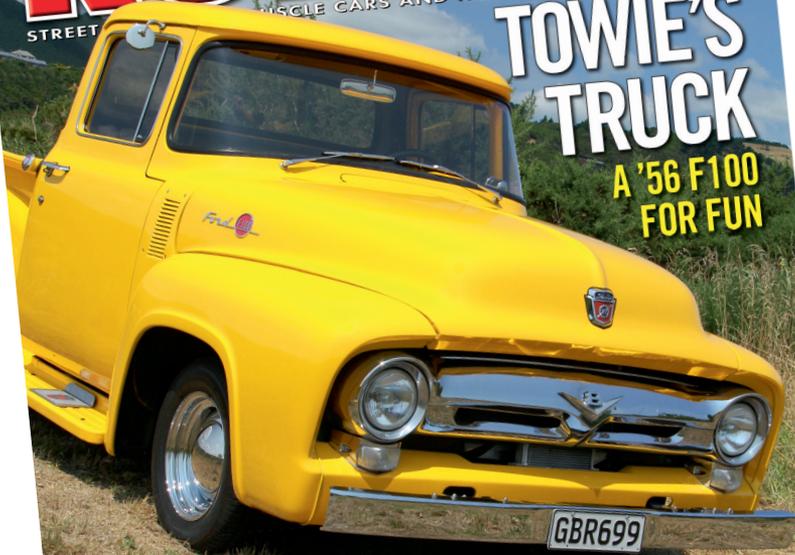
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March

- 1 NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau from 7.30am
- 1 Competition meet IV, Meremere Dragway, Meremere
- 1 Westies Café breakfast, 7 Totara Avenue, New Lynn, 9-11am
- 1 Elvis in the Park, Auckland Botanical gardens, 102 Hill Road, Manurewa
- 6 Orewa Cruise Night, meet Cnr. Florence Ave & Hibiscus Coast Highway at 7pm
- 6 Night Speed Drag Wars VI, Meremere Dragway, Meremere
- 7-8 Pukekohe Swap Meet, Franklin A&P Showgrounds, Pukekohe
- 8 Manukau R&C Hot Rods at the Beach, meet Bellagios Plunket Ave at 10am
- 8 Wild West Sundays Breakfast, The Hanger, 104 Central Park Drive, from 10am
- 13 Dead Sleds Friday 13th cruise, Auckland Museum at 8.30pm cruise to Devonport
- 14-15 NZ IRHA Nationals, Meremere Dragway, Meremere
- 15 Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, BP Northern Motorway from 8.30am to 10.30am
- 15 ACCC run to Bayswater School Auto Show, North Shore, Auckland. Meet at Poenamo Hotel car park, Northcote Road, Hillcrest at 9.15am to depart at 9.30am**
- 25-29 Repco Beach Hop, Whangamata
- 27 Night Speed Drag Wars VII, Meremere Dragway, Meremere
- 29 Hot Rod Blowout, Avondale Speedway, Patiki Road, Avondale
- 29 Caffeine & Classics brunch, Smales Farm, 74 Taharoto Road, Takapuna, 10am-1

April

- 3 Orewa Cruise Night, meet Cnr. Florence Ave & Hibiscus Coast Highway at 7pm
- 4 Hot Rod Club Champs, Meremere Dragway, Meremere
- 5 APT Nostalgia Drags, Meremere Dragway, Meremere
- 5 NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau from 7.30am
- 5 Westies Café breakfast, 7 Totara Avenue, New Lynn, 9-11am
- 11 Franklin St. Rodders show/swap meet, Mauku School, 389 Union Road 12noon
- 12 Wild West Sundays Breakfast, The Hanger, 104 Central Park Drive, from 10am
- 19 ACCC shed raid to Roy Sharman at Waiuku. Meet at BP Papakura, Southern Motorway at 9am to depart at 9.30. Lunch after at venue TBA**
- 19 Sponsors and crew fun day, Meremere Dragway, Meremere
- 19 Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, BP Northern Motorway from 8.30am to 10.30
- 24-26 13th Holden Nationals, NZ Kennel Club Grounds, Ardmore
- 26 Caffeine & Classics brunch, Smales Farm, 74 Taharoto Rd, Takapuna, 10am-1

May

- 1 Orewa Cruise Night, meet Cnr. Florence Ave & Hibiscus Coast Highway at 7pm
- 3 NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau from 7.30am
- 3 Westies Café breakfast, 7 Totara Avenue, New Lynn, 9-11am
- 10 Wild West Sundays Breakfast, The Hanger, 104 Central Park Drive, from 10am
- 17 Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, BP Northern Motorway from 8.30am to 10.30
- 17 ACCC run to Hamilton Vintage & Classic swap meet at Classics Museum. Meet at Meet at BP Papakura, Southern Motorway at 9.15am to depart at 9.30. Lunch from 1pm at Cock & Bull, Te Rapa**
- 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.