



*Established 1996*

# Cruise paper



**Karaka Vintage Day – March 20**

**June~July~August 2016**

**[www.americancars.org.nz](http://www.americancars.org.nz)**



## President Rob's Report

Well well well, another quarterly edition of the ACCCA Crusiepaper! Where does the time go?! They do say that things speed up as we all get older, and whilst I can't speak for everyone, I know my life certainly feels at times like it is in some sort of whirlwind!

By the time you guys read this edition, it will basically be June, which by my arithmetic is mid-year. So what better time for me then to reflect on the past 5-6 months. Trying to think of one word to sum it up and I guess the word 'outstanding' pretty well nails it. We have had five months of Club events since January, with June's mid-winter Christmas looming fast as I write this. The member turnout at each event just seems to get better and better, culminating in what must be almost a record at the May run to Kaiaua for lunch (with the probable exception of the Gibbs farm run in 2014 which will always be tough to top).

Not only that, but the Club membership is experiencing simply phenomenal growth, from just about 50 members 12 or so months ago, to over eighty as at the end of May 2016. Whilst some Clubs seem to struggle periodically to retain membership, let alone grow it – and ours has been no exception historically - we seem to be on a bit of a roll for the time being. Why do I think this is? Well, I have never been shy to credit my committee, as a (very) small team of enthusiasts we work very well together, and have a common goal and actually enjoy getting things done rather than just talking about it! But whilst we can accept some of the credit, a lot of our current success must rest firmly on our members as well, because you guys are the ambassadors for the Car Club, collectively. So you turn up to events when you can, you support and actively encourage me and my committee (thank you!) and you talk to people at our events and many other events about what a cool club it is to belong to. Then there is the Website, of which Russell does a fantastic job of administering; the inquiries we get through that medium are many and varied.

Then there is the other media coverage our Club and some of our members have been experiencing this past 6 months. Dave & Catherine's Viper featured in Petrolhead, Alex Ross's Pontiac in the NZ Herald Driver magazine, and the increasing number of other smaller articles and/or photos of our Club displays or members' cars in various publications that support our hobby. It's all good!

Needless to say, it can just as easily go the other way too, if we are not careful. We as a committee sat down at the end of May and actually mapped out future Club runs/events right through to October, with a subsequent notification of an event we are going to be invited to attend in November! With our now traditional Car Club Christmas in December, that means we have tentative planning already in place, with just some of the actual *details* to finalize, right through to the end of the year! Just superb.

So do keep your eyes on the coming events pages of the website and Crusiepaper, pencil in the dates at least and we will confirm well beforehand just what coolness we have in store for you!

Thanks everyone, hopefully I will get to see a vast amount of you at our Mid-Winter Christmas lunch, so get that booked pronto if you haven't already! Cheers!

Rob Milligan.



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# Russell's Ramblings

Hi there folks, after a short visit to Asia for 4 weeks in March and April you sometimes forget just how lucky we are in our little slice of Paradise down at the bottom of the world. If you think we have traffic congestion and drivers here that can't drive, it is nothing compared to the noisy, packed roads of Vietnam/Cambodia/Thailand buzzing with scooters and cars all honking their horns, and trying their best to mow down any pedestrians in their path.

Most of our time was spent cruising on a 151400 ton/345 meters long ocean liner called Queen Mary 2, which is powered by four V16 diesels and two gas turbines which generate between them 118MW of electricity, driving the 4 Rolls Royce electric pods mounted beneath the ship, each weighing 250 tons.

That's the closest I got to horsepower during the whole holiday, apart from rattley busses and coaches, but I did spot this replica 1937 V16 Cadillac in Pattaya, Thailand on display in front of a hotel. No clue what powered it, as the display board beside it only spoke about the Cadillac Sixteen history of 4067 cars produced between 1930 to 1940, all finished to custom order. It certainly was an unusual looking car, and the salmon colour didn't do it any favours.



It sure is great to be back, and trust I catch up with some of you on the upcoming club runs.

Ciao 4 now, regards Russell ☺

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# FUNNY FARM

## Bits & Bobs



Murphy says to Paddy, "What ya talkin into an envelope for?"  
"I'm sending a voicemail ya fool!"

Paddy says "Mick, I'm thinking of buying a Labrador.  
"Blow that" says Mick, have you seen how many of their owners go blind?"

19 paddies go to the cinema, the ticket lady asks "Why so many of you?"  
Mick replies, "The film said 18 or over."

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were \$70!!!  
Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy.

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning, can you believe that 2:30am?!  
Luckily for him I was still up playing my Bagpipes.

The wife has been missing a week now. Police said to prepare for the worst.  
So I have been to the charity shop to get all her clothes back.

Local Police hunting the 'knitting needle nutter', who has stabbed six people in the rear in the last 48 hours, believe the attacker could be following some kind of pattern.

and lastly my favorite Little Johnny joke.....

The teacher asked the class to use the word "fascinate" in a sentence.

Molly put up her hand and said, "My family went to my granddad's farm, and we all saw his pet sheep. It was fascinating."

The teacher said, "That was good, but I wanted you to use the word 'fascinate,' not 'fascinating!'"

Sally raised her hand. She said, "My family went to see Rock City and I was fascinated."  
The teacher said, "Well, that was good Sally, but I wanted you to use the word 'fascinate'."

Little Johnny raised his hand, but the teacher hesitated because she had been burned by Little Johnny before. She finally decided there was no way he could damage the word "fascinate," so she called on him.

Johnny said, "My aunt Carolyn has a sweater with ten buttons, but her bosoms are so big she can only fasten eight!"

The teacher sat down and cried.

# INTRODUCING.....



Vijay Kumar who has just joined the club in April this year.

His vehicle is a 1983 Cadillac Fleetwood, which he recently purchased locally from a person who imported it from the US.

This Cadillac is somewhat unique in that it has a factory fitted 350ci/5.7 litre diesel, which was an Oldsmobile unit in production from 1978 to 1985, produces 105hp @ 3200rpm and 200ft.lbs torque @1600rpm, and was fitted to most GM brands during the 1970's fuel crisis.

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Please welcome the following new members who have joined the club over the last few months, and don't forget to say hi when you meet them on the next club run:-

- |                                            |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Glenn Baker                                | - 1961 Chevrolet Corvette       |
| Karl Bell & Karen Wood                     | - 1969 Chevrolet Camaro RS      |
| Bill Hohepa & Linda Wills                  | - 1951 Studebaker Commander     |
| Vijay & Nalini Kumar                       | - 1983 Cadillac Fleetwood       |
| Grant Major                                | - 1964 Ford Thunderbird         |
| Andrew & Vivienne Palmer                   | - 1959 Cadillac Series 62 Coupe |
| Bruce Pilcher                              | - 1973 Chevrolet Caprice        |
| Steve Plester                              | - 1952 Buick Super Riviera      |
| and returning members Shawn & Sarah Rutene | - 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air        |

## Karaka Vintage Day 20<sup>th</sup> March

The bi-annual Karaka Vintage Day hosted by the Karaka Historical Society, along with the Vintage Engine Restorers club from Auckland again put on their “not to be missed” show south of Auckland to a great crowd. It is a fascinating event to visit and holds great interest for any mechanical enthusiast young or old. That is not to say that classic and vintage cars are not there in force, but pre war vehicles dominate and there is a strong UK car influence.

The usual squeeze at first is to get positions but once everyone was in place and the marquee was up everybody was out and about to take in the show.

It is not only cars that make the day at Karaka. There is always the strong contingent of stationary engines with their dedicated club members. Old pumping engines thumping away along with a host of most unusual contraptions hissing and heaving away on the grass. Vintage Masport mowers were again represented with an impressive array of old equipment from milking machines to rotary mowers that were manufactured over the last 100 years. A number of wartime vehicles were on display including Bren gun carriers and the GMC dual rear axle truck sporting a revolving gun carriage, that was put to good use firing blank shots at the attacking Harvards. The aerobatics and mock air battles added a lively touch to the day.

A sturdy bunch of Celtic warriors and their families were set up in tents displaying the crafts of long ago along with traditional warfare dress. Then if you had any energy left there was still the vintage tractors to look at in the adjoining paddock.

There is a great museum on site demonstrating the history of the area including farming equipment as well as stories of local families going way back into the 18 hundreds.

The day, after threatening showers, turned out to be pretty reasonable although a bit grey at times but it was again a great show with loads of families turning out to see all the action. The day was capped off with a procession of the exhibiting vehicles.

A great muster from our club with around 16 cars including a visitor from the Thunderbird club. It was a superb show, well run and with tons to see and do and with lots of live action. If you missed out, unfortunately you'll have to wait two more years to see it again.

The run prize for the day of a \$20 gift voucher went to David and Catherine Parker.





**Postcard from Enid & Brian Service in Australia**

*As some of you know, Enid resigned from the club committee earlier this year so she and Brian could tour the Big Oz in their retro RV motor home that Brian has restored.*

Back in NZ on 11th of May for a short time, although unfortunately we won't make the fish 'n' chip run to Kaiaua due to family commitments. We head off to the US on 17th May for a touristy look at San Fran and the Coast road to LA, and then on to Indianapolis for 100 years of the Indy 500. All the Service siblings are going with spouses so should be good as we do miss family when we are away.

After arriving in Oz 4 days before the RV back in mid November, we picked it up after all the 'painful' and expensive border checks only to find that some rotten so and so used our draw by draw inventory list as their personal Christmas shopping list. We had some insurance cover but not enough, and no one was prepared to take ownership of the losses. We stayed with our daughter until Christmas and hit the road 1st January.

So far we have done 6500 miles and gone through 5 states and hardly scratched the surface. You just have to pick a 'line' through a state and go for it, although often the route choice has been driven by events or catching up with people - some we hadn't seen for 40+ years. Went to 5-1/2 day Aus. Cadillac Nationals in Wangaratta, which was excellent, Melbourne GP and then to Sydney for Brian's birthday. We celebrated Brian's 70th in Sydney in March, and his brother & wife bought his 92 yo Mother over from NZ plus both our daughters from Sunshine Coast and France were there.

For the rest we play tourist and go wherever/whenever and have hardly had a wet/cold day since last Nov.

We have had our share, or more than, of mechanical issues - the RV is a 1981, and had sat for quite awhile before we got it, is heavy at 6.5 tonne and braking on steep slopes makes major 'climbs' worrisome at the very least.

Still we have got by and certainly this all would not be possible if Brian wasn't mechanically minded. Once we come back from NZ/USA we head north from the Sunshine Coast and go 'over the top' and down to Perth, cutting down to Alice Springs and back up to Darwin as we go. Need to be in Perth by early October as our daughter gets married in Siargo Island, Phillipines on the 10th October.

There are ideas in the wind to leave OZ earlier than originally planned so we can do a Rally Tour from Vladivostok to London next year, and we will hopefully firm that up when we come home.

It looks like we will be totally broke by the time we are finished tripping about - but we will be happy lol.

Enid and Brian



## **Crosby Motorcycles Matakana Cruise April 17<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Isn't it quite odd, that on one of the wettest, most miserable early Autumn Auckland Sundays, we managed to get one of our best turnouts yet so far this year, for our Club run to the iconic Graeme Crosby Motorcycles in Matakana!

But we did, and what a turnout it was too, with over forty people, and something like 19 classic cars, including several new cars and several new members as well, assembled at the BP Northern Service Centre before the run commenced. So wet it was that the drivers briefing had to be held inside the MacDonalds Restaurant area, much to the amusement of the general public.

The route I'd prepared earlier took us North, off the motorway at the northern end of Orewa so we did not have to duck through the Johnston Hill Tunnels and have the hassle of that frankly daft \$ 2.30 toll. Once at Warkworth, the convoy headed northeast through Matakana itself, to the delight of the surprising number of people shopping and enjoying the several cafes there, and arrived about 6km further on to the sprawling rural property of Crosby Motorcycles. Remarkably, all of us fitted within his driveway with relative ease, and what a sight it was too. Even the man himself, who was sheltering in his workshop door, was suitably impressed!

After a quick intro, I ran around in the rain to take the majority of the photos that are already on the Website gallery for you all to enjoy, whilst Graeme quickly got on with telling the attentive audience what Crosby Motorcycles was all about; how it came about and with that, it lead onto some of the past achievements of this thoroughly likeable and exceptionally gifted man.

And please don't tell me that you don't need to be 'gifted' to win the completely insane Isle of Man TT motorcycle race – not once but THREE times – because that in itself is an achievement us mere mortals can only imagine! Six laps (its only four nowadays, the softies..) of the 67km road course around the Island, averaging – yes, I said averaging - 114mph is just mental! Graeme – or Croz as he prefers - was saying that the average speed now is almost 135mph, but the bikes they use now in the top categories have so much electronics to umm, "assist the riders not to crash", along with super-tricky variable compound slick tyres and all that stuff, nothing of which was available when he was racing there in the eighties. It was all seat-of-the pants stuff for him. His stories were illuminating, witty and punctuated with a cheekiness that went down well with our members.

And then he let us all loose in his workshop! Honestly, you didn't even have to be into bikes to be impressed with the degree of attention to detail, the craftsmanship and all things way cool that were works in progress or nearly completed Kawasaki's, Suzuki's and the odd Honda within his workshop. Interestingly, one of Graeme's better known customers – with over twenty of Crosby-built bikes now, including several just for racing – is none other than controversial Team NZ boss Grant Dalton. Who would have known huh??

After a genuinely enjoyable and thoroughly enthralling almost 2 hours, we thanked Graeme for his hospitality. He is just a legend and it was such an honour for us all to have spent part of our day with him. I have even had one member tell me that they had subsequently gone out and bought his book 'Croz – Larrikin Biker' as a result of meeting the man – how cool is that! Clearly made an impression then!

And whilst some of us carried on directly with the cruise around the scenic coast road out to the Leigh Sawmill Café, where we had a reserved area within the café just for us, many opted to stop briefly at The Vivian Gallery up the road from Graeme's premises. This funky little art gallery is run by Graeme's wife, and is worthy of a visit any time you are passing that way.

Once everyone had got there, the staff of the Sawmill Café quickly had everyone seated and orders taken, for a combination of either their standard lunch menu, or a special Pizza Set menu just for us, comprising a surprisingly large pizza for two, salad and a bowl of fries that would have fed several! All for \$25.00. Just superb.

Whilst the weather did improve as the day progressed, I doubt much would have dampened the spirits of all those who attended this excellent club run. It was different, interesting, entertaining, enlightening, enjoyable and very sociable. The run prize for the day of a \$20 gift card went to Ray Smith, in his 1969 Dodge Charger.

What better way to spend a Sunday in your Classic ☺

Rob Milligan



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It takes all sorts to make up the wonderful hot rod family, some only a mother could love!



1951 Nash Super Airflyte 2dr Sedan. Chopped 4", "B" pillar removed making it a hardtop, channelled over a custom built frame w/Air Bag suspension, Heidt's front, Ford 9" rear, suicide doors, rear fenders extended for Packard taillights, Corvette Z06 engine. Nash's were built with the front tires turning lock to lock within the front fenders, and Nash called them "Encapsulated front tires", so the builder installed a skirt completely around the car, that rests on the ground at show height.

## Kaiaua Fish & Chip run – Sunday 15 May 2016

After a fairly wet Saturday evening, Sunday dawned a bit cloudy but promising a fine day for the fish and chip lunch run that John Bercich organised to the Seabird Coast at Kaiaua.



A W E S O M E is the only way to describe the turnout at the BP Service Centre on the Southern Motorway, with 22 fine American classics and around 60 people, a large number of which were new members. President Rob did his welcome speech before John handed out the run instructions, and then we were away in convoy via some beautiful countryside to the first stop at the Hunua Falls.

After a wander up the path to the falls, and some repairs to Rob's Pontiac with a big hammer (a whack on the starter motor), we were off again on our way to the Bay View Hotel at Kaiaua for lunch. This proved to be a popular place for a Sunday drive, with the car park occupied by a number of Lotus 7/Fraser type sports cars, along with the usual motorbike riders.



Just as well that John had pre-booked our fish and chip lunch then, and what a feast it was for only \$15 a head, which was described by some as the best battered fish eaten in years. The grassed area at the back of the hotel is dotted with tables and umbrellas, and club members quickly settled themselves in to soak up the late Autumn sun and have a natter. What better way is there to spend a relaxing Sunday afternoon?

The dipstick award has finally been passed on from Chris Thompson to Trevor and Jude Righton, for misleading a number of other cars to the Hunua Falls, with a left turn when the upper case typed instructions clearly said TURN RIGHT (however these others also weren't reading their instructions either). To ease any bruised feelings they may have, Trevor and Jude in their 1948 Chevrolet Thriftmaster pickup also take out the run prize of a \$20 gift voucher.



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# Hot Dates for Jun-Jul-Aug

| <u>June</u>                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2                                                                                   | Yank Tank Thursday, Botany Town Centre, from 5pm                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 5                                                                                   | NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau, from 7.30am                                                                                                                                                                |
| 5                                                                                   | Westies Café breakfast, 7 Totara Avenue, New Lynn, from 9-11am                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5                                                                                   | Winter Drag Wars #1, Meremere Dragway, Meremere                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6                                                                                   | Parked up out West show, Northwest Shopping Centre, Westgate, 10.30am-2pm                                                                                                                                                                |
| 13                                                                                  | Renegade R&C burger, Bar Africa, 1 William Pickering Dr, Albany, from 6.30pm                                                                                                                                                             |
| 19                                                                                  | Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, Mitre 10 Mega, Westgate, from 8.30-10.30am                                                                                                                                                              |
| 19                                                                                  | Winter Drag Wars #2, Meremere Dragway, Meremere                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 26                                                                                  | ACCCA Mid-winter Christmas Luncheon at the Howick Club Botany, 107 Botany Road, Botany Downs. \$30 per head, and runs from 11am to 3pm. RSVP's by June 17 please.                                                                        |
| 26                                                                                  | Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, from 10am-1pm                                                                                                                                                                |
| <u>July</u>                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3                                                                                   | NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau, from 7.30am                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3                                                                                   | Westies Café breakfast, 7 Totara Avenue, New Lynn, from 9-11am                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3                                                                                   | Winter Drag Wars #3, Meremere Dragway, Meremere                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 4                                                                                   | American Independence Day run, Beaumont Street, Auckland 7.30pm                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 11                                                                                  | Renegade R&C burger, Bar Africa, 1 William Pickering Dr, Albany, from 6.30pm                                                                                                                                                             |
| 17                                                                                  | ACCCA shed raid to Chris Hornblow's hot rod garage, Oratia, followed by cruise to a TBA lunch venue. Meeting place and time to be advised via website and email.                                                                         |
| 16-17                                                                               | CRC Speed Show, ASB Showgrounds, Auckland                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 17                                                                                  | Winter Drag Wars #4, Meremere Dragway, Meremere                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 31                                                                                  | Winter Drag Wars #5, Meremere Dragway, Meremere                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 31                                                                                  | Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, from 10am-1pm                                                                                                                                                                |
| <u>August</u>                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 4                                                                                   | Yank Tank Thursday, Botany Town Centre, from 5pm                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 6-7                                                                                 | Mother's Chrome Expression Session, Hampton Downs, Waikato                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 7                                                                                   | NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau, from 7.30am                                                                                                                                                                |
| 7                                                                                   | Westies Café breakfast, 7 Totara Avenue, New Lynn, from 9-11am                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 14                                                                                  | Winter Drag Wars #6 (final), Meremere Dragway, Meremere                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 20                                                                                  | Waiau Pa Hop Classic & Hot Rod Show, Clarks Beach Yacht Club, 10am-5pm                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 21                                                                                  | ACCCA run to Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, Mitre 10 Mega, Westgate, from 8.30-10.30am, followed by rural Westy cruise to a TBA lunch venue. Meeting place and time to be advised via website and email.                               |
| 28                                                                                  | Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, from 10am-1pm                                                                                                                                                                |
|  | Should an ACCC event (in yellow above) 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 event. Please check 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.

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