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Cruisepaper



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

Dec. 2017~Jan~Feb.2018

www.americanclassiccars.org.nz



President Rob's Report

Hi there Members,

On a slightly somber note, I found out in early November that one of the victims of a horror road smash in Northland was an old, albeit no longer close, friend of mine from Primary School. We had not seen each other since we both left Browns Bay Primary, and Kevin went to Murrays Bay Intermediate and I went to Northcross. It was only really in the past couple of years did we discover that our respective daughters were great mates and, as a result, as Kev no longer lived in Auckland, we had planned to reunite sometime "when we both weren't so busy". Sadly, regrettably, that's not going to be a happening thing any longer.

And this got me thinking... As the festive season approaches, please make the most of every opportunity that comes your way, if you possibly can. Take the time to catch up with old friends or out of town family members. Take that trip you had been planning on "for ages", heck, take the Classic out more often and to hell with the price of gas or if it's raining at the time, it's only water. And take care of your health, age can be cruel to those that don't. Live life, max it out, because you owe it to yourselves to do so. We are all here for a good time, not a long time!

As that advert playing on the telly presently says, "No Regerts!"

So then, as 2017 draws to a frankly rather rapid close, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of the ACCCA. A club like ours is not about individual achievements, but collective ones and whilst I reiterate again that I have been very fortunate to have had some seriously passionate people assisting with the running of the Club, without you guys and girls attending everything and anything as often as you possibly can, our efforts would all be in vain. So please accept mine and my committees' heart felt appreciation for a job well done, all of you!

Be happy, be safe and on behalf of the ACCCA, have a wonderful Christmas and a truly Happy New Year!

Rob.



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Russell's Ramblings

Hi there folks, I know it's hard to believe but it's that Ho Ho Ho time of year again. How did that happen, surely the last was only a couple of months ago, wasn't it? I know we all say "where does the time go" but literally, it seems like it is flying by at supersonic speed, as I guess we are all busy doing more things than we ever used to. I don't know about you but we plan to just stay home and chill out over the Christmas/New Year break when it's always nice

and quiet, as everyone else in Auckland seems to be away somewhere. Whatever you are doing, take the time to rest your mind and soul, recharge your batteries, and spend some time with your loved ones. My best wishes to you and your family.



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

Shaun & Rita Eastell – 1957 Buick Roadmaster 4 dr Hardtop

Frank & Jan Mclsaac – 1964 Mercury Monterey Breezeway

Ciao 4 now, regards Russell

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FUNNY FARM



The Many Degrees of Blondes

(just because we haven't had any blonde jokes for a while)

FIRST DEGREE

A married couple were asleep when the phone rang at 2 in the morning. The wife (undoubtedly blonde), picked up the phone, listened a moment and said 'How should I know, that's 200 miles from here!' and hung up.

The husband said, 'Who was that?' The wife said, 'I don't know, some woman wanting to know if the coast is clear.'

SECOND DEGREE

Two blondes are walking down the street. One notices a compact on the sidewalk and leans down to pick it up. She opens it, looks in the mirror and says, 'Hmm, this person looks familiar.'

The second blonde says, 'Here, let me see!' So the first blonde hands her the compact. The second one looks in the mirror and says, 'You dummy, it's me!'

THIRD DEGREE

A blonde suspects her boyfriend of cheating on her, so she goes out and buys a gun. She goes to his apartment unexpectedly and when she opens the door she finds him in the arms of a redhead. Well, the blonde is really angry.

She opens her purse to take out the gun, and as she does so, she is overcome with grief.

She takes the gun and puts it to her head. The boyfriend yells, 'No, honey, don't do it!!!'

The blonde replies, 'Shut up, you're next!'

FOURTH DEGREE

A blonde was bragging about her knowledge of state capitals.

She proudly says, 'Go ahead, and ask me, I know all of them.'

A friend says, 'OK, what's the capital of Wisconsin?'

The blonde replies, 'Oh, that's easy: W.'

FIFTH DEGREE

What did the blonde ask her doctor when he told her she was pregnant?

'Is it mine?'

SIXTH DEGREE

Returning home from work, a blonde was shocked to find her house ransacked and burglarized.

She telephoned the police at once and reported the crime.

The police dispatcher broadcast the call on the radio, and a K-9 unit, patrolling nearby was the first to respond.

As the K-9 officer approached the house with his dog on a leash, the blonde ran out on the porch, shuddered at the sight of the cop and his dog, then sat down on the steps.

Putting her face in her hands, she moaned, 'I come home to find all my possessions stolen. I call the police for help, and what do they do?'

They send me a BLIND policeman.'



MOTAT Wild Wheels – 3 September

Although it was somewhat short notice for this event, and the fact that it was Fathers' Day, we still had a good number of cars turn up at the meeting point at Western Springs College, 12 in fact. Although to be fair, 3 club members kindly bought 2 each, which helped swell out the numbers, and 1 other joined us at our display site, bringing the total to 13.



And whilst there were no awards presented, we had more cars on display than any of the other six car clubs present, and our cars got a fine reception from the public and organizers alike. Also one of our newer members, the Campbells, had one of their military vehicles on display, a 1961 AMC Mightymite elsewhere within Motat, so overall our club was very well represented.

One thing the MOTAT event organizers hadn't counted on was the sheer size of our American classics, and the 20 car park spaces they had allocated only just swallowed up our numbers! After a bit of toing and froing to get all the cars facing the right way for the pedestrian traffic flow, we were settled just in time for the event opening time of 10am. Our site was around the back of the complex as we were the last club to sign up, but it was a great spot for us as it was sheltered from the cool southerly, but we sure got our fair share of admirers for the cars.

A short trip on the trams had a number of us visit the aircraft hangers at MOTAT 2, which is a completely different world in itself. A chat with one of the volunteers in the hanger workshop proved most interesting, but he revealed some of the conflict the volunteers have had with the management team, which seems somewhat peevish seeing they are paid zilch. In fact they weren't told that the Museum's car collection was put into long term storage until they visited the display area, so that the space could be used for interactive children's programs.

The organizers had stipulated a 4pm departure time for safety reasons, but the time went by pretty quickly as there was plenty to see and do, including a Celtic drum band which was very noisy but entertaining. Another great day out was had by all, in what was mostly sunny and warm weather at the event. The run prize of the day of a \$20 Z Energy gift card for the member who turns up in their classic, goes to Nicola & Robert Williams in their 1960 Chevrolet Impala.



Te Aroha Cruise In – 7 October 2017

It didn't seem like a year since we last had to get up at the ungodly hour of 5.30am for a Club run, but fortunately the grim weather outlook and early start didn't put off about 16 cars meeting at the BP Drury at 7am for an early morning cruise down to Te Aroha. This time we convoyed down via the very picturesque SH2 route through Ngatea where we met up with Martin in his stand-out black Camaro, and then an easy run down the very flat, smooth and straight back road through Awaiti and joining up on SH26 just north of Te Aroha. Little traffic at that time of the morning made for a very pleasurable cruise, and many commented that the back roads are actually in better condition than SH2, which allowed for a quick blast along the straights!

We were allocated our parking more or less where we were last year, but this time on the Domain side of the road, but we eventually ended up with 22 club cars (including Alex Ross's Impala and caravan in the domain behind us) so finished up on both sides of the street this time! Again we had the biggest club turnout by far, even more than the Kaipara Classic Car Club stalwarts who commandeer the main street motel each year, this time putting their sign on the motel roof in an effort to win best Club display! Overall number of vehicles seemed to be a little down on last year, and whilst the main street was still chocka-block like before, the side streets were more deserted probably owing to the forecast.

The organisers and town put on their usual great selection of vendors, memorabilia stalls and various entertainment for the whole family, with Jim and the Beamers the outstanding band set up in a B-train trailer opposite the Hotel doing very original covers of all the greats. All the shops were open again, along with the footpath stalls and café's doing a roaring trade all day – hard to get a table at any time! There must have been some previous negative feedback on the donation collectors, as this year they gave everyone in the car a sticker to wear identifying that they had already contributed, so that you didn't get approached by every collector with a bucket to fill – much improved!

On display was the usual huge selection of all makes and ages of vintage and classic cars, which is what makes Te Aroha so interesting and enjoyable. It seems to change as well each time you walk up and down main street, as you see something different that either wasn't there before or you had missed. Among the more unusual vehicles was a custom chopper with a V8 Vickers aircraft hybrid engine made from various other engine parts, which almost looked like it could have been the prototype of Judge Dredd's Lawmaster! Whilst it had all the requisite electrical and plumbing, and a battery, it still had many people standing around scratching their heads in wonder as to whether or not it actually ran. With the speedo topping out at 800 Kilowatts, if it did run would only be good for straight lines and about 100m before the seat tried to cut through the bottom of your strides – and keep your fingers and other bits that might stick out well away from those rockers! Regardless, a true work of motoring art worthy of the best vehicle award!

Although most of the day was kind to all once again with a pleasantly calm and warm but overcast day, the rain clouds started rolling in early afternoon, and around 2pm we started getting light passing showers that resulted in a steady stream of cars leaving before the onslaught arrived! Hopefully next year we might get to cruise with the convertible top down, and get some of that famous country summer weather so that we can all enjoy a picnic lunch in the Domain whilst listening to the fantastic live bands. It's a great day out for just \$10 car entry, and all for a good cause too.

The run prize of the day of a \$20 Z Energy gift card for the member who turns up in their classic, goes to Steve Plester in his 1952 Buick Super Riviera Sedan.
Phil Officer



WESTIE MYSTERY RUN - A run with a bit of everything! 29 October 2017

At last it looked like the cruising weather had finally arrived, with a smaller but enthusiastic turnout of 6 classics and one daily driver to accept Greg & Julie Dietsch's mystery cruise challenge. Starting off from the Te Pai Park carpark at 10.30am, the run coincided nicely with the Caffeine & Classics being moved out to Westgate that morning to make way for the Auckland Marathon, so an added bonus was getting an impromptu car show with the many classics cruising around out West. The run took us on a very pleasant 55km route through the back-roads to Swanson and Waitakeri, Taupaki, through the scenic Riverhead forest up to Waimauku, and back down the main highway cutting across to Don Buck Rd and down into Swanson finishing at the RSA for another really splendid luncheon; that RSA really puts on a great feed.

Each driver was given a set of questionnaire forms, and whilst at first glance some of the clues looked rather cryptic, it soon became obvious that one only had to drive and keep the eyes open, reading the clues carefully of course, and the answers would appear right before you! There were a number of occasions where you thought you must have missed a clue, given up and driven round the corner to find the answer right there in front of you! Quite a few times the co-pilot was accused of not reading far enough ahead, or told that you must've missed that one, only to shortly find out that you hadn't actually arrived at the location of the answer yet! That damned tree-hut case in point!, and hopefully there weren't too many strained marital relationships and disagreements en-route! It's definitely an advantage to have a fleet of observers with you on this type of run.

Spare a thought for poor old Rob who was as busy as a one-legged man in an ass-kicking contest, having to steer with one hand and write down the answers with the other - he must have looked like a high speed version of the game at the Easter show with the clown head oscillating back and forth waiting for you to drop the ping pong ball in its mouth!

With there being two questions about what type of ice-cream was being sold at two of the clue places, one car thought there must be bonus points in the offering if some of the aforementioned icecream was sampled, what with the weather finally being warm enough to require some cool refreshments anyway. Alas, whilst the real-strawberry ice creams were most enjoyable, they were not quite worthy of bonus points. However, bonus points were added if you brought back a piece of flax and something interesting, although those who couldn't or forgot to find their flax on the run were saved with a quick raid of the flax bush in the carpark of the Swanson RSA finish line. That should save groundskeeper Willie a job later on!

A number of raffle prizes were won from the tickets collected at key points along the route, with all the prizes generously donated by Greg and Julie. First prize went to Alexis and Steve, who not only scored the most points with 56 out of the maximum 60, but also brought back an old Buick radio centre console as their interest item, only just picked up that morning and still in the car. A worthy mention of another interesting item that many saw on the way past, but couldn't fit in the car, was the sign at the Plantarama garden centre in Fred Taylor Drive, who with some sheer creative advertising genius were promoting what was clearly an over-abundance of pots in stock, as per the photo.



Many thanks to Greg & Julie from all those who came out on the day, for spending a lot of time and effort in organising a clever, fun and interesting day out with just the right mix of things to do and see, with the questions being in that Goldilocks zone of being neither too hard nor too easy, and which hopefully will become a regular annual event. The run prize of the day of a \$20 Z Energy gift card for the member who turns up in their classic, goes to Greg & Julie Dietsch, who, along with organising the run, also manned a checkpoint in their 1966 Ford Fairlane.

Phil Officer

BOP Mustang Club All USA Day – 19 November 2017

After a week of reviewing long range weather forecasts, the fine weather eventually predicted made the decision to go ahead with the bi-annual club run a done deal. However, most members weren't convinced, as only 5 cars turned up at the (very cold) BP meeting point to head South. Tom & Karen Taylor in their 1956 Chrysler Windsor Coupe, new members Frank & Jan Mclsaac - 1964 Mercury Monterey, Kerry Bramley & granddaughter Capri – 1962 Ford Thunderbird, Russell & Cindy Wilson – 1957 Pontiac Star Chief, and Peter Lee in his 1968 Chevy C10 who was joining us just for some of the run down.



A break halfway saw us stop at Waihi for lunch in a great old pub, followed by a gawk at the big hole in the ground, complete with a massive rock fall on the north side of the old mine. Peter said farewell at this point and headed off back to Auckland, while the rest of the bunch continued on. On arrival at Mt. Maunganui we caught up with Graeme and Gwen Mackay at the motel, who were spending a few days there on holiday. The same grey skies as Auckland greeted us, along with very, very strong winds. These had whipped up huge swells crashing around the base of the Mount walk, which made the channel extremely rough for ships crossing through to the port.

None of this showed much promise for the weather, and sure enough by evening the rain started (remember the previously mentioned fine forecast) making our walk down to the restaurant somewhat damp. This is an "all you can eat Chinese buffet" which offers great value at \$25 per head, or for those of us lucky enough to have a Gold Card, \$21. Great value for everyone, and some of our group sure made the most of it, with seconds and even thirds, along with desert. The rain continued through the night, and into the next morning, the day of the show at the Classic Flyers Museum at Tauranga Airport. By set off time at 9.30 it started to ease, so off we went to meet up with Kerry and Frank who were staying at different motels along the road. Unfortunately for Frank, his Mercury Monterey experienced starter problems on the road outside Kerry's motel, which none present could rectify, so we had to leave him while he called for roadside assistance.

The rain stopped and the sun came out as we drove into the venue, and it stayed mainly fine for the rest of the day, apart from the occasional light sprinkle. Wahoo, about time! There was a great turnout of vehicles, obviously a lot of Mustangs as it's their show, but it's good to see different cars that aren't seen in Auckland. Kerry was drafted into the Thunderbird display, along with club member Dave Bonsall who lives in the area in his 1965 Thunderbird, and Trevor & Jude Righton who also live there turned up in their 1948 Chevy Thriftmaster pickup to join the meagre ACCCA display of 3.

However, that didn't stop the club from taking out some great awards, with Tom & Karen taking 1st prize for the best Survivor (original), and Trevor & Jude also getting 1st in the Commercial category. They each got a nice trophy, along with a goody bag full of neat stuff, and from the mile-wide grins on all their faces, it wasn't hard to tell they were really chuffed. The show wound up at this point, so we all said our goodbyes after a great weekend away despite the weather, except for poor old Frank and Jan who had to stay another day to get the Mercury repaired. The run prize of the day (or consolation in this case) of a \$20 Z Energy gift card for the member who turns up in their classic, goes to Frank and Jan Mclsaac.



Kaipara Classic Car Club's Shine n D'Ville - Sunday November 19th, 2017

With some of our members committed to heading South-East to Mt Maunganui this weekend, I was not expecting a huge turnout for our parallel run out West to the Helensville Museum for Kaipara Classic Car Club's Shine n D'Ville event. And the weather hardly helped...it was shite!



Nevertheless, seven hardy members including myself braved the appalling initial conditions and headed out west from Westgate Mall, via some nice rural back-roads, coming into Helensville from the Northern end, joined later on in the day by Bill Tweed, who wisely had waited until the weather had improved before bringing his Chrysler convertible out to play.

Constant overnight rain had hardly eased and I was convinced that the Museum grounds would be a mud bath. Thankfully, they were in great condition and by midday had filled up nicely, albeit not to the extent of previous years' events.

The Slick Backs, featuring our own Paul Roper on drums entertained brilliantly center-stage, the museum was open for viewing, the coffee cart did a roaring trade and the variety of cars present was a treat. By prizegiving time ACCCA members Rosalie Woodcock and Alan Huljich had been selected by public vote as Best Two-door (Thunderbird) and Best Four Door (Impala), respectively. Overall, the day was surprisingly enjoyable, with plenty to see and great company. Hopefully, next years will be even better!

The run prize of the day of a \$20 Z Energy gift card for the member who turns up in their classic, goes to John & Elita Bercich in their 1976 Corvette Stingray. Rob.



THE RIGOURS OF IMPORTING FROM THE USA by Rodger Anderson

I thought I had misspelled the word "rigour" and it should have been "rigor". The later means 'sudden coldness attended by shivering' so probably both apply when importing a vehicle unseen from the USA. It can be a chilling experience, with horror stories of vehicles arriving with so much work needed they are written off.

Our son Cam, who now resides in the Gold Coast, already had a very nice driver 1951 Chev truck and had it looking pretty good. He was working in the Pacific on a TV show as he had done for several years on six month 'stints', and surfing around on ebay in his spare time (as you do), he spots this really nice 1962 Chev Impala.



Described as a ONE OWNER original car, always housed in a garage, it was being sold because the owner had died and his widow said it held too many memories. Too good to be true? Well, Cam's mother is on the "lunatic lantern" trying to find if someone is putting something across her son, and rightly so! With the surname of the person and the location in the USA, she finds a death notice along with an address, so we go on Google Maps. After a bit of fiddling we see the yard down the road where the ebay photos are taken, and by scrolling around we find the actual house. Low and behold the garage door is open, and there is the Chev Impala in the garage!

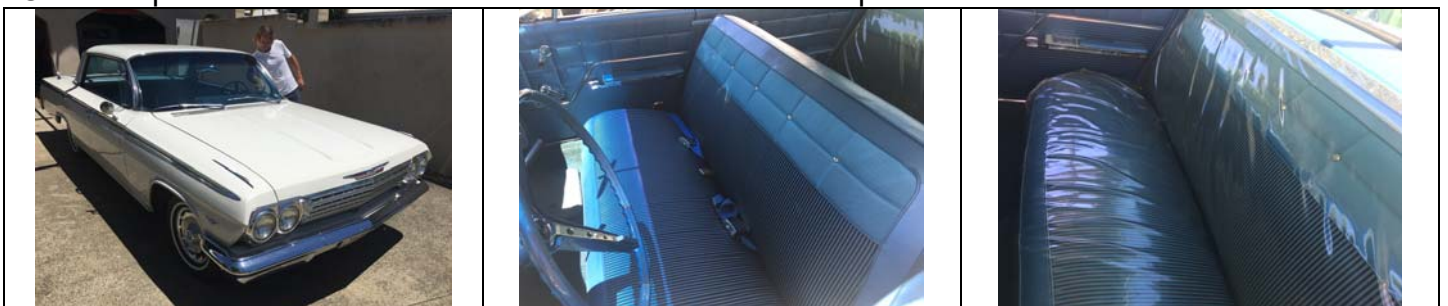
So Cam pays the money, and the Chevy had to be trucked from Wisconsin to the West Coast for shipping to Brisbane. A bit of organization needed, but all good. Months go by and as it happens, we are on Gold Coast having one of our catch-ups with family and we get the call the Impala is ready to be picked up. A quick look over the car, and a with a battery jump she starts. What's that noise, ah, an exhaust leak; is this the start of things to come?

Some fresh petrol, and it drives OK to the house. Time to have a good look- it's a beauty, all there, all original, and even has the plastic on the rear seats, maybe never sat in. Also included was an original envelope in the glove box with lots of invoices and history. Goodies in the boot, some parts we might need in the fullness of time, no rust, everything works and only a header to muffler pipe to fix. So what do we have? It's a genuine 1962 Chevrolet Impala with a numbers matching 283ci, two barrel with Powerglide auto, original paint, immaculate seats and trim, with extra carpet and spares in the boot. It is always good to get a car that has not been mucked around with.

So we get home on the day and Cam goes to the letter box, and there is a hand written letter from the dear old lady which arrives on the very same day, saying how she hopes the car "meets his expectations". Absolute elation. A return hand written letter is sent by Cam soon after, thanking her very much and saying he will keep it in good condition.

So Cam now has two really cool cars, a truck to do work with and a Sunday driver in the form of his Impala, along with a very happy Widow who has found an owner who will treasure her husband's pride and joy, albeit in the antipodes.

My recent interest in a car in the USA led me to ask an assessor to have a look at the vehicle for me. "Where is it- ah, too far away for me to travel to it. Tell me a bit about it." As the conversation went on he questioned whether the photos were of the actual car I was buying, and did the description belong to the car I was buying? His advice was "If it's in Houston, get on an AirNZ direct flight and go have a look. It will be worth the dollars". So it's not easy buying from the US, but Cam's experience has shown that it can be a worthwhile experience.



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Hot Dates for Dec-Jan-Feb

<u>December</u>	
2	Kumeu breakfast, Route 16 Café, 16/40 State Hwy.16, Kumeu from 8am
3	ACCCA Xmas Party, Wenderholm Regional Park, Wairewa. Meet at BP Northern Motorway, Silverdale from 10am to depart at 10.30. Bring a desert to share and a chair, and the club will provide the rest.
3	NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau, 7.30-9.30am
4	ACCCA @ Nth.Shore R&C Toy Run, Vellenoweth Green, St.Heliers from 5pm
7	Yank Tank Thursday, Botany Town Centre, 5-9 pm
8	Night Speed Drag Wars #3, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
10	Oogah Rodders Big Breakfast, Swanson RSA, 663 Swanson Road, 8-10.30am
10	Ford Muscle Car Club drags, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
10	The Brownzy's 2 nd Classic & Rod Show, 775 Beach Road, Browns Bay, 11am
17	Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, Mitre 10 Mega, Westgate, 8.30-10.30am
28	Manukau R&C Burger Night, Repco, 230 Gt.Sth.Rd.Takanini from 6pm
31	Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, 10am-1pm
<u>January</u>	
1	World's 1 st Car & Bike Show, Whangamata Club Car Park, from 8.30am
6	ACCCA run to Black Swamp Rod Run, Mangawhai. Meet at BP Northern Motorway, Silverdale from 7.45am to depart sharp at 8. (\$20 entry fee per car)
6	Kumeu breakfast, Route 16 Café, 16/40 State Hwy.16, Kumeu from 8am
7	NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau, 7.30-9.30am
13	Comp 2; Wellington Invasion, TA & TDS Challenge, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
20	ACCCA @ Kumeu Classic Car & Hotrod Festival. Meet at club site at Kumeu Showgrounds from 8am, parking on first come-first in basis. Tea/coffee/BBQ available, BYO meat and chair
21	Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, Mitre 10 Mega, Westgate, 8.30-10.30am
25	Manukau R&C Burger Night, Repco, 230 Gt.Sth.Rd.Takanini from 6pm
26-28	Hibiscus Rodders Beach Festival, Orewa
28	Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, 10am-1pm
<u>February</u>	
1	Yank Tank Thursday, Botany Town Centre, 5-9 pm
3	Comp 3: Aeroflow Outlaw Nitro Funny Cars, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
3	Kumeu breakfast, Route 16 Café, 16/40 State Hwy.16, Kumeu from 8am
4	NZ Petrolhead breakfast at Bellagio, Plunket Avenue, Manukau, 7.30-9.30am
9	Night Speed Drag Wars #4, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
11	ACCCA run to Morrinsville Motorama. Meet at BP Papakura Service Centre, Southern Motorway from 7am to depart at 7.30. (\$5 per car entry fee applies)
11	ACCCA limited display at Ellerslie Classic Car Show, Ellerslie Racecourse
18	Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, Mitre 10 Mega, Westgate, 8.30-10.30am
21-24	Americarna, new Plymouth
22	Manukau R&C Burger Night at Carls Jnr, 230 Gt.Sth.Rd.Takanini from 6pm
24	Junior Dragster Champs, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
25	Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, 10am-1pm
25	Comp meeting #4, Meremere Dragway, Waikato

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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