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Sept-Oct-Nov. 2019

www.americanclassiccars.org.nz



President Rob's Report

Hello Members!

Well, September beckons as I write this edition of my Presidential Ramblings, and once again I feel very pleased with how the past three months have progressed for the ACCCA. Have a look at the 'Hot Dates' page at the back of this magazine, cause there's a heap more cool things on the books for you members, before we welcome in the Holiday Season and beyond. Trust me... it's a challenge to keep finding new things for our members to do, or places to take you, but such a rewarding one when things come together and you guys all have a great time. It's what's keeps me – and your committee – going. Seriously, it is. I've said it before... but it's your support of what we do that is the driver for us all. So thank you.

And on that note we need to think about the upcoming annual Election of Committee, to try and keep that momentum and level of interest going. It pleases me immensely that all six current committee members – myself included – have all agreed to seek another term at the forefront of this amazing Club you all belong to. Provided of course you all want us – individually and collectively – to continuing doing what we do, as best we can, on your behalf! You get the opportunity to vote next month as per the instructions on the next page, and I strongly implore you to do so.

I'll take the opportunity now to personally thank my current committee, as a finer bunch of enthusiasts I would be hard pressed to find, and it is, as always, a genuine privilege for me to have you all on my team. Nevertheless, we are always wanting to add 'new blood' onto the committee, whether anyone steps down or is voted off or not, because it's that fresh thinking someone new brings on board, coming up with ideas the rest of us may simply be too blind to see. It's vital for the continued success and survival of the Club to keep this injection of enthusiasm going. I know we have one new potential committee member who has agreed to join us, if the votes allow. But it would not hurt if we had even just one more, just to help spread the organisational load. So I may approach you directly... or you may simply wish to put your name forward on the voting page? Up to you...

At the last committee meeting (we really only have four a year), it was agreed that the ACCCA is going to formally join the NZ Federation of Motoring Clubs (NZFOMC see <http://www.fomc.org.nz/>). Why? Well, this hobby of ours is not getting any easier, with successive governments and their legislation seemingly determined to use the poor motorist as the scapegoat for all that is wrong in the world.. or certainly 'our' world anyway. The present government in particular, or at least certain MP's and Ministry heads have an increasingly apparent 'dislike' for cars in general... including 'hobby cars' in all forms (Classics/Hot Rods/Competition vehicles etc etc) so they aren't going to be doing us any favours, any time soon, that's for certain. By joining an organisation that has our collective interests at heart, we are adding support to the 'Voice' of our hobby. Yes, I know of other organisations that arguably are there to support our hobby too, but we are, for the most part, just motorists that wish to keep on using our collectable or classic vehicles at our discretion without undue – or even unjust – governmental or legislative interference. It's a start anyway. Hope you agree.

See you at an event soon!

Rob.



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Russell's Ramblings

Hi there folks, we are coming up to that time of the year for the annual election of ACCCA committee members.

Please place your vote using the following instructions:-

- 1/ Go to the ACCCA website at www.americanclassiccars.org.nz
- 2/ Hover your mouse pointer over the right hand side top menu button MEMBERS ONLY, select Election of Committee from the drop down menu,

and a Password box will open

3/ Enter the password **CorvetteStingray** (exactly as shown, no space)

4/ Click each box Yes or No (* all boxes must be clicked)

5/ Fill out any comments or suggestions you may wish to make, enter your name and email, and click the SUBMIT button.



WE NEED YOU!

Easy as! Only one vote per Club member family please, and all voting must be done by 30 September 2019. Your continued support of your club is essential for the ongoing health and success of the American Classic Car Club Auckland, so we urge you to spare a few minutes and vote for the 2020 committee members.

PLEASE DO IT NOW - DON'T PUT IT OFF UNTIL LATER!!!!

Also due in October are the 2020 ACCC membership subscriptions, which remain at \$60 per member family. Please pay by internet banking, or bank your cheque direct at any ANZ branch, to the club account 06-0273-0235649-00 with your Initials and Surname as reference.

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:-

Steve & Bow Dickenson – 1947 Mercury Coupe, Mark Smith – 1941 Cadillac Coupe

Ciao4now, regards Russell

Committee Members

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Dave



Phil



Peter



Carl



JUST JOKING



Och, those canny Scots!

- In some Scottish restaurants they heat the knives so you can't use too much butter.
- McDougal walked into a fish and chip shop. "I want 10 pence worth of chips, please. I want lots of salt and vinegar on them and two pence worth of pickled onions. And wrap the whole lot in today's newspaper".
- You should be careful about stereotyping the Scots as mean. There was a recent letter to a newspaper from an Aberdonian which said "If you print any more jokes about mean Scotsmen I shall stop borrowing your paper."
- After discovering that they had won 15 million pounds in the Lottery, Mr and Mrs McFlannel sat down to discuss their future. Mrs McFlannel announced "After twenty years of washing other people's stairs, I can throw my old scrubbing brush away at last." Her husband agreed -"Of course you can, hen. We can easily afford to buy you a new one now."
- As a Christmas present one year, the Laird gave his gamekeeper, MacPhail, a deerstalker hat with ear-flaps. MacPhail was most appreciative and always wore it with the flaps tied under his chin to keep his ears warm in the winter. One cold, windy day the Laird noticed he was not wearing the hat. "Where's the hat?" asked the Laird. "I've given up wearing it since the accident," replied MacPhail. "Accident? I didn't know you'd had an accident." "Yes. A man offered me a nip of whisky and I had the earflaps down and never heard him."
- Angus called in to see his friend Donald to find he was carefully stripping the wallpaper from the walls. Rather obviously, he remarked "You're decorating, I see." to which Donald replied "Noo. I'm moving out."
- McNab had become a bit hard of hearing but he didn't want to pay for a hearing aid. So bought a piece of flex, put one end in his top pocket and the other end in his ear. It didn't help his hearing but he found that people spoke to him more loudly.
- By mistake, Sandy put a 50 pence coin instead of 5 pence on the collection plate at church. Despite his entreaties, the minister refused to give it back to him. So for the next nine weeks, when the plate was passed round, he passed it on saying "Season ticket."
- MacDonald was awarded 10,000 pounds for injuries received after a traffic accident and his wife got 2,000 pounds. A friend asked how badly injured his wife had been in the accident. MacDonald replied "Och, she wasn't injured but I had the presence of mind to kick her in the leg before the police arrived."
- A visitor to an Aberdeen bar was surprised to find the beer only two pence a pint. The barman explained that it was priced to mark the centenary of the pub opening. The visitor noticed, however, that the bar was empty. "Are the regular customers not enjoying the special prices?" he asked. To which the barman replied "They're waiting for the Happy Hour"
- It is rumoured that the entire population of Aberdeen took to the streets with an empty glass in their hands when the weather forecaster said there would be a nip in the air.



Mid-winter Christmas Lunch & Trivia Quiz – 30 June 2019

With the superb Auckland clear and sunny week continuing through to the Sunday, the club could not have asked for a better day for the annual mid-winter Christmas lunch and quiz afternoon. It certainly couldn't have been better weather for the inaugural pre-lunch mystery cruise organised by Carl Phillips, which headed up to the Helensville Railway Museum for coffee and a looksee before heading on down to Soljans Estate Winery for the midday start time.

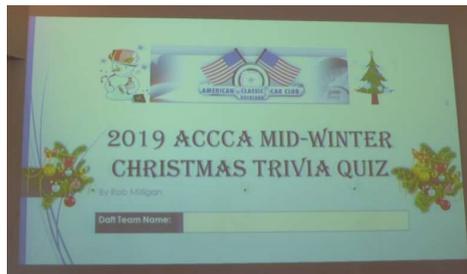
And what a stunning picture the chrome encrusted 24 American beauties made in the allocated parking area, with many public admirers throughout the afternoon taking in the display.



Once the formalities of registration and name tags were out of the way, President Rob welcomed the assembled and ran through the programme and rules, before everyone had a taste of what was to come with a name the song and artist music quiz produced by Phil Officer to limber up the brain cells before the big event after lunch.

Once again a tremendous buffet lunch was provided by the great team at Soljans, washed down with a few wines (or apple, orange juice or water of course) supplied by the club, on each table. After being lulled into a false sense of camaraderie and goodwill with the delicious food and ambience, it was then into the main quiz of the day with Rob's wicked and twisted blockbuster. And once again he didn't disappoint with some heated and frenzied discussion amongst the teams.

It was then into the deserts before Rob announced that there was a tie for the first place, so he had to ask a tiebreaker question to sort out the winner. And I have to say (as one of the team members who were tied 1st equal) that he asked one the most obscure and dumbest questions I have ever heard. Who would know that the name for a shoemaker is a cordwainer; I mean really? However the other team guessed it, and took away the prize, much to our team's chagrin.



Speaking of prizes, there were numerous ticket prize draws throughout the afternoon, with prizes donated by the club's supporters NZ Petrolhead/Rodder, Classic Cover Insurance, and POR NZ, along with prizes supplied by the club.

The afternoon finished off about 4pm with much handshaking and hugs all round, as everyone sure seemed in a jovial mood after what can only be described as an entertaining and convivial afternoon. Mind you they would have needed the positive state of mind, to battle the heavy line of continuous slow traffic that seemed to occupy the highway outside Soljans all afternoon.

Ciao4now, Russell Wilson

Clifton Cove Toy Museum – 28 July 2019

Sunday morning dawned nice and dry after an awful forecast mid-week, which had predicted a wet day for our club run out to the Clifton Cove Toy Museum in Whitford, so somebody was looking after us. The meetup was at the Vector Wero Whitewater Centre at Manukau, where President Rob's connections (nudge-nudge-wink wink) got us a guided tour of the complex and rafting rivers.

Our Canadian guide explained that this is one of only 8 man-made whitewater rafting venues in the world, and this is the only one purpose built, for other than an Olympic Games, which is pretty impressive for little old NZ. We were lucky enough to witness the starting up of the small river, which quickly turned into an impressive set of rapids. A couple of interesting facts are that to power the pumps for the small river was around \$200 of electricity for 1 hour, but the larger river which has a drop of 7 metres costs around \$700-800 per hour, such is the volume of water pumped at about 13 cubic metres per second!



As we watched a couple of rafts came down the rapids, and although an experienced instructor is on each raft, it can't be easy to steer them as one came through backwards at one stage, with all on board frantically paddling to turn it around. It looked like seriously good fun though.

Then it was off for a cruise through South Auckland countryside heading toward Whitford for our tour of the Clifton Cove Toy Museum. This museum is situated on the 160 hectare farm of Bill and Kathie McNabney, which borders on the waters of the Hauraki Gulf between Howick and Beachlands.



The museum has been the lifelong passion of Bill, who has restored most of the pedal cars and prams on display. Bill is an octogenarian who still has another huge shed of old tractors to restore, along with a shipping container of pedal cars he doesn't have room to display, so he's not looking like running out of anything to do in the near future. There sure was a lot to see in the museum for everyone no matter what their interest, from prams and dolls, to pedal cars and model cars, so the time quickly ran out before we had to head off to the lunch venue at Whitford Park golf course.

A pre determined menu and ticket system soon had everyone dished up, and although a couple of the meals seemed to get waylaid in the system, the 40 plus club member group were fed and watered with minimum delay, before departing off into an increasingly cloudy afternoon, to head off home.

It certainly was another great club day out to a different type of attraction than we normally frequent, but one that most members seemed to really enjoy.

Ciao4now, Russell Wilson

Kaiaua Fish & Chip Run – 20 August 2019

We arrived at BP Southern Motorway on a wet and cold Sunday morning to be surprised that 7 American classic's and a number of daily drivers had turned up, with a total of 24 hardy members and guests braving the morning showers.

The classics who braved the wet on the day were the 1947 Mercury Coupe of Steve and Bow Dickenson (on their 2nd outing as members), along with a pair of 90's Cadillac's belonging to Ivan and Robbie Grace, and Phil and Cindy Officer. Both were white, and they could have been twin vehicles except for the Grace car having a continental kit on the back. Also along for the ride were Allan and Frances Huljich, and Rob and Nicola Williams in their Chev Impala's.



After a mix and mingle and the driver's brief we set off on a rural tour skirting the Hunua Ranges Regional Park, heading to the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre. I was lead car in the Javelin and Peter jnr. was tail end Charlie in my C10 with the daily drivers in between. After about an hour or so on wet roads, with the weather improving as we headed southeast, we arrived at the Centre, and spent 30 minutes or so learning about the shore birds along the coast. Group tours are available with commentaries and accommodation if required, or you can just do a drop in and check out the displays for yourselves.

We regrouped and then drove up the road to the Bayview Hotel at Kaiaua for our buffet fish and chip luncheon, where we were met by Shane and Julia Beckham, making a total of 26 people from the club, which is not a bad number considering the weather. As always this was served with salads, pasta and sauces, tea and coffee, and all were very well fed and watered, and is great value for the money.

By all accounts all had a trouble free run, except for me in the Javelin. On the way home the aircon compressor seized on the Southern Motorway in the outside lane in bumper to bumper traffic. We managing to get into a work access road, and after some quick diagnosis, I disconnected the magnetic clutch on the compressor, got mobile again, and put our lives in the hands of the oncoming traffic to get back into the motorway flow. Really quite scary, but we made it.

I would like to thank all who braved the weather to participate on this run. When I did the route plan the weather was sunny with wide blue skies, and awesome views. And vastly different to what was presented to us today. Overall another great outing seemingly enjoyed by all. Even on a day when the weather was against us we had a good turn out of Club members.

Some other clubs would be happy to get that many attending their outings on a good day.
Cheers, Peter Lee.



Touring Route 66 with William Cairns

During April and May of this year Christie and I spend just under four weeks completing one of the great motoring trips of the world – Route 66.

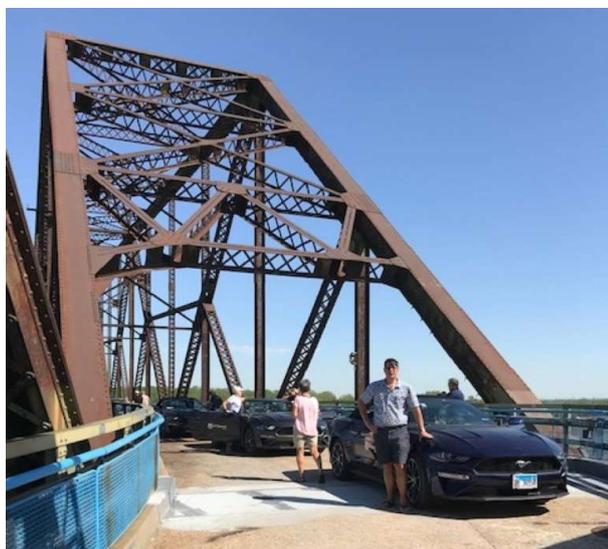
Route 66 originated in the 1920's as one of America's National Highways. It is the gateway to the west originating in downtown Chicago, travelling through eight different states and ending at Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles. It is an epic trip of around 4,500 kms, or in NZ terms travelling from Auckland to Invercargill, then back and then back again.



Route 66 is known as the “Mother Road” or “America’s Main Road”. It is full of history, about people moving west for a better life, with many musician’s developing their talents around this road, and it symbolises the opening up of the USA. Each of the eight states are vastly different in both their histories, cultures and geographies.

Route 66 is certainly not a holiday but an adventure. You have to get use to driving in the USA, and it took me nearly a week. On the highways particularly in Texas and Arizona the speed limit is 75 mph but most travel at 85 mph, and I am referring to miles per hour. Everything in the USA is in gallons, miles per hour, and the most frequently used coin is the 1 cent and the note is the one dollar, like this country was forty-five years ago. There is a lot of navigating to do to find all the interesting places to visit.

To make it easier for us we went on a tour run by a fellow New Zealander Sam Murray, and his tour is called Route 66 Gilligan’s Tours. His website is www.gilligansroute66.com. Sam is passionate about Route 66 and is extremely knowledgeable about it. He is also a well organised person and fun to be with, a really good tour leader.



The tour we went on had 13 couples, 10 were in the latest Mustang convertibles, one in a 1977 Mercury and 2 couples in a modern van. Sam travelled with us in his van in most cases assisted by some American friends who were also very knowledgeable about Route 66. We did not have to travel in convoy but relied on our GPS system.

The day always began with a meeting after breakfast about the forthcoming day. We would generally meet at a few of places of interest, like museums or car collections and for lunch. The rest of the time you could drive at your leisure, and you were free to stop and explore places that interested you.

Over eight-five percent of the original Route 66 still exists. Our tour was different to most others as

we stuck to original Route 66 for virtually the whole way. At times we drove down gravel roads and single lane concrete roads, which are all part of the original route.

The tour takes 24 days which means the distance travelled each day is not onerous, and the cost was \$23,990 per couple. This includes all accommodation with breakfast, car hire, car insurance and economy air fares from Auckland to the USA. Additional costs for you include personal health insurance, fuel (only one third of the price compared to NZ), museum admissions, meals etc. It may look expensive but what you see and do, I consider it is good value, and it is a trip of a lifetime. We had a fantastic time and all couples bar one were from New Zealand, the other being German. The people on our tour were a most relaxing and enjoyable group, and I really enjoyed their company, along with great conversations over many drinks.



The highlights of the trip for me were many and varied. I enjoy looking at disused gas stations, of which there are many along Route 66, going into the cafes, and of course the Diners are a unique American form of eating out, as well as the various car museums along the way. I saw a number of American cars that are rare in New Zealand today such as the 1949 Mercury, 1952 Pontiac Straight 8, Packards, Lincolns and various muscle cars of the 1960's. I have an avid interest in history so I greatly appreciated that side of things as well. The landforms of Arizona, such as the table top mountains and the arid deserts were very spectacular indeed. It was also great exploring the small towns like Williams, Kingman and Commerce and talking with the locals, who are particularly friendly, and interested in what you were doing, along with sharing a bit of their lives with you.



It was a well organised and fun trip with each day being different, and you learn a lot about how diverse the USA is. If you are interested in doing Route 66, then my advice is to do it. After much research we believe we chose one of the best tours to fulfil our wishes.

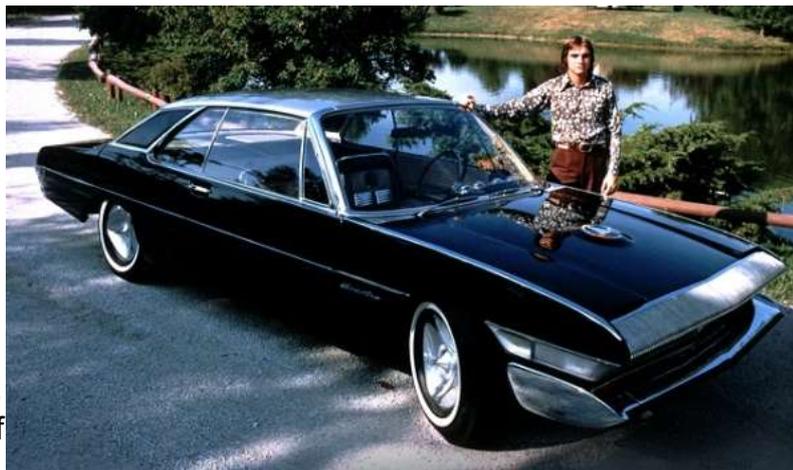
In my opinion Route 66 is surely one of the ultimate road trips in the world.

William Cairns – 1949 Ford V8



A Brooks Stevens Masterwork: The Studebaker Sceptre

The Studebaker Sceptre was one of a cluster of cars proposed by the famed Milwaukee industrial designer Brooks Stevens in 1962-63 to replace the automaker's aged product line. This one, the Sceptre, was presented to CEO Sherwood Egbert and company management in April of 1963 as a 1966 replacement for the Gran Turismo Hawk, which also happened to be a Brooks Stevens design.



Unfortunately, the Studebaker Corporation was broke and nearly out of options by the spring of '63, and it would be forced to suspend its operations in the US before the end of the year. For us, it's a shame the Sceptre never went into production in South Bend. We don't know if the striking sedan could have been a success, but it sure would have made an impression.



Stevens had the lone Sceptre prototype constructed by Carrozzeria Sibona-Basano of Turin, a little-known and short-lived (only five years, 1962-66) but highly regarded Italian coachbuilder that was also responsible for Virgil Exner's stunning Mercer Cobra. Directed by Pietro Sibona, formerly of Ghia, and the brothers Elio and Emilio Basano, the company produced the beautifully detailed prototype on a Studebaker chassis for \$16,000, a remarkable bargain in those days.

The automotive designs of Brooks Stevens could range from the basic to the baroque, observers have noted. We think the Sceptre is one of the cleanest and most elegant examples of the lot, with simple visual elements that cleverly complement each other. The distinctive front end featured an electric-razor grille with a Sylvania Light Bar system to illuminate the roadway.

The rear-end styling includes an ingenious and useful clamshell trunk opening, while the broad C pillars, with panels of polarizing glass, are a stylized representation of the formal roof Stevens used on the GT Hawk and his reskinned Brazilian Aero Willys. A Sylvania light bar is also used at the rear, but hidden behind a full-width ruby plastic lens.



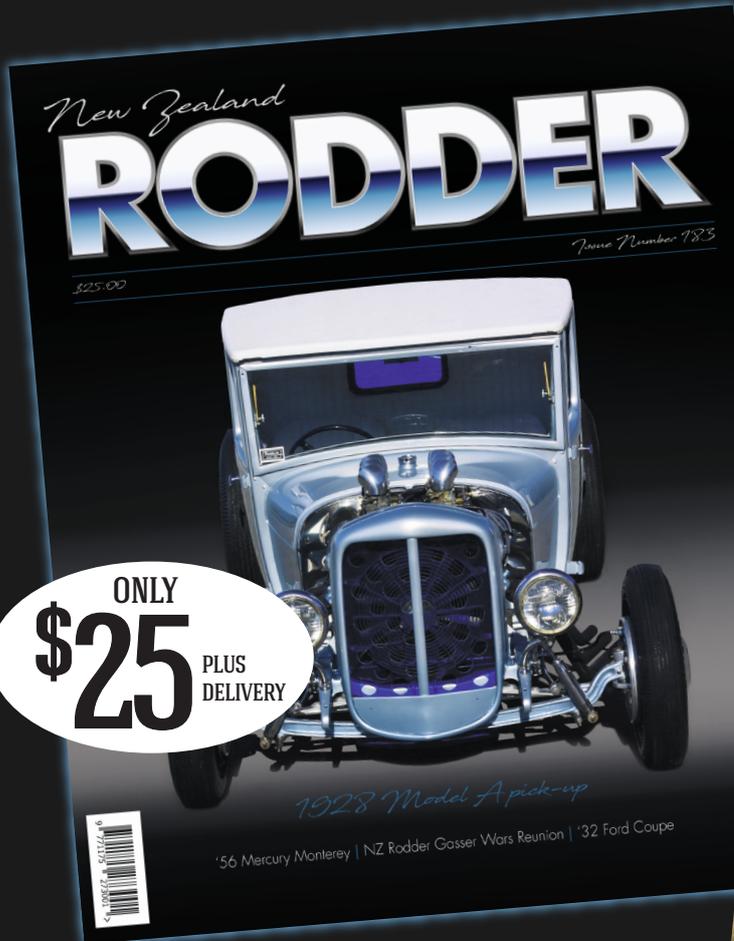
The cabin, below, is modern and Italianate in form, with black and gold vinyl trim and a large, airy greenhouse flooded with light. The thermometer-type speedometer and instruments are housed in plastic pods in the top of the dash, while the passenger side features a large vanity area with folding mirror.



Although the Studebaker Corporation ultimately failed to survive, the last-gasp Spectre prototype has managed to stick around, fortunately. The car resided in the Brooks Stevens Automotive Museum in Mequon, Wisconsin for many years, and these days can be seen at the Studebaker National Museum in South Bend, Indiana.

Article courtesy of Mac's Motor City Garage.

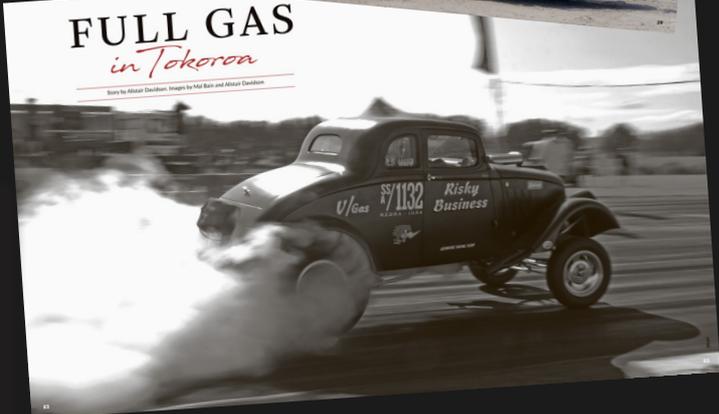
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HOT DATES

<u>September</u>	
1	NZ Petrolhead Father's Day Drags, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
8	Oogah Rodders Big Breakfast, Swanson RSA, 663 Swanson Road. 8.30-11am
13-15	TraNZam Challenge Rnd 1, Pukekohe Park Raceway
14	Auckland Hobbies Fair, Freemans Bay Comm. Centre, 52 Hepburn St. 11am-3pm
15	Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, Mitre 10 Mega, Westgate. 8.30-10.30am
22	ACCCA shed raid to Ross Tebbs' collection at Dairy Flat. Meet at Hooton Reserve, Gate 1, 14 Mills Lane, Albany from 9.45am to depart at 10.15 Lunch at Wainui Golf & Function Centre @ \$25-28.50 per person
22	NZ Petrolhead Father's Day Drags RAIN DATE, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
25	Manukau R&C Club Burger Night, Repco Takanini, 230 Gt.Sth.Rd. from 6pm
29	Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna. 10am-1pm
<u>October</u>	
5	ACCCA run to Te Aroha Cruise In. Meet at BP Papakura, Southern Motorway from 7am to depart 7.30 sharp. \$15 entry fee per car applies
12	Hot Rods in Howick, Leisure Centre, 563 Pakuranga Road, Howick
13	Papakura Rod & Custom club swap meet, Ardmore Airport. 7am-noon
13	Oogah Rodders Big Breakfast, Swanson RSA, 663 Swanson Road. 8.30-11am
19	Very Vintage Day Out, ASB Showgrounds, Greenlane. 10am-5pm
20	NZ Petrolhead Kruize to the Park, Pukekohe Park Raceway. 9am-noon
20	Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, Mitre 10 Mega, Westgate. 8.30-10.30am
27	Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, 10am-1pm
30	Manukau R&C Club Burger Night, Repco Takanini, 230 Gt.Sth.Rd. from 6pm
<u>November</u>	
3	Comp. 1 meeting, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
8	Night Speed Drag Wars 1, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
10	Oogah Rodders Big Breakfast, Swanson RSA, 663 Swanson Road. 8.30-11am
17	ACCCA run to small collection of classics at Riverhead. Route instructions in "Tulip" form. (some roads named to ensure no one gets lost; road map might be wise, and navigator too). Meet at Blockhouse Bay Recreational Reserve, Terry Street at 1 pm. Afternoon tea served at finish, by gold coin donation.
17	Comp. 2 meeting, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
17	Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, Mitre 10 Mega, Westgate. 8.30-10.30am
22	Night Speed Drag Wars 2, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
24	Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, 10am-1pm
24	NZ Petrolhead Kruize to the Park, Pukekohe Park Raceway. 9am-noon
24	Shine n D'ville, Helensville Museum, 98 Mill Road
27	Manukau R&C Club Burger Night, Repco Takanini, 230 Gt.Sth.Rd. from 6pm
<u>December</u>	
1	ACCCA Xmas Picnic, Wenderholm Regional Park, Waiwera. Meet at BP Northern Motorway, Silverdale from 10am to depart 10.30. Main meal is being catered this year (menu TBA) therefore charges apply as follows; Members - \$10 per person, Non-members/guests \$30 per person, kids under 5 free. Bring a desert to share and a chair, and the club will provide tea, coffee, soft drinks, and water

Refer to the latest issue of NZ Petrolhead & NZ Rodder for more information on dates and times, or for a subscription visit www.petrolhead.co.nz or phone 09 263 5305

