



Established 1996

Cruisepaper



March-April-May 2020

www.americanclassiccars.org.nz



President Rob's Report

Hello everyone! Welcome to the start of a new decade! By the time you all get this copy of the Club Cruisepaper, it will be March 2020, which means autumn is just a month or so away.

Since December last year the club has attended three car shows officially, those being Kumeu, Ellerslie and Waipu.

Arguably our March event, the bi-annual Karaka Vintage Day is also a car show of sorts, but it's much more than that. It's a celebration of how things were, for many, in this country of ours.

A nostalgic look back into what some regard as simpler times... However I think that's not strictly true as our pioneers had to overcome enormous challenges which have always brought out the best in Kiwis – to find mechanical solutions to a whole raft of problems – from stationary engines to power things, to earthmoving machinery, to agricultural equipment, and of course, transport. And all without the internet and cell phones... heavens to mercy, how did they cope!! Please do come along – its an absolute blast (from the past!)

Our challenges as a Club this year are much the same as usual, trying our best to provide our members the best possible American car enthusiast club in the country to belong to. And it's not easy. But what always impresses me is how our membership continues to prosper, and that is a sure sign we are still doing just that, or at least the other options simply aren't. And, for the most part, you the members have been more than complimentary with what we are doing. Thanks very much, as it's appreciated.

Planning continues at a pace, with club activities planned and allocated right through to May now, with only a decision pending on a venue for our traditional mid-winter Christmas, preventing a six month sweep to June. Even our new venue dilemma for our end of the year Christmas Family Day is not looking quite so daunting, with a couple of alternatives under consideration as we speak, thanks in part to some member's suggestions.

So, on that note, continue to make the most of this awesome summer. See you at an event soon. Rob.



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Russell's Ramblings

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:-

Kevin & Caroline Forgeson – 1973 AMC Javelin AMX, Dan Fray & Leannes Archer – 1968 Ford Fairlane 500, Ross & Sue Golding – 1968 Pontiac Firebird, 1975 Chevrolet Corvette, Greg & Val Keenan – 1994 Mustang
Ciao4now, regards Russell

.....and now for something completely different.....

American oddity of the month-1951 Muntz Jet



The Muntz Car Company was created by Earl "Madman" Muntz, an LA area used car dealer and electronics retailer known for his TV commercials. In 1951, Indy Car builder Frank Kurtis sold the license to manufacture his sports car design to Muntz, who quickly renamed the design "Muntz Jet", extended the body and chassis to make it a four-seater, and installed a Cadillac V8. A less expensive Lincoln side-valve V8 would be installed in later cars. The car was manufactured in Chicago and featured its

own unique design, with aluminum body panels and a removable fiberglass top that were manufactured in-house. The company managed to produce only about 400 cars during 1951-1954, losing about US\$1,000 on each car (\$9,100 in today's money). Unable to sustain the loss or envision a plan to increase sales in the future, the company was closed.

Committee Members

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ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS



Which really is the only way to describe the Christmas picnic in the Park, at Wenderholm Regional Park on 1st December 2019. We all thought last year was enormous, but 2019 broke all records, with a total of 52 gleaming chrome laden American classics, along with 128 club members and guests.

If it keeps expanding like this we may have to hire the Ellerslie Showgrounds to fit everyone in, especially with the Auckland Council putting a future ban on vehicles driving onto the reserve. We will have to see if we can change their minds, but this might be like trying to push water up a hill with a sharp stick. However we will try.

The formula for the day follows previous successful Christmas picnics, with President Rob doing his usual jovial welcome, (combined with nearly falling off his perch on a picnic table), followed by lunch, the kid's Big Dig in the sand for mystery prizes or ice blocks, then into the delicious desserts brought along by all the members to share. The major change this year was that the committee elected to have the lunch catered by Spitroast.com, with a subsidized charge for club members and immediate family, but the full cost for guests. This worked perfectly for all concerned, especially the committee and partners, who were spared the previous gruelling serve out in the hot red gazebos.

Although we ran out of some salads towards the end, there was plenty of meats available, and nobody went hungry. All comments were that the standard of food was very nice indeed, so this looks like a goer for the future.

Numerous prize draws were made throughout the day, with prizes provided by our generous supporters Classic Cover Insurance, POR15, and the main gate prize from NZ Petrolhead/Rodder. A few hardy souls took part in the handbag throwing contest in the very hot sun, but most were content to sit around in the shade and have a natter with like minded friends and club members.

Although the day at Wenderholm was incredibly hot and sunny throughout the picnic, it just had to play up with showers on the way home across the Harbour Bridge and out West, but at least the good luck fairies were looking after us once again for our big day out. Ciao4now, Russell Wilson



Toy Run – 2 December 2019

A good turnout of members resulted in 15 ACCCA club cars being displayed at the North Shore Rod and Custom annual Toy Run at Vellenoweth Green in St. Heliers. The weather wasn't doing its best with north easterlies blowing in from the water, and grey scudding clouds added into the mix, resulting in a somewhat reduced number of cars parking up.

The club gazebo was up in no time, offering some shelter from the wind, and most members seemed content to hang around and natter, with occasional forays to view the cars. The club supplied pizzas were delivered by Dominos to the red tent in the reserve with no problems, and were quickly consumed by those present in next to no time, followed by the leftover Christmas picnic treats from the previous day.



Dark clouds out west and one or two small drops of damp stuff at the green probably deterred a lot of drivers from turning up, but there were still plenty of nice cars to peruse and drool over.

However, North Shore Rod and Custom Club need to take more heed of the increasing number of hoons who turn up to show off their masculinity by doing burnout and skids entering and leaving the area. The Green is surrounded by plenty of residential housing which has tolerated the usually well behaved gathering due to the charity aspect, but will soon be complaining about the goings on. With the increasingly anti-car attitude of the council, this event could well be on shaky ground in the future.

As this was the final club event for the year, there were Christmas hugs and handshakes doing the rounds, before everyone finally packed up and departed around 7.30pm. Ciao4now, Russell Wilson



Kumeu Hot Rod & Classic Car Festival – 18 January 2020

The day dawned with clear blue skies and when the sun came out it was a stunning day for the annual Kumeu sojourn. Even the traffic getting into the showgrounds was faster flowing and lighter than in the past, with only a 5 minute entry time for a change.

The ACCCA club display was once again ably set out by Dave Roper several days prior, and our display area was quite visibly larger than last year. We finished up with 22 club cars at the peak, and could have fitted more in the enlarged space, but it was nice not to have to sardine them in for once.



What can you say about the Kumeu Classic Car & Hot Rod Festival that hasn't been said year after year? It was hot, dry and very dusty for a start which generally echoes every other year for the Saturday event the club frequents, but it seems very much "same old, same old" in that there are no new attractions to drag the public in.

And this seemed to be reflected in the attendance on the day, with only about half the centre field dust bowl filled with cars early mid-afternoon, and large blank areas where the club displays usually are. The number of people wandering around also seemed well down on past events, so it will be interesting to see some official figures. The display sheds were also a mixed bag, with several "seen before" vehicles displayed, and some large empty spaces evident. However, the swap meet sites were well filled, and there were many bargain hunters searching for that elusive treasure. Among them were our very own President Rob, who chanced upon a couple of Escort brake calipers that just happened to fit his other passion vehicles, the Hillman Avengers. Ever seen a pig in the proverbial before?

All in all, it was another great club social occasion, with members coming and going throughout the day, or taking in the gazebo shade to have a natter and set the world right once again.

Ciao4now, Russell Wilson



Cruise Martinborough 2020

Shaun & Rita Eastell, ACCCA members and owners of the beautiful 1957 Buick Roadmaster Hardtop pictured at the bottom of the page, took on the long journey down to the Wairarapa to attend the 2020 Cruise Martinborough held on January 23-26.

Shaun's words are as follows:-

"As is often asked for by the committee, we took photos of our run down to the Wairarapa to attend this year's Cruise Martinborough, and I thought we should pass them along as it was a lovely weekend and well worth the effort.

It was a pretty laid back event with something for everyone, with a cruise to Lake Ferry on the first day, then returning to a drive-in movie. The second day was a cruise around the district, then a show gathering in the Tavern carpark, followed by drags at Masterton Motorplex, which was a blast.



Day 3 was the big show day in the Martinborough Memorial Square amongst the beautiful trees, which was handy, as it was so hot! We cruised from here to a picnic parkup at Tauherenikau Racecourse to join in with a country music festival, which was all very enjoyable under the huge trees in the shade. They also had a grasskhana for those so inclined!

There was a prize-giving breakfast on the Sunday morning, after which everybody set off on the home journey, which we took via Napier and Rotorua. All in all, it was a really great way to spend a long weekend. We explored some beautiful back roads throughout the Martinborough area, and just happened upon the odd winery along the way... funny that!"

Shaun Eastell



Check out all the photos on the club website www.americanclassiccars.org.nz under "Gallery".

Waipu Car & Bike Show – 9 February 2020

A 5.30am alarm certainly wakes up the system when you have to get up for a long haul to the Waipu Car and Bike show in Northland. And that early rise, along with multiple other events occurring on the same day, possibly accounted for only 7 cars turning up at BP Silverdale for the 8am departure.

However, what a top notch group it was that headed on up for the great drive north, with clear roads and amazing scenery. Phil & Cindy Officer – Cadillac, Russell & Cindy- Pontiac, Fred & Diana – Oldsmobile, Rosalie – Thunderbird, Alan & Frances – Impala & Corvette, and guests Faye & John – Mustang, were in the convoy meeting up with President Rob in his Pontiac at the venue.



Although it was not that busy in Caledonian Park when the group arrived at around 9.30, it soon filled up throughout the morning to number over 500 vehicles. And the great thing for these Auckland visitors was seeing large numbers of never seen before vehicles of American, Australian, British and European origin.



The club gazebo was much utilized in the hot Northland sun, with make do ties to the perimeter fence and car doorhandles, as somebody forgot to pack the pegs! All worked out fine in the end as it was relatively windless with only light breezes.

After the official prizegiving just after 1pm, the field began to empty out, but the stalwart ACCCA group stuck it out to watch all cars depart, leaving around mid-afternoon. Great day, stunning weather, and good vibes visiting a venue not normally frequented, for sure. Ciao4now, Russell Wilson



Ellerslie Classic Car Show – 9 February 2020

We had quite a job rounding up six participants to fill our allocated club space, as there were so many events on for this weekend, and had to resort to one ring in (thanks Don, 67 Mustang Convertible) for our club display this year. The other ACCCA run was to the Waipu Car Show, and there was also the Morrinsville Motorama and Leadfoot Festival, so a lot on for the weekend.

We met up at McDonalds Carpark in Greenlane for an 8:45 departure to Ellerslie Racecourse, where we set up on the grass area at south end of the grandstand, with our immediate neighbours being the Thunderbird and Mazda MX5 clubs. The weather was perfect with blue skies and sun (not like 2018 when it rained absolutely all day).



The number of clubs displaying seemed to be down this year to 65 clubs, where I think previous years there had been around 75. However, there was a good range of vehicles from the Horseless Carriage right up to the latest exotics.

The prize giving was at 3pm, awarded as below.

BEST CLUB DISPLAY COMPETITION

Winner 36 points Mazda MX5 Club of NZ

SURVIVORS CLASS COMPETITION

Winner 905 points Silver 1980 Mazda RX7 Series 1

MASTERS CLASS COMPETITION (MAX POSSIBLE POINTS – 590)

Winner 548 points Calypso Orange 1969 Mustang Boss 302

TEAM EVENT COMPETITION (MAX POSSIBLE POINTS – 1180)

Winner 1066 points Auckland Mustang Owners Club Inc.

Car 1: 536 points Acapulca Blue 1969 Mustang Sportsroof

Car 2: 530 points Acapulca Blue 1969 Mustang Sportsroof

TOP CAR – TEAMS EVENT & MASTERS CLASS EVENT

Winner 548 points Calypso Orange 1969 Mustang Boss 302

The Mustang Club is to organize next year's show.

Dave Roper



Morrinsville Motorama

ACCCA club member Richard Bayes attended the Morrinsville Motorama, and took some snaps to share with us all. His words about the event are as follows:-

“The Morrinsville Motorama was just fantastic, with great weather as always and a huge turnout. There was a large variety of machines from cars to trucks, military gear, motor bikes and all sorts, along with a swap meet too, with some beautiful cars on show.

What was really interesting to see was a huge range of NZ new Chevs, Dodges, and Holdens. The farmers had obviously cleaned their sheds out and found some gems. There was a couple of mint Monaro LS's, one in as new condition which just clicked over 50,000 kms.

We did the Motorama mystery cruise on the Saturday also, to a speed shop in Hamilton, then on to the Five Stags pub in Pirongia, which was great.”



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HOT DATES

<u>March</u>	
7	Howick Village Hop, Picton Street, Howick. 9am-2pm
7-8	Drag Racing Championship Nationals, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
15	Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, Mitre 10 Mega, Westgate. 8.30-10.30am
15	Papakura Club Family Car Show, Croskery Road, papakura. 10am-1pm
21	Auckland Hobbies Fair, Freeman's Bay Comm. Centre, 52 Hepburn St. 11am-3pm
22	ACCCA run to Karaka Vintage Day. Meet at BP Southern Motorway from 8.15am to depart at 8.45. Bring own food and chair, club will provide tea & coffee
22	NZ Petrolhead Kruise to the Park, Pukekohe Park Raceway. 9Am-noon
25	Manukau R&C Club Burger Night, Repco Takanini, 230 Gt.Sth.Rd. from 6pm
25-29	Repco Beach Hop, Whangamata
27	Fueled Up Friday, Northwest Shopping Centre, Westgate. 6-9pm
29	Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna. 10am-1pm
29	Caffeine & Gasoline, Hampton Downs Motorsport Park, Waikato, 10am-2pm
29	The Scroungers' Hot Rod Blowout, Rosebank Speedway, Avondale from 9am
<u>April</u>	
4	Classic Cover Nostalgia Drags, Meremere Dragway, Waikato. Gates open 7am
5	Classic Cover NHRA Champs, Meremere Dragway, Waikato. Gates open 7am
5	All Ford Day, Smales Farm, Takapuna. Show cars 8.30am, public 10am-1pm
19	ACCCA cruise to Piha Bowling Club for Lawn Bowls and BBQ Lunch. Meet at Falls Restaurant Car Park, Cnr. Edmonton Road & Alderman Drive, Henderson from 10am to depart 10.30. Lunch price & bowling green fees TBC
19	Night Speed Drag Wars Fun Day, Meremere Dragway, Waikato
19	NZ Petrolhead Kruise to the Park, Pukekohe Park Raceway. 9am-noon
19	Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, Mitre 10 Mega, Westgate. 8.30-10.30am
19	Waiau Pa Hop, Clarks Beach Reserve, Franklin. 10am-2pm
26	Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, 10am-1pm
26	Caffeine & Gasoline, Hampton Downs Motorsport Park, Waikato, 10am-2pm
29	Manukau R&C Club Burger Night, Repco Takanini, 230 Gt.Sth.Rd. from 6pm
<u>May</u>	
1-3	Pukekohe Swap Meet, Indian Association Grounds, Ward Street, Pukekohe.
2	Car & Bike Enthusiast Day for Hospice, Rosebank Speedway, 126 Patiki Road
17	ACCCA shed raid to Committee member Allan Huljich's Military collection. Meet at Westgate Starbucks from 9.15am to depart 9.45. Short cruise after to Paul Roper's engine rebuild facility in Hellensville for BBQ lunch
17	Mid West Street Rods' breakfast, Mitre 10 Mega, Westgate. 8.30-10.30am
27	Manukau R&C Club Burger Night, Repco Takanini, 230 Gt.Sth.Rd. from 6pm
31	Caffeine & Classics, Smales Farm, Northcote Road, Takapuna, 10am-1pm
31	Caffeine & Gasoline, Hampton Downs Motorsport Park, Waikato, 10am-2pm

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

