

"Dripfeed"

NEWSLETTER OF THE BANKS PENINSULA BRANCH
OF THE
VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF New Zealand (INC)

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From the Editor:

Observant readers will notice a bit of a difference at the top of the page, in that the details of the Noggin and Natter are missing. That's because the committee, somewhat regretfully, have decided that the Noggin is no more. Over the last months, numbers have declined significantly to the extent that there were three attendees last month, and with the cost of the RSA room increasing, it was clear that the Noggin had ceased to fulfil a useful function. Long term members will recall with some affection Noggins of yore, where Dripfeed was folded, the Chairman made pronouncements, much beer was consumed, other branch mags were read, parts were exchanged, the same tedious stories of motoring glory were told and retold, and a good time was had by all. But, omnia mutantur, everything changes, and our branch activities are no exception.

Talking of changes, this is the last Dripfeed that I will be editing, and in the strange and tragic world of Austin 7 ownership, joy will be unconfined. At this stage, no successor has come forward, but I do hope that someone will, as it's really quite fun. I've spent the best part of seven years as editor, which seems to be the norm of my predecessors, and over those years, I've thoroughly enjoyed writing a mixture of fact and fiction, with my marque preferences and general opinions reasonably obvious. You'll be surprised to know that the only moan over the years came from a Canterbury branch member, who felt I was being too tough on Jensen-Healeys, the parts bin special. Mike Crehan should be deeply moved.

One or two over sensitive Austin 7 owners have wondered why I didn't pick on some other useless British car, but the possibilities were so endless that I thought I'd specialise, as there were so many misguided A7 owners in the branch. Perhaps an A7 owner will become editor to try and redress the balance. The two events that I've enjoyed the most are the Balcairn Trial and the Rallye Monte Carlo. Apart from our racing programme, these two events really typify what the Banks Peninsula branch is all about. The common thread with two events is James Palmer, who essentially started the Rallye

Monte Carlo, and with me, really developed the Balcairn trial into what it is today. That it has spawned three other trials in other parts of the South Island speaks volumes. James has been in hibernation for some time, but his influence on club activities in past years is considerable. He's always is threatening to buy a proper car and become involved once more.

Information about branch activities will be emailed out by our hyper efficient secretary Tracey Barrett, so members will be kept up to date with what's happening and when.

The branch extends a welcome to the following new members:

Susan Pawsey – 1972 Morris Minor, 1939 Standard 12C DeLuxe, Gary Quinn - 1971 Skoda 110L, Hayden Crocker -1972 Datsun 1200 Coupe, 1966 Prince B200, 1992 Nissan Sentra. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events in future.

Future Events.

Annual Generals Meeting, Thursday 9th of May, Auto Restorations, Kennedy Place, 7.30pm

Come along and tell the committee how wonderful they are, suggest bold new ideas, have a bit of a moan, get a free supper, offer to go on the committee, there's something for everyone.

Hadstock Gymkhana, Sunday 19th of May.

Winter Fling, Levels, 15th of June.

Details to come. Mark these dates on your calendar.

Past Events. (report and photos Don Gerrard)

The inaugural running of our **Summer Gymkhana** on Sunday 10th March was held in warm, sunny conditions, so by the end of the day the dust screens after the 'Ever-decreasing Circle' Test resembled an African Safari Rally Stage. Branch members, Stephen & Jo Aldersley kindly offered one of their paddocks at their Loburn homestead for us to set up five disciplines for the thirteen intrepid competitors, requiring speed, skill, dexterity, luck and a sense of humour, without the intensity of the Hadstock Field Tests.

New member Andy McLennan and his son Hamish shared the Rover P6 V8 and they continued to challenge each other at each test, with the super-smooth suspension certainly helping with the Egg & Spoon Dash. - only 3 eggs ended up scrambled. All Co-drivers were kept entertained with either directing their ever-confused and bewildered drivers in the 'Blindfold' Garage manoeuvres or showing controlled pace in exiting their vehicle to place a plastic cup on top of an appropriate marker point.

Tim Palmer piloted the vintage Fiat 501 with gusto and Andrew Roxburgh's Flat-Rad Morgan gave a good account of itself in its first competitive outing. The power of our Chairman's 3.8 Jaguar and the host's C-Type variant was at times a disadvantage, but extremely entertaining to watch their spectacular and impressive power slides. Warwick Marshall had his Ford Ten Special flying - perhaps a precursor and work-out for the Balcairn Trials in a few months time, and not to be out-done was Michelle Aldersley in her first ever car event - in fact the first time she had ever driven dad's Austin 7 Special, putting in a sterling effort and proving what this event was all about - having a great deal of fun!

The dust was soon washed from our throats at the Ashley hostelry for the prize giving and the usual banter with all in agreement to include the event on our Calendar again next year. Many thanks to the organisers & the Alderselys.





In idyllic autumn Central Otago weather, this year's Festival of Speed on the 5/6/7 April at Highlands Park in Cromwell was a great success for the VCC Class putting on a great display of racing from the fifteen entered. The organiser's hospitality is second to none with social gatherings on both the Friday & Saturday evenings, showcasing the local food and beverage on offer - even Greg Murphy entertained both on and off the track during the weekend. With two 20 minute Practice Sessions plus Qualifying on the Friday the weekends racing gave every indication that the racing was going to be close with Paul Coghill in the Jaguar Special the two Lotus 23Reps of Tracey & Mark Barrett, David Owen, C Type Jaguar and Sam Smith in the Lycoming battling at the sharp end. Only seconds away, the pack chased hard with Bill Cowie in the Spangarelli Holden trying hard to keep in front of Royce Bayer in the Bello, the BCM Special of Chris Read, Kevin Stevenson in the Shadetree MKI, along with the mostly sideways Citroen Spyder of Ethan Kemp, now with a rejuvenated gearbox. The next group, again only separated by seconds, comprised of Pete Swaney in his Lotus Elite, Colin Hey in the Wolseley, the Mistrals of Don Gerrard & the other Chris Read with new competitor Richard Tyree from Invercargill getting to grips in his first outing in another Lotus 23C Rep. Sure enough, the two races each on the Saturday & Sunday pretty well mirrored Friday's qualifying and the final race on Sunday was for the Ralph Smith Memorial Trophy, last year won by Tracey Barrett. However, Mr B was not to be out-shone and had a good scrap with the Coghill Jaguar to take line honours this year. A lovely touch was to see Ralph Smith's widow, Ellen present the coveted award to Mark in front of a large crowd which showed its appreciation for a great performance by all the VCC competitors. The only casualties over the weekend were a clutchless Holden Special and a brakeless Mistral of Chris Read.

Highlands Park has to be without a doubt one of the finest racing circuit venues in the Southern Hemisphere and for those competitors who haven't experienced it, the next Festival of Speed is now confirmed for April 2026, so as not to clash with the George Begg Festival next year.

Now the dust has settled, the results of our BPVCC Championship Trophy will be updated next week before the last double-points round at Levels in Timaru on Saturday 15th June. Yes!, the date has been changed from May because of a clash of events - more of a Winter Woollies than an Autumn Fling!

RESULTS FROM HIGHLANDS,

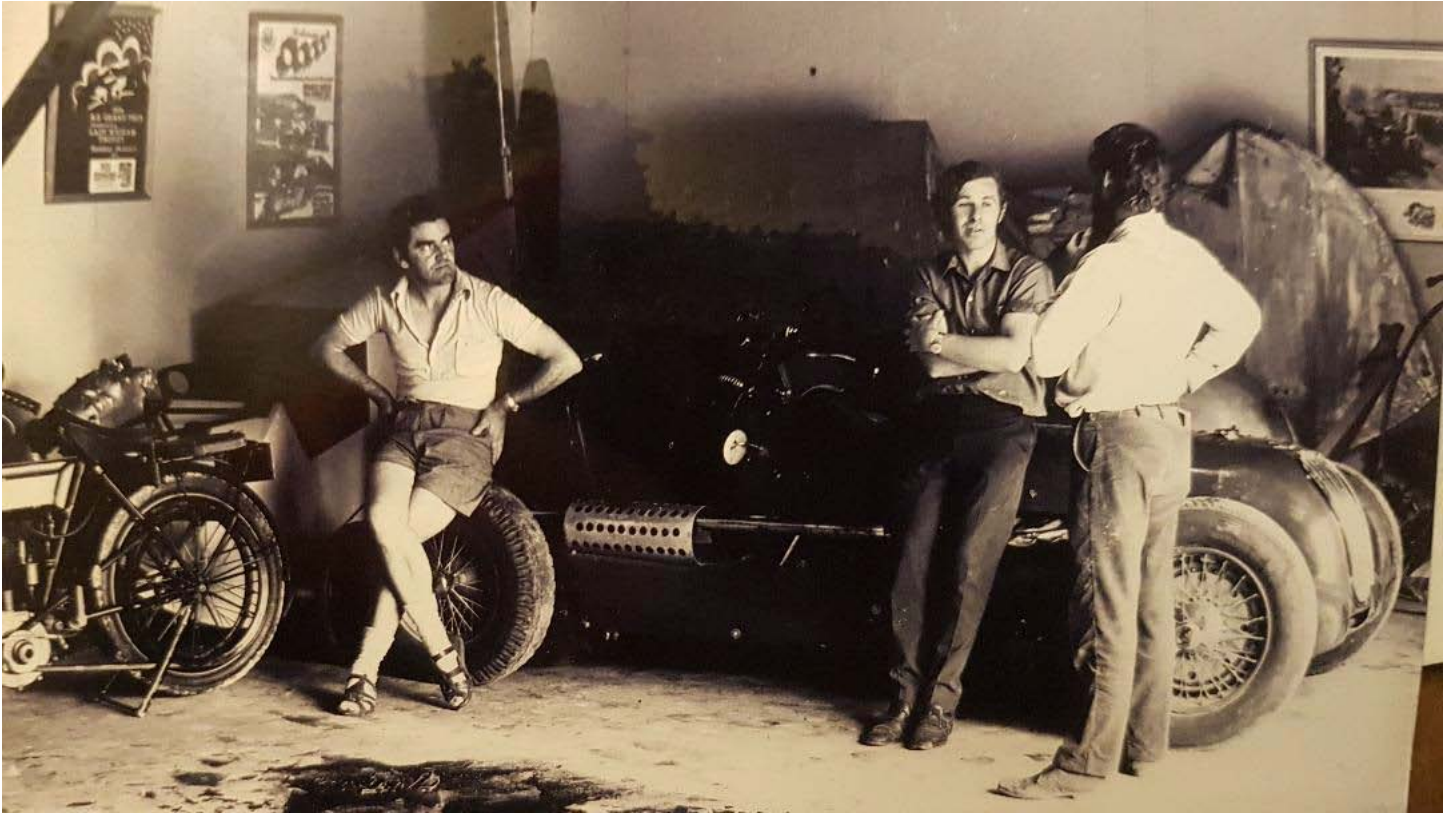
Race 1 1st Paul Coghill,
2nd Mark Barrett
3rd, David Owen

Race 2 1st Mark Barrett
2nd Paul Coghill
3rd Sam Smith

Race 3 1st Paul Coghill
2nd Mark Barrett
3rd Sam Smith

Race 4 1st Mark Barrett
2nd Paul Coghill
3rd Tracey Barrett

Thank you to Don Gerrard for this report.



From left to right; Geoff Owen Gavin Bain and John Hearne

The good old days. The recalcitrant ALTA. Early Seventies???

*I appreciated the many positive and amusing comments I've received since I announced my retirement as Editor. If I wasn't such a modest and retiring sort of a person I'd let them go to my head!
Ave atque vale: Hail and farewell.*