

"Dripfeed"

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

VOLUME 46, No 8 SEPTEMBER 2023.

Editor:

Michael Williams 10 Selwyn Parade Lyttelton
Ph 328 8043, email mimiandmichael@yahoo.co.nz

Club Officers:

Chairman: Craig Keenan 322 1006
Secretary: Tracey Barrett 027 3442301

Branch Address: 1/722 Waterholes Rd, RD8, ChCh 7678
E-mail: bankspeninsula@vcc.org.nz
Web Site: www.bpvcc.org.nz



Noggin & Natter: 2nd Thursday of the Month

- Noggin 7.30 pm at the Papanui RSA. Upham Room – enter either from 55 Bellvue Ave or the first entrance on the left on Harewood Road (Papanui / Main North Road)
- **Thursday 14th of September.**
- We look forward to seeing you there. Supper is provided.

From the Editor:

Astute readers will remember that I've recently purchased a Citroen CX GTi Turbo 2, a surprisingly fast model, and I thought I'd search through Google to see if they had been raced in any form. I very quickly discovered, to my surprise, that they feature in the 1981 Dubai Grand Prix. This 2.6 k circuit was built to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the United Arab Emirates, and to give the opening a bit of class, they invited sixteen of the world's top racing drivers, both past and present, driving identical cars, to take part in a "fun" race. And the car that was chosen? The 1981 Citroen CX GT1, sixteen of which had been imported by the Dubai Citroen dealer. The drivers? Juan Manual Fangio, Jack Brabham, Stirling Moss, Richard Attwood, Denny Hulme, Innes Ireland, Derek Bell, Dan Gurney, Roy Salvadori, John Watson, Phil Hill, Mark Surer, Nigel Mansell, Bruno Giacomelli, John Watson, John Surtees. Not a bad lineup.

I imagine that these illustrious drivers didn't go to Dubai just for the love of the sport, and as well as the fat fee they were no doubt paid, they certainly had fun. On the first lap Watson got spun round and most of the field bounced off him. Everyone behaved themselves for the next two laps, and then some of the more enterprising drivers, in the more damaged cars, decided to take short cuts across the sandy infield to miss out the various twisty bits. This of course created lots of dust and confusion, and the order changed constantly over the ten lap race, as desperate cheating escalated. The whole spectacle resembled a mixture of The Dukes of Hazard and Woodford Glen on a Saturday night. Brilliant! Eight cars finished more or less in one piece and the drivers, when interviewed afterwards,

clearly had an hilarious time, with the exception of Stirling Moss, who was not amused, and nor, apparently, were the wealthy sponsors, who had expected a display of skilled and gentlemanly driving. Have look, it's very entertaining. And what happened to the cars? They were all completely stuffed, so probably were buried in the desert. Sacre Bleu!!!

Our dazzling new secretary Tracey Barrett is full of perspicacious ideas, and one of her recent ones was to conduct a survey of members, to try and find out about members' views of our branch and its activities. About forty percent of the membership answered, and some interesting patterns emerged. 33% were interested in historic racing cars, 25% in vintage cars and 18% in post 60's. More gymkhana style events were asked for by many. Only 20% ever go to the Noggin. 58% view the website, 63% follow the Facebook page and 99% read Dripfeed. 73% are over 65, so attracting younger members needs to be a key part of future actions and activities, all of which the committee will discuss.

Welcome to a re-joining member Peter Harris, with an Austin Healey 3000.

Andrew Bain was at our recent Awards Lunch, but had to leave early, as he was off to buy yet another Land Rover, mostly because it was a diesel. He confessed to having owned fifty one Land Rovers over the years. It would seem there is no known cure for this tragic affliction.

Mark Barrett, Lotus racer, has brought up some valid points about the VCC field at racing events having a separate briefing and will discuss this with the new National Speed Steward. It is hoped the Speed Steward will release a code of conduct and a summary of new tyre regulations too. A Medical Declaration will also be required with entry forms at each race event.

Future Events

Opening Run, Sunday 24th of September.

We'll meet at the Cosy Cafe, 150 Cavendish Road, Casebrook at 9.30, ready for a 10.00am start. We are bound for "Homebush", the Deans family estate near Glentunnel. The Deans family came to Canterbury in 1843 and built a cottage at what we now know as Deans Bush. In 1851 they were offered land by the Canterbury Association to compensate for selling their land in Christchurch for settlement. The family bought 33,000 acres in the Malvern Hills, as the area was known, and the family still farm there today. The farm buildings that we will be able to look through were built in the 1870s, and the gardens are most impressive, with significant rhododendrons and other specimen trees that are some of the oldest introduced trees in Canterbury. We are subsidising the entry fee, so it is now only \$20 per person. Bring your lunch. Michael Pidgeon has plotted an interesting run to get us to Homebush, so bring your clipboard.

South Canterbury Sporting Trial, Sunday 24th of September.

This is a new event that Kevin Mercer has organised and is a South Canterbury version of Balcairn. The venue is Bentley Downs, 221 Rolling Ridges Road, Levels Valley, South Canterbury, and run by the South Canterbury branch. For more info contact Kevin at khmerc@xtra.co.nz.

National Commercial Rally, Wanganui, Labour Weekend

Contact Wanganui @vcc.org.nz

Wigram Revival, Ruapuna, 27th -29th of October.

Hawkswood , 5th of November.

Rallye Monte Carlo, Show Weekend 17th – 19th of November

Due to popular demand, this great and classic event is on again. The last Monte was in 2021 and had a record entry, which we hope will be repeated this year. Make sure you book your accommodation at Akaroa early, as motel and Air B&B are sometimes hesitant to book for one night at a popular weekend.

We have tweaked the rules and towns quite a bit, as they were set when the club only catered for cars up to 1960, and a majority of the cars entering were thus older and slower. Now it's too easy to win in a relatively modern and much faster car, and we need to recognise the greater effort required by older cars to get the town points. Speed limits have changed too. So if you have an older and slower car, this could be your moment of glory. And if you have a newer and faster car, prepare to drive immense distances. James Palmer, one of the original organisers, has devoted a good deal of time to re thinking the rules and regulations, as under the old rules there were really only one or two ways to get your maximum points and it was becoming somewhat predictable. The changes that the sub committee have devised should definitely help the older slower cars, and also make experienced competitors rethink how they approach it. It will be all about cunning and ingenuity, and reading the rules carefully, rather than driving flat out for hours and hours.

As at this week, we have twenty five entries, ranging from the sublime, a veteran Cadillac, to the ridiculous, a Morris Minor. All are welcome of course, and hitherto badly dressed entrants assure me that dinner suits have been organised already. And we have sixteen entrants in the Concours De Confort, a record. One year the Palmer Equipe managed to have a pristine vintage toilet somehow affixed to the family UNIC thus setting a high standard that might perhaps be exceeded this year. Mimi and I will be judging the Concours de Confort, and early bribes can be delivered via courier to our home address

National Veteran Rally, Dunedin 25th – 29th January 2024

Contact Trevor Kempton at natvet2024@gmail.com

National Vintage Only Rally, 5 -7th of February 2024, Blenheim.

Contact marlborough@vcc.org.nz for more details

Past Events.

Awards Lunch.

Michael Pidgeon received his 35 year award, and Donald Wright received his 50 year award, both presented by George Kear, our new National president. It was a chilly day, but George still came in

his MG TC. With the top down. Most impressive. Michael spoke of the long family connection that he had with the VCC through his father Bruce, and spoke of the wide variety of cars he has owned..Singer, Model A, Rover SD1, Mk1 Jag 2.4, Prince B200, Citroen L15, Clyno, Fiat 501, Bugatti type 37 etc etc. Michael expressed surprise, relief and gratitude that Louise, before she decided to marry Michael, was exposed to the vagaries of vintage motoring very early on in their relationship, but in spite of these early breakdowns, bravely decided that she really could cope with “for better and for worse”, and is still a keen vintage motorist.

Donald also paid tribute to his father for getting him interested in vintage motoring, which helped get him off the farm to meet new people. His motoring experiences include Bentley, Model A, Chevrolet, , Maxwell, and some elderly tractors. Donald is the lucky winner of 2024 Irishman 70th anniversary edition, and spoke of that briefly.

Craig Pidgeon was also awarded his 35 year badge but was unable to attend.

Brooklands Race Event, Levels.









Eleven enthusiastic entrants enjoyed a great weekend of racing, and the table below gives both the results and the points for the new championship structure masterminded by Don Gerard. Steve Aldersley, in the Jaguar C Type replica scored lots of points by driving down from Loburn in the Jag, racing enthusiastically all weekend, and then driving back. Steve was seen to be testing the handling limits of the Jag at one stage and did a little bit of gardening, but only his pride was hurt and he carried on. In the last race, Mark Barrett stalled on the line and Bryan Ashworth in the Daimler SP250, who was behind him on the grid, managed to cleverly avoid him and charged off madly to the first corner. He left his braking fairly late, and the resultant cloud of smoke could be seen in Timaru.

Thanks to John McDonald for the usual excellent photos.

BANKS PENINSULA



CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RACE SERIES

POINTS TABLE 2023/24

ROUND ONE - BROOKLANDS RACE MEETING, LEVELS, TIMARU 02/09/23

CLASS	RATING	NAME	VEHICLE	POINTS	POSITION	OVERALL
Class A	2500cc - over	Paul Coory	CAE Chev Sprinter	210	1	1=
		Stephen Aldersley	C Type Jaguar	200	2	4
		Bill Cowie	Spangeralli Holden	180	3	5=
Class B	1501-2500cc	Tracey Barrett	Lotus 23C Replica	210	1	1=
		Brian Ashworth	Daimler SP250	150	2	7
		Phil Thomson	Daimler Special	120	3=	8=
		Colin Hey	Wolseley 1800	120	3=	8=
		Chris Read	Mistral TR3A	110	5	10
		David Clearwater	Furore II	85	6	11
Class C	0 – 1500cc	Mark Barrett	Lotus 20	210	1	1=
		Don Gerrard	Mistral	180	2	5=

FASTEST LAP of day:

Tracey Barrett 1.17.49

Entries out now for:

ROUND TWO

Gebbies Pass/Summit Road Hillclimb

14/10/23

ROUND THREE

Kinloch Road Hillclimb, Little River

15/10/23