



The Mainland Branch of the Sunbeam Car Club of New Zealand (Inc.)

FEBRUARY BULLETIN

www.sunbeamcarclubofnewzealand.co.nz



The Wet West Coast on the way north to Tasman for the TOPSI

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GENERAL RAMBLINGS BY THE ED

Well here we are its Late February and nearly March, still working on getting a Newsletter out!!!

Firstly my thoughts go out to Kaikoura and dealing with the aftermath of the Earthquake that rocked their world late last year and to more recently to those involved in the Christchurch Port Hills fires. My thoughts are with you.

Its been a great few months Club wise, with good turn outs at the Monthly get togethers , our impromptu January get together was really good with a great night had by everyone

Huge apologies to Bill and Dawn Sheddan, who very kindly wrote and awesome report on their North Island trip at the beginning of last year!! I somehow managed to publish their previous years trip instead of last years!!! So you will find Bills awesome report in this issue. Humblest apologies again Bill and Dawn, 1000 lashing for me. Perhaps we need a new Editor!!!

January's run to North Canterbury was a quiet affair but keep reading and you'll read about the later.

If I were to say the TOPSI went off with out a hitch then I'd be lying!! The TOPSI was great give or take a few navigational errors and car mechanical mishaps, but hey that's classic motoring!!! And we all have our turn at some stage or another. It was a really fun few days taking in the delights of Tasman and Marlborough. We are soo lucky that we drove the roads when we did as due to the Kaikoura Earthquake and the road being closed it would have changed the trip considerably !!!

We lovely evening weather wise and fun wise at at Robin and Chris Wilkinson's for a our annual Christmas get together combined with our monthly meeting and BBQ and Branch AGM. Killed three birds with one stone, and had a fun time while doing it. A huge thanks to everyone for the beautiful flowers that I was given by the Branch they were totally unexpected and made me quite teary to be fair. I enjoy putting the work into this Branch, you guys make it a pleasure to belong to and with our fun wee cars, and fun people , it's a pleasure to work for you and with you on stuff.

Our big overnighter this year is the MIDSI, which is being put together as I write by Peter and Annette Jacob and Peter and Raewyn Jones. The weekend to pencil in is October 13th—16th, it will be a great trip and one that is not to be missed. As soon as the accommodation details have been finalised then you will receive an email from Annette and Peter, and from experience I would get your room booked toot sweet so as not to miss out.

Speaking of MIDSI, Bill and Dawn Sheddan have been on the job and booked our accommodation for the BOTSI 2018!!!! All will be revealed after the MIDSI!!!

The National AGM is coming up quick and fast, Russell and Robyn Craw are taking their bus north and staying on for a couple of months, so will attend the AGM on the way. David and Judy Craw and Bruce and I will travel up together leaving next Monday the 27th. Due to the Road north being so unpredictable we have opted to stay in Picton the night and catch the Tuesday morning ferry. WE converge on Masterton Tuesday night, ready for the start of Wellington Branch's Hub event to start on Wednesday morning. Hub events will be held on Wednesday ,Thursday and Friday. The Concours and AGM will be held on Saturday and the "Summer Event" which is a competitive event and lunch and prize giving being held on Sunday. Most people will return home on Sunday. We will stay the night because we will miss Sunday if we wish to catch the Sunday afternoon ferry. So Monday we will travel from Masterton to Wellington, and cross to Picton. Stay the night in Blenheim and then home on Tuesday just in time for our monthly get together on Tuesday night. Not that you need to know, but Bruce and I will then jump in another toy car on Wednesday morning head north for their AGM in Taupo!!! We must be mad or keen or a bit of both!!!!

I have enclosed the 2016 Mainland National AGM report that I will present at the AGM for those who want to read it.

Bruce and I on behalf of the Mainland Branch were elected I guess you could say by the members who were at our monthly get together and Branch AGM to be the Sub Committee for the research into The SCONZ's liabilities, Insurance, and Health and Safety going forward. As you are all aware the Health and Safety act has come into play and also the Incorporated Societies Act is presently under review by parliament. Bruce and I have been to our lawyer and our Insurance broker and done a lot of research on how this will affect the club moving forward and how we can best protect ourselves. This report will be tabled at the executive meeting to be held prior to the AGM. It all looks very positive moving forward but we do need to dot the i's and cross the t's, so to speak to make everything run smoothly should an unfortunate situation arise.

Hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer. Cheers The Ed

COMING EVENTS

MONTHLY GET TOGETHER, DINNER AND MEETINGS—are held at Caesars Family Restaurant and Bar, Main North Road, Northwood, Christchurch on the first Tuesday of each month. The format is we meet in the bar at 6pm or thereabouts, in the bar area. We will then order our meals of their extensive menu. Once we have ordered we will continue our chat and have a brief chat about all things Sunbeam and what's happening out there in the big wide Sunbeam world, sort out any politically correct stuff if its needed and then generally carry on telling tall tales. We then disappear back off to our respective homes, with a smile on our faces and look forward to the next time we get together to tell more yarns. If you are planning on coming along please let me know so I can advise the restaurant of the numbers prior to the day.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 7th—MONTHLY GET TOGETHER AND DINNER at Caesars Restaurant in Northwood.

Sunday 26th —VISIT TO A PRIVATE CAR COLLECTION IN ASHBURTON, please let Annette know by Monday night (19th) if you are intending on attending as they need to know numbers for morning tea and the afternoon BBQ. Please bring a salad to share and your own drinks, pudding if you wish. This will be on wet or fine. There are only a couple of cars going on this run that Annette and Peter know of. Annette 027 757 5559 or Peter 0274 712 109 or home 03 308 8940 or email pajacob@xtra.co.nz

Monday 27th— AGM RUN TO MASTERTON, Mainland Members staying in Picton on Monday 27th.

MARCH

Wednesday 1st—Friday 3rd—PRE AGM RUNS, TBA by Wellington Branch.

Saturday 4th—Sunday 5th SCONZ NATIONAL AGM in Masterton.

Tuesday 7th—MONTHLY GET TOGETHER AND DINNER at Caesars Restaurant in Northwood.

Saturday 18th—Sunday 19th— PUDDING HILL OVERNIGHTER, staying at Pudding Hill Country Resort. Annette desperately needs to know numbers if you are intending on joining in on a night of fun and frivolity. Please contact Annette or Peter this week to let them know on 027 757 5559 or Peter on 0274 712 109 or home 03 308 8940 or email pajacob@xtra.co.nz

APRIL

Tuesday 4th—MONTHLY GET TOGETHER AND DINNER at Caesars Restaurant in Northwood.

MAY

Tuesday 2nd—MONTHLY GET TOGETHER AND DINNER at Caesars Restaurant in Northwood.

Sunday 7th—ASHBURTON WHEELS WEEK—Car Run, more details of this when they come to hand.

Sunday 21st—ASHBURTON WHEELS WEEK, Street Parade with Car Show to follow. More details on this as they come to hand.

JUNE

Tuesday 6th—MONTHLY GET TOGETHER AND DINNER at Caesars Restaurant in Northwood.

DATE and RUN to be advised.

JULY

Tuesday 4th—MONTHLY GET TOGETHER AND DINNER at Caesars Restaurant in Northwood.

Saturday 22nd—MAINLAND BRANCH MID-WINTER CHRISTMAS, more details when they come to hand.

AUGUST

Tuesday 1st—MONTHLY GET TOGETHER AND DINNER at Caesars Restaurant in Northwood.

DATE AND RUN, to be advised.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 5th—MONTHLY GET TOGETHER AND DINNER at Caesars Restaurant in Northwood.

OCTOBER

Friday 13th—Monday 16th —MIDS (Middle of the South Island) to be held on the West Coast details to follow. Annette will email as soon as accommodation has been finalised. I would advise getting in as soon as you can so as not to miss out.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 7th—MONTHLY GET TOGETHER AND DINNER at Caesars Restaurant in Northwood.

DATE and RUN— to be advised.

DECEMBER

Tuesday 5th—MONTHLY GET TOGETHER AND DINNER at Caesars Restaurant, Northwood.

DATE and RUN and BRANCH AGM, to be advised.



HUMOUR OF THE MONTH

On a bitterly cold winter morning a husband and a wife in Dublin were listening to the radio during breakfast. They heard the announcer say "We are going to have 8 to 10 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the Street, so the snow ploughs can get through". So the good wife went out and moved the car.

A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer said "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park you car on the odd—numbered side of the Street, so the snow ploughs can get through". The good wife went out and moved her car again.

The next week they are again having breakfast, when the radio announcer says," We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today. You must park...". Then the electric power went out. The good wife was very upset, and with a worried look on her face she said;" I don't know what to do. Which side of the Street do I need to park on so the snow ploughs can get through?"

Then with the love and understanding in his voice that all men who are married to blondes exhibit, he replied, "Why don't you just leave the bloody car in the garage this time."



More TOPSI photos

Tony Wytberg's Workshop, at Omaka in Blenheim.

Left: Getting ready for the running of the Gnome Radial engine.

Right: boys watching the large CMC Lathe in action.



SPARES DEPARTMENT

New Spares: All is well in the New Spares Department, they are very steady with people ordering parts., and Mari said it appeared to have been the winter for people doing up their hard tops.

For NEW parts phone either Brian, Mari or Geoffrey on 04 562 7424 or email; spares@sunbeamcarclubofnewzealand.org.nz

Second Hand Spares: A catalogue is available, it is massive and way to big to be printed off economically. It has been divided into 3 parts because the file is so large. It is a total of 64 pages, so if you would like a copy it can be emailed to you so you can print it off yourself. A second hand parts catalogue, is now available online in 3 parts. Part 1 is 32 pages, and the total number of pages is 64. so if you would like a copy , please phone either Suzanne Barley on 09 827 7266 , or Ian Sutherland on 07 883 1710 or email Ian at sunbeamusedspares@outlook.com and they will get a copy to you.

Bill and Dawns 2016 North Island Wander—February to April 2016

There are still a few projects in the bucket so I checked the bucket list and bingo there was still room for one more North Island adventure before....!!!

The Minx had only had one outing since the last Vero Rally in Wanganui four years ago so Crumpy did his magic and we had an incident free Vero Rally in Dunedin in January.

Following the Vero Rally I had a North Island trip planned, taking the Tiger on the Trailer behind the Motorhome but, prior to Christmas, I had loaded up the Motorhome, trailer and car and checked the weights at the tip weigh bridge. Over 6000kg. Buggar! I have only got a #2 car license and although the rig had certification for a max of 7 tonne. All up I could only legally drive a rig with a max of 6 tonne. With the tanks empty including the waste and water tanks I was over the max you can drive on a car licence. So the Tiger stayed at home and out came the Minx at 200kg lighter. This allowed me to drive under the limit for a car licence—just.

I have never found it necessary to get a heavy traffic licence, in fact cant really see the reason. The road signs are the same whatever you drive but the log book and driving time restrictions come into play I suppose. I did have a go at it a couple of years ago and sat the preliminary test, only to fail, so I did a bit of swat and had another go but muffed it again. What's a triangle painted on the road for? Of course its to warn you that there is a give way ahead. Wrong. So I thought what the 'ell. Haven't needed it until now, why bother. But it dos peeve me a bit especially when I see the antics of some truck and bus drivers, but I remind myself that they have got their heavy traffic so must have more clues than me, yeah right!

There are at least four events that we planned to attend in the NI. The first was the Art Deco weekend held in Napier each year, commemorating the Great Earthquake that Napier endured in 1932 and the subsequent rebuild of the city, reputed to have taken only 22 months.

The second event we were to attend was the Sunbeam Car Club annual get together, this year in Wanganui, the weekend following Art Deco. Next up, a month later on the last weekend of March (Easter), is the Humber, Hillman Car Club AGM in Stratford.

The next weekend on the other coast at Whangamata we had booked in for the Beach Hop, essentially a giant hot rod show where the Tiger would have been at home.

With all the preliminary checks done, we loaded up and set sail on Thursday 11 February with stopovers at Oxford and Blenheim before a gentle 'Bluebridge' crossing. From there we headed over the Rimutaka Hills, and during the next few days meandered up to Napier.

Napier 17—23 Feb. Art Deco. We attended the Art Deco weekend's activities a couple of years ago and this weekend looked to be similar. We parked up in Kennedy Park, unloaded the car and proceeded to take in the atmosphere, the art deco buildings and the spectacle of period attire that most people took the trouble to dress up in. It is a rather highbrow weekend if you want to attend some of the functions e.g. the gangster night and dinner at \$140 per person or any number of the functions with prices to match. If you didn't want to spend too much money, then there were the buskers and every pub had good live entertainment. If money was no problem there were the black tie dinners and functions.

We were with a couple of friends who attended some of the functions. Although they ran up entertainment expenses of over \$500 for the 3 day weekend and were not impressed with some of the meals or the entertainment compared to the cost involved, they still had a great time. However with over 250 events and functions to choose from, many of them new this year, there was something to suit everybody.

As for Dawn and me, we enjoyed the shopping, the street parade on Saturday and the trolley derby on the Sunday morning. We drove out to the airport on Sunday to look at the vintage aircraft and we explored Napier, Hastings and Havelock North's wineries and eateries over the four days we were there.

From there we moved on to Whanganui via a few stops over at various POP's and one night at Geoff and Glenys's place in Palmerston North, whom we have been friends with since we all did the across Australia Tour.

So it was on Friday afternoon, 26 February that we set up camp in the Whanganui Cozy Club ready for the weekend's Sunbeam Car Club's annual big get together.

The weekend followed the usual format with meet, greet and dinner on the Friday evening, show and shine with con-course judging on Saturday with the AGM in the afternoon and dinner with prize giving in the evening.

Our little Minx scored big time with 3rd in concourse, People's choice trophy, and best Rootes Vehicle other than a Sunbeam among the haul. Sunday morning was the "Summer Event": a competitive run with an impressive cup in the offering. This year the event consisted of a casual 130km drive around Whanganui and the surrounding countryside. It was about this time a previous problem with the Minx start up manifested itself again. I couldn't decide if it was caused by dirty battery connections, solenoid, flat battery or crook starter but was so intermittent that it was not much of a problem. Give the car a slight rock with it in gear and bingo it would start again.

With the Sunbeam part of our tour despatched we were off on Monday. But where to? We had a month to fill in until Hillman CC AGM at Easter so Auntie Google to the rescue. What's on in Hawera? Nothing but we will stay there for a few days and have a look around anyhow and see if I can get the starter fixed. Google again to the rescue and I discovered a retired Rootes mechanic who would check it out. He diagnosed a starter problem, and once we got Minxy started I drive her round to his garage for an easy repair. Wrong. The starter is tucked up behind the exhaust manifold which made the job rather awkward, especially as the manifold leaked badly after the starter was repaired and refitted. I ordered a new gasket from our Rootes parts expert in Palmerston North and booked a manifold repair for Monday next week. The joys of motoring. I quietly snaked the noisy car back to our POP and onto the trailer.

My search for "Whats on" uncovered a VCC car show the coming Sunday at Stratford, only a half hours drive up the road towards New Plymouth. Whats more it was to be held at the Stratford show grounds where we were planning to stay, as it was an Association park over property (POP). As an added bonus there was to be a speedway race meeting there on the Saturday night at the same venue.

Its many years since I had been to a speedway meeting. I remember that last time I went to a meeting there were no seats so we took our own in the form of a one dozen crate of beer which we proceeded to consume as the evening proceeded. Not so now. Completely grog free but what a great night. Those boys (and girls) driving the little cars, well little in size but not in power.

Impressive, especially the big boys, huge wide slicks spinning at high revs and still keeping roughly in the right direction. Makes drifting look so tame! What a great night.

Sunday morning and 8.30am saw the Minx the first car on display at the VCC car Show at the same venue. (I didn't want anybody to hear the horrible fluffing noise from under the bonnet). There it sat all day until once agin it was the only car there. In between 9am and 4pm there were about 300 cars of all sorts assembled, with a few tractors and speedway cars as well.

We met heaps of nice people with similar interests, got interviewed over the PA and scored a spot prize, a prezzy card from Repco. Another great motoring weekend and to be surrounded by hundreds of cars I had never seen before—too much!

We trailered the car back to Hawera (Monday 7th March) for Robert to work his magic which included drilling, tapping and fitting two extra studs into the head to hold the extractors in place. The gasket had provision for the studs but they were not in the head—probably not required for the original cast iron extractor.

The car was now running better than it has ever done, as I suspect there were also leaks in the gasket on the inlet side of the manifold also.

After another couple of days exploring Hawera we moved round the coast road, dubbed The Surf Highway, to a little beach camp at Kaupokonui. This weekend was the Taranaki Anniversary with a public holiday on Monday 21 March. While we were there we saw the camp fill up and after five days it was empty again. Sea fishing and swimming in the little river running past the camp were the main attractions. A nice spot to relax and very popular with families from the surrounding area.

We met up with our friends from Australia in New Plymouth. They keep a Motorhome in NZ and use it each summer. We travelled with them a couple of years ago and we got on well, sharing similar interests. After a few days there we all moved up the coast about 90 kms to another little beach camp at Mokau. Fishing, relaxing, rehydrating. All things you do on holiday until it was time to move back to Stratford for Easter and the third of our planned car functions.

The Hillman Humber Car Club is a strong little club with three branches in the North Island and one planned for SI in Christchurch. The weekend followed the usual format with meet 'n greet on Friday, tours of local interest on Saturday and Sunday including show n shine and field tests on the Sunday morning. Sunday evening was the dinner and prize giving.

The Minx picked up a few trophies again, including the coveted Pride of Ownership Trophy and peoples choice. There were about 35 Rootes Group Cars present, including six Humber Super snipes, which was interesting for me to compare with my '62 Snipe which I have just got on the road. We had a pleasant weekend catching up with like Rootes car owners.

The next weekend we had to be in Waihi on the opposite coast for the Beach Hop. From Stratford there are at least three routes, south back to Whanganui and up to Taupo and across to Waihi OR up the west coast to Hamilton and across OR there was the Forgotten World Highway straight across between the two. We had spoken to various people who knew the road. We got opinions of the road condition ranging from don't do it, its too steep and narrow, its got 30kms gravel in the middle, its over 120kms long bla, bla, bla. Others said its beautiful. You wont see scenery like this anywhere else in the country. You have got to visit the Republic of Whangamomona half way across. With the Motorhome and trailer at over 13 meters long and 6 tonne I had to choose the best option. Well we did it. The Forgotten Highway and it's all of those things. The road was as described and the scenery was terrific with unusual (for a Southlander) little steep hills which looked like the wet earth had been smacked with a spatula then coated with lush bush. Think of a sticky uncooked pav after it has been patted on the top with a spatula. Steep little peaks and valleys. There were very few other motorists that day except for a few groups of hot rodders, also heading for the Hop. There were no problems and I would recommended the drive if you are anywhere in the area. It could have been different though if I had met the only logging truck we encountered in the middle of one of the one way sections. Ever tried reversing a Motorhome with a trailer for a kilometre on a single lane twisty steep gravel track? Thank goodness we didn't need to.

The Beach Hop goes on for over a week but we caught up with the cars on their run to Waihi (Wed 25 March) about the fifth day into the full programme. The towns main street is closed off, the footpaths fill up with stalls and the shop contents spill out onto the streets with racks of clothes and goods and accompanying eftpos machines. Then the cars arrive, parked four deep completely blocking the street for its full length, from the gold mine at the top to the roundabout at the bottom, about 1/2 a km of cars, four deep. Cool. The music starts. Rock and Roll is the theme with speakers from the local radio station blaring it out. In fact the whole Beach Hop is centred around rock 'n roll and souped up noisy cars.

We parked up beside the local RSA on the main Street (no Charge) for a couple of nights and soaked up the atmosphere. I had the Minx parked up beside the rig and it got a lot of favourable comments. There were a few British cars there, and French and German. Cortina's, Anglia's, VW's mostly close to standard condition. Whilst there I got chatting with a bloke on cars and he had a CF Bedford Ute (complete with 350 chev) and during the conversation asked where we were staying in Whangamata. "Don't know"! Well, park up at my place cause I have a huge section at my "bach" and it is just behind the main street. Perfect, so we took him up on his offer, in fact that was just one of the several offers we had. Nice friendly people at the beach hop.

How can I explain the Beach Hop? Insane, petrol junkies, noisy, yes very noisy. The uniform for blokes is mostly flip flops, (Aussie term for jandals) shorts, black T, bald head-and some facial hair is an added bonus. Girls, well anything really but rock 'n roll period dress is prevalent and polka dots. During the day there were rock 'n roll bands playing in the street, each one almost out of earshot of the other and during the night they moved to the pubs and clubs. All the time the cars cruised bumper to bumper round and round the street, all 1400 of them at some time. You either parked up or were doing laps. We mostly left the car parked up and wandered the street leaving the laps to the big boys. In past years the law has turned a blind eye to open exhausts and kids riding in Ute trays. This year riding in the back was a no no and, as the noise has turned into a competition of its own with open pipes and some megaphone type noise enhancers, the law decided to clamp down. Excessive noise (and some were excessive), they were warned and ticketed if they didn't put baffles or by-passes back.

Another bylaw is the liquor ban on the streets. There were lots of tables on the streets but sitting there were only coffee drinkers. The bars had open areas full of Black T shirts and Heineken but from the street boundary back. Step onto the foot path with that stubby and look out. I saw four chaps buy a parcel of Fish & Chips from one establishment and a beer each and walk back to their car. Gotcha! That cost the \$250 each on the spot fine. \$1k for five minutes of two officers time. Not a bad mornings work!

On Friday all the cars assembled along the beach. Once again there was the chance to perv at all the shiny metal and answer questions about the Minx. "I Didn't know they made a Hillman convertible." "Did you chop it down from a sedan"? And all the stories of the ones they had and where or what they did in them 40 years ago. It's a wonder they could still remember but, as they say, "you always remember the first time"!

The 10km drive to the beach was a spectacle for the locals who lined the road with their camp chairs, sun umbrellas deflecting the light drizzle, BBQ's, and liquids while 1400 cars of all descriptions trailed past. They apparently took over 2 hours to pass a given point, then pause and they all started the return journey back to town. Free entertainment at your front gate.

Each \$5 programme contained a raffle entry for this years top prize, either a little Ford hot rod or a retro caravan, a winner choice. The winner, whose number was drawn in a live draw, was announced on the Saturday afternoon at the public park. You had to be there to win or it would have been redrawn hence there was a few thousand present sitting in their camp chairs soaking up the sun and munching on something tasty from one of the many food outlets. The winner of the raffle decided he wanted the hot rod which was valued at \$100k, so the caravan was auctioned off realizing \$20k which was donated to a local charity. There was live entertainment consisting of performances from the talent quest finalists, wearable car art etc., and the winners announced. Another great day.

Sunday's event was at the same park but it was the big traders day with all the usual craft and car part stalls. The remainder of the competition winners were chosen including the top car, bike and caravan.

We decided to stay another night thus avoiding the thousands of cars clogging the roads trying to get back home in time for work the next day. On Monday we headed off to Thames and on to Maranda, an oasis like type of holiday park with a large mineral rich hot pool. Lovely to relax in after the Beach Hop hustle. Late nights and early starts are enjoyed more by the physically young. With a petrol mix in your veins age is no barrier to the younger generation but it's a little more tiring on retirees, so a couple of days in and around the mineral pools was a great way to relax and reinvigorate and contemplate what next.

By now we had completed the four events we had planned and with an added bonus of the unplanned VCC show at Stratford. We had about a week to fill in before crossing to the Mainland on the 14th April but we still had to go to the Traillite factory at Pukekohe and pick up a new mattress to replace the old bony one that we had put up with since buying the Motorhome four years ago.

On Thursday 7 April we called in to the factory only to find the new mattress was made up incorrectly as it was reversed, a mirror image of the 5 sided mattress that is especially made for our style of motorhome. Darn, however they said they would get it fixed and send it down to Christchurch for us to pick up next week.

Over the next week we wandered south to Rotorua then across to Te Kuiti and west down the coast, along roads new to us. Any decent antique shop we passed, well we didn't pass it!! In fact that was the norm. By the time we got home we had quite a few treasures and mementos of our OE.

The weather had been drizzly for the last few days and a previous problem with an out of round front tyre was getting worse. I had the tires checked in Gore before we left but it was only a slight problem then, with a slight steering wheel wiggle around 10kh. Fast forward 4500kms and the wiggle was by then quite bad and still present at 80kph. With the wet greasy roads I needed all the traction available and was concerned that the out of round tire could break free.

I called into the tire shop in Whanganui but they were sold out but could freight a pair from Auckland overnight. Problem solved. We backed up behind the Beaurepaires shop for the night making sure that the noisy compressor was turned off at 5pm.. With new front tires fitted we were on the road by 10am the next morning heading for Wellington.

I thought I would stay at a motor camp this stop, one handy to the Strait ferries and also catch up on the laundry duties etc, so we picked the closest camp to the ferry terminal, Porirua motor camp. I had heard that it was a dive and a bikkie gang was running it but that was a few years ago and a serious attempt was being made to upgrade and tidy it up.

We booked in for a couple of nights and next day unloaded the Minx and went touring. We caught up with relations for coffee in the morning then, before lunch, went to Te Papa, the National Museum. We wandered around for about an hour then had lunch at a restaurant next door, returning to Te Papa for another look. We were keen to see the Gallipoli section as we heard that it was excellent. Boy, it was an eye opener too. Just about brought me to tears. The graphic displays, photos and stories of the soldiers were very moving. By the time we thought we had had enough it was getting onto four in the afternoon. I didn't want to get involved in heavy traffic so we had a quick drive around the bays, then onto the motorway and back to Porirua.

Early next morning and onto the Bluebridge for another gentle crossing. A couple of nights at the Blenheim Racecourse and then onto Christchurch to pick up the mattress. What do we do with the old one? The guys at the Traillite depot said "don't leave it here". I had no option except strap it on the top of the car on the trailer. That must have looked a sight. Have mattress, will travel.

We left Christchurch and headed home but, as we were still not in a hurry, we decided to stay a night at a spot we had stopped at in the past—the Dunback Domain POP. At the domain there had recently been a major pruning of the surrounding macrocarpa trees and in the middle of the paddock was a huge pile of cuttings the size of a small house. This looked like the makings of a bonfire probably reserved for Guy Fawkes night. What a great place to dispose of the mattress! So I untied it and dragged it up onto the heap—problem solved.

During the evening Dawn talked about how she had heard on the Talk back radio that some council tips were refusing to take old mattresses because of the problem of disposing of them. Oh Darn! Some greenie conscience kicked in overnight, so I thought I'd better go and retrieve it and strap it back on the trailer. But it wasn't there. No mattress. Great! Somebody has taken it home. But I looked around and noticed under the trees a hitchhiker, who came in late the previous night, asleep on it. I let him wake up, and between the two of us we strapped it back on the top of the car on the trailer. Its now at home awaiting disposal, somewhere.

And we are back home too after 9 weeks away, 5400km in the motorhome, about 900 miles in the Minx, and if I looked at the motorhome computer it would tell me how many litres of diesel I have used and how long I have been driving and how many litres per 100km I have done, but I don't want to know.

We have far better memories gained over the past few weeks. We met lots of new people and caught up with old friends. Visited interesting places, especially around Taranaki, as we spent over a month in the area, Great sunsets remembered with a wine in hand. A few fish caught—there could have been more. But most of all the cars, lots and lots of classic collectable and interesting cars.

Will there be another trip like this one. Will I write about it? Will you want to read about it? I reached the allotted "three score years and ten" while we were away so its not my decision.

Cheers

Bill and Dawn Sheddan.

** Bill and Dawn parked up their Camper and stayed with us for a night on their way north, we promptly invited David and Judy Crow to join us for dinner, it was a great night. So good I think Bill and Dawn were so scared to park up on the way home!!! We also called in and saw them when they were at the VCC Car show in Stratford, it was nice seeing their lovely wee Minx getting all the attention it deserves, by the people who had attended the event. Ed.*

2016 Mainland Branch Annual Report for the 2017 AGM

Amazing - another Mainland Branch Financial Year is nearly done and dusted, wow they just keep getting shorter or is that me just getting older!!!

Anyway, as I reflect back on the year for the branch, it is with pride in the group of likeminded enthusiasts that we have down here in the Mainland. We all enjoy each other's company and have a fun time every time we go out as a group, we are very lucky to have that. It's a fun Club to belong to, our lovely cars are what brought us together to start with, but I think most of us would be friends even without our common bond of our cars.

The monthly get togethers are always a good night and just seem to go from strength to strength – we have a regular core group of people of around 16 sometimes less, sometimes more. It is always lots of fun, with the odd bit of serious stuff that comes down from a National level to discuss when needed. Although we have hit a slight snag with our venue, the majority of you have indicated that you are happy to return to Caesars rather than go back to Styx and Stones. I think that is a good call, but in the meantime Raewyn and Peter Jones are going to keep an eye out for a possible venue for us moving forward.

The monthly Newsletters that used to be religiously produced every month are on average every 2 months now and when Bruce and I disappeared off to the Outback in the middle of the year, there was a big gap!! Sorry, but life got in the way, and quite seriously I'd really love someone to relieve me of the editors job!! It's great when I receive stories or snippets to put in it; it makes the job a lot easier. A BIG, thanks to everyone who has contributed over the year, and to Sid Mosdell who works his magic button and makes it smaller for us.

Our membership is presently sitting at 37 with 1 Lifetime membership and 1 Honorary Membership. We have had 8 new members join us during the year. Chris and Judy Harvey from West Melton with their 1967 S5 Alpine, Mike Bryan from Nelson with his 1958 S2 Rapier Convertible, Mike Russ formally from Ashley now a resident of Ruby Bay in Tasman with his 1952 Talbot 90, Bevan Phillips and Lyn Brown from Christchurch with their 1969 Fastback Rapier, David and Lyn Phillips from Brisbane, Qld they have the ex-Alan Curry 1963 3AC Series Rapier and a 1953 Talbot Alpine, Ron Gardiner with his 1971 Fastback Rapier, Tom Williams and Robin Voigt in their 1954 Talbot 90 and recently Martin Haisman with his 1966 S4 Alpine.

It has been nice to meet up with some of these members over the last few months, Chris and Judy attended their first Run last weekend, Mike Bryan joined us for the last part of the TOPSI, Mike Russ joined us on the North Canterbury Run and has been to a few monthly meetings, Ron Gardiner met us for coffee at the Blue Duck while we were on the Governors Run, and David and Lyn Phillips flew over from Queensland to join us on the TOPSI.

March's Run was Doggie Day out, the Overnighter to Casa Shrimpano, this year there was only Russell and Robin and Bruce and I that attended. The BBQ and company were great as were the Bacon and Eggs followed by a lovely walk around a really lovely Lake. But alas as we are dwindling in numbers I fear that this year's Event may be the last.

June a group of Members gathered at the home of Raewyn and Peter Jones for the Clubs annual mid-Winter Christmas Dinner. Always another highlight on our calendar! A Big thanks Raewyn and Peter for hosting us again. Bruce and I were disappointed not to have made the Dinner this year, it's always fun and the food is to die for.

Peter and Annette Jacob, very generously agreed, (no gentle persuasion was needed – yeah right), to take up the reins of organising the monthly runs for us. This has been a huge success, thanks Peter and Annette for a job well done. I for one am very grateful, thanks.

July we headed down to Fairlie Pie shop. It was a cool day but the pies were well worth it, Russell and Robin in their Navy Fastback Rapier, Peter and Annette in their Red Alpine and Bruce and I in our Green Tiger, met up with Jeff Parker and his partner Annie from Timaru, it was great to catch up with them and have a bite to eat while watching the hordes of people queue for Pies. It was a coolish day but the drive was great.

August we met at the Blue Duck, formally called the Black Tulip, in Motukarara for a coffee before heading over the Hill to the Governors Bay Hotel for a spot of Lunch. We had a good turn out with, Russell and Robyn Craw in their yellow Tiger, David and Judy Craw in their Silverston, Ian Shrimpton and Lyn Eder in Smiley their yellow Alpine, Raewyn and Peter Jones in their navy Alpine, Peter and Annette Jacob in their Red Alpine, Bevan Phillips and Lyn Brown in their metallic Tan Fastback Rapier, Mike McCann and Sue Skinner in his new Mercedes and ourselves in our Green Tiger, 8 cars in total. Ron Gardiner in his Gold Fastback Rapier joined us for coffee at the Blue Duck and then headed home. It was a fun lunch on a lovely sunny day with spectacular views down the Harbour.

September was a cool day for our North Canterbury Run - Sheffield Pie shop to Brick works Cafe in Woodend,- Peter and Annette, Mike Russ and Lois Curtis, David and Judy Craw, Chris and Robin Wilkinson in their Alpine on its first Club run and ourselves. After Pies it was off for a bit of a jaunt through the North Canterbury farmland to arrive at our lunch destination. Antiques were looked at but not purchased but food was certainly consumed!

October saw us gather at Copper Road at early doors for the start of this year's TOPSI, Lily Chamberlain and her sister Daphne in Lily's Fastback Rapier, Russell and Robin Craw in their Fastback Rapier, Ian Shrimpton in their Alpine, Peter and Raewyn Jones in their Alpine, Peter and Annette Jacob from Ashburton in their Alpine, Mike McCann and Sue Skinner in Mike's Alpine, Peter and Maree Hilston from Invercargill in their Fastback Rapier, Bill and Dawn Sheddan from Gore, Robin and Chris Wilkinson in their Alpine, David and Lyn Phillips from Queensland in a rental, and ourselves in our Tiger. Our trip took us up through the Lewis lunching just past Murchison at The Red Barn and Animal Park, through St Arnaud, up the Tophouse Road in the rain, coffee at Kohatu Flat Rock Café and into our accommodation for 2 nights at The Equestrian Motel in Motueka. It was here that we met up with Sid and Marge Mosdell from Picton in their Fastback Rapier and Ian and Sue Gerard from Katikati in Sid and Marges Alpine. We had a meet and greet in our room and it was there that we were joined by Peter and Jan Williamson and Cathy and Gene Klein. We dined at the Sprig and Fern in Motueka

Saturday we met up with Peter Williamson in his Alpine and his wife Jan who had very kindly offered to be Tail End Charlie in their 4x4. We Breakfasted/coffee at Toad Hall in Motueka, headed over the Hill to Takaka, and saw a private collection! Walked around and viewed Pupu Springs, back to The Penguin Café Pohara for lunch, have a drive around the Tarakohe Harbour and the golden beaches of Ligar Bay and Tata Beach, and back over the Hill to Marahau and then onto coffee at Kaiteriteri. Then it was back to the Motel for a change before dining at the Elevation café in Motueka.

Sunday we breakfasted at Jester House, drove up through the Moutere and back out to Kohatu Flat Rock and back down the Tophouse Road, turning left at the T junction with the Wairau Valley. It was there that we said our goodbyes to Lily and Daphne as they were heading back to Christchurch. We went to Saint Clair Winery for lunch, where we were joined by Mike Bryan in his series Rapier Convertible and a prospective member Paul Read and his girlfriend Beth in his Fastback Rapier. The lunch was yummy and with all our chattering the afternoon was soon wittered away.

Monday morning we headed out to Omaka, to the home of Tony Wittenberg's Classic Aero Machining. A fascinating place, Bruce and I had been there before with another car group and felt that it warranted another visit by our group. We coffee at the café at Omaka Collection of planes before heading down to Kaikoura to the home of friends of ours for a look at their small but exceptional collection of cars. We then had lunch at Cellar view restaurant, just South of Kaikoura, and we are lucky we are still not there waiting for it!! A lovely spot with a stunning view but the wait time was way too long. We then finished the trip off with a coffee back at Copper Road in Amberley. A trip around the block I suppose you could say.

It is at this time that I'd like to say that my thoughts are with the people in the north of North Canterbury who are going through the aftermath of the Earthquake and subsequent aftershocks, as I'm sure your thoughts are as well. We are very lucky to have those nice memories of the times we have driven that fantastic piece of Road that give or take a few trucks and slow drivers was built for cars such as ours. We have lost a jewel in our crown. Amanda and Phips in Kaikoura are ok, as is Amanda's mother, I have talked to her and although they lost lots of stuff inside their house, the house itself is fine as are their girls in their garages.

November we had what can only be described as a Magical Mystery Tour to Methven!!! Peter and Annette Jacob in their Alpine, Peter and Raewyn Jones in their Alpine, Ian Shrimpton and Lyn Eder in their VW Beetle (don't ask), Robin and Chris Wilkinson in their Alpine, Mike McCann and Sue Skinner in Mikes new to him (ex Graham Pell) Tiger, Bevan Phillips and Lyn Brown and their Grandson Dylan in their Fastback Rapier, David and Judy Craw in their Silverston Tiger, and ourselves in our Tiger. , We met at the café beside the Giant Salmon at Rakaia, headed to Barrhill then onto Methven for lunch. What a hoot of a day.

December will see us take over the home of Robin and Chris Wilkinson for the Branch AGM, Monthly get together and End of Year Get together!! I'd like to thank Chris and Robin on the Clubs behalf for hosting us.

Runs in the planned for next year are a trip up to Ironridge in North Canterbury, and Ashburton Run and night up at Pudding Hill and the MIDS in October. There is also the AGM which next year will be held in Masterton, it's always a fun weekend.

At a National level the Club has withdrawn from Motorsport New Zealand as it is felt we no longer need the association as no one is racing. The other members of the Executive have voted to adopt an Indemnity form to cover the Club and its execu-

tives; I abstained from the vote as I felt it needs more research to see how it affects me personally!! My concern for the Club is whether the Club has a sufficient Liability cover. Due to new government regulation, traditional Insurances no longer protect people against expensive exposures. Whether the Club be in the right or the wrong, we would have to defend ourselves and this comes at a huge cost. I have taken it on board to clarify our Club situation once and for all, and make sure we are covered should the situation arise. We do have a Federation of Motoring Insurance but I need to see that it has enough cover for us, I suspect not! We are a Car Club and a fun Car Club at that, but we need to have full transparency and make sure the members who volunteer to organise Runs or events are covered. We also need to clarify the word “event”!!! If trophies are given out, this is deemed to be an “event” which some Insurance company’s cover and some do not.

Sue Gerard has taken over the reins as Membership secretary and is doing a great job, between her and Peter Powell they have put a remit forward to change the Membership year. This makes sense, and doesn’t disadvantage anyone moving forward.

A BIG thanks to everyone for their on-going support.

Julie Reid—Mainland Branch Captain.

THE TRADING POST

Talbot 1952— 1952, 75,622kms, Maroon, WOF expires March 2017, Rego expires May 2017. Tidy Runs well. \$8000.00, ono. See Trade Me listing #1167562405 under Trade Me Motors.



WANTED

Rapier—in good condition original condition or restored, but not a convertible. Graham lives in Thames. He is a member of the Veteran, vintage club of New Zealand and previously owned a Daimler Dart for 40 years, but he sold it due to wanting a hard top vehicle. Please contact Graham Brookes on 027 6032834.

North Canterbury Run by Peter Jacob

“Planning the first run for the year started a number of months ago, possibly April last year. Ideas were floated that we do a run to North Canterbury with a destination at the Iron Sculpture Park. This was to be a destination of all destinations, to include a fair, music, guided tour around sculpture works and a picnic. Alas this was not to be as the music and fair had been cancelled, plan b was to go anyway, have a guided tour and picnic lunch. But as you do a few weeks out from an event, we kept our eyes on the weather forecast. We started to look for alternative venues as picnics and rain don't mix. Three days out we had to make the call as the forecast was shit with heavy rain forecast for North Canterbury. True to form we woke up on Sunday morning to heavy rain. Tops on, lights on and wipers on, we ventured to the Flat White Cafe at Pegasus for lunch. A quick catch up with 3 couples. Thank you to the Jones’s, Craw’s and Reid’s for the few giggles that we had which lightened up a dreary day”.

2016 TOPSI TOUR by Bill Sheddan

As in "Top of the South Island Tour." BOTS I organized last year out of Nasby and MIDS I is planned for The West Coast next year I believe.

This run started in Christchurch the week following the Canterbury Swap Meet so two days after returning from there we were to be off again on a Sunbeam run. But I was prepared. The Tiger had been checked out and ready to go. Crumpy had gone over it, oil changed etc. and declared it ready to roll.

But I changed my mind. The Tiger is a challenge, at least most other motorists think so. I might see a car in the distance in the mirror. Next thing it's behind me wanting to pass. You let it pass then it slows down wanting you to have a "go". I can feel the tension rise in the passenger seat but I am often tempted to return the challenge, or that's my line of thinking, rightly or wrongly. So for peace of mind and hopefully a stress free drive I got the Rapier out from hibernation.

It was all ready to go having previously had an oil change etc. so on Wednesday morning (12 Oct.) we set off for Christchurch. The car was running well especially over the hills on the motorway north of Dunedin. It had been burning oil on the run across Australia but had progressively improved the more miles we did. I believe it had been nursed from new and with only 60,000 miles on the clock the rings were not bedded in properly. I felt it was my duty to bed them in. At the bottom of the hills I would drop it out of overdrive, wind it up to about 70mph or 4500rpm and hold it there till over the top. Worked wonders and never missed a beat.

We stayed in a central Chch. motel for a couple of nights and had a look around the town but shopped in the suburban malls. Central Christchurch is still a bomb site. The roads are still torn up, diversion everywhere. Empty building sights. Temporary this, bypass that. Depressing still.

On the Friday morning we met up with other Sunbeamers at the Copper Road Café, a coffee shop just south of Amberley and proceeded to Motueka via Springs Junction and St Arnaud stopping for lunch and more coffee on the way. By the time we arrived at our motel we had gathered 12 Sunbeam couples from the South Island, 2 from North Island and a couple from Australia who have joined our South Island branch because, according to them we have more fun. They flew over and had a rental car.

That evening we had dinner at a Motueka pub within easy walking distance from our motel, thankfully, and caught up with all the gossip since our last meeting which in our case was the AGM at Whanganui last February.

Saturday morning we met up at a coffee shop in town and then set off for Takaka which is on the other side of the Takaka Hill. That hill seems to go on forever. Windy twisty steep slow in 2nd or 3rd gear. I overheard a local say there is a turn for every day in the year but 365 bends in the road seems conservative.

On the outskirts of Takaka we visited a guy's lifetime collection of everything. Seemingly he had household stuff, bikes cars everything but we were running out of time so didn't have time for a look. We had turned into the charger again. An Alpine had stopped in Takaka's main street with charging problems and a flat battery. We swapped batteries and once again the Rapier became the Charger.

We then drove a few miles up a hill to Pupu Springs where a small river literally bubbles out of the ground. An impressive natural reserve and worth a visit if you are in the area.

More coffee, lunch, photo shoots then back over the hill to the motel. Evening dinner again at a small pub. Nice dinner but they were overwhelmed with numbers with close to forty for dinner and two in the kitchen smaller than yours at home. After over two hours wait some got their money back and went home. Unfortunate.

On Sunday we met for coffee – again – but this time there was an added twist as this was a touristy place with tame eels that you could feed among the other interesting features. On the road again to Blenheim via Moutere and Wairau Valleys. All sealed nice roads.

Once again our motel was top notch and after the customary pre dinner drinkies we walked across the road to the Speights Ale House for dinner. Another great day but tomorrow its heading home time again.

Next morning we drove just out of Blenheim to the Omaka Airfield where there is the Classic Aero Machining business. They have made several 8 cylinder radial aeroplane engines which are exact copy of one designed before WW1 and driven in fighters in that war. They have sold one to USA and he had just completed another that he was being tested which he started and run it for us. This particular engine was going into a vintage airplane in France. A clever piece of engineering and a very clever constructor.

Kaikoura was our lunch stop at the Cellarview Café just south of the town. Once again mealtimes were a problem. We arrived about 1.30pm. Ordered lunch another hour later and by the time we left it was close to 4pm.

We travelled on to meet up at the Copper Road Café where it all started four days previous and after more coffee we said our goodbyes to those remaining in our group.

We stayed in Christchurch again for the night and in the morning headed south. Just the two of us in the Rapier which was singing along having just clocked over 1300 miles by the time we started climbing the hills coming into Dunedin. Once again I dropped it out of overdrive and floored it. I swung into the passing lane but the rest, about a dozen cars and a couple of trucks for some reason stayed in the left lane. Ha they saw me coming. A classic car scooting up the hill at 70mph. A sight to behold. Over the first hill. Nobody behind me. Over the second hill. Still nobody behind me. Only a cloud of smoke. Ah somebody having a scrub burn off somewhere. But why is Ms Rapier running so rough and the clouds of smoke have followed me into Dunedin? Above the misfiring engine I could hear muttering words like “told you so” and “flogging the poor thing” Na not me. The rings needed bedding in. Well they have now.

After another litre of oil we kept going as far as south of Balclutha until I heard the noise I did not want to hear. An ominous tapping noise, just like broken rings.

I quietly returned to Gore on a rope behind a plumbing truck and slipped into the shed unseen.

A great trip but it could have had a better finish. Perhaps I should have bedded the rings earlier like on the Nullarbor Plain!

Bill Sheddan

