

WHAT'S BEEN

Drive to Lake Rotoitoi July 24th

About 15 cars left Richmond on a fine but cool day and headed to the lake for lunch expecting snow down to the waters edge, following the snow falls of a week earlier. On arrival we set up for lunch at the lakeside kiosk building, still wearing coats scarves and hats to combat the cold. The Taplins arrived from Murchison driving a Chevrolet sedan (first outing after repairs) with no heater, only a blanket over the knees. The lake was a picture behind the chilled visitors making snowmen and enjoying the snow. After a long lunch with lots of talking we all returned back to the warmth of home. **Thanks to Geoff Morris for this report and pictures.**



Lake Rotoiti on a
very cold day



Drive to Renwick August 14th August

Unfortunately, because of miscommunication only one car went to this Vintage Car Club event on a fine but cold day. This was a very entertaining day with fifteen cars, specially made for these types of events participating. Some driven by two different drivers showing their skills driving through creeks, mud holes and gravel pits. The road in was sealed for the first twenty kilometres and there was only one k' of shingle, and not a log truck in sight.



Two of the fifteen vehicles pictured
on an easy part of the course.

Thanks to Russell Egan for this report and pictures.



Alpine Classic 19th & 20th August

For me the 2011 Alpine Classic Rally was much better than I had expected. I had not entered as we had "covered" most of that area over the years, however after contemplating how short life can be, a quick phone call to Graeme Sharp to confirm a vacancy and we were in with 4 days to spare.

Although the weather forecast was fairly daunting the Lewis Pass was open but very slushy. We met up at the Longbeach School {which is south of Ashburton} for the usual briefing and catch up with the 40 other entrants. I was surprised at the variety of scenery around the back roads thru Geraldine, Hanging Rock etc. and finally finishing in Oamaru for two nights. We spent an hour in the bar at the North Star Motel where the bar staff tossed a coin for each drink purchased. If you called correctly the drinks were free, other wise the losers paid normal price.

Next morning we headed south and around the back of Oamaru thru very interesting rolling country and detouring thru the Totara Estate, which was once a grand Estate covering 15,000 acres. Today the restored farm buildings and displays are in a park like area and are a tribute to the courage and determination of New Zealand early Pioneers. Many buildings date back to the 1800's and we spent an hour just looking around before heading inland just past Shag Point and McRaes flat and eventually having lunch at Ranfurly. The whole day was unforgettable with clear blue sky and snow as far as the eye can see, and just a perfect ribbon of dry tar seal. As Danseys Pass was close we returned via the Pig Route and turned off at Millbrook for Oamaru.

The theme for the evening dinner was red and black and even the staff got involved. We all had tales to tell and the meal was first class.

Sunday morning another interesting rambling journey thru the back roads and eventually lunch at Waimate. We were given the choice of a long or short route to the Ashburton Aviation Museum for prize giving and afternoon tea. The Nelsonians really scooped the prize pool. Pam Frost for catering services, Peter Clarke for rounding up stray cattle, and Ross Taplin received the top prize for a short period of "unstained loss of traction" in the Jag when leaving the final day briefing ...and also the "bottom" prize as the organisers couldn't decide weather it was a good thing or not!

A really enjoyable weekend and the route instructions were surprisingly accurate. Thanks again to the Christchurch organisers for a realistically priced fun weekend.

Thanks to Frank Griffith for this report and pictures.



Pictures from "The Alpine Rally"

Classic & Collectable Show Day 4th September

I went to the steam museum about two in the after noon, I passed as many cars and motor bikes coming home as were left, and that was a lot, much too many to count. It must have been a very good turnout. The variety was spectacular with a lot of cars I haven't seen before. *Reminder to myself, go a lot earlier next year.

Because of inflation and the recession, a picture is now only worth 200 words.

WHAT'S COMING

Drive to Takaka 25th September

Leaving from N.M.I.T. Queen street Richmond at 9.30. To visit Mrs Jill Quinn 97 Waitapu Road and view her late husbands vintage car etc. Please bring your own lunch, and chairs. For any further information contact Geoff Morris 03 547 4494.

Christchurch Mc Leans Island Swap Meet Fri' 7th & Sat' 8th October

Always worth a look, take a trailer to bring home the bargains

Combined Run with Vintage Car Club 16th October

Leaving from N.M.I.T. Queen street Richmond at 1.30. taking in some local points of interest and finishing less than two hours later at the VCC club rooms, Founders Park for a cup of tea and further chat.

Car and Boat Show 12th & 13 November *This show has now been cancelled.*

WE will now go to Murchison on the 20th november to present a cheque to the local Fire & Rescue Service to purchase some much needed equipment. Please bring your own food etc for a barbeque lunch.

Annual Christmas Champagne Breakfast 11th December

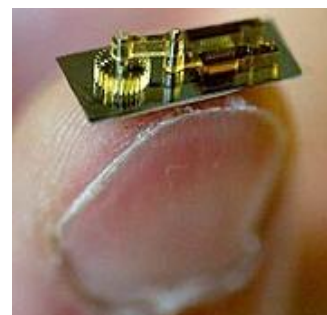
Will be held at the usual venue, Rabbit Island, starting about 9.00am. Bring your own breakfast and barbeques.

Drive to Top House and Lake Rotoiti January 22nd 2012

Pencil in this date as we still have to arrange the details with the people from the Top House establishment

WORLDS SMALLEST PETROL ENGINE

Thanks to Paul Vercoe for this article



SCIENTISTS have built the smallest petrol engine, tiny enough to power a WATCH. The mini-motor, which runs for two years on a single squirt of lighter fuel, is set to revolutionize world technology. It produces 700 times more energy than a conventional battery despite being less than a centimeter. It could be used to operate laptops and mobile phones for months doing away with the need for recharging. Experts believe it could be phasing out batteries in such items within just six years. The engine, minute enough to be balanced on a fingertip, has been produced by engineers at the University of Birmingham. Kyle Jiang, lead investigator from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, said: "We are looking at an industrial revolution happening in peoples' pockets." "The breakthrough is an enormous step forward." Devices which need re-charging or new batteries are a problem but in six years will be a thing of the past." Other applications for the engine could include medical and military uses, such as running heart pacemakers or

mini reconnaissance robots. At present, charging an ordinary battery to deliver one unit of energy involves putting 2,000 units into it. The little engine, because energy is produced locally, is far more effective. One of the main problems faced by engineers who have tried to produce micro motors in the past has been the levels of heat produced. The engines got so hot they burned themselves out and could not be re-used. The Birmingham team overcame this by using heat-resistant materials such as ceramic and silicon carbide.

During a visit to Europe in June Winston and Natalie Williamson took these photos which they thought would be of interest. While walking up the historic cobbled Royal Mile in Edinburgh toward the castle, they encountered a fleet of approximately sixty magnificent Bentleys, which were on the "2011 Britain by Bentley" rally. To see so many beautiful cars from all around the world lined up in such an historic setting was a sight to behold and was being admired by huge crowds.



At the opposite end of the spectrum, in Oslo, Norway. They spotted these amazingly small electric cars. At first they looked as if they were tethered to a post but further inspection revealed it was an electric cord connected to the parking meters.



← "Buddy" built in Norway.
Has a range of 20-60 km and a top speed of 80 kph

"Think" Built in Finland →
Has a range of 160km and top speed of 110kph



Have something for the newsletter, or any suggestions? Please contact the editor, Bruce Welsford
03 544 6818 or email sota@slingshot.co.nz

We are extremely grateful to "HAVEN REALTY" for donating the paper and photocopying the newsletters.



LEGISLATION UPDATE

The following was Published in Issue 9 / March-April 2011 Wheel Torque,

The Newsletter of the NZ Federation of Motoring Clubs

A round up of planned legislative changes that may affect club members:

Demerit points introduced for vehicle registration and license offences. From 1 May 2011, it will be possible for drivers to receive up to 20 demerit points on their license for driving an unregistered or unlicensed motor vehicle.

The introduction of demerits, in conjunction with lower fines, is designed to crack down on vehicle owners who deliberately avoid paying their vehicle license fees. With the cost of licensing some vehicles at over \$600.00 a year, some owners prefer to risk the maximum \$200.00 fine rather than re-license it. With the bulk of the license fee being compulsory ACC levies, the Minister of Transport. Steven Joyce, says it's unreasonable for the majority of motorists to subsidize the accident insurance costs of the minority.

"There is a segment of drivers and motorcyclists who put their vehicle licence on hold while continuing to drive their vehicle as a way of avoiding payment. That's unfair to other law abiding motorists. Demerit points can act as a stronger deterrent than fines, as repeat offenders will face the loss of their drivers licence" says Mr Joyce. The fine for one of the more common offences, failing to display a current licence label, even though the owner may have renewed it but forgot to replace it reduces from \$200.00 to \$75.00, with no demerits.

The new penalties apply only to those tickets served personally by a police officer. The standard \$200.00 fine still applies to infringements issued by parking wardens, who don't have the power to issue driver license demerits. Police will continue to give a person ticketed for the first time with an unlicensed car a two week grace period to license their vehicle, meaning no penalties will apply if they do so within that timeframe.

In another change, owners caught driving a vehicle with its registration on hold will be required to hand in their number plates if they have abused this right in the past. This is to stop owners driving an unlicensed vehicle, in theory because it will be obvious without any plates.

Alternatively, the NZTA could refuse the application to put the registration on hold, meaning they will have to pay. And if they don't, they will incur backdated charges and risk the registration being cancelled after two years.

This new penalty caused some upset in the Classic Car community when the Minister's press release was issued in early April, with some people (including the media) misinterpreting this as applying to everyone who puts their rego on hold. However, it only applies to those who tell N.Z.T.A. they don't plan to use the vehicle for at least 3 months, and are then caught doing so more than once.

The changes to the Penalties are:-

Offence

Current Penalty

Unregistered \$200

No plates affixed \$200

Driving while licence on hold \$200

Unlicensed vehicle \$200

Current licence label not affixed \$200

New Penalty

\$150 plus 20 demerit points

\$150 plus 20 demerit points

\$150 plus 20 demerit points

\$100 plus 15 demerit points

\$75