



January 2026 Issue 1

Vintage Viewpoint Marlborough



Viewpoint is the official publication of the Marlborough Branch of the Vintage Car Club Inc

EVENTS : January

Sun 18th Jan

Motorcycles leave the park at 11am for ride up to the Wairau Valley Tavern.

Sun 18th Jan

Visit a number plate collection, followed by light lunch at Boom Town, Forrest Winery. Meet at the Clubrooms 10.30pm

Fri 30th Jan: Natter & Noggin: Pot Luck

A FULL EVENTS LIST IS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

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Chairman's Report



Hi Team,

Happy New Year to you all and I really hope it is a good year in every way for everyone of our VCC team.

Ten days into January 2026 passed and we have already had two events, our Boxing Day picnic at Kay and Don Registers and although I missed this I understand it was well attended and the weather cleared for a pleasant afternoon. The other event that was also well attended was the BBQ tea at the clubrooms last Sunday evening. Add to that the first committee meeting to keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes.

Let's look forward great participation from members in whatever event Club Capt. Catherine organised for us.

Last Monday we farewelled Stu Johnson. Stu a member who has been part of our team in Marlborough since mid 2000s, Stu passed away suddenly just before Christmas.

Prior to joining our branch he was a long-standing Otago branch member and clocked up 66 years of membership joining the Vintage Car Club in 1959. Stu had owned several veteran, vintage and later model cars and motorcycles in his time. He was a "character" who will be missed at his place at the top table. Our condolences to his wife Barbara and family.

A few of us attended a visit to Omaka with forty early American Ford V8 club cars and their owners. The owners were from all over the country attending a week of events based in Kaikoura. They travelled each day, trips out –and-about the local area and one of which was to visit Blenheim and Omaka Heritage centre. One of the business's opened up their workshops and ran an example of the radial aero engine they build.

We met some very nice people and viewed some very nice cars. This was not a VCC event - just interested Ford owners.

Well that's all for this evening, our first Wednesday opening for 2026 is this week on the 14th.

Keep safe keep well,

Regards Rob



Club Captain's Report



Happy New Year everyone.

Our Boxing Day run to Don and Kaye Registers, Onamatutu looked like a no go with drizzle. However nineteen members arrived out there and the day improved - a most enjoyable outing.

(Our) 4th January event was a BBQ at the Clubrooms but a cool breeze saw us eating indoors. Great to see thirty-five members enjoying a variety of salads and desserts after cooking their meat of choice.

All calendars have been sold, sorry if you missed out, but it is hard getting the numbers just right. Did you notice we have a 39th of January this year !!! Oops.

Heritage Day, our open day at Brayshaw Park is looming - Saturday 7th February. Please get your vehicles ready for display on Patchetts Green, or maybe you could help on the BBQ, kitchen or with parking, don't be shy, getting involved is a great way to meet new members.

Keep an eye on [Coming Events](#) for club outings and let's hope the weather Gods are on our side.

Cath Millar

Boxing Day Picnic 26th Dec 2025



Secretary's Scribblings



Well, here we are into 2026, and things in the Branch are racking up again for another busy year.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year. And are looking forwards to a great year ahead.

We had our first Committee meeting on Wednesday 7th.

From the meeting.

There has been concern for some time about people looking around the Brayshaw Heritage Park, trying locks, peering into buildings and a few break-ins.

Two people this last week have been trespassed from the Park.

One is a 12-year-old by the name of Zac, who has been around for a while and is causing problems. The other is an older chap in an older silver Ute with a black bonnet. If either of these people are seen, we have been advised by the Police to immediately phone 111.

Consequently, when we have our buildings open there needs to be extra vigilance, and when buildings are not manned, they need to be locked. In other words, when the people in the Parts sheds come down for Smoko on a Wednesday, please lock up.

The Museum will need to have custodians sitting in the area where the collections are to keep a closer eye on those who visit. It was also decided that each person visiting needs to be asked for a donation. We did discuss this for a while about putting a figure on this, as they have over the road where they charge a \$15 entry fee but will just ask for a donation and leave it to the custodians to deal with his.

Heritage Day this year is on Saturday 7th February, not the usual 6th.

Please bring your vehicles up for display, and we also need four volunteers to take money at the gate and help with car parking. Each Society is asked to assist for 1 hour.

As you will know by now, over the past couple of months we have been discussing the costs of printing the Vintage Viewpoint. As of this month, you will only get one if your name is on the list. Those on the list who have not paid will not be getting a printed copy. You know who you are, I have been in contact with you all. Currently we will be printing 35 copies each month, down from 80, so this will be a financial saving for the Branch.

I have been going through the membership list AGAIN and contacting people. Some members have changed phone numbers and emails and have not told me. PLEASE, if you have done either of these, please give me a call or send an email so I can update your details with the National office. Also, the list of vehicles many have got is out of date. So, if you have changed these please let me know.

There are still some twelve or so members who have not renewed their subs. Everyone got an invoice in September, either by email or mail, and those who had not paid got another in November. I have also contacted these people twice since then, and some say they had never got notification. I have decided going forward, that if you do not pay on the original invoices you get, I am not going to follow this up, and you will be struck off the list. This usually occurs at the March Executive meeting, but with the new National VCC committee structure this will occur much earlier.

The Branch Constitution that was passed at our AGM in May has been vetted by the National committee, so I am in the process of lodging this with the Incorporated societies registrar. This is not an easy process, and I can understand some societies not going ahead with this. I spent about 4 hours yesterday on just trying to log in and get permission to lodge the document, but you know, it is holiday time.... One would think with internet and emails and computer technology it would be easy. You cannot even put it in the mail these days and send it off like the old days...

I hope you all have a great month of Heritage Motoring. No excuse not to get out in your old cars or bikes during the beautiful warm summer months.

Chris Bird

$$R = (U + C + I) \times \frac{(10-S)}{20} \times A \times \frac{1}{(1 - \sin(F/10))}$$

Blokes in the Shed...

A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes with the intention of continuing to maximise the efficiency of storage, presentation and easy access to the club spare parts.

Materials required for the redesigned shelving units in the No 2 shed are now on site. The fine tuning of the vertical spacings between shelves is well underway following recording the dimensions required to store each of the various components. The following examples will illustrate this.

We have 2 bins of wiper motors at 600L x 430W x 350H and 9 bins of engine valves at 400L x 300W x 140H.

We have 10 piles of clutch pressure plates 250H and with maximum diameter of 350mm and will require 6m of shelf space to store all 137 manifolds in an organised manner.

We do recognise that to get them to actually fit, we may need to call on Arkwright's advice to Granville and j-j-just have to j-j-jiggle them a bit.

Many of us have experienced Sod's Law over the past decades: "anything that can go wrong, will go wrong and at the most annoying moment".

Well, a Psychologist, a Mathematician and an Economist were commissioned by British Gas to put into mathematical terms, a means of calculating a Sod's Law rating value, R, where a high R value indicates a greater likelihood of experiencing Sod's Law. $R = (U+C+I) \times (10 - S)/20 \times A \times 1/(1 - \sin(F/10))$.

We can apply this to pretty much anything we blokes do in the spares emporium - each letter is assigned a number in the range 1- 9, so for us, urgency (U) is always low, complexity (C) is moderate, importance (I) is moderate, skill level (S) is exceptionally high, the degree of aggravation (A) is very low and the frequency (F) varies.

Plugging in suitable values for our operations here with the spares team results in quite a low R value, confirming why none of us can recall a Sod's Law event ever occurring in the spares sheds. Jon is starting the construction of the new shelving very soon. What could possibly go wrong?

nibble

Update from Your Kitchen Custodian



Compliments of the season to you all.

Well 2025 was reasonably busy with the annual fundraisers, car rally's, mid-winter Christmas diners and end of year dinners as well as our monthly natter & noggins, and its looking to be the same for this year.

I would again like to thank those that helped in the kitchen during the year.

On Sunday 4th Cath organised a BBQ at the club rooms, with bring your own meat but also a salad / dessert to share. It was a lovely evening with a great variety of food, enjoyed by all who attended.

To start 2026 off we have fast approaching Heritage Day (Saturday 7th February) in a little over 4 weeks time. This which means I am asking for baking PLEASE. I will be at the club rooms on Friday 6th from 1.30pm if anyone wants to drop of baking, otherwise I will be at club rooms from 8am Saturday morning.

Januarys Natter & Noggin will be a pot luck on Fri 30th Jan. Look forward to see you then.

Cheers from the kitchen crew.

Motorcycle Report



Our last run before Christmas took us around the Queen Charlotte track to Picton for lunch, several added a few extra miles by meeting up with the Nelson Norton club at the Trout, then riding on through to meet up at Picton. Good to see Duncan back out on a bike and Phil on his Triumph.

15 bikes and 17 people took advantage of the good weather with a good mix of bikes. Steve seems determined to make the most of his BMW while work continues on his Norton engine. John kept the BMW theme going by riding his modern through from Picton and around the track, Adrian had the 850 Guzzi and we had our usual number of Triumph and Vincents with Ben flying the flag for the orient on the GPZ.

Last month I mentioned Laurie was reassembling the BSA engine after giving it another birthday, it's pleasing to report it is now going well, so well in fact that after a test run not long afterwards he received a letter from a government department praising how well the BSA was now performing and would he like to make a donation to the consolidated fund, being the congenial person he is Laurie complied and the letter should now be framed and hanging above the work shop bench.

Glen

Motorcycle Calendar

Sunday 18th January

Leave the park at 11am for ride up to the Wairau Valley Tavern.

From the editor

It's the start of a new year and for me it also marks the beginning of some life changes - retirement from full time work later this year, more time caravanning / motorcycle riding and travel with our tour business overseas.

Microsoft has decided that the Publisher will no longer be supported after October this year and as I use it via a Microsoft subscription- it will not be available to use after this date. Rather than seeing this as a setback (I have been producing newsletters and magazines for some 25 years on Publisher; 11 of those the *Vintage Viewpoint*), I see it as a new opportunity. Yes, it is time for me to stand back and as our motorcycle tour business begins to ramp up again, Mac and I are reassessing where we commit our time and energies.

During May - June & August 2026 we will be out of New Zealand, which means *someone* will need to produce (at least) the June edition in my absence. This creates the opportunity for any interested party to put their hand up. I can then pass on what I know and if needed help set up the editing process in a format that may better suit the new Editor, word or similar.

So, I will be standing down as your editor at the next AGM, in preparation for this I am placing this advert **"Editor Wanted"**

We are looking for a member interested in taking on the role of Editor with the full support / training of the current incumbent (if required/ wanted).

The role involves assembling articles and photos, basic layout and editing, and liaising with contributors. Computer skills are helpful, but training and a full handover will be provided.

The time commitment is a 2 - 3 hours each month. This is a great opportunity to shape the future of the newsletter and keep our club connected.

If this sounds like you please give me a call or chat to mac on a Wed morning.

Chris de Wagt - Editor M:021 251 4322



The Brayshaw Park Societies

Heritage Day

7th February 2026

Brayshaw Park 10am - 3pm



Classic & Vintage cars Tractors Motorbikes Go-Karts Stock cars Vintage trucks
Coffee kart Food Tea and Coffee BBQ Train rides to Omaka
Admission donation



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PURCHASING PARTS *from THE SPARES SHED*

Any parts advertised for sale from the Parts Shed are able to be inspected Wed mornings.

Chevrolet

radiator badge selection.

Dodge car radiator surround, circa 1930/31, has a good badge.

Dodge light truck

s/v engine circa 1953/4.

Essex Four

engine and rear axle assembly.

Ford Escort n.o.s.
water pump. **P. O. A.**

Fordson E83W

selection of parts.

Hupmobile

An assorted selection of mid to late 20s Hupmobile mechanical parts

1934 to 1937 International

light truck C1 ?, excellent chassis on powder coated wheels with new tyres, two engines, rear axle, two front axles, drive shaft, fuel tank, front fenders plus other sheet metal and woodwork for patterns, POA.

1930s Morris Minor

Front axle with wheels and bumper

Vintage era steel rear trunk complete with lid and corner fittings etc. Open to offers.

Wolseley 1250cc Engine

complete with after market cast aluminium tappet cover.

MGB 1.800 engines.

One complete and turns over.

1923 Swift tourer project,

car is completely dismantled but is reputed to be complete (no guarantees) POA to custodians.

Editor Required

What's Needed to Take on the Editor Role for the Vintage Viewpoint

- **Interest in the club and its members** – a willingness to tell our stories and share news, events and achievements.
- **Basic computer skills** – confidence using a computer and learning new software or online tools (training and support will be provided).
- **Editing and layout ability** – or the willingness to learn how to assemble articles, photos, and adverts into a finished newsletter.
- **Good communication skills** – with contributors and committee members to gather content.
- **Time commitment** – a few hours each month to compile and produce each edition.
- **Attention to detail** – checking spelling, layout and general presentation before publication.
- **Reliability** – ensuring the newsletter is produced and sent to publisher / email on time.
- **Support available** – a full handover, guidance and ongoing support during the transition period.

Chris de Wagt - Editor M:021 251 4322



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Marlborough BRANCH OFFICERS



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Club Captain : Cath Millar (Kevin)		Gary Vercoe (Sue)	578 8570
Mobile 021 208 9166	579 1147	John Monson (Dot)	578 9044
Assistant to the Club Captain:		Kevin Jackson (Helen)	021 102 8871
Jim McLean (Jean)	021 0257 3069	Keith Thoms (Chris)	020 4193 6671
Secretary: Chris Bird	027 247 1089	Mike Gray (Karen)	027 4303 001
Treasurer:		Peter Able (Lois)	027 200 6976
Geradine (Ged) Haack, (Jon)	027 275 6514	Laurie Stevenson (Elizabeth)	022 417 6341
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Gerry Roodakker, (Jeannine)	022 030 4908	Grounds Administrator	
Dale Nicholas (Bill)	021 0265 7507	Cath Millar (Kevin)	579 1147
Gary Vercoe (Sue)	578 8570	John Russell (Mary)	020 409 77312
Jim McLean (Jean)	021 0257 3069	Jim McLean (Jean)	021 0257 3069
John Russell (Mary)	020 409 77312	Beaded Wheels Scribe	
Model 'A' & 'T' Custodian :		Photographer	
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Electrical		Don Laing (Linda)	027 315 6227
Tiger Lyons (Eileen)	027 2014239	Gerry Roodakker (Jeannine)	022 030 4908
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Librarian: Barry Wilson (Margie)	578 1587	Clubrooms Phone :	578 0616
Museum Manager		Website: www.marlboroughvcc.com	
Ross Broadbridge (Rose)	027 212 2902		

What's on this next month

Sun 7 Feb - Heritage Day, Brayshaw Park

Sun 22 Feb - Fish n Chips. Or takeaway of choice , meet at Shelley Beach, Picton. 5.30pm

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Issue 1 January 2026

Vintage Viewpoint

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