



October 2026 Issue 10

Heritage Motoring Marlborough



What's inside this month: Officer Reports, Trials photo's, Rufus, Gary Vercoe, Shed visit & Members photos and much more

The Heritage Motoring Marlborough (formally Vintage Viewpoint), is the official publication of the Marlborough Branch of the Vintage Car Club New Zealand Inc.

This Month's Events

16th – 17th October 2026 — Biennial Rally, Donegal House, Kaikoura.

30th October 5pm – 8pm — Natter and Noggin Pot Luck.

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Welcome to our newest members:

Bruce and Esther McIntosh, St Arnaud, Transfer from Far North.

Paul Johnson, Blenheim, 1914 Swift, 1914 Triumph m/c. Paul is the son of the late Stewart Johnson.

CLOSE-OFF for Heritage Motoring Marlborough: 7.30pm Friday following the Wed meeting, 1st Wed each month.

Email: mvcc7201@gmail.com

BRANCH PO BOX 422 BLENHEIM — Heritage Motoring Marlborough — Email: Marlborough@vcc.org.nz

Chairman's Chatter for September 2026



September 23rd saw Rosie and I return from 5 busy weeks in Europe. True to say first week back was muddled and couldn't get motivated. We visited 7 Countries, had 8 plane rides, 6 ferry rides, 14 train rides, 4 long bus tours, 7 taxi rides (not 1 driver I would employ!), 5 small walking groups and stayed in 12 different Hotels. Interesting to hear first-hand how Norway, Denmark and Sweden are worried about Russia invading one day. They all have huge oil reserves. My favourite place was Switzerland with it's very polite people, clean streets and stunning scenery. Glacier Express and Bernina Express trains were a highlight travelling over Swiss Alps with multiple tunnels longest of which was 24 kms. Great trip away but returned in knowledge that we live in a safe wonderful little piece of paradise.

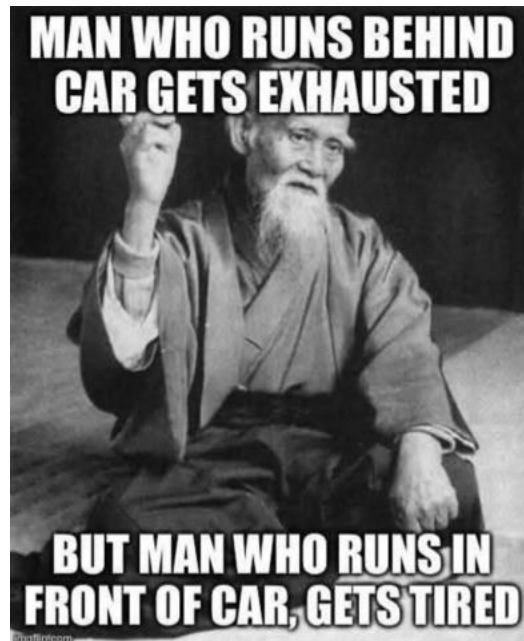
Congratulations to Phil Taylor who is now Marlborough Prostate Cancer Support Co Ordinator. A voluntary role that involves time – first Tuesday meetings, fitness classes on Mondays and Wednesdays. Unfortunately, I am sure we all know someone affected by this.

Our Annual subscriptions are a major talking point. Head Office propose to increase them by \$30 for main Members and \$10 for joint Members. This motion has been rejected unanimously by our Committee and over 80 Members. We believe that savings can be made in 'Beaded Wheels' magazine and its distribution. Cost of running National Daffodil Day seems excessive also. The carpentry team are in process of concreting a new ramp at rear of kitchen door. This was a Health & Safety issue that needed dealing with. I am sure end result will be a master piece.

Friday 25th September was first ever Multi – Cultural night held along Beavertown shop fronts. Massive crowds attended. Over flow car parking was on Patchetts Green. A Committee Member reported area was left in pristine condition.

On Wednesday 7th October, at our normal morning tea, we had our presentation to Cancer Society from profits of Daffodil Day held on Sunday 23rd August. This year's profit (\$6805) is down on last 2 years but expected in light of general economy and inclement weather. Visitors at the presentation included Pippa from Cancer Society, 5 members of Wood workers Guild, who built chair that was raffled, and Stephen Overton from McKendry Ford. Next year Chris, our hard-working Secretary, is to stand down from overseeing the organising of Daffodil Day activities. Perhaps a non-Committee Member could fill this gap. Talk to Chris about this important role if you would like to contribute and join existing team.

Our Bi Annual Rally is Friday 16th – Saturday 17th this Month being held in Kaikoura with Donegal House as base camp. Sure to be lots of fun. If you are not heading south and desire a short motor in your vehicle Renwick Sports Ground is the venue for Festival of Wheels on Sunday 18th. Entrance and exit is Blinks Road, be parked by 10.30a.m. Leave after 2p.m. Cost is \$5 per vehicle.



Club Captain's Report



Not a lot to report on this month. I think after the daffodil day car show we are all burnt out; however, we did have a good turnout for our run to Daryl Brighthouse collection of cars on the way to Havelock. He had taken his collection of mainly British cars out of the sheds and they looked most impressive out in the sun. A nice afternoon outing.

A few of us answered the invitation to join the Radio Club at Ten Pin Bowling on Thursday evening. Despite the sore shoulders, stiff finger joints and wonky knees we all had fun, thanks Don for organising that.

We have good numbers for the Biennial Rally, 16 and 17 October, this year at Kaikoura, so more from that event next month.

Capri Club will be using our grounds 24th and 25th October

Keep Well, Cath Millar

This Month's Photo's - Shed Visit 13-09-2026



Secretary's Scribblings



October 2026.

Well, the Spring/Summer Heritage motoring season is well underway, with me along with 45 other Ford Model A enthusiasts congregating in Greymouth a couple of weeks ago for International Ford Model A Day. A great rally, even though it rained and sometimes bucketed down on the Saturday Rally Day. I did something like 1040 kms, used 180 Liters of fuel but had a great weekend, after which I motored over Arthurs Pass to visit my son, daughter in law and two granddaughters who are farming near Oxford, then back home a few days later up SH1, which wasn't too bad a run.

Then in a week we have the Biennial Rally based in Kaikoura with 32 cars participating.

Our travellers have returned to the country, and our full Committee is back to normal and on track.

Our Patron, Trevor Harris has been unwell recently and has had treatment in Christchurch and we wish him well for a swift recovery.

From our monthly Committee meeting.

We presented Pippa from the Cancer Society with \$6805 being the proceeds from the Daffodil Day Vehicle show in August.

Work is continuing around the grounds with the area inside the Compound having gravel laid and compacted to level the area. Also, there is a new concrete path being put in outside the kitchen door as Dale had a wee whoopsie a couple of weeks ago, so this is to make the area safer for our members.

After much discussion, and earlier presentations to over 80 members it was decided that the Branch would not approve the increase of Subscriptions of \$30 for main members and \$10 for joint members.

There needs to be a deep dive into the VCC finances and budgets to see where savings can be made.

Many members say the cost of Beaded Wheels is out of control, especially postage, and the sooner it is available online the better, and those who wish to have a printed copy and posted to them pay extra for this.

The cost of running the Daffodil Day event seems to be excessive, with the year to date being \$13,293 this year and a budgeted figure of \$25,000. The comment was made, how many new members did the club obtain for this expenditure, with this divided by the new member fee of \$130, being 192 new members. How many actually joined?

It was moved that Marlborough Heritage Motoring reject the proposed increase.

We could accept a \$10 increase as long as work was done to see where saving could be made.

It was also discussed that cash reserves should be used to cover any shortfall in the interim as long as a deep dive was done on the financials and budget to see where savings can be made. After all, these reserves belong to all members. Possibly this needs to be made by someone outside the current National Committee as we felt there is a conflict of interest there as this committee approved the increase being voted on, so possibly will not be looking too hard for saving.

We have also asked Andy Fox, our Regional Representative that we be informed of the outcome of the vote, and how each individual branch has voted.

This information has been sent to him, so now we await the outcome of the vote to be held by the National Committee on 15th October.

Have a great month of Heritage motoring.

Presenting the cheque to the Cancer Society





Biennial Rally — Entry Form

16th to 17th OCTOBER

2026

Entry Form

Entries Close 7th October 2026

Email to: marlborough@vcc.org.nz

Entrants Name			
Entrants Address			
Town/City		PostCode	
Telephone		Cell phone	
Email			
Navigator's Name			
Other Passengers			
VCC Branch		Membership No.	
Vehicle-Make		Year	
Model		Registration No	

FEES			
Rally Entry Fee	Per Vehicle	Includes Plaque	\$50
Friday N&N	Per Person Please indicate		Own cost
Saturday Dinner	Per Person	 X \$45	\$
		TOTAL	\$

Payment	Internet	Account 03 0599 0246604 01 Vintage Car Club--Marlborough Include Vehicle Registration Number as Reference

Update from your Kitchen Custodian



Gosh we are now on the countdown to Christmas, it's hard to believe that it is only about 10 more Wednesday get togethers. September was again another quite month, but we are starting to think about the Christmas functions coming up. Natter and Noggin was another fun night with plenty of variety of desserts. We have a couple of members pass away over the last month Roger Larsen and Bruce Matthews; it was Bruce's wish to have an afternoon tea at the club rooms which was held Thursdays (8th). I would like to thank everyone that gave us their Smeg coupon from New World we have now got a good selection of good knives.

Natter and Noggin for October will be a pot luck on Friday 30th. Keep well, enjoy the spring weather and see you at the natter & noggin.

Cheers from the kitchen ladies.

The things they say about cars and driving! modern Motor 1978

In the early days people were flabbergasted when somebody drove at 25 km/h – they still are!

Nothing improves a person's driving than a police car right behind them!

A woman driver is a person who drives the same way as a man – only she gets blamed for it.

The more parking places you provide, the more cars will come along to fill them. It is like feeding pigeons.

If you want to let the world go by, just drive within the speed limit.

Love me, love my car!!

The Blokes in the Shed...

The NZ takahe was thought to be extinct, with the last recorded sighting in 1898 until it was rediscovered in 1948, some 50 years later. We too, continue to rediscover ancient items, some unseen for 50 years, as we delve into the undisturbed bowels of the compound. Amongst these were some excellent 1920's radiator tanks, happily already carefully labelled "Studebaker", some Whippet parts identified by a solitary hubcap, an excellent 1950's Jaguar boot lid and a rather strange pair of two main bearing, 4 cyl sv engine blocks, together with a set of four pistons and rods that fitted them perfectly.

Cast on these blocks was a very unusual emblem which our local Singer expert recognised to be the "three smoking chimneys", indicating they had been produced in Coventry, U.K. It transpired that what we had was two Coventry Climax engine blocks. Further confirmation occurred when Tris compared these motors with a complete Coventry Climax motor located in a different part of the compound.

They were designed to power water pumps and generators for the British Ministry of Defence back in the 1950's. Coventry Climax also produced the ohc engines that were later developed into light but powerful Formula 1 racing engines of the 1950's.



Talking of formulas, I had to resort to using the old RAC horsepower formula to help us more precisely identify an old block with the word "Austin" cast into it. We knew it wasn't an Austin Seven, but could have been an 8 or 10 or even 12. A careful count of the cylinders, together with a bore measurement proved to be the key to unlocking the identity.

For those of us interested in History and Maths, here are some more facts to ponder. Back in 1910, an RAC horsepower rating formula was developed in the U.K. to allow the annual Road Tax payable to be established. The higher the hp, the greater the annual tax. The formula was rather crude and made three assumptions; - that the mean piston speed was 1000 ft/min

- that the mean cylinder pressure was 90 psi

- that the mechanical efficiency was 75%

$$\text{hp} = (\text{D squared} \times \text{n}) / 2.5$$

where D is the bore size in inches and n is the number of cylinders. While stroke didn't come into it, piston speed and rpm tended to balance each other out anyway, with longer stroke tending to have lower rpm.

For our 4 cyl Austin block, the bore was 2.5 inches so we could calculate the hp leading us to conclude we had an Austin 10 motor. Interestingly, a six cylinder motor with the same bore would be 15hp. Over time, mean piston speed more than doubled, mean piston pressure and mechanical efficiency also increased, so the hp actually delivered was much more than what the old formula indicated, but the Govt still collected its tax. Some cars were identified by two numbers - the RAC hp and the actual brake hp achieved. eg Wolseley 16/60.

Other actions and activities have been occurring. Much timely sorting of stock within the green shed in the compound has been started with varying degrees of enthusiasm by Grant, Rick, Murray and Gerry. Work on the roller door on that shed is underway to make it operable again.

Mac has almost finished on the brake liners and shoes. All timing chains have been inspected, identified and recorded by Gary, with many stretched and worn ones now discarded. Fuel tanks have been numbered, photographed, measured, and stored. After having the glass and other internals removed by Peter and Dale in the workshop, some severely corroded doors have been assigned to the skip. The club tractor has no handbrake facility, and on the undulating and sloping surfaces of the compound, this was proving to becoming a safety issue as we relocated the many laden pallets of motors and other heavy items. Consequently, truckloads of AP20 gravel have now been spread by the tractor using a robust pallet wedged onto the forks. This has significantly improved the safety by

providing a level working area. After eliminating those blokes with false teeth, pacemakers and artificial joints, it was left to Grant to operate the plate compactor on the gravel.



There is now a good surface and plenty of room for a pétanque tournament. The corrugated iron gates are now much better secured with the placement of a concrete post laid horizontally to allow the anchor pin to drop into a stable and secure hole. Some high viz warning tape has been placed to warn of several trip hazards in within the sheds.

We continue to look for creative ways to improve our ability to arrange, access, identify, record and store this immense amount of diverse good stock. This will be a work in progress, potentially for decades. Let's hope our collective bloke horsepower endures untaxed. nibble

Motorcycle Report October 2026



The Horoata swap meet was well attended by the local motorcyclists, Ben was reduced to tears not long after walking through the gate, after spending a small fortune restoring and painting his Honda tank only to have it leak and need resealing a second time, he found a mint one and bought it for a pittance spending the rest of the day lamenting the fact it was a year to late. Most returned home with something for their project, a Triumph frame and Harley cases were seen disappearing into a van, a Royal Enfield owner was seen wandering around with a leather satchel maybe to be sacrificed for a tool roll? but the award for effort of the day would have to go to Les Price and son who got up at 3 in the morning drove down for the day and home again, I hope they found something for their effort.

A reminder that entries for the national motorcycle rally in Timaru next February close on the 7th of November so if you're thinking of entering it would be a good

idea to get an entry form and get it in, at this stage a rough count has 10 locals going.

Restorations seem to be progressing, albeit slowly in some quarters, 2 partially restored bikes have changed hands locally and one restored bike purchased that I know of, by the time the newsletter is out the Christchurch swap meet will be done and dusted and hopefully some much needed parts found or excess sold.

Motorcycle Calendar

Sunday the 18th October

Leave the park at 11am for a ride to Kekerengu



Vintage Car Club of New Zealand — 30th National Motor Cycle Rally

Mark this in your calendar for 2027 and start looking at bookings for the ferry and accommodation.

VENUE: Timaru — Headquarters at Phar Lap Raceway

DATES: 12, 13, 14 February 2027 with a 4-day Hub rally to follow

ACCOMMODATION: Wide range in the Timaru area. Book early please.

Designated camping area (for self-contained vehicles only), for the duration including the hub rally. Booking on your entry form — book early.

Entry forms will be distributed in May 2026 and be available online.

Enquiries to: 2027natmcrrally@gmail.com — Phone Alistair on 0272025007

Marlborough Trials Photos

Photographer: Ian (Mac) McKercher



Marlborough Trials Photos

Photographer: Chris Bird



Rufus - Nibble

Rufus, in rat heaven has sent this story describing the last moments of his life.

Hello, my name is Grandpa Rufus, the rat. Last night I was enthusiastically initiating my breeding program when I was captured by the feline tiger of Battys Road and taken to a nice warm human's house.

The tiger played with me but I managed to hide behind a heater until at 2.30am, the male human discovered me and the chase began.

The human grabbed me whilst on the stairs but in desperate defense, I managed to bite his little pinky finger.



He promptly released me and applied first aid 🚑. I again managed to hide from all and sundry.

At 7.45am, the Green Berets had recommenced the search for me.

I was discovered behind the female human's davenport furniture and now the opponent's team had been reinforced by a white ball of fluff identifying as a dog!

Well, the chase began. I hid under a recliner chair, was sniffed out, but escaped to behind the TV. Then I climbed up a window in the conservatory to go back to the lounge and finally managed to mount my defense on the stairs.

Harassed by the tiger, white fluff and the male human, and now cornered, I stood on my hind legs and screeched at the marauders, but to no avail. After a medal earning, courageous fight, I said farewell to my prolific progeny.

The male human applied the coup-de-grace, while the female human appeared from the table where she had sought refuge.



Gary Vercoe - OUR GROWING FAMILY OF HERITAGE VEHICLES

My restoration career started with restoring several early Spanish motocross/scramble motorbikes. I then decided because of various hip and knee problems to move up to four wheelers. I got offered a 1935 Morris eight by a relation in ASHBURTON. upon inspection it turned out to be a bit of a mess, lights shot out, no windscreen not to mention the body rust inside eaten out by rats etc. On arrival in Blenheim on a car transported the driver said, you'll never restore this thing mate. I spent the next six or so years toiling on it, as well as still working fulltime. Its first outing was in the 2015 Morris eight national rally held in Blenheim. At this stage my grandson Cade, who had been my righthand man helping, came with me on the rally, along with Bill Nicholas, and Murray Bown in their Morris eights One of the stops on rally was a visit to Basis in Renwick, where Cade spied out the back ab Austin 1300, needing a bit of loving attention. We agreed a price with Antony to purchase it for Cade, then set about getting it mobile, Cade joined the VCC as a member, then fourteen years of age. THEN THE ROT SET IN? Cade and his father Richard became 1100/1300 bmc fans. Now we have a collection of these cars three Rileys, four MG s, a WOLSELEY and a MG MIDGET sports car. Richard and wife Angela purchased a house nearby and put a large shed on it, which we have managed to fill with our treasures.



My brother in laws Lesters Fiat 500. My 1935 Morris 8, Cades 1962 MG Midget, Richards Wolseley 1971 1300 auto and my 1966 Riley 1100

Awaiting restoration Richards Mg 1100
Cades Riley 1300 and his 1960s Riley Elf



Member's Photos

Photos by: Graham Wiblin September Natter and Noggin Pot Luck Dessert





Got a photo to share? Contact Linda at: mvcc7201@gmail.com

Last but not least of our trophy winners 2026



Geradine (Ged) Haack receiving the Ladies trophy

From Margie Wilson:

Grandmothers (written by an 8 year old boy).

A grandmother is a women who has no children of her own, so she loves the boys and girls of other people.

Grandmothers have nothing to do, they only have to be there.

If they take you for a walk, they go slowly past beautiful leaves and caterpillars.

They never say "Come along quickly" or "Hurry up for goodness sake".

They are usually fat but not too fat to do up my shoelaces.

They wear spectacles and sometimes take out their teeth.

They can answer any questions like "why do dogs hate cats and why is God not married".

When they read to us they never leave anything out. They do not mind if it is always the same story. Everyone should have a grandmother especially those who don't have a television.

Grandmothers are the only grownups who have plenty of time.

Brayshaw Park News

Brayshaw Park now has it's own website.

You can check it out here:

<https://brayshawheritagepark.nz/>

Let your friends know and help boost the likes.

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2027 SOUTH ISLAND NATIONAL



26th - 29th March 2027

Edgar Centre in Portsmouth Drive, Dunedin

FRIDAY

Registration with Noggin and Natter, at the Edgar Centre

SATURDAY MORNING (ALL DAY)

Rally - non-competitive.

SUNDAY MORNING (ALL DAY)

Timed rally followed by field tests.

Prize giving at the Edgar Centre.

MONDAY MORNING

Morning tea at the Clubrooms before departing home

Parts shed will be open.



For details contact Nicola
otago@vcc.org.nz



The Southern Backroad Adventures
Optional after tour for pre 1932 vehicles

For information and entry forms / contact Nevin at easttaieri@yahoo.com.

The Otago Branch of the Vintage Car Club of NZ presents....
The 2027 Southern Backroad Adventure.
Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th March,
(immediately following the National Easter Rally)



This overnight rally for pre-1932 vehicles, showcases Otago's amazing back road scenery. Leaving Mosgiel's 'Black Sheep Restaurant' at 9.00 am, we will make our way to Clyde, stopping for lunch at Roxburgh.

Dinner will be at the Post Office Cafe and Bar at 4 Blyth Street Clyde, however entrants are free to dine elsewhere if they prefer. Please book your own Clyde accommodation as early as possible. Alexandra is only 8 kms away and is a great alternative if Clyde accommodation is tight.

Tuesday's lunch stop will be at Ranfurly.

For an entry form or more info, email easttaieri@yahoo.com or contact Nevin Gough 0211150312 afternoons or evenings.



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Motorbike up to 2m	\$65	\$70
Car/Van/Ute/Trailer up to 5.5m	\$150	\$154
Extra Length each 0.5m	\$39	\$39

**Peak Fares apply for travel on 15 December 2026 to 31 January 2027 and Easter weekend 25 to 30 March 2027.*

For Terms and Conditions, please see VCC website

After minimal communication from the Interislander over the renewal of discounted fare rates that finished on 15 December 2025, the Club has made the decision to work exclusively with Bluebridge as our preferred ferry provider.

Bluebridge have provided competitive pricing for Club members for the period 1 November 2026 – 31 October 2027. This document can also be found on our website under

The Interislander has discounts available for AA members, NZMCA members and Gold card holders as outlined on their website under Deals and offers.

Kind regards,

Linda Duffell

Office Administrator

The Vintage Car Club of New Zealand Incorporated

The Historic Vehicle Authority of New Zealand

Ph: 03 366 4461

Please note National Support Office hours are Monday – Friday 9.30am – 1.30pm. 20

Purchasing Parts from the Spares Shed

Any parts advertised for sale from the Parts Shed are able to be inspected Wednesday mornings. Contact: Tris Winstanley — M: 0274440834

Item	Description
Austin 16/6, circa mid 1920's	A variety of parts including: complete rear axle, gearbox, wire wheels, steering column box etc.
Dodge light truck	s/v engine circa 1953/4.
MGB 1.8 engines	One complete and turns over.
Essex Four	Engine.
Hupmobile	An assorted selection of mid to late 20s Hupmobile mechanical parts.
Austin 12/4 tourer, circa mid 1920's	Rolling chassis — most parts appear to be there. Wooden body parts only usable for patterns. This is not a project for the faint hearted.
Morris Eight parts, 1936/1938	Large quantity — including a four door body and chassis.
Fordson E83W	A selection of parts.
1930s Morris Minor	Front axle with wheels and bumper.
Vintage era steel rear trunk	Complete with lid and corner fittings etc. Open to offers.
1923 Swift tourer project	Car is completely dismantled but is reputed to be complete (no guarantees). POA to custodians.

For Sale

De Soto 1929 — Excellent restored condition.

Chevrolet Coupe 1936 — Excellent restored condition. Reluctant sale as owner no longer able to drive these cars. Will be sold with new WOF and Rego. Phone John: 0221200670

Wanted

Rubber window seal(s) for the fixed rear side windows on a 1963 Austin A60 Cambridge, Countryman. I would also be interested in any other vehicle parts for this model that may be available. Also Austin A40 as well as A60 window seals. Contact Lyndon on 021 0722 879.

Wanted — Motorcycle Lift

Contact: Murray Lewis — 021 0270 4373



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Marlborough Branch Officers



Patron: Trevor Harris	578 4142	Don Laing (Linda)	027 315 6227
ChairPerson: Ross Broadbridge (Rose)	027 212 2902	Gary Vercoe (Sue)	578 8570
Club Captain : Cath Millar (Kevin)		Kevin Jackson (Helen)	021 102 8871
Mobile 021 208 9166	579 1147	Keith Thoms (Chris)	020 4193 6671
Assistant to the Club Captain:		Mike Gray (Karen)	027 4303 001
Jim McLean (Jean)	021 0257 3069	Laurie Stevenson (Elizabeth)	022 417 6341
Secretary: Chris Bird	027 247 1089	Rick Gleeson	021 085 09253
Treasurer:		Kitchen Custodian :	
Geradine (Ged) Haack, (Jon)	027 275 6514	Dale Nicholas (Bill)	021 02657 507
Committee		Grounds Administrator	
Gerry Roodakker, (Jeannine)	022 030 4908	Cath Millar (Kevin)	579 1147
Dale Nicholas (Bill)	021 0265 7507	John Russell (Mary)	020 409 77312
Gary Vercoe (Sue)	578 8570	Jim McLean (Jean)	021 0257 3069
Jim McLean (Jean)	021 0257 3069	Beaded Wheels Scribe	
Don Laing (Linda)	021 315 6227	Photographer	
Rob Galloway (Adelle)	578 2395	Linda Laing (Don)	021 09054895
Model 'A' & 'T' Custodian :		E: lindylaing@gmail.com	
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Tris Winstanley	027 444 0834	Brayshaw Park Admin Delegates	
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Gerry Roodakker (Jeannine)	022 030 4908	Gerry Roodakker (Jeannine)	022 030 4908
Mac McKercher (Chris)	021 266 4966	Branch Spokesperson	
Electrical		Ross Broadbridge (Rose)	027 212 2902
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Bill Nicholas (Dale)	027 578 4322		

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Further Down the Track

Nothing pending at this time.



**MARLBOROUGH BRANCH
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