



November 2025 Issue 11

Vintage Viewpoint Marlborough



Xmas Noggin & Natter



EVENTS : December

Sunday 14th December : Motorbikes leave the park at 11 am for a ride to The Waitohi Auckland St Picton via the Queen Charlotte track.

Fri 26th December : Boxing Day Picnic BYO at D & K Registers property - 33 Briggs Road, Onamalutu

Sun Jan 4th - New Year BBQ, Harris Glade, 5.30pm. Bring own meat and a Salad and Dessert to share. If wet, inside Clubrooms.

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

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WANTED

YOUR PHOTOS & ARTICLES

Your newsletter needs photos
- if you have any from the runs or morning tea's / nog-gin' n natter *please*

send them to the Editor

vintage.viewpoint@xtra.co.nz

If you are unable to send via email / OR talk to Mac

CLOSE-OFF for the VINTAGE VIEWPOINT
is 7.30pm Friday following the Wed meeting 1st Wed each month.
Email: vintage.viewpoint@xtra.co.nz

VINTAGE CAR CLUB MARLBOROUGH
BRANCH PO BOX 422 : BLENHEIM
E: Marlborough@vcc.org.nz



Chairman's Report



Hi Friends,

I've heard it said many time " The older you get the faster time goes"

Or " Being retired I seem to be busier the I ever was when working".

I guess that goes for all of us but for me the days weeks just seem to disappear and here we are with Christmas looming upon us, where did 2025 go?

As a branch we have done much this year and achieved a lot. We have had many good outings, events & meals etc, our various departments are operating well and everyone seems to be happy. The buildings and grounds are also looking great. Again, well done to all involved in running and maintaining these areas.

November 7-9 the Coast to Coast rally was run from Blenheim to Hokitika and very well organised by Joanne Hoffman of Nelson Branch.

Chris Bird, Kevin Millar and myself squeezed into Chris's Model A phaeton along with our gear, food, spares etc and joined the forty-five other vehicles on this tour. A very good enjoyable trip was had by all (most) of the hundred people involved, I say most because, after a very short distance through the Molesworth, participant's soon learned to turn their mind off to the thick dust, the potholes, rocks, fords and in my case possibly the lack of a good operational shock absorber on the rear left of Chris's car.

However the scenery, the brilliant weather, and fun visiting places we had never been before, the friendship of all the other entrants from far and wide made up for any discomforts .

We camped one night in Hanmer and after a good shower and meal in town, being the youngest of the three I was directed to the "Top Bunk", but I'm happy to report it was a good nights sleep and neither Kevin or Chris snored.

Kevin (or Catherine) came to the party as Kevin had us well fed in the camp cookhouse before departing for the second gruelling day over even worse roads through the Rainbow. However as I said the many positives of the trip through such vast often barren or lush or native bush clad areas made for an enjoyable trip.

We baled out at the top of Wairau valley and returned to base, NO not because the Model A gave any trouble or conked out, it was just arranged that we would not continue on the third day from Murchison to Hokitika. I'm sure that part of the trip would have been most enjoyable to and those that continued had a great time.

Maybe next time....

For me it was an enjoyable trip, to the scenery I'd never seen before and meeting a lot of new people and really yes, we \ had a great time.

Further in this magazine there is a report by Ryan Winterbottom.

Ryan is a young guy from Auckland who was participating in the rally with his family but due to car problems they were unable to continue in the Vanguard but did it in a loaned Ford Focus and yes that car survived the trip well.

Ryan is heading off and entering Special Olympics in Christchurch in January . His sports are swimming, bowling and I can't recall the third sport, maybe golf. Anyway Ryan enjoyed the coast to coast immensely so he has written his own report on it. Well done for your effort mate.

We also wish him all the best in his events at the special Olympics.

Well that's all for this year.

Don't forget the Boxing Day run to Onamalutu.

Keep well, Keep Safe and Merry Christmas to you all.

Cheers Rob.



Club Captain's Report

Last month was rather busy and started with fifty Latin Cars from Christchurch on Patchetts Green receiving a BBQ Lunch. A big thanks to all that helped at the event.

Our branch run to Marfells Beach saw a good turnout, weather was great and plenty of shade for the cars and picnic chairs. After lunch the groups were given some challenges. The ladies were asked to decorate a saucer of sand and the Men were asked to make a boat from a few vege's and some screens. While the Ladies cleaned up the beach, as well as getting items for their arrangement, the Men got to work with knives replicating boats they could only dream of owning. All efforts were amazing. Thank you judge Paula.

Our last Natter and Noggin was also well attended. Between meal courses members were given a quiz sheet, kindly produced by Helen. You could hear a pin drop while the thinking took over. Top honour's went to Barry.

BOXING DAY - Don and Kaye Register have kindly offered their property for a BYO picnic lunch site. So if you have nothing else on, make your way to 33 Briggs Road, Onamalutu. This is the second side road on your right on the Onamalutu Road. Near the domain. Look for our VCC sign.

NEW YEAR - Let's welcome the New Year on Sunday 4th January at 5.30pm at our own Clubrooms/Harris Glade with a BBQ get-together. BYO meat and a Salad and Dessert to share. If Wet we will still get together in the Clubrooms (Redman Room)

Cheers

Cath Millar



A wonderful day out to Marfells Beach !

Thank you Club Captain Cath for organising it.

And for presenting us with a challenge for the boys to make a boat out of a bag of objects she gave us and a plate handed to the girls so that they had to head to the beach for the sand to make a sand garden while the boys took advantage of the peace and quiet to design and build a boat without interruption and advice!

Special thanks to the Team that took out first prize:

Comprising: Jake's overseers Ltd, Bird's boat builder company, Frew's engineering and Haack Designers Incorporated that came up with a superb craft (all other teams were left in the wake) which the rights for production have been sold to Team New Zealand. All proceeds will be returned to the Marlborough VCC.

The best Sand garden? Who knows and who took any notice anyway ? It was only a distraction so the "boys" could get on with "Man" stuff.

John Haack

Photo's : John Haack and Cath Millar





Secretary's Scribblings



We are now only 3 weeks till Christmas, so on behalf of your Committee I wish you all well for the festive season and the new year.

This last week I have been following a dot on a computer website, Godzone Adventure Race which has been around Marlborough this year, which started last Thursday. My son, who normally competes, was support Crew for Team 1, Macpac this year and he and my granddaughter were at the end / start place for each of the 7 stages, over the 600+ length of the route over the past 6 days. Started on the water at Ngakuta bay, followed with a bike ride and then the longer of the stages were a trek around the mountains in the Avon Valley, 50kms for 39 hours, from there a mountain bike of 144ks up the Waihopai Valley, through Glazebrook Station, over the top to Molesworth, then the Rainbow road. Another 39 hours, a pack raft section down the Wairau river to then a walk through the Richmond ranges to Butchers Flat, to 26 hours, a short bike ride to the Pelorus river and a pack raft / kayak / trek around the sounds out to Titirangi, then to Kenepuru Head and to Picton. Took them to 11 am Thursday to complete although they became unranked when one of the team pulled out as she had cracked a rib on an early bike leg . Whew, they are nuts!!!!

From our committee meeting on Wednesday.

There was further discussion about the need for members who wished to receive the Vintage Viewpoint printed copy which you all had notification last month.

Only six of you have contacted me about getting a hard copy, so from next month we will only be printing copies for those of you who are not on email and those who have requested a copy. Along with copies for the companies who advertise with us who have always had a hard copy. If you want a hard copy, please let me know so we can invoice you for the amount required. This also includes all those who get a posted copy, with postage at \$35 per year. If I have not contacted you, please give me a call or email me ASAP.

There are a number of members who have not paid their subscription for the year. If you have not paid, you will not receive the Vintage Viewpoint or the Beaded Wheels from January. Please renew your Sub forthwith.

The kitchen has been very busy catering for Christmas functions. The chiller has been playing up so the decision has been made to replace this which is in process, and we have sourced this from Herkt Appliances, supporting a local business.

There was a discussion on a proposal from the blokes in the sheds for the redesigning on the layout of shelving in the Number two shed. This has been accepted by the committee, so there will be work ongoing in this shed for the next few months.

On our last run to Marfell's beach Club Captain Cath picked up the defibrillator to take with us. She noticed that someone had cut the shoulder strap on the bag, and we wonder who would do something like this and why?

The last smoko for **2025 will be Wednesday 17th December**

The first smoko for **2026 will be January 14th, 2026.**

I hope you have a great Christmas break and enjoy your Heritage Motoring over the period.

Chris Bird

New Member:

Murray Gleeson.

Welcome along Murray, and please to see you at Smoko's and working in the Parts Shed.

Blokes in the Shed...



"Weights and Measures" - a lot of activity on these two matters has occurred recently. As engine parts have accumulated over the past decades, they have been allocated various places in the sheds. Then each new arrival has been placed on the relevant pile, adding both weight and volume. Happily, the identity of the vehicle was sometimes recorded on the part as well.

Since most of us would have been exposed, in our younger days, to the imperial system, let's work in feet ('), inches ("), pounds (lb), stone and hundred weight (cwt) while we explore some storage issues. Recall that 1 cwt is 112 lb and a stone is 14 lb. We have become increasingly aware of the effectiveness of shelf layout in the Trevor May shed, particularly in regard to accessing parts easily, irrespective of the weights involved. Now in the No. 2 shed, a couple of the shelves are between 5'11" and 6'8" wide by 13'8" long which is great for storage but less so for access and organisation.

If you can imagine one hundred and thirty one water pumps weighing anywhere between 5 lb and 15 lb each and stored in 4 fish bins under the shelves, each bin would weigh on average 320 lb for a total weight of nearly 12 cwt or over 90 stone. The one hundred and thirty seven manifolds weigh anywhere between 5 lb (Ford 10) and 48 lb (Chrysler Valiant). These were all stored in one big pile taking up half a large shelf and weighing a total of roughly 19cwt or nearly a ton. For some reason, nobody has ever been observed rummaging through the pile of manifolds looking for the Fiat 125 one at the bottom. They, along with us, wouldn't have even known we had one. You get the drift.

Our club committee has now approved the redesign and construction of shelving in the No. 2 shed to create three long and narrower shelf units running the length of the building.

Access will be from both sides of each shelf. A considerable amount of construction materials has already been donated and we intend to build these shelves in stages during 2026.

This new design will provide us with improved access, better display and organisation, and a 35% increase in total shelf area. Leonard Bernstein once said, "To achieve great things, two things are needed; a plan and not quite enough time". Well, we blokes have both of those.

Some of the blokes have been making good use of AI - not the sort that sheep, beef and dairy farmers might use, but through the lens of our smart phones. For example, we can take a photo of a dilapidated instrument panel and it immediately shows us other photos of the same make of instrument panel and then tells us it is from a 1960 Wolseley 1500 Mk2. This doesn't work for every item we have, but it has helped us out with identifying some of our stock of spares.

Speaking of artificial, Mac has now added another artificial hip joint to the collection of hips and knee replacements shared amongst some of the blokes. If all these joint replacements could have taken place at the same time, it occurred to me that a good tasty broth could have been made from the discarded components.

Waste not, want not. nibble

nibble



Update from Your Kitchen Custodian

Well here we are the end of another year and I wonder were it has gone. The kitchen has been reasonably busy during the year.



Attendance at our Wednesday morning teas have averaged sixty to sixty-five members most weeks and a successful Heritage Day festival in February, Daffodil Day in August and then monthly natter & noggin last Friday of the month.

There's also been a BBQ for Italian car club, as well as afternoon teas and lunches for different organisations and now we are busy with the 'silly season' lunches / dinners.

A HUGE THANK YOU to those that have helped, Paula and Janice our chief scone makers on Wednesday mornings, also to Kath, Lois, Helen, Janice, Paula, Margie, for the help they have given to help make the functions successful, Also to David our meat carver, Trevor our handy man, Barry the advisor and Bill my supermarket trolley pusher. Again **THANK YOU**.

To the guys that vacuumed the Redmond room on Wednesday mornings. **THANK YOU** this is very much appreciated.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and ALL THE BEST FOR 2026. from the **kitchen gang.**

Focus Coast 2 Coast Tour

We left home from Pukekohe to Taupo on Wednesday night stayed in Uncle Andrew's house in Taupo, the next day which was Thursday morning set off for Taihape had lunch in at Brown Sugar's Café then we set off to Wellington to check in the motel then went to Kate's Place for dinner next day at the interislander sailing for Friday morning then Picton to Blenheim then to Brayshaw Park for Meet and Greet to collect our rally packs and filled up our bottles with sea water.

Saturday morning back at Brayshaw Park to start the day with the Briefing at 8am then over Taylor's Pass, Molesworth to Hamner Springs and went to the Pools and met someone who has a daughter in Special Olympics Rangiora and is coaching the swim team at the National Summer Games in Christchurch then back at the motel to have Fish and Chips for Dinner.

Sunday morning back at the Pools to start the day with hot drinks to kick start the day and the briefing at 8am then we went over the Rainbow road to St Arnauld for ice creams and we went over the Braeburn track to Murchison we stayed in a house called Tui. Had drinks and chips before getting ready for dinner at the Murchison Sport and Recreation Centre.

Monday morning back at the Murchison Sport and Recreation Centre to start the day and the briefing at 8am to travel to Reefton for lunch then over the Ahurua Valley saddle to Hokitika to check in the motel then we went to the beach to deliver our sea water, then we had dinner at Beachfront Hotel to complete the 3 day tour.

Tuesday morning we checked out of the motel and doing the treetops walk, then we had lunch at the batch café in Hokitika. We are now in Reefton we have been travelling the Lewis Pass Road in Murchison now having ice creams we are now in St Arnauld now having a coffee together we are now in Blenheim Cherylea motel had burgers for dinner.

Wednesday morning we checked out of the motel and at Brayshaw Park to look at the Spare Parts Shed and joined in with the Marlborough Branch Meeting had coffee and biscuit with them. We left Brayshaw Park, picked up the Vanguard and now at Just Browsing.

We are now having lunch in Spring Creek we are now arriving in Picton staying at high street motel tonight. We are now in Andrew Long's boat travelling to the Marlborough sounds we have now arrived at the house in Double Cove having burgers for dinner.

Thursday morning went to Toastie Lords to have our breakfast - very good then we went to check in for our ferry crossing which has been delayed an hour not so good!

We are now on the ferry had butter chicken for lunch heading to Wellington then dropping the Vanguard off at Karori Auto Services to be repaired. We are now heading to Kate's Place to store the Vanguard then we will be heading up the north island we stopped at McDonald's in Taihape for burgers for dinner and now heading for home we arrived at home and in bed at 1am early Friday morning.

Tomorrow into the Auckland Branch Motorcycle Meeting.

Sunday morning we went to our cousin's place (Leslie & Wayne Dewhurst) in Seagrove Road to watch the mighty all blacks game in England at 4:10am then having breakfast, then I was back in Pukekohe for a Special Olympics ten pin fun day at 9:30am then I went to swimming for 5pm for nationals training.

Ryan Winterbottom

This report of the Coast to Coast rally is from a Auckland member Ryan Winterbottom, whose whole family entered the rally, including his sister, parents and Grandfather. His grandfather is Norm Dewhurst, I think in his 90s who is a Life member of VCC and was National President years ago. Ryan has a disability and competes in Special Olympics.

The Grape Vine ..



Early Branch Vehicles (Continued from October)

Another survivor from the early days of our branch is Don Registers 1926 Oakland, purchased new by Don's grandfather, it was eventually retired to a shed on the Registers Waikakhoe farm in the 1950's where it stayed until Don and his brothers decided to give it a bit of a refresh and they made contact with the Marlborough Vintage Car Club.

Don is mentioned in branch newsletters as early as 1960 when he would have been a very young teenager. When a committee was formed to organize the 1962 South Island rally young Don was given the official title of Marshalls runner. In the days before cellphones and other types of communication fit young legs were required to carry instructions to rally entrants around the A & P show grounds.

Originally on branch outings the Oakland was used in its unrestored condition with Don doing minor restoration work as his pocket money permitted. It was still showing original patina when he motored it to Timaru for the 1968 National VCC rally. After the rally he took it off the road and carried out restoration which has lasted to the present time. It must have been a good restoration. Talking to him recently Don assured me the Oakland never received Blondies Garter for having a problem on a branch event, that's more than I can say.

For many years the 1928 Ford Model A now owned by Dave Kemp has been a Marlborough branch fixture. Dave believes his A was the first A to be sold in Marlborough. The first owner was The Marlborough Express. After passing through several other owners, it was parked up in a local orchard. It was saved from becoming scrap metal by an early Marlborough branch member Allan Webby, a member in the 1950s – 60s.

Allan returned the A to a presentable condition and when he retired from involvement with the branch the car was owned in turn by two other branch stalwarts, Tony Hansen and Colin White.

Tony and Colin both upgraded the restoration before Dave took ownership and put the finishing touches on the vehicle which became a branch trophy winner. There are two veteran vehicles listed in our branch membership list which have been in branch members ownership dating back to much earlier days. One is the 1914 Saxon (built in Detroit between 1913 and 1920) formally owned by the late Dave MacDonald, an active and popular member in the 1960-70's. I do not know how much motoring Dave done with the Saxon before putting it into storage. There is at least one photo of it with other branch cars in one of the photo albums in our library. The Saxon is now owned by Dave's son Lawrence who has done some restoration on the car.

The other veteran is much better known within the branch. Carol and Graham Wiblins' 1909 Shacht made its appearance in the branch as a trailer load of scrap metal and rotten borer infested wood.

Brian Palmer, who originally took possession of the auto corpse, never plucked up the courage to start a restoration and eventually it found its way into the Wiblin workshop. Miracles do happen and the Shacht has become a familiar sight locally and at Veteran events hosted by other branches.



Probably Dave MacDonalds Saxon & Geddes Campbells Stutz



Motorcycle Report



Eighteen people comprising of fourteen bikes plus pillions and back up took advantage of the ever popular hospitality of the Trout, it would have been fifteen bikes but it was proving difficult to find the owner of the BSA parked in amongst us, turned out the bar manager not only had good taste in owning Triumph's but she also had a soft spot for BSA's.



Laurie extended the mileage on his BSA which has been throwing a few challenges his way all of which he has or is working through and is still managing to retain a sense of humour.

Unfortunately, the midweek ride was cancelled due to rubbish weather hopefully in the new year things will be a bit more settled. We seem to be having more than our fair share of motorcyclists in or visiting hospital at the moment (for non-motorcycling related injuries) so we hope for a speedy recovery for everyone.

Glen



Motorcycle Calendar

Sunday 14th December : Motorbikes leave the park at 11 am for a ride to The Waitohi Auckland St Picton via the Queen Charlotte track.



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**

W.O.F. Frequency Consultation

To ALL Members

You will no doubt be aware that the Government and NZTA are now reviewing all year groups of vehicles for W.O.F. inspection frequency. While we have been successful in getting 40-year-old vehicles on to a one-year W.O.F. our Club caters for any vehicle that is 30 years old. I am sure you all would also like some input into any of your vehicles over 30 years old.

With the last review, by sending members a direct link to the submission page, NZTA saw a record number of replies. I would like to think we can achieve something similar this time.

While only one question relates to annual W.O.F.s for 10-year-old vehicles there are some questions re giving local councils more power to enforce compliance, which is a concern as they will have no knowledge of our type of vehicles.

Please, I encourage you to click the link below and have your say. It is very similar to the last survey in the fact that you can only enter once per email address.

NZTA Link: Consultation Considering Changes to Light Vehicle Inspections

The consultation period closes on 17 December 2025 so do it now.

Regards,

George Kear

President

[The Vintage Car Club of New Zealand Incorporated](#)

[The Historic Vehicle Authority of New Zealand](#)

This hot blond is speeding down the highway in her Corvette roadster when she gets pulled over by a female state trooper. The trooper asks for her license but the blond, while digging through her purse, says she can't remember what it looks like.

The trooper says "Well it's a little square thing with your picture on it". The blond finds her compact, opens it and sees herself in the mirror. She says "Oh, here it is" and hands it to the trooper.

The trooper looks in the mirror and says "Gee, if I'd known you were a cop too, I wouldn't have pulled you over".

For a number of years I've noticed a man and his wife selling parts at their space at the annual VCC swap meet. This year I noticed the old gentlemen was by himself. I asked about his wife and he said she had passed away. "This is the first time in 44 years that I have been by myself and it's really lonesome." he said.

I told him he said he should have had a friend come with him. He replied "I tried to, but my friends were all going to the funeral.

A car repair shop ran a help-wanted ad in the local paper. One candidate came in for an interview.

They asked him all the usual questions, but the Service Manager wanted someone who REALLY knew cars. So he asked the young man to wear a blind fold. Then he had other mechanics start the engines of various cars in the shop, expecting the candidate to name each car by sound alone.

First car, he answered "Chevrolet." (Correct). Next car, he said "Pontiac," (again correct). Next car, he said, "Studebaker," and was right again. Just then, someone came out of the nearby Men's Room, flushing the toilet on his way out. The job candidate hollered, "FORD!" so the service manager hired him on the spot!



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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.





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What's on this month

Sunday 14th December : Motorbikes leave the park at 11 am for a ride to The Waitohi Auckland St Picton via the Queen Charlotte track.

Fri 26th December : Boxing Day Picnic BYO at D & K Registers property - 33 Briggs Road, Onamalutu

Sun Jan 4th - New Year BBQ, Harris Glade, 5.30pm. Bring own meat and a Salad and Dessert to share. If wet, inside Clubrooms.

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MARLBOROUGH BRANCH
OF THE VINTAGE CAR
CLUB NZ

IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO : 10 HOUGHTON CRES, BLENHEIM

