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THE SOUND CLASSIC MOTOR RACE MEETING MANFEILD 2015 FRIDAY 13 TO SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER



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Cover: Poster for the 30th MG Classic Motor Race, see Pg 20. Inside front cover: Scenes from the MGA 60th Celebrations, Bill & Gay Baxter, See Pg 28. Photographs: George Walter and MGCC Auckland.

MG	Coming Events
Sun	Coast to Coast Run - Ngati Toa Domain, see page 36.
18 Oct	Contact: John Grant - e-mail: j.p.grant@xtra.co.nz
Thurs	Old Speckled Hen Run - Bill Denize
22 Oct	Contact: Michael Anderson - e-mail: michael.anderson@xtra.co.nz
Fri - Sun	MGF20 – South Event, see page 32
23-25 Oct	Contact: John Eames - e-mail: mangaweka@hotmail.com
Wed	Club Night Dinner, Delhi 7 Indian Restaurant and Bar, Northland.
28 Oct	Contact: Bob Hulena, details will be confirmed by e-mail.
Wed	Noggin N Natter - Guest Speaker
4 Nov	Contact: Paul Chipp, details will be confirmed by e-mail.
Fri - Sun	30th MG Classic Motor Race Meeting, see page 20, volunteers required
13-15 Nov	Friday contact Ron Roberson - e-mail ron@mgcarclub.org.nz
Thurs	Old Speckled Hen Run - End of year BBQ lunch
26 Nov	Contact: Michael Anderson - e-mail: michael.anderson@xtra.co.nz
Wed	Noggin N Natter - Christmas Meeting
2 Dec	Contact: Jim Higgins, details will be confirmed by e-mail.
Sat	Tawa Christmas Parade, see page 37
5 Dec	Contact: Denis Christiansen - e-mail: denis@mgcarclub.org.nz
Sat	Christmas barbecue at Ross and Anne Armstrong's home
5 Dec	Details will be confirmed by e-mail.
Sat	36th anniversary of the annual Lake Ferry Excursion organised by the
12 Dec	Sunbeam Car Club of NZ (Wellington)
Mon	Drivers Training day at Manfeild
25 Jan	Details will be confirmed by e-mail.
Sun	British Car Day - Trentham Memorial Park, Barton Rd, Heretaunga
14 Feb	British Car Club - Admission for display vehicle - \$5.00
Sat - Sun	3rd MGF/TF Festival - Mangaweka, see Page 11.
27-28 Feb	Contact: John & Viv Eames - mangaweka@hotmail.com
	meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, 5.30pm, m, Wellington Bridge Club, 17 Tinakori Road, Thorndon.



President Note



It's now been a couple of months since I became president of the Club and although I have not been able to attend all of our events in that time due to my current commitments I have been able to enjoy some.

I spent August the 9th flag marshalling at the MG round of the Surgery Sprint Series which this year was well attended by MG Car Club helpers. This was very good to see as it is a great series and I along with many

others would hate to See the MG Car Club losing our round due to lack of support from our members.

For the August Noggin and Natter at the Waterloo Hotel was attended by a small cross section of the club. Roy McGuinness of McGuinness Classic Car fame came to speak to us about how he came to be a classic car dealer and the journey it took him on for 40 odd years. As usual Roy was most entertaining and provided an interesting talk.

The 30th MG Classic Race Weekend is coming up November 13th -14th and 15th and is not to be missed as we are planning something special with 52 races over 3 days. As we will be running practice etc. on the Friday and a lot of our regular flag Marshals etc. will not be able to get time off their day jobs we do need helpers on that day. So if you can make it on the Friday and would like to lend a hand we would very much appreciate it. If you can help please either let myself or Ron know on.

Paul@netclinic.co.nz or 027 248-3434 Or Ron@mgcarclub.org.nz or 027 443-9969

On another note one of our new prospective members is my elder brother Jim Chipp who has in a round about way ended up the proud owner of a white rubber bumper MGB GT formerly owned by Ron Robertson. My younger brother Richard has since subjected it to a bare metal respray after having performed some serious metal surgery on it replacing 1.5 square metres of panel steel. Jim is now planning to have the seats reupholstered and the carpets replaced to get rid of the deck chair style seats and have the car looking its best.

Warm Regards to all *Paul Chipp*





Editorial

The underside of the car has been painted with top coated, I have installed the petrol, brake and hydrolastic pipes. Denis asked if I was putting Q mat into this car as well, I hadn't thought about it, given I still don't know what effect it has on the sound proofing, but as the car is stripped it did make sense to installed it. So I ordered another 9 sheet kit, so it is now installed. I have stripped out the dash and wiring from the old car. Currently cleaning up the wiring before installing that and touching up each of the electrical components before installing.



I was going over to Craig Fair's in my red MG and I stopped at the shops, but the MG refused to start again, all that would happen is the starter would spin, but the Bendix drive wouldn't engage. We tried to jump start it but that didn't improve things. Craig thought the Bendix drive was sticking, so I was towed to his place and a crash start got me home. The next day I removed the starter motor, cleaned up the Bendix drive and lubricated it with carbon, no change, replaced the starter motor with the one out of the Morris, which I knew was good, nothing different, Hum. Replaced the battery earth strap which looked dodgy, no change, replaced the engine earth strap, engine started first turn of the key! Solved. In hindsight I had been having trouble starting on a cold morning, which I thought was the battery, but sometimes the cause is not the symptoms!



Articles

Articles, letters and events write ups for publication in the Bulletin should be sent to **editor@mgcarclub.org.nz.**

Closing date is now the 20th of each odd numbered month, for publication in the following two monthly Bulletin, six issues per year.

Typed in the body of the e-mail or in a Pdf format attached to the e-mail would be great, but hand-written on anything clean is equally as welcome. Pseudonyms will be used if specifically requested, but please supply a name and address.

Committee members will each contribute a minimum of two per year by roster to ensure a 'wider editorial style'.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect those of the Club or the Centre Committee.



Captain's Ramble

On our recent trip to Portland to visit family, our daughter took us to the newly opened World of Speed museum in Wilsonville Oregon.

Naturally enough, the museum mostly featured American cars. However, there were a few non-American ones in the collection.

Magnificent machines

At the entrance, greeting visitors, was this magnificent Bugatti. Alongside was the equally magnificent Bentley which was on loan to the museum.



Racing Cars

The racing styles represented at the museum were:

- NASCAR[®]
- Open wheel racing
- Drag racing
- Indy Car racing
- Land Speed racing.



Daytona Wall

One of the features of the Museum was the Daytona banking wall. This exhibit was 15ft high and 44 ft wide, set at the exact incline of the original speedway.







Captain's Ramble

Featured on the wall were four vehicles from legendary NASCAR® drivers, including:

- Dale Earnhardt Jnr's 2000 Chevy Impala
- Jim Vandiver's 1974 Dodge Charger
- Terry Labonte's 1988 Chevy Monte Carlo
- Cale Yarborough's 1979 Oldsmobile 442.

Personal highlights

The World of Speed also features three simulators:

- 1962 Lotus Formula Racing car
- 1995 Lola Indy Car
- 1998 NASCAR® Ford Taurus.

There are no prizes for guessing how much persuasion was needed for me to have my 15 minutes of fame racing one of these beasts, or for guessing which one I chose.



Other vehicles that took my fancy were the VW Combi, Chevy Chevelle and the Mustang GT 350. Pippa's choice was a Cobra genuine at that and our granddaughter fancied herself hanging out in a Chevy Belair.





Captain's Ramble



Education Centre

The World of Speed also houses two-classroom Education Centre. The aim is to become an education resource for local schools, institutions, organisations and groups and build lasting relationships with these public groups.

If you are ever in Oregon, Pippa and I would thoroughly recommend a visit to this facility. We will certainly visit again to view their ever changing exhibition of magnificent motoring machines.



Yours from the World of Speed. *John Grant*





Old Speckled Hen Run - August

Beautiful weather and a drive on Wairarapa roads – what more could you want? Ron and Shirley organised a great run for us. Unfortunately for Ron, his MGTF 160 appeared to have a mechanical issue, so he and Shirley were in his recently-acquired Mazda MX5. From our meeting point in the carpark near the bottom of Haywards Hill, shortly after 10 o'clock we set off over the Rimutaka Hill. There were short delays due to road-works, but we were soon in the Everest café in Featherston enjoying a snack and coffee (and fine fare it was).

From there we made our way to Carterton, then took a right turn off SH2 followed by a left and a right until we arrived right on noon at the Gladstone Inn. We were ushered to a long table outside in the sunshine, and this proved very agreeable. Our convoy from south of the Rimutaka Hill was soon joined by Gary and Heather Wall from Martinborough and Willy James from near Masterton. So, seventeen of us soaked up the vitamin D, downed refreshments and chatted away until the meals arrived, and as far as I'm aware, they were enjoyed by all.

Willie's 1956 MG Magnette was a draw-card for most of us. This car has been in storage for some time and is a little the worse for wear, but Willie is underway with a rolling restoration. These old Magnettes are a lovely design, in my opinion, so I wish Willie well with this work.

Other cars present were MGB Roadsters, MGB GT, MGR V8, MG3 and Gary's gorgeous 1938 MG SA

After a bit of a wander amongst the parked MGs, we all made our own ways home. In a spur-of-the-moment decision, Bill and I decided to head home to Waikanae via the Akatarawa road. It may have cut a few minutes from our trip, but I'm not a fan of that road – it's very narrow and quite dangerous in parts – fortunately not many others use





Old Speckled Hen Run - August



the road, as there are many spots where on-coming vehicles could be a real issue. It certainly gave the MG a workout.

Thank you Ron and Shirley for planning this run - it was most enjoyable.

See you again soon. Scott Stevenson





Redex Memories

A recent article in NZ Classic Car magazine on a bottle of Redex Petrol Treatment found in the publishers garage brought back some wonderful and early memories of my early driving experiences in the Highlands of Scotland. My first car was a Minivan bought for GBP10 of hard earned pocket money even before I had my drivers licence. The purchase came with a spare engine and gearbox plus 5 wheels with tyres which I subsequently sold for GBP15. More pocket money was used to but petrol one gallon at a time so I could run the van around a field and occasionally onto the road. I was keen to get more power out of it so usually bought a squirt or two of Redex along with the petrol. On occasion when the petrol station owner wasn't looking I'd squirt in a few more shots thinking that this would make the machine go faster. It didn't! What it did do though was create a large white cloud from the exhaust system that looked as though the engine had exploded!

Next purchase was an Austin A40 that I and some school mates bought for a song and drove, we thought it was rallying, on a piece of spare ground behind the school. We would chip in money together to buy petrol compete with a few shots of Redex. That together with the removal of the air filter and shortening the exhaust system so that it came straight through the bonnet gave us the illusion that we had a very fast car. It wasn't!

After gaining my full license good cars followed in the guise of a Mini 850 which I converted to stage 2, almost Cooper, spec before replacing that with a Morris Cooper S at 1340cc and three-quarter race tune (stage 3) with straight cut gears from BL Special Tuning. That car was a beast and could do 125 mph. Terrifying then and just plain daft today! Over the years many more cars followed but the Redex additive was no longer used after the A40.

Iain Fraser





Tech Talk - Dashpot Oil

Iain talking about Redex reminds me of a tip I was told. Engine oil (20/50) is too thick for use in our SU dashpots, while 3in1 is too thin. The solution is to make up a 50/50 mixture or engine oil and Redex or Morley's Upper Cylinder Lubricant. This thins out the oil and if the makers of Morley's can be believed will clean your SU and protect your valve seats as a bonus. I have been trying out this mixture and it seems to last around 250 miles before requiring a top up. Dean Gray



Sports car projects : ADO56

Ahead of its time - 1958-1959

Known within BMC as the "MG Sport", ADO56 was devised by Alec Issigonis, based on an extended Mini floor pan. The car was styled by Dick Burzi, strongly infulenced by Pininfarina's Austin A40 Farina, and was engineered by Jack Daniels.

Sitting on 12" wheels, the car was later built as a running prototype, using a transversely mounted Mini Cooper engine. According to Austin stylist Barry Kelkin, who worked on the project, ADO56 "went like a bomb", and came very close to being signed-off for production.

This wooden model, photographed in March 1959, clearly shows the interesting passenger door cut-out, which extends into the rear wheel-arch area, presumably with the aim of facilitating access to the rear seats.





One month on, and the completed model is photographed for the archives. While the longer passenger door is retained, the driver's door is more conventionally proportioned. It is not clear whether this is simply a 'double-sided' model (to enable both options to be assessed) or whether they were seriously condsidering this arrangement for the final car. The 1970s AMC Pacer was one car which bravely took this unusual feature into production.



Third MGF/TF Festival

Yes! This popular gathering for MGF and TF owners is on again. **When:** Weekend of 27/28 February 2016. **Where:** Beside the beautiful Rangitikei River at Mangaweka. The first two Festivals have proven a real treat for F and TF enthusiasts. If you own one of these nifty sports cars, mark your calendar and be there! For full information contact: John & Viv Eames mangaweka@hotmail.com 06 382 5717 027 782 5717



Crouch End North London

Earlier this year we spent 3 months in Europe skiing and sight seeing and as usual we ended up in London with our son and his family doing the family thing including finding out what he had been doing with his 1960 Triumph Herald Coupe which we had shipped to him a year or so ago. I was told that Scott had found a little garage that repairs and services classic cars and oh by the way the owner specialised in MGs and would I like to have a look around the workshop.

The garage is situated in Crouch End North London in a residential area but in a back alley but this description does not prepare you for the sight that greets you when you turn the corner from the road into the lane.

The owner is a mad keen MG man who's knowledge of the marque is encyclopaedic as is his parts department, he will ship parts to NZ if asked. He also owns a one owner V8 BGT parked in a lock up and not driven for the last 10 years or so.

The pictures tell the story the images are courtesy of my son Scott as my phone camera failed and destroyed my images.

Les Newman





Crouch End North London















From the Archives - 1961

MGCC motorkhana at the Wall's (Gary Wall's parents) farm just East of Martinborough. Ken and Roy Smith were brothers (both now deceased), chauffering for ICI NZ, Roy Sec at this time; Peter Hitchcock was a collegue of mine with NZBS and was living in Happy Valley at the time of our 50th reunion. I'm not sure of the exact date but it was after the Evening Post Gold Star Trial. - *Dave Hector*





Wiggle Woggle - Wolseley 1500 Gary Wall

Wiggle Woggle – Ken Smith in Peter Hitchcock's MG TD



Parking test - Ken Smith in Peter Hitchcock's MG TD



New Members

We would like to welcome these new members and look forward to meeting them at our various activities.

Phil Stoebener & Nikki Scott Ashley & Carol Wells 1969 Datsun 1600SSS - White 1995 MG R - Green

VMG8



MGeometry

According to an article by Jonathan Wood, published in Enjoying MG in June 1997, the famous MG Octagon was designed at MG founder Cecil Kimber's request by Edmund (Ted) Lee in 1924. Wood's article quotes Lee as saying, ".....I drew out this badge with a little ruler I'd brought from High School. I was good at art and have painted for years. Kimber saw it and said 'that's just the thing'." Wood's article goes on, "I was interested to know why Lee had opted for the eight sided shape and he said there was no particular reason for choosing it. But it should be remembered that such angular designs were very popular in the nineteen twenties and they are what we know today as Art Deco style."

There have been suggestions that Kimber was influenced by other Art Deco car badges such a Standard Swallow or he just wanted a 2-letter badge like AC, a company for which Kimber had once worked.

If indeed Lee worked using a "little ruler", it would explain why some of the dimensions of the MG Octagon appear arbitrary.

How to correctly draw a MG Logo



Draw 4 centre lines, 1 horizontal, 1 vertical, 2 diagonal at 45°, each at right angles to each other. Divide the size of the logo that you want to draw by 2, use this measurement as the radius and a draw a circle. If we use a 100mm logo as an example, $100 \div 2 = R50mm$

The logo has 4 measurements:

Logo size = LS (example 100mm)

Border width: LS x 0.065 = BW (example 100 x 0.065 = 6.5mm) Letter width: LS x 0.07 = LW (example 100 x 0.07 = 7mm)

Letter gap: $LS \ge 0.09 = LG$ (example 100 $\ge 0.09 = 9mm$)



Draw a line perpendicular to each point the You can now draw the outside octagon lines circle intercepts the centre lines. of the logo.



Measure the border width (6.5mm) in from the Logo edge and repeat as per the outer



Measure the Letter width (7mm) in twice from the Logo inside edge and repeat as per the outer edge, drawing the two Letter octagons.



You can now draw the inside octagon lines of the logo border.



Divide the letter gap (9mm) by 2 and draw a circle in the centre, draw a vertical line right and horizonal line above the point the circle intercepts the centre lines. Measure a letter width below the centre line and draw a horizonal line. Draw a line vertically from the right corner intercept of the outside octagon.



How to correctly draw a MG Logo



You can now draw the outside lines of the G, note the inside vertical stroke is wider than LW and aligns with the intercept of the inside letter octagon.



Draw a line horizontally from the bottom corner intercept of the inside letter octagon. Note where this intercepts the vertical line of the outside octagon. Draw 2 lines from this point to the outside letter octagon as shown.



You can now draw the outside lines of the M, note the inside vertical stroke is also wider than LW.



Draw a vertical line on the left where circle LG intercepts the centre line. Draw a line vertically from the left corner intercept of the outside octagon.



Draw a circle with a radius LW (7mm) with the intercept as the centre and draw 2 lines parallel with the last 2 diagonal lines. Draw a line vertically down from where the right diagonal line intercepts the outside letter octagon.



Colour in and you now have a correct as originally designed MG Logo!



Club Night Dinner - August

The August Club Night Dinner was held at the Waterfront Bar on Raumati beach. We had a turnout of 14 namely Billie & Bob, Bill & Rae, Val & Carl, Ross & Ann, Graeme & Chari, Rosalie & Lyndon, Paul & Lesley.

The food here is good and they do a great roast dinner on Wednesday. So if you go get there early before they sell out. The menu is good in any case. We had 7.00pm for 7.30pm start for the out of towners from Wellington, only to have Graeme tell us that he lived 5 minutes down the and was last there. Food was still available. A good night out with happy MGers keeping the restaurants in business.

Septembers dinner will Prize Giving night, then back to a Wellington venue for October. Keep your eye on the coming events as you may miss one of these very social gatherings of MGCC Wellington.

Once again, Cheers, Billie & Bob Hulena



Prizegiving table loaded with trophies



George Walter receiving the Murray Watson Memorial Trophy from John Grant & Jim Higgins



Valerie Helberg receiving the MG90 Show and Shine Trophy from John Grant, Pip Grant foreground.



Prize giving dinner - September



Ray Hartley awarded the Hans Holler Cup



Ron Robertson & Naomi Bray with the Mike Hellberg Trophy.



Geoff Brader with his collection of Trophies



Mike Gallagher with his trophy Photographs by Rosalie Andrews.



MG Classic Celebrates 30 Years

With the wide range of issues now involved it certainly hasn't been getting any easier organising motor sport events these days, so it is great to see some of the longstanding historic and classic race meetings like the MG Classic able to celebrate it's 30th anniversary event on 13, 14 & 15 November.

Not surprisingly sponsors have come and gone through that time, with perhaps the most memorable being the long association that Whittaker's chocolate had with the event. Although valuable support has been provided by a number of individual race sponsors and from media such as 'The Sound', the MG Car Club Wellington has effectively been its own sponsor over the past decade, putting earnings and experience from previous years to good effect.

This year the club has even managed a mild expansion to make room for two full days racing, having documentation and practice on Friday, and for the first time making it a three day event. This has also allowed for a greater number of race categories that not only includes everyone's favourites, the Formula 5000s and Central Muscle Cars, but new to the North Island, the Historic Touring Car group that features many of the types of old Group A touring cars that were seen in the Wellington Street Race in the mid 1980s.

The mainstay of the event, however, continues to be the well supported classic grids, with these being divided by practice times into 'slow', 'medium' and 'fast' groups. This helps improve both safety and closer racing. As usual the organisers have tried to restrain





MG Classic Celebrates 30 Years



costs and entry fees still seem to represent good value for money at under \$300 for 4-5 races and practice. As befits an event where the feature race for Classics is the Sybil Lupp Trophy race, woman drivers are being encouraged to enter by having their entry fees waived, as are drivers of MGs.

The longstanding requirement for NZ road legal tyres for the classic groups also continues. Although this could mean that tyres might need renewing a race or two earlier than planned the organisers think that this helps restrain the costs associated with use of the more expensive tricky slick types.

Historics are also catered for, and VCC members are invited to join the event as provided for under the Agreement between MSNZ and the VCC. Other categories include Pre '65 saloons, BMW E30 series and another new group involving 'Historic' Sports Sedans.

The organisers also advise that the popular "Charity Lunchtime Rides" will be available on Sunday with enthusiasts given the chance of a ride around the circuit in a classic or similar car for a donation to the Cancer Society.

By Terry Collier, Photographs from the 29th MG Classic by Stew Wood.

MG Car Club (Wgtn) members get free entry to the MG classic and also to the Toyota hospitality suite BUT – you do need to get an entry ticket!! If you are intending to be at the classic – and you wouldn't want to miss it – you need to e-mail Paul Chipp at **paul@netclinic.co.nz** or phone him on **027 248 3430**.

You will need your MGCC membership card to get entry to the hospitality suite, why not buy a MGCC lanyard so you always have your membership card on hand.



During the preceding week the winter weather had well and truly visited with major flooding, particularly in the Manawatu and Wanganui regions. However, that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Wellington contingent that attended the Manawatu MG group's annual Mid Winter Christmas Dinner on Saturday 18th July.

We had answered George's call for a ride to the event and he was waiting on the footpath in light rain when we arrived in our ZR at his Johnsonville home to pick him up. The traffic as far out as Waikanae was pretty slow. With all the millions spent on "improving" the roads you would think the traffic flow would be much better. We were a little late arriving at Leaders Real Estate in Palmerston North where a group of about 40 attendees had assembled.

Event organizer Pat Widdup welcomed everybody and explained the directions to the first stop, at the Ashhurst Inn. Afternoon cups of tea, coffee and other beverages were consumed along with toasted sandwiches, cakes and ice cream sundaes etc.

Pat's directions to the next stop saw us arrive at the Colyton Clock Museum which is privately owned by Bill Williams. In 2011 Bill's collection became the Guiness World Records largest clock collection at 3021 clocks. Bill's collection is now nearing 3500 clocks and is growing at the rate of about 10 per month.

We listened intently to Bill's stories about the worldwide history of many of his clocks and how they came to be in New Zealand. We all recognized examples of clocks from our past and Bill answered all our questions. But that's not all. Bill's wife Cathy has been collecting mermaids for a long time and she invited us into their home

to see them. Time had just flown by during the visit and it was getting dark outside so, when someone called out "What's the time", we knew we were heading head off to the dinner venue.

We were lucky to find a carpark only a block away from the restaurant, "Arranged Marriage", in The Square, Palmerston North. It was a nice touch to have the owner/chef introduce himself and staff to our group and he explained that the menu items came from his homeland in the Kerala Province in southwest India. I was thankful that he guided us as to which



Colyton Clock Museum Photo: Denis Christiansen



Photo: Helen Gillbanks



Manawatu Mid Winter Christmas Dinner

dishes were mild, rather than hot or spicey!

After trying the entrees, the main serving dishes were brought out for you to help yourself from. There were a variety of tasty sauces to go with each dish. For dessert orders were taken served individually.

Our group took up about half the restaurant and when we voted "no", on whether to

play the traditional game of "Beetle", I guess we were too embarrassed to play in front of the other diners. A speaker had also been arranged but unfortunately had to pull out at the last minute due to sickness. We still had a very enjoyable night with good conversation and camaraderie among us MG'ers.

Thank you Pat and Lynette for once again organising this great annual event and for again providing us and George accommodation overnight. After the great BBQ

breakfast the following morning we had a leisurely return trip back to Wellington.

Denis Christiansen.



Arranged Marriage Dinner Photo: Helen Gillbanks



Photo: Denis Christiansen



Photo: R Wilson

This embroidered plaque was in the Clock Museum. It reads:

The clock of life is wound but once And no man has the power To tell just when the hands will stop At late or early hour

Now is the only time you own Love, live, toil with a will Place no faith in tomorrow for The clock may then be still.





Noggin N Natter - August

Mid Winter Back Country Adventure Report - Denis Christiansen.

With the snow down to low levels during all the previous week, I had some apprehension as the Mid Winter Back Country Adventure approached. Reports on the radio of snowy weather and thoughts of getting stuck in the snow prompted me to visit Repco and Super Cheap during the week, to check out pricing on snow chains for the car. I decided not to purchase any but noted the pricing just in case we had to purchase during the trip when already in the snow and probably facing loaded local pricing. There were a few different snow chains to choose from and a wide variance in cost.

Our little convoy of three Wellington cars met up in the rain at the Plimmerton weigh station about 11am on the Friday. Denis and Margaret in the yellow ZR were joined by Terry and Anne in their green MG TF and by Ross and Anne in their blue MGB.

We headed off to Sanson for a late lunch stop and finding the popular Viv's Kitchen almost sold out we repaired to the Church Café. Being a converted church it was not particularly noticeable as an eatery but inside, it was pleasant. They had a good selection

of food and service was good too. Over an hour later we headed off through Bulls and Hunterville.

Next was a short stop at The Wool Company just south of Taihape for some of us to purchase essential "woollies" and then on to the Aspen Motel on the northern side of Taihape where Wellington members Gina and Malcolm would join us later. The Aspen Motel was the MG HQ for the weekend's fun.

Acquaintances with the Auckland group were renewed and later we all walked just two doors down the road to the Gumboot Manor eating establishment. We filled the place with our now quite large MG group and kept the Gumboot staff very busy with dinner and drinks orders. The portions are quite large and I recommend the steak.

Paul Walbran, event organiser, gave a warm welcome to everybody and handed out an A3 sized booklet of maps that had been marked with "roads of interest" that had been colour coded according to their type. E.g. tarmac, gravel, rough, twisty, etc. We





Noggin N Natter - August

were invited to form up into small groups of 3 or 4 cars and select which routes to take in the morning. A bit more socialising in the warmth of the Gumboot's tile fire and it was time to walk back to the comfort of our Aspen Motel unit.

The morning dawned fine and a little bit frosty but we weren't aiming for an early start. About 9:00am I was having a second attempt at defrosting the front and rear windscreens. The first attempt looked good initially but actually froze over again before it was time to leave.

The rest of the Wellington group were already lined up and ready to go. Despite the chilly air, Ross and Malcolm even had the tops down on their cars. We headed north out of Taihape on the main road and it wasn't long before we got out of the shadow of the hills. Coming to a left hand curve off the top of a hill, the winter landscape just opened up in front of us. The winter morning sun gave the scene a spectacular contrast of light and shadow across the pastures. Time to stop and take a photo or two.

Continuing north we turned left at Waiouru on the way to Ohakune. We got back into the hills and had to be careful of black ice in shaded areas of the road. I couldn't resist a quick stop at Horopito Motors to see "Smash Palace" from the film Goodbye Pork Pie. They have a museum there now too but we didn't go in. We could have been in there for hours! There were hundreds of wrecked vehicles in the yards outside, some new but most quite old. Yes, that is snow on the ground at Horopito in the photo below.



Horopito Motors

There were a few patches of green showing through the snow on the fairways as we passed by the golf course. The Chateau car park was only half full when we arrived and a few more photos were taken with Tongario and Ngauruhoe in the background. These mountains were also visible from inside the Chateau and were "framed" by the huge window in the main reception room – pretty as a picture. We pulled in at National Park Service Station for a windscreen clean and a group discussion on our route. We all supported Malcolm and Gina's idea of a visit to the Chateau Tongariro while the patchy ice on the road thawed out and we could safely head to Piopio for the designated lunch stop.



Off the main reception room is the

Pretty as a picture



Noggin N Natter - August

Library Room which our group largely commandeered and we enjoyed the warmth of the large open fire. There were very few books in the library but, we enjoyed them and the free newspapers for a while until we decided it was time we ordered a "High Tea". After some confusion, the staff finally sorted and delivered our orders and our



discussion turned to topics of motoring. We listened intently as Ross and Terry imparted their extensive knowledge, particularly about the classic racing scene in NZ.

We heard reports of the Desert Road being opened and decided to leave the warmth of the Chateau and drive the "loop road" going up Mount Ruapehu. The incoming traffic jam in the Chateau car park should have warned us that we would never take the loop road. Vehicles were bumper to bumper going up so we headed towards the main highway instead. Going away from the Chateau, both sides of the road were filled with parked cars for a kilometre or two and people were having to walk up to the Chateau. We heard later that the Police closed the road because of the volume of traffic. I guess everybody decided that is was such a brilliant day to go up the mountain.

We headed north towards Turangi and took state highway 46. Not too much snow on the northern plateau of the mountain until we reached the Desert Road. The Desert Road itself was clear but the snow was right up to its edges. There were lots of cars parked on the roadside and it seemed like everyone had to stop and build a snowman. There were hundreds, if not thousands of snowmen. A very picturesque scene, all the way back to Waiouru.

We arrived back at Taihape mid afternoon and took a rest before getting ready for the prize-giving dinner that night. Again we filled the Gumboot Restaurant and were well looked after by the very busy staff. The served buffet was delicious and in generous portions. During the dinner, awards were presented for all sorts of things including furthest travelled, least travelled, best hard luck story, best good luck story, and most other things you could think of. Thank you's were given to organiser Paul Walbran and his team of event helpers for their efforts. Attendees were also asked to think about the suggestion that the annual the Mid Winter Back Country Adventure Tour have a change of venue.

Not too keen to arise the next morning, but we got away to head south back to Wellington. Upon reaching the Feilding turnoff at Vinagar Hill north of Hunterville we remembered the Surgery Sprints were on at Manfeild that day. Needless to say we turned left to take the scenic route to Feilding. On this route we stopped at Stormy Point Lookout to enjoy the view but Mt Ruapheu was now covered in cloud. However, we could see all the way across to New Plymouth and Mt Taranaki (Egmont), which was bathed in sunshine. It was another great MG weekend. Thanks everyone.





When the first MGA rolled off the production line it was described as sexy and sleek with a gorgeous round body!! 60 years on it was time to celebrate this enduring design. Having enjoyed MGA 50 in Wanganui just 10 years back (how time flies) we were keen to head to New Plymouth for the 60th celebration.

Eights cars left Auckland in convoy a day early meeting up for lunch at Bosch Café in Te Kuiti. From Te Kuiti the journey was shorter for some of us, as we took advantage of the lengthy foot well the MGA provides, stretching out, shutting eyes and resting! The final windy road 45 minutes out of New Plymouth soon had us back on navigation duties.

Come Friday while we were viewing the sights of New Plymouth (the new Len Lye Centre is worth admiring) the final convoy travelled down in the rain. With everyone arriving to register the Rally was quickly in full swing sharing stories and memories. The South Island contingent were delayed with ferry cancellations as the weather was not behaving. 37 cars, (33 MGA's and four Magnettes) made it to New Plymouth from Matakana in the north and Timaru in the south.

Saturday morning the weather was still grim however as you know, MGA folk are hardy so we donned heavy jackets, hats, scarves, gloves and umbrellas heading in to town to show our cars to the community on the foreshore. While the men did what they do best when around MG's, talk cars, the ladies walked down the road to the local mall where we found a café and ladieswear shops! Not much shopping was done however it was warm and dry and filled in two hours. On our stroll back to the cars Ernie had done his best and produced sunshine! We then headed along the coast, past the turnoff to Pukeiti Gardens and on to Okurukuru Winery. This was the first of our memorable lunches as the venue overlooks the coast with panoramic views to the north and south. Thanks to the sunshine we were able to enjoy this stunning venue.

We continued around the mountain stopping off at the Maui Visitors Centre. The weather had deteriorated so out came the jackets, hats and scarves! Continuing on, some brave souls ventured up the mountain to Dawson Falls Lodge for a cuppa, with many of us deciding to keep moving around the mountain visiting a



Possum factory enroute. The owner had lit the wood burner to keep us warm as we learnt how versatile Possum skins are. The flowering Rhododendron's, Camelia's, Kowhai trees and spring blossom were glorious as we finished the final loop of the mountain.

Sunday, the weather was worse (7 degrees, with the wind chill factor is was probably close to zero) however we were on a mission to conquer the Forbidden Highway stopping at Whangamomona Pub for lunch – another memorable venue! Inland from Stratford the road twisted and turned through rough tunnels with the cars not missing a beat. There





were many slips, one way bridges and high rock faces with waterfalls cascading down. After lunch we had roadside stock to contend with, cattle, sheep and a very frightened lamb who made it back under the fence in a slippery slide of mud with much haste. This was steep goat country, green and lush. We had been advised of a kilometre of metal road which turned into 12 however the MGA's ploughed on even if the occupants 'rocked and rolled' in their seats! We joined State Highway 3 north of Waitara providing an easy cruise in to New Plymouth.

With the farewell dinner looming we were keen to return to our hotel to make ourselves 'beautiful' and 'handsome'. Happy hour saw us catching up with old friends and sharing stories once again. Final dinners are sometimes 'trying' however formalities were kept to a minimum as there were no Rally trophies to present! Just fun, laughter with a few giveaways from the sponsors along the way.

Watching MGA's snaking around corners in convoy reminded me what a great touring car the MGA is. It is a pleasure to own one, reliving the fun our parent's generation enjoyed in the late 50's. As the cars were missing the home comforts of a warm garage to rest in overnight, there was much discussion in the morning around how much water had accumulated in the foot well or boot overnight!

If this was your first visit to Taranaki you would have been disappointed as the majestic Mt Taranaki (some of us know it as Mt Egmont) stayed hidden by cloud the whole four days.

With wind gusting continually during the last two days we were keen to pack-up and hit the road for our return journey home. Travelling up the coast just north of New Plymouth the wind gusts were so strong it felt the hood could blow off. The rain had stopped so instead of operating the wiper control button I held one of the hood brackets – just in case! Soon we were in slightly warmer climes travelling on familiar roads through the King Country and Waikato.

Like MGA 50 ten years ago, MGA 60 was a fun, friendly exhilarating Rally. Special thanks to the organiser, Gay Baxter who was admirably assisted by Rex Thompson and Norm Harvey.

Roll on MGA 70! Dale Nelson - MGCC Auckland - Photographs: MGCC Auckland.



Event Report: Friday 18 - Saturday 19 September

Early arrivals at Auto Lodge Motor Inn Some came from Auckland on Thursday. Late Friday the Southern contingent arrived. In true MG style most had travelled North with the hoods down.. They were pleased to see a fire burning in the hotel foyer.



Unfortunately it rained on Saturday when the cars were parked at the Tasman Prospect Park. The park was opposite Puke Ariki Museum. No hoods were down, nor bonnets open. 29 MGAs and 4 Magnettes At 11am they departed for Okurukuru winery and Café, where they all enjoyed a delicious a la carte lunch.



Outside the Okurukuru Winery and Café. The rain had stopped so some bravely put the hoods down. From the Winery, (lunch venue) we drove on through Oakuru and stopped at the Maui Visitors centre.



The next stop was to be Dawson Falls, but the weather had started to deteriorate so a few drivers skipped going there and continued on to the Possum Factory where a lovely kent fire was roaring away. Many cosy possum lined hats were tried on and some purchases were made. We travelled on further around the Mountain, which we didn't see at all over the weekend. We passed through Stratford and Inglewood then on towards Waitara and back to New Plymouth.

- Gay Baxter

The Surgery Sprints - August

Once a year MG Wgtn hosts a round of the Surgery Sprints, as hosts we should provide helpers, I hitched a lift with Ross Armstrong, along with Bill & Rae Denise. We left Wellington in Ross's MGZT-T at 7.30am arrived at Manfeild around 2 hours later. The weather was overcast and still, which was a relief given it had been raining all week.



Some volunteers were well prepared for the cold and we were divided into two groups, Timekeepers and Flag Marshall's. I was asked to be a Timekeeper, a task I have done before and was just getting settled in when the call came up that they were a Flag Marshall short and I was volunteered. I was teamed with Ross on the hairpin and we walked out to the post. We kept to the track until we reached our post as the grass was saturated. The post offers some protection from the elements, but not much, thankfully it wasn't windy. The view of the track is second to none as you are right in the middle of the action.

The sprints are not racing, matched pairs of car are released for a rolling start to do 3 laps. The sprints got underway and it wasn't long before a car spun off on our corner. We weren't ready and by the time we had got out the Yellow flag the car was already racing off. There was a good selection of 'Classics' as well as modern cars, no MG's thought. It was interesting see the difference between front wheel drive lifting a rear wheel and rear wheel drive lifting a front wheel. By lunch both Ross and I were feeling the cold and the walk back to the heated Timekeeping room for a Subway sandwich was welcome. The afternoon proceeded much the same with a couple of chances to show our flag waving skills and by mid-afternoon it was all over everyone was sprinted out and so we went home, job done.

Ron is always happy for volunteers, so feel free to offer yourself next year and be close to the action.

Dean Gray





Roy Mcguinness, well known classic car dealer, British car day MC and raconteur was the guest speaker and entertained all who attended with his life story. He starting with immigrating from Ireland, His dislike of his Step-mother's VW, his first job as a car cleaner for Shelly motors cleaning VW's! Working his way up as a car salesman to owning his own car yard, his various locations around Petone, up until the present day. He kept all attending amused with his stories, reciting poetry and ending with a song. A very entertaining Noggin N Natter. - *Dean Gray*



MGF20 – South Event - October

Destination Cape Palliser 23-25 October 2015 (Labour Weekend)

Planning is well under way for this exciting MGF event, the fourth of five this year celebrating 20 years of the MGF. If you own an F or TF and have not yet participated or registered, don't delay.

A group will be gathering at Taihape for dinner on Friday 23 October and at Awastone Riverside Haven, Mangaweka at 8.30 Saturday for pre-departure breakfast. Lunch stop is Greytown and joining there is an option for the run to Cape Palliser. The Auckland contingent travelling via Hawkes Bay is merging at Greytown. All are dining Saturday evening at Lake Ferry Hotel and staying in the area before a rural Wairarapa run on Sunday.

For full details contact the lower North Island organiser **John Eames** E-mail: mangaweka@hotmail.com Phone: 06 382 5717 Mobile: 027 782 5717



Odds & Ends



All ship shape, spotted by George Walter, Tuesday 8 September on Customhouse Quay.



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Daffodil Day Run - September

The day was sunny and spirits were suitably high when the first group met at the Haywards Hill car park, although Michael Shouse was somewhat chastened due to receiving a speeding ticket on the Pekakariki Hill (when exactly did they change the damn speed limit from 100 to 60?). After picking up further participants in Featherston we were approximately 30 people and 15 cars.

Those with convertibles made the most of the opportunity to have the top down as we proceeded towards Carterton. At this point, in what might be fast becoming a tradition, there were differing interpretations of the designated route to Gladstone, resulting in one or two clusters of MGs peeling off from the pack and taking different routes. Happily, we all arrived at Gladstone Vineyard in good time to enjoy the ploughman's lunch and accompanying fine wine. Seated outdoors, we were entertained by a local band who probably didn't need all of their amplification and whose original songs and lyrics had a distinctly eclectic flavour. Topics of their songs ranged from ambulances, buses and taxis to the joys (or otherwise) of living in Tawa and in Linden, the latter incidentally the home of the club's esteemed former president. It might not matter too much to anyone else that Linden has no bowling alley or train station but we grew to understand just how much it meant to these boys! Given the popularity of the daffodil fields the flowers ran out before the pickers' enthusiasm did, but I have it on good advice that those who only got to pick buds saw them bloom in the vase over the next few days. I thoroughly enjoyed my first outing as a recent new member of the club.

Stunner of a Spring Day



A 'No Daffodils' photo moment At Gladstone Vineyards.

Safety Fast, Helen Cox (Newbie to Club)

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SeniorNet Johnsonville

I decided to head along to SeniorNet on Friday last to see what the group were all about. Each week in Johnsonville Community Centre's Trust Room the group meet to talk through everything from using Trade Me to sell your unwanted stuff to using smartphones, iPads and speaking to loved ones on Skype. They cover a huge range of topics and answer questions that anyone might have on the topic of tech and more.

There was a big group at Friday's session that started with an informal quiz that got people thinking and chatting. Peter Nalder who is the Chair and Keith Lawrence who is Secretary lead the class, and were happy to answer any questions from the group. Peter explained, "If you haven't had much experience with the internet, like me you can be a bit nervous," but the SeniorNet courses hope to tackle problems like this. SeniorNet is a community training service that supports and motivates people aged 50+ to enjoy and use technology in their everyday lives. It might be something simple like learning



how to search the internet, but the small, friendly and stress-free groups help you gain the skills and confidence you need. There is an emphasis on introducing the mature community to computers, tablets and phones, but there is a whole range of courses running each month. So if spreadsheets, files, folders, managing your photos, or even basic tech skills are standing in your way then SeniorNet might be just the tech ticket.

LEARNING WITH SENIOR NET: Trish McBride, Valerie Hellberg and June Gibson enjoying Friday's SeniorNet at Johnsonville Community Centre PHOTO: Fiona Donnellan

By Fiona Donnellan - Independent Herald. Spotted by George Walter.



Coast to Coast run

Coast to Coast run - Sunday 18 October

Meet:	Ngati Toa Domain - Pasco Ave.
	(Directions - Pasco Ave runs off Mana Esplanade.
	Heading north turn left at the 2nd set of lights after the Paremata bridge.
	Heading south turn right at the lights immediately after the BP station.
Time:	9.00 for a 9.30 sharp start.
Duration:	2 1/2 - 3 hours of enjoyable touring with points of interest along the way.
Lunch:	For catering purposes we need to know numbers attending no later than
	Thursday 13 October.

Please notify:

John and Pippa (04) 233 1082 / j.p.grant@xtra.co.nz,



Tawa Lions Christmas Parade

To be held on **Saturday 5 December 2015** at 2:00pm wet or fine. Commences at Tawa School, Oxford St, proceeds along the Main Road, in to Surrey St back along Oxford St to finish at Tawa School.

- Bands Floats
- Community Groups Clowns
- MG & Vintage Cars Santa

Proudly organised by Lions Club of Tawa for the benefit of the Tawa Community

If you would like to join in the Parade in your MG, please contact: Denis Christiansen Ph: 569 7480 E-mail: denis@mgcarclub.org.nz

The MG Car Club Christmas BBQ will also be held on this day, at Ross Armstrongs, details to follow.







For Sale

1995 MG RV8 - 19,000km - \$40,000

Convertible with black soft top. Car 1471 of only 1993 ever built. One owner in New Zealand. One owner in Japan. Woodcote green body. Dark stone leather interior. Michelin tires. Drives great!

For an appointment to view the car in Napier or if you would like additional information on the car.

Contact: Sefton Gibb Mobile: 027 4422 713



1995 MG RV8 - 29,000km - \$42,000 Includes personalised number plate. Oxford blue. Vin No. 1602, Body No. 1460. Car 1351 built, 175th Oxford blue of 259. Car 1013 exported to Japan. Contact: Bob Hulena.

Mobile: 027 4482 225 A/H: 04 293 8112 E-mail: bobthecalendarman@gmail.com



MGB wheels - \$125

4 x MGB Rostyle steel wheels Contact: Bob Hulena. Mobile: 027 4482 225 A/H: 04 293 8112 E-mail: bobthecalendarman@gmail.com

GRK3007 Clutch master kit - MGB 62-67 - \$20 incl postage

Includes seals, replacement piston and spring, will also fit a Classic Mini pre 86. Contact: Dean Gray E-mail: editor@mgcarclub.org.nz





Membership Fees 2014/15

The Membership year is from 1st July to 30th June each year.

The new style membership form can be found on the web-site at www.mgcarclub.org.nz/membershipform

Be sure to fill it all in so we can have all your details up to date. Fill out your preferences of what you want the club to be doing in the future.

If you can't use the form on the web-site send a text request for a membership form to one of the committee on page 3.

Single \$60 Double \$70 Family \$80

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Grill Badges

The four MG Car Club Centres in New Zealand - Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago have authorised this new Grille Badge, which has a distinctive NZ flavour with the inclusion of the Silver Fern in the background.

The intention over time is to begin using this badge on communications, regalia and other activities. 61mm x 81mm - **\$50.00.**



Calling all **MGB owners**, if you haven't celebrated the birth of your favourite sports car, now is your chance too. We currently have a few remaining MGB 50th grill badges available which will enhance your car and sit beautifully alongside the MG Car club and MG90th grill badges, why not collect the set!

75mm - \$35.00 while stocks last.



Grill badges can be purchased from Jane Hector, phone: **027 246 6034** or e-mail: jayhector70@gmail.com

Rear Cover: Scenes from the MGA 60th Celebrations, See Pg 28. Photographs: George Walter and MGCC Auckland.



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MG Car Club (Wgtn) Regalia



1634 - Silverdale, Merino pullover Natural mix - S-XL - \$125.00.



MGCC Landyard Black/white or Blue/white \$5.00.

1634 - Silverdale, Merino pullover Navy - S-XL - \$125.00.



MG90 Car badge 75mm - \$43.00.



MG90 Embroidered badge 72mm - \$5.00.

MG Car Club regalia can be purchased from Jane Hector, phone: 027 246 6034 or e-mail: jayhector70@gmail.com.



WLV - Gear, Women's Vest Silver/Black - S-XL - \$65.00.



LV - Gear, Men's Vest Black - S-XL - \$65.00.



498Q - Gear, Zip fleece Navy - S-XL - \$65.00.

