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NOV / DEC 2025 - ISSUE 294

David and Lin Smith - 1980 Mazda 626 Coupe



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## **ODDS AND ENDS**

Thanks to all article and photo contributors - Pete, Denis, Margaret, Phil, Derek, David & Lin, Colin, Phil Scot, think that's everyone!

Sadly I have to report the passing of our member Graham Galland. Condolences to Margie and all his family. There will be a report in the next issue of the farewell held at the Men's Shed.

Also in the next issue will be the Retirement Home visit we did during December, also the Wings & Wheels event at Onerahi Airport.

Don't forget the Breakfast With The Cars every 4th Saturday with the Vintage Car Club at Marina Woodfired Dining at Tutukaka. Also Club Coffee Night on the third Tuesday of the month. New advertiser page 6 - please support all our advertisers when you can.



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## CHRISTMAS PARTY 2025

Originally the Christmas Party was to be held at the Glenbervie Hall but lack of interest from members necessitated a change of plan which had us relocating to the Dickens Inn Pub in the CBD. This change of venue was obviously an incentive for others to join the event and in the end we had thirty two members attend what was a very successful function.

WELL DONE PHIL AND MARGARET FOR PIVOTING TO AN ALTERNATIVE VENUE AT SHORT NOTICE.

The meals were well received although dealing with this number of people obviously put a strain on the kitchen as there was a considerable delay between the first and last meals arriving at the table, rather disappointing.

Phil and Margaret then got the Secret Santa gifting underway and numbers were called in no particular order, recipients selecting a gift from the table where members had placed their gifts on arrival.

All up a good function, well organised and well supported. Report by Derek Tutill - see photos on the Club's Facebook Page.

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## LOCAL SUNDAY RUN - 23RD NOVEMBER

Having had to disappoint all the members who had booked and paid for the glass-bottom boat trip by cancelling because of the weather and rough seas predicted, another excursion was arranged.

As it was short notice, this was a sightseeing journey around lower Whangarei to see the on-going development of the Port Nikau area, a drive up Otaika Valley and through the Kokopu area, to an enjoyable lunch at the Springs Flat Roadhouse.

From here we travelled the short distance to Kauri to raid some sheds we had heard about. Kevin and Viv welcomed us and opened up their immense collections.

The Men's Shed housed a Ford Model T Coupe, 1929 Studebaker Erskine, 1967 Ford Fairlane, 2002 Harley Davidson Dyna, 1979 Triumph 2500, 1969 Ford Ranchero Utility. The Girl's Shed housed numerous household items from the 60's and 70's including enamel cookware, Tupperware, lighting, kitchen gadgets, etc.

All was surrounded by beautiful grounds and gardens. We hope to return for another visit.

Report by Marg.



# NGUNGURU SCHOOL FUNDRAISER CAR SHOW

**Sunday 30th November 2025**

Ngunguru turned on a beautiful day for their school fundraiser car show

The grounds were packed with 160 cars and motorbikes with more out on the street including a 1924 Jewett.

Numerous clubs presented their cars which made a wide range of English, American, Australian, Japanese and European models.

The burgers, sausages, cakes, coffee, ice cream and cold drink stalls were well patronised. A relaxed and enjoyable day for everyone.

Report by Marg.





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## HIKURANGI CHRISTMAS PARADE 13TH DECEMBER 2025

After attendance at the Whangarei Christmas Parade was cancelled from lack of interest it was good to attend the Hikurangi event and make the cars look festive even though there were only four members there. After seeing video of the Whangarei parade I don't think we missed much but did thoroughly enjoy the Hikurangi event, and it was a beautiful day weatherwise.

We parked the cars on the school field and it was just a short walk over a bridge to reach the main street where the usual stalls for gifts and food were set up, and it was a very busy scene. The cafes were also open so there was a variety of goodies to eat and drink. As well as a variety of cars in the parade there were also motorbikes, quad bikes (from a local Hikurangi business), floats and emergency vehicles.



## MEMBER PROFILE - DAVID AND LIN SMITH

Hi

After owning "LUV A 65", a 1965 Mustang convertible for over 23 years, we did not realise how hard it would be to replace it. The Ford ran like a clock, handled well, had plenty of power, was easy to get in and out of, plus the hood went up and down quickly and easily, and it had a big boot.

We were looking for something that had all those attributes, could cruise comfortably at 100k plus, preferably in hard top, (the discussions about hood up or hood down can get contentious at times).

First we looked at Capris, but finding a good one was not easy, and the prices were crazy.

Then local collections, Zephyrs were very basic, Minis too small, Morris Minors and the various Austins too much work, Chryslers too big, and so it went on.

Then we looked at classic English, Triumphs for a start as we had bought a Spitfire back from England.

I don't know if we were more flexible when we were younger, but they were low and painful to get in and out of. The earlier Triumphs had diabolical hoods after what we were used to.

Next we had a look at continental, Fiat and Renault plus American, there were some very good Mercs, but we had to keep reminding ourselves it was a weekend driver we wanted, not something bigger than the CX5 next to it.

A flight to Christchurch and a journey north to Waimak cars was an education, as they are Jaguar enthusiasts with some very nice American cars as well, but nothing stood out.

Off to the back of Huntly for a Sunday drive to a man who only collects 2-door cars, and they must be 9 or 10 out of 10 condition. He had some wonderful cars (Escort Cosworth powered, 2 lovely big American convertibles plus some Triumphs. A few drives later and we had resolved we were still staying with easy access cars and not too big.

Around Auckland we looked at all sorts including an as new Morgan, 11k on the clock, but I couldn't get in and out with the hood up, mind you it wasn't that much easier with it down.

Such a lot of cars we looked at had oil leaks, some worse than others, we were reminded more than once that the English don't build computers as they can't make one that leaks oil.

We also looked at cars with engine knocks, cooling problems, rust, no soft tops, oil leaks and worse

After philosophically thinking something would eventually come along, but not knowing when, Lin spotted a 1980 Mazda 626 Coupe in Taupo.

I have a soft spot for Mazda as I worked on them for a number of years, and rebuilt the first 10A in an RX3 in NZ. The Sunday News did a road test and Bill Shiels said it went as good as new for only a few hundred dollars of seals.

A few phone calls later and we were off to Taupo, where it was as described.

It's a tidy unit, a lot better on fuel than the Ford, and we are looking forward to participating in club events again.

In hindsight if we had known the time and energy involved, would we have sold the Ford, who knows but we had some great experiences and met some very interesting and enthusiastic people along the way.

David and Lin Smith (more photos of David and Lin's cars next page)





David and Lin's previous cars clockwise from top right: Triumph Spitfire, Hillman Hunter, Morris Minor, Ford Prefect, Holden, Triumph, Hillman Imp and Ford Anglia.



# A & P SHOW

## SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025

We had a turnout of 12 cars, a few less than last year, with new member Chris Drenon bringing his 1967 MGB GT for the first time.

There were the usual 'gifty' type stalls, bouncy castles, promotional displays and an amazing selection of food stalls. The weather was perfect, almost too hot and bright, and Mr. Whippy was going flat stick all day.

It was great to see the young kids with their well-trained pets - goats, sheep and lambs. The Petting Zoo was full of wide-eyed onlookers. People everywhere would have ensured it was a bumper day.

Report by Derek Tutill **(See more photos on next page, plus photos including the animals on the Club's Facebook Page.)**





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## COFFEE NIGHT - 18TH NOVEMBER 2025

Sorry I haven't got a write up but the evening's talk was given by this lady Police Sergeant and I'm sure was very interesting, thanks to Pete for the photos.



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## HUKERENUI CAR, BIKE SHOW & SWAPMEET

On 11 October I went to the swap & meet car show at Hukerenui and took our shiny Mazda MX5 and my SIL's EH Holden Special. We were ushered to the back paddock where it was a bit wet after a recent shower, but as it was now sunny I put the top down, attached the Classic & Sports Car Club signage, and went for a wander around the stalls.

I found some interesting books and rang my SIL to come and look, but he sounded stressed and said we've had an incident and I better get back to the cars asap.

I expected the worst, thinking what's happened to my wife, so I hurried to the cars. When I got closer I noticed my wife and thought well that's not the issue, but then noticed my Mazda with what looked like a plague of locusts all over it. Took me a moment to realise it was mud!

Mud was splattered all over three cars, and because I had put the roof down it was lavishly spread through the interior as well.

There was a group of car owners trying to clean up and the organisers were fussing about trying to calm an angry mob that were about to take action against the perpetrator!

Turns out a meathead in a hotted-up Chev (see photo) did a burn out and a couple of doughnuts right by our cars and sprayed people and cars. He quickly parked and disappeared as the angry mob gathered. The organisers were upset as our show ponies were now looking like bush brumby and went off to search for the mud slinger. He was brought back under escort and made to apologize and then asked to leave the show. Plenty of farewell wishes from the angry mob gathered, but no pitchforks were thrown!

So a cleanup commenced, best we could without rags and water.

Later on when prizes were being awarded, I heard my car being called out, so I went up and to my surprise was awarded a collection of items put together by the organizers for the dirtiest car! Not what I was aiming for when I turned up, but hey a silver lining and a laugh for a memorable occasion for all the wrong reasons!

Report by Colin Brickell



## **NGATEA TRIP**

### **FRIDAY 26TH TO TUESDAY 30TH DECEMBER 2025**

Ngatea Trip (Day 1)

We met at Cobham Oval 8.30am on Boxing Day, the sun was shining so a great day for travelling. Seven cars arrived, some people in their daily drives as unfortunately some classics were unavailable due to needing some TLC.

We headed off shortly after a briefing from Phil and Margaret. We met up again at Wellsford for the usual Coffee and comfort stop.

Next stop the BP on the southern motorway near Papakura for lunch, where we were joined by Joan and Terry, some childhood friends of Phil Schultz's.

After lunch we then proceeded to our motel in Morrinsville arriving 2.30ish for check in. Traffic had been reasonably light with no stop start motoring on the motorways.

Around 4pm we met for happy hour and after a while we decided that it would be easier to order Takeaways for dinner as the restaurant that was open was a good 1.5kms. So we all ordered what we wanted and sat around in the motel courtyard chatting and eating our fish and chips etc.

As the briefing for the trip was 7.15am the next day we had a reasonably early night.

#### **Phil Scot**

Due to space (so many events to include!) only the first couple of days of this trip are included in this issue and the rest will be in the next issue - stay tuned!



**NGATEA**





## DAY 2 – MORRINSVILLE TO CAMBRIDGE VIA NGATEA

Pete R

At Morrinsville Motel we didn't start the day off very well, arriving at the morning briefing 15 minutes late - 7.30am instead of 7.15am – apologies team. Then I got a chocolate fish because when my phone dropped out of its tripod onto the floor I said a rude word very loudly!

However, onward and upwards, even though the weather looked a bit ominous with intermittent light rain as we set off in convoy for the 60km drive to Ngatea.

We arrived at the domain site and were directed to our park spot – cars arriving constantly, the usual amazing variety, gleaming, ready for showing off.

Some good food stalls provided morning tea and lunch then around 1pm it was time to leave and my third faux pas happened – I had missed filling up with petrol the night before, so the guys were great and held back 10 minutes while I tried to operate the pay-at-the-pump system at the Gull petrol station!

We then took a pleasant 130km country drive to the Lavender Gardens. It was blueberry ice creams all round, but then as it was \$13.20 each to go into the garden we cheated and took a photo over the fence!

It was then only a 20 km drive to the Cambrian Lodge Motel in Cambridge. After unloading we gathered at 4pm for a glass and nibbles but it rained so we all piled into Mike and Linda's unit. At 6pm we met and got a lift the short distance to the Sila Thai Restaurant, where we all enjoyed an excellent Thai dinner. – a great day.

The group with the 'cheat' photo of their attendance at the Lavender Gardens - you can see the Lavender behind them, beautiful plant.



## LOOKING AHEAD

**SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY - WAIPU CAR & BIKE SHOW** - Meet at Water Street car park at 8.00am and depart for Waipu as a club. Last year we got the prize for the best club presentation so let's do the same again this year.

**WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY - REST HOME VISITS** - These are the two Homes who couldn't host us on our Pre-Christmas visit. We will do the visits then go for lunch at a surprise venue.

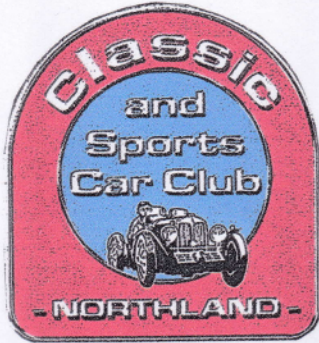
**TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY - COFFEE NIGHT** - At the Men's Shed 7.30pm. Bring a plate and cash for a raffle. Every 3rd Tuesday monthly.



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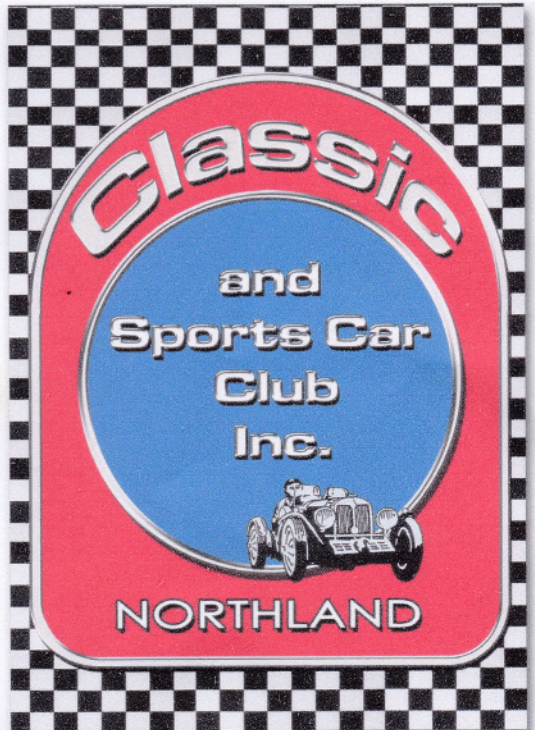
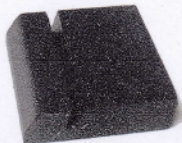
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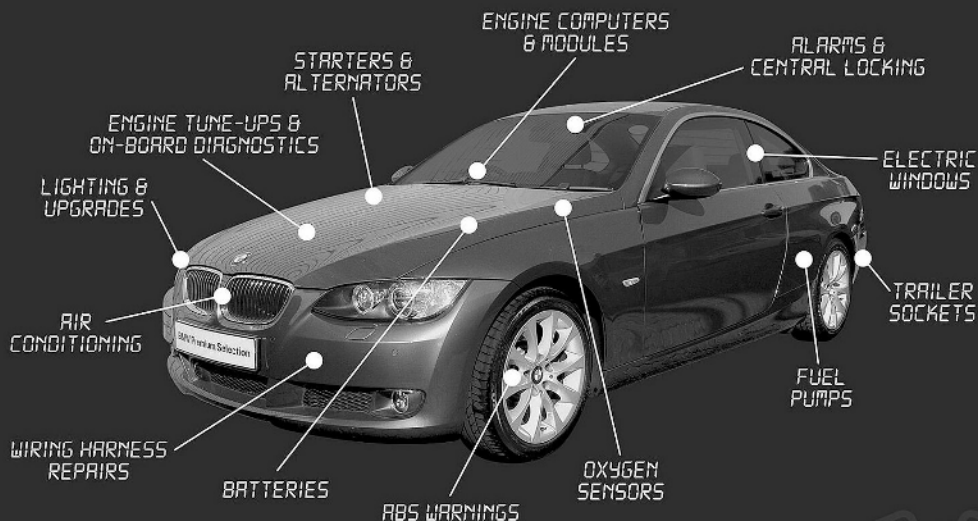
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