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MAY/JUNE 2026 - ISSUE 297

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As usual many thanks to all the contributors of photos and articles.

LOOKING AHEAD

TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -

see page 15 for details, please come along if you can, the normal Monthly Coffee Night will follow the AGM.

SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 2026 - DAFFODIL DAY RALLY

organised by the Vintage Car Club. Meet at PMG FORD, 70 Porowini Avenue, Whangarei. Assemble 10.30am for 11.00am departure. PMG FORD are also supplying prizes for best decorated car so flash yourself and your car up and you may be a winner! Entry Fee \$20 per car which, of course goes to the Cancer Society Charity.

We then drive over to Dargaville for a Sausage Sizzle for lunch. Sounds like a nice day out for a very good cause. Let's hope the weather is good too.



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BRIT & EURO CLASSIC CAR SHOW 2026

On Sunday 1st March 2026, Phil Scot and I went to the Brit and Euro Classic Car Show at Lloyd Elsmore Park in Pakuranga. When we arrived, President Phil and Marg had already arrived and had the Riley 4/72 on display at the Riley stand. With over 1000 cars the variety was huge. By late morning it was time for lunch and while waiting for a steak sandwich we bumped into Greg Tucker on his own having left his wife at IKEA. Phil and Marg said they had seen Neil Batchelor. We also saw Grant McKenzie's Austin Healey and trailer on display. While looking at the Minis I saw a good condition yellow 1979 Mini Clubman 1275GT (mine is 1980) and got to talk with the owner who got his car new while working at the BMC factory in Petone. He was there in the 1970's, the same time as I started my apprenticeship at Wrightcars in Whangarei, and we had a good chat. (Photo attached).

By Brian Winger



top left: Brian talking to Mini owner.

top right: Grant McKenzie's 1957 Austin Healey

bottom: Morris Minor Club display



top left Ray & Gill Sanders' 1968 Sunbeam Rapier - top right Austin Flying A Club display - centre Riley Club display with Phil & Margaret's car - bottom Mercedes Club display.

See next page for a few more.



top to bottom - Ferrari, Rolls Royce and Citroen Club displays

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PHIL SCOT'S RAWENE RUN

Woke up to a sunny Sunday morning and headed off to the meeting point for Phil Scot's run to Rawene. It was disappointing to see a small turn out of only four cars arrive. Greg and Rae Tucker, Phil and Brian, myself and Marg, and Graeme Whiteman with two friends as passengers. However, away we went to our first stop at Blah Blah Blah in Dargaville for morning tea where we sat and chatted over a coffee and muffin.

Continuing to the next stop at Waipoua Forest and a short walk to visit Tane Mahuta the giant Kauri Tree. After a short chat in the car park with some other motorists we continued on to Opononi, stopping at a scenic observation point overlooking the Hokianga Harbour for a group photo all in our Club shirts, (we had to share parking with a sad looking vandalised, crashed Honda, no wheels, smashed windows and generally beaten up condition). Lunch at Opononi Cafe was also enjoyable as we sat on the deck in the sunshine with more food and conversation. Eventually we moved on to our final destination at Rawene, the puzzle shop "Puzzles Games & Fun" with thousands of puzzles and games to buy or just spend time to browse, with a true character behind the counter to add to the fun of visiting his shop. A casual drive home finished an enjoyable day in good weather and great company. Thanks Phil for the day out.

Report by Phil & Marg

(Another photo on page 15)



WEEKEND AWAY - 13/14 JUNE 2026

Saturday morning 5 cars departed the Cricket Oval car park for a weekend away in Auckland. The plan was to visit MOTAT on Saturday and on Sunday we were booked for a roast lunch and movie at Ryders Cinema Restaurant and Museum at Avondale. One participant was late and phoned to say they would catch us up later in the day.

So away we went. We arrived at the first stop Wellsford, after driving through patches of fog, quite heavy at times. After a rest away we went but a little red TR decided it was to go no further than Dome Valley and needed a ride on a truck back home. The passengers promised to catch us up later in the day. The remainder of us eventually arrived at the Aviation Hall of MOTAT. A very interesting display of aircraft, although the poor lighting made it difficult to read the information plaques at each aircraft, but never the less a great visit.



A short free Tram ride to the main MOTAT site and cafe for lunch followed by a stroll around for a few hours, then the Tram ride back to our cars, and on to check in at the Surrey Hotel for a rest before "Happy Hour" and dinner when our delayed friends arrived in time to join us.



A good night's sleep and a late start Sunday had us at Ryders for our 10.30am visit for a social catch-up and look around the Museum area before lunch. To make up the minimum number of 25 required for lunch we had invited the Auckland Branch of the Riley Car Club to join us and a total of 28 enjoyed the roast lunch and a great movie. It was a good sociable afternoon and we hope to do this one again later.

Report by Phil & Marg



AGM

TUESDAY 18th AUGUST 2026

7.30pm

AT THE MEN'S SHED, RAILWAY ROAD, WHANGAREI

BRING A PLATE AND SOME CASH FOR THE RAFFLE

IF YOU WANT TO PUT IN A NOMINATION FOR A COMMITTEE POSITION YOU CAN CONTACT PHIL SCOT OR MIKE FRANKS FOR A NOMINATION FORM AND INFO ON THE PROCEDURE.



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MEMBER PROFILE - LANCE AND TINA SHEPHERD

Tina is a Whangarei girl having been here all her life, working in law from age 17. She grew up in the countryside with her Mum and Dad, where her Dad worked at the local Ruatangata garage. He was a Holden and Chevy man which Tina has inherited a liking for.

Tina spent many hours of her childhood hanging out in the garage and helping her Dad working on their family's classic cars, sanding, painting badges, passing tools, etc. She particularly remembers the '62 Chev Belair Wagon on which Tina's Dad (Matt) did a full rebuild - engine, body and interior. The Chev 1954 Pickup Truck was also a favourite.

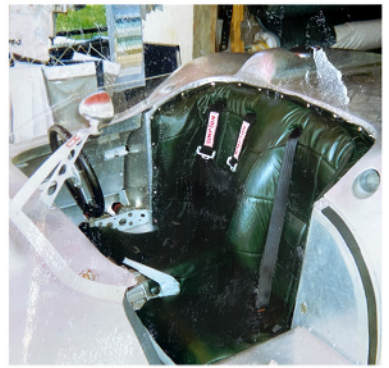
Below is a photo of the '36 Chevy Coupe restored when Tina was a young girl.

She is pleased to be back around beautiful old cars again, and a Chevy at that.



Lance grew up on the North Shore, Auckland. He commenced learning the trade of upholstery at the age of 17, starting up his own upholstery business in 1991 (age 23).

Whilst specialising in furniture restoration over his career, in his earlier years he did dabble in automotive and marine trimming. One being an E-Type Jag and also a 1957 Chevy which sadly he doesn't have photos of.



E Type Jag re-upholstered

Lance's first car was a Mini, followed by a Hillman Hunter. He restored a 1971 Vauxhall Victor, fitting it with a small block Chev engine, a Wolseley Mowog diff and 350 turbo. Then getting his work van - a Ford Transit van - restored by Lance with the help of friends, and the upholstery being one of Lance's earlier automotive trimming jobs.

See next two pages for Belair restoration details and photographs.



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Imported to New Zealand in 2007, restoration started in 2009 (duration of restoration was 12 years by the previous owner). Restored to original condition. It has not been shown much in New Zealand, only attending one beach hop and a couple of car shows in Bay of Plenty area since being restored.

Lance is the second owner in New Zealand, 4th owner from new.



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SWAP MEET - 26TH APRIL 2026 - AT VINTAGE CAR CLUB

A not very good start for me! The Vitesse had developed a nasty cough and was going nowhere. Then Pete rang to see if I'd like to accompany him in his Jaaaagwa! Oh yes! Orf we went and arrived at a very respectable hour of 9.30am. It looked very busy with a huge variety of cars, some vintage but many American ... but after a little manoeuvring we had the Jag parked.

Denis and his 2.5 Triumph and Keith with his Zephyr were there, plus Grant McKenzie with his nice newly acquired '46 Coupe. However we soon spotted more Triumphs - TR7, TR6 and TR4.

We retired for a well deserved cuppa and pie and then wandered round the Swap Meet bit. A 1929 Austin T Fabric Saloon looked a treat ready for a little renovation and soon to be on the road. There were many stalls with spare parts everywhere. A metal sculpture stall is worth a special mention as the man very cleverly put together assorted bits of metal to form interesting figures.

With knees a bit achy we decided to leave - but still a worthwhile visit.

Report by Myles Flynn (2 pages of photos follow)

She's still crying - Oh Dear!



Myles said he would like a pic of his Vitesse in tears 'cause it couldn't go! what could I say...

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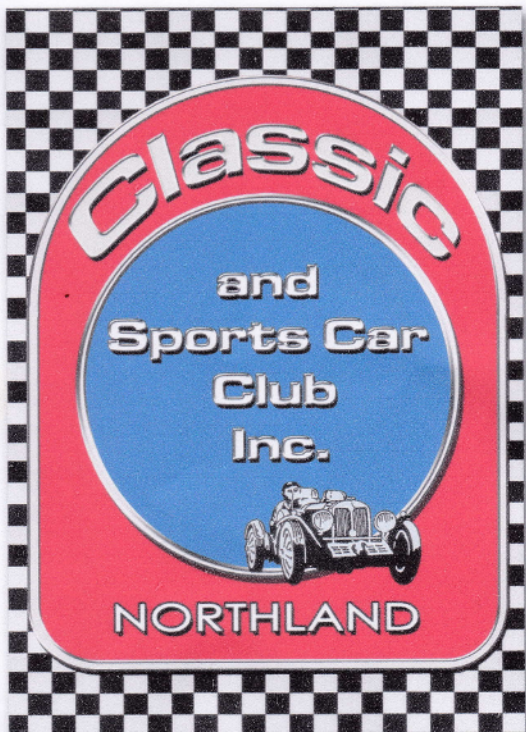
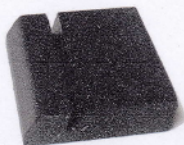
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MERCEDES 140 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

This Mercedes Benz 140 year anniversary event was held at the Warbirds Hangar at Ardmore and I was fortunate to be invited to this event held on Wednesday 17th June 2026. They were celebrating their 140th anniversary and displaying the latest S class top of the line saloon, yet to be released in New Zealand. They had taken over the Warbirds Hangar with a display of the S class from the early models to the new version. They have been holding events like this all over the world and the new model displayed had been taken around the world for these events.

They provided morning tea with various croissants filled with everything from ham and cheese to chocolate, very yummy, and as much coffee as you wanted. We were also entertained by a small band that was brilliant.

The General Manager of Mercedes NZ, Helen Sunley, spoke and gave us some history of the Company. They are holding these events in several places in New Zealand, heading south to Wellington then to the South Island.

On arrival we were greeted by many people dressed in white Mercedes overalls who were directing us to where we should park, and then handed a top quality Mercedes hat and a special sticker one of which was attached to the S class that was being taken around the world.

All in all a great day and worth the journey to Ardmore, through all the horrendous Auckland traffic. Also caught up with several fellow members of the Auckland Mercedes Club.







FAMOUS CLASSIC CARS IN FILMS AND ON TELEVISION

- 1962 Volkswagen Beetle - The Love Bug (Herbie)
- 1982 Pontiac Trans Am - Knight Rider (Kitt)
- 1969 Dodge Charger - Dukes of Hazzard (General Lee)
- 1975 Ford Gran Torino - Starsky & Hutch
- 1980 Lamborghini LP400S - The Cannonball Run
- 1978 Ferrari 308 GTS - Magnum P.I.
- 1981 DeLorean DMC-12 - Back to the Future
- 1968 Dodge Charger - Bullitt
- 1968 Mini Coopers - The Italian Job (original film)
- 1962 Volvo P1800 - The Saint
- 1986 Ferrari Testarossa - Miami Vice
- 1961 Chevrolet Corvette - Route 66
- 1967 Shelby GT500 - Gone in 60 Seconds (Eleanor)
- 1963 Aston Martin DB5 - Goldfinger (James Bond Movie)
- Jaguar Mk 2 - Inspector Morse
- 1978 Mini 1000 - Goodbye Pork Pie
- Reliant Robin 3 Wheeler - Only Fools and Horses
- 1977 Mini 1000 - Mr. Bean
- 1970 Triumph Herald 13/60 Convertible - Last of the Summer Wine
- 1966 Ford Thunderbird - Thelma and Louise
- 1959 Cadillac Ecto-1 -- Ghostbusters
- 1993 Porsche 911 Turbo 3.6 - Bad Boys
- 1949 Mercury - Rebel Without a Cause
- 1958 Plymouth Fury - Christine
- 1974 Dodge Monaco - The Blues Brothers

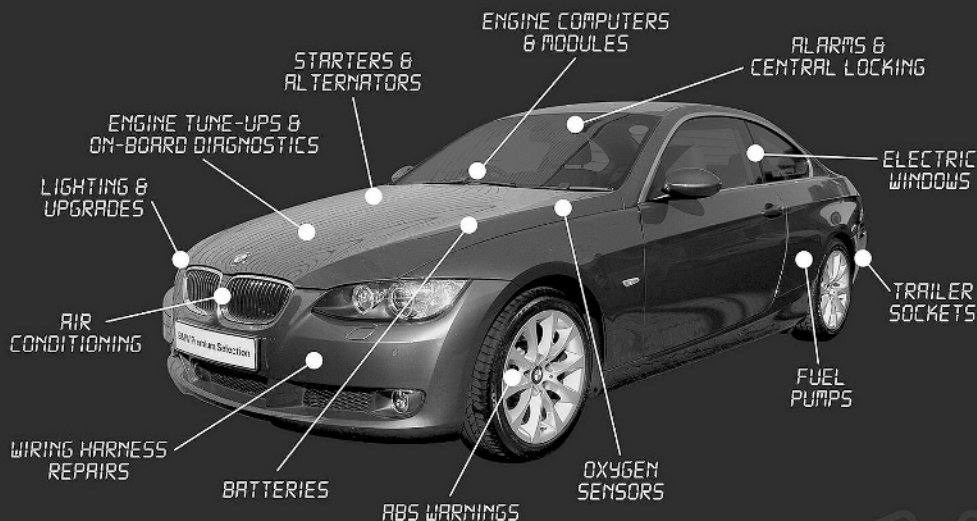


top left: General Lee from Dukes of Hazzard, bottom left: Jaguar Mk 2 from Inspector Morse, top right: the DeLorean from Back to the Future and bottom: the 3 Mini Coopers from The Italian Job (original film)





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