

THE VETERAN CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (QUEENSLAND) INC.

*Club Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC
Governor of Queensland*

VETERAN TORQUE

APRIL 2017



"Lady Di" and Penguin Pal came to the P-Party
[Photo courtesy Pam Guthrie]



COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF VCCA(Q) 2016-2017



Club Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC Governor of Queensland

President: **Bob Burley**
email bowtie@aapt.net.au (07) 3886 0059

Immed. Past-President: **Bruce Wright** (07) 3325 5885

Vice-President: **Peter Arnold** (07) 3298 5539
email parnold4@bigpond.com

Treasurer: **Hazel Burley** (07)3886 0059
email bowtie@aapt.net.au

Secretary **Rhonda Guthrie** (07) 5536 2717
email secretary.vccaq@gmail.com

Events Director: **Albert Budworth** (07) 3361 2424
.....email albertdianebudworth@outlook.com

Property Director:
David Hackshall (07) 3805 2041
email david@pbiaustralia.com

Committee Members:
Carolyn Robinson (07) 3201 1986
email redbubble@picknowl.com.au
Russell Massey (07)3893 3414
email vvancode@iinet.net.au

Honorary Life Members

RACQ
Phil Fletcher
Hugh Kimlin
Grahame Wilkinson

Non-Management Positions:

Editor:
Carolyn Robinson (07) 3201 1986
email redbubble@picknowl.com.au

Dating Committee:
Ross Guthrie (Chairman) (07) 5536 2717
Bob Collett 0411 242 360
Syd Norman 0427 452 261
Paul Blake (07) 3878 6483

Member Liaison:
Ross/Rhonda Guthrie (07) 5536 2717
email guthrie45@bigpond.com

Librarian:
Wayne Aberdeen (07) 3396 8556

Club Historian:
Denis Martin (07) 3379 2530

Webmaster
Peter Ransom (07) 3359 2671
email pjransom@westnet.com.au

Queensland Delegate to National Body

Bob Burley (07) 3886 0059
email bowtie@aapt.net.au (07)3886 0059

Club Delegate to Qld Historic Motoring Council:

Albert Budworth (07) 3361 2424

The Club holds its meetings on the first MONDAY of each month (excluding January). Meetings are held in the VCCA(Q) Clubrooms at 1376 Old Cleveland Road, CARINDALE. (Corner of Old Cleveland Road and The Gateway Arterial Road – Refidex Map 182 E5). Meetings commence at 7.30pm, and Visitors are always welcome.

The telephone number for the Clubrooms is (07) 3843 0010

The Club website is: www.vccaq.com

Membership fees for 2016/17 (Due July 1) are:

Full Membership (single):	\$60;	Joint Membership	\$65.
Country Membership (single):	\$50;	Joint Membership:	\$55.
Associate Membership	\$50		

There is an additional joining fee of \$30.

Note: There is an **ADDITIONAL CHARGE** of \$5 for those members requiring a mailed copy.

Membership fees may be paid by **direct deposit** into the Club's Account:

Bank of Queensland A/C 21577447; BSB 124001, giving details of your name.

Or By Cheque, made payable to Veteran Car Club of Australia (Queensland) Inc.
(Please use full name as above to comply with bank requirements.)

Membership Application Forms are available from the Secretary at the address below.

All articles for publication in "Veteran Torque" must be with the Editor by the 20th of each month.

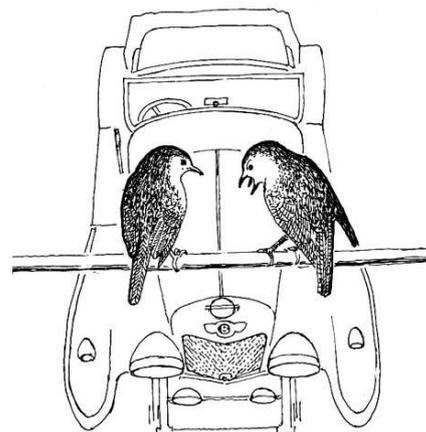
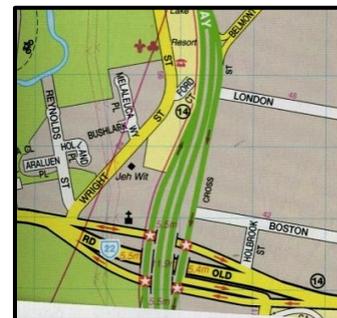
Please send contributions to::

Carolyn Robinson
8 Thoona Close Karana Downs Qld 4306
Ph. (07) 3201 1986; email: redbubble@picknowl.com.au

All other correspondence to:

The Secretary, VCCA (Q) Inc.
1376 Old Cleveland Rd, Carindale Qld 4152
email secretary.vccaq@gmail.com

'Any more of this "Mr Reliant" Stuff and I'll show him what a British Racing Green and Guano Colour Scheme really looks like!'



President's Report



Your Committee is still hard at work getting ready for painting the inside and outside of the club rooms. As requested, all the tenant clubs have taken away their cupboards out of the tenants' store room. The pile of rubbish that was left has been binned as well as the well glued carpet. Most of us never knew there was a window in that room! The power points are to be moved to suit the new cupboards etc. The painting will be under way very soon.

There will be a few of us staying over after the "P" Party, on Sunday morning we will be taking down all the photos and paraphernalia off the walls ready for the painter. The Model A club has a function there on Sunday so it will be all-hands-on-deck to finish the job. That's what I love about this Club, it just gets in and it happens!

As I said last month it's a busy rally year, don't forget to give your cars a good service, less breakdowns, more fun. Trailers need a service as well.

RACQ Motorfest will be on again, their representatives have made contact and I have a meeting with them to discuss our site plan.

See you all at the next meeting.

Bob Burley



Webmaster's Report

In recent times QHMC has established a Facebook page. Those of you without Internet facilities will be underwhelmed by this news, but the rest of us may find it interesting. The QHMC Facebook page has yet to mature and right now it's little more than a digital noticeboard, spruiking member clubs' events. That's fair enough, but perhaps in the longer term we'll see some reporting and images of the events and even discussion of matters near and dear. If you're interested, [have a look](#). I believe it would be a good thing for VCCA(Q) to have a Facebook page – everybody does these days – but we would need a "moderator" to keep things on the right track. Yours truly does not have his hand up...

3D printing is maturing rapidly. There seems to be no limit to what can be printed and for our hobby it seems that it will (very soon) displace traditional methods of producing parts for our cars. Complex engine parts are already being made [using 3D technology](#). Is it cost effective yet? Hard to say right now, but it will be when other methods ceased to exist!

Peter Ransom

Thanks to Terry Lewis for passing on the following:

"The convicts revenge!

Well done Chris and Jenny Sorensen and Australia for being the official picture of the 2017 London to Brighton Run.
Great effort"

<http://www.vccofgb.co.uk/lontobri/index.htm>

**Minutes of the Six Hundred and Thirty Third General Meeting of the
Veteran Car Club of Australia Qld Inc.
Held in the Clubrooms at 1376 Old Cleveland Road Carindale
Monday 6th March 2017**

Welcome: Bob Burley (President) opened the meeting at 7.30pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Attendance: 43 Members as per attendance book

Visitors: Bev Lollback

Apologies: Peter Arnold, Michael Hackshall, Peter & Jennie Ransom, Bruce Wright, Trevor Brosnan, David Hackshall, Frank & Kathy Muggeridge, Frola Gilltrap, John & Christine Page, Trish Hanley.

Minutes of the Meeting 6th February 2017: Minutes as published in the club newsletter, so will be taken as read. Rhonda Guthrie moved that they be accepted as a true and correct record, seconded Carol Robinson

Business Arising: The date for the Presentation Dinner printed in the Events section of the last newsletter is incorrect. It should be the 5th August 2017

Correspondence:

Inward:

Magazines from various Clubs, also our copy of the American Horseless Carriage Gazette - Bob mentioned that there is an excellent article in the magazine and suggested the editor might like to repeat it in a future newsletter.

Contracts Renewals received from some of the club tenants - Triumph, Mini Car Club, Studebaker, Austin Motor Vehicle, QVVA, Austin 7 Reg. Qld.

Email In: from Kevin Brooks – notifying the club that he was going to be using his Buick on Friday 3rd March to test drive the rally route he is planning for the rally he is organizing in May 2017.

Outward: Nil

Rhonda moved that the inward correspondence be received and the outward be endorsed seconded by Trevor Farnell. All agreed

Treasurer Report: Hazel reported on the club accounts, she moved that the report be accepted. seconded by Glynn Hackshall

Events:

25th March Club social evening “P” night – This event is now organized and should be a great evening of fun for the club members. Hazel is collecting the money tonight – cover the cost of the food. Cost will be \$10.00 per person.

3rd – 7th April Hi Wheeler National Event to be held in Orange NSW - Vicki Forsyth will be attending this event with one of the veterans. I’m sure she will have a great time.

28th – 30th April 2017 Allora Autumn Festival – details are on the club web site or contact Doug Partington There are a few families planning on attending. Allora is an excellent district to tour and Doug and Elizabeth Partington always put together a great rally.

14th May 2017 Wolston House – The National Trust is holding an Open Day on “Mothers Day”, they are asking for veteran vehicles to be placed on display. If you are interested could you please notify Alan Robinson

19 – 21st May Kevin & Joyce Brooks have arranged a club three day rally in the country – destination will be Neurum Creek Bush Campgrounds ph 1300 733 901 www.ncbr.com.au Plenty of powered sites. The campground is situated 14ks west of Woodford and is quite spacious.

Kevin mentioned that on the Friday he is planning to leave the grounds at about 10.30am we will visit a local old homestead we are required to pay \$5.00 per car, suggest you bring a picnic lunch and chairs. Saturday we will explore Peachester, Sunday will be a short drive. This sounds like a very relaxing few days.

21st May – QHMC Queens Park Ipswich Open display.

3rd - 4th June Old Petrie Town - once again will be holding their open weekend if you are interested could you please contact Bob Burley.

27th June – 3rd July - Maryborough “Mary Poppins Festival” organized by Terry & Regie Lewis, and their fellow local club members.

Entry forms for this event will be out soon. There is a lot of interest from the club members as well as interstate enthusiasts. The southerners are coming to enjoy our winter. I understand the Wallace Caravan Park is now totally booked out.

9th July RACQ Motorfest. Entry forms were emailed out to club members as well there are some on the front table. The RACQ is allowing cars to be delivered on the Saturday 8th July and stored in a safe area so as to make it easy for entrants to place their cars on display on the Sunday. The Club Treasurer will forward a cheque to the RACQ to cover your entry. Please bring your completed form to the next club meeting and leaving it with Hazel so the cheque and forms can be handed in to the RACQ together.

5th August Club Annual Presentation Dinner more information to come.

19th August Swap to be held at the club rooms veteran & vintage parts only there is a gold coin entry fee. The usual sausage and onions on a slice of bread will be available to purchase / enjoy.

25th – 26th August - Bribie Is - Bridge to Bridge I'm sure it has been a long time since you explored Bribie Island, let us make this a weekend to remember. You may wish to arrive on the Friday and leave either on the Sunday or maybe stay until Monday. Our base will be the Bribie Is Top Tourist Caravan Park – Jacana Avenue, Woorim, Ph 07 3408 1134. Cabins are also available, at a variety of prices. Bribie Island Caravan Park is the perfect destination for a relaxing beach holiday or a few days. Take a leisurely stroll around Woorim to the local shops, enjoy a coffee in one of the cafes or a meal in the local hotel or surf club. Now doesn't that sound enticing. This could be your shake down rally before departing for Clare in September.

24th – 30th Sept SA National Rally to be held in Clare. The Queensland club will be well represented as there are quite a few club members travelling south for this event.

1st October SA holds a “Down Under London to Brighton” one day rally, this event is held every year, for 2017 it will be held on the Sunday after the National Rally organized by the Vintage Sports Car Club of SA

7th – 10th October A NSW club member is organizing a few days of veteran motoring in and around the Temora and Junee District. This would be a great way to wind down from the busy week of National Motoring on the Clare Rally, before heading home to Qld.

4th November - Our Events Co-ordinator Albert Budworth is planning an Environmentally-friendly Social Day. Toooo hot to drive a veteran car at that time of the year.

Dating Report: Ross Guthrie reported that Glenn Adams has handed him the paperwork to have his 1915 Napier dated. Ross mentioned that Glenn had also handed him the dating form from UK.

Library: Nil

QHMC : Nil - meeting next month - Carol Robinson mentioned that she had read in the QHMC minutes. that if our club sanctions the use (and you are not getting paid) you can drive to a wedding or school formal for people who are not direct relatives. (Previously the passengers had to be a close relative.)

Editor's Report: Carol is looking for interesting items for the newsletter. Carol requires all items on or before the 20th of each month

Web Master: Nil

Historian Report: Denis Martin mentioned that he had read that there was a 1911 Locomobile (this was an ex Gilltrap Museum vehicle) for sale recently at the Reg Schuster Auction. He asked if anyone knew if it had been sold, Yes, was the answer, apparently it went for approx. \$70,000.

SAG: Nil

General Business:

As most of the Club members will be attending the Maryborough Rally it was decided last meeting to cancel the July club meeting. - this is just a reminder.

Glynn Hackshall mentioned that a Queensland Veteran Talbot had recently been sold. The car history – this circa 1914 veteran was part of the Gilltrap Museum Collection, then went to Bob Collett, sold to John Hughes of Newcastle, sometime later Rick Thurgood (a Queensland club member) purchased this car and had it for a long time and recently sold it back to John Hughes in Newcastle.

Bob Burley reported that Gavin Pocock had sold his 1911 Ford Town Coach to the Longhurst family.

Bob also showed the new parts he had built for the diff on his Hupmobile.

Hazel Burley mentioned that they had received a lot of comments from our tenants regarding the upgrading of the fans in the auditorium and the kitchen.

Rhonda mentioned that there were a few Qld Veteran Club members who also own Austin 7's. The Queensland Austin 7 Club is hosting the next National Tour to be held in Toowoomba 8th – 13th April 2017. There are 127 entrants from all the states and the cars will be on display at the Cobb & Co Museum on Sunday 9th April from 11am – 3pm. The other days we will be touring the countryside, hopefully not getting our visitors lost.

Naturally I highly recommend you come and view these very special cars. To see 127 of the one make of car is well worth viewing. Unfortunately the Austin 7 movement only hold a national event every 5 years so the next time it will be in Queensland will be in 20 years, will you be here to see them then? I might be around, but certainly not driving them. Looking forward to seeing a lot of Veteran Club members at the Cobb & Co display.

Bob mentioned that he had taken photos of the damaged asphalt on the grounds – this has been done unfortunately by the large rubbish trucks. Bob to make some enquiries regarding getting the area repaired.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Rhonda Guthrie
Hon Secretary, Veteran Car Club of Australia (Qld) Inc.

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DISCLAIMER

Articles and advertisements appearing in *Veteran Torque* are published in good faith on the understanding that the content is legitimate, and no responsibility for their accuracy is accepted. Opinions expressed herein are solely the views and opinions of the contributors and are not necessarily the views and opinions of the Management or Membership of the V.C.C.A (Q) Inc.

Wolston House Event - 14 May

I think most members know the history of Wolston House but as a refresher: it was built as a farmhouse in 1851 and after various owners is now a National Trust property. Renovations etc. have been carried out and it is fully furnished with the furniture and equipment of the period.



The Club has been invited to display vehicles at an event which will be focussing mainly on food, to be held on Mothers' Day Sunday 14th May. This will be an opportunity to help a worthy organisation and be good publicity for the Club.

The property is at 223 Grindle Road Wacol, (UBD Map 196 P16) and is easily accessible from Ipswich Road and there is ample trailer parking in the grounds. I don't as yet have details of times. I intend to talk to *Reggie* to see if he will bestir himself so that Carolyn and I, as National Trust members, can represent both organisations on the day.

Now the piece de resistance – Recently tiny hexafoil markings have been discovered in several places in the house. Hexafoils are associated with early 19th century buildings in England and are thought to be to protect inhabitants from evil spirits. The symbol is reliably dated to before 1272, but the origins are lost in antiquity. So – a visit to Wolston House would surely be worthwhile just to see these symbols.

Thought For The Day.

*A pedestrian is a person who thought there were still
two litres in the tank.*

Alan Robinson

Catering Arrangements, Brooks' May Rally



Friday, May 19: Morning tea provided by Delaneys Creek School
(Requires earlier start than anticipated – will survive)
Lunch, Banyak Suka: BYO. (Coffee & tea supplied, \$5.00 couple for venue, etc)
Dinner provided by Arnolds/Brooks (Stew/ syrup pudding)

Saturday, May 20: Morning tea, Cruices' Corner: BYO
Lunch, Peachester: Kevin cooking sausages/onions. (Bread, butter, sausages, onions provided by Club)

Help with buttering please. BYO tables, chairs, rugs if possible. Only one table. Excellent coffee at small "Shack" opposite.

Sunday, May 21: Morning tea at Winya Winery (where you've been before) Devonshire tea/coffee and scones @ \$8.00. Wine tasting optional.

(Kevin has explained that lots of cream is required. These are friends and should oblige.)
Lunch, Mt Kilcoy School: **Not back to me yet but anticipated** BBQ Lunch @ \$10 per head. (If this eventuates as expected, they mentioned, perhaps, raffling a bottle of Scotch. I would hope that you would encompass same, since \$10 seems very fair. If you don't drink Scotch, think of the Rally Organisers!)

Woodford has No PETROL. Please arrive with tank full or other means. Friday afternoon, on way home, we pass the petrol at D'Aguilar. Saturday afternoon on way home, it's only another 2km. Sunday, we pass through Kilcoy.

The store at D'Aguilar has Take-Away meals @ \$6. Not World-beating but tasty – and hey! Six dollars!

Any queries: Kevin 0412 720 035

CLUB EVENTS

- April 28-30 **Autumn in Allora** –See Club website or the Partingtons, (classic@halenet.com.au)
- May 14 **Wolston House Display/ Open Day.** Background information this issue.
- May 19-21 **Based at Neurum Creek Bush Retreat:** update information elsewhere this issue.
- June 3-4 **Old Petrie Town Steam Fest Weekend.** Contact Bob Burley
- 28 June -2 July **Maryborough, "Mary Poppins Festival"** Based at Wallace Motel & Caravan Park, (07) 4121 3970; Contact Gavin. Details on Club website, or contact Terry & Regie, 0404 647 359/ 4159 0662.
- July 9 **RACQ Motorfest Display Day.** Club supported event. Entry forms to Treasurer
- 5 August **Club Presentation Dinner**
- 19 August **Club Swap** Veteran & Vintage pre-1931 cars, parts, books etc. only. NO Bric-a-brac.
- 26-27 August **Bribie Island - "Bridge to Bridge.** Planning well under way for an exciting event.
- 24-30 Sept. **National Veteran Rally at Clare, SA**
- 4 November **"Emission Free Day".**

INVITATION / OTHER CLUBS' EVENTS

- May 7 **David Hack Classic Toowoomba Airport, Spitfire St, Wilsonton.** 8.30am -2.30pm. In aid of Leukaemia Foundation Historic cars, bikes, planes.....Contact Chris Seydel / Robyn Jeffery, 0407 372 908, 0404 965 870.
- May 13-14 **RVAD.."Something Different".** Contact: Wal./Bev Lanagan walnbev@bigpond.net.au
- The rally is not set for Veterans as there are vintage and later entries however members' participation would be welcome.
- May 21 **QHMC Motoring Heritage Day, Queens Park Ipswich**
- May 21-22 **SCACC Motorkana, Nambour.** Contact: David Buckton, 0411 402 533
- June 9-11 **RACQ/ Southern Qld Rally, organised by Beaudesert Motoring Enthusiasts' Club.**
Info. Secretary.bmec@yahoo.com.au

FUTURE EVENTS

2018

- 15-18 March **VCCA Vic. 1 &2 Cylinder Rally, Cobram.** If you're planning to attend the National Rally (Deloraine) you may like to attend this immediately prior. Expressions of interest to Andrew/Frances McDougall, email amfi@dunollie.com.au.
- 19 - 24 March **National 1 & 2 Cylinder, Deloraine, Tasmania.**
- 23 – 28 Sept. **National Veteran Tour, Forbes, NSW (organised by Newcastle Branch)**

2019

- 30 Aug.-6 Sept. **HCCAA S-E Australia Region International Tour, See Club Website.**
- National Veteran Tour, Bargara/Bundaberg (provisionally mid-September)**
- 29 Sept. – 5 Oct. **National Model T Ford Rally, Maryborough.**

2020

- National Veteran Rally, Victoria**
National 1 & 2 Cylinder, Queensland

New Zealand 1 and 2 Cylinder Rally, New Plymouth

We left home after Christmas to spend a couple of weeks in California with my sister before boarding *Queen Victoria* in Fort Lauderdale for a cruise around South America and back to New Zealand. The plan was to spend 8 days in New Zealand finishing with their 1 and 2 cylinder veteran rally in New Plymouth.

Arriving in Auckland harbour on board *Queen Victoria* at around 6 am we went to breakfast and watched the docking process. By the time we finished breakfast the ship was safely tied alongside and we just had to wait for the officials to give us clearance to disembark. Once on shore the first stop is a shopping centre to get a few supplies, our NZ sim card for the phone and a haircut for both of us. It is about \$45 Aus (including the 20% tip) for my hair to be cut on the ship, that's nearly 6 months worth of haircuts for me so I've let it go a bit more woolly than usual. We are heading to a friend's place at Tauranga on the east coast tomorrow night so will take our time and do a bit of sightseeing on the way. Tonight we get to Coromandel and enjoy our first evening meal off the ship for 2 months, fish and chips with a glass of wine on our deck is just fine. We wake up to a fine day but the weather gods are not looking after us and the promised ominous clouds start rolling in. By the time we get to Murray and Raewyn's place we just have time for a tour of the lovely gardens and a cup of tea on the patio before the heavens start to open, but that won't spoil our evening. The rain continued all evening and was still bucketing down when we woke next morning. The TV on when we emerged, with pictures of the flooding in Coromandel which occurred overnight, evacuation centres established in 3 towns and the roads into and out of the peninsula cut off both east and west. We were lucky to have escaped yesterday.

I need to back track a couple of months to our arrival in the USA after Christmas to join the ship. We arrived in LA and travelled to my sister's place in Oceanside (closer to San Diego) in lovely sunshine. We swam in their pool and had a hot tub before retiring to the roof patio for a BBQ. Next morning we woke to the sound of rain and it stayed that way for a couple of days. We had booked to travel to Yosemite to see it in the winter under a cover of snow and while it was fine for the trip up again the rain started as we got closer. Our arrival was great, the snow still covering the trees and on the roof of buildings and cars but after a night of heavy rain by morning there was no more white, just a horrible slushy mess on the ground and a note under our door informing us that if the predicted rain persisted the entire National Park would be evacuated on Saturday (2 days' time). We had left by then but learned that it had been evacuated and the flooding was considerable. California had been in drought for 10 years and water reserves at a critical level, yes we can break droughts.

After leaving Yosemite we drove to San Francisco again in sunshine and on checking into the hotel were told to do our sightseeing tomorrow because after that we were in for a drenching. This happened and the rain lasted for most of the rest of our stay in the US. Now New Zealand seems to be starting the same pattern. Today's trip is planned to follow the east coast around to Gisborne, a fairly long day and we persist through the rain not getting much of a view and too wet to venture out at the lookouts. Arriving in Gisborne at around 6.30 we are greeted with 'no vacancy' signs so head for the caravan park which advertises a motel section. No vacancy there either but the lady offers to phone around for us. Twenty calls later still no property with a vacancy but on the 21st call we have success, they have just had a cancellation and it is ours just around the corner. Pizza for tea and an early night but not before a phone call from Laurie Cocker to inform us that the 1 and 2 cylinder rally has been cancelled as the forecast for the weekend is much more of the same.

It is now Thursday morning and we are heading for the Cocker residence a few ks west of Rongotea. Lawrie has phoned already this morning with a plan for the weekend which includes some touring tomorrow, Friday, as the weather is looking OK and a different rally on Saturday at Masterton, on the eastern side of the range as it could be better weather. The drive to Rongotea, via Napier, is very pleasant and the weather has fined up for us. The Friday tour starts off well, Laurie has planned to take us on a mountain tour to a place called Whangamomona, no that is not a typo, the name is bigger than the town, then on to New Plymouth where the rally was to have been, continuing around Mt Egmont then back home. We have travelled high up into the mountains admiring the views when we come across a barricade across the road with a big ROAD

CLOSED sign. There are a couple of farm houses nearby but we can't raise anybody to ask what is happening. No alternative than to back track the 70 or so kilometres and go the long way around so we will miss the tunnels that Lawrie particularly wanted to drive us through. It is mid-afternoon when we get to Whangamomona and enjoy a coffee in the historic pub but we are now too late to get to New Plymouth so head home for a chinese take away.

Saturday starts off in rain but it does clear after we cross the range and although we are in cloud at the top the view gets better as we descend the eastern side. Arriving at the club rooms in Masterton in time for the drivers' briefing we see that most of the cars are 40's, 50's and 60's vehicles with roofs and wind up windows. It is a competitive timed trial and the 4 or 5 vintage cars are first to leave, I decide to stay in the 4WD today until I see a young chap by himself in a 1926 T Ford and offer to navigate for him which he readily accepts. He is a 20 year old fellow and has just restored the car. If I had known it was on its maiden rally I might not have been so eager as they often don't finish well. On this occasion though I need not have feared as the only problem was a failing coil in the last few miles to the finish. The rain started soon after the second control and persisted for most of the day. The competition also included a straight line navigation section and some observation questions to ensure we stayed on the designated route. All up we won the vintage section and other than a wet tail and a few other parts it was a very enjoyable day.

We have 2 days to get back to Auckland as we have to have the car back by 10.00am on Tuesday before flying home. As it is a fine day we have decided to take the scenic drive around Mt Ruapehu and the snow fields and then go back over the mountain through the tunnels to Whangamomona and on to New Plymouth for the night.

We were certainly not meant to see the tunnel or New Plymouth, in fact we really saw nothing all day. It started with a torrential downpour at around smoko and continued till lunch completely hiding the mountains from view and making driving very difficult. Once on the road to Stratford, about 25km from Taumarunui, we came across the first water hazard. We crossed it very gingerly after a 4WD went through then came across 2 blokes with a chainsaw clearing a tree from across the road. Around that and next was a large mud slide right across the road through which the 4WD had forged wheel tracks but we graded the top off hearing the rocks grinding against the floor pan. After the intersection with the Ohura road we came across another water hazard wider and deeper than the first. While we were surveying the situation another car came up behind with his wife getting out to walk the crossing to check the depth, that done we decided to cross, followed by 3 more creek crossings. At the last crossing there was an English couple who had been waiting for nearly 2 hours for it to go down as it was about 2ft 6in deep when they arrived and only about 8 inches now. That was a good sign that the water was going down fast because they said there was only one shallow crossing behind them so we will get a good run. We couldn't understand how after leaving them we had a further 3 crossings before the big one. It appeared that the water was draining from the top ones into the lower ones as this crossing was still rising and had drowned a van which was towed out by a 4WD on the other side. By this time we were 3 cars and a truck (the council truck which had cleared the tree) and it was now even too deep for the truck so we decided to abort and go back taking the Ohura road up to Te Kuiti where we are for the night. No tunnels, no Whangamomona and no New Plymouth. At one of the lookouts we spoke to a cocky who was inspecting his property from the road in a quad bike and he said that after a solid night of rain they had a huge down pour this morning that lasted nearly 2 hours, which was the drenching we got. There were waterfalls, slips and landslides everywhere and the river was wide and flowing through the valley. In hindsight we would have been better to have gone around the coast but look what excitement we would have missed. Funnily, all 3 cars were hire cars, ours, a couple of kiwis who have lived in Western Australia for the past 30 years and 3 German backpackers and all heading for New Plymouth.

After a good night's sleep it is still raining so we have decided to head straight for Auckland, find a motel near the airport and do our repacking ready for the flight home tomorrow. By mid-morning the rain stops and it turns into a rather nice day with the forecast tomorrow more of the same. We get to the motel around 3 o'clock, settle in then go shopping to find something for dinner. Last night we ate at a nice restaurant in the old railway station so tonight it will be something we can prepare in-house. The car has to be back by 10.00 in the morning and as we won't have much time then we have packed and weighed everything

We are looking forward to getting home but from all accounts it has been very hot lately mostly over 30C with no rain for relief. As we wait to board the aircraft Lyn is looking at her phone and bursts out laughing. You won't believe this she says but the weather bureau in Brisbane has just issued a severe storm warning for South East Queensland and heavy rain is forecast for tomorrow. Once on the plane, the pilot announces that we are ready to leave but the weather is not looking good for our arrival so he has recalled the tanker to take on more fuel. Here we go again! By the time we get to Brisbane the storm has passed and we land safely. Now 5 days after arriving home it is still raining and we have had over 5 inches in the gauge. Yes we did need it.

The Rain Makers

Peter and Linda

The following are Photos of veterans in Punta Arenas at the bottom end of Chile.. They were in a Museum we visited but could not find anyone who could speak English to ask how they came to be here in such good condition. All seem to be about '13,'14 or '15, The 7 passenger tourer (2 photos) is a Martini, a Swiss built car and has a very interesting brass radiator and gas head and side lights. The Ford people can best date the T but I suspect it is a 14 or 14 roadster. The front on photo is of a Peugeot roadster I suspect about 1912 and also has a nice brass radiator but the headlights have been changed to electric early vintage Essex.





What is it?

Alex Gow believes it may be a Pierce-Arrow. Any Suggestions?

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Alex also thinks the "Mystery Car" in the March issue might have been a Lacoste et Battmann, whose products were frequently marketed under other Companies' names.

(I presume he's referring to the First Car in the Antarctic 1908 picture on page 9 which is recognised as an Arrol-Johnston. Any feed-back/comments on this.....Ed.)

A little bit of. HUMOUR

The Country Lawyer

Joe grew up in a small town in outback Queensland, then moved to Brisbane to attend law school. He decided to come back to the country town because he felt he could be a big shot at home. He really wanted to impress everyone, so he returned and opened his new law office. The first day he saw a man coming up the drive. He decided to make a big impression on this new client when he arrived.

As the man came to the door, Joe picked up the phone. He motioned the man in, all the while talking on the phone. *"No. Absolutely not! You tell those clowns in Sydney that we won't settle this case for less than one million... Yes, the Court of Appeal has agreed to hear that case next week. I'll be handling the primary arguments and the other members of my team will provide support! Okay, tell the Attorney General that I'll meet with him next week to discuss the details..."* The 'conversation' went on for almost five minutes. All the while the man sat patiently as Joe rattled instructions. Finally, Joe put down the phone and turned to the man, *"I'm sorry for the delay but as you can see, I'm very busy. What can I do for you?"* The man replied, ***"I'm from Telstra, and I came to hook up your phone!"***

