



September 2022 Newsletter

Recent Activities

Saturday 20 August 2022 – Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Club was held at Weavers Restaurant in Mosgiel. The President summed up the Clubs year in his annual report reproduced below.

President's Report: A big warm welcome to all members and MG lovers especially to those who have travelled from North, South, and Central It is great to have your support, it does not seem like a year since I was last standing here, time certainly flies.

Once again, we have had to juggle all our events around Covid restrictions, which lead to some having to be cancelled and the biggest casualty being the National MG Rally, which was going to be run out of Invercargill from the 24th Feb to the 5th of March 2022, and I believe it was shaping up to be one of the biggest MG Nationals that the South Island had seen in a long time.

I would like to take this opportunity and once again thank Russell and Raewyn Hawkes for all the work that they did in organizing the event, it was such a shame that Covid put an end to the Rally.

Don Carter and Peter McBurney had similar problems with the F. A. T run and correct me if I am not correct but they had to change the run 3 times before we had a fantastic run just a couple weeks ago, starting from Balclutha and finishing up In Omarama, it was one of the biggest runs 30 people and all the cars apart from one being MG's, the winners Rod and Paddy Ann Pemberton from Wanaka, have the privilege of organizing next year's tour which I am sure will be very interesting indeed

Thanks to the Hawkes and to our Newest Members Graeme & Kate Rice there are two very good reports of the Run, thanks guys. You will be able to read these on the new website shortly.

With all the ups and downs the club had some great Sunday runs with Don Carter to Maple Glen, John and Jacqueline to the Middlemarch Museum, which was very interesting but very, very cold, Cecil Kimber's birthday run with Russell and Marie to Careys Bay. Picnic at Dunback with Alistair and Dawn, the Garden run with Sue to Saddle Hill, MG Barbeque at Janet, and Gordon's property in Teviot where I am sure that Mary my dog would have put Gordon's Hens off the lay for some days as she would not stop chasing them.

The Club's membership has remained the same as last year's at 61. We did lose a couple of members, but also had two new members joined, which is great.

The new website is just about to go online, and I must thank Ross Middlemass for the work that he has put into it.

I would like to thank our Life Member Russell Walker for all the work he has done and is doing as our Club archivist thanks Russell and thank you Marie.

Lastly, I would like to thank my hard-working Committee Members it's been fun working with you over the last year.

Treasurer's Report

Ross Middlemass tabled the Financial Statement and spoke on the report. The financial statement shows the Clubs financial position is sound and appropriate for a Club of our size. He explained that under the new Incorporated Societies rules it is no longer a requirement to have the Financial Records audited. Russell Walker is going to continue to do internal audits.

Subscriptions – Only three did not pay last year. Ross asked for a discussion on this year’s subscriptions and suggested an increase in the 22/23 year to \$60. This is to enable the facilitation of funds to increase the capacity and use of the website, to enable members to keep in touch with events etc, to therefore allow a wider view of the club and hopefully increase membership. After consideration and discussion about the subs this was unanimously accepted by all present

Committee Positions

Nominations for President, Vice President and Secretary had been received prior to the meeting.

Nominations received were for:

Club President – Bill Botting

Secretary – Ngaire Donaldson

Vice President – Russell Hawkes

Archives – Russell Walker

Nominations were taken from the floor for the remaining committee positions resulting in:

Treasurer – Ross Middlemass agreed to continue in the position

Club Captain – Alistair Falconer agreed to continue in the position

Committee Members:

Clive Donaldson

Kevin Carter

Don Carter

Doreen Carter

Tom Price

Graeme Rice

Presentation of Trophies

F.A.T. Tour Winner Trophy: Rod Pemberton –

Restoration Cup: Alex Dempster.

F.A.T. Tour Navigator Trophy: Paddy Ann Pemberton

ROMAC Shield: Ralph Harrison.

Concours Cup: Don Carter.

MG Navigators Trophy: Karna Carter - **MG Cup:** Don Carter.

Further Afield Tour 2022

The Further Afield Tour for 2022 was organised by Don Carter and Peter McBurney. COVID caused some delays in arrangements and the Tour dates were set then had to be changed a couple of times before the 5th to 7th August was able to be confirmed. Starting in Balclutha and finishing in Omarama the FAT Tour covered some 450 plus kilometres of roads for the day. A very successful weekend and thanks to Don and Peter for their efforts on arranging the weekend for the Club.

The winning crew of Rod and Paddy Ann Pemberton have the privilege of organising next year’s Further Afield Tour. Congratulations and best of luck to them.



2022 Further Afield Tour Report Russell & Raewyn Hawkes

At Lake Ohau Lodge 13 March 2021 two worthy winners were announced for the 2021 FAT Tour. Don Carter and Peter McBurney took home the big prize and as we all know that means they have the privilege of organising the following years, Tour. We were all secure in the knowledge that COVID was under control in New Zealand and although there was a small matter of a National Rally in Southland at the end of February there was nothing really to stop a Further Afield Tour happening as well. It could be delayed by a month or so if necessary.

Funny how things happen then. COVID, it turns out wasn't under control in our fair country, the National Rally had to be cancelled and the potential to hold a FAT Tour went the same way. That makes it tough on the organisers. What to do next and when becomes the big question. The Club was lucky the Tour organisation was being led by Don as he wasn't going to let a little thing like COVID get in the way. Just keep making revised or new plans. And that's what they did. Delayed until August plans were eventually confirmed, and the dates were set as Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th August 2022.



Starting with a gathering at Rosebank Lodge in Balclutha on Friday evening all were ready for departure at 9.30 on Saturday morning. Brisk but fine weather and following a briefing from Don we were off. Easy instructions as we followed the Clutha River through to Raes Junction then to Clyde and the Old Post Office for lunch. A few questions to answer on the way. A necessary part of the Tour as an organiser for the following year must be found. Not sure why that's called the winner though.



After lunch off over the Pig Route to Palmerston and Hampden where another set of instructions and questions were waiting on us. As we all know the use of gravel roads is not really favoured on these tours. So, it was an unpleasant surprise to come across a road closed/accident sign that turned us down a typical Central Otago gravel road. Affected by frost and rain we were lucky there had been enough traffic to smooth the surface but not the ruts. So, a slow part of the journey as MGs do not have great ground clearance but no problems were encountered.



On arrival in Hamden a new set of instructions to take us to our final destination at Omarama. The roads out the back of Oamaru through to Duntroon are just built for MG's. However not necessarily the case when the area has received multiple flood events and so we found areas where the seal had washed away, the shoulders were undermined, and water cross the road. Otematata was awash with water. Most of these sites were not signed so real care was required.

All arrived at the Heritage Hotel in Omarama and checked into the hotel. COVID is still having an effect in the area, so the Heritage dining room was closed so it was over to the Hotel for tea. Our trusty Tour organisers had marked all the questions sheets and come up with a winner. Rod and Paddy Ann Pemberton took home the big prize and seemed genuinely pleased with the thought of putting the 2023 FAT together. The other prize on the night was the Hard Luck Prize. That went to Russell and Raewyn Hawkes for coming second on the run. Perhaps they may consider they were the real winners.

Sunday dawned fine in Omarama, and it was off to the Wrinkly Ram for breakfast then away home. The trip over the Lindis Pass was interesting with very heavy rain and as we headed south even some snow. Home safely mid-afternoon after another really enjoyable Further Afield Tour. Great company with the 30 people who took part with their MGs.

Our special thanks to Don and Peter for their perseverance in arranging the 2022 Tour. It was a great weekend.

A small confession is required at this stage. Russell and Raewyn were not in their MG but a Subaru XV. Heated seats and air conditioning along with a little more ground clearance made the whole trip much easier.

Russell & Raewyn.

The Far Away Tour - August 2022

A NOVICE CREW'S VIEW. By Graeme & Kate Rice.

THE BACK STORY

It was with some trepidation that we decided to embark on a new era of car rallying after a 20 year break from campaigning our 1947 Lanchester LD10, 1952 Jowett Javelin, 1965 Triumph Spitfire Mk2 and 1981 BMW 323i, in assorted club runs and tours.

With our property developments tailing off we mulled over which car club to join or rejoin. After looking at Cooke Howlisons MG range it seemed the MG3 hatchback could double as a practical everyday runner and club car. My only reservation was if owners of these new generation MGs would be welcomed into an MG club by owners of the "genuine" MGs.

Didn't take long to set our minds at rest. Keith Smith, MG brand manager at Cookies, had sold a number of new MGs, to MG car club members, I happened to see Kevin Carter driving his blue one and a phone call to President Bill Botting sealed the deal with his simple question – "What's the badge on the radiator?"

As luck would have it Keith had a Tartan Metallic Red ex-demonstrator Excite with London Eye daylight running lights, 16" alloys, a reversing camera with parking sensors, Bluetooth and apple car play, for sale.

TESTING THE MG3

Getting into the 3 for the first time was a comfortable experience. Plenty of legroom, headroom and steering wheel adjustment. Functional circular instruments, a genuine key start and real ratcheting pull up handbrake together with a solid gear-selector and good-sized knobs for radio, temperature and fan give the 3 an oddly vintage feel. And that stays with you even when you find your phone is connected through Bluetooth, you've got automatic headlights, a rear screen wiper that automatically comes on when reverse is selected.

An extended trial run over our Peninsula's magnificent motoring roads, relishing the 1.5 litre engines willingness when using the Tiptronic, (a sort of sport mode,) on the hills and twisty sections or flicking to Drive where the revs at 100km/h drop from 3000 rpm to a more relaxing 2500 rpm with the overdrive top.

Halfway through the run my mind was made up. This was an unusual experience for me. Rarely have I bought a car in a couple of hours. It normally takes weeks to do all the research, sift through all the road tests and draw up a chart marking the pros and cons, but not this time. Here was a down to earth practical little hatchback that had an enticing array of modern and traditional features, a sporty exhaust note when revved out and all available carrying the magic of that octagonal badge, a symbol of the great MG heritage.

THE FRIENDLY FAR AWAY TOUR – THE BIG DAY

We'd stretched the MG's legs on a run to Lake Hawea and back, getting an amazing 6 litres per 100kms (49mpg) on the way back to Dunedin via Naseby, and then the Club run to Glenfalloch for afternoon tea and great conversation, so by the 6th of August we'd covered nearly 1000 kilometres, mastered the on-board computer and felt ready to embark on the FAT.



No, it's not broken just a new inspection

Saturday morning in Balclutha and the only thing alleviating the gloomy overcast conditions was the intriguing line up of MGBs, MGB GTs, MG Fs and a brace of MG3s along with an MX-5 and new Subaru.

After the obligatory group photo, we headed up through Clydevale to Millers Flat with plenty of evidence of flood damage, toppled trees, washouts and a very high, dirty Clutha River on our right until we got to Beaumont. This is a great driving road, plenty of curves, over-arching trees, and very little traffic.

Never thought we'd see a rush hour at Millers Flat, but the entire Central Otago population seemed to have descended on the usually empty village for a sports day.

More enjoyable touring up to the Roxburgh dam and on to the Post Office Café at Clyde. I always enjoyed Conroys Road before they sealed it and often chose that route in preference to the state highway on trips to Queenstown.

Lunch was an opportunity to meet more members and be educated in the ways of the newly arrived supercharged, 280 km/h (limited top speed) Jaguar XKR.

THE FORMIDABLE FRIENDLY FAR AWAY TOUR

Looking at the instructions for the afternoon we figured it would be a largely pleasant and predictable run, taking in the picturesque Ophir swing bridge and village, the views from Poolburn Hill and a gentle run down the Ida Valley, but that's when we discovered there's the need for a third F – the Formidable, Friendly Far Away Tour.

Just getting into our stride coming off the hill we were confronted by "Road Closed" "Accident" signs and detoured for several kilometres along a rutted, pot-holed, sloshy road that was little more than a farmer's track, dropping our average speed from around 70km/h to nearer 15km/h.

Arrived in Hampden to receive the next set of instructions expecting to end up in Oamaru.

THE FLOODED, FORMIDABLE, FRIENDLY FAR AWAY TOUR

Not that we knew it, but more adventure lay in wait. Ahead we had another challenging risk laden drive up through the recently flooded Kakanui Valley, over the Tai Tapu hill into Tokorahi then down a second flood prone valley to Duntroon.

Taking the easy option to continue on the state high rather than go around the other side of Aviemore we discovered yet another F. The Flooded, Formidable, Friendly Far Away Tour. The highway beside Otematata was completely flooded with a massive amount of water coming off the hills and flowing out across the road. In places the seal had been completely swept away, leaving large ruts best negotiated at walking pace.

Saturday Dinner and Sunday's breakfast were other convivial occasions. More emphasis on conversation than cuisine. Who needs cuisine?

ROCKFALLS AND THE ULTIMATE "F"

Thinking the adventures were over we decided to head back down the Waitaki Valley and this time go around the other side of the lake. Bad, bad move, this run resulting in the unmentionable F. Not only flooding but fresh rockfalls. One just catching the underside of the car. It was a long 23 kilometres in increasingly heavy rain.

"F" FOR FLYING PIG

Stopped for a coffee at the excellent Flying Pig in Duntroon in pouring rain before the final, hopefully event free, run down to Papakio where we decided to turn right into Horse Gully Road, onto Airedale road across state highway 1 to pick up the coast road through Kakanui rejoining the highway at Waianakarua's Old Mill confident the adventure was over.

Not quite. Nature's last throw of the dice was lashings of sleet and snow on top of the Northern Motorway, closing it a few hours after we'd driven over.

Over the entire tour we covered 848 kilometres, filled up once and averaged 6.5 l/100km – 44mpg.

Challenging routes, good venues and locations for food and rest, but two very satisfied participants arrived home on Sunday night. Most of all, it was fun. Our thanks to all.

Coming Events

The new committee has not met at the time this newsletter was prepared. A separate communication will be prepared once events and organisers have been confirmed. Keep an eye out for it.

2022 / 2023 Annual Subscription Now Due

Subscription due **Sept 2022** - \$60.00 per car

Please forward bank payment to Westpac Bank - 03 0903 0384324 000

Please include Initials & Surname as reference.

MG Car Club (Otago Southland Center) Inc - Website

The Club has a new web page operating now. It's still in development and so is a work in progress. The web site has been developed to enhance to methods of communication within the Club and with the public. There are costs involved in setting up and maintaining the website but the advantages of operating in a modern communication world will over time far outweigh these costs. The site does however require content and that relies on you the members to provide comment, articles, photos to keep it up to date. If you have any articles photographs you think would be suitable old or new, please send these to, Don Carter. - don.karna@xtra.co.nz who will make the appropriate arrangements.

The web site address is <https://mgcarclubotagosouthland.nz> Copy and paste the address into your browser and have a look. Comments etc to Don.

The committee are also considering setting up a dedicated email address for Club business. Keep an eye out for further details when they become available. This will save using members private email addresses for club communications.

<https://mgcarclubotagosouthland.nz>

MG Car Club (Otago Southland Centre) Inc.

Welcome to the Otago Southland MG Car Club

A club where MG car owners and enthusiasts join together in the spirit of friendship and appreciation of our favourite Marque. Our club has a membership that covers the Otago, Central Otago, and Southland regions of the beautiful south of New Zealand.

Club members proudly own various examples of MG cars, ranging from the early MG M Type right through to the more modern MG Z series cars. Not to forget a decent measure of the ever-popular MG B GT's and Roadsters. The third Sunday of the month is an excellent opportunity to see these fine vehicles out and about touring the countryside in convoy. The Club magazine published quarterly features images and information about events, tours, rallies, and technical information. New members are encouraged and welcomed. Contact our membership team if you would like to join the club or simply find out more about who we are and what we are.



MG – The Marque of Friendship



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