



May 2024 Newsletter

Presidents Rambles

A new month today at time of writing. At our last meeting we set a date of 17th August for our AGM which is to be in Dunedin, but venue is still to be established.

Last month the Club visited Rod Tempero's workshop in Oamaru. This was organised by Peter Euson. Many thanks Peter. Unfortunately, I missed this due to another commitment. I have followed Rod's creations on Facebook, and it was a big disappointment to me to miss this one.

This brings me to my prior commitment. Two mates and I have a tradition of a motorbike tour in the North Island every second year. This has not happened since covid, so it was time to resurrect.

7th April was circled as leaving date, but I left on the 5th as we had friends performing in the Vicker of Dibley put on by the Geraldine Players that night. The phrase "a laugh a minute" certainly described this performance.

I met up with Bill and Bruce in Geraldine on the afternoon of the 7th. That night we stayed in our favourite motel in Methven with a meal that night at the Brown Pub.

Next morning we headed off to Blenheim, stopping at Donegal House in Kaikoura for lunch. Interesting place this, as it was established in 1860 by an Irishman and you guessed it, he came from Donegal. It had stayed in a loose family ownership all of its existence. The previous owner was afflicted with the Irish disease of drink and horses, and it had become very run down. He also ended up in court for touching up female staff and lost his alcohol license. The present owners are cousins of his and have done a major tidy up as well as added a Motorhome Park.

We stayed with friends of mine in Blenheim that night aiming to get to Bluebridge terminal by 6.45am. We arrived at 6.50 and got our hands smacked for being late. We then had to weave our way to the front of the line. Managed to do this without knocking off any wing mirrors.

Our aim when getting off was to leave Wellington far behind that day. Imagine our surprise when leaving Featherstone, the speed limit was 80kph. Dead straight road and my understanding from the MP for Wairarapa, the Fire brigade has never or very rarely been had to cut people out of their cars on this road. Some small brain car hater, in Wellington has decided he wants to exert his authority over the travelling public.

That night we stayed in Dannevirke at a local where we met up some of the locals who were Harley Riders. As our group are all retirees, we mentioned how generous Winston was in increasing our pensions. We were promptly told, "don't mention Winston in the North Island." Apparently, he is not popular with the Māori's as were our drinking buddies.

Next day Bruce and I rode the Gentle Annie which can be described as bikers' heaven due to lack of traffic and its curves and undulations. Not much time to admire the scenery. Bill took the Napier to

Taupo highway which he described as frustrating with all the road works. Turangi was our overnight stop with a meal less than memorable meal at the pub.

The next day was off to Ohope Beach near Whitianga to stay with Bills mates Ric and Bev. The day was a bit wet as we took the back way there avoiding Rotorua. For what ended up as 3 nights. We took in another local play production here, and I had the great experience of sailing on Ric's small boat. Bill was attacked with dizzy spells here so decided to bail and fly home. Bruce and I retraced our route to Turangi in preparation to take on the Forgotten Highway the next day.

The Forgotten Highway starts at Taumarunui and ends at Stratford in Taranaki. Last time I did this was in the Targa in 2022 in the "B". The road was a car killer then with huge potholes. Since then, a lot of work has gone into maintenance, and they are starting to seal the section that ends in Whangamomona which was our stop for the night in good

accommodation. On the way there we passed through a tunnel which was carved out by local farmers so they could connect two valleys. It is big enough to accommodate a stock truck. There is also a company operating converted golf carts to utilise the railway line with trips from Taumarunui to Stratford over two days, staying at Whangamomona overnight.



Next day out to Stratford on all seal and to say goodbye to the road of a thousand corners.

Palmerston North was our destination that night to stay with my brother-in-law. Next morning we headed off to catch the Interisland making sure we had plenty of time to catch the 1.30 boat. On leaving the ferry we rode down to Donegal House, arriving in the dark to try their accommodation and try out their food again. I can recommend the Irish Stew and the bed was pretty good. That night they served 80 meals, up from the normal night of 50.

Christchurch was next destination where Bruce and I parted ways as the next day he was heading off to the coast and I was to meet up with Paddy who was returning from Nelson, and we had a birthday lunch to attend on the Saturday.

In all we were away for just over 2 weeks with lots of humour, beds mostly ok and some great roads.

Rod

President

New Members

No new members to welcome this month.

Recent Activities

Rod Tempero Club Run 13th April 2024.



5 members cars left Unity Park, Dunedin for a drive to Rod Tempero Motor Body Works Oamaru, where we were joined by 5 more members cars plus 2 or 3 friends of friend's cars.

We were welcomed by Rod Tempero who gave us a brief history of his motor body building business starting with his grandfather in the middle of last century, continued on by his father and up until his business he currently operates.



Following the business history talk, he conducted us through the various areas in the workshop and described how each car was constructed from a plan to the finished item. He talked about sourcing mechanical components (engines, gearboxes etc) and the work involved starting from a full-sized chalkboard drawing to the design of the chassis around the engine and gearbox and suspension parts all placed in a jig.

Rod specialises in recreating iconic sports cars from the 1950's and 1960's, no fibreglass here, all hand formed aluminium panels - all cars are constructed on commission and most will end up heading to owners overseas. Rod concluded the workshop tour by starting the engine of a Ferrari GTO which he had built and was back in his workshop for a refresh.

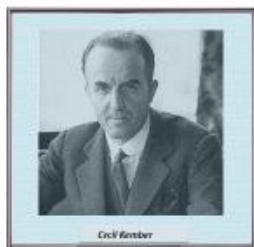


Following the tour we all retired to Scott's Brewery in Oamaru for lunch, refreshments and socialising - thank you to Peter and

Rhond Eunson for organising a very enjoyable run.

Coming Events

Cecil Kimber Birthday Afternoon Tea



**Sunday 19th May
2024**



*AN INVITATION TO ALL
MG CAR CLUB OTAGO SOUTHLAND MEMBERS*

Join our traditional celebration of the birthday of Cecil Kimber, Founder of MG.
This year we mark the 136th Anniversary of his birth on the 12th April 1988,
And the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of MG—The Mark of Friendship.
Brush up on your MG history for our Kimber Afternoon Tea Quiz.

Meet at **Unity Park, Eglington Road, Mornington, Dunedin**
at 1.15pm for departure at 1.30pm

This is a number critical event. Please RSVP by 10th of May

Please email Clive Donaldson—clived049@gmail.com

to advise your attendance

Friends and family welcome as long as advised of attendance



Sunday 23 June – Details to be advised. A volunteer to organise would be appreciated. Please contact Clive.

Saturday 17 August 2024. – Annual Meeting – Venue to be confirmed.

Saturday 21 September – MG Otago Southland Club Afternoon Run & Dinner. 100 Years of MG Celebration. Keep the date free. We will be requiring numbers closer to the time when final arrangements are released.

Sunday 1 December 2024 – Christmas BBQ. Venue and details in a future newsletter.

MG Badges

Did you know that the MG badge colour represents a specific period of MG cars?



The man who started it all. Cecil Kimber.

Cecil Kimber (1888-1945), Morris Garages sales manager, wanted to make modified Morris cars that were faster and sportier.

1924

The Octagon badge was registered as an MG trademark. MG's 14/28 Super Sports model went on sale. The first MG sports car was the Old Number One: small, fast and fun to drive.



Club Committee

2023 / 2024 Year	Name	Location	Contact Number
President	Rod Pemberton	Wanaka	027 295 5129
Immediate Past President	Bill Botting	Dunedin	021 435 181
Vice President	Russell Hawkes	Invercargill	021 970 997
Secretary	Ngaire Donaldson	Dunedin	022 049 7821
Treasurer	Ross Middlemass	Wanaka	027 236 4306
Club Captain	Clive Donaldson	Dunedin	022 678 4500
Committee	Don Carter	Invercargill	027 454 8426
	Kevin Carter	Dunedin	021 181 6126
	Tom Price	Palmerston	021 899 510

