

fi NZ 22

JUNE



*The Taranaki Social Club!*

# Rendezvous!

Hi everyone and welcome to another edition of FINZ!

Over the last few months I have shared with you several "Hot off the Press" newflashes and if they were not enough, here is another! Our popular President Ian Lind has decided not to seek another term at the helm and has given his formal notice to the Executive that come the next financial year, he will revert to the ranks of a solid supporting member of our club. Ian has been NZ Pres. since 2018 and we thank him for his leadership and friendship and also to Elsie for you supporting Ian. Without you, we would not have the 'use' of Ian! AND our Vice Pres. Mike Thompson has also decided to step down due to work commitments and we thank you too Mike for all you have done for the club too, together with Marion for you supporting Mike and the club. Hence we now formally invite would-be candidates for both roles. Please send your nomination (form attached) to our Secretary, Frances: [frances.wayne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:frances.wayne@xtra.co.nz) We look forward to new faces leading our NZ Club into our 50th Golden Anniversary next year and hopefully, beyond. Like in the past a future Pres/ Vice Pres. will possess a high level of enthusiasm and ability to encourage fun and camaraderie within the club and as always, be proactive in gaining new members and fostering the retention of our existing loyal membership.

This months cover salutes our Taranaki Region who are our Club's social Cadillac butterfly's, flitting here and there. From the reports we receive, you guys socialise more than any other region!

Also in this issue - Our trip back in time to 1957 continues its journey with more fab photos. Ian Currie's time in the USA, in old photos ends this month and we have updates on our 49th Nationals and coverage of our Australian cousin's recent Caddy Nats in Queensland. Lots to read, lots of colour. Keep safe if cruising and don't forget to drop me a line and share your outing with us all. June is our first month of Winter! Keep well and Covid free - Ron [Ed]



2

[Cadillacclubofnz.org](http://Cadillacclubofnz.org)



We formed our New Zealand club in 1973 and celebrated our 40th Anniversary in 2013 making us one of the oldest Cadillac clubs in the world. We are proud to be an International Affiliate of the world-wide Cadillac LaSalle Club of the USA - itself formed in 1958.



# A FINZ Special Feature

**FEATURE ARTICLE - TOURING AMERICA in 1957.** Recently, Aucklander, Rex Findlay sent me a splendid article titled 'Touring America in 1957'. This is Part Three with more photos and captions, all self-explanatory. Like all good photos, a great picture can 'tell a thousands words' so let the pictures do the talking! Great memories in colour as we look at when 'those were the days! Ed

In Atlantic City, New Jersey, the Atlantic shore drew thousands of people every weekend to their famous boardwalk, and to the Steel Pier where they could watch Arabian stallions dive from a 60 foot high platform into the salty water. At that time, there were no casinos, and the ocean was the biggest attraction. Besides the diving horses, the six story tall elephant named Lucy, constructed of wood and tin in 1861 in nearby Margate was a big thrill for kids. Since there were no big resorts, small motels flourished. Resorts International opened the first casino in 1978 and everything changed.



New Yorkers flocked to Coney Island when the summer months arrived. "Down the shore" the boardwalk attracted hundreds of thousands of people and the sand was barely visible for the colorful bloom of beach umbrellas. Iconic Nathan's HotDog holds a hot dog eating contest every year on Independence Day. Legend has it that the contest started in 1916. In 2021, a hundred and five years later, the winner downed 76 dogs in ten minutes.



Cadillacclubofnz.org

The expanding mobility of Americans and new interstate freeways spawned the exponential growth of the MO-TEL. All across the United States, roadside motor inns that provided travelers with economical lodging popped up along every highway. Startup companies with names like Holiday Inn, Ramada Inn, Howard Johnson's, and Rodeway Inn began to buy up local Ma and Pa motels and offer upgrades like TV and air conditioning.



# A FINZ Special Feature

4

America's sports car, the Chevrolet Corvette, made its debut in 1953. In 1955, the 150 horsepower Blue Flame six cylinder inline engine was replaced by the V8. In 1957, the first solid lifter, fuel injected engines were released, making 283 horsepower from a displacement of 283 cubic inches. Girls loved the Corvettes more than the guys that drove 'em.



Cadillacclubofnz.org



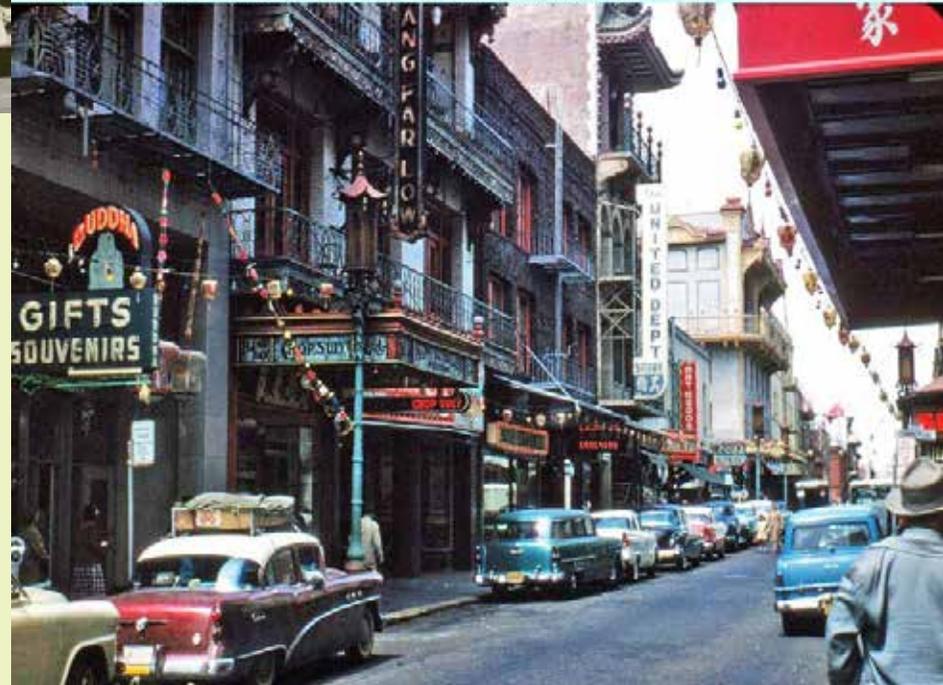
FINZ

Publication details - 'FINZ' (2022 'The B2TF Series') is Copyright to The Cadillac & La Salle Club of NZ Inc. Publication is distributed via email and snail mail. All correspondence to the editor: [finzmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:finzmagazine@gmail.com) Artwork/design layout and technical support by Shea' Melville ([shea.melville@gmail.com](mailto:shea.melville@gmail.com)). Ideas and concepts by Ron Melville and many inserts from Editors own collection, both hard and electronic copy. We thank all contributors world-wide for permitting publication, use of items and advertisers for your ongoing support. To advertise, email editor for rates. FINZ is a non-profit club publication and printed for club members and readers enjoyment. No responsibility taken for errors or omissions. The name FINZ is copyright to the Cadillac LaSalle Club of New Zealand formed in 1973 and original magazine name conceived circa 1974. **FINZ is proudly made of and in New Zealand!** FINZ Magazine under Ron Melville Editorship is in Year 14, Issue 6 - June 2022 and is 'The B2TF Series'

It is said that the first automobile race happened the day the second car was made. Americans, more than any nation other than, perhaps, Italy, love racing cars, and by the mid-50s, street racing was commonplace. This straight line form of racing became known as "drag racing" since it started on the main streets, or "main drags" of nearly every town. Seeing a need for safety and sanctioned timing of these races, pioneer Wally Parks formed the National Hot Rod Association in 1951 in Southern California. NHRA took hold on dry lake beds in the West, but it was several years before sanctioned quarter mile drag strips appeared in the rest of the country. On the East Coast, the beach at Daytona, Florida was a summer drag racing venue where hundreds of drivers would show up, often in a car that just came from the dealer showroom, to see what it would do. NHRA drag racing now draws the largest crowds in motor racing with 13,000 horsepower top fuel dragsters reaching speeds in excess of 335 mph in under 4 seconds.



Before Tony Bennett topped the charts with his song "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" in 1962, the beautiful City by the Bay was drawing tourists from all over the world. Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown, the cable cars, winding Lombard Street, the "painted ladies" Victorian houses, and the Golden Gate Bridge were beckoning visitors. A coat was advised. Mark Twain said, "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco."



# A FINZ Special Feature

## Our Global Family

**IRELAND** - Hi All. We had a very successful All-American show in Kilbeggan, Ireland on Sunday. Great weather and great turnout! Please find a show report and photographs (some high resolution) for you to publish if you wish. Photo credits go to Nevada Automotive & Ryan North, we have their permission to use their photos. Hope you're keeping well and much appreciated as always! Best regards, Nick Stratta MAAC PRO +353 85 828 9922 (Ireland CLC)

### **Midland American Auto Club Kilbeggan 2022 All-American Car Truck & Bike Show Report**

The Midland American Auto Club had a very successful All-American Car Truck & Bike show on Sunday 24th April 2022 in Kilbeggan Co. Westmeath. This is the only All-American show of the year in Ireland which is exclusively American vehicles and celebrates all that is good about American transport. After a 3 year absence almost a record number of American vehicles turned up; huge 18 wheeler Peterbilt & Kenworth trucks, muscle cars, Mustangs, Corvettes, big Cadillacs, Lincolns and Buicks, many many pick up trucks, Chevrolet day vans and Harley Davidson motorcycles. American cars, vans, trucks and bikes came from all over the island of Ireland – from Belfast, Cork, Dublin and the West. Cars came over from England and Wales too to join in the party. The specialist American cars were out in force too; Smokey & the Bandit Trans Ams, Starsky & Hutch red & white Ford Torinos, black & white police cars, lowriding station wagons, forties Hudsons & Studebakers, thirties hot rods and a Ghostbusters 1959 ambulance. The Club was also very pleased by the number of newer American vehicles that came to the show; demonstrating that the American car scene in Ireland has a healthy future.

The sunny day brought out the visiting public in good numbers also, many of whom had heard about the show in magazines, local newspapers, on the radio and from social media. As well as being a celebration of American culture, the show paid tribute to those who had lost their lives throughout the pandemic, some of which were club members, and paid tribute and a big thank you to the essential and emergency services workers over the past 3 years with a celebratory "Sound of Remembrance" – a sound off of car & truck horns, wailing emergency vehicle sirens, revving engines and barking exhausts. There was lots to see and do; from marvelling at the 3 huge American fire engines, one of which was fresh in from New York, had served in 911 and had a 100 foot high ladder, which looked amazing even only half-extended. People listened to the informative interviews with the owner explaining all about the history and capability of the fire engines with interest – pumping 100 gallons a minute! There was an increased number of stands selling automotive related and vintage items, which drew big crowds all day long. Gourmet coffee, cakes, hamburgers and corn dogs were on hand to sample whilst taking a break from seeing all the cars, trucks, vans and bikes. There were rides and entertainment for the little ones too. As well as a bucking bronco for those budding cowboys and cowgirls who were brave enough! "We always try to put on a great show, with lots to see and do for the whole family. If the weather is with us we always have a good show and this year was no exception. We are also pleased to do our bit for the economy of Westmeath and Offaly by filling the local hotels and B&Bs with visitors from around Ireland and the UK. The quality of American vehicles goes up and up each year with many It is good to connect with new owners as

well as old friends once again" said Joe Keenan the Midland American Auto Club chairman. "We look forward to welcoming everybody back next year on the last weekend of April before the Bank Holiday; 23rd April 2023." [Many thanks for your terrific report Nick. It is amazing that all-over the world, many people in many cultures 'gell' with old American cars and also its culture too. Just look at the 'Stars & Stripes' and other American memorabilia in the background of some photos. Thanks again Nick - Ed]



Lots of red vehicles at show. Drone shot below. More pics over page>>>



6

Cadillacclubofnz.org

# Our Global Family



## IRELAND - Midland American Auto Club Kilbeggan 2022 All-American Car Truck & Bike Show



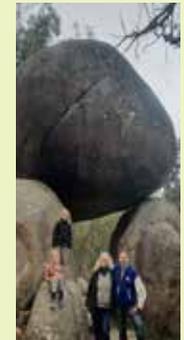
An amazing array of American Iron, from Split-window Vettes to Hummers. Nice Caddy hearse. CLC Ireland Director, Nick Stratta's Caddy is above larger image - Ed



**AUSTRALIA** - From one car show near the top of the world (Ireland) to another near the bottom of the world, Australia - The 2022 CLC Australian Nationals in fact held in an unexpected non-tropical area of Queensland this year. Sounds like 'Puffer jackets' and an extra layer was the order of the day that's for sure. Our Victorian Kiwi member Paul Dixon and his family, Heather and eight-year old twins, Laurent and Hannah (future Caddy enthusiasts?) ventured north to partake. Paul's extensive report appears as a special attachment. Well worth the read whilst a number of photos appear here and into the next page. [Many thanks Paul, Ed]



'54 Eldo looks great in red. 1927 LaSalle top right, apparently registered new in Oz!



The writer has been on a few tours in the past with Paul and he always stops to take a few pics at great tourist spots. Here are: Satellite Dish; State Border; Amazing out-back sunset; Wallancarra Railway Station (Qld border on one side, NSW on the other!) Kangaroos; Granite Boulders.

# Our Global Family

**AUSTRALIA-** More photos from the Stanthorpe, Queensland from Paul Dixon



Blue Topaz Cafe then onto Pete's Hot Rod Restos. Tesla in yard will apparently power a Studebaker Hot Rod (way to go - Ed). Below is Royal Carriage and Xmas shop. 25,000 decorations!



1939 was a great year! '39 LaSalle & '39 Caddy. Even painted same colour!



More from Xmas shop, flooding seen. Tamworth BIG guitar. Dubbo Zoo ended Laurent and Hannah's trip nicely! Ed



In addition, Terry Griffith also sent some Stanthorpe photos:



**MORE AUSTRALIA** - Hi Ron. Congratulations on the receipt of another Golden Quill Award. You deserve to have a solid gold quill sitting on your editorial desk Or perhaps upright in an ink bottle/well. Pre old technology! Best wishes, George Akele [Many thanks George - Ed]

8

Cadillacclubofnz.org

Howdy Mavron ... just a quickie to say the latest FINZ I saw was a gem, lots of good reading, well done. Were your ears burning the Tuesday after Easter? Rachel and Andrew Rees were passing (Editors, CLC Australian LaCad Magazine) through and we caught up for coffee ... 2 1/2 hours of non stop chat which of course included a segment on FINZ ha ha .. all good, everyone loves ya work cobber. Til next time mate, cheers The Cowboy (aka 'Steve Westmacott'. I am very flattered, thanks Cowboy, Rachel and Andrew! Ed]

**USA** - From Jack Bracxx. Hi Ron. Sorry to read gasoline is \$12-14 a gallon in NZ. We complain about \$6-7 a gallon. \$100 to fill my Caddy tank with premium 91 octane gasoline. [Thanks Jack. Maybe one day, EV conversions will be so affordable we can run without using CnH2n+2 which is the chemical symbol for petrol according to Google! LOL - Ed]

# Counting down to CLC NZ's 50th in 2023

Hi everyone. All going to plan, I will have a progress update on our Golden Anniversary in the next issue of *FINZ*. I hope you will be as excited as we the organising committee are and to this end, maybe Register your 'Pre-Interest' in this 'once in a lifetime event' (for we will not be having another 50th! It might be a 60th or 75th and we all 'rock-up' in our EV converted Caddies!). The NZ Club Executive have given their blessing (and a few dollars) towards co-ordinating an event that will hopefully 'blow your socks off' (or in our case, 'blow our FINS off!'). Until next month, Jason Curry, Wellington Regional Delegate and 50th Event Organiser [curried@hotmail.com](mailto:curried@hotmail.com)



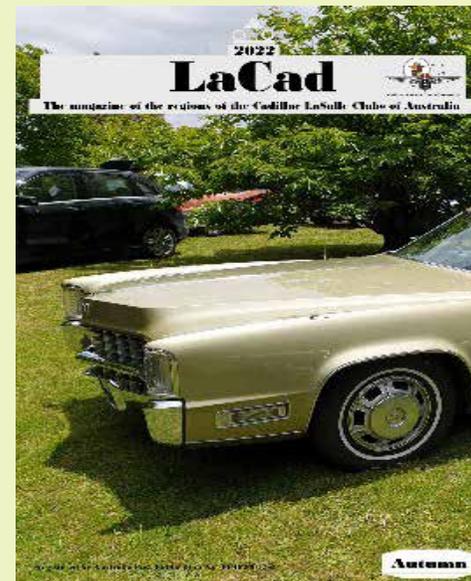
## MORE USA - From the CLC USA Webmaster

As webmaster, one of my responsibilities is to triage emails sent to our general club account. A recent email came from a non-member asking a question about a picture of a 1930s Cadillac. The picture had been taken in the 1950s at his father's business. He was wondering if someone at the club could help identify the vehicle. As IT support I have to confess about knowing little about the cars of the club, so I suggested that he register at our forums. A couple of days later I received a nice email from him, thanking me for pointing him to the forums, as he had already received a number of replies, including a couple from people who knew exactly what the vehicle was and that it was very special one-off. I relate this story as an example of how our forums can be useful in many different ways. If you have not registered at the forums (N.B - A separate registration from the main CLC site), please head over there: [forums.cadillacclasalleclub.org](https://forums.cadillacclasalleclub.org). There is a wealth of information and interesting posts to be read there. Even if you do not have a question, who knows, you might be able to contribute an answer for a question like the one mentioned above. If you are interested to see the details of this story, search for '1930s ? Cadillac', if the post does not appear on the first page of the General Discussion forum. [PS - This website is where our *FINZ Magazine* is 'posted' for members to view, under 'Newsletters'. Ed]



## MORE AUSTRALIA - Compliments of Greg Short, CLC Australia, click on the LINK below to view the latest Old Cars 'Golden Quill' Award-winning magazine, LaCad magazine!

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u9ok8rair2vxsn0/AACn6JR0XSgHSIksrbOttZFwa?dl=0>



Cadillacclubofnz.org

# Our Global Family



**Taranaki, NZ** - This, Part Four and the last part of Ian Currie's photo collection that he took on his trips to America in the late 1980s and into the 1990s plus others taken in NZ . Many feature old Cadillacs of course but also some are ones that he brought into NZ. Whilst some photos are not top reproduction quality, remember these are infact scanned copies off the original 'old school Kodak/ Viko/ Fuji photographs' when quality was 'grainy' and colours imperfect. Thanks Ian for a cruise down your memory lane! If you come across any more...OR if anyone else wants to share a 'blast from the past' send me either a scanned copy of the actual 'old school photo' or I can scan myself and return the original. Ed



Above, Early 1980s, Auckland. '51 or '52 Limo.  
Below - Oregon



May 1990, 'Good Guys Show', Merced, LA  
'49 Caddy Custom

10

Cadillacclubofnznz.org



At right. 1955 Sedan, ex-Newmans. This is in NZ.  
[Gosh, that number plate looks familiar. Anyone agree? Ed]



# Our Global Family

## BAY of PLENTY, TAURANGA

### Go Go Gizzy! The 49th AGM and 2022 Cadillac Nationals



This year's 49th NZ Cadillac Nationals, to be held in Gisborne ('Gizzy!') in November.

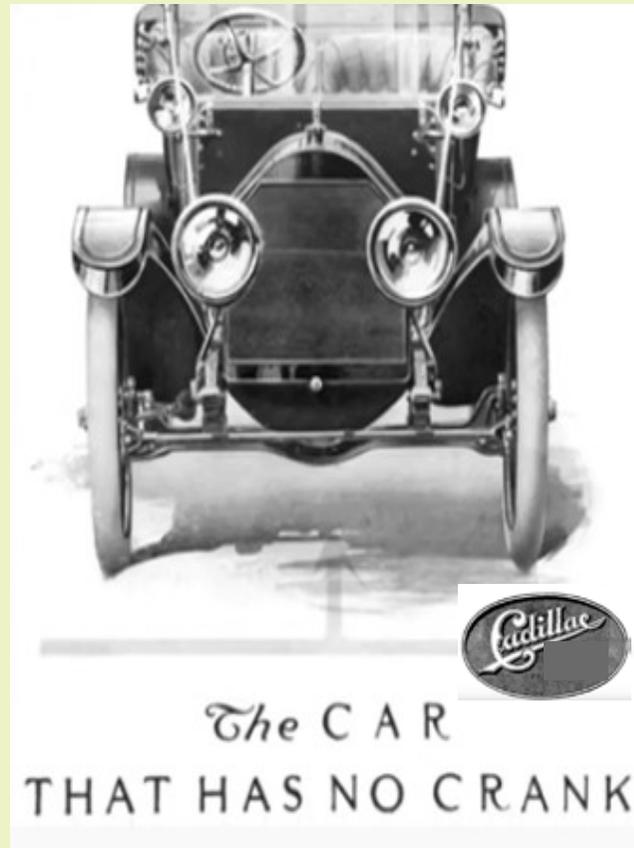
Here is the latest update: Dave and Kay advise that organising is going well. Details of Registration fees is attached, and the amazing news is that there is much club subsidisation for this year's 49'er! D and K tell me that accommodation booking has been heavy and if you cannot find a room, contact Dave or Kay on 021-266-7456 as they have contingency plans in place! It's probably also timely to suggest you go through your unwanted Cadillac, Elvis or old-car related memorabilia items to bring along to our fun auction. In recent years the club has done exceedingly well due to member's generosity and why should this event be any different? And its about having fun as well, so if you have something special to offer, I am sure someone else will pay handsomely to give it a good home or enjoy it, whatever the offering! (No brick-bat please). your "Expressions of Interest" so they can gauge numbers likely to attend.

With the change in seasons these last few years, we may strike some lovely pre-summer weather?

Go Go Gizzy 2022! Ed

**CANADA** - Now this is a worthwhile LINK to view. If you ever wanted a brief history of Cadillac, this is it! And for fun, check out what car matches your date of birth! Thanks Lorne for Links. Ed

**MORE - BAY of PLENTY - PAPAMOA**  
Carol Southcombe sent me this cool GM pic, thinking back when times were simpler! [Maybe it was pre-Covid! Thanks Carol, Ed]



**Years of Cadillac History in 10 Minutes** There you go! Thanks to the internet and a few innovative historians, we have condensed the 117 years of Cadillac history into a video, 10 minutes in length. It is well worth watching but you must listen in a hurry. Enjoy at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b46n7iwiv8>

Check out the special car of your birth month.

<https://stacker.com/stories/5544/cool-car-debuts-year-you-were-born>



11

Cadillacclubofnz.org



Save the  
date  
2024  
<<<

## Kevin's Kaddies & Stuff

Kevin Conder who is a longstanding loyal member of the Bay of Plenty Region and owns a super-nice '60 convertible. Kevin loves finding cool Caddy examples (and sometimes other unique rides) on the net and intends to share them with us. Check out these - Ed



## Editors Segment

As you know I subscribe to a number of cool 'web-feeds' and articles plus old-school publications. I was surprised to see a recent article from my *Old Cars* feed about an NZ Cadillac. here's what the article had to say: New Zealand funeral director Simon Manning's dream hearse, a 1959 Cadillac, had eight years of restoration before it began service in New Zealand during the southern hemisphere's past winter. Simon says every part of the American import received attention in the restoration, right down to the last nut and bolt. The hearse's first public appearance in New Zealand was at Moonshine Rod and Custom Club's American Vehicle Day in February 2021. While the hearse looked ready for work, spectators couldn't see was required before the vehicle became ready to join the team at Harbour City Funeral Homes, where it is now used in funeral services. [To subscribe to this cool online publication, go to [www.oldcars.com](http://www.oldcars.com) Great stories and articles each week. Ed



12

Cadillacclubofnz.org

To read about this marvellous Hearse, go to: <https://www.oldcarsweekly.com/features/car-of-the-week-1959-cadillac-hearse-from-new-zealand>



## REGIONAL DELEGATES

### NORTHLAND

>All Enquiries to Pres.

### AUCKLAND

Phil Shaw  
029-412-8953  
phil@shawsjams.co.nz

### TARANAKI

Mark & Noeleen Souber  
027-403-8924  
noeleensouber@outlook.com

### WANGANUI/ MANAWATU

>All Enquiries to Pres.

10 Regions across NZ

### WELLINGTON/WAIRARAPA

Jason Curry  
021-0221-5373  
curried@hotmail.com

### MARLBOROUGH/CANTERBURY/ WEST COAST

Stephen Brown  
03-32-88-250  
stephen.brown@xtra.co.nz

### OTAGO/ SOUTHLAND

Rob McCann  
021-1835-334  
robmmccann@gmail.com

### BAY OF PLENTY

Contact Steve Gill  
07-575-8891  
cornandpeas@xtra.co.nz

### WAIKATO

Ian Bradshaw 027-211-8516  
07-828-5979  
ianbradshaw1957@gmail.com

### HAWKES BAY

Alan Sargisson 06-843-6838  
027-482-4384  
fingerbreaker44@gmail.com

# Fridge Magnets!



## Check all events due to NZ Omicron outbreak

**JUN- 15 to AUG 31st:** American Graffiti Tribute. Richardson Transport World - Invercargill  
**JUL 10th.** Rotorua Swap Meet  
**AUG 6th.** Palmy Nth Swap & Car Display - Feilding  
**NOV - 3rd - 6th.** 49th NZ Cadillac Nats , Gisborne. Book now and mark your diary. Should be a beauty. Start saving for gas money! Ed

## For FREE!

'56 Gearbox. TEXT John Simpson (Aust) +0061-428-780-421. No phone calls please.

# 13

Cadillacclubbofnz.org

## For Sale/Wanted

Taranaki Member, Mark Fox is on the hunt for a wiper motor relay for a 1967 DeVille phone 0272384718 [markfoxokato1963@gmail.com](mailto:markfoxokato1963@gmail.com)

Marlborough Member, The Motueka District Museum Trust, Jen Calder is looking for a wiper arm for Lassie. Phone 03-528-7660 [savepast@snap.net.nz](mailto:savepast@snap.net.nz) or [motuekamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:motuekamuseum@gmail.com)

Cadillac owner and friend of Ian Lind writes: I am in need of a push rod for my 1956 Caddy. Engine is original engine 365cu.in email. [miniggs@xtra.co.nz](mailto:miniggs@xtra.co.nz) <<mailto:miniggs@xtra.co.nz>> M 0210400447 Home 092355997 Les Wilson



**FOR SALE - 1962 Series 62 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz.** Rare bucket seats (approximately only 60 out of 1450 made) New leather interior , very little body rust. Great solid ex Arizona car. Call Dave Cummins 021 2107030 \$75,000 (CLC BoP - Tauranga)

### 2020/21 CLC NZ Club Officers

President  
Ian Lind 021-863-260  
ian.lind@outlook.com

Vice President  
Mike Thompson 021-749-179  
mobilewelder@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer  
Grant Davis 027-264-1204  
grantdavis37@gmail.com

### Secretary

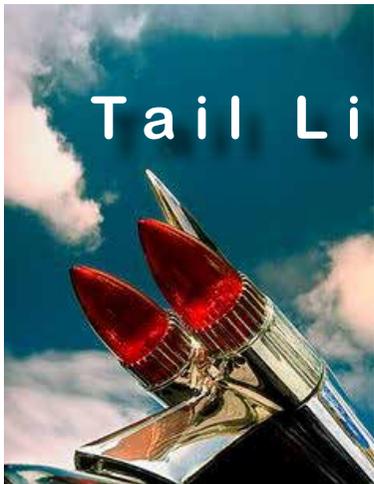
Frances McCurdy 027-688-0677  
frances.wayne@xtra.co.nz

Club magazine (FINZ) Editor  
Ron Melville 07-557-8090  
finzmagazine@gmail.com

Patron - Maurice Hendry  
(Founding member)  
Any Contact to Ron Melville

[Corrections to: [finzmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:finzmagazine@gmail.com)]

# Tail Lights Forever



14

[Cadillacclubofnz.org](http://Cadillacclubofnz.org)

TARANAKI MEMBER, IAN CURRIE TOOK SOME NEAT PHOTOS WHEN HE WAS IN THE STATES IN THE '80s AND '90s. HERE IS ANOTHER BEAUTY. I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE?