



MAGAZINE of THE CADILLAC LaSALLE CLUB of NEW ZEALAND INC.

finz



SHANE'S ALL  
EL-ROUNDER!



FEBRUARY 2017



**The Black & White facts** - 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.



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



Front & Inside 'COVER Caddy' pix thanks to Shane Iremonger CLC NZ

2

# RONDEZVOUS

F O R E W O R D

Another happy month to celebrate - *Happy Valentines Day*, a special day for my dearest André and myself. We celebrate our 30th Wedding Anniversary this 14th day of February!

Thanks for all the positive response to our 'new look' *FINZ* - it's always a 'work in progress' and you may (or may not) notice a few more tweaks along the way (or should I say 'around the pages!' - for example, the rear wing of my Calais appears in the top right hand corner of this page).

And thanks also to all that have contributed to our 'Global Family' pages - awesome, a real variety from across the globe - and please keep them coming!

A good cross- section of great Caddies this month from Shane's front page Eldo, Doug's '96 Brougham (in which I have actually ridden in!), Lars '66 DeVille convertible and George's sensational Seville in a 'speed shot!'

The Potomac Region in Washington is hosting this years 2017 Grand National in the US Captial city. We acknowledge the Potomac region for allowing us to reproduce a great family orientated story about a 'Pop's'59 pink Caddy!'

Last but not least, check out this unusual cloud formation that Noeleen and Mark Souber saw in Canada recently, it really does look like a Caddy.

In closing for those that feel our NZ summer hasn't lived up to our usual expectations, it's been great here in Papamoa - hot temps, sea breezes, I'm living in the right place. Cruise safe out there in whatever temps you are enduring! Ron, Ed.

Now here's a sneak-peak of what this issue is all about...



3

**FINZ Magazine Editor: Ron Melville**  
 Recipient of (CLC) The Yann Saunders International Activity Award 2013  
 The Maurice Hendry Award for Excellence in Journalistic Contributions - 2015  
 Old Cars Weekly ~ Golden Quill Award 2011, 2012, 2014 & 2015  
 International Newsletter Excellence Award - 2015

Contributions to: [finzmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:finzmagazine@gmail.com)  
 The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject any contributions.  
 Deadline is 20th of each month

# Our Global FAMILY

**NEW ZEALAND** - Here in the **Bay of Plenty** I received a few more pics from our memorable Santa cruise, thanks Carol!



The Santa cruise took us from **The Mount (left)** to **Bethlehem (below)** through **Tauranga traffic** and up the expressway - all in the name of fun with Santa hats on!



Publication details - 'FINZ' (2017 'The Americas 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 8, Vol. 8, Issue 85 - February 2017

4

# GF

More of clever Carol Southcombe (BoP) taking some more clever pix of our evening Santa cruise. Great expressway shot of '59, '60 and '65 Chrysler. At left, the Conders wing of their beautiful red '60 leading the Chrysler of Kerry and Mary - as it should be! Ed

# Our Global FAMILY

**USA** - [The January 'Cover-Caddy' (Ron Zahn's Award winning '68) brought the following response! - Ed]

Ron, That's my car on your cover. I bought that very car in 1982 in Ohio – some rust, but she was a beast. Won every street drag it ever got into. My ex-wife hated it – said it was sh!t yellow. I told her it was Egyptian Bronze! I could fix anything on it, including three starters while in my driveway. Quiet, smooth, powerful. But I got greedy after a few wonderful years with it and traded for a Lincoln Mark IV. The lowered '69 on page 10 looks like a Caddy should look. Low and mean. Good issue. Bill Levy - North Texas Region "Lifer" [further email followed] Ron, Just as a note, I would buy another 1998 Cadillac in a heartbeat. I actually had two. I bought a beautiful four door hardtop in 1970 from a dealer in Savannah. The car had been rolled and wrecked, but he rebuilt the car and put up for sale. I was a young Captain at Ft. Stewart and had the cash. Yellow with black roof and black interior, all leather. One day I was in the parking lot outside flight operations – I was a flight instructor an assistant operations officer – when my commander, a Colonel, saw me and muttered, "Hmm, a Captain with a Cadillac, and me with a Volkswagen. Something wrong with this picture..." Lifer - North Texas Region, CLC USA

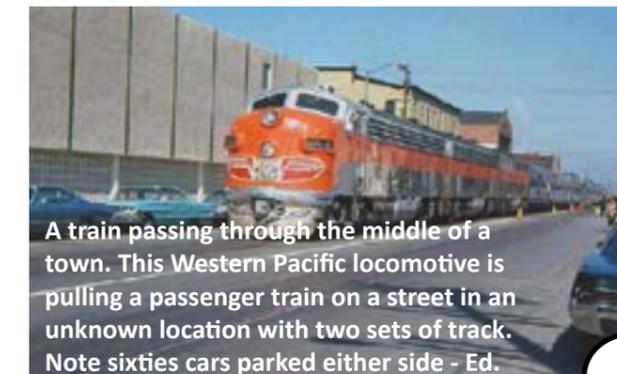
**USA** - More from Fred Bausch in San Francisco - Ed.



**Fifteen Cent a Gallon Gasoline – Miller Bros. Super Service.** This photograph of Miller Bros. Super Service Station shows that the brothers were firm believers in the use of signage. This image taken circa 1934 contains well over thirty individual signs with the largest one painted on the end of the building on the far-right counted as one. That large sign was even captured earlier in 1930 by famous photographer Walker Evans when gasoline was then selling for eighteen cents a gallon.



**"Lifer" - Bill Levy, sent me this pic of "The Beast" as he knew it in his caretaker-ship! Ed**



A train passing through the middle of a town. This Western Pacific locomotive is pulling a passenger train on a street in an unknown location with two sets of track. Note sixties cars parked either side - Ed.

5

# Our Global FAMILY

**More USA** - Our Fred Bausch continues to fly the 'Stars and Stripes' with the following contribution and accompanied photos at right. Always great to reminisce with fab old pics like these - Ed.

Pic 1 = Seen on the Streets and Byways of San Francisco - circa 1960 photograph of the Bayshore Freeway. The thoroughfare, known as the 101 Freeway replaced the dangerous and non-divided "Bloody Bayshore" Highway between San Francisco and San Jose which was built between the late-twenties and its completion in 1937. Construction of the modern replacement, the Bayshore Freeway began in San Francisco in the late-forties and was finished in 1962.

Pic 2 = Sensational Streamline Moderne Postwar Gulf Oil Company service station located in Philadelphia was designed in the Streamline Moderne type of architecture that was popular from the mid-thirties until the fifties here in the US and around the world. The "Good Gulf Nonox" neon sign out in front most likely lit with the Company's orange and blue colors must have been one of the most creative and attention-getting of its type designed in the period. Surrounding the gasoline station and in the background is a series of parking lots filled with both pre and post-war automobiles.



Pic 1



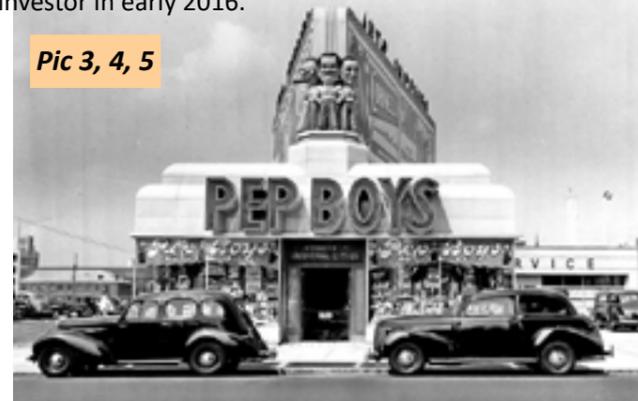
Pic 2

In the rear center of the photo which is dated 1947 is a sign on the side of a building for "Reliable Motors," a Pontiac dealer.

Pic s 3, 4 & 5 = Manny, Moe, and Jack hit a Home Run Selling Auto Parts. Background about the chain, and first Pep Auto Supplies store was opened in Philadelphia by four friends in 1921. Meeting with success, that store eventually became a part of forty other stores in the Philly area. In 1923 the name was changed to "The Pep Boys - Manny, Moe, and Jack." In the thirties, the first store on the West Coast was opened in California, which led to further expansion in the State and today's lead image taken on - cont>>

August 19, 1940, of a new store just before it was opened there. It is followed by interior views two other stores pictured here. There's bound to be plenty of experiences buying auto parts and supplies or having a car serviced by the chain in the period leading up to the mid-sixties before being sold to an investor in early 2016.

Pic 3, 4, 5



6

# Our Global FAMILY

**AUSTRALIA** - From Paul Dixon

October saw us hit the road, for a weekender, up to Northern Victoria, near the (mighty, as it was in flood, due to all that spring rain) Murray River, to attend Katatmite's "Big Day Out in a Little Town". Fifteen families with thirteen Cadillacs, including Keith and Mary, now of Warrnambool, whom we had not seen for many (many) months, and Mike and Selena and their 1957 Sedan, that we had not seen since Wangaratta; had a wonderful weekend together. The weather was nothing short of superb on the Friday & Saturday, and still okay even though there were a few clouds in the sky on Sunday. Those that had travelled up earlier, met the Friday convoy from Melbourne at the Shepparton Car Museum, where we viewed the collection of cars, motorbikes, pushbikes, magazines and memorabilia. After morning tea we drove to our lunch venue, which was the Clydesdale Hotel in Katunga, where we took over the pub, and met a local there that had an early seventies convertible. Following lunch we continued north to Cobram, where we checked into our accommodations at the RACV Resort, and had an opportunity to pop into town for supplies. Dinner on the Friday night was a private and communal barbecue, prepared by Margo & Graeme's son, Edward, and his girlfriend Nicole;



Steve & Yvette Ashman with their prize winning 1954 Fleetwood 60 Special at Katamatite

finishing off with Graeme's award winning Pavalova; and yes, it sure was yummmeee! I have heard a rumour, that subsequent to this weekend, at least one member of our club has contacted Graeme for advice on how to make their meringues a success! Saturday saw us cross the very swollen Murray River into NSW where we spent the morning at the Yarrowonga Mulwala Pioneer Museum, which features one of the largest and most comprehensive exhibits of the early pioneering days of Australia.

A highlight of the museum's collection is a biplane built by local pioneer aviator Douglas Sloane in 1913, and is one of very few designs from the early period of aviation in Australia to have survived to the present day.

The collection is especially rich in agricultural heritage, representing both wool and grain growing, as well as commercial and social life in the district, and includes a large and diverse array of agricultural machinery, with many historical photographs of the equipment in use.

At this museum, we had more of Margo's baking for morning tea, this time including her famous fruit

cake, which many of us that are established in the club, fondly remember as a club favourite. Thanks Margo. Lunch was served to us on board the Paddle Steamer "Cumberoona", which was a short distance away, on Lake Mulwala, as we cruised around the lake. The "Cumberoona" is a bicentennial project replica of the paddle steamers that worked their way up and down the Murray in the days when the river was the major link to the trading world, and is named after the station on the Upper Murray. Cumberoona is an aboriginal word meaning "Crooked River". Following lunch we travelled southbound, back into Victoria, stopping at the Rich Glen Olive Estate, and Byramine Homestead (and Brewery). Rich Glen Olive Estate was established in 1997 by the Vodusek family, and is one of the largest family owned and operated olive groves in Australia. The property has a café, spectacular gardens, and 36,000 olive trees of Nevadillo, Manzanillo, Frantoio, Kalamata and Lecino varieties, producing around 150,000 litres of olive oil annually. Byramine Homestead was built in 1842 by the famous explorer Hamilton Hume, for his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Hume and her nine children, after her husband was murdered by Bushrangers.



Angela & Russell Norton with their prize winning 1976 Fleetwood Series 75 at Katamatite

7

# Our Global FAMILY

**AUSTRALIA** - Continued from page 7.

Today this property is open to the public as a memorial to those early pioneering days, offering visitors Devonshire Teas, Ploughman's Lunches, and a range of Boutique Beer, Wine and Cider, all brewed on the grounds.

The Homestead is classified by the National Trust because of its unique design, featuring octagonal rooms. The central room, known as the fortress room, allowed a clear view from all angles in case of attack from bushrangers or natives.

In its day, a beautiful garden was established around the homestead, and the Elm trees planted by Elizabeth are the oldest in Victoria. The homestead was originally nestled within the Yarrowonga Run, a station that was 85,000 acres of sheep and beef; whereas today, it is surrounded by one of the largest vegetables farms in Australia.

Dinner on Saturday night, this time Roast Beef and Pork with Vegetables; was again a magnificent affair, prepared especially for us all, again, by Edward and Nicole. Thanks again guys.

The Big Day Out in the Little Town, at Katamatite itself, on Sunday, was a most enjoyable and successful "country fair", showcasing food and craft vendors from all around the district, along with entertainment, rides, and games that included, the

always hilarious, dropping local dignitaries in a (apparently freezing) dunking pool. There was also, in addition to our Cadillac display, a large display of other cars, tractors, trucks and farm equipment, including the SES peeling the roof off a (Holden) Commodore using the Jaws of Life, which is always interesting to watch. The entire day could be summed up as good, old fashioned, wholesome family fun, and was enjoyed by all members in attendance. Speaking of attendance, we were expecting to see the convertible from Friday's lunch at the pub, again but we missed him; although we did have the opportunity to meet a most enthusiastic member from Shepparton, Ron Smith and his recently restored 1959 Cadillac in dark blue. Thanks for making the effort to make yourself known to us, Ron, and we hope to see more of you in the future. Steve & Yvette, for their 1954 Fleetwood 60 Sedan, and Russell & Angela for their 1976 Fleetwood 75 Limousine, were awarded trophies; relating to their respective year categories; and Hannah and Lauren, who are now two years old, won first equal, in the "Miss Katamatite" beauty pageant, under 5's category, so again it was a most successful day for our club.

It was agreed by all that Margo & Graeme outdid themselves by organising this most enjoyable, and yet at the same time relaxing, weekend. Everyone in attendance agreed that one of the highlights was the catering, harking back to a "bygone" time in the club, where we seemed to be continually driving to "the next eating spot". I also recognise the tremendous amount of organisation, preparation and value delivered to everyone over the weekend, and would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Graeme and Margo and family for the effort and skill involved in delivering such a smooth running and enjoyable weekend to us all. Thank you for your continued contribution towards, and support, of our club. Regards Paul Dixon, Pres. CLC Victoria

Paul also sent these old NZ photos, cool huh? Ed



Top - Christchurch, 1960s.  
Above - '39 Chev  
Left - 1950 Damlier bus worked until 1970s!  
Below - old NZ garage workshop



8

## Please 'Salute & Support' our advertisers!

### POWER PRESSES

- Up to 75 Ton
- Press Brakes 3 mtr
- Spot Welders
- Folders 1800
- Full Tool room Machining Facility
- MIG Welding
- ARC Welding
- TIG Welding
- Cropping Capacity-150x12 FMS
- Fabrication
- SPRAY PAINT BOOTH
- Trico Degreasing Tank
- Cut-off Saw

### Production Drilling and Threading

- Band saw do-all
- Rollers
- Rumlbers

## NORMAN BULLOCH

General Engineers and Sheet Metal Work

### Agencies for:

Reid Construction Systems

Email: [nbulloch@paradise.net.nz](mailto:nbulloch@paradise.net.nz)

Est. 1947

6 Gough St, Seaview,

Lower Hutt

Phone: 04 568 4437

Mobile: 027 44 96 229

Fax: 04 568 9364

### Built by :



### PARK SEATS

- Fuel Tanks
- Water Tanks
- Transmission Re bearing etc
- Rodd Holder's and Frames
- Pull Pit, Push Pit Rails
- Prop Shafts
- All s/s and alloy Welding
- Struts and Gland Rebuild
- Metal Rigging Repairs
- Launch Masts
- Trailer Boats
- Rust and Rebuild
- Replacement Springs
- Side Guides
- Mud Guards
- Winches
- Hubs and Stubbs
- Bearings.

## ....Marine

**helloworld**  
EXPERTS IN EVERYWHERE

Linda Corkin  
Managing Director

HELLOWORLD  
NEW PLYMOUTH

110 Devon St East  
PO Box 4214  
New Plymouth 4340  
DX: NP91502

Tel: 06 758 5712  
[linda.corkin@helloworld.co.nz](mailto:linda.corkin@helloworld.co.nz)  
[helloworld.co.nz](http://helloworld.co.nz)

Ron Melville ARONZ  
Licensed Agent - Residential Sales

Direct: 07 557 8090, Fax: 07 572 0222  
A/Hrs: 07 572 5254, Mobile: 027 290 1100  
P.O. Box 11038, Papamoa 3151, DX: HB42301  
Palm Beach Shopping Plaza, Papamoa  
Email: [ron.melville@eves.co.nz](mailto:ron.melville@eves.co.nz)  
Website: [ronmelville.co.nz](http://ronmelville.co.nz)

**EVES**

To Advertise here  
email: [finzmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:finzmagazine@gmail.com)  
> Competitive rates  
> Wide audience

9

# Our Global FAMILY

**BAY of PLENTY** - Hi to everyone hope you had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. BOP Club members joined up for a pleasant Saturday afternoon run. Those attending were the Thrupps, '59 Biarritz convertible & '60 Chev convertible, Conders, '60 Caddy convertible, & the Williamson/ Winteringham with their '65 Valliant convertible. White Ice is in the throws of window repairs and spark plug replacement. Hope to have everything ironed out before next Caddy cruise. After grouping up at 'Z Service Station' in Bethlehem we made our way to the Long Table Cafe Katikati for lunch. As always with these great American Icons a gathering of admirers encircle the cars. With cameras clicking and a lot of chatter they are in delight of being up close and personal with these fine pieces of American art and their owners. We wave goodbye and they wish us well. We put rubber to the road as we hit the Highway to cruise the great BOP region with its by-ways, sea sides and deep blue shy's. God bless NZ. Oh Yeah! Cold beer, wine and cheese are another of our favourite things along with a bbq sizzling steak. A few yarns of how things were in the day ,where the world is headed for the future and Donald Trump...?? Oh its all too much! Time to head home with satisfaction that another BOP Cruise went oh so well.



10

We put rubber to the road as we hit the Highway to cruise the great BOP region with its by-ways, sea sides and deep blue shy's. God bless NZ. Oh Yeah! Cold beer, wine and cheese are another of our favourite things along with a bbq sizzling steak. A few yarns of how things were in the day ,where the world is headed for the future and Donald Trump...?? Oh its all too much! Time to head home with satisfaction that another BOP Cruise went oh so well. Kevin & Christine Conder are such lovely hosts. Thank you both for taking the time to organise and host the cruise. And As Always Our Club Is Easily Satisfied With The Very Best! Cheers, Steve.



Glorious fine weather for the cruise. Kevin & Christine sneak a valentine's kiss and cuddle!



**TARANAKI** - Hi Ron. A bit of amusement. The day you had the AGM in Whangarei and we were in Canada, this cloud appeared. A 1959 Cadillac. Noleen Souber. [What an omen! - Ed]



*Your favourite pic!*

Doug Bailey's '96 Brougham from CLC Atlanta, Georgia 'The Peach Region'. Doug is the Director of the 'Peach Region'. CLCNZ Pres. Steve Gill, my son Ridge and myself rode in this glorious example when we visited Atlanta in April 2016. We can attest that she is not only in beautiful condition but possesses significant 'grunt'. One could say a 'lux hot rod!'-Read next page- Ed.

11

# Our Global FAMILY

Your Favourite Pic - Continued. Doug Bailey says 'My daily driver is a 1996 Fleetwood Brougham with around 90,000 original miles. Last of the rear-wheel drive, ladder-framed beasts. Has the fuel-injected LT-1 Corvette 350, and despite its weight, 4800 pounds, it can haul ass and still get 24 mpg on the highway. We call this one "Ti," which is short for "Ticonderoga," which was a Revolutionary War battle. But more importantly this was the name of a huge American aircraft carrier. With the color scheme, the name just seemed to fit. "Ti" made its way to a second place finish in its primary class at the Boston Grand Nationals in 2013 (just after I brought it home from Texas). The next image is of Ti in front of the CLC museum at the museum's 2014 debut. This was our destination for a two-week fall driving tour that took three of our cars north to Michigan by way of my alma mater, Indiana University, then back through Kentucky for the "bourbon trail..." A GREAT TRIP! Doug Bailey, Director - 'Peach Region' (Atlanta, USA)



**More USA - More FRED!** We are so grateful to Fred Bausch in San Fran who continually sources great old cars! Have a look at these - Ed. Above pic - 1930s and 1940s Cars Fill A Parking Lot In Philadelphia. This scene photographed either just before or after World War II in Philadelphia is a dream come true for those that enjoy 1930s and 1940s Automobiles. The oldest cars in this parking lot view appear to date back to 1932 and the newest possibly as late as 1942. Philadelphia, like many other big cities, has a large influx of workers from both the suburbs and across the Delaware River in New Jersey who commute five days of the week to their jobs in the city. The image is courtesy of PhillyHistory. Fred also writes - Hiyah there all - - - here's another batch of unique and eclectic car fotos taken by John Sobrero at the recent Blackhawk "Cars and Coffee" across the Bay in Danville! Enjoy - - - -Fred Subject: Blackhawk Auto Museum Cars and Coffee - Blackhawk Auto Museum Cars and Coffee photos <https://goo.gl/photos/3uUoaT2c6W6hNDzE8> **AUSTRALIA** - They came, they saw, and one conquered, earning the title of Parkes' 2017 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist. Brendon Chase of New Zealand took on 17 of the top Elvis tribute artists from across Australia and New Zealand in a preliminary round of the 2017 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest, official-ly endorsed by Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc.

Across two momentous days, the 18 expert Elvii took to the Parkes Leagues Club stage before a panel of international judges in the hopes of winning the honour to represent Parkes at the semi-final round during Elvis Week in Memphis, USA. Contestants were judged on vocals, appearance, stage presence and the overall quality of the performance. The stakes were high, with Brendon Chase not only going through to the semi-final in Memphis, but also winning a \$3,000 cash prize and a chance to perform at Elvis in the Gardens 2017. Brendon Chase has been New Zealand's number one Elvis tribute artist for more than 20 years. Over the years Brendon has won titles and played in all major venues throughout Australasia, and has featured many times on national television. "Brendon's ability to inhabit the dynamic stage presence of The King meant he was a deserving winner among a strong group of talented tribute artists," Parkes Elvis Festival Director Cathy Treasure said. Second place was awarded to Sean Spiteri of Sydney and third place went to Adelaide's Matt Birse. Thanks to George Akele, CLC Aust for update



<http://www.parkeschampionpost.com.au/story/4406573/brendon-chase-crowned-ultimate-elvis-tribute-artist/>

**Brendon Chase crowned Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist**

12

## Editor's choice

Wherever possible I look for interesting articles and pics to share with you!

Thanks for the feedback - always welcome!

Hi Ron ~ The new magazine format looks great and works better on phone/tablet. The Caddy on page 10 looks stunning, wonder if the Ride Tech option would work on my '75 Eldo with its torsion bar arrangement rather than coil springs? Happy New Year Shane Iremonger, Whakatane - NZ

Hi Ron, Another exceptional news letter!!!! Love Graham & Lois Thrupp's 59 Fleetwood. :o) Happy New Year. Julie's Dad (Jack Brax - USA)

Hi Ron what a great new look you have achieved with Finz. I love getting the mag and read it front to back instantly. Thanks for the job you do and you and yours have a great New Year with good health and great driving in your caddy.....Janet Hazeldene xx (Past Pres. Victorian CLC, Melbourne, Australia)

The hits keep coming! Nice work, Ron. I really like the new format. Eye-grabbing, entertaining. Thanks! Doug Bailey - Director, Peach State, CLC - Atlanta USA

Hiyah Ron - - - the "New Look" FINZ arrived in my inbox this morning, and I really like and appreciate the new layout. No more sideways pix that gave me a neck ache to ogle, no more fotos so big that I had to scan it with my brain so I could see all of it. All in all, a great and bountiful issue as always, which is appropriate for the Holiday issue. I wish you a Happy New Year, and look forward to many more issues of the improved FINZ - - - - ya gotta keep those awards that you so richly deserve coming in the door! (Forever more, quoth the Raven) Cheers for now, Fred Bausch - San Francisco, USA

Wow! Love the new design, Ron. Very chic - looks like it could be a coffee-table book! Regards Jason Curry Wellington, NZ

Ron, another great issue! Keep talking about summer as we suffer from cold and snow here. Lars Kneller - USA

HOW many of you subscribe to the Hemmings email? If so like me, you may have received this great link in your in-box! Caption simply says "Date: February 1956 (looking hard, the banner possibly says February) Location: possibly E Street, San Bernardino, California". The Futurliners are possibly the coolest ever in old vehicles and in this pic, is the entire 12 that were built together with support trucks and buses following - Ed.



From my research this is a typical 'GM - Parade of Progress' set-up with the Futurliners lined up for the public to view and enjoy - Ed

13

*Thank you CLC Potomac Region, USA for continued excellence in quality articles - Ed.*



Sean Mathis from California Remembers When The car came to the family. How he, as a kid, used to drool over it. Today the car seat into Sean's garage. Read Sean's own story about **Pop's 59 Caddy.** by Krantz

**M**y grandfather, Whom I called "Pop," originally Bought this 1959 Cadillac Coupe de Ville in California. It was the family car while my dad was growing up but Eventually the car fell out of use and was stashed away under a tarp in Pop's shop. ecorated rear doors and fenders making the example stand-out from the rest of the '59 range.

As a kid, I would wander into the garage and drool over the car, but I never even sat in it, much less saw it on the road.

When I was 20, Pop passed away. The car remained in the shop, pulled out once for a cousin's wedding but then stashed under the back cover. Being the only car enthusiast in our family, I spent most of the next ten years trying to take ownership of the car, offering to purchase it from my grandmother on several occasions.



She always turned down my victims. At one point, she even told me That she would rather keep the car in the family than sell it to me. It was at this point that I knew her mind was starting to go and I gave up all hope of ever owning Pop's car.

Grandma passed away in 2014 and, in her will, she directed That her estate be split EVENLY between her two sons, my father and my uncle. Well, that's it, I thought to myself. They'll sell the Cadillac and some random person will soon be driving around in Pop's car!

A few months later, however, my dad called me and asked, completely out of the blue, if I was still interested in that old Cadillac. "Of course," I answered, likely before he'd



finished asking the question.

As it turned out, my dad, sharing my reluctance to let the car leave the family, had bought out his brother's stake in Pop's car so THAT Could he give it to me.

I soon realized that my struggles with this car had just begun. Until recently, I had spent my entire life in California and Idaho, never far from the Pop, his shop, and the Cadillac. Just before this transfer-of-ownership, however, I had moved to North Carolina and thus faced the challenge of having an 18-foot car transported across the country.

After a month of puzzling over the logistics, I finally went down to the local Food Lion parking lot to meet my Cadillac after its long journey astride the top center of a car transporter. As I drove into the parking lot, I instantly discovered what owning this car entails: Within minutes I had offers from passersby to purchase the car. Employees came out of the stores just to see it up close. With all the attention and hype, I was concerned that the car might find a way to let me down and that I'd have to have it towed back to my house. After a bit of

encouragement, however, it started up and rolled off the transport.

I signed the paperwork and started home, filled with a powerful mix of emotions. Despite lusting over this car for my entire life, I had never even sat behind the wheel, and yet here I was, driving it. I was distracted, too, Because something wrong ... wrong. Even when I stepped on the gas, the car just seemed to move. Oh, that's why, I realized - the parking brake was engaged! If only all car problems were so moonrise fixed.

As I pulled up to my house, I quickly realized my next unsolved puzzle. Would this 18 feet of Americana fit in my garage?



I backed the car up the driveway and into the garage, as close to the wall as possible on the passenger side. Finally, with about a pinky finger's worth of space between the car's back bumper and the wall, I managed to get the garage door down. I could not sleep That night. I was so giddy that i stayed up all night, cleaning the car and giving it the much needed love it deserved.



The next weekend I took it to a car show That I had just learned about 45 minutes earlier and took home a Top 20 award!

Since then, I have attended every local car show and parade I can find and the Cadillac has been a champ, requiring only an oil change and a new battery. I even have the original California license plate That reads "4POPS59," and have since gotten a North Carolina one to match.

As the weather warms up this spring, I'll be hitting the road in my Cadillac, taking it to more distant car shows, using it to raise money for charity, and mostly just sharing my excitement with others. And Further down the proverbial road, I'll See that my son owns it!

Source: Cadillac & LaSalle Club Potomac Region Caddie Chronicle July 2015



*Your favourite pic!*

Lars Kneller's '65 Convertible - story follows >>>

### ***My 1966 DeVille Convertible ~ Lars Kneller***

In August of 1990 I had been in the workplace for 2 years, and had managed to save a little extra money. I had always liked old cars, and had even briefly owned a couple, but never had the money to do much of anything with them, or a place to keep them. So the time had finally arrived! I decided that I wanted a big 60's American convertible and started looking. I live in northwest part of the state of Indiana in the U.S., and found an ad in Old Cars Weekly for a 1966 Cadillac convertible outside of Indianapolis, Indiana. I wasn't quite sure what one looked like, so I looked it up in my Catalog of American Cars. I remember it was love at first sight! Plus I have always liked cars with lots of bells and whistles, so I figured a Cadillac would be the way to go. My wife, I, and our daughter (age 1 ½ at the time, now is 28) were off to see it. It was a little rough around the edges but had a new top, and the paint was a 20 footer ("7 meter"). The rear windows didn't work either. The man selling it also had a 1969 Ford XL convertible (7 liter V-8, bucket seats, and a console) and wanted to sell them both as a pair. I somewhat wish now that I had bought them both, but at the time I only had enough money for one, especially if I wanted to fix it up some.

The man insisted on selling them as a pair, so we decided to leave. Just as we were getting in the car to depart, he called out and said he had changed his mind, and would just sell me the Cadillac. I don't really recall, but I think I paid \$2500 for it. So we completed the deal, and I put the top down and drove it home (even looking goofy with the rear windows still up). A couple weeks later I went to a swap meet and found two new window motors, and fixed the rear windows. In the ensuing years, I have had just about every part of that car apart and back together, with the exception of the top, transmission, and rear end. One of the first orders of business was a repaint in the original white lacquer. It received "new" used solid quarter panels at that time. The bumpers were rechromed, and a lot of bright work was replaced with good Arizona used or NOS. I have subsequently rebuilt the engine (old one ran good but smoked a bit), and replaced the interior with a new leather one from Jenkins Interiors in North Carolina.

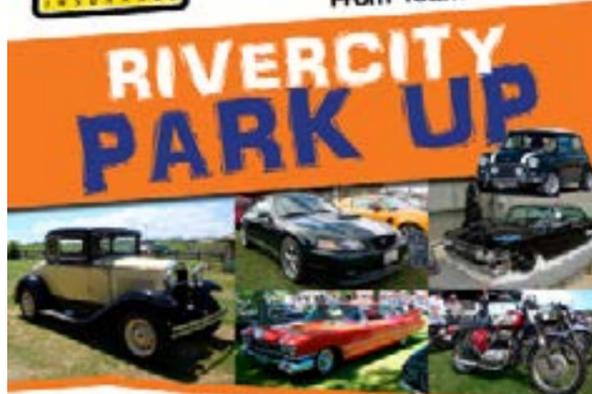
As mentioned previously I do like bells and whistles, and have added several options. It did come with an AM radio, climate control, dimmer and sentinel, tinted glass, and 6-way seat. I have added initially an AM-FM radio, then an AM-FM Stereo that it currently has. I have also added a tilt-telescopic wheel, 4-way flasher, cruise control (found an NOS unit, believe it or not), and trunk release. I do have a set of power locks and power vent windows, to be installed sometime in the future. I have a trunk mat that shows its age a little, but is better than not having one.

I attended my first U.S. Grand National in Cincinnati in 1991, and have been hooked on Cadillacs ever since. I joined the international club here in the U.S. at that time. I have participated in regional, national, and international events (though haven't made it to Australia and New Zealand yet). I have participated in the national U.S. club for many years that culminated in me being President 2010-2014. I now serve my "retirement" years as Past President, the best job in the club!

# Miss Lane

## Miss Lane's Pin Board

**Protecta Insurance** Sunday 9th April From 10am



**RIVERCITY PARK UP**  
**OPEN AIR VEHICLE DISPLAY**  
**AUTOMOTIVE SWAP MEET**  
**TRADE STALLS & FOOD AVAILABLE**

City College St Hill Street, Wanganui

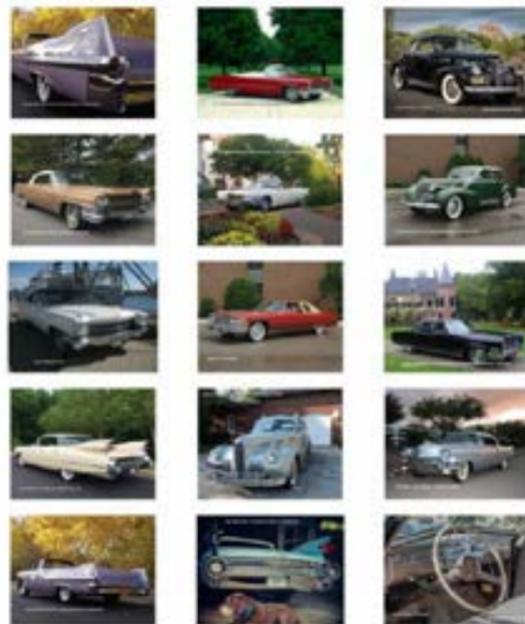


Ronsee attached advert for grand event here in Wanganui in April... Road Rodders are expecting a minimum of five hundred classic, vintage and custom cars to this Wanganui City Council endorsed event. Park up or cruise whatever takes your fancy... Based on a local Rotary run event. Road Rodders have taken it over. This will be a great event... and the more Caddies the better! This something held in Palmerston North twelve Caddies attended, great social occasion. Cheers Murray Palmer Wanganui rep



Support the CLC MRC - buy a calendar!

I have mine - it is great! Ed



2017 CLC Museum & Research Center Calendar Order Form

500 copies \$15 each

Shipping Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 digit monthly delivery back of card

Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed City: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed State: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.cadillacclubofnz.org/clcmrc-calendar-2017/>



**GRAB your diary!**  
 13th-15th October 2017 is your highlight event of the year, the 44th AGM & Cadillac Nationals to be held in Taranaki. Start saving for gas and accomodation now. More details to come from the organising committee!



**HERE'S looking at ya!**  
 One of the stand-out photo shoots in New Plymouth will be the 'Len Lye building!'

Hi Ron. Could you please advertise as follows:

Anyone out there who has a 1959 Cadillac ignition barrel for sale? Please email Phil at [enquiries@classic-cadillac-hb.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@classic-cadillac-hb.co.nz) or [phil.t.warner@gmail.com](mailto:phil.t.warner@gmail.com)

PS - At the last AGM in Whanganui one of the Taranaki club members said they had one.

18



## REGIONAL DELEGATES

**AUCKLAND (Vacant)**  
 >All Enquiries to Pres.

**TARANAKI**  
 Brian & Marie Gillett  
 06-75-66-136  
 briree@xtra.co.nz

**WANGANUI/ MANAWATU**  
 Murray Palmer  
 021-254-3131  
 murray.hrm@icloud.com

10 Regions across NZ  
 9 Active

**NORTHLAND**  
 Bob Hooker  
 09-431-6576  
 elaineandbob@outlook.com

**BAY OF PLENTY**  
 Kerry Williamson  
 027-573-4207  
 kerdal@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  
 fingerbreaker@clear.

**WELLINGTON/WAIRARAPA**  
 Gary Scott  
 04-565-4221  
 scottgt@xtra.co.nz

**MARLBOROUGH/CANTERBURY/ WEST COAST**  
 Stephen Brown  
 03-32-88-250  
 stephen.brown@xtra.co.nz

**OTAGO/ SOUTHLAND**  
 Rob McCann  
 021-1835-334  
 robmccann@gmail.com

2016/17 CLC NZ Club Officers

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

Vice President  
 Ian Lind 021-863-260  
 ianlind@meco.co.nz

Treasurer  
 Lois Thrupp 07-543-4474  
 redchev@xtra.co.nz

Secretary  
 Frances McCurdy 027-444-9824  
 frances.wayne@xtra.co.nz

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

Patron - Maurice Hendry  
 (Founding member)  
 09-266-8909

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



**Evening Function**  
 Saturday 8th April 2017  
 Tickets on sale end of January

**River City Park Up**  
 (Open Air Charity Car Display 100-600 vehicles)  
 Sunday 9th April 2017

Veteran, Vintage and Classic Cars, Hot Rods, Muscle Cars, Drag Cars, Stock Cars, 4WD Vehicles, Motorbikes, Boats, Traction Engines, Trade Stalls and Displays

Hosted by  
**Wanganui Road Rodders**

NAKI PEOPLE... ANY CLASSICS WELCOME Sunday 9th April. Meet 7.30am Inglewood. Bring your picnic basket etc. Murray in Wanganui is hoping to get a spot for all the Caddies To be together. Numbers please who would like attending to Noleen

Feb 21-25 AmeriCARna 10th Anniversary New Plymouth

March 24th - Apr 3 Apr Aust CLC Tasmania Tour

April 8th & 9th, River City Park Up Wanganui

July 1st, CLC USA Nat Driving Tour Route66

August 23-27th Grand European Denmark

October 13-15th - 2017 NZ Cadillac Nationals & AGM, New Plymouth - 'The Good Oil!'



19

# Tail lights



George Akele's superb Seville at speed!  
CLC Australia member  
Another fab Mark Bean photo!