



MAGAZINE OF CLC NEW ZEALAND



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Cadillac

FINZ Magazine Editor: Ron Melville, Life Member 2023

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The Maurice Hendry Award for Excellence in Journalistic Contributions - 2015

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Contributions to: finzmagazine@gmail.com

The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject any contributions.

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Happy Autumn, well it's still very warm in our part of NZ. Long it may continue!

This issue is all about AmeriCARna where I spent five days cruising around the 'Energy Region' when my Caddy was well! Perfect trip down from Tauranga only for the radiator to spring a leak at Waitara! Local recommendations to go see 'Arthur & Lowe' radiator repairers in New Plymouth, (since 1947) saw me only miss one day and I got back home without further ado! Robbie the radiator expert was thoroughly recommended by local Caddy and Vintage car club members for good reasons!

The rest of the event was great. Lots of cool cars, lots of sun and a few hot days. The 'towns' of Waitara, Inglewood, Stratford and Hawea really turned on the hospitality.

Another well-run event by John Rae and his team. The CLC NZ 2025 goal is for many more NZ Caddy members to attend and we have a good excuse to! New member, 'Frosty' Bevan's (she and hubby, Dean herald from Wellington), silver, 1956 Coupe DeVille has been selected as the 'Star Vehicle' for all promotional AmeriCARna material for 2025. Pres. Ian said to me 'Wouldn't it be great to have a huge convoy of Cadillacs dominate AmeriCARna next year in support of Frosty? I agree. Us BoP members have already booked our accommodation, as has Auckland member Steve Barker who I extend an immense thank you to, for giving me a ride when my Calais was under the weather, so to speak. Steves beautiful '59 Seville is our Kiwi cover car this month (with technical thanks to my son Ridge for some photo enhancement). It sparkled in the sun and everywhere we cruised, the number of onlookers pointing, cheering and giving us 'thumbs up' was astonishing (I was there!).

Welcome to two new Members this month. Firstly, Garry Cullen of Hastings. His '70 DeVille looks resplendid. Send me more photos and a few words, Garry!

And Frosty (Suzie) and Dean Bevans of Miramar, Wellington. As mentioned above, Frosty's icy silver '56 is the 'chosen one' for next years AmeriCARna. Woo hoo to you guys! More photos required, also please!

I have purposely carried over a few photos of AmeriCARna until next month so if anyone else has something to share, send them to me at: finzmagazine@gmail.com

Until next issue, stay safe and keep attending those upcoming events. There is still a few more to go, Beach Hop is one biggy thats for sure. VP Jason is attending, so his photos will be awesome! No pressure mate. LOL. Best regards, Ron, Ed.

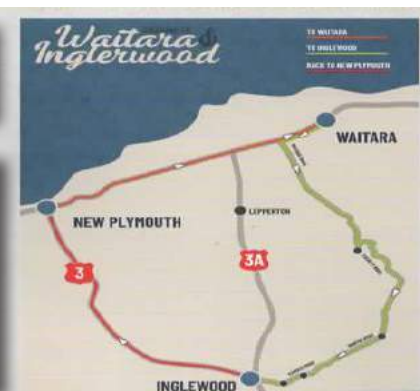


A

eriCARna 2024 has been and gone. This year, I had no Steve Gill riding 'shot-gun' and as my travel buddy, but as it turned out - another Steve appeared on the scene (Steve Barker of Auckland) and we both enjoyed the 'American' of all 'American events' one can have in NZ!

This issue of FINZ is mainly about AmeriCARna and concluded at the Saturday night event dinner with an amazing announcement. Keep reading...

Thursday - after leaving HQ, we travelled to Waitara then Inglewood. Lots of locals out in force!



With some 700+ American cars and trucks in attendance, one can't take a pic of them all. So here is my choice! Ed



From top - '61 Chevy with spats.
'68 Chev Coupe was smooth.
'73 Ford Country Squire 9-seater
'29 Graham Paige x 2 shots
'67 DeVille. \$70k spent on it
'64 Buick wagon, nice colour
'11 Challenger Hurst Edition
'66 Ford F100 Longbed
Genuine Checker Taxi loaded
with all the gear of the era!

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Custom Corvette w '57 front & '59 rear!

An amazing 1950s Buick Roadmaster. Won an Award at Dinner Function.

Now I am not into pickups, but this late 60s Ford F100 was a stunner. Amazing exterior (and a colour combination I loved) it had a resto-mod interior w super nice mod auto floor shift but appeared to have original instrument panel. One of my Top Five picks!

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Inglewood - On the agenda was a Resto shop specialising in recreating the past!

Herein point is this absolutely stunning 50s Buick Caballero Wagon. Restored within an inch of its past life, this is how they looked when new. It must have cost moon-beams to restore?

We counted, approx. 120 'jewels' on the front grill and were told each one had to be recreated from scratch as one cannot buy them! We wondered how many hours it took to merely reproduce the front?

A piece of history, one might be too scared to drive it on the road incase it got a stone chip or got the grill dirty!



The Gold & Greenie-yellow hue stripe w matching interior made for a nice '56 Chev Gold '67 Impala Sedan. Sunset in Inglewood - Black Galaxie & Red on red Sunliner

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Happy Families!

'58 Rambler Ambassador & '62 Rambler Classic



Both the same colour combination, both Right Hand Drive, both with the old NZ Black & Silver number plates. Both awesome!



It's always great to see an Avanti. One of Studebaker's greatest achievements.

Surprisingly, the 'Super Bird' at right was in fact a 'clone'. You'd never know unless you were told, actually a display sign did. Beep Beep!



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Vette Indy Pace car

Nice pale yellow Mopar GTX

The Tracey Family was here, notably Virgil...

At left, a Packard Clipper Sedan

'Sister' Caddy convertibles, '67 & '68 and both white!



Mopar CHP Patrol car complete w/ shotgun and even Johns ID!

Another Mopar hiding down side street in Hawera. Look for red & Amber 'Lollipops' in back window. Very discrete. Shotgun also inside. Not a patch to be seen in this hood!



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'Great White' on the number plate seemed befitting for this 'great white Caddy!' Lovely condition with white w black insert seating. Nice!

<<< Seemingly lots of 'twins' around, here a pair of Mopar Challengers



Low Riders were visible this year but this Chevy truck was the wildest!

Yellow Super Bird below was the real deal!



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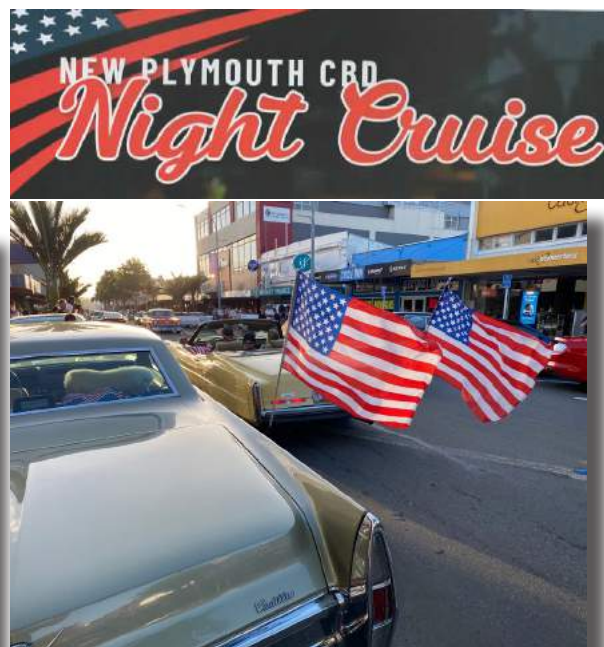


This Bronze colour Buick Riviera caught the eye of many folk at AmeriCARna. Not only immaculate, it simply looked stunning with its infamous 'Boat Tail' rear that evoked the 1930s when this Riviera was new. Lady owner inherited Buick from her Mum, who inherited from her mum!

Friday afternoons return to New Plymouth via Mangarei Road was spectacular. Thousands of neighbours lined the road to celebrate and acknowledge the local AmeriCARna Festival.

in fact, everywhere we drove, there were American flags, support and patriotism for old American vehicles.

Whilst online there were suggestions that a Taranaki Activist group was to protest the AmeriCARna event because it supported American-ism (which in turn supported Israel) and the excessive use of fossil fuels by entrants, there was nothing to be seen!



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Friday night was cruise night in a designated 'loop circuit'. Police were noticeably absent allowing participants to slow-cruise without the normal safety standards. No seat belts observed, sitting in the back of pickup trays, standing up thru sunroofs. Noisy engines were common. No burn-outs or loutish behaviour was observed.



A Car Display event heralded the end of AmeriCARna (albeit the formal Dinner is held on Saturday evening). The Main Street in New Plymouth is closed off allowing 100s of AmeriCARna participants to 'park up and display' their ride. The BoP Cadillac crew (plus Steve from Auckland) arrived just after 8.30am on Saturday morning and all vehicles were 'locked-down' until 3pm. Like other event days, pictures here are of examples I personally loved and judging by the thousands of spectators (free to wander) that viewed, it was a great success - for Cafes and shops owners too I would imagine. Ed

A Vendor displayed/ sold laser-cut metal signs. Terrific accessory for a man or lady cave!





This '69 Impala at left was NZ new and still sported the old black & silver NZ number plates. It appeared to be in great original order outside and inside. A superb example of a classic design.



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New Members, Suzie (known as 'Frosty' as her maiden name was Frost) and hubby, Dean Bevens here at the AmeriCARna Saturday night dinner.

Each year, John Rae (Event Organiser) announces what vehicle will be used in all the AmeriCARna material for the following year.

It was delightful to learn at the dinner, that Suzie's Silver '56 Coupe DeVille was chosen to be the 'Star of 2025'!

Suzie and Dean herald from Wellington and participated at our 50th cruise around the Bays and park-up at Te Papa.

All Kiwi members should look at their diaries and make arrangements now to attend the 2025 AmeriCARna and get as many of our Caddies cruising and supporting 'Frosty's '56'. Imagine a convoy of Caddies dominating the 2025 event! BoP members have already booked their accommodation. See you next February! Ed



Frosty's cool '56 at the 50th in Wellington last October 2023.



From the Editors seat!

Hi all. Many of you have probably heard of Wayne Carini and his 'Chasing Classic Cars' TV show on the Turbo Channel? He recently said this:

Carini: There's something totally different about a Cadillac. There have been other Cadillacs in the Carini stable, and there will probably be a few more in my future and my grandson's future. Blame my father and the marque of excellence. Google: [Carini: There's something totally different about a Cadillac - Hagerty Media](#)

A wee while ago the FoMC (Federation of Motor Clubs) here in NZ released interim details about a survey they conducted. The final results are in. Go to the website to gorge yourself on the extensive read. (See summary page at right).

The FINAL report of the NZ Historic and Classic Vehicle survey is now available. Following extensive work by the Federation's research agency (Glasshouse Consulting Ltd.), and expanding on the data analysis and survey findings that supported the brief Preliminary Report last September, and concurrent with this announcement to all the FoMC member clubs, we will also be releasing the information to the media and the public over the coming days. You can visit the NZHCVS results on our website (where the documents can be viewed and downloaded): <https://fomc.nz/for-member-clubs/> The Final Report itself is very comprehensive, totalling 149 pages and providing detailed stories for each of the sectors, as well as the overview sections. Given the length of the Final Report, we have also prepared a 20 page Summary Report to provide a convenient overview, but still with specific pages dedicated to each sector.



Our GLOBAL Family

AUSTRALIA - Hi Ron. Thanks for the latest FINZ which as usual I really enjoyed. I particularly enjoyed the Nairn brothers story, and your readers would have appreciated the fact that those Kiwis conquered the Syrian desert in their Cadillacs. However I didn't see any reference in FINZ to Maurice Hendry who covered their story in his trailblazing history of Cadillac published 1973. I suspect the Hagerty article was precised from Maurice's 14-page chapter on the Nairns. Best wishes, Peter Ratcliff [Thanks Peter. Further research reveals that Maurice actually had published an extensive article in the very early NZ Vintage Car Club magazine back in the late 1950s! As you suggest, the Hagerty article may have been precised from Maurices original writings. How amazing was our Maurice! Ed]

Hi Ron. This is our recall of our visit to Club Members Stephen & Marion Clasohm of Wallaroo South Australia. On our arrival to Adelaide airport Stephen & Marion greeted us with excitement. Yes we had finally got there after much planning and getting all our ducks in a row. Needles to say the Adelaide weather was very sunny and hot. Stephens Toyota Land Cruiser was an oasis of comfort with its air conditioner to refresh hot bodies. We all had a good nights sleep in their wonderful home on the water ways of Wallaroo. The next morning it was decided that the guys and the girls give each other a permission slip to do their own thing. This is where Stephen Clasohm and Stephen Gill begun our most exciting and famous tour of the Australian South. The highlight of highlights was a place called Tailern Bend, 85 kilometres South east of Adelaide near the lower reaches of the River Murray. This is home to The Bend Motor Sport Park. It used to be the old Mitsubishi test track until the Peregrine Corporation took ownership and turned it into a top notch race

track. The first super car event was held in 1918 with 2025 being the year for the Supercars endurance round. As you can imagine we were both gob smacked as we were given a tour of the complex along with the restaurant and apartments by an employee of The Bend Motorsport Park. The apartments are just the ticket for high octane viewing of Supercar action. As you can well imagine our imagination has now hit top gear of greater things to come for the 2025 round. So its nose to the grind stone to make those buckaroo's, for Wallaroo and Tailern Bend Motorsport Park. Maybe you could even say faster than a speeding bullet or is that be a speeding Supercar. Well that's all for now folks until next time keep the pedal to the metal. And As Always Our Club Is Easily Satisfied With The Very Best. Cheers, Steve Gill - Regional Delegate, Bay of Plenty, NZ [You globe trotter you! Sounds like a grand time with Steve and Maz. Best, Ed]

EUROPE - Great story about the Nairn cadillacs Thank u Ron, Dirk [Thanks Dirk, best. Ed]

USA - Hi Ron, Thanks for sending me another great issue of FINZ. :o Jack Bracxx.

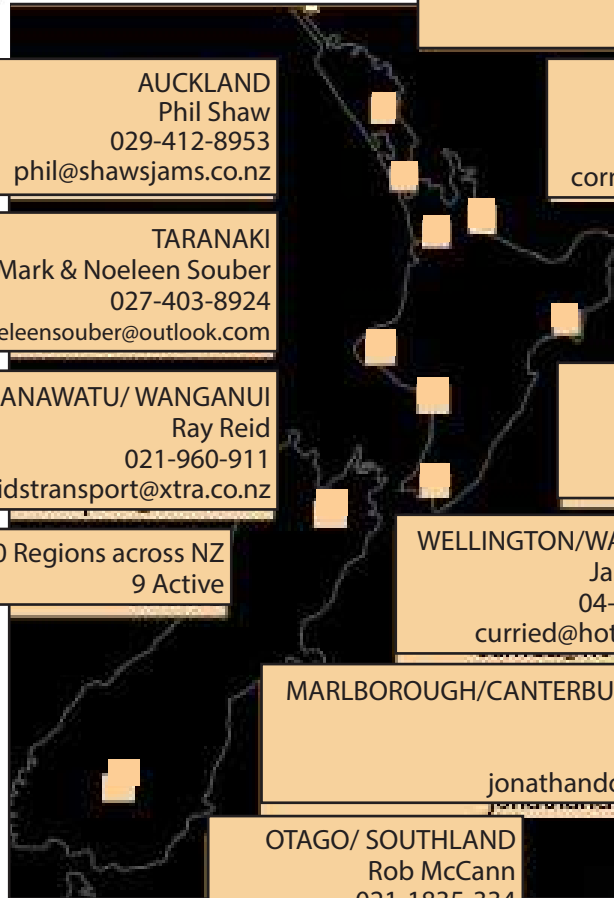




KEVS Caddies and other great shapes!

(Recommended by Pam [Christine's sister] as a 'must view!')



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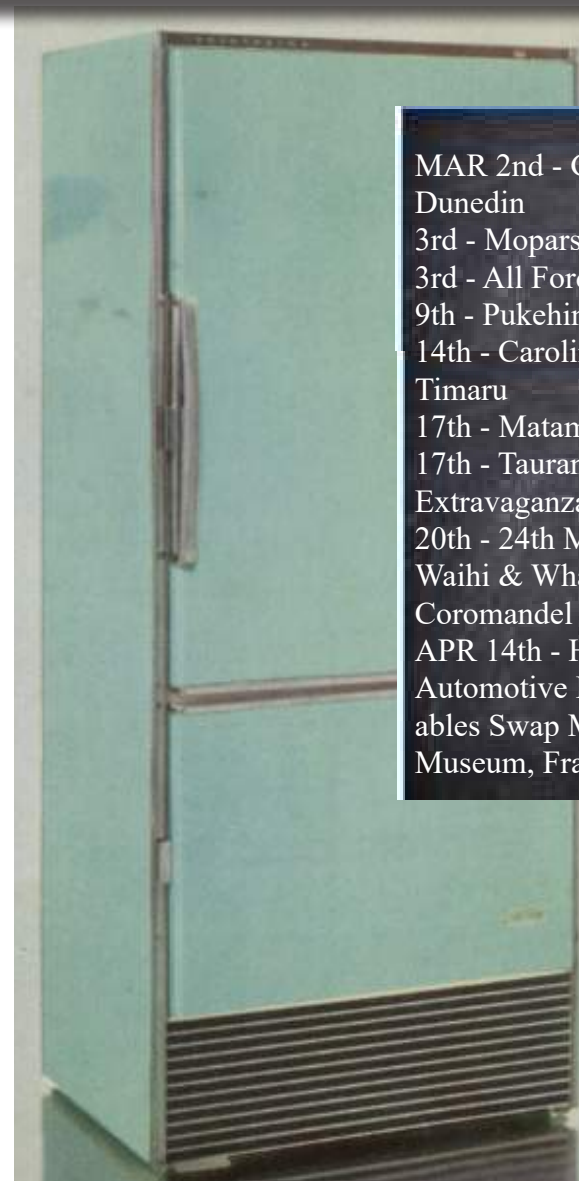
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(Founding member)

[Corrections to:
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MAR 2nd - Great USA Day - Dunedin
3rd - Mopars in Morrinsville
3rd - All Ford Day, Tauranga
9th - Pukehina Autorama, BoP
14th - Caroline Bay Rock & Hop, Timaru
17th - Matamata Car-O-Rama
17th - Tauranga Auto Extravaganza @ Classic Flyers
20th - 24th March - Beach Hop Waihi & Whangamata/ Coromandel
APR 14th - Hamilton Automotive Parts & Collectables Swap Meet @ Classics Museum, Frankton

CLC NZ - Roll of Honour
Spirits flown, not forgotten

Stephen Brown, Past Regional Delegate - Marlborough/ Canterbury/ West Coast - South Island - Member 2001 to 2023
Lou Christ, Auckland Region - Member 2001 to 2023
Bruce Jefferies, Bay of Plenty Region - Member 2013 - 2023
Brian Cullen, Auckland Region - Member 2008 to 2023

We raise our fuel pump nozzles in a salute to you all!

Tail Lights

Featuring the Best Tails in Town!



Wow, look at these colours. Not one modern bland shade amongst them!

[Pic courtesy of Kev's Kaddies Collection]