



Raglan Nats sand pit and  
surfie dudes!



# Rendezvous!

## F O R E W O R D

Hi all. Well the 2020 Cadillac Nats have come and gone. Over 40 of us attended in Raglan and whilst many had a 'smashing time' my Caddy literally did exactly that. Read about my adventure that didn't end to well! Next year's 2021 event will be held in Ruapehu at the Chateau. Wonder what the theme will be? Snow not sand!

There's plenty of Cadillac Nationals coverage to read and photos to be viewed, drool or weep over in the next few pages!

You might also wish to carefully read the 2020 AGM Minutes attached to this issue for it contains some important information for those that still wish to continue to receive their *FINZ* by snail-mail.

Fred's page is back this month with some real cool black and white pics from the 50s and 60s. Read about the dealership that sold 30 Caddies a day!

As always we have newsy stuff from our global family and a nice photo spread of a very original '65 here in NZ - thanks Brent!

As you might expect, this month's cover was likely to be from Raglan. We cruised to the Ngatai Caves and we were lucky there was plenty of parking for our Caddies. The white sandy surface made for a great photo opportunity and the arrival of the Souber's pink '56 gave the atmosphere a very retro feel. Thanks to Jason for having his camera at the ready!

I am not sure about you, but November is a special time of year: The Melbourne Cup; All USA Day here in Tauranga plus the bonus of the local Vintage Car Club Swap Meet which is always an interesting visit even if only for a few hours before I start work (yes on a Sunday morning!).

If you are beginning to cruise about over summer, don't forget your Club Magazine would like to hear about it. A few people at Raglan told me they would send me more stories and photos.....remember?

Cruise safe out there and be careful if riding a 'Flat Deck!' With luck, Serge will let me take his 'Black Beauty' out to all the places I would like to go! Last but not least, I will give you a 'Caddy Damage Report' update next month! Ron, Ed

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

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>>NOTE - Reproduction of some PDF items can sometimes appear 'grainy' when emailed and require adjusting in size, on your screen - Ed

FINZ Magazine Editor: Ron Melville

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



## 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.



The 47th NZ Cadillac Nationals was held in Raglan on the West coast, about an hour plus from Hamilton. The weekend was the usual schedule of 'catch-up, drinkies and natter' on a cool Friday night followed by a very nice meal at the local 'Orca' Restaurant, a short walk around the corner. No need to take the Caddy! The meals were VERY good and the management of the establishment told me they were happy we 'beefed up' (excuse the pun) numbers for the night. Next day, a cruise to the Ngatai Caves. Windy but scenic, almost perfect except for several km's of gravel. We never saw any caves but the thought was there. AGM in the afternoon and evening meal at our motel followed by one of the biggest auctions ever. Thanks to Marion and Mike Thompson for achieving a winning \$2k+ bid for a yacht sail on Phil Shaw's splendid boat by way of a generous donation by Phil. The weekend wound up Sunday morning and next year it's at Ruapaheu. Details to come - Ed

From Steve Gill - Regional Delegate, BoP and CLC NZ International Liason - Hi Caddy cruisers, The Raglan experience was one to stay in the memory bank's for quite some time. The BOP Club grouped up at its usual starting point at Ruahihi Power station on Friday afternoon. The cruise into Raglan was pleasant and went without a hitch. Sunset motel was all a buzz with other members from other regions with their gleaming steeds. Cadillacs galore and a couple of imposters to boot. { Lincoln Continental; a Buick and a mint Ford Falcon } But hey it's allowed and it's all good in the hood. Saturday morning and it's breakfast time with plenty of chatter and more catching up. 11 am and time to hit the highway to Nikau Caves and a spot of lunch. The line up of Caddys is an impressive sight to see in the out back of Raglan. It's cruising time again and this is where things get interesting. These classic cars can at times be very character building. This is where things like distributor caps, radiator caps, water pumps, flat tyres, tyres with funny lumps, and AA tow truck are part and parcel of owning a classic car. The rest all made it back to the motel without incident. Our AGM was held with dinner and drinks to follow with one of the best auctions we have ever had. Sunday morning arrives and it's home time. Most drive their Caddy's without any problems and others limp home with spare parts and wheel's sourced from other club member's. One Caddy is put onto the back of a tow truck and carried home. It's starting to look like Smash Palace. Yes Caddy Cruiser's it's not for the faint hearted. It's a passion and a test of character. Owning and cruising a classic motor car does have it's rewards and for some reason we find it our hearts to forgive, bless and praise them. Well until next time Caddy Cruiser's keep the pedal to the metal. And As Always Our Club is Easily Satisfied With The Very Best! Cheers, Steve.

*If you are still puzzled to what Steve covered above, here's the low-down. Trish & Dave Cummins lovely '62 ragtop lost water enroute and during the event, but after changing to a lower pressure Radiator cap, things calmed down. The Thrupp's '59 Coupe rear driver's tyre started feeling 'lumpy' and they drove home on my spare. My Calais started mis-firing on the return from the Cave cruise. Fortunately help from Phil Shaw, Doug Campbell and friends saw some smart tweaks to my distributor that got me home. Then the water pump started leaking and never stopped. The decision was made to 'flat-deck' my Caddy from Raglan back to Tauranga than risk running out of water, cooking the motor or driving on 4-cylinders!!! The efficient AA man picked up my Caddy on Sunday morning and Steve, Andre and myself followed in Serge's beautiful and reliable Lincoln that Steve had for the weekend. No issues on the return trip which included a change of tow-truck drivers in Hamilton (as the first driver had used up his allowable driving hours). On landing in Tauranga (to drop off my Caddy at my mechanics place of work where I had arranged for him to store/ repair), the tow truck driver had issues unloading my Caddy. To cut a long story short, he moved the truck with my Caddy onboard, unsecured and when the truck lurched forward over a curb, the front smashed into the 'steel deck structure'. It is now a subject of an insurance claim and investigation into poor Tow-truck practices by the AA. If anyone knows where I can easily source two headlight surrounds, email me ASAP. As Andre said, 'Ron has never had any issues for the last 15 years attending AGMs, but every year someone has something happen. Must have been our turn this year!' Other than that, it was a memorable weekend, more memorable for some! Ed (Ron) - Happier pictures next page!*





**The great thing about the Cadillacs in our club is the wide selection of colour. Far left, 'Chasing Rocket Ships' - pic by Jess Curry; #2 shot 'No Vacancies' (and there wasn't any spare parking either! Ed); Above right - 'The Sand Lot' - images shot by Jason Curry. Top right - Other end by Ron**

*Finz November 2020*



**Steve loved the Eldo's that made an appearance at our Caddy Nats!**



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This years AGM meeting was one of the longest that Pres. Ian can recall. It was terrific that so many members put their hand up and asked a question or two. A copy of the 2020 AGM Minutes is attached plus another copy will be repeated prior to the 2021 AGM. There are some important items you need to know that came out of the meeting:

> Following a query from the floor regarding ongoing club Magazine printing and postage costs (which have risen annually for the past several years) AND an increase in members wishing a 'paper copy/ cum- Snail-mail' copy of the mag, it was proposed, seconded and 'carried unanimously' (refer Minutes) that a separate fee of NZ\$55-00 be imposed on those wishing to continue to receive the magazine via Snail mail effective immediately. There were some resulting requests from the floor to receive their future mag via email, thereby avoiding the fee. Life members and some very senior snail-mail recipients will be exempted at the discretion of the Executive, however reducing the ongoing printing and postage expense will financially assist the club. The Editor will also 'manage' a lesser amount of magazine pages to save costs. Many of our overseas CLC family, now only distribute email versions of their magazine. The Editor asked that new Members be encouraged to receive email copies. An invoice for the \$55 is enclosed with this issue for payment. Non payments will automatically receive an email copy of the December issue onwards. Hope that makes sense. *Continued--->>>*

*Finny  
November 2020*

> A plea was made by our very hard-working and treasured 'Treasurer' to PLEASE convert your Annual Subs to automatic payment payable on the 1st September each year. The sub remains at \$50 per year. The audience were surprised to learn that some automatic payers had still not amended their Annual Subs to \$50 which had increased several years back at the New Plymouth AGM! Just to recap CAN YOU PLEASE CHANGE YOUR SUBS TO AUTOMATIC PAYMENT AND those who are still paying \$45, grrrrrr - PLEASE INCREASE YOURS TO \$50 AND BRING YOUR ARREARS UP TO DATE!



*Awakino 'Caddy to Caddy!'*



*Friday dinner at 'Orca Restaurant'*

> A copy of the Presidents Annual Message follows:

**AGM – Presidents Message** - *Well Raglan Nationals 2020 is now a memory, For those that could not make it for whatever reason you have missed a great weekend and we look forward to see you at the next Nationals in 2021 in Ruapehu.*

*For all that rocked up and attended you made the weekend a success and we the executive thank you for your attendance. With these great cars of history still enthuse the general public and that was clear to see in Raglan. And of course there is always to be issues with some of the cars flat tyres, water pumps, radiators over heating etc but hay that's all in the fun [ well not at the time ] as we think our cars are immortal. Driving to the venue in convoy from Taranaki is always full of fun and the odd incident, however this year all cars made it without any issues that I am aware of.*

*Great 1 hour drive through some tight never ending corners to the caves and lunch not sure why there was no takers to go caving or was it that that you had to wear wet weather gear and squeeze on your belly through a tight 20 metre gap!!!!!! The return to our Motel was without and issues but the dust was getting thicker on the car.*

*AGM was delayed slightly but eventually got under way and I would have to say the longest AGM I have experienced in the club for some time, however there was some good points raised and put forward and passed. The dinner then followed with a very nice buffet followed by the presentation of our club trophies.*

*We asked members to provide any Cadillac memorabilia or spare parts our whatever of interest to the club a great auction night and substantial funds into the club account.*

*It is with pleasure that going forward we have a venue for 2021 being Ruapehu, 2022 Gisborne and the 50TH CHARTER of our club in Wellington in 2023*

*For those that have indicated and volunteered to support these years I thank you and I ask members also to offer that support.*

*Finally I hope all had a safe trip home and I look forward to see you all again on the track or in 2021 at Ruapehu.*

*Kind regards, Ian Lind*



More photos - feel free to send more - Ed



At Left, recipients of the Annual FINZ Magazine Cover Awards. Just two Kiwi covers this last 12 months: Trish & Dave Cummins (BoP) with their fab '47 and at Right, Jason Curry and his always-photogenic chocolate Eldo! Ed at right.



Doug & Denise Campbell's fab '58 Love its condition and that side window - Ed



For some years, the Club has acknowledged Member's Loyalty. Here (from Left) Dave & Kay Corin (BoP); Keith & Christine Steel (Taranaki) and below, André & Ron Melville (BoP) proudly accept their certificates.



Above, the Curry family from Wellington won the 'Best Dressed-Theme Award' - Surfie was the theme this year and they went all-out! Tremendous! At Left, Denise and Doug Campbell of Auckland took home 'Best Caddy Award' - chosen by the Moteliers! Their gorgeous Pink '58 appears at right. Love that Caddy - Ed!



Finz 2020  
November

# Our Global FAMILY

RAGLAN, Waikato NZ - Being part of the CLC Family means there's always good mates around to give you a hand. Here's a few hands that got me back to Raglan. Appreciate it guys - Ron (Ed) [PS - Thanks to Marnie for taking a few momentos!]



Many hands make light work and also make it work! Ed

AUSTRALIA - Melbourne: Not only are Chris and Gudie still working thru their garage renos but they share some great memorabilia in their cabinets with us. Thanks guys - more pics please! Ed



Meanwhile, Paul Dixon reports that Cadillac could still have plans a-foot to offer a luxury Caddy down-under. Read below, thanks Paul.

AMERICAN luxury brand Cadillac could be set for an Australian introduction under the GMSV banner if recent patent filings from General Motors are anything to go by, with the automotive giant applying to trademark both the Cadillac name and badge locally. The introduction of Cadillac to the local market would thrust General Motors right back into the thick of the action with models like the CT4-V and CT5-V, both of which are good for more than 240kW – especially the latter, which develops a Stinger-scaring 265kW/550Nm. For reference, the CT4-V is powered by a turbocharged 2.7-litre four-cylinder petrol engine developing 242kW/515Nm while the CT5-V utilises a twin-turbo 3.0-litre V6. However with these new patent filings, it is looking increasingly likely that the CT5 could be offered here with the testing around Melbourne being a precursor to the folding of the Holden brand. Despite the growing evidence, GMSV is still downplaying the possibility, instead saying the patent filings are merely security measures against unapproved brand name usage and that its focuses lay elsewhere. Besides the CT4 and CT5 sedans, the rest of Cadillac's range is comprised of SUVs ranging from the compact XT4 to the borderline gigantic Escalade, with a new generation of the latter due to go on sale in the US later this year.



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# Our Global FAMILY

BAY of PLENTY - Fellow member and Regional Delegate, Steve Gill and I took the ladies for a stretch recently on a lovely spring day. Not too far away but a nice run out to Te Puna. CLC NZ Members, Serge and Lilian d' Elias generously allow us to 'care-take' their lovely examples - a '79 Lincoln Continental Town Car in an 'up and coming colour when new!' (Silver) and their '76 Fleetwood. (Black). A great riding example and very comfortable and quiet. Ed



BAY of PLENTY - When at Raglan, a guy in a lovely cream '57 (and it was mighty nice) appeared. He doesn't belong to a club so we sent Pres. Ian out to work his magic! Came from Pongakawa if I recall - am I correct? Note the number plate and the 'Santa Monica window sticker' on the back window? Anyway, here's a few shots. Was a super nice example - Ed



USA - Courtesy of 'The Standard' (MotorCity Region) shared this with me: Did you know that Cadillac 'toyed with the idea' of making a pick up? Here is a concept pic. Looks mighty familiar to me! Ed

Another 'Dream Cadillac' posted on the 'GM Authority website'



2020 CT6 "UTE"

Cadillac & LaSalle Club  
Motor City Region  
**The Standard**  
October 2020



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November 2020



# Fred's FAMILY of old cars!

Our salute to Fred's memory features Bridy Motors Cadillac – Oldsmobile Mount Carmel Pennsylvania reported to have been taken in 1951 at Bridy Motors located in Mount Carmel, PA, a small town located fifty miles northeast of Harrisburg, PA. It's a model of the Cadillac four-door sedan on display the old-fashioned showroom. This photo will also clear up the recent controversy about poor panel and trim fit on all early-fifties automobiles being commonplace. We stated that the "ill-fitting stainless steel side trim" on the 1953 Eldorado in a recent post was the result of "having been around the block more than a few times." This photo clearly demonstrates how refined the trim and panel gap was on cars built by Cadillac during this period. After a brief search of the internet, the only information found covering the dealership was the mention of Bridy Car Rentals located at East Fifth and South Locust Streets in Mount Carmel in 1964. Although a Google Street View search turned up a building that apparently housed Bridy Motors, which as late as 2012 was still in use in the automotive trade.

The second enlargeable photo below contains a view of a part of the service department. These images was courtesy of "This Was American"



Sewell Cadillac "Village Fine" Used Cars: Dallas Texas. located at the intersection of Mockingbird Lane and Preston Road in Dallas, Texas. This is an undated early 1960s photo of the "Village Fine" Used Car operation and Mobil service station. The KVIL sign is located behind the building at radio station KVIL in the nearby Highland Park Village Shopping Center. The second photo below is a view of the interior of the Cadillac Dealership Service Department. Other images were taken in 1961 or '62 of Sewell's Village Cadillac in the Highland Park neighborhood of Dallas, Texas. Highland Park is an affluent section of the City located about six miles north of downtown. When the dealership is now located at 7310 Lemmon Ave. The Cadillac was king at the time in the Dallas area, and it was reported by "Texas Monthly" in "Cadillac Wars" that Village Cadillac was in business until as late as 1984 when 8443 Cadillacs a year or thirty a day were sold in the City (imagine that 30 a day! - Ed) Photographs courtesy of the UTA Libraries.

*Finny  
November 2020*



# Editor's choice

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

I recently came across a couple of interesting pics when I was putting together 'Fred's page'. One is a very sharp 1956 Cadillac Series 62 two door hardtop, possibly Coupe de Ville. The poppy in the lapel was common in the US on Memorial Day in those decades immediately following WWII. The poppies were handmade by disabled veterans as a fundraiser project, distributed by American Legion Posts. Here in NZ we have similar, on 'Poppy Day', the Friday before ANZAC Day (Australian and New Zealand Army Corp).

The other pic was less serious, Roy Rogers riding his new Caddy!



Roy Rogers taking delivery of his 1947 Cadillac "Happy Trails to You, Until We Meet Again"

## ANOTHER MECHANICAL MISHAP!

From our members at the Motueka District Museum [savepast@snap.net.nz](mailto:savepast@snap.net.nz) wrote:

Good Afternoon Ron,

You may remember visiting us some years ago and we went and looked at our "Lassie" 1929 Cadillac La Salle 340. Well up until quite recently Lassie has been behaving herself and has still been seen around town (apart from lockdown) at weddings, picnics, school balls etc.

Recently however, she has developed a major issue and all who heard her thought she had an issue with cylinders. Our mechanic Rob (who learnt his trade on really old cars) has found the problem. Lassie's carburettor has literally fallen apart. It was a Johnson carburettor, most likely the original. We cannot locate one, even a similar one in our area.

So would you please put out a call to Caddy owners (especially 1929/30 era) to see if anyone in NZ can help us, or point us to one that might work from another vehicle. If that is not forthcoming then a contact for parts in the US would probably be our best bet.

We do really want to keep her on the road and operational.

Many Thanks in anticipation of your assistance.

Jen Calder MUSEUM CURATOR  
MOTUEKA DISTRICT MUSEUM – PUPURI TAONGA  
LOOKING FORWARD OVER OUR PAST  
03 5287660  
[savepast@snap.net.nz](mailto:savepast@snap.net.nz)

Hi Jen and thanks for your email. Oh dear. A number of us do remember visiting you in Motueka on our 'tiki-tour' around the top half of the South Island some years ago, post our Cadillac Nationals in Christchurch. It was very cool meeting you and 'Lassie'!

Yes, HELP is required. I have specifically written to The Editor of Sallee Speaks, the official e-magazine of our 'sister' LaSalle Club that is very active in the US; Australia and Canada. A 'global member' may know of a replacement 'Johnson carb'?

IF anyone else can help, please email Jen [savepast@snap.net.nz](mailto:savepast@snap.net.nz) or [finzmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:finzmagazine@gmail.com) with details.



A 'Post AGM News Flash'. Long time Wellington/ Wairarapa Regional Delegate, Gary Scott has stepped aside and that 'Surfie Dude' we all saw at Raglan (aka, Jason Curry) has stepped up to the plate! This change has been warmly accepted by the Executive. Jason is spear-heading the Club's 50th in Wellington in 2023 and the writer understands there are lots of ideas rolling around! Congrats to you and your family Jason and it is always great to see you ALL at our annual Caddy Nationals - Ed And a 'Salute' to Gary and Tracey Scott for all your past brilliant hard work for the Caddy club. Hope you can help create a 'Badge' for our 50th Gary? Best regards, Ron (ED)

Finz  
November 2020

# Our Global FAMILY

WELLINGTON - Our new Regional Delegate has sent in this interesting article about a 'Cadillac Coffin'. Seems appropriate, given as I type this it is but a few days away from Halloween! Thanks Jason - Ed.

Volume 7 Number 3

Hoosier Heritage

## Aurora Schuck

By Jenny Awad

Aurora, Indiana business owner Raymond Schuck operated a family plumbing business on the corner of Second and Main Street. He loved his little town and so did his wife, Aurora. Aurora Schuck was a native of Cuba and had her name changed to Aurora. Ray was a tall thin man and Aurora was very short and she loved to drive her big 1976 red Eldorado Cadillac convertible with the top down.



The 1976 Eldorado Cadillac that Aurora Schuck loved so much.

In 1989, Aurora lost her fight against cancer at the age of 62. Her final request was that she wanted to be buried not only next to her beloved Ray but with her favorite car, the Eldorado. Ray found out pretty fast that you can't just bury a car with a body in a cemetery. A total of 14 plots had to be purchased and dug. A concrete vault needed to be poured which measured 27 feet by 12 feet and was 6 feet deep before the car prepared for it's final trip to Riverview Cemetery. The car sparkled from the beautiful wax job. Before the funeral, Ray said he was going to fill the gas tank so Aurora could ride around. Well not really. The gas tank was removed and the car made ready for interment.



To complete the burial, a crane had to be brought in to lower the Cadillac and casket into the grave.

A crane was needed to lift the Cadillac with its top down into the vault. Aurora's casket was then set atop the car.

The couple worked tirelessly promoting the city. To this day the Christmas displays that they bought together over the years still entertain visitors in the windows of their old downtown storefront which still bears their name. Ray died in 2002 and his cremated remains were piped down beside his beloved Aurora at the Aurora Riverview Cemetery.



The vault had to be specially designed and built to hold the Cadillac and the casket of Aurora Schuck. It took 14 cemetery plots to do the job.



The final resting place of Aurora Schuck and her beloved Cadillac.

Finny  
November 2020



# Our Global FAMILY

**NEW PLYMOUTH** - Our youngest CLC NZ member (and an amazing photographer too) Brent Osment owns a straight and super nice '65. Brent sent me these pics and as always, we are proud to share Kiwi pics with our other CLC members anytime. Check out Brent's FaceBook page, 'Hotmix Photography'- 'Ed



*Finny  
November 2020*





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

**What's on the FRIDGE?**

NOV - 3rd - Melbourne Cup (Different sort of 'Horse-power!')

8th - Annual VCC Swap Meet Tauranga

15th - Annual 'All USA Day' - Classic Flyers, Mt. Maunganui - Tauranga

25th - 29th, Beach Hop Whangamata Twentieth Anniversary Event

'21 FEB 24-27th AmeriCARna, New Plymouth

APR 26th - 30th 'The Golden

Mudgee Muster', CLC Australian 50th Anniversary, Mudgee, NSW Australia

Email Ron or Steve about attending!



*Finz  
November 2020*



*Tail Lights*



*Finz  
November 2020*

***It seemed fitting that we should have a cool tail light pic from our recent Cadillac Nationals. Called 'Blades', it is by Kiwi photographer extraordinaire Jason Curry, our new Wellington Regional Delegate too! - Ed***