

fiNZ22

M A Y



Ebony, the eloquent Eldorado sparkling in the sun!



# Rendezvous!

Hi again everyone and welcome to another edition of FINZ!

Like last month, another "Hot off the Press" newflash! Thanks to YOU, your *FINZ Magazine* has been awarded another 'Golden Quill Award'. I am sure that's down to all of you submitting great stories and fab photos that keeps us visible amongst the stiff global competition and other Cadillac club 'heavy weights' like the US *Self-Starter* and closer to home, our Australian cousin's *La Cad Magazine*. A list of Caddy club winners is printed elsewhere in this month's issue.

Following on from last month's big news of our 49th AGM and 2022 Cadillac Nationals, I hear that many members are interested in supporting this well planned event with many booking their accommodation already. I have started saving for gas (now nearly NZ\$12 a gallon!).

I received some good positive feedback on our *Touring AMERICA in 1957* article, and part Two appears on page 3. I was however very disappointed that the snail-mail production was sh... I mean not up to my desired standard so I have re-printed the 'Introduction' again. Usually it can be the email copy being a little fuzzy, and the snail mail, razor sharp - but not the April issue. Sorry about that.

Elsewhere, another old AGM pic from the past, Ian Currie's retro US junk yard tours, Kev's Kaddies selection plus newsy CLC-Family stuff from around the globe!

Like this month's 'Cover Caddy?' It's Gus Carmont's beautiful Eldo, fully restored and looking like new! Our talented Auckland member has a few amazing Caddies and other special rides. Hopefully we will get to share in his latest 'work of art' in months to come.

In closing I hope you have decided to come along to our 49th AGM and Cadillac Nationals. I'm all booked and other than petrol, I'm already to cruise. Stay safe and best regards,  
Ron - Ed



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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, Auckland, Rex Findlay sent me this splendid article titled 'Touring America in 1957'. This is Part Two. I have the benefit of course of knowing what the entire article looks like and I can tell you, images are amazing. It is truly like going back in time. Look at the cars, the fashion, the buildings, even the apparent cleanliness of the sky and even the water. If you lived as a teen or adult at that time, drop me a line and let me share your story with all of us. Damm, this is a great article, enjoy! Ed

The year was 1957. Most of us weren't old enough to drive yet, but we couldn't wait to get behind the wheel of our own car. It was the beginning of the greatest period in US automotive history – a time when the debut of new cars in the showrooms was one of the biggest events of the year. Life was good and America was prosperous. World War II was twelve years in the past and the Korean War had been over for four years. President Eisenhower had signed the Interstate Highway System into law and freeways were under construction all over the country. America was on the move.

The pages that follow are an abbreviated trip back to 1957 and some images of what life was like at a time when people were discovering this great country, getting out on the highways to explore not only the beautiful geography, but to engage in new forms of recreation. Crossing the United States from Maine to Southern California and from the Pacific Northwest to Florida, this brief peek in the rear view mirror brings back some fond memories of days when a few bucks went a long way; when people were proud of their country; and when summertime was a time for discovery and adventure.

American cars were stylish, comfortable, powerful, and colorful. And, for most people, they were affordable. A new car carried an average price tag of under \$2400. A good used car could be purchased for under \$500. Gas was \$.24 per gallon, and rent was an average \$90 per month. Though most families thrived at just \$5000 per year, women were entering the work force, so average family incomes were climbing to \$10,000 per year or more, and families were beginning to take advantage of a booming new segment of the post war economy – recreation.

We're going to take a little ride across America now, and hopefully the journey will bring back some pleasant memories of the days when we were young teenagers, seeing the world, not on the tiny screen of a cellular phone, but firsthand as we lived it to the fullest. Regardless of where we grew up, there was so much to see and do.



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The mid-50s were a time when many families had a boat, and summer meant crowded boat launch ramps and marinas. While sailing continued to be popular in areas where boats could be docked or moored, water skiing was the favorite pastime of young families. Advances in fiberglass made small powerboats more affordable for the middle class, and being much easier to transport and maneuver than wooden boats, they had great appeal. Outboard motors grew in size and horsepower to meet the increased demand. Daytripping to the nearest lake for a day of boating and picnicking was a great way to spend the summer.

# A FINZ Special Feature

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As winter releases its grip on New England, sailing and boating at picturesque harbors like Boothbay, Camden, Five Islands, Stonington, and Bar Harbor in Maine get busy by Memorial Day and stay that way until the sun sets on Labor Day. Yachts from all the ports on the Eastern Seaboard make their way north to enjoy the quiet, cool days of summer in the northeast corner of the Union.



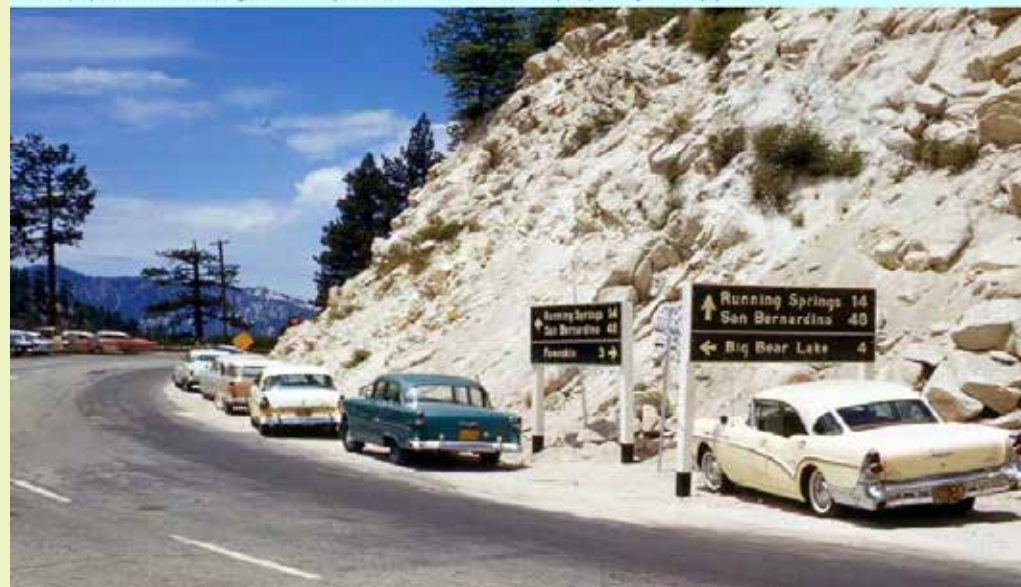
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What could be a better way to spend a summer weekend than to join one or two hundred of your friends at the shooting range for some tailgate picnicking, a few cold adult beverages, and blasting clay pigeons out of the sky? Whether you are down south in Georgia or up in the Palouse of Idaho, the sweet sound of a 12 gauge shotgun and the acrid odor of cordite wafting through the air gets an ol' boy hungry for some fried chicken and cold beer.



Summertime in Los Angeles back in 1957 meant smog tinted tangerine skies and temperatures in the 90s. Escape from the city of two million people meant heading for the mountains for some people. Nearby Mount Baldy, Lake Arrowhead, and Big Bear Lake were only a couple of hours away, a scenic drive on twisty mountain roads. The land was still affordable enough to have a cabin in the woods. Few thought about the future and none would have guessed that the population of Los Angeles County would exceed the million people in just sixty years.



## A FINZ Special Feature

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## Our Global Family

**TARANAKI, NZ** - Someone suggested to me (Ed) that our Taranaki Region is so 'socially active' maybe we should just have a page for them! Sounds good to me. Bring it on I say. In fact, I don't mind dedicating a page to any Region that sends me a great outing article accompanied by pictures! You might even feature on the cover! Ed

Hi my new Caddy friends. A Big Thank you to all who came on the Caddy run today. I really enjoyed being the host. It was a fantastic day all meeting at Kowaroa Close with a good mixture of Caddys old and New. Ozy and Bruce then led the pack taking a scenic tour up Barrett Rd on to Frankley over the ridges with beautiful views of Mount Taranaki onto Carrington Road then down the narrow Plymouth road with a few hairy corners meeting oncoming traffic in a big long wide seven metre tanks!

We arrived at Butlers Reef and Ozy done a fantastic job organizing reserved parking I was quite chuffed (no it was a real fluke) where we parked all our pride and joys side by side with a fabulous back drop of the mountain. In for lunch where we had a beautiful long table on the front deck taking pride of place where we all sat around chatting and enjoying each other's company. We had a awesome choice of the menu designed for us with a good array of meals from Burgers fish and chips chicken schnitzel chicken salads and mouth watering steaks all enjoying a nice cold beverage spinning yarns. We left Butlers and made our way to Ozys house 20 Bayly Rd Moturoa. We had to deal with the triathlon with closed streets and extra parked cars. And Ozy lives on one of the steepest hills in New Plymouth. And some of our beautiful Caddys hand brakes aren't the best lol.

So we parked all front in on the foot path and made our way into Ozy man cave full of memorabilia he has collected for over 5 years. Such a great collection of all sorts from cars models tin toys pool table poker table and Juke box. When your a collector you either run out of money or room. And I have run out of room but it's fun. Everyone crammed in. Very lucky we arrived to Ozys collection just in time they were opening up the road from the triathlon. Planned so well. We then made our way to Ozys collection of cars I have collected for the past 8

years. from 1929 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s all polished up and in pride of place. 38 cars in the collection.

Ozy told stories of some of the cars he purchased over the years. And how New Plymouth has been very good to me as I arrived here 20 years ago with \$600 and a suitcase, and very proud to call New Plymouth home. Then jokingly offered some discounts on wedding cars if any one was getting married again. Bruce said what about Divorces.

Every one seemed to enjoy themselves telling stories and memories of some of the cars.

Then Ozys beautiful wife Kimmy made some home cooked cookies that Ozy asked her to bake last night at 10pm when she just got home after a 10 hour shift. They went down like a treat. Very yummy my darling. Mark then thanked me for a fantastic afternoon.

I really enjoyed hosting the day and very proud of my collection and being able to share it with wonderful people in the Caddy club.

I just love cars and love admiring them if any one has anything they would love to show I would love to see them.

Thanks to all I really had a blast today.

Ozy Ozy Ozy

See you all on the next run

Greg and Kim Ozy, Moturoa, Taranaki

[GREAT article Greg and Kim. I hope you get to write more of them. Send me some photos of your 38-car collection. You have the rest of us drooling! Your Eldo must be almost a twin to Wayne and Frances McCurdy's '76, even the exterior colour! Ed]







**AUSTRALIA** - Hi Ron. Thanks for another great read. Really enjoyed the RHD CTS article and Touring the US in 1957. (Aust) Members, Jan Hazeldene and possibly Greg Short went and saw all the RHD Cadillacs when stored together I think in Port Melbourne before being shipped off to NZ! Perhaps they have a photo if allowed to take one or perhaps they were told no photos. It was a pity the dealer network didn't start in Australia as planned but I guess when Holden shut their production here this would have also shut RHD Cadillac production down. Some RHD CTS' have made it back here in small numbers. One was for sale here in near new condition at a \$100K when not too old. We all said would they get that price. I guess they did. Several have come up more recently at more realistic prices. A new joining member from Bendigo a lady who also has a 70s convertible said she has one and may sell it. She needs front rotors replaced and said she was having a problem getting them. We gave her some contact numbers to try. We could not own one as Bev and James could not get into our Statesmans we had and I think they may be bigger in the interior than the Caddy. My last Statesman was sold with 26 km on it. Bev doing better. Cheers Irwin Sinclair, CLC Aust. [In response to Irwin's email, I made reached out to Jan and Greg. See reply below - Ed]

Hi Ron great to hear from you. Yes we did go in for a personal tour (to see the CTS shipment) as I wanted to and purchase ALL the clothes and jewellery they had for staff and for sale. Which I did and sold it all for the club (a couple of us Kiwi members managed to buy a few items from Jan - Ed). We weren't allowed to take pictures and even when we went for a drive they asked

us to leave the phones off. It was a great day but I will make some enquiries and see if any of the other two people were able to take a picture (whilst we kept them busy with the cars and clothing! Janet

Greg Short emailed: Oooo, gee Ron, that was 2007, I think. Yes, we were allowed to take pics of us with one of the cars. (A red one.) I'll have a look around my files, but I won't hold my breath. Greg [Thanks Janet and Greg - a long shot, I know but always worth an ask! Maybe when the Australian Government eases up on their strict import conditions we can ship a few of these great Cadillacs to you one day? They might be really old and even more collectible then! Ed]



**USA - DETROIT** - Our CLC *Motorcity Region* reports that GM recently made a substantial donation to the CLC Museum and Research Center (CLCMRC), Gilmore in the form of a massive Cadillac coat of Arms. Weighing 13 tonne, it measures 77" H x 72" W x 24" D (for those of us young enough to recall inches!). Look at the size of it (at right). The Museum is a 'must see' if you are ever in the States next time you are able to travel Covid free! Ed

**AUSTRALIA** - Another example of signs you might see in 'the BIG country!' Ed



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Look at the size of it and made of Limestone(above). The Coat of Arms was apparently placed on the GM Building in 1922! Ed



## Our Global Family



**USA** - Hello Ron. FINZ is always interesting to read, with the 1957 reminiscing article in the April edition especially enjoyable for me. In 1957 I was a new college graduate starting a good job and in the market for a new car, a Ford, Chevrolet, or Plymouth. That is why I must disagree with a statement on page 4, in the caption above the Bates Chevrolet photo. My recollection is that Ford outsold Chevrolet in 1957 because Ford cars were totally restyled, bigger, with a much "flashier" appearance, plus a bigger V-8 engine, while Chevrolet offered a restyled 1955 design that did not look up to date. Plymouth, of course, was the style leader of the low priced field, also taking a lot of sales away from Chevy. My memory is that in 1957 the new Chevy was definitely not "the most desired cars of all time", their great popularity came later, when the poor quality of the Ford, Plymouth, and many other cars, and the good quality of the 57 Chevy became apparent. I looked at and drove all three, and did not seriously consider the Chevy for the above reasons. The quality problems of the Plymouth were apparent even when brand new, so that left Ford. I happened to run across a new 1957 Mercury with a manual three speed transmission that the dealer very badly wanted to sell, for less than I could buy a Ford, so that is what I bought. Pretty car in my opinion, nice to drive, horrible quality, fix something during or after almost every drive. Experiences of friends showed the Fords and Plymouths were poorly built cars, also. Those who did buy the "old looking" 57 Chevys soon learned they could outrun most Fords and Plymouths even though the Chevy engine was smaller. Thus the legend of the great (no quotation marks this time) 57 Chevy was born, but that took a little time, not in 1957.

My new job in 1957 was in the road test group of the Shell Oil Co, Research Labs, a dream job, because I got to drive all of their fleet of ten test cars evaluating fuels and lubricants. The 57 Chevy and Lincoln, both updates of previous models, were the best in quality, all others, Olds, Buick, Cadillac, Ford, and Chrysler were far below Chevy and Lincoln. Other makes not mentioned were not in the Shell test fleet that year. I'm not done nit picking yet. On page 12 four cars are pictured. One of them is identified as an Oldsmobile. NO, NO, NO. Oldsmobile is a fine car, but the picture is of a 59 Pontiac Bonneville convertible, much different in appearance than an Olds, and Pontiac is my second favorite make, after Cadillac. Sometimes we old guys have to show off the years of accumulated knowledge cluttering our minds. Please do not take offense at my comments, but errors in history can easily become "fact". Best regards, Bob Schuman [Thank you Bob for taking the time to write and sharing your life experiences in 1957. Wow, it did sound as if you had a dream job and to think you saw such famous 1950s cars brand new. Yes, I too have read that quality was not fabulous back in the fifties on most brands, regardless of price! AND yes you are totally correct. Those tail lights belong to a Pontiac. Must have had Mark Waterman's Olds (see next letter) at the tip of my fingers at the time - duh! Write again soon. This month's Part Two (Touring America in 1957) might rekindle a few more memories? Ed]

Mark Waterman writes: Hi Ron, I really enjoyed the April issue of FINZ. Another good example of a fun read each month! The article by Rex Findlay titled "Touring America in 1957" was a lot of fun and brought back a lot of memories. In 1958, my father a young upwardly-mobile CPA, bought a 1957 Oldsmobile 98 fourdoor

hardtop. It was pink with a baby blue stripe and a black and white interior. What a show car! I felt like the luckiest kid in the neighborhood to have a dad with such a cool car! That 3 piece rear window still looks fantastic to me. Thanks again for such a fine newsletter. I look forward to it each month! Happy motoring, Mark Watermark [I replied to Mark to see if he had any family photos. This is what he said - Ed]. As to Dad's Oldsmobile, I don't have any pictures of it other than the very clear one in my mind.

The '57 Olds hardtops (both 2-door and 4-door) had that beautifully distinctive 3-piece rear window and there was a pair of body crests starting just behind the windshield that ran over the roof, through the rear window divisions, and all the way down the trunk lid. Some '57 Buick hardtops used that roof treatment too, but surprisingly no other GM divisions did, and it was used only that one year! Perhaps Cadillac thought it was "too common to consider." That Olds also had what I think was a one-year-only dashboard, too. It had a rounded top and the defroster vents were in the crevice between the dashboard and the windshield

frame. Dad always said "Don't you ever put a comb or pencil on top of that dashboard! It will fall down in there and I'll never get it out!" Such amusing memories. Thanks for the pleasure of reminiscing! Mark Waterman [Excellent Mark - Ed]

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

Hi everyone.

Jason Curry, our Wellington Regional Delegate and 50th Event Organiser tells me he and his team are about to present plans and budgets to the NZ Executive to financially support our biggest event ever. If you have any last minute ideas or suggestions you wish Jason and his team to consider, drop him a line straight away. [curried@hotmail.com](mailto:curried@hotmail.com) Ed

**PART 3:** Over 25 years ago, the 1995 (?) CLCNZ AGM (as it was known then) was held in Taupo. Wellington member Denis Bulloch shared with me some old pics - here in the form of the old 'Viko' pics that we all used to enjoy! Whose Caddy was this and does anyone know where it is now? Looking at the background, can anyone throw some light on whose Caddies they were (1970s DeVille, Elso and maybe a '56? A '62 at right? And who is that walking past in the background? Has anyone else got old photos to share about past AGMs? [Thanks Denis who has also sent me a picture selection of his souvenir collection we can all get to view as we countdown to our 50th! - Ed]



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**Taranaki, NZ** - This, Part Three of Ian Currie's photo collection that he took on his trips to America in the late 1980s and into the 1990s. Many feature old Cadillacs of course but also some are ones that he brought into NZ. Enjoy and more next issue too. The pics keep getting better and more enticing - Ed.



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From lots with 100s of old cars for the movies to limos, a Flower Car. Rows of old Caddies awaiting a new owner or maybe the crusher? Below red '59 and '59 trailer



Above, four door Fleetwood, not going. For Sale NZ\$2,500 from 79/80. Also from the eighties, two familiar looking NZ Caddies!





**BAY of PLENTY, TAURANGA - Papamoa** is 'World Headquarters' to our beloved *FINZ Magazine!* Jokes aside, it would not survive or be the success it has been without YOUR input, photos and contributions!

Drum-roll please, for YOUR efforts has mean't another 'Old Cars' - *Golden Quill Award* for 2021. Read the following, a list of fellow Caddy Club winners that we from 'little 'ol NZ from the bottom of world' proudly share the global stage with! Congratulations to all our fellow winners - fin-tastic!

#### **GOLDEN QUILL AWARDS**

National Luxury Category The Self-Starter, Jeffrey D. Shively, editor, Cadillac & LaSalle Club, Inc.

National Immediate Sallee Speaks, John Byrden, editor, LaSalle Appreciation Society — Chapter of the Cadillac & LaSalle Club, Inc.

Special Purpose & Museum LaCad, Andrew & Rachel Rees, editors, Cadillac LaSalle Club of Australia

Compact Chapters Hoosier Tailfin, Michael Fellenzer, editor, Indiana Region — Cadillac & LaSalle Club

Sub-Compact Chapters **Finz, Ron Melville, editor, The Cadillac & LaSalle Club of New Zealand, Inc.** The Standard of The World, Bill Levy, editor, North Texas Region — Cadillac & LaSalle Club, Inc

Honourable Mention Caddy Chatter, Tony Albarella, editor, Cadillac Club of North Jersey The Enlightener, Dan Cress, editor, The Badger Region — Cadillac & LaSalle Club, Inc. The Standard of The World, T.R. Toon, editor, West of the Lake Region — Cadillac & LaSalle Club

Congratulations to everyone! Ed

**BAY of PLENTY - Papamoa** From the Editors Desk - Check this out [https://www.oldcarsweekly.com/blogs/building-was-the-key-to-faith-family-andvocation-for-gary-vanderpol#&gid=ci029e708cb00026f4&pid=17p\\_18](https://www.oldcarsweekly.com/blogs/building-was-the-key-to-faith-family-andvocation-for-gary-vanderpol#&gid=ci029e708cb00026f4&pid=17p_18)  
A Cadillac Trike for sale!



**TARANAKI - New Plymouth** - Hi Ron, Just a bit of information you may like to share in the next *FINZ*. American Graffiti Tribute at Richardson Transport World, Invercargill. April 15th - Aug 31st. Google for more information. We may fly down for a weekend when we can. **Hope all well. Regards Frances. [Thanks Frances. Take some pics if you go. Sounds as if it will be awesome! Ed]**

**AUSTRALIA** - Check out this sign!



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

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**BAY of PLENTY, NZ** - Organisational Headquarters of this year's 49th NZ Cadillac Nationals, to be held in Gisborne ('Gizzy!') in November.

The attached intended itinerary looks awesome and let's pray Covid and the weather does not hamper our plans or cramp our Cadillac style!

Kay and Dave Corin of Mt. Maunganui deserve a round of applause, although - better still, Kiwi member support for taking on the job of organising the event and to a place we haven't had our Nationals before (at least since I have been a member, nearly 20 years!).

Bookings can start now or email Dave and Kay on [d.k.corin@actrix.co.nz](mailto:d.k.corin@actrix.co.nz) with 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

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**MORE EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS COMING!**



# Kev'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



1959

2nd try!!! - Ed  
In 1959, one had choices.  
From Top Left and clock-  
wise:  
> Cadillac  
> Mopar  
> Oldsmobile Pontiac!  
> Chevrolet

At left, another superb collection of great Caddies and a fabulously-looking paint colour combination on a '59 2-door! Thanks Kev - Ed



STAY COVID SAFE - KEEP WEARING YOUR MASK  
EVEN WHEN TRAVELLING IN A CADDY!

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## REGIONAL DELEGATES

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# Fridge Magnets!



## Check all events due to NZ Omicron outbreak

**APR- 15 to AUG 31st:** American Graffiti Tribute. Richardson Transport World - Invercargill  
**MAY 22nd:** Horsepower Show & Swap, Trentham, Upper Hutt  
**NOV - 3rd - 6th:** This will be the 49th NZ Cadillac Nats and will be held in Gisborne. Details attached. Book now and mark your diary. Should be a beauty. Start saving for gas money! Ed

## CADILLAC CLUB OF NORTH JERSEY SPRING CAR SHOW



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# 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

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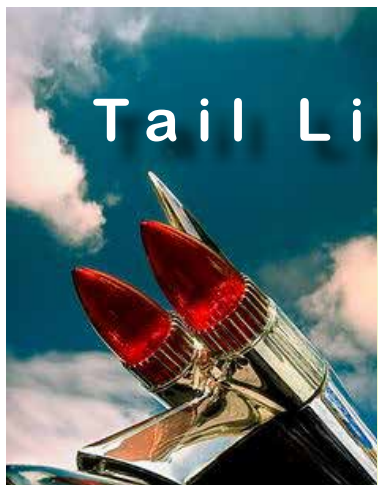
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# Tail Lights Forever



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AUCKLAND MEMBER, GUS CARMONT RECENTLY COMPLETED A BEAUTIFUL RESTORATION OF HIS '60 ELDO KNOWN AS 'EBONY'. ON A LOVELY SUMMERS DAY, THIS CADILLAC SHINES!