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May/June 2007

Dawnbreaker **Sunday, 24th June**

Our annual jaunt on the Sunday closest to the shortest day of the year is on again and for those of you that are unfamiliar with the concept — yes, you see dawn break! Once again we'll be trekking around and about trying to find our way in the dark and frosty morning and cursing our classic heaters and demisters that don't.

This year the start is timed for 0500 hours (a whole half hour later than other years — we must be getting soft!) from the through road in New Brighton Mall, Christchurch. The entry fee is canned food goods that will be donated to the Christchurch City Mission, maybe a can per person per car as a way of getting the second half of the year off to a virtuous start.

The Dawnbreaker is finishing where a hot buffet breakfast can be purchased for a mere \$17 per person and is available from 0830 hours. If you have any questions please contact Scott Dunfoy by email: alpineralliest@hotmail.com or phone 027 233 5655.

AGM **Sunday, 24th June**

We're returning to our normally scheduled programme by having our AGM on the same day as our Dawnbreaker run. You don't have to do the Dawnbreaker to attend the AGM but we thoroughly recommend it. The Dawnbreaker is finishing at the Greta Valley Tavern where attendees can get a good breakfast and where we can hold our AGM (we don't like to move too far on full tummies!). In the past, people that haven't wanted to do the Dawnbreaker have joined us for breakfast (not compulsory but is available from 8.30am — please let Scott Dunfoy know if you can) and the AGM, which works well. The AGM will start at 10.30am for those that don't want an early start to their day.

Alpine Classic **24-26 August**

Entries for the Alpine Classic have now closed. If you entered and paid, you are on the tour!

We do have a confession though — we struck a slight problem with a couple of the entries, a strong nor'west wind and a car door left open by accident.

Soooo, if you sent an entry in and your cheque has NOT cleared, it could be that your entry blew away and we couldn't find it. We may have lost two

entries so please check your bank statements and let us know if you think its you. But don't worry, we are holding a couple of spots on the tour for those entrants. Please accept our apologies.

Right, onto happier news. As outlined on the entry form, the start this year is a breakfast at the Ashburton Aviation Museum. The volunteers at the Museum are very excited at the opportunity to feed everyone and look forward to being part of our tour excitement. Breakfast will be available from 8am, although if you're really keen to get the day off to an earlier start the volunteers will be at the museum from 7am but you might have to wait for your first coffee of the day!

If you're not staying in Ashburton on Thursday night, you need to allow about 1.25 hours easy drive from Christchurch (which means a 6.45am start).

We're doing quite a bit of driving on Friday as, of course, we're not taking the most direct route to Punakaiki so you may want to take up the suggestion of overnighing in Ashburton.

You will have been contacted by Faye from Travel To You about your accommodation requests for the tour and the payments required. Please pay these as soon as possible. Once you've paid, the accommodation vouchers will be assembled at tour HQ and sent out in your tour packs. If you have any questions for Faye, you can contact her on 021 934 251, email: fazynz@yahoo.com or PO Box 33-339, Christchurch.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Tour Secretariat: Bill Cowie ph 027 221 8341 or 03-331 7297 (pvt); Brian Reid ph 025 421 863; or Stephanie at any of the phone numbers above.

Bring on the snow!!

Events Diary 2007

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|---|--------------------------|
| June 24 | Dawnbreaker |
| Annual extremely early morning run | |
| June 24 | AGM |
| Follows on after breakfast from the Dawnbreaker | |
| July 22 | Mid Winter Outing |
| A chance to get out for an afternoon adventure | |
| August 24-26 | Alpine Classic |
| The hunt for snow is on again! | |

Branches Events Diary

Northern Branch

Northern Branch Contact Details

Chair: Peter Fieldson phone 09-418 0529

Secretary: Ros Baker phone 09-238 7433 (pvt)

At long last . . .

We have a website up and running!! The observant amongst you may have noticed the website address under the club logo at the top of the front page. The address is www.cmsnz.org.nz and is a work in progress. There are a lot of photos and reports from past events still to go up. If anyone has photos, particularly from the last Alpine, that they would be happy to have on the website please let me (Stephanie) know. Please contact me first before trying to email the photos through as I don't want to swamp my email address (stephanie@castlerockdesign.co.nz).

The website has an Events Diary where we'll be putting up details of new events we're organising as soon as we know about them so keep your eye on it if you want to be the first to know. Speaking of which, information about the Peking to Paris expeditioners is on the website, including links to their individual blogs.

Peking to Paris Expedition

This is now well underway and they are past Ulan Baatur in Mongolia. They had a number of adventures driving in China in the heat and traffic jams. Unfortunately, the sandy Gobi Desert in Mongolia has eaten the 2-stroke Saab of Graeme Sharp and Diane Brandish so the group is now down to 6 participants for the rest of the event. Graeme and Diane are currently arranging for the car to be shipped back to New Zealand and are going to do the Trans-Siberian rail journey and hire a car in Europe. Following is part of the report from Geoff Ridley about driving in China:

"That was a drive and a half!! Rush hour and a lead car that had a mind of its own presented our first experience of city driving in China and we all survived to tell the inevitable tall stories!! Then yesterday we enjoyed a late start while CTS again negotiated and completed paperwork for temporary licences, registration and certificate of safety for each car (note we didn't have any of this the night before!)

After lunch (we've done a lot of eating so far) we descended on a local government testing station to sit our Certificates of Fitness. A fascinating exercise! As I remarked to Kevin Lamb as the afternoon progressed, what better sightseeing could a group of petrol heads get in a foreign country than to get the chance to put their own cars through the local

Hawkes Bay Branch

Hawkes Bay Branch Contact Details

Chair: Maxine Purvis ph 06-844 4536

Secretary: Ross Jones ph 06-844 4536,
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WOF process??! Better than the Ming Tombs any day!

Further "negotiations" were required to overcome the facts that most of us had failed!! (mainly on emissions and noise!!) and by 4pm we were all presented with driving licences, car registration and certificates of safety - and were ready to drive back to Beijing for the night. A truly remarkable process and a great job done by CTS and the China Government authorities to organise all this for us in such an efficient manner.



You may well have heard some of the stories of the drive back to Beijing. Outside Temps 40+ with most cars and especially our SAAB running heaters on full to

help stop engines from overheating. We got held up in one traffic jam and at a toll gate and ended up on both occasions with vaporisation of fuel in our fuel lines in the engine bay. We needed to spray water on the lines to cool them down and then use Warren Burts "Easy start" to get going again. All in rush hour on the expressway!! However, we all arrived without incident or accident. Only Walpole will appreciate the significance of that!! Graeme and I have amended our fuel lines although we do not expect similar problems again."

Mid-Canterbury Run Report (April 29th)

We had the opportunity to meet up with members of the Continental Car Club out of Timaru so we decided it was time we had an explore of the Mid-Canterbury region in our classic cars.

After a week of extremely doubtful weather, Sunday morning was overcast but as I peered out of my bedroom window I could see that it was clearing from the south. In fact, that was just what the weather forecasters had predicted but who believes them? I double checked by phoning my parents who live further south and they reported that it was a fabulous day with clear blue skies so we were on!

Ian and I only live a short distance from Rakaia and planned to be at the salmon early so we could welcome people in but, of course, once again I had

underestimated fellow classic motoring enthusiasts ummmm, enthusiasm! We almost had to fight for a carpark! It was a bit embarrassing really because we were in our Subaru wagon. Yes, once again we don't have any working classic cars. When one has more than one classic car, if one doesn't work you can leap into the next one and you're off. The problem with that is that eventually you reach the end of the queue and you have to start repairing them so you have wheels again.

We were joined by a couple of cars from the Capri Club which was lovely. As they swung off the main road and drove past us, one of them turned off their engine which I thought was very considerate. But the reality was that their engine cut out as they came past us and they had to undertake running repairs before they could set off on the run.

Various tourists were very interesting in the assorted collection of 14 classic cars that turned up. One Canadian couple were particularly fascinated by the Saab Sonnet of Graeme Sharp and actually took it for a short drive around the block. I apologise at this point for the lack of photos of all the cars lined up - I completely forgot to wave my camera around at the start, even though I threatened to take photos of the running repairs on the Capri.



A few of the cars at the lunch stop at Ashburton Domain.

The run took the participants up the southern side of the Rakaia River to the Barhill Village. This was going to be a planned English village around a green. All the little streets are still there and there is a village church but the development never went ahead.



It was then a (very straight) blast across to the Ashburton River and down to the domain in Ashburton for lunch. This was where we were meeting up with the members from the Continental Car Club. Most of us had finished eating by the time they arrived and were admiring the autumn colours in the domain which were truly spectacular.

The day before when we'd checked the route, the weather was so unpleasant that when we called into the domain we barely stopped because it was so unpleasant. So on the Sunday it was great to be able to sit around in the sun with virtually no breeze and chat with everyone.



Triumph Herald parked at the Waterton Cemetery.

People started heading off at about 1pm to go and explore Lake Hood and the subdivision there. Its amazing how the whole lake has taken off and how many houses are actually there now. We then went further towards the coast and past the lost settlement of Waterton and its cemetery.

Waterton was going to be a designed town and it was subdivided and sections sold. It had a blacksmith and a general store, amongst others but gradually the settlement declined and all that remains is the library/hall which is in a very dilapidated state. The Waterton church was moved to the Plains Railway in Ashburton in 1976 and has been restored.



The Vauxhall of Chris and Cheryl Peacock in the sunshine at the Waterton Cemetery.

We then swung through Longbeach estate, where work has been done on restoring the old cookhouse

and it is now used as a function centre. Then back through various other small settlements towards Ashburton and down the north side of the Ashburton River to the river mouth and the settlement of Hakatere. On the way down, we passed under a lateral irrigator that not only crosses the road but also the ditch beside the road. Little bridges have been built across the ditch for each wheel!

The top road in Hakatere has an excellent lookout over the river mouth, which was surprisingly small, and a view south down the coast. There are always huge flocks of cormorants washing and sunning themselves on the shingle banks but this time, a few lucky participants got to watch some people trying to extract their 4WD from the shingle as well. Very amusing apparently!

We passed the amazing Five Star Beef allotment on our way to the finish at the Ashburton Aviation Museum for a cup of tea and biscuit and an opportunity to have a casual look around their facilities. Unfortunately for one member of the Continental Car Club, his run had finished earlier as he had a very quiet contretemps with a ditch and had to be extracted by the local farmer using his tractor. No-one was injured but it was an unfortunate end and hopefully it hasn't put them off from joining us on other runs or inviting us down to one of theirs.

We had a very pleasant day out and about in the sun. It was nice to finish somewhere and have a cuppa and the opportunity to catch up with everyone again as everyone had travelled at their own pace during the day. I hope everyone enjoyed seeing some of what there is to see in Mid-Canterbury once you leave the main road.

Stephanie Royds

Kaikoura Weekender 2007 Report

We had decided (and by we I mean me!) that this was to be a casual weekend with the minimum of organisational effort on my part. What that means is that there were no tour notes and minimal pre-weekend information, partly because with the minimum of organisation it meant that we didn't have definite plans. The big advantage with this approach was that a) I was very relaxed when I got to Kaikoura and b) costs of running the event were, well, zero really.

Most people were staying at Donegal House. By the time Ian and I got there after work everyone



was well ensconced as most people had decided to take a half day so they could start relaxing

early. There were a number of new faces and it was great to meet them, as well as quite a few old (not necessarily in age, mind) faces.



I spent the evening applying a highlighter to photocopied maps to offer a suggested route for those that wanted a full day of driving on

Saturday. There were a lot of locals in residence and Brian Reid was offered the opportunity to take the group through a private local museum of classic American cars on Saturday morning. As the weekend hadn't been highly organised, we were able to take advantage of this opportunity without too much bother.

Everyone looked surprisingly fit and healthy on Saturday morning. We'd asked those that wanted to go to the museum to meet at 9am so they could follow each other there. Most people took the opportunity and came back raving about the size of the collection, the size of the building and the amazing murals.

Everyone was back at Donegal House by 10am as the collection was only 5 minutes up the road. After a short drivers' briefing and handing out of the maps, people were free to make their own way to Hamner Springs.

The suggested route was the Inland Kaikoura Road which, now that it is completely sealed, is a lovely easy driving road. All the open tops set off with their tops down as it was a beautiful still day and not particularly cold. There was a slight hiatus to the start for one participant because his car had to be pushed started but he was organised and had the car facing the right direction to make it easy. Thanks for the entertainment Team Purcell! Unfortunately my digital camera was waaaay too slow to capture the action.



Some of the cars leaving Donegal House on Saturday morning.

Even though we were in our non-classic station wagon, we still enjoyed the drive through to Waiau. There was still a lot of autumn colouring on the trees and it was very peaceful. At Waiau we turned off onto a side road and ended up on an unsealed road, which was in fabulous condition. The road was damp enough that there was minimal dust and you could see for miles as you blasted through the countryside.



Some of the open top participants parked up in Hamner Springs, the owners presumably having gone looking for coffee.

After such an exerting drive it was time to stretch the legs and find coffee and cake in Hamner. It's always nice as you wander around a small township to come across gaggles of cars like this. As you can see, it was an absolutely wonderful day. I think some people had even planned ahead and bought their swimsuits so they could take advantage of the lunch break.

We, of course, hadn't planned ahead at all so were forced to repair to a cafe and sit around drinking coffee and fend off a very determined wasp. It's always pleasant to laze around in the sunshine and watch the world go by. We even managed to fit in a little shopping. To be fair, I should say that I managed to fit in a little shopping. Holiday shopping is always much more relaxing than that done during one's normal life.

We'd suggested that if people wanted to do the full drive that I'd highlighted, they'd probably want to leave Hamner at 2pm. We headed off shortly after 2pm and didn't see a soul. Turning towards the coast just before Culverden we aimed straight for the hills. We'd done this route on an earlier Alpine

and some of you may remember the 3 fords and in particular, the Dixon in the second ford? As we hadn't test driven the route we had warned people that there were fords and we couldn't vouch for their condition but once again, the road was in superb condition, the third ford was non-existent and the other two were tiny.



If you look closely at the photo (thanks to Bruce & Leslie) you can see the road coming up the side of the hills on the left. We kept turning right at intersections and eventually came out onto SH1 on the north side of the Hurunui River. If you've ever wondered where that road goes, I'd recommend you go for a bit of an explore. Good fun.

On the way back to Kaikoura I'd suggested people might like to take a bit of a detour through the Gore Bay Road. Going to look at the sea is always a good option. We'd decided that we didn't need to do that loop of the road and headed on back to Kaikoura. We were staying at the YHA and it was still in the late afternoon sunshine when we got back so baked ourselves in the sun before heading off to Donegal House for dinner.

There weren't as many locals there when we arrived as there had been on Friday night but the fire was still roaring and the music was pumping. Our group filled 3 of the large dining tables and the staff were kept busy ferrying our meals to us. Lots of tales were told about past and new adventures and a good time was had by all. All that fresh air must have got to most of us as it didn't appear as though there were going to be many people staying up particularly late.

We didn't have anything official organised for Sunday but once again had a drivers' briefing offering suggestions for things people could see and do around the area. Ian and I had visited the baby seals that play in the stream north of Kaikoura about a month earlier, so suggested that people could see if they were still there. And they were which is fantastic as you get so close to them. The seals' mothers head out to sea in the morning to go

fishing and these babies have discovered that the stream has a waterfall so once they're 'home alone', they take off upstream to play.

Sunday was Mothers Day so we were a bit concerned that we wouldn't be able to get into a restaurant for lunch as a group. We'd suggested that people meet up at a restaurant on the esplanade but when we got there early to see if there was room, we discovered it was closed!! Staggering. A group of us ended up sitting outside at the Encounter cafe just along the road which was great and you have a lovely view out over the sea.

It was a great way to finish a relaxing weekend away with our new and 'not so new' classic motoring friends. Many thanks to Mel and Gill Peters who suggested the weekend away and then made the arrangements with Donegal House. It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend and we couldn't have planned the weather better if we'd tried. We're bound to have more weekends away like this in the future so keep your eye on future newsletters and in the diary on the website.

Stephanie Royds

Loading the Peking to Paris Cars

More photos of this undertaking can be seen on the club website (www.cms.nz.org.nz) as we have a whole section devoted to the Peking to Paris guys.



Oh no! The Saab's exploded!

You should have seen the mountain of stuff that was being loaded in.

The 2-stroke Saab had a container all on its own.



Practical Warren Burt backed his Volvo in for a quick getaway in China.



The Lambs' Capri is loaded into the container leaving room for the Combi. The Combi didn't make the Saturday loading as it broke down on the way and had to be loaded on the Monday after making running repairs!

How many Peking to Paris people does it take to shut a container door?



Will it or won't it fit? Surprisingly, it did fit but I would have loved to have seen Martin Howman climbing out.



The first of the Fiats is loaded after a frenetic overnight drive (complete with running repairs) from Auckland.

This looks like a very relieved smile on Greg Paul's face!



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