



February 2012

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Events Diary 2012

REPORT FOR CMSNZ MONTHLY TOURS – FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER:

FEBRUARY FUN: SUNDAY 12TH FEB - Note this is the 2nd Sunday. Way back in March 2009 when we explored the Lake Ellesmere shore South to Rakaia. This year we are completing the journey to the North end of Lake Ellesmere & Lake Forsyth. Meet Princess Margaret Hospital west car park @ 10.30am with a picnic lunch.

MARCH MAYHEM: SUNDAY 4TH MARCH – Banks Peninsular again because it is close to the city – so beautiful & Picturesque & it is a relatively isolated area - Meet Princess Margaret Hospital west end car park @ 10.30am with a picnic lunch.

APRIL FOOLS RUN: SUNDAY 1ST APRIL – Is this tempting fate or what! Just joking – we promise not to fool you on this run.

CMSNZ Who's Who

Chairman:	Graeme Sharp	ph 0210395 944 sharpish@clear.net.nz
Vice-Chairman:	Mel Peters	ph 03 337 4144 021 214 7302 petersmg@ihug.co.nz
Treasurer:	Diane Brandish	ph 03 327 8991
Secretary:	Stephanie Royds	ph 021 341 315 (or Club contact details)
Committee:	Doug Parker	ph 03 349 5875
	Ellen McCrae	ph 03 355 4391 ellenandgraeme-m@clear.net.nz
	Graeme Matheson	ph 021 262 2300
	Jack Coleman	ph 03 318 1879
	Julian Barrett	ph 03 359 1100 jkbarrett@clear.net.nz
News Letter Editor:	Sylvia Jamieson	ph 021 599 554 syljam@mc.com

REPORT ON January Sunday Run to Washpen Falls

Julian & Kathy met the the Townies @ PMH and we negotiated the NZ Men's Elite Cycling Championship on our way out of town. We met the rest of the group at Rolleston and again enjoyed the long straight Canterbury Roads to our picnic Venue @ Washpen Falls near Windwhistle. After lunch we took the walk to the Washpen Falls. Peter was our Mountain Goat and ran the track. Julian was twinkle toes jumping between the rocks at the base of the falls. Some were fitter than others but all who set out made the complete journey. The rock formations, birdsong and flora were enjoyed by all. With muddy feet we again enjoyed those long straight roads to The Dunsandal Store for our Cake & Coffee. Thank-you Julian



Other Events

2012 Marathan TT 19-26 February

Seven Day tarmac tour with gravel options over great roads in mid and lower South Island, see webpage for details.

26th September - 8th October 2012 South Australian Odyssey

Thirteen days exploring Western Victoria and South Australia on mainly tarmac roads. Entries now open see website.

From Sharpies Dashboard



What a Christmas it has been for those of us in ChCh. All those new earthquakes and aftershocks can be a bit unsettling, and apparently it could all be my fault. Like many others our house is in the red zone but has suffered very little damage resulting in a significant cash shortfall if we have to rebuild.

On the 21st of December I was chatting to Larry and Sylvia Jamieson and commented that what we needed was a decent big quake so that my house could be written off and replaced by the insurance company: like most of the people in our street.

We were driving near Te Kuiti when the phone rang and I will not say what Larry called me other than to say it related to my parentage. So, sorry about that!!!

I guess the moral; of this little story is to be very careful what you wish for. Earthquakes yes, damage to the house, NO.

We have a very busy year coming up with our monthly runs, our Marathon which runs in February, some more entries would be helpful, and then later in the year the next big adventure, the 13 day South Australian Odyssey.

Entries are now open and the details are on the web site.

But there is even more exciting news. Our good friends in the MG Car Club have invited us to their Track Day at Levels and the details are in this newsletter.

Any car will do, but they will be subject to safety scrutiny and you will be required to have a legal crash helmet (although I am told there will be some available to borrow), a pair of cotton overalls and a firmly fixed fire extinguisher.

It will be good to see a good turnout from our club to show our commitment to interclub activities.

Also on the horizon is the possibility of a trip to the coast with our northern neighbours but more on late later.

I know the AGM is 6 months away but it would be great if you could consider what you could do for the club. I can tell you now that as I have been Chairman/President for 3 years I will be standing down to get some fresh thought into the role, It is not in our rules but I think that 3 years is long enough for any person to be the Chairman/President.

So that's all for this month. Your committee has been busy to try and bring some variety into our activities and the rest is up to you.

Sharpie

ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHS

You might remember Graeme Matheson standing on the side of the road on that wintery Saturday with a camera kindly loaned by Sharpie. Gave him the wrong lens though so he has been busy working through the shots to enlarge them up to a reasonable size,

We think that Graeme got all of the cars but you just never know a couple might have slipped through the net. So if you would like a shot of your car send an e mail to Sharpie with your rego number and he will send you one. He can also send a shot of the cars lined up on Sunday morning but suspects there are some better shots of that out there that others took. If you have some good shots send them to Sharpie if you could..



Alpine Story by Stephanie Royds

Saturday morning was clear and sunny again but the air was extremely crisp. Today was the day that we knew we'd find snow so everyone was rearing to go. Audrey modelled the latest in classic car tour gear with bright red racing overalls that were the envy of many a tour participant! Once again, the Graeme's, Matheson and Sharp, had done an excellent job on the route planning and notes.

The day was calm, still and extremely bright as we drove through the snowy and incredibly beautiful countryside. I was very grateful not to be a farmer trying to ensure that all my stock was being fed - the snow was deep and it was extremely cold.

We were not able to follow all of the intended route in the Maniototo and Otago as some of the planned roads had not been graded. Some participants had a much more adventurous time than they intended as they tried to stick to the route and (almost) got stopped by the snow. By this time we knew that Dansey's Pass was closed. It had not been graded at all and the snow was reportedly over 1m deep.

We couldn't even get into the Pub as it was closed for a wedding! But to make up for that, some participants went off and watched the world curling at the Naseby indoor international rink.

/Most of us lunched in Ranfurly and the second hand shops did a bit of a roaring trade. Some people, and I'm not naming names, had a lot more to take home than they arrived with! By the time we caught up with my brother and niece she'd purchased a sticker/colouring book and was ensconced in the cafe with a fluffy, entertaining the masses.

Ian and I had to buy sunglasses in Naseby as the reflection off the snow was completely blinding — lovely, but blinding.

As Saturday night was the formal dinner for the tour, most people headed off in good time to get back to Oamaru to prepare. It was quite sad to be driving back out of all the snow and into a normal world.

As we arrived back in Oamaru, an invitation arrived from Audrey to come to her place (the motel unit) for a party. In keeping with being the last to everything, by the time we got there most other people had moved on to the bar but

Audrey was still very keen to provide us with snacks and drinks.

Walking into the restaurant that night was absolutely astounding. It was just a sea of red and black and the noise was deafening! Some of the staff had even got into the spirit of the event and were attired appropriately. There were some truly amazing costumes / outfits on show.

Winners of the best dressed competition, as judged by the staff, were Diane Brandish and Graeme Sharp. I didn't even recognise Diane when I first saw her!

Sunday morning was another magnificent day. We wound our way through interesting back roads with a lunch break in Waimate. Once again, Ian and I spent far too much time there and arrived at the finish pretty much as it was winding up. Our final function was afternoon tea at the Ashburton Aviation Museum. This gave us a great place to congregate and meant that we weren't too far from Christchurch for people to head away afterwards.

I would like to thank the two Graeme's for organising an excellent event and for timing it so that we experienced the most snow we'd ever, ever had! Somehow they managed to find roads that were lightly travelled and even some most of us had never been on before.

For those that wanted to be adventurous, there was plenty of opportunity and even some of those that didn't intend being adventurous, ended up having a bigger adventure than they expected. I'm looking forward to the next Alpine in 2013 to see what adventures we have

Thank you Graeme and Graeme.



We have a generous invitation from the MG Car Club to attend their Sprint Weekend at Levels Raceway, Timaru on Saturday the 3rd to Sunday the 4th March



As mentioned in From Sharpies Dashboard the MG Car Club has generously invited us to take part in the Sprint Weekend at Levels Raceway on the 3rd and 4th of March so you have the choice of our regular Sunday run or a weekend of fun in South Canterbury.

We are told that a number of the MG team camp out at Levels and have use of all the facilities on Friday night the 2nd and Saturday the 3rd. This is an option for you to consider or you can take a motel in Timaru.

This is the fourth time MG have been down to Levels and reports from the earlier ones ensure a great weekend. It is a great venue and provides the opportunity to experience the delights of getting to know the track at Levels at your own pace without having to pass other cars.

Bring BBQ goodies for Saturday night prepare to dance the night away (optional)The cost is \$50 per driver for use of the track plus \$5 per driver for temporary membership of the MG Car Club. The weekend is run under the auspices of Motorsport New Zealand so being a member of an affiliated club is essential.

If you do not have any track experience training is provided by qualified MG members. This comprises of "class room" tuition followed by a track run in an MG with an experienced driver before taking your own car onto the circuit with an experienced helper with you. As you can see safety is of utmost importance. The training starts at 9 :30 am following scrutineering at 9am.

Requirements for all cars/drivers are.

- a) Fire extinguisher with metal mounts firmly bolted in place, minimum requirement is 2x6mm bolts with panel washers and locking nuts.
- b) Cotton overalls (the MG team have a limited supply)
- c) Helmets (the MG team have a limited supply)
- d) Sensible driving shoes
- e) Your civil driving licence.

So get yourself and your car ready and lets go have some fun by courtesy of the MG Car Club (Canterbury Centre) Our thanks to them for their generous invitation.

If you intend to go contact Steve on 3271689 or 0272296865 before the end of January if you can and he will give you the arrangements for payment)

