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May 2010

Sunday, 6th June Shortest Month Extra!

We will be running our first Sunday in the month, usual time and place as an extra run this month. The weather on the day will be the decider of which option we will run. So come along and join in and make sure the classic is running smoothly. (Usual time and meeting place — 10.30am, Princess Margaret Hospital riverside carpark.)

Shortest Day Run 'Straight as a Die!'

June 20th

We're moving away from the Dawnbreaker event this year to allow everyone a chance to sleep in! Although we're also doing a 'First Sunday of the Month Run', we thought we'd stick to our routine of having a run on the Sunday closest to the Shortest Day (21st).

What does the subtitle mean? Well, we're all going to be introduced to the concept of a 'straight line' map run by Graeme Matheson. Triallists will be familiar with this concept but this isn't a competitive version — its a fun one so we can all see what its like.

Instead of the more familiar tulip diagrams, all the instructions are given as though you're travelling in a straight line e.g. if you were to turn right at a crossroads, the diagram would show 2 roads going off on the left with the arrow that you follow pointing straight ahead! Confused? I expect we all will be at some point during the run.

So, its not competitive, its not an intelligence test, its a bit of fun for a winter's day. We're starting, as normal, at the Riverside carpark opposite Princess Margaret Hospital at 10.30am.

Any questions about the "how to" of the run will be answered at the briefing, otherwise contact Graeme Matheson (03) 355 4391 or email ellenandgraeme-m@clear.net.nz

AGM

Tuesday, June 22

Our AGM is being held at the Upper Riccarton Library meeting room, Christchurch at 7pm. See you there.

Appreciation of American Automobilia

Sunday, July 4th

Besides the two immaculate USA classics we've had along to our runs lately, we are sure there must be some others just waiting for 4th July. We have an invitation to view some cars in "the shed" of some US collectors. So the challenge is to bring your cars and compare — yes, we need to admire all makes and models.

Same start time (10.30am) at the same venue (Riverside carpark opposite Princess Margaret Hospital). Once again, contact Mel Peters on (03) 337 4144 or email petersmg@ihug.co.nz if you have any questions.

Events Diary 2010

Sunday, June 6 Shortest Month Extra!

A bonus regular monthly run for the regulars

Sunday, June 20 Shortest Day Run

Lets stretch our brains on a winter's day

Tuesday, June 22

AGM

See included Notice of AGM

Sunday, July 4

AAA Run!

Celebrate all that is American on this day

July 30-Aug 1 Akaroa Escape (Weekend)

Winter weekend getaway with your classic car

TBA

Lake Ellesmere Opening

Will be a spur of the moment outing so short notice

Sunday, Sep 5

Spring Frolic

Hmmm - details are yet to be decided

Sunday, Oct 3

Hmmm - details are yet to be decided

Sunday, Nov 7

Hmmm - details are yet to be decided

Akaroa Escape Weekend

July 30th - August 1

A weekend away with your navigator and classic for a sunny break, which is on order. This weekend can be as long or as short as you wish to make it. Starting at 1pm Saturday we are going for a run to visit a bay or two so plenty of time to zap over the hills to join us.

We will dine together on Saturday night from about 6pm. Its not too far to walk back to your lodgings.

No rush Sunday morning so we will meet at 12pm-ish for fish and chips on the waterfront, 59 Beach Road.

Following the food we will take a scenic tour back toward Christchurch with a stop at the Wheatsheaf at Teddington for a coffee and cake.

Again you are invited to join us in Akaroa for lunch and the run back to Christchurch but if you or the car can't manage all that, why not join us at Teddington.

There will be a further update/additions/changes/times in the next newsletter. So do join us for the weekend or just a few hours.

Lake Ellesmere Opening

The lake is filling up and will be opened to the sea. Danny and Sharon are keeping us informed on this so we can make a visit. Notification will be quite short so if you wish to visit, please contact Mel and Gill on 337 4144.

Sunday, 5th September

Springtime already? Looking at a few options here, like the Spring Run. Our usual meeting time and place for this.

Sunday, 3rd October and 7th November

A little way off but any requests and/or ideas would be most welcome.

Christmas BBQ Sunday, 5th December

Christmas BBQ with combined car clubs at Orton Bradley Park. More information as it comes to hand but the Park will have been booked by the time you read this. This is a way to see the collectables from other clubs so if you are a member of another club/s, please assure them that they're most welcome to join us.

Meeting place is Princess Margaret Hospital main carpark, not Riverside as we were too spread out last year!

General Information on the Monthly Runs

Following on from the efforts of the "Sunday Run" group we are staying with the same plan – 1st Sunday of EVERY month – 10.30am at the riverside car park by Princess Margaret Hospital. Hopefully this will make it easy to remember. So if you haven't had the "classic" out lately and you want to socialise with a really neat bunch of classic enthusiasts, come along — you will be most welcome.

Waiau Celebration - Labour Weekend

One of the trips last October during our Hanmer weekend was to Waiau township to visit an excellent museum which contains much history of this area, as well as an amazing model train and car collection for the boys and a fabulous working Christmas scenario to get the girls retail vibes going. A very friendly bunch of volunteers who have invited us to the 'Back to Waiau Weekend'. This is over Labour Weekend 22-24 October and the organising committee would like classic and vintage cars to join in their Vintage car display and rally on Saturday 23. This will be the main day and it seems there will be plenty to see and do. More information to follow.

Sunday, 11th April Report

Yes it was the second Sunday in April to avoid Easter so hope we didn't confuse anyone. Another change due to a shortage of time: the North Canterbury run became a Banks Peninsula run — a perfect day for a run anywhere. We toured some eastern suburbs then over the hill to Lyttelton, then Governors Bay to Diamond Harbour for lunch.

Diamond Harbour was a very busy place and there were ferry loads of admirers stopping to admire our line of classics.

We eventually moved on to Little River and John & Kathy's choice for coffee and cake and more chat until our hosts finally convinced us it was time to go. A really neat and relaxed day.

Events Diary on the Website

Don't forget that there is also an Events Diary on our website (on the right hand side of the home page) which is updated as information comes to hand, which is usually more often than the newsletter gets published! Go to www.cmsnz.org.nz



2010 Classic Marathon March 7-11 Report

Saturday March 6 and our destination is the Foreshore Motel in Petone where we meet up with some of the other starters for the Marathon. We all meet at the Petone Working Mens Club for tea and soon catch up with old friends as well as meet some new ones.

Day 1: Sunday 7th March — Petone to Hastings

Our first Marathon day meant an early start to find tea, coffee and eats at the Hutt Valley Motorsport Club rooms thanks to Mike and Cathy Reid.

Drivers' briefing over and we are soon on the road and out of the built up area heading north to turn off at Moonshine Hill Road, an old favourite for rallies andargas etc. Over the Rimutakas with streams of traffic all banked up behind a smoke belching bus. Onwards travelling north and well away from main roads — not much traffic through the east side of the lower North Island which looks quite deserted from the air. Passing through towns like Ponaroa, Porangahau, Waipawa all once busy and thriving. For most now the local pub is the only sign of life it seems. We are soon at Napier and time for tea and reflection on the day's travel.



Author having lunch break with the Matheson group

Day 2: Monday 8 March — Hastings to Rotorua

We venture out to explore and find Bridge Pa near a busy light aircraft airport with lots of hangars and aircraft — must be a wealthy area. Soon after we get a bit lost near a place called Puketitiri but that was ok as most seem to get lost round about there,, even the best navigators.

Wairoa was looking good for lunch but finding food was not easy — thank goodness for a cut lunch in the supermarket.



The Burt/Calder/Reid contingent at the longest place name in NZ

Depart Wairoa into hilly country and Cricklewood Road which only ever seemed to be going skywards — some of the steepest hills I've seen for livestock to cling to. We soon found ourselves surrounded and talking to sheep being driven to new paddocks, on our road of course. Lake Waikaremoana was soon in our sights and in the 120kms around the lake we didn't see much water.

Ticking off "must sees" is always quite exciting and as we rounded a bend 2 little Maori boys — grins from ear to ear — racing towards us on a huge and fast horse with nothing but a rope halter and their skills keeping them on the back of that thundering horse. Such a brief encounter but a real highlight for us.

On arriving at Rotorua Ellen and Graeme had a team together busily preparing food for a magnificent and tasty BBQ which filled our rumbling stomachs. Another neat day.

Day 3: Tuesday 9 March — Rotorua to Waitomo

A shorter run today to allow time for sightseeing or trips at either end. We drove through the Waipa State Mill — Waikite Valley Road — Te Kuiti to Waitomo on seemingly endless forestry roads with the sun spreading patterns of light on the lines of trees. What at first seemed like fast roads soon became tamed by the number of black and white ears with flashing lights on top — a training ground perhaps.

Our accommodation at Waitomo is the famous old Waitomo Hotel which has a very long and interesting history. It is a very interesting style of construction,

rather run down but there are plans to start on a restoration of this very grand old building.

We dine together tonight — our “MID TOUR” dinner already.



The mighty BMer of the Monks arriving!

Day 4: Wednesday , 10 March — Waitomo to Wanganui

We pass through Pio Pio and find petrol. On again through beautiful farm country and those hills with lots of big stands of trees, many of them showing signs of autumn already. Ohura is our lunch stop and there are many deserted shops and houses, even a pub — this was also a large village, now so quiet. We found a nice layby for lunch and the children from the primary school soon came to look at the different cars and go Ohhh! at how far we have driven. The south Island was a very long way in their thinking. Ellen had many memories of this town when as a teenager she visited relatives here, busy in those days, now almost deserted.

Whangamomona is our next stop on the “forgotten world highway” — coffee, ice cream etc very welcome in the very hot and still conditions. The town has been revived somewhat since our last visit with much restoration to buildings, walkways etc to help preserve this historic area. Finally arrive in Wanganui after some tyre problems and check our directions so about 10 of us could visit the “Cossie Club” for tea which boosted the restaurant’s numbers for the night.

Day 5: Thursday, 11 March — Wanganui to Petone

Another day of adventure for the others but it was a visit to the tyre shop. We had to make some time for two new rear tyres or we weren’t going anywhere. Day 4 left us running on one of those compact stuffit in a hole tyres you “blow up before use”. We got our new tyres on and the progress saving spare which blew up large for on road use was deflated and compacted to fit in its little hole again. I have never done ADS before — I hate them — BUT out of the 4 major tyre companies I rang, only Tony’s Tyre Service was interested in helping and overnight they got tyres to Wanganui so we could get to Petone. We set off about 1.30ish hoping to do maybe two stages but the weather closed in — the lid went up and we headed for Petone. The others all had a fun day though and missed much of the ‘drizzly’ rain.

The Marathon was also referred to as the “Wildlife Tour” and beside the usual domestic cows, sheep, horses, dogs etc we saw many of the wildlife variety. Goats, geese, ducks, hawks, feral cats and lots of turkeys — most of us say the dead turkey in the ditch and its mate peering over the edge not wanting to leave!

Our final function at the Petone WMC with badges for all, a few speeches, lots of laughs, food and drinks. The Saab award was a popular presentation to Max Clarke who spent a lot of time with his head under the bonnets of different cars (but most often Saabs). The fit-it abilities and willingness of people like Max always gives us a good feeling that if things go wrong, help is never far away.

The 2010 Classic Marathon was an ever changing adventure, we some places most kiwis will never see, back country ghost towns and some being revived — little town with their local characters, the countryside going into autumn colours — it was amazing. Our warmest thanks to the two Graemes — Sharp and Matheson — who with some help from John Rapley of Wellington put this together. It was a unique and fun event.

Mel Peters



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Dear member,

The committee is looking for some feedback on things that work well and things which you feel might be done differently. We would appreciate it if you could take the time to answer the questions below. Either post your response to PO Box 10331, Christchurch 8145 or bring it to the AGM in June or email it to info@cmsnz.org.nz.

An electronic version will also be available on our web site shortly.

1. Are you a current member? If not, why not? _____

2. Do you feel that committee members are readily available? _____
3. Do you feel that we listen to your concerns? If not, what have we overlooked? _____

We run one major event each year; either the Alpine or Marathon. The Alpine runs over three days and the Marathon which usually runs over a week

Regarding the Alpine:

4. Are you happy with how the event is run? _____
5. Do you feel the entry fee is set at the correct level? Fees for the last two years have been \$480 (2 people)? _____
6. Are there any changes you would recommend? _____

7. Do you enter the Alpine and if not, what influences your decision? _____

Regarding the Marathon:

8. Are you happy with how the event is run? _____
9. Do you feel the entry fee is set at the correct level? Fees for the last two years have been \$550 (2 people) and \$325? _____
10. The Marathon has run over 12 days with a two or 3 day break in the middle, over 7 days with a one day break and 5 days with no break. As a potential entrant what is best for you? _____

11. Are there any changes you would recommend? _____

12. Is the ratio of gravel to seal ok? _____
13. Do you enter the Marathon and if not, what influences your decision? _____

14. Should the Alpine and Marathon be run at set times of the year? If so, when? _____

Other events:

15. We run a monthly event on the first Sunday of each month. Are you happy with how the event is run?

16. Should there be an entry fee for these runs? _____

17. Are there any changes you would recommend? _____

18. Do you enter and if not, what influences your decision? _____

19. In 2002 we had an event in Victoria which ran over 14 days and attracted 17 entrants. Our organiser has offered to do another in 2012 through South Australia. Are you interested? _____

20. Should a South Australia tour replace the 2012 marathon _____

General:

21. Tell us what you would like your club to do for you. Should we, for example, have more combined club events such as last years Xmas run? Or any other suggestions you might have. We would like to know.

22. Does the website provide the information you want? _____

23. What do you want from the website? _____

24. Monthly or bi-monthly newsletters? _____

25. Anything else you'd like to say? _____

Thank you

CMSNZ Committee