

Ashburton Plains Rotary Classic Car Rally

2017

by Jenifer Alexander



(Above: So L to R we see the PMAG E V8, the also ex Murray Hatchard car of Don and Helen Prouting, the CW S V8 of Don and Jenifer Alexander, the Nutmeg E V8 of Eric Connor, he's had it long enough for it to no longer be called the ex Calvin Mackie car and the BA D V8 of Paula and Roy Buchanan. It was good to hear other members supported your display even if they were AWOL. NB The CW S V8 is now in the care of Don Learmonth. It seems some cars move around the Club.

Sunday dawned grey and drizzly but before long the sun shone which made our day out very enjoyable. Our destination was Ashburton where the 25th annual Ashburton Plains Rotary Classic Car Rally was taking place. There were about 250 cars of all makes and models including our 4 Leyland P76's belonging to Roy and Paula Buchanan, Don and Helen Prouting, Don and Jenifer Alexander and Eric Connor. John and Frances Warren opted to travel in their modern due to their Leyland's heater not working. Colin Sweetman came to inspect the collection but was unable to participate due to moving house from Christchurch to Ashburton where he will permanently reside.

The route took us through beautiful countryside and a visit to the Rangitata huts before assembling at the property of Alistair Studholme, a historic farm established 150 years ago and still in the same family. We had our picnic lunch then the presentations were made. For the second time a Leyland was a winner, well sort of, as Don Alexanders Chrystal White was judged 2nd in the Australian car category, behind a Holden Kingswood. Don recently purchased the car from former member Murray Hatchard. (Last year Colin Sweetman's car came first!)

Our members adjourned to an Ashburton cafe for coffee and cake before going our separate ways after a very enjoyable day.