

National Rally/AGM Coromandel 2018

BY Rob Jones



(Another Paul Heath original taken from atop a tall ladder - only one at a time up there guys! Taken at Buffalo Beach, Whitianga with the usual funny, sad, crazy antics of organising the layout of the cars.)

This year I will offer a brief “report” on the weekend including those facts, figures, stats and other bits that are important to some of us.

Sonya and I departed Masterton early (I kid you not) heading for Hawke’s Bay as we’d learnt SH1 was closed north of Mangaweka. Bridge repairs! So we headed to Puketapu for a coffee and a travel break at my brothers before heading onto Taupo to visit my grandson Blake and stay with our friends Sandra and Brian and all their MG’s. Our regular Taupo stopover.

We picked Blake up and went to the pub for a drink, much to his enjoyment being only 14, while we waited for our F & C to cook. Lots of catching up, we all know each other, good food and refreshment, warm comfy bed and an early start for Thames in the morning. Our plan being to arrive in time for the tour of the Toyota Signature Class car refurbishment plant after lunch. Many members enjoyed this great experience, a brilliant start to our weekend.

(Below: A shot of one group touring the Toyota Plant on Friday afternoon, an incredible place.)



It was after this we settled into our motel properly, very nice, lots of Leyland's all around, new people to meet, alternative cars to admire and all afternoon and evening they kept arriving! There were a couple of old club cars with new owners.

As always the food was good, there were some issues with Saturday's accommodation, down to the motelier in my opinion, and the weather didn't always play ball but after the Toyota Plant visit the usual socialising began, meeting those new people, telling stories about how well our cars went on the trip to Thames, ours never missed a beat this trip, rehydrating and eating, F & C on the wharf was a lovely meal, mixing members up around the tables.



(Above: Driving Creek Railway – one of our greatest tourist attractions with an interesting story of its development and future plans. I can plainly make out Brian, Gordon and Debbie in this shot, all with huge smiles on their faces. Some of the new members who'd never been before were amazed at this attraction, its beauty, glass wall construction, the train, the incredible view and many other points of interest. A remarkable feat of engineering and vision.)

But we also had some more special places of interest to visit like The Model Barn outside of Thames. I did spend a bit here as did others and didn't get to see the tractor museum side of things as much as I'd have liked but you will see later how it impacted on people, well one anyway! Our welcome 3rd visit to Driving Creek Railway, a must for all tourists, go there if you haven't already.

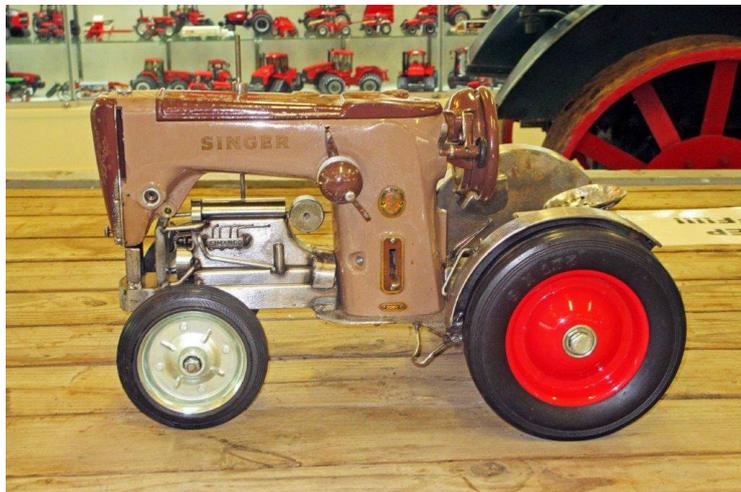


(Left: Paul showing astonishment at the tractor museum display. While there are a few real ones to admire the vast collection is of model tractors, very detailed and likely quite expensive models of all makes and types imaginable. I missed most of this due to my adding to my model collection from the store side of the enterprise. We should have gone back on Monday.)

We had a park up at historic Cooks Beach and then onto Buffalo Beach at Whitianga for our group photo opportunity – see cover photo, carefully doctored by Paul to eliminate all the non-Leyland

cars in the background. There may be a copy of the local papers report on or visit if space permits. The public turned out to see our display and it generated a lot of interest with some interesting cars passing by for a look too. Did anyone see the little bugger who rode his bicycle into the front of our car? He got told and his parents never batted an eye despite the strong admonishment he was receiving from both of us.

(Right: A tractor model made out of a Singer sowing machine. I'm pretty sure they Singer didn't make tractors!)



(Right: Edward's on a health kick, I mean, fruit in one hand and juice in the other. Whatever next?)

Photos taken, interested people spoken to, it was time to find our motel, just up the road. This was where the fun began but we got sorted sort of and it all worked out in the end. We had dinner and drinks and an AGM to contend with, in some order like that. The minutes tell all but without doubt, the high point would be the awarding of Life membership to Alec Reid and Edward Tubman. Congratulations gentlemen, well deserved after years of devoted service. And of course welcoming in our new Secretary, Robert McCallum.



Sunday saw us in Whitianga with members of the local Car Club joining us in a street display in town. Some fascinating cars along with the P76's included Citroen, Auto Union, Mercedes Benz, Rolls Royce and others and again, a lot of people checking us all out. And then onto lunch, yummy, albeit a bit confusing in the execution with two destinations and the chance to visit Hot Water Beach. A few of us found our way to Alex Reid's little bach by the sea – yeah right. An absolutely lovely place with way more than million dollar views. We loved it.



(Above: A smiling Mr Meyer in the passenger seat of this extremely unusual 1962 Auto Union 1000 SP sports, another two stroke marvel to equal his own little Saab 96. If you find a different two stroke car you have to go for a ride right? Thunderbird front and Buick rear end, maybe.)



(Above: The Whitianga Motel, full of Leyland's with the honorary Mazda, XR6 and Opel as well, a tight fit indeed! There were more Leyland's up the road a bit.)



Mike, Carmen, Sonya and I and Alex, Robert and Pauline all made it to the bach to take in the spectacular views and enjoy tea and cake. There was a caravan next door identical to the Jones family van at Pourerere Beach. Karma? Thank you Alex, from here we returned to our motel and arranged dinner along with several other members.

For the record we returned Monday morning, enjoying a roundabout trip to Hawkes Bay again, overnighing at my brothers. We followed three vintage Packard's for a long way over the Napier Taupo Road being barely able to keep up on the bigger hills!

Statistics

There were 24 Leyland's (1 Force 7V coupe, 22 V8 sedans and 1 6 cyl sedan) present in 11 factory colours. 3 CW, 3 BA, 3 AEB, 2 ON, 2 PMAG, 2 FB, 2 DR, 1 each of AG, B as B, CB and N with 3 others being RF, PS and DKR – Don't know Red. This represents the 3rd largest collection of P76's in living memory in NZ after 1988 and 2015. AWOL were the Warren Air NZ, Larsen Mazda 6, Sweetman Mustang, Waayer XR6, Maunder Opel and Meyer Saab.

Had they all brought their P76's we would have had an additional DR, PMAG, N, HOTO and B as B cars to bring the numbers up to 29. Martin Waayer tried hard to get the DR up and running, the Sweetman's needed an older car to

go to the Beach Hop in, hence the 1967 Mustang 6, Fred and Rosalie and Andrew and Debbie's P76's were just not available for road use at the time. There were 5 Deluxe's in the mix.



(Above: Sonya and I found an L & P bottle in Paeroa but couldn't get the car near it. Paul and Linda found a different one with better results as you can see. Bring on the Wild Turkey. Jan and Malcolm also found this L & P bottle.)



A line up of cars in main street Whitianga, showing the 1971 Citroen DS, Mercedes 220 and lots of P76's.

There was supposed to be a picture of Colin and Cathy's red Mustang too but it disappeared. Maybe next time or if I find a gap. Guess what, I've found it, and it has recently appeared in the AA Directions magazine along with his new Mustang.

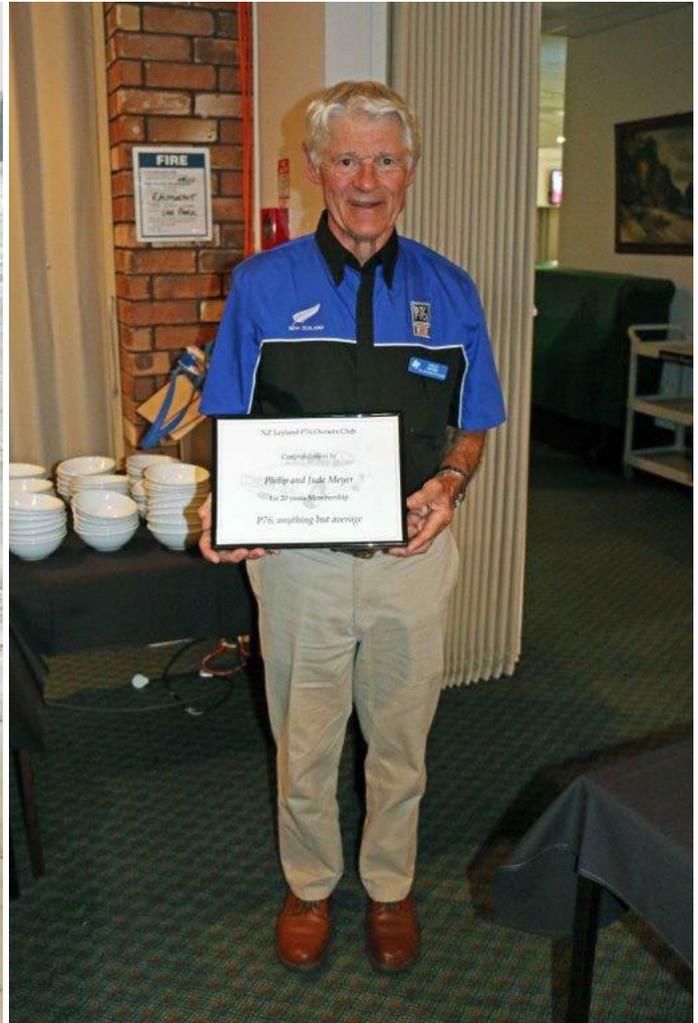


Saturday lunch, a picnic at Matarangi Beach where everyone managed to park in a curved row without instruction, amazing. The Mustang and Opel are in the background. This was a catered lunch and very nice it was with huge amounts of fruit, juice (see Ed's picture) and fresh rolls of varying sorts, most of which disappeared into hungry people pretty quickly.

Points to whoever organised the lunch.



The ladies admiring the view from Cook's Beach, or are they plotting a takeover bid! Philip arranged a visit to Cook's Beach to reflect upon an historic event. Captain James Cook left Southampton? 250 year ago this year. His first port of call, or beach landing in NZ was here for water and food supplies. This is where he first meet Maori. So the arrival of 20 or so P76's will be recorded in history as part of our celebration of that great event. Make a note please.



Philip Meyer still smiling, this time the happy recipient of a well-earned 20 year membership certificate. Long may his dedication to the cause continue. Maybe this is a good time to offer another vote of thanks to Philip and his crew for what was a great event enjoyed by all.



The hungry horde at Matarangi Beach.



Linda letting our presence be known at Cathedral Cove



Mr King and Mr Learmonth show off their cars.



One of the locals joining us in the main street in his TD2000 Silverstone.



Cars Matarangi Beach



Citroen DS21 1971 one of the locals joining us in town