

# National Rally/AGM Nelson 2020

Rob and Sonya go to Nelson in George, the AEB D6 P76



*[Ok I will do my best with this picture. From left:- Ken, Eric, Don A, Paul J, Gordon, Dawn, Ron, Julie, Paul F, Linsey, Sonya, Jenifer, Deb, Rob, Clyde, Alec, Paula, Christine, Karl, Mike, Roy, Carmen, Mark, Brian F, Colleen, Debbie, Jan, Andrew, Ed, Brian M, Don L, Lyn, Lesley, Helen, Linda, Maria, David, Frank Jnr Waghorn, Don P, Ian Burroughs (new member), Robin Waghorn. Of course Paul H is taking the photo and Mike Harris is arriving in the OF car in the background. My eyes are tiring now. This has to be one of our biggest group shots ever surely. We need to thank Jan Moore for the additions and corrections to my list of names in Penzed. And my apologies to those of you missed out. Frank Jnr and Robin are not currently Club members but came along to reacquaint themselves with the club at the invite of sister/daughter Jan Moore. It was wonderful to see Robin again after so many years. I'm sure she felt right at home with us all.]*

By now you know the journey starts when you leave the gate (early!) and Sonya was wondering why we left SH2 for the backroads of Carterton. To her delight, she saw a big paddock of sunflowers in the early morning sunshine. This and a big TARDIS letterbox on a side road back to SH2 were the first of our things of interest along the way. I'd spotted these on my bus run, the sunflowers are now gone but the TARDIS remains, set in time and cement.

As always attracting attention we arrived at the Blue Bridge terminal following two Mazda MX5's into line. They were not flash and one wasn't doing so well but they had only to make Christchurch and the safety of an MX5 wrecker/parts/tuning specialist. Wouldn't sell the boot spoiler, reckoned it and the hardtop were worth more than the whole car! Lo and behold, here comes a white P76 Targa, if there is such a thing. There is now, Murray's beloved CW S V8 has been transformed and prettied up a fair bit into a CW Targa replica and it ain't over yet according to Don and his mate Ian, who you now know is one of us. Much discussion ensued between the P76, MX5 and unusual model Land Cruiser driver as we awaited boarding. And there was a race team complete with transporter as well as several big bikes.

We had already decided to stay in Picton on the Thursday night and join the Rally on Friday morning in time to visit Pics peanut butter factory, and so much more. The passionfruit chilli jam is gorgeously hot. Anyway, we noticed on Friday morning there were two cruise ships in Picton Harbour and certainly the smaller one had been in Wellington when we left. Our beautiful motel with absurd vehicle access afforded us glorious views across the harbour, marina and up the sound quite a way. And news of COVID 19 was becoming more alarming. We weren't to realise until a few days later that same little cruise ship was the diseased and horrible one rejected from Dunedin or Akaroa and sent back to Australia. We told many of you that we had been cruising on the Ruby Princess in January of this year. As I said earlier, we don't know how lucky we are mate.





Sonya wanted the scenic route to Nelson so off we went stopping to admire the setting from the other side of the harbour whereupon we were engaged by an Aussie who hadn't seen a P76 in ages and another local keen to look over the car while we admired the view. Back on the road or series of 3467 interconnected bends, we found Nelson and our hotel and eventually reception and our very pleasant room. Unpacked and ready for our first convoy (will we ever learn) we headed off to Pics. It was brilliantly entertaining and very tasty and I'm sure we all supported the local economy, something we received lots of encouragement in. Pics have a very wide red carpet leading up to their front door. It was only a matter of time and after the car park cleared a bit it was park the 11 available P's on the Red Carpet time. As always a fun exercise!

Then back to the hotel to meet the people and imbibe the refreshments. This isn't a blow by blow but for me, it meant the chance to meet several members who I had yet to meet like Linsey and Deb Bennington, Paul Jones and Dawn Cumming, Mark and Christine Hammond, Mike Harris and his son Simon. Several of these are newer members, however, Mike Harris has achieved his 20 years this year (I need to verify) and this will be the first outing for him and his car with the Club. Significant indeed.



*Above: Mike Harris Oh Fudge P76*

We had the great market to go to on Saturday where Jan was encouraging us to spend up, so we did. A bit of food, a haircut for me, bird paintings, dog drawings, jewellery and a stop at the antique shop near the hotel, having a sale it turned out, was a goldmine for my collections.



We all drove to Tahunanui Beach for the great cover photo which attracted a fair bit of public attention, in fact, we were followed around Nelson by a black Triumph Herald convertible. Who was that man? I have since learnt it was Malcolm Moore's brother Jeffery. I saw three different Heralds about town. No visit to Nelson is complete without a trip to the WOW and CC Museum. Paul managed to get 19 P76's into this photo from a vantage point I know not where!



*Above: WOW & CC Museum*

And speaking of Paul we have a shot of him utilizing some old Chrysler boot to take the 21 cars at the beach earlier and this was where I photographed Mike Harris's White over OF S V8, seen here for the first time in Penzed and maybe almost ever by members. It has a painted roof. An AEB car is progressing at home too.



*Above: Paul in 300c*

Later we had a big convivial AGM in double quick time and a slower dinner with wonderful entertainment by Dust and Gold, a talented duo including Ken's son Mark, a very pleasant surprise for the evening. And refreshments of course.

Sunday was another surprise day. We were to visit a car collection that unbeknown to me at least included a very tidy Pimento S V8 that may be for sale, and several other cars including 7 Model A's in various body styles and repair and an Overland or Oakland, a Mk 3 Zephyr station wagon, Fiat 500 and a couple of other more modern vehicles along with tons of memorabilia and parts and this lovely old 1911 model T Ford stuck away in another corner.





*Left: Model T 1911*

On the way there I saw a CW P76 parked on the roadside and pulled in behind it thinking we had arrived, but looking at the rego plate I realised I don't know this car – it's not one of ours. It sure used to be from 1991 until 2002 it appears on the membership maps but then lapsed but here it is, new plate on it (UK5590) this CW 4 spd may be for sale but I need to glean more information from the last owner's son before I can commit to that.

And both these P76's were on the same Nelson Street within 500 meters of each other!

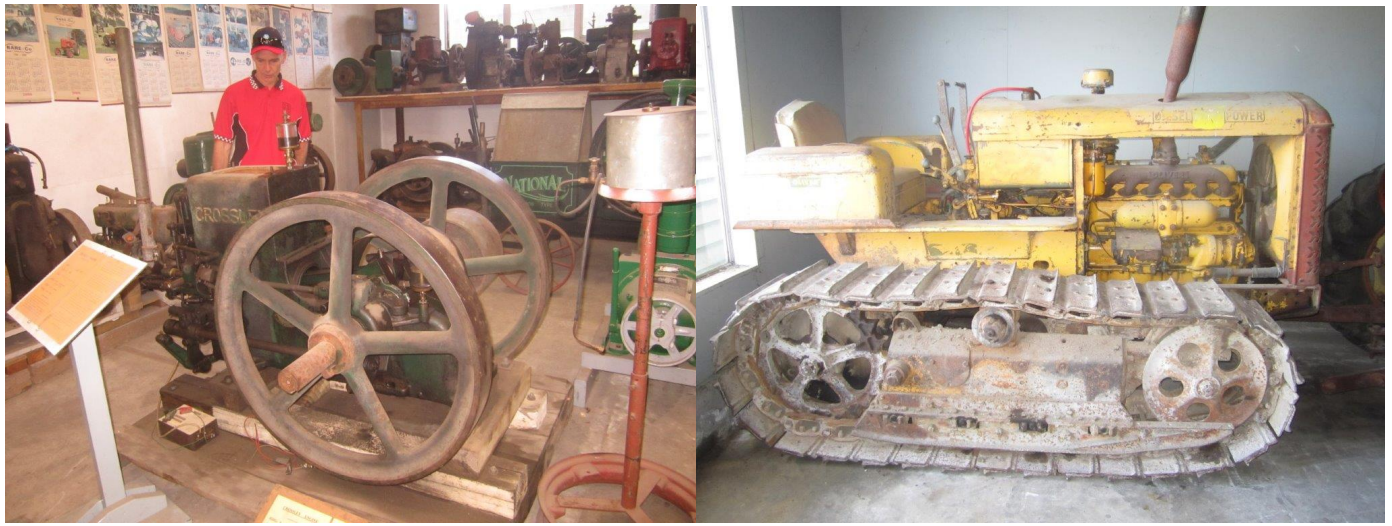
Lunch beckoned at the Moutere Inn, NZ's oldest pub because it has operated continuously from the same site. Lunch was lovely, stout was lovely too. Local tractor drivers need a lesson in road courtesy or a good boot up the.... My drink was recommended to me by a mate who happened to phone me just before lunch. Thanks Ian. Not the call I got at the local Post Office!



*Above: Moutere Inn and Milk Stout*

We trailed off to an interesting tractor museum and apple orchard after that. Tractors and stationary engines were interesting as was the MK 4 Zodiac in the other shed. Apples were tasty too.





*Above: Paul ponders a Crossley and BMC Diesel*

We decided to venture to Kaiteriteri Beach after this to enjoy the view and allow Clyde to run into some of his neighbours all these miles from home. I thought the guy a bit out of line parking his Kawasaki so close to Clyde's P76 only to find them greeting each other like long lost ones. We returned to dine at the Tahunanui Speights Ale House which was a very nice meal and ale, adjourning to the chairs outside someone's unit, may have been ours to debrief. On Monday morning we took advantage of the local NPD 100 octane fuel and Gold Card discount and set off for home around the bends again. Passed many a classic car I have since learnt were at a big show in Blenheim. As lockdown all too soon happened I think that petrol is still all that is in the tank still. Our car got serviced and a new WOF after lockdown and will soon be out and about again. Surprise company on the return trip was Brian and Colleen in the CW S, Ron in his FB TFR, Clyde in his BA S and an Aston Martin that had been following Brian and Colleen around for some time. And of course, a motor home driver who had one of those years ago. A P76! There was a more subdued and masked presence on the ferry going home as the bad news sunk in, we stuck together in our little group, happy to have had such a great weekend and healthy and hoping to remain so. Calm seas and sunny weather saw us arrive in Wellington ready for a steady trip over the hill and home. We had a ball, roll on Gisborne. We also learnt later that the crossing on Tuesday was horrific and Andrew and Debbie and other friends of ours have since told us.

Some statistics from Nelson

Colours, always a favourite, again taken out by 5 BA cars, 3 CW, 2 B as B, 2 PMAG and one each in DR, SO, AG, AEB, FB, N, OF and PS and custom Black with orange trim lines. See it here!



*Above: Linsey & Deb Bennington P76*

AWOL lost us 2 B as B and 1 each of ON and AEB. Another ON and FB cars were unable to attend at the last minute.



We could have had 27 cars if all was well, but we did see 3 others being a CW (UK5590) and a P (HZ940) car on the street and yet another BA S in the WOW car Museum (HU6137) As it was we created quite a stir around the area with the cars we had. I didn't have an opportunity to sort out the model range, unfortunately.

The National Committee, hereby known as Natcom grew by one member this year, in the form of Jan Moore from Reefton. A very welcome addition to the committee who should bring a strong vocal presence and a new set of ideals and ideas. Welcome Jan.



For the record, I sort of watched Mike park next to me but didn't notice he'd hit our car, but sadly for him, many others did! Thankfully I don't have that trophy again. Speaking of which the trophies were presented by Ed and Jan as can be seen in the following photos.

Trophies were presented by Edward Tubman and Jan Moore, seen here (Leftt) presenting Alex Reid from Howick, Auckland with the Furthest Travelled Trophy. Alex is the first recipient of this award. The trophy was made up of an old Blue Star taxi roof sign supplied to Edward by ex-member Murray Hatchard with a view to making it into the fine trophy it now is. A careful measurement was undertaken to ensure Alex had come further than any of the other Auckland members present.

Edward and Jan award the Dale Rawlings Memorial People's Choice Trophy to a comparatively new member and collector of P76's, Don Learmonth from Hawera via the USA. That doesn't count for the longest distance, you have to drive it. Don was thrilled to receive this award especially given all the work having gone into his CW TFR P76 which you can see earlier. We have two replica Targa Florio's in the Club now, how far away is our real one we wonder?

Edward and Jan again making an award, this time for the Piston Broke Trophy, otherwise known as the Past Presidents Hard Luck Trophy. This is awarded to whoever has the most hard luck, be it a breakdown, speeding ticket or getting lost or whatever else the attending Past Presidents hear of up to the time of the



award. Some are more deserved than others. Nelson 2020 was a deserved award for sure. There was no real shortage of voters given that Edward, Mike, Don and myself were attending. I think I was told I couldn't vote as it was our car that the winner hit. As that was Mike King I guess he may have been excluded also. If the vote was tied Andrew could be called upon to decide. Congratulations Mike.

*Below: The BA Super V8 on display at the World of Wearable Art and Classic Car Museum, proudly displaying its club supplied grill! It's a nice tidy car.*

