



WHEELSPIN

December 2008

www.hccc.org.nz

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WEBSITE: www.hccc.org.nz

COVER PHOTO Christmas motokhana?

Harbour Capital Car Club Clubnight

First Wednesday of the month Fireman's Arms, 313 Jackson Street
(North End of Jackson Street, just South of Cuba St intersection) Petone

Committee Meeting 3rd Wednesday of the month, Fireman's Arms, 313 Jackson St
Petone, 7:30 pm. Note:— Anyone is welcome to attend committee meetings.

Wheelspin is the official magazine of the Harbour Capital Car Club, PO Box 4102, Wellington.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Club or Committee.
To other Car Club Editors: While we do not object to other magazines using articles or
material from our Wheelspin, we do appreciate recognition of the source of said material.
Originals are usually available on request.

DEADLINE

The Deadline for Wheelspin articles is the 20th of the month approx.

A Happy Christmas & Prosperous New year to you all,
from the committee

December Clubnight

**Join us for a chin wag,
order yourself a Pizza,
and hear our guest speaker Alistair
from Dunlop Tyres**

**The Fireman's Arms
Jackson Street, Petone**

December 3rd

Presidential Prattlings

Well I had my first outing in the Civic at Port Road. It must be said, that the car and I are currently not bonding at all well! Probably not helped by the rain that unfortunately decided to arrive pretty much every time I put the keys in the ignition.

I was slipping and sliding on those "wonderful" Nankangs, which made for some pretty slow corner speeds. Although I did discover that my ABS is definitely not functional, as I arrived at speed into the chicane in a cloud of baked Nankang.

King springs in an EF Civic are definitely rubbish. Which is a shame, as I had great fun with the King springs in my Corolla and Swift in the past. But they put the back of the Civic about ten foot off the ground, and have all the spring qualities of a sofa from a student flat.

On the positive side, I didn't hit anything!

There was a pretty huge turnout from HCCC, with 21 of the 47 entries being from our club, which is pretty damn good. There were some good results, some adventures, and some breakages during the day. Nobody that I am aware of managed to connect their car with any immobile objects, which is always good.

Robert Anderson was having his first outing in his Civic and had a lovely spin under brakes into the hairpin, captured by the photographer from www.wellingtonclubsport.co.nz

Dan Edhouse managed to explode a CV at the chicane, and a one wheel drive Lantis isn't much good for anyone, so unfortunately he recorded a DNF for the day.

Dick took an uncontested win representing HCCC in the very familiar white Clubman GT, with a respectable 1:13.

Pete Collins beat Brent home in the battle of the AE82 GT Corolla's, separated by mere fractions of a second, while their usual rival Brad unfortunately managed to bung the clutch in the super lightweight Lotus replica. A shame, as that took away the potential for a tight battle there. Usual suspect Nick Tollemache was unfortunately out of town for the weekend, so that opened up the possibilities as to who was going to be in the top three in the 1300-1600cc class.

Nick Buck brought the Civic home a mere 3/100ths of a second ahead of Steve Jopson in his Ford Escort, with Adrian Marsden right behind them, another 4/10ths of a second in his Integra. Had Dan's Lantis still been driving both wheels, it is likely he would have been right on their doorhandles too.

Karl Warmouth was the fastest HCCC entry, bringing the SS2000 class WRX home in a blistering second overall, with Jeff and Loren also piloting WRX'n not far behind him.

I went out for a spin with Webster early in the day. Literally. Turns out that running semi slicks on the front, and road tyres on the back makes a Starlet into a rotary.

However, it was good fun, and certainly the highest speed parallel parking exercise that I have experienced. Again the Wellington Clubsport photographer was in the right place and caught the whole sequence.

We had a bit of a shortened clubnight in November, since they decided to hold Guy Fawkes night on the 5th this year. A bunch of us took a walk from the Fireman's Arms down to the waterfront and watched them set fire to whole bunch of stuff.

To be honest it wasn't a great place to watch it from, as there was a sub Antarctic wind going on, and we really were too far away from the action.

I looked out my window at work the next day, and noticed that the boom boom barges were almost right outside. Whoops. Oh well, I shall have to remember that for next year.

While I haven't seen the official results from Admirals Road, I gather it was a HCCC clean sweep in the 0-1300 class (Dick), 13-1600 Brent Sellens, 1600+ two wheel drive Dan Edhouse (I am assuming with some new cv's).

Following Wairongomai Road, I am told that Graeme Heath has now moved into first place in the gravel sprint series.

Hopefully I will see lots of you at the December clubnight for our guest speaker, and I will also get lots of expressions of interest for the big HCCC mission up to the Clubsport Nationals in March. From the look of the turnout's we are getting in the local events, we could see it be the biggest social weekend of skids we've ever seen.

Leon

I realised I was dyslexic when I went to a toga party dressed as a goat
Marcus Brigstocke

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Harbour Capital Car Club

**Wed 4th February 2009 at the Firemans Arms,
Petone**

Be there to voice your opinion & vote

Motorsport Photographers

For general interest I thought it worthwhile to record some of my thoughts:

Over the years I have received many photos from various sources, the usual format being some poor quality proofs in the post with an order form. This must be a bit of a problem for the photographer (getting addresses, preparing proofs, mailing costs etc) then not receiving an order.

In my case, if the proofs look good, I will order and pay for copies, if not, I return the proofs — seems fair to me!

Things have changed with the advent of the digital photo, it means the photographer can take many more shots; thus more chance of a good action shot, it costs him little in processing, he can delete the bad ones and display the good images on a website for you to choose, or, better still; display the photos on a PC at the end of the event, and print them instantly for willing purchasers.

Then there are the enthusiastic amateurs, many of them who take really good photos and will give them away for free.

The main problems are for the purchaser to find WHO has photos of his action, and for the seller to connect with the buyer.

The thing that bugs me is the attitude of some of the photographers who seem to think that they DESERVE to get our money after all the effort they undertake to obtain the photo. They don't seem to recognise all the effort we take to give them a subject to snap.

Some photographers are good and some not so good; it's not just the photo but the service they provide. The best are the free amateurs, who have to make all the same effort as the professional, plus tracking down the competitor to give them a free copy — how can you improve on that!

Then there are the pro's, like Jody Seabright who display on a PC at the end of an event, plus a website, plus very helpful selection and delivery at a very reasonable cost for excellent quality photos.

Some pros, Like Euan Cameron produce superb photos but from my experience terrible service, I'm still waiting for some he took at Otago in 2002, I paid him, and chased him and chased him.... I even took photos of Euan at an event using my camera and sent him proofs plus a bill! Still no acknowledgement from him.

He went to great lengths at Nelson this year to get our contact details, yet still neither Rex nor I have heard from him!

Other pro's deliver an excellent service, how about this letter from Steve Phipps''

<p style="text-align: center;">P W PHOTOGRAPHY LTD.</p> <p>81 Barrington Drive, Somerset Heights, HAMILTON Telephone 07 855 8616 Mobile 021 535 517 Fax 07 855 8613 email pwphoto@stra.co.nz website www.pwphoto.co.nz</p> <p>Hi Guys</p> <p>Photos from The 2008 Possum Bourne Memorial Rally are enclosed.</p> <p>Firstly apologies for how late I am in getting these out, It has been a very busy time.</p> <p>The Story of this event.... The stages were the same as last year, so I knew that option one would be to go to the same places as last year as it obviously worked, but I was reluctant as I was concerned at getting the same photos as last year. Unfortunately there were not a lot of other options. The weather report looked OK so it should be a good day out.</p> <p>The first stage (Stage 6) was the obvious pick and we managed to the car nice and close – this was important as I wanted to go to a different junction in the third stage (stage 8) and that meant leaving earlier. We watched the first 19 cars and then had to leave. The action was ok, only the first few corners of the first stage but Glen Smith and Brendon Oakden put a wee display on. Everyone else was pretty sensible.</p> <p>I went to the middle of stage 8 (8B) rather than the 'prime' spectator point as the corner looked good on the map. In reality the prime point that I went to last year was better, but I still managed to get some photos coming around the corner and down the hill. I also managed to catch up with some friends. It then turned very cold and windy on the ridge and I had the good fortune of having gloves in my camera bag (I don't know why?). I sort of felt silly with gloves but I think I was the envy of everyone else there!</p> <p>Then it was a long wait until the next stages Te Akau South and North. We opted for Te Akau North – the last stage (Stage 11), but tried the Dixon Rd, Matira Road corner. We had lunch and killed a bit of time. The junction was great for viewing but a bit limited for photos. I managed to line a nice little bend up where I could see the unsettled action coming into the corner a lip in the corner and the exit and a wee rut. The photos weren't bad actually. Afterwards we realized that we could have driven the road and looked for somewhere else as we could have been there before road closure if we hadn't fluffed around – Oops!</p> <p>We had the opportunity to talk to some Australians who had come over to watch the Rally (Well the WRC, and got you guys as the bonus). They could not believe how goods the roads were to start with and how well they held up. They were very complimentary about New Zealand and New Zealander as a whole (I don't think they realise how much we hate Australians).</p>	<p>It was almost dark by the time we left and I headed back to Mystery creek to have a look at the prize giving. Although completely armed with the incorrect lens I took a few pictures and these are enclosed too.</p> <p>I did feel that I have taken better pictures in the past and could have done better, but while looking at the photos in the past couple of days – I am happier with the quality. I think I may have to do some extra reconnaissance next time though.</p> <p>Photos Have a look on the website to see the action (www.pwphoto.co.nz). I have printed what I consider to be the best photos and have quoted cheaper whole set prices for everyone. The invoice for the photos is enclosed. All photos are numbered on reverse and an order form is included if you would like reprints or enlargements.</p> <p>I am happy to provide digital images for your websites or publicity. You don't have to pay extra, If you purchase the photo/image, you can own it. Please email me. Also happy to give reciprocal links from my website, but only if you have some of my images on your site, so there is a challenge for some of you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you do not want the photos please return them as soon as possible.• If you do not wish to receive photos from me in the future please let me know.• If you do wish to keep the photos, please attend to payment within 14 days of receiving them. I understand that this is not always convenient but it helps you to remember and keeps my books in order. <p>I hope you enjoy them. Next Rally for me is a bit unknown now, but I will surface somewhere? See you there?</p> <p>Regards Steve Phipps</p>
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Then there is the lady from Foxton, where I eventually tracked down a web site and sent an email requesting information and was told that I must buy ALL of the (so-so) photos at a silly price, and when I queried this I was lectured on how hard the photographer worked to get them. Is this Customer service?

What about the cost and effort we have to put in to race so they can take a photo?

At Whangarei Rex and I were photographed standing on the bonnet, shaking the champagne over each other, I would pay almost anything to get this photo, but I have advertised and searched in vain.

Understandably it is a difficult process for all involved. If somebody can work out a foolproof system that satisfies all concerned I would love to see it!

Flying Fish

The right to bear arms is slightly less ludicrous than the right to arm bears
Chris Addison

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Tappet chatter

Just so you know: - We don't miss much and we will print everything. We never let the truth get in the way of a good story and we will not be intimidated. We can however be bribed, but we can't guarantee that it won't be published anyway!

Note: We trust our informants' 100% and would never question their reliability!

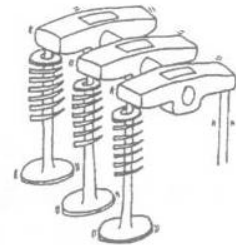
Make what you will of this: John Tennant was seen reading a women's magazine at the last committee meeting?!!!!??

Jilly is co-driving Austin Powers next year — Groovy baby!

During the week before the Daybreaker, Dave was made redundant from his job after over 21 years at the same place. Now he's got lots of time to compete, but no money! He is still looking for a job if anyone has any offers!

In a moment of weakness, Dave offered for Neil to drive the Charade in the Kapiti Car Club round of the Kim Naylor Autocross, so that Neil could keep his "different car for each round" record intact. Neil repaid this generous offer by going wide on the sweeper and hitting a bank, spitting the car up on two wheels and almost over on his first run.

It was a surprise to all, when Neil jumped into Dave's Charade to drive it up to the event, Webster jumped in the passengers seat and announced that he was going to drive it too!



Prior to the Kapiti round, Neil was leading the Series from Webster and Graham Heath, tied for 2nd two points behind. The look on Grahams face when he found out that both Neil and Webster were entering the Charade was priceless! But he got his own back by beating them both.

Neil and Webster destroyed (now bald) a brand new pair of Dave's tyres during the event!

Upon arriving home to find Dave was out, Webster suggested not even washing the filthy Charade before putting the car away in the garage.

A week after the Kapiti Autocross, Dave drove the Charade up to Otaki to do Wairongomai Rd. On the 1st timed run, he finally got the turn around right after 10 years of trying, only to snap a CV joint powering out of the corner — a first for the Charade. Which side? You guessed it. The same side that Neil had put into the bank the week earlier!

It's good to have a live audience to applaud you in your car when you do something wrong! At Port Rd, Webster took Leon for a ride. After spinning it in front of the Wellington Clubsport photographer (see www.wellingtonclubsport.co.nz under 'photos' 'Webster Gough' for an action sequence) Not only did he have the marshals clapping, Leon was clapping to!

Duane is back in the North Island. Only problem is that he is now living in Taupo. We need to find him a good job, so he can move back to Wellington.



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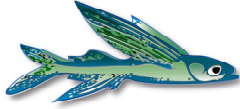
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The dodo died. Then Dodi died, Di died and Dando died Dido must be sh*tting herself.
Colin & Fergus



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Promoting an office

A psychotherapist was having a roaring business since he started from scratch. So much so that he could now afford to have a proper shop banner advertising his wares. So he told a kid to paint the sign board for him & put it above his shop entrance.

But, instead of his business building up, it began to slacken. He had especially noticed the ladies shying away from his shop after reading the sign board. So he decided to check it out himself. Then he understood why!

The boy could only find a small wooden board so he had split the word into the 3 words :

Psycho-
the-
rapist.

CLUBNIGHTS

First Wednesday February to December 7:30

Clubnight venue:

Fireman's Arms, 313 Jackson Street, Petone

(North End of Jackson Street, just South of Cuba St intersection,
West side of street)

My parents are from Glasgow which means they're incredibly hard, but I was never smacked as a child... well maybe one or two grams to get me to sleep at night
Susan Murray

TRIALS

Hi folks

Attached for your information is the official points table for this year's car trials series, compiled by WMSA (Wellington Motor Sport Association) pointskeeper Mike Dempsey.

cheers, John

HONDA CHALLENGE TROPHY

		11/Jun	09/Jul	13/Aug	10/Sep	08/Oct	Total	Place
John Rapley	HCCC	10.5	15	20	15	20	80.5	1
Dave Jennings	KAP	16	20	11	13	20	80	2
Wayne Gair	HCCC	20	13	15	20	11	79	3=
Dianne McDonald	HCCC	20	13	15	20	11	79	3=
Sam Jennings	KAP	16	17	11	13	20	77	5
Denise Gandy	HVMC	13	8	13	20	17	71	6=
Gordon Gandy	HVMC	13	8	13	20	17	71	6=
Mark Jennings	KAP	16	17	11	13	13	70	8
Eddie Conroy	WGTM	20	7	10	17	15	69	9=
Barry Lakeman	WGTM	20	7	10	17	15	69	9=
Carol Weston	HCCC	10.5		20	15	20	65.5	11
Cathy Reid	HVMC	10.5	11	20	10	10	61.5	12=
Mike Reid	HVMC	10.5	11	20	10	10	61.5	12=
Suzanne Gandy	HVMC	13	8		20	17	58	14
Te Aroha Smith	KAP		20	11	7	9	47	15
Jilly Hutson	HCCC	5	15	7	8	8	43	16=
John Tennent	HCCC	5	15	7	8	8	43	16=
Bill Peacock	HCCC	7		17	11	7	42	18
Murray Milner		7	3	17	11		38	19
Brian Craig	HCCC	4	10	9	9	5	37	20=
Barry Craig	X	4	10	9	9	5	37	20=
Jane Austen			20		7	9	36	22
Hilary Gandy	HVMC	13	8	13			34	23
Marika Allen-Jennings			20			13	33	24
Andrew Bartle	WGTM	16	6	8			30	25=
Marjorie McKee	WGTM	16	6	8			30	25=
Stephen Marks	HCCC	9	20				29	27
Craig Crawford	HCCC	7	3	17			27	28=
Lisa McKeown				11	7	9	27	28=
Wendy Moore	HCCC	7	3	17			27	28=
Donna Marks	HCCC		20				20	31
James Milner	HCCC				11	7	18	32=
Robbie Peacock	HCCC				11	7	18	32=
Webster Gough	HCCC				8	8	16	34
Len Fisher	HCCC	6	4			4	14	35=
Christina Te Punga	HCCC	8		6			14	35=
Paul Te Punga	HCCC	8		6			14	35=
Crosby Allen-Jennings						13	13	38
Matthew Connor	HCCC			12			12	39=
Mike Hodgetts	WGTM	3			6	3	12	39=
Ian Reddell			12				12	39=
Graeme Sharpe	CANT	3			6	3	12	39=
Leanna Fisher	HCCC	6	4				10	43
Kieran Marks		9					9	44=
Ben Stockbridge			9				9	44=
Dianne Stockbridge			9				9	44=
Hannah Fisher	HCCC	6					6	47=
Bryan Heathcote	KAP					6	6	47=
Donna Heathcote						6	6	47=
Allan Gough			5				5	50=
Averil Gough			5				5	50=
Victoria Gough			5				5	50=
Adam Fisher	HCCC					4	4	53
Leon Cast	HCCC				3		3	54=
Tamsin Lakeman		3					3	54=
Gail Milner			3				3	54=
Chelles Roberts				3			3	54=
Neil Roots	HCCC				3		3	54=
Ruth Shepherd		3					3	54=
John Swan		3					3	54=
Geoff Warren	HVMC			3			3	54=

Is it fair to say that there'd be less litter in the world if blind people were given pointed sticks?

Adam Bloom

Wellington Motorsport Association Calendar 2008/9

Contact the HCCC convenors if you want to find out more about an event (like regs and entry form) for email updates of the WMSA Calendar contact the secretary wayne.gair@kapiticoast.govt.nz

	29					
	30	JR	Sealed Sprint	Wellington	Shelley Bay	DM
December	6					
	7	BS PT	Gravel Sprint Circuit Sprint (Dual Car)	Wairarapa Intermarque	Dorsets Road Manfeild (Fiat/IMCC)	GS IM
	13					
	14		Autocross	Hutt Valley	Todd Park	KN
	20					
	21		Circuit Sprint	Manawatu Mspt	Manfeild	RT
	25		Snowmobile Racing		Reindeers are as yet untrained	

	Abbreviations:		Stewards:		Organising Club:
KN	Kim Naylor Autocross Series	AW	Alan Wright	HC	Harbour Capital
DM	Duncan MacKenzie Sealed Sprint Series	BS	Barry Swanerton	HV	Hutt Valley
ST	Stewards Trophy Motorkhana Series	GG	Gordon Gandy	W	Wairarapa
VB	Vesta Battery round of ST Series	GM	Gus McMillan	K	Kapiti
GS	Gravel Sprint Series	JR	John Rapley	WG	Wellington
RS	Rally Sprint Series	PT	Paul Te Punga	M	MOWOG
CR	Central Region Rally Series	SM	Stephen Marks	T	Triumph
IM	The Surgery Intermarque Sprint Series	WG	Wayne Gair	MG	MG

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Dave's Dribble

I have finished an article that I started 3 months ago, and will continue it for next month. Plus, now that I have a bit more time I hope to also do a book review and maybe a quick quiz each month. Maybe 5 questions each month with the answers either later in the magazine or in the next month's magazine.

Great Idea Dave, for once, I have no room this month, so your dribble will go into the February mag.

Editor

Clubsport Nationals 2009!

**Taranaki
March 7th and 8th
Sealed Hillclimb
Grass Motorkhana
Dirt Autocross**

Harbour Capital Car Club intends to make a good social weekend of it, so we're looking at doing a group accommodation booking close to the venue.

**Are you keen?
leoncast@xtra.co.nz
Get added to the list ☺**

The Spoon

For all of you who frequent restaurants and understand the need for the service to be faster, this short story is a timeless lesson on how consultants can make a difference to an organization.

Last week, we took some friends out to a new restaurant and noticed that the waiter who took our order carried a spoon in his shirt pocket. It seemed a little strange.

When another waiter brought our water, I noticed he also had a spoon in his shirt pocket.

Then I looked around and saw that all the staff had spoons in their pockets.

When the waiter came back to serve our soup I asked, 'Why the spoon?'

'Well', he explained, 'the restaurant's owners hired Andersen Consulting to revamp all our processes. After several months of analysis, they concluded that the spoon was the most frequently dropped utensil. It represents a drop frequency of approximately 3 spoons per table per hour. If our personnel are better prepared, we can reduce the number of trips back to the kitchen and save 15 man-hours per shift.'

As luck would have it, I dropped my spoon and he was able to replace it with his spare. 'I'll get another spoon next time I go to the kitchen, instead of making an extra trip to get it right now.'

I was impressed. I also noticed that there was a string hanging out of the waiter's fly.

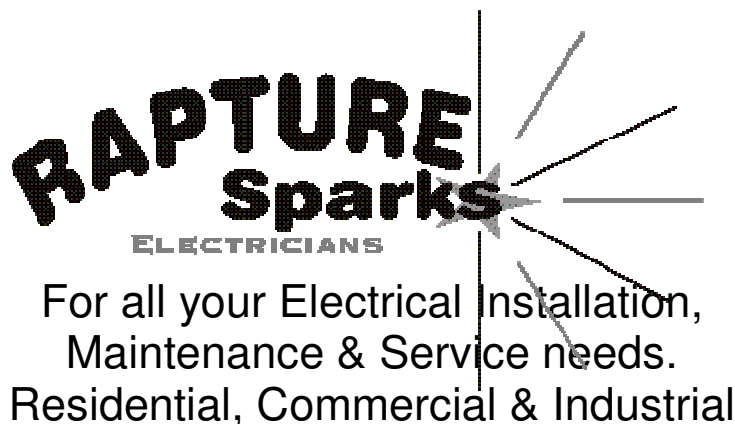
Looking around, I noticed that all the waiters had the same string hanging from their flies. So before he walked off, I asked the waiter, 'Excuse me, but can you tell me why you have that string right there?'

'Oh, certainly!' Then he lowered his voice.

'Not everyone is so observant. That consulting firm I mentioned also found out that we can save time in the restroom. By tying this string to the tip of you know what, we can pull it out without touching it and eliminate the need to wash our hands, shortening the time spent in the restroom by 76.39 percent.'

I asked 'After you get it out, how do you put it back?'

'Well,' he whispered, 'I don't know about the others, but I use the spoon'.



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A Drover walks into a bar with a pet crocodile by his side.

He puts the crocodile up on the bar. He turns to the astonished patrons. 'I'll make you a deal. I'll open this crocodile's mouth and place my manhood inside.

Then the croc will close his mouth for one minute.

'Then he'll open his mouth and I'll remove my unit unscathed. In return for witnessing this spectacle, each of you will buy me a drink.'

The crowd murmured their approval. The man stood up on the bar, dropped his trousers, and placed his Johnson and related parts in the crocodile's open mouth.

The croc closed his mouth as the crowd gasped. After a minute, the man grabbed a beer bottle and smacked the crocodile hard on the top of its head.

The croc opened his mouth and the man removed his privates unscathed as promised.

The crowd cheered, and the first of his free drinks were delivered.

The man stood up again and made another offer. 'I'll pay anyone \$100 who's willing to give it a try.'

A hush fell over the crowd. After a while, a hand went up in the back of the bar.

A Blonde woman timidly spoke up..... 'I'll try it - just don't hit me so hard with the beer bottle!'

Subscriptions for 2009

(Due 1st January)

Well it is coming up that time again folks to renew your membership for 2009.

There is a small increase in the membership this year to help cover increased costs.

Single: \$35

Couple: \$40

Each extra person \$5 each (living in the same address)

Letters will be sent out soon which is just one of the ways you can renew along with the ability to do this via the Membership area of the club website.

www.hccc.org.nz

Please ensure you check your details when the letters arrive and advise any changes to email or postal address that may have/or due to take place. During the year any changes can be sent to me directly either by email or by sending an update to the club postal address.

Thanks very much for your support this year and hope to hear from you all soon for your renewal for the 2009 year.

Jilly

This is nothing to do with the National Government ;-)

This Month's Photos — Wairongamai Road Gravel Sprint



Mike Mortenson



Shane Mackay



Again



?





Brian Craig





Jody Seabright



Important management discussions

If you're being chased by a police dog, try not to go through a tunnel, then on to a little seesaw, then jump through a hoop of fire. They're trained for that
Milton Jones

Tales of a new competitor – Dunlop Targa 2008

Crew: Driver: Bernie Hiestand
Co-Driver: Jilly Hutson
Service Crew: Murray Heaney and Adam Fisher



Yeh yeh I know I have been on this event before but only in a support role but this year was lucky enough to be invited to compete in a car for the main event.

(note I am going to apologies now for the number of times words like 'amazing' and 'great' appear in this article ☺)

It all started with a phone conversation with another club member, Nick Dunne while renewing his membership for the Rotorua event and he mentioned that the driver he was going with would probably be looking for co-driver for the main Targa. As you do I said 'well hey give him my name as I would be keen'.... Lucky for me Bernie did ring in August and the journey started from there.

The car is a 1983 Ford Capri, 2.8i and was meticulously prepared and maintained by Bernie who has owned it since 1986. He first competed in Targa in 2002 then again 2003 & 2004 before taking a break for a couple of years and back this year. As it turned out this was the only Ford Capri to compete in this year event. Now Bernie is a Ford man so the service wagon, also meticulously prepared including a new paint job, was a red Ford panel van.

We decided to take the trip north in a relaxed way and on the Saturday morning of Labour weekend and with Adam driving the Panel Van and Bernie and I in the Capri we left Wellington bound for Omori, (south end of Lake Taupo) where we were staying with our other Service member Murray who has a house in this lovely place. Sunday morning, again quite leisurely the trip continued bound for Manukau City. Now being good motorsport folk the goal was to be in the Motel in Manukau City by 3pm for the V8 racing which was achieved after a couple of stops including a quick call to the service wagon to back track a wee bit to top up the Capri's petrol tank after we started to run a bit short.... And then a lovely lunch at Bernie's sisters place in Hamilton.

Monday – Prologue day. This is Documentation and display mostly and this year instead of a stage out in the Papakura country side to let the cars loose for a bit of set up time we were racing around a very tight course set out in the middle of the Manukau City car parks. While this is a great spectator activity wasn't that great for a shakedown for teams but we did pretty good times in both runs before putting the car back inside the Events centre for the main start on Tuesday.

Tuesday – Day 1. Manukau City to New Plymouth, 8 special stages totalling 193kms and touring of 360km. This is a very long day and has a real mix of fine weather and light showers all day. The first two stages were great and then to the first pit stop to top

up the fuel. We noticed a bit of missing front bumper which the crew assumed that we had hit something but turned out as we hadn't, that it had fallen off while touring. This and the next challenge were the only damage during the whole event. We pulled up to the start of the longest stage of the event to find that 30 metres into the stage the trip metre stopped working thanks to a stray stone that knocked out the sensor. Luckily there were lots of tulips for this stage so we didn't lose much time at all. At lunch the crew were able to install a new cable and all was fixed with no further hassles with the trip metre. This did slightly divert the calcs and we ended up putting slightly less fuel than we needed for the next few stages and this very nearly cost us lots of time but luckily Bernie was able to nurse the car through and we didn't have to withdraw and made it, albeit slowly, to the service crew at the far side. The next stage was full of drama and ended being cancelled from the results after quite a nasty crash that when we got to it found the crew ok but the car upside down, unrecognizable and still burning. One of those very sobering moments for all motorsport folk, that's for sure. The final stage of the day was the fabulous Tarata stage which includes the tunnel finally started for us at 18:18 which makes for a very long day after leaving Manukau at 07:42. Arrived in New Plymouth and a full service of the car including swapping tyres and bleeding of the breaks meant it was nearly 9pm before we found something for dinner.

Wednesday Day 2 – New Plymouth including the fabulous trip to Whangamomona and back. 4 special stages of 125kms and 156km touring

This is a cruisy day after the full on one from yesterday. Two early stages including the infamous Inglewood stage which includes the Jumps then onto the wonderful bit of road to Whangamomona. We had been enduring being stuck behind a rather slow MR2 that we kept catching early in stages including just as we got those famous jumps in the first stage, so when we got to the the long stages luckily we didn't get held up as much and were able to suggest to the officials that they move this car up the line a bit so that he wasn't constantly being passed. The first run into Whangamomona was amazing with some very tight twisty stuff on the 3 passes and then some very open fast roads on the valleys in between. A very long break in the community while waiting for the service crews to make their way in was enjoyable but we couldn't wait to have another run on this great piece of NZ roads. Well it was just as good if not better going the other way and we were 13secs quicker. We had buddied up with Graeme Wong and his crew which worked well during the event but unluckily for Graeme he found one of those infamous fence posts just before the finish of the return run so had to be towed back to New Plymouth. The boys put in an amazing amount of work and he only missed the first stage of day 3. Dinner that night was one of the planned events and was an amazing meal before heading back to our motel.

Thursday, Day 3 – New Plymouth to Wanganui 7 special stages of 161kms and 342kms touring.

This day includes a double run through the Marton stage that includes the now infamous Cops Corner. What an amazing stage but again we still had our MR2 problem from the previous days but luckily we were able to pass him quite early on. The real lucky save of this day was Bernie climbing back up the ditch to the car after a wee pit stop, noticed a rather large nail that was imbedded right through the side wall of the rear tyre! That could have been nasty but we were able to change it without any time penalty and to start almost on time. The boys decided to watch the start of the last stage and then toured back through that stage but got caught up in the traffic so ended up arriving quite a bit after we did in Wanganui so the service was a little delayed. Finally able to get changed we went back to the Show grounds for another of the big organized dinners which was very good.

Friday, Day 4 – Wanganui to Wellington 8 special stages of 180km and 355km touring. This day started with a really long tour to the first stage of Windmill Alley (saddle Rd). Today, finally there is no sight of the wee MR2 and we are starting directly behind the rather stunning 308gt4 Ferrari of Gordon and Robin Burr. What an amazing car to

follow and in stage 3 Ormondville, we caught up to them and managed to pass them which was Bernie's challenge for the day. What a car though, was a great battle! Lunch was at the Tui Brewery in Mangatainoka including photo's with the lovely Tui girls much to the guys' enjoyment. The afternoon stages took us though to Pongaroa and Alfredton and down to Gladstone before finishing in Martinborough township for the end of the day service. From here we all toured into Wellington waterfront to park up on Taranaki Street Wharf overnight. Was rather amazing coming back into the concrete jungle that is the city after the last few days of the green rolling hills and great scenery and roads.

Back also to our own beds and a washing machine too...

Saturday, Day 5 – Wellington 8 stages of 96km and 224 touring

The weather isn't supposed to be great but started ok and although was quite windy at the Wharf was pretty good for the first stage in Mangaroa followed by the very tight twisty Akatarawa Valley road. This stage included a rather strange bit for any race team, we had to dead stop and travel over the 3 bridges in this road a 10kph.... Damn hard to do that's for sure and I think most crews seemed to get pinged for the penalty for breaking some of the parts of this instruction. I had been looking forward to this road but trying to race at speed was a very different thing, really hard work if a apt description for it. Unluckily for Graeme Wong he lost 2nd gear and in trying to find another gear to pull the car around a corner went off the side and down quite a long way into the bush. Both crew ok but was the end of the event for the car. Luckily we got to the other side unscathed but I am sure Bernie's arm muscles got a really good workout. Paekakariki Hill Rd was brilliant and our first run on this stage was dry and really fast! Nick Dunne had set up a big sign part way through with 'Bernie for Prime Minister' on it which created quite a bit of laughter in the car, Thanks Nick this was really great! ☺ After a pit stop at the Southwards car museum for lunch. The rain started just after I picked up our lunch bags so the second run through Paekakariki hill rd dropped our time by a full minute. Onto the first run on Moonshine Rd and I had been looking forward to this as my folks live part way through. Well was a pretty scary road in heavy rain and high speed, especially the second half after Bulls Run Rd but we got through ok. The second run after a pit stop in Upper Hutt was much better. In the end, the last stage of the day was Ohariu Valley/Makara as the waves were crashing over the road at Shelly Bay. This news was very gratefully received by all crews as the wet roads were very trying. Amazing stage to finish on as it was really fast We were in the top 5 of the classic series for this stage so a great way to finish this awesome event. We gathered back on Taranaki Wharf albeit a bit sadly as it was over but very grateful for such a great weeks racing. Apart from the small bit of missing bumper, the car looked just the same as when we left a week beforehand. You can't ask for better than that really. Results, 4th in Class 3 out of 18 and 13th overall in the Classic series out of 59 was a damn good result. Thanks heaps to Bernie's skilled driving and the amazing support of our crew of Murray Heaney and Adam Fisher who apart from day 1s fix of the trip meter mostly just had to put petrol in at the many pit stops along the way.

Total kms 750kms special stages and 1500km of touring.

Jilly

A talking dog goes into a hardware store and says: 'I'd like a job please'. The hardware store owner says: 'We don't hire dogs, why don't you go join the circus?' The dog replies: 'What would the circus want with a plumber'

Steven Alan Green

Road and Track

2008

Dual Car Sprint Series

Due to the cancellation of the Hutt Valley Motorsport Clubs round
Please Note the following changes to the Series rounds.

Round 3 Taupo Car Club Taupo 20th September

Round 4 HCCC Manfeild 12th October

Round 5 Manawatu Motorsport Manfeild 21st December

This series is brought to you by

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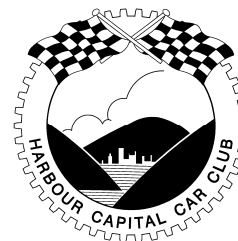


Nick Buck at Targa

You have to remember all the trivia that your girlfriend tells you, because eventually you get tested. She'll go: 'What's my favourite flower?' And you murmur to yourself: 'Sh1t, I wasn't listening ... was it self-raising?'

Addy Van-Der-Borgh

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