

Traction Avant

April 2023



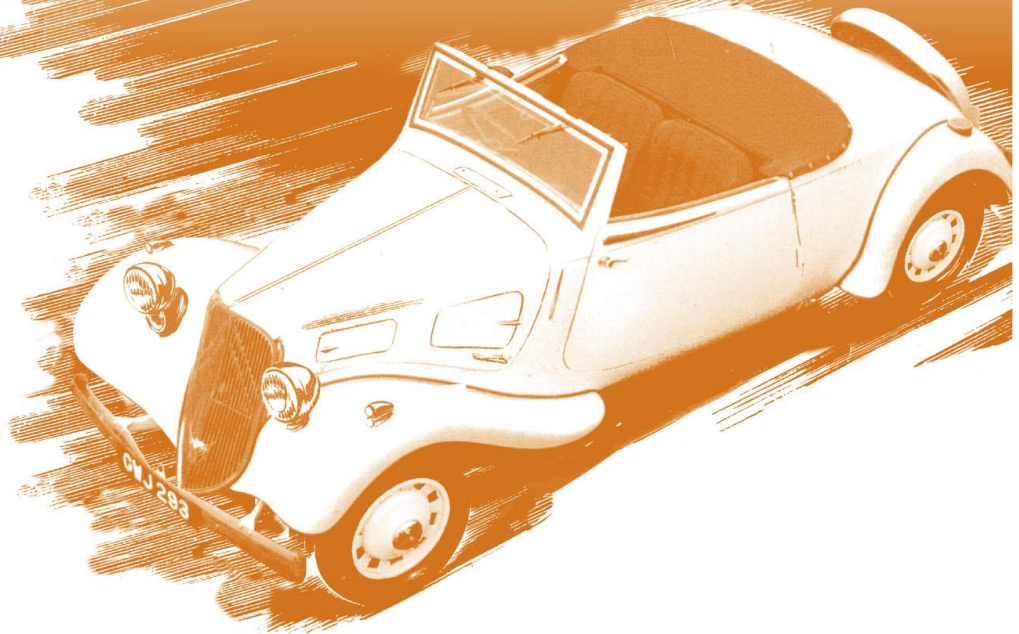
Rabbits over Cable Bay – Photo sent in by Melean Absolum

The Magazine of the Auckland Citroen Car Club Inc



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TRACTION AVANT

April 2023

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The views expressed in contributions to this publication are those of the author
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BULLETIN BOARD

Discounts: A reminder, to qualify for Club discounts where these are offered, it may be necessary to provide your membership card / name tag, issued for such purposes, to show that you are a current member.

Facebook: The Club has a Facebook page. Look for it and “like” it, to be part of it.

Club’s magazine collection: Magazines from other Clubs are available to be borrowed, but not by just picking them up off the table at Club Night and taking them away. Arrange it through the Librarian, Chris Grove, so he knows where they are.

Coffee & Cars: An informal get together for those interested in cars, Maurice Road entrance of Mt Smart Stadium, the last Sunday of every month from 9am.

Invitation to Renault owners. It is okay to invite Renault-owning friends along as guests to our events; they will be made welcome.

EDITORIAL

By Graham Pilgrim

As the Auckland Club prepares to host the 2024 National Rally, and as many of us continue to recover from the stresses of getting to and from the Canterbury Rally, I felt it appropriate to pass on a few of my own Rally observations and opinions.



I had decided not to take my own C3 Aircross down to Christchurch, but opted instead to fly down to New Zealand's best kept secret, Palmerston North, and drive down with Wellington member Edward McDonald, in his prize-winning C5.

We had booked a 1.00pm sailing, which gave us time to drive to Wellington at a civilised hour to check in at midday. But alas, that was not to be. At 4.30pm on the day before, we received a text from The Interislander advising that our departure time had been brought forward, and we were required to check in at 7.45am. So the next morning, having had several one sided conversations with all who are holy, we rose and shone at 3.00am in order to meet the deadline. Wellington greeted us in its inimitable way with a cold, blustery gale!

Apart from the fact that there was no space to swing a cat on board the Kaiarahi, the remainder of the journey, to Picton and on to Blenheim, and Rangiora the next day, was uneventful.

The Rally was great. I lived in Christchurch from 1959 to 1978, and although "my" Christchurch has been taken from me, I still love the place. I always enjoy returning there.

My only grumbles about the Canterbury Rally both relate to the trial. In my view, it was just too long. We set off at around 11.00am, and were back at 4.00pm, gasping for a Gin and Tonic before the evening activities began.

And do we really need to incorporate stretches of gravel road in every trial? This may be popular with a few "Traction" and 2CV owners, but some Club members enter expensive, pristine cars into the Rally. To me, it is somewhat off-putting to have laboriously prepared a vehicle into "concours" condition only to have all that work destroyed by 10 seconds on a dusty, gravel track.

But hearty congratulations are due the Canterbury Club. From a participant's point of view, the organisation was faultless, the venue and food were fantastic, and our hosts could not have been more hospitable.

RECENT EVENTS

Brit & Euro show – 5th March 2024

By Kevin Beeby

Last year's Brit & Euro show was cancelled due to COVID crowd restrictions and this year Auckland has been battered by a very wet summer, (The Ellerslie Concours was postponed to April 23rd) so it was with some relief that Sunday March 5th dawned clear and bright.



Hasita and I spent some time on the Saturday helping to set-up the park, painting white lines, placing signs etc, etc. There are a number of logistical challenges with a show and space this big and Brit & Euro Committee stalwarts Richard Waugh, Darryl Bretherton Richard Leech and others, put in a considerable effort to ensure a successful day.

One of my jobs on the day was to pick-up Michael Anderson from FOMC and bring him to and from the show. He had to endure the trip in my 1956 2CV, so quite

likely now has developed interests that don't include motoring?! – We had a total of 20 Citroens on our stand for the day and showcased a broad range of models, unusually, Dave Jones' ID19 was the only "D" series. Other's present were Hasita W and John Evan's with 2CVs. Peter Cooper Mehari, Charlie Wallace Dyane, Peter Reed and Pete Sinton had their Tractions. Paul and Melean Absolum had the black CX GTI enroute to the Mainland, Scotty Pearson and Sandy Hall also had their CX. Carl Maitland the



1972 SM, Peter Akeroyd C5 Break and a C6 to complement Alan Poole's C6. Sven Brandsma also had a C5 there. Graham Pilgrim (accompanied by Edward McDonald) and John had recent model C3's, Lawrence Nicholson's XM looked resplendent with the model display in the 13th window, Kerry Bowman's GS Birotor drew a lot of attention and was good company for my GSA. The club pergola provided shade and seating, it's a long day in the sun. Sandy Hall kindly shared a picnic - great Pain Au Chocolat.



I understand that there were about 900 cars there on the day, my car-of-the-show has to be a silver 1940's Lancia Aprilia, suicide doors, V4 1.5L motor. It's a pretty hard choice though as there was no shortage of wonderfully exotic and very rare motors on show. Perhaps a challenge for us next year is to come up with an innovative display of our own?

2023 Pre-Rally Tour

By Kevin Beeby

Others are writing up their impressions of the Mainland Rendezvous, so I thought that I should talk about the Pre-Rally tour to Christchurch.

This year's National Rally followed hot on the heels of the Brit& Euro show.



The Canterbury Club generously altered the planned event date so that the Auckland branch could participate in both. This made for a very busy weekend as I was involved in the Brit & Euro set-up on Saturday and show on Sunday. The Pre-Rally tour started on Monday morning. John

and Margie Hatrick-Smith were the only Aucklanders to sign up and we duly met at the BP services in Papakura to kick-off the convoy. Almost immediately minor issues presented themselves. The Hatricks noticed that my petrol cap had made a break for freedom on the motorway and alerted me. Taupiri

services provided a temporary solution and we headed on for our lunch meeting point at The Okoroire Hot Springs Hotel. On arrival, I called Dave Jones and he kindly sent a new cap on to Rangiora for me. We were the only ones to gather there as Gavin and Sharon Armit were running late and decided to head straight for Turangi as did Ken and Jude Thomas. Daniel Garofalo, my co-organiser, also had to delay his departure by a day. John and Margie had never been to Okoroire, so that was a plus. The salad lunch was excellent and kept our chip count down for at least the first day. A walk down the cypress lined path to the hot pools was a good stretch before getting back on the road. Modern cars are definitely more comfortable. We made a minor unscheduled detour on the way down the western side of the lake and finally found ourselves in the pleasant and verdant surroundings of Creel Lodge. Ken and Jude were already there, introductions were made and as is the way of these tours a social gathering involving a bottle and snacks quickly ensued. When Gavin arrived, we were ready to congratulate him on his birthday.

Turangi, on a Monday night, is not a hotspot, but we managed to find a decent meal at the local pub. There being no shortage of conversation in this small group we didn't head off until after 10 and met for



elevenses and more chat at Café Telephonique in Taihape. I contacted Stewart Lister to tell him that we would be late for our 1.00pm meeting at The Southward Museum only to find that he had his dates wrong and needed to pack and depart pronto. We never made the visit to Southwards, deciding that gin and tonics at the motel sounded better. Stewart managed to get to Paraparaumu Beach in time to dine with us at Sopranos. The C3 Picasso can obviously scuttle along when it needs to? Dan also joined us at the. Next day we met up with fellow club members, the Megchelses, Boakes, Mcfarlanes and Mains in the Interislander queue. Groupe Citroen was growing. Our captain promised that all four engines worked on this vessel and that we would get to Picton on time. Our next social encounter was to be at The Dodson Street Beer Garden, a German style Bier Keller, recommended by Christof Colpi. It's address at No1, however, is not on the corner and it took some finding. However, the beer, food and atmosphere proved to be superb. Three good dinners in a row, woohoo!

The morning's destination, The Omaka Heritage Centre, is a world-class museum showcasing WW1 and WW2 aircraft and artefacts, with captivating and immersive dioramas built by Weta Workshops. Most of the pieces are



owned and loaned by Peter Jackson. Incredibly, a majority of the WWI planes on display are in working order. It's easy to lose hours in here and this place must be one of the best curated museums in the country.

Daniel's plan for the drive to Hanmer Springs, was to travel through the Wairau Valley to St. Arnaud and lunch at Lake Rotoiti among the clouds of sandflies. We managed a timed shot of the group with dramatic cloud and mountains in the backdrop. The drive to

Hanmer via Springs Junction and the Lewis Pass was marred by rain. We met up with David and Pam Gerrie there and they joined us for dinner. The morning



dawned fine and allowed us to enjoy a great little walk featuring wooden sculptures. Sharon and Gavin's grandkids had told them about it after a recent holiday.

We then had some time for a mandatory soak in the hot pools before splitting up to make our own way to the Mainland Rendezvous. It's always a pleasure and privilege to spend time with a relaxed, easy-going group of people and I'm sure that new friendships were forged. I'll look forward the next Citroenista trip.

Coming Events

Day trip to Matakana

Saturday 15 April (note, changed from Sunday 16 because there is no Market that day).

Meet about 10am at the Farmer's Market in Matakana Village then have lunch at one of the great choice of eateries in the area.

In the afternoon regroup 2pm at the Mortimer Motorsport Museum, 44 Matakana Valley Road just north of Matakana. \$10 admission.

Alternatively, the Morris & James Pottery is always worth a look.

An ideal outing to include the grandchildren.

Club Night

Wednesday 19 April, 8pm, VVCC Rooms, 39 Fairfax Avenue Penrose

National Rally Debrief

If you went to the National Rally, bring along your photos to show others. If you didn't go, come and see who was there and what cars they brought with them.

Read magazines from other Clubs, usual supper and chat after.

Ellerslie Classic Car Show

Ellerslie Racecourse, Sunday 23 April, 10am – 4pm
(postponed from 12 February because of Cyclone Gabrielle)

The Club will be showing a selection of Citroens. Members may like to come along for a look.

Kaipara Harbour

Sunday 21 May

4 Hour River and Harbour Cruise, starting and finishing Parakai:

- Explore the Kaipara and Kaukapakapa Rivers viewing the large stands of native bush.
- Sight many bays and inlets accessible only by boat.
- History, Maori Pa Sites, Birdlife, ecology and nature cruise.
- Cruise past the proposed site of New Zealand's 1st nuclear power plant.
- From the middle of the harbour, view Tabora, Sth Kaipara Heads and Pouto Point, also
- Sight a couple of large sculptures on Alan Gibbs Sculpture farm that can be seen from the Kewpie Too as we cruise down past Shelly Beach.
- Informative Commentary throughout the trip.

BYO LUNCH - Tea, Coffee and soft drinks for sale on board (cash only)

Cost: Adults - **\$35.00 per person** Children 5-14yrs: **\$15.00 per person** 0-4yrs free

No Eftpos facilities available



As this would be charter cruise we would require a minimum of 30 and a firm commitment to numbers, money up front, no backing out at the last minute.

Please indicate your interest in doing this cruise to Chris Grove, 09 4837638, grooveytwo@xtra.co.nz as soon as possible, so he can decide if it is worth proceeding with the booking.

Club Library

The following printed newsletters from other car clubs are available to borrow or keep. Just let me know and I will get them to you. Or contact Bill if you would like them by email:

Peugeotex	October, November, December 2022
Bow Tie	July, August, October 2022
Roverdom	December/January, February/March 2023
Victoria	January, February*, March, April 2023
Waikato Chevrons	January, February, March 2023
Taranaki CCC	December/January, February/March 2023
Cit Bits	December 2022
Citroenesque	January, February, March, April 2023
Citroenian (UK)	November, December 2022, January 2023

Cheers, **Chris Grove** 09 4837638 or grooveytwo@xtra.co.nz

In addition, the following are available by email only. Bill will forward them to you on request:

ACE WA	January, February, March 2023
Avant Garde (Queensland)	October - December 2022

**February Victoria Newsletter has an article on “efuel”, carbon-neutral, non-polluting hydrogen/CO₂ based liquids produced by renewable electricity, such as solar farms in the Sahara, which may be of interest to those of us who hope to keep our internal combustion engine classics running into the future.*



Display Sign Stake

Stick-in-ground holder for information about your car at display events.

Cost \$12 each.

These are now in stock, held by Kevin. Contact him at kevinbeeby2@gmail.com. Or if you have already ordered one, pay the money into our bank account 123021-0254097-00, and arrange delivery with him.

Aucklanders at the National Rally

Rangiora, 10, 11, 12 March



Car Of the Rally – Laurie & Judy Newhooks' DS Chapron – and their red SM.



Alan & Max Poole inspecting local D convertible. Christof Colpi (left) and the Tractions



Peter Akeroyd's & Bill Hill's C5s

Alan Poole's C6



Kevin Beeby Saloming in the gymkhana, with the Newhook Chapron and SM, Charlie Wallace's Cactus, Janice Woolsey's C3 and Walter Dean's Berlingo in the background



Charlie Wallace Garaging in the gymkhana, and the Newhooks' Ever Decreasing Circles



Janice Woolsey's Ever Decreasing Circles

Walter or Mitchell Dean doing the Cloverleaf



Geoff Tyler's Ever Decreasing Circles

Christof Colpi in the Cloverleaf



The Chapron at Ashley Gorge during the Navigation / Spotting Run

Mainland Rendezvous – Post Rally Tour, March 2023

By Laurie Newhook

Richard and Helen Howarth succeeded magnificently in planning a post-rally tour for 20 Citroens. Those lucky enough to get a place on the tour travelled for 5 days from Rangiora to Wanaka through the beautiful Mackenzie Country and Lake District. What an adventure...in more ways than one !

This was to be our post-Covid rally and tour...sort of!

A visit to historic Terrace Station homestead. Early cars and farm vehicles were of quite some interest.

Our next visit, at Hororata below the snows of Mt Hutt, was to Bruce Williams's car museum. In a shed largely devoted to classic Citroens, we found this enthusiast waxing eloquent. About a dozen cars including notably a 1920s Autochenille Kegresse (half-tracked Sahara-crossing exponent), a CX 25 DTR Turbo 2 and a pile of bits of a 1939 Type 11 CL3 Roadster. Bruce's statement mid-flight of his presentation being (recorded as his advice to partner Maureen when considering a purchase) "*We could do with one of those!*". How many times has that sentiment been contemplated by any of us, spoken or at least secretly considered?



Barbecue at Lake Tekapo

Geraldine was our overnight stop, then onto a heritage steam railway at Pleasant Point. The day finished with a stop at Lake Tekapo, with a great BBQ meal put on by some of our group at our accommodation.

The third morning started with a visit to Tekapo's 'Dark Sky Project',

housed in an impressive building in the Tekapo Village. A mind-blowing amount of information to absorb in just over an hour! A side trip to small and attractive Lakes Alexandrina and McGregor was very worthwhile. Seeing nesting Australasian Crested Grebes was special, before we moved on to Twizel, the base for some of NZ's big hydro projects of decades ago.

The following day we travelled the route to Mount Cook Village via Lakes Ohau and Pukaki. Happily, the cloud lifted the further north we drove, with a great view of Mt Cook opening out near the Hermitage. Some of us made the beautiful walk to Hooker Lake (formerly the path of the Hooker Glacier), complete with small floating icebergs.

Accommodation that evening was in the very comfortable Lake Ohau Lodge where we enjoyed a fine dinner.

Day 5 involved the drive to Lake Wanaka over the stunning Lindis Pass, through beautiful tussock country.



Drinks at Ohau Lodge

Some of us visited the little-known but very competent Maori Point Vineyard, and were not disappointed by the products.

And so on to Wanaka, our ultimate destination.

So, why *“our post-Covid rally and tour...sort of?”* Well, several of our group contracted Covid, either at Rangiora or en route, and only 12 of the 39 starters made it to the finale BBQ. We are happy relate that those who succumbed and had to isolate where they fell, are now fully recovered.

Trading Post

Trading Post ads are free, but because people too often forget to let us know when no longer required, will run for only three issues unless you ask for a repeat.

For Sale: 2008 C5 Tourer. Black. 236,000km, one family owner, in good condition. WoF & Reg, but there is a problem in that the engine will occasionally cut out. It has always gone again, but any purchaser needs to be aware of that. Contact for more information: Doig Smith, 027 4478807, doigsmith182@gmail.com

For Sale: 2007 Citroen C6 2.7 HDi Turbo diesel auto. Reg No PFN669 Speedo 104,178 MLS. A chance to buy a classic Citroen in the making. The C6 was introduced in 2006 and was produced until 2012. The cost to buy New in NZ was approx. \$109,000. With self-levelling hydro-pneumatic suspension which is electronically controlled. Automatic rear spoiler, alloy wheels, heads up display, lots of airbags, air conditioning, am/fm stereo, leather seats plus many many more. Power full V6 / 2.7 litre turbo diesel engine coupled to a six speed Tip Tronic transmission. Driving is believing. I purchased this vehicle six months ago from the original owner who had brought it new in the U.K. (First registered in NZ 1/12/2015) It has been my "pet project" since then but still has two things to complete i.e. the EGR valve at the front of the engine needs replacing and the passenger's door doesn't stay central locked. Along with the electronic key not working. (These parts must be sourced from overseas). I have priced the C6 to allow for these to be completed by its new owner. Would consider a tidy vehicle in part exchange. MTF finance is available to an approved purchaser. WOF expires 11/11/2023, Registration expires 31/08/2023 RUC current to 106,271 MLS. Price \$14,440 Firm. Call Peter Akeroyd on 029-5250800 to view and test drive.



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EVENT REMINDERS

Matakana

Saturday 15 April

Matakana Market in the morning, Mortimer's Motor Sport Museum in the afternoon

Club Night

National Rally Debrief

Wednesday 19 April 8pm, VVCC Rooms 39 Fairfax Avenue Penrose

Ellerslie Classic Car Show

Sunday 23 April 2023

Ellerslie Race Course

Committee Meeting

Wednesday 17 May, 7.30pm, VVCC Rooms 39 Fairfax Avenue Penrose

Kaipara Harbour Cruise

Sunday 21 May 2023

For more information ask any committee member. (Contact details on inside front cover).

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BRIT & EURO



CLASSIC
Car Show

Free
EVENT

LLOYD
ELSMORE
PARK
PAKURANGA

SUNDAY

3 March

2024

10AM-3PM

• WWW.BRITEUROCARSHOW.NZ •