



# NZ BUICK REGISTER

March 2016



## ***What's been going on,***

Its been quiet this last few weeks but we continue to receive membership requests. The weather has an autumnal feel to it now with the mornings and night temps in single figures which makes for more pleasant working conditions. This newsletter is shorter than I hoped for various reasons. The BCA Nationals at Allentown PA marking the BCA 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations is drawing closer and I hear a few more of our membership are going.

Closer to home our BCCA NSW colleagues are keen to see us at their 2016 Australia Buick Nationals being held at Illawarra Aug 21-27 and Canberra Aug 27-Sep 3. The location, accommodation details and dates are on their website : <http://www.buickclub.org.au/nationals>

## ***Current activity***

Thanks to better weather the '26 now has the wear on the front door jambs and the distorted bonnet centre hinge fettled. The bonnet is painted and yesterday I gained the WOF and can now continue the running in process (legally)! The modern design alloy pistons have noticeably improved the engine crispness and when fully warm the engine idles and powers up well. I was intrigued to read a recent trail on a Buick forum about the wisdom of converting to alloy pistons. One owner wanted to overhaul his engine and fit new cast iron pistons which are still available if you search. He felt that keeping the engine original was more important than making it run sweetly. I was surprised at the general lack of understanding expressed of the benefits of alloy pistons – in my case the total piston weight was halved a reduction in the rotating mass of some 3.5kgs! George Calder a long time Christchurch engine builder and tuner reckons they'll be the story but possibly I may notice a small reduction in the engine "lugging ability". We'll see....

I'm delighted to report that Rob in Wanganui also now has the '26-54 roadster running well and that it "idles beautifully", something it hasn't done for years – local VCC identities have known this car for decades and were delighted to see it out again (and idling) at their recent branch dinner outing which Rob and Linda also prepared – is there no end to the talents of Buick enthusiasts!

Speaking of success, Ashley, our man in Timaru, reports his trophy cabinet is rapidly filling. Ashley completed his magnificent '26-45 restoration about 18mths ago and it has steadily collected hardware ever since – he recently cleaned up the vintage concours and time trial sections of the Mid Island Rally, a SCVCC annual event - Well done Ashley, see photo page.

There must be other success stories out there we can share with the Register ..?

John and Shirley Foote report they and the '37 made it home safely to Waipukarau after their recent mammoth 4500mile expedition to Dunedin and points south – well done to you both. John is taking a breather and recovering from minor surgery, but I expect he'll be up and about shortly – you cant keep a good Buick man down!

Well to the Register; thanks to those of you who acknowledged this milestone and my apologies for the transcription errors that crept in – I know some of you were hoping to find new Buicks in your workshop that you didn't know you had! I'll put some more time into it and reissue it in the winter along with some new member details.

On the subject of milestones I've organised a picnic run for Easter Monday here in Christchurch. This is I think the first event organised for the Register although I'm not sure what's been happening in our more northern regions. The run will be about 80kms all up allowing time for fellowship and car gazing. **The event will start from the Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark, West coast Road (not far from ChCh airport) gathering at 1045hrs Monday 28 March and heading inland to a picnic area** with toilets and views and then conclude at a local members place for a cuppa. Informality is the keynote with a focus on meeting other enthusiasts. Contact me with any questions. I look forward to it.



**Classifieds**

**1918 Buick E series;** Wanted a 6-cyl roadster tub and guards (see, roadsters again..!) Contact Vaughn Gunthorpe; [vaughnlynn@bigpond.au](mailto:vaughnlynn@bigpond.au)

**1969 Buick Electra;** I have a 1969 Buick Electra brought in from Canada which is advertised on Trade Me. The car is not yet complianced to NZ standards. Will sell it as-is for offers around \$25k. Please contact Lesley Taylor on 0274 85 2223 in Christchurch. *(Ed note; this is a lovely car)*

**1935 Buick 8/50;** Wanted cylinder head and spark plug cover for a 1934 Model 56S coupe. Contact Kevin Jones in Forster, QLD at [svolimo@bigpond.com](mailto:svolimo@bigpond.com)

**Editorial**

I see that world share markets are behaving erratically again, or is that still, as so called insecurity grips the world apparently – it is so tiresome the “some go up some go down” mantra that it has become inbred for the industry to be so negative – mind you many can make fortunes out of this “insecurity”.

We don't need this sort of behaviour although I admit looking globally can be a bit depressing. Best we just get out and into our Buick's and enjoy the fellowship and experiences that are available in groups such as ours. So, the event in Christchurch and the enthusiasm for a gathering in the central/lower North Island around Deco 2017 time are a good start. Any ideas for the NI event format to Jim Laird at; [jim.laird@wise.net.nz](mailto:jim.laird@wise.net.nz) or 06-3771731

Best wishes  
Graham



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*Pictures from around the membership*

