



The American Classic Car Club

Canterbury Inc

March 2026 Newsletter

President's Report

Hello everyone,

Well, the presidents Picnic is almost a distant memory, not much more to add as Peter has covered it nicely in his report, except to say a huge thanks to my family and friends and everyone who attended. It was a pleasure to host the event, and as with all our events; yes, it is about the cars, but for me, it is more about the people. It would not have been much fun if we were all sitting in an empty car park.

The club's inaugural members night was well attended for a first-time event, again, Peter has covered it nicely in his report but, your collective presence made it well worthwhile, and the lively discussion kept me on my game. It has given the committee much to think about and actions to deliver on.

As always, a big thanks to the committee who beaver away in the background. I really have come to appreciate how much work goes on behind the scenes and I am very grateful for the unwavering support, both from the committee and the wider membership. It is at the end of the day, the members who continue to turn up and contribute that makes the club what it is, an exclusive group of car enthusiasts.

I look forward to seeing you all out on the trail 15th March.

Graeme Martin

President

The American Classic Car Club



Craig's Conundrum's - February Comments

Hi all, there goes another month, a quarter of the year gone by the time you read this. The passage of time is getting ridiculous, I/We have been in Christchurch for nine years now and it feels like the proverbial yesterday!

The year for us kicked off with a run from Yaldhurst to John & Justine Ackroyd's "Spread" in Rolleston. Again we had a very strong turnout of club members on a beautiful day. Quite a sight with all our cars (around 20) parked on the grass with a full sized Boeing 737 fuselage as a backdrop. John has a particularly eclectic eye for collecting! The Boeing ended life as an obsolete air frame and was used by Air NZ as a hostess training unit and then kitted out as an executive jet to demonstrate what was achievable with these aircraft. The result is truly incredible with a full sized board table and a suite of leather chairs to compliment it along with fully electric window shades throughout for dusk and night simulations!- each of the leather chairs worth \$20,000. John has also kitted the rear section out as a B&B with the end result being absolutely Stunning.

The rest of the property contained the obligatory very large shed with a cluster of Hot Rods and associated bits and pieces including a low mileage very low ownership 1956 (?) De Soto pickup truck which reportedly caught our President's eye and may end up in the Martin collection. Another building set up as a retro Bar and entertainment area which adjoined a BBQ area where Cathie & Graeme beavered away cooking sausages served between slabs of bread for our lot - awesome effort, the final jewel in the crown is the front section of a 1938 Douglas C-47A Skytrain aircraft which has a section grafted to the back of it, set up on a dual axle trailer all of which swallows and transports John & Justine's Hot Rod Roadster with No:9 graphics on the doors - No:9 because John created it in 9 days!- the front section and cockpit houses all of the accoutrements needed to operate as a fully fledged "Caravan" - all for traveling to various Beach Hops and similar events. An awesome day and a very big thanks to John & Justine for their hospitality.

Sadly, Dave Busch was unable to make it on the day due to an absolute mongrel of a food poisoning type of affliction which laid him very low for a considerable period. Dave had done a magnificent job of pulling this run together for us.

So a huge thanks to Dave for his efforts.

We have also just completed the "President's Picnic" and not a day too soon - the recent deluge turned our picnic area specifically into a veritable lake however our day was perfect!

The day kicked off with a run from Princes Margaret Hospital car park and ran via Old Tai Tap road through Motukarara and over Gebbies Pass to Orton Bradley Park with something like 20 cars. Once in the park and with the cars lined up we were greeted with a pretty special experience.

Graeme and Cathie along with some family members and staff had been there since the early hours and set up a "field kitchen" to be truly proud of also with a traveling entertainment stage! - We were treated to dressed tables and a smorgasbord of Pork, Beef, spuds, Pumpkin, various salads and condiments along with bread rolls followed by dessert - all supported by The girl group Fire and Ice, Graeme and Cathie's son also entertained us and we even had some renditions by Graeme himself- all of which kept a hard core of members dancing in front of the stage trailer - Brilliant!

Once again a truly engaging event and a huge effort by Graeme, Cathie and their entourage. Really encouraging also to see some very long standing members whom we had not had the pleasure of being with for some time.

Inaugural "Club Night":

Minutes will follow covering the first meeting which met with a good degree of success. Thanks again to Sue & Janvier's hospitality in a beautiful setting on really nice evening. Approximately 26 people attended and a broad cross section of thoughts was covered as noted in the minutes. Constructive spirited discussion regarding several topics once again proved the worth of these meetings.

Again - a very big thankyou to Sue & Janvier for hosting this first meeting in such a great atmosphere!

Peter Craig - Club Captain.







President's Picnic 15th Feb 2026





Sunday 15th March North Canterbury Beach Hop

Not really - but that got your attention no doubt! Dave is well back on deck and has come up with an excellent run -starting off at Pegasus and travelling mostly on quieter back roads toward Greta Valley.

Travelling just past Greta Valley turning right toward Motunau Beach for a BYO everything picnic - Returning via Greta Valley Tavern for a Raspberry in the sun before heading for home.

Meet at Ravenswood by Harvey Norman at the Pegasus/ Main North Rd Highway at 10am to be gone by 10:30

Further details closer to the time of the event - in the meantime be sure to put the date in your diaries.

Any queries in the meantime call Dave Busch on 021 146 5668 or Peter Craig on 021 898 396



For Sale

Iconic 1956 Ford Thunderbird in rare Sage Green



The first generation Thunderbird was unveiled in 1954 at the Detroit Auto Show and produced for the 1955 - 1957 model years. The 1956 Thunderbird shared the same body as the 1955 vehicle but a few changes made the 1956 model unique.

- ▶ The spare wheel was moved to a Continental-style external mount freeing up trunk space
- ▶ The addition of the Continental kit increased the car's length by almost 10 inches
- ▶ Wind wings were added on the windshield for improved air circulation
- ▶ Cowl vents were added on each fender to enhance interior ventilation
- ▶ Circular "porthole" windows were added to the hardtop as a no-cost option, improving rear visibility
- ▶ The electrical system transitioned from a 6-volt to a 12-volt electrical system
- ▶ Air vents were added behind the front wheels to enhance cabin ventilation
- ▶ The exhaust tips were relocated to the ends of the bumper to accommodate the new rear-mounted spare tire

This car was built 28 March 1956 at Ford's Dearborn, Michigan plant, and first sold out of a dealer in San Jose.

Only 15631 T-Birds were produced in 1956. Its estimated that fewer than 700 of these were finished in the rare colour of Sage Green - a colour that Ford offered for 3 months only in 1956, making this car a rare specification for its year.



This car arrived in New Zealand as a rare rust free example with 93951 miles on the clock in 2020 after which it underwent a significant restoration that included:

- ▶ Engine reconditioning
- ▶ Transmission reconditioning
- ▶ A repaint in the period correct colour of Sage Green
- ▶ A new interior in the period correct colours of green and white
- ▶ A new white soft-top
- ▶ New tyres
- ▶ New windscreen
- ▶ New rubbers

Now with 94208 miles on the clock it has added only 257 miles since restoration in the 5-6 years since 2020.

- ▶ **Engine code P:** 312 cu.i V8, 4 BBL, 3-speed manual with overdrive
- ▶ **Body colour Z:** period correct rare Sage Green
- ▶ **Interior colour:** period correct green / white
- ▶ Green porthole hard-top
- ▶ White folding soft-top
- ▶ Leather steering-wheel cover
- ▶ Rear wheel spats
- ▶ Electrically adjustable seat
- ▶ Continental kit
- ▶ Registered and warranted



Contact: Kevin Giles-Pain. 03 376 4686 or 0274 520 414





Club Events 2026

Save The Dates

▶ **Sunday 15th March** - North Canterbury Beach Hop

Not really – but that got your attention no doubt! Dave is well back on deck and has come up with an excellent run - starting off at Pegasus and traveling mostly on quieter back roads toward Greta Valley.

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Further details closer to the time of the event – in the meantime be sure to put the date in your diaries.

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▶ **Caroline Bay Rock N Hop: 19th - 22nd March:** While not a club event, a few members will be traveling to Timaru to take this event in. If you wish to accompany some club members for the run South call Murray Marshall on 027 200 1350 or Sam Ng on 027 479 3736.

▶ **April Event – Sunday 19th April:** Potential of a run to Ashburton - Breakfast at the Drift Inn then a visit to a car collector. All details TBA at a later date.

▶ **AGM – Sunday 17th May:** Mark it in your calendars – Time and venue TBA.

▶ **June Event: Sunday 21st June:** This is the club's 55th year - discussions are to be had at committee level with regard to how we celebrate this milestone and what format it will take. Further details TBA however mark the date in your calendar in the meantime.

Non-Club Events 2026

See Event Posters Last Page

- ▶ **Saturday, Feb 28th - Hanmer Motorfest** - 8:30am - 4:30pm Hanmer Springs Domain, Jacks Pass Road
- ▶ **Saturday, Mar, 9th - Franz Josef Glacier Country Car Show** 10am - 1pm
- ▶ **Saturday, Mar, 13th - 15th - Twizel Show N Shine** - Ohau Rd Twizel.
- ▶ **Caroline Bay Rock N Hop: 19th - 22nd March -**
While not a club event A few members will be traveling to Timaru to take this event in. If you wish to accompany some club members for the run South call Murray Marshall on 027 200 1350 or Sam Ng on 027 479 3736
- ▶ **Sunday, Mar, 29th - Drive Day at The Willows Loburn** - From midday
See Poster Last Page for Details
Cricket, Cars, Country Charm. Bring your own BYO picnic lunch, settle on the bank with your deck chairs and enjoy the ambience of The Willows Cricket Club pavilion while watching a classic afternoon of cricket

First Sunday of the month

Kustoms Car Club - Breakfast and Meet, McLeans Island Rd

Starts 8am.

Great social occasion. Always many Fords, Chevys, Chryslers, Hotrods and Classics etc
All welcome. No Charge. Public can attend to view cars.

Hosted by Kustoms Car Club

Second Sunday of the month

Rodders, Customs, Classics Breakfast - The Highway Inn, 527 Sawyers Rd Arms Rd

Starts 9am.

Reminder this event is for Hot Rods, Muscle Cars, Customs, Classic American and Australian
Only, NO Japas and NO Euros.

All welcome. No Charge. Public can attend to view cars.

Third Sunday of the Month

VCC - OLD CARS, BIKES AND COFFEE - Cutler Park, McLeans Island Rd

On the third Sunday of the month we invite all members and any interested members of the
public to join us at Cutler Park from 9am-12pm for coffee and a catch-up.

All welcome. No Charge. Public can attend to view cars.

Hosted by VCC

Last Friday of the Month

BellaRat's Gas & Gander Meet at the NPD, 740 Jones Road, Rolleston

Good food for sale. Show up in your rat rod, hotrod, classic or whatever.

All welcome. No Charge. Public can attend to view cars.

Hosted by BellaRat's Gas & Gander

Participation by Members and/or associates at any Club event is entered at their own risk. The Club accepts no responsibility for actions or damage in respect of liability for injury or property damage caused by or to any person while attending a Club event.

2025/2026 Committee

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| President | Graeme Martin | 021 312561 | |
| Vice President | Murray Marshall | 027 2001350 | |
| Secretary | Cathie Martin | 027 4350255 | acccanty@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Maria Van Nus | 022 3854001 | |
| Club Captain | Peter Craig | 021 898396 | |
| Committee | Dave Busch | 021 1465668 | |
| Committee | Gary Court | 021 437488 | |
| Committee | Wendy Marshall | 027 2001350 | |
| Committee | Sam Ng | 027 4793736 | |

FOR SALE

Members... can advertise your vehicle or parts in the clubs newsletter.
Contact email: acccanty@gmail.com



Vehicle for Special Occasions

Looking to add a touch of classic style to your wedding or other special occasion?
Several of our members make their vehicles available.

Please note: The club does not arrange or manage the services.
If you are interested, we can put you in contact with the vehicle owner directly for further information

FOR SALE: - - - -

CLASSIC MOPARS (Mostly) offered for sale by probably the most discerning follower of the MOPAR brand in New Zealand. These are very valuable and rare machines and are in varying presentations from "Project" to very good running condition. **Contact Geoff Matthews on 0274 399 817 for further details and or photos.**

CARS FOR SALE

All these classic cars are available by contacting the advertiser

- 1955 Chrysler Windsor. 2-dr hard top. Project. \$11500
- 1956 Chrysler New Yorker 2-dr hard top. Loaded. \$17500
- 1957 Dodge Coronet 2-dr club sedan D500. Project. \$7750
- 1957 Chrysler Imperial 2-dr hard top (with 57 4-dr parts car). Project. \$14500
- 1960 Dodge Matador 4-dr hard top runs/drives. \$16000
- 1959 Desoto Fireflite 2-dr hard top. \$17000
- 1960 Cadillac convertible runs/drives. \$26500
- 1960 Dodge Polara 4-dr hard top. Black. reg/wof. \$58500
- 1961 Desoto 2-dr hard top factory black car with new SMS seat covers (\$USD2200)
In Christchurch. \$17500
- 1964 Pontiac Grand Prix coupe reg/wof. Very original. 8 lug wheels. On road. \$46500
- 1992 Corvette ZR1. Red, reg/wof. In Christchurch. \$47500

More information and photos available.

Contact seller: Geoff Matthews

Phone: 0274 399 817

HOSTED BY: **FALCON FAIRLANE**
CAR CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH

HANMER MOTORFEST 2026

SATURDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY 2026
HANMER SPRINGS
DOMAIN, JACKS PASS ROAD

CG SIGNAGE **MGD** Mount Grey Downs Limited **AUTO GLASS** CRACK BLASTING CRACK REPAIRS

MAG & TURBO **BOLLARDS PLUS** **starinsure**

TWIZEL
HEART OF THE HACKENZIE

SHOW N SHINE

Lake Taupo Holiday Park

THE CLUB

MARCH 13TH - 15TH 2026, OHAU ROAD

19 20 21 22 MARCH

CAROLINE BAY 2026

ROCK AND HOP

TIMARU

FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER COUNTRY

Car Show

9TH MAY 2026
10AM - 1PM

GLACIER COUNTRY CAR SHOW
Franz Josef

MOTORBIKES AND ALL VEHICLES WELCOME

Register On-Line Via Facebook or Email to: glaciercountrycarshow@gmail.com
 Located at Franz Josef TOPIO Holiday Park

TOP **PRODUCED BY GLACIER COUNTRY**

Gold Coin Entry with funds raised going to South Westland St Johns Ambulance

Drive Day at The Willows

Cricket • Cars • Country Charm

— Drive your special car to —
62 Roundhill Road, Loburn

Sunday 29 March 2026
From midday

*Bring your **BYO picnic lunch**, settle on the bank with your deck chairs,
and enjoy the ambience of The Willows Cricket Club pavilion while
watching a classic afternoon of cricket.*

— **Cricket Match** —
The Willows vs Waimea College

2.00 pm

*Wander over for a house and garden viewing
of the **historic cob cottage**, and learn more
about the history of the property and
The Willows Cricket Club pavilion.*

A relaxed afternoon of motoring, cricket, heritage,

— **All welcome** —

Contact: Winsome Dormer 021325389

Event: wet or fine

