



finz © is the official magazine of the Cadillac La Salle Club of New Zealand Inc.



Rondezvous!



FINZ Magazine Editor: Ron Melville

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Contributions to: finzmagazine@gmail.com

The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject any contributions.

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Hello all and thanks for the positive feedback on our 'Retro-style' mag for 2023!

As I type this, Auckland is in the midst of a historic flooding emergency. I hope none of our Auckland members are severely impacted and that your Caddy and other old cars are safe!?

In this issue we have coverage of outings from my own BoP Region and Taranaki. Our cover Caddy this month is the always shiny and sharp-looking '60 ragtop of Kevin and Christine Conder from Tauranga. The colour suited our 'Strawberry Farm' destination and also ties-in well for February being Valentines Day celebration (Happy 36th Wedding Anniversary to my dear wife, Andre for the 14th!)

My 'Rondezvous' page will for this year feature a background of someones Caddy (or LaSalle), just because...! Tony and Tania Ziino's (CLC Victoria, Aust) newly restored '60 looks resplendent in blue. There's a few more images of their fab Caddy throughout our issue. Thanks Tony and Tan!

Elsewhere in this issue:-

- > A 'Crime figure's Caddy' we might see on our 50th!
- > Editors page saluting past singers & Celebrities that have left us plus 'What have I been watching on TV?'
- > Huge Cadillac sign located
- > Another 'Amazing Cadillac Image' from the archives!
- > 50th Anniversary teasers!
- > News from the Caddy family
- > Kev is in fine, Fin form!
- > Miss Lane page and Events pasted on our 'Fridge!'
- > And the best Tails in Town!

Until next issue, keep Covid-safe, cruise safe, dry and send your summer stories and pics to me at finzmagazine@GMail.com

Best regards, Ron (Ed)



BoP's BIG Day Out!



The BoPs Big Day Out!

A cruise to a Strawberry Farm which has been part of Tamahere for more than 25 years was immensely enjoyed by our Caddy Cruiser's. With a real character of its own The Punnet Eatery was our desired destination. Clean and green with an easy farm house feel, free range eggs with organic and gluten free options grace the menu here. With that been said some of us opted for the all day breakfast of dry cured bacon and eggs on gluten free toast. Real strawberry ice cream and strawberry hotcakes are on offer as well. The Punnet café oozes with charm and character which makes it hard not to come back again. An after lunch wander to The Country Provider, which is literally next door has a selection of fresh local produce, books, knick-knacks and more. So now that our tummies and footprints are full of clean and green it's time to fire up some American steel. A well balanced ending with a hearty V8 throb as we cruise to Scotsman Valley Road to savour the sweet smell freshly cut of meadow hay. Oh yes there may well come a day, of all electric cars so let's savour these moments of pure American glory before our foot print has vanished forever. Well Caddy Cruiser's until next time keep pedal to the metal. And as always our club is easily satisfied with the very best.

Steve Gill, BoP Regional Delegate

It was almost a clean and green weekend, with green Caddies, free-range and gluten free foods! Actually we enjoyed 'free ranging' in our Caddies! Ed



Being 'rail-roaded!'



TARANAKI

Hi Ron. We had a really cool little roady in the '75 from Waitara to Palmerston North and back on Saturday to collect a 1972 Dodge Challenger our son has just bought.

Barbara organised this month's club run which included a train ride from Waitara to Lepperton and back. This is run by our local rail enthusiasts group and runs most Sundays during daylight savings. We had 18 in our group. Whilst at the Lepperton station an old rail car was seen also running for train enthusiasts from New Plymouth this time to Lepperton but sometimes it travels to Inglewood. After the train ride which took just over an hour it was back to ours for a potluck BarBQ. The weather was so hot we struggled to get everybody under shade. Fortunately Ray Inwood just happens to carry a spare pop up gazebo in the trunk of the '59. Everybody appears to have enjoyed themselves.

Best Regards Grant [Looks like a fun time Grant, Ed]



Grant & Barbs '75 lines up the 'gun-sight' on sons Mopar!
Looks like a nice ride guys. Ed





Our Global Cadillac Family from NZ and around the world!

California, USA

Ron, You may be aware of this car but if not, it's an interesting story. (Article from Hagerty Insurance online newsletter)
Jim Davidson, Encino, California

https://www.hagerty.com/media/automotive-history/when-l-a-s-most-notorious-gangster-built-a-bulletproofcadillac/?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_content=MED_UN_NA_EML_UN_WeekendRoadTrip&hashed_email=bfa3a43332cc421f89da3ef94278e10accf45b509ac5e29ae95db8876caf2f4e

This story is about L.A.'s most notorious gangster who had built a bulletproof Cadillac.

The shots rang out at 3:55 in the morning - attempted murder on the Sunset Strip. It was July 19, 1949. Special agent Harry Cooper took two in the stomach, Dee David got hit in the back, and Neddie Herbert got a bullet in the side. Neddie didn't make it. Everyone else lived, including the fourth wounded, a gangster with two slugs in his shoulder. When Mickey Cohen walked out of the hospital a few days later, he knew they'd try again. So he made a call about a Cadillac. He was born Meyer Harris Cohen, in New York City, in 1913. Cohen's parents could not have known their son would become a key figure in the Los Angeles underworld, but the boy was a bad seed from the get-go. At nine, he was sent to reform school for "persistent thievery." At the tender age of 15, the young Cohen fancied himself a boxer, so he went to Cleveland to fight. He took his nickname there, to sound more like an Irish prizefighter and get on fight cards easier.

Cohen wasn't a great boxer, but he wasn't a bad one, either. He was a fireplug, just five-foot-five, a bulldog in the ring. Half the time he lost it was only because some palooka had knocked him out. He fell in with a criminal element, guys with names like Moe and Lou. When he moved to Chicago, he met Al Capone, Public Enemy Number One, the most famous criminal in the country. After the FBI put America's gangster-in-chief away for tax evasion, Cohen began working as an enforcer for Capone's crime family. When threats from a rival forced him to skip town, he tried Cleveland for a bit, then lit out for the west. When Cohen hit L.A. in 1939, the town didn't know enough to do the smart thing and hit back. Hollywood's noir period was rooted in true stories of the local underworld: bent cops, illicit card games, shootouts between rival bookies



- the crime was out in the open, and half the time, on the Strip itself. Cohen became the Capone of California, a legend later played onscreen by the likes of Harvey Keitel, Paul Guilfoyle, and Sean Penn.

In 1949, when that heater put those bullets in his shoulder, Cohen was deep into a war with mafia kingpin Jack Dragna. When the east-coast syndicates came to town, chiefed by the notorious Bugsy Siegel, Dragna was all wet, shoved out of power. The hoods from the east and the hoods from the west held an uneasy alliance for a few years, and then, in '47, Siegel got fitted for a Chicago overcoat. Cohen took over, but he refused to be Dragna's goon. Some believe Dragna ordered Cohen's blood spilled on Sunset. In truth, that hospital visit was courtesy the L.A. police, a group of crooked cops trying to keep Cohen from ratting them out. Because a man like Cohen always has more enemies than friends, he knew it was time to buy a car. In the summer of 1950, a small L.A. shop named Coachcraft Limited got a call from a local Cadillac dealer. Coachcraft had built armored cars for foreign dignitaries, but this build was different—this dealer's customer wanted his new Sixty Special bulletproof. A week later, Cohen showed up at Coachcraft, nattily dressed as always, to sketch out his needs: looks as stock as possible, plus more toughness than the standard armored car. Where traditional car armor would repel a .45-caliber slug, our man wanted to stop a .38-cal armor-piercing shell.

Coachcraft got to work. Materials were tested at the L.A.P.D.'s firing range. Two-inch thick laminated glass was ordered. The entire passenger compartment was armored. All told, the work totaled 1500 man-hours and added 2000 pounds to the car's 4000-pound heft. When they were done, they painted it a dark navy blue, like the night. Al Capone had an armored Cadillac, a '28, but that car never got a chance to stop a shot. Cohen's joined the club. His Sixty was so heavy that a special permit was required to drive it on the highway, a permit Cohen couldn't have. Meanwhile, in the U.S. Senate, the Kefauver commission had begun to dig in on organized crime. Cohen found himself hauled in. He testified alongside dirty men like Meyer Lansky, Frank Costello, and the associates of Atlantic City's notorious



"..Sixty was so heavy that a special permit was required to drive it on the highway.."

Nucky Thompson. The feds convicted Cohen on tax evasion in 1951, then again in 1961. He did prison stints for each charge, and in 1972, when he left the penitentiary for good, he went on TV talk shows, cheeky and colorful. Four years later, when the criminal in America's living rooms died of stomach cancer, his armored Cadillac was still at large. One account has Mickey selling it to a Texas oil man. The car was more likely confiscated by the Los Angeles police. But the strangest truth of all is where Cohen's Cadillac now rests, some 6600 miles away from the City of Angels, in a museum in Otaihangā, New Zealand. Information is thin on the Caddy's arrival there. Car collector Sir Len Southward acquired Cohen's Sixty for his car museum, but he died in 2004, and he mostly kept his files in his head. Regardless, Southward seems to have been a generally brave and decent person. He raced and set records with speedboats and motorcycles, and he was knighted for charitable work, helping children with disabilities. That such a man would buy and preserve the car of a notorious gangster is indicative of eclectic taste. Southward's museum also houses the only DeLorean DMC-12 in New Zealand, a V-16 Cadillac once owned by actress Marlene Dietrich, an early Stutz Indy car, and a three-wheeled Davis Divan. It's a long flight from Los Angeles to New Zealand, a long way to see a relic of the days when Sunset Boulevard was a battleground. Or rather, the first days. The spot where Cohen was plugged, the spot that set him on the path to building that Cadillac, would see violence again. In 2014, an unknown gunman shot and wounded hip-hop mogul Suge Knight six times at a nightclub at the same address—9039 Sunset Boulevard. Seventy-four years after Cohen walked out of that hospital, there is still Hollywood, still palm trees, still beaches and tourists. And still danger under the gloss. Except once, when you ran with a tough crowd, you brought a Cadillac nearly 19 feet long, and you tried to blend in!

[Many thanks Jim for the great article. Our 50th will be visiting the Southward Museum and with luck we will see Cohen's Caddy on display! More pics from this article on next page. By the way, there are a number of Deloreans here in NZ now. They are not common, but they are here! Ed]

Our Global Cadillac Family from NZ and around the world!

Continued from our Cohen Caddy article, here's a couple more pics. Two are from Southwards and other of Cohen. Ed



Texas, USA - Fintastic! Very good issue. Happy New Year. Bill "Lifer" Levy, President, Newsletter Editor, Pate Swap Meet Director - North Texas Region Cadillac & LaSalle Club

Ron, That blue Biarritz is a real beauty! Enjoy your summer. We are having record cold in the U.S. overall and the south specifically. Lots of single digits fahrenheit with wind chills way below zero. Not good convertible weather! Happy New Year, P. S. The fund raiser for a cruise in the pink Caddy to raise money for breast cancer is a great idea! Bill Overend (Atlanta)

IRELAND, UK - Hi Ron, Great magazine. Some really high quality photos in there. All the best for 2023! Best regards, Nick Stratta

England, UK - Happy New Year and I hope 2023 is good for you, especially as it's a landmark year for Cadillac LaSalle NZ. A great idea to go retro with the magazine, back to when you took over. Have to say, using the real lights to form FINZ was and still is brilliant, as my buddy Amos would say - 'You Rock Dude'. Phil Hole Editor

Melbourne, AUSTRALIA

Paul Dixon emailed and shared a LINK about the proposed new Andretti/ Cadillac Formula 1 bid, subject to the usual approvals. Understandably, there is a few objections (maybe the rivals are fearful on the possibility of Cadillac succeeding?). I read where it is rumoured former F1 World Champion, Lewis Hamilton might drive for Cadillac? Click on the floowing LINK. Cool graphics on the car - Ed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFnBEAGmOPs>



Hi Ron, I hope you are well. It slipped my mind to write to you about your "puzzle". It looks like the Cadillac is being "electrically charged". Who would have thought about that concept back then? But, historically, I remember reading about cars around the 1900s that were electrically powered. I am amazed that the photo of my car in your magazine is from 2014!! Where has the time gone? What a very pleasant surprise seeing my car in your magazine which featured many colourful and iconic Cadillac images. I was scrolling and reading bearing in mind your "banner headings". Then I saw the words "Amazing Cadillac Images The best of the best Finz Images" and then a photo of my car. What can I say Ron?? Thank you. Mark Bean certainly is a photographer extraordinaire. I have passed on your regards to Johnny. Best regards, George Akele [Thanks George. Yes, we have shared some fab images over the years. Ed]

Hi Ron, Hope all is well. Fantastic work on the redesign, mag looks amazing! Thanks for re running the photo of George's Seville, absolutely love Grant and Noeleen's photo of the row of Caddies in front of the mountain. Best Regards Mark Mark Bean Photography e: mrbean@tpg.com.au p: 04 1958 1958 ig: @markbeanphoto [Thanks Mark. Have you done any more amazing Caddy images of late? Best, Ed]

Howdy Ron, was very nice to get the latest Finz and see I got a mention - very kind cobber. The Cowboy Aka Steve Westmacott [Great to hear from you too. Best to Helen and Cody! Ed]

Hi Ron - (Tony's email is in response to his request for info to see some Caddy related stuff whilst he and Tania were here in NZ on a short trip and only to specific places late last year). Thank you so much for your assistance and the Diner and museum was great. (the one in Hamilton/ Juke Box Diner) The Museum was one of the best I have been to. I have attached pics of our new ride just now ready to go after some refurbishment over the last 18 months. Kind Regards Tony Zino 0408 195 919

[Many thanks Tony. Glad you saw some cool stuff whilst you were here albeit briefly. Tony and wife Tania are HUGE Elvis and Caddy fans. If you are ever in Melbourne and want to see Tony's amazing rides, talk Cadillacs and Elvis, be sure to look him up! In fact, the Victorian CLC is very active and there are many CLC members Steve and I have met over the years. They are not only an awesome and amazingly hospitable bunch, but they own some great Caddies. Tony sent me some cool pics of their latest ride and they are featured here and elsewhere in the mag this month! Good on you Tony & Tania! Ed - Ron]



From the Editors Drivers seat!

Isn't it interesting that we have had a swag of singers and celebrities leave for that big stage in the sky this past few months. Even this year there's been a few notable legends:

- > Christie McVie of Fleetwood Mac fame
- > Irene Cara of Fame and Flashdance movies
- > Jerry Lee Lewis - Great balls of fire!
- > Loretta Lynn. Country Royalty
- > Gina Lollobrigida - Italian & Hollywood mega movie star
- > Anita Pointer of 'The Pointer Sisters'
- > David Crosby of 'Crosby, Nash, Stills & Young'
- > Jeff Beck of the Yardbirds (guitarist extraordinaire)
- > Lisa-Marie Presley, only child of Elvis.



BoP Member Kevin Conder wrote me: There is an amazing duet featuring Elvis and Lisa-Marie.

<https://www.smoothradio.com/features/lisa-marie-presley-net-worth-daughter-age-facts/>

The song, 'Where no one stands alone', a duet by Elvis and Lisa Marie. TERRIFIC Elvis and his daughter Lisa Marie -- Amazing what technology can do, TERRIFIC Elvis and his daughter Lisa-Marie. She was 11 when her father passed away. With today's technology, they brought father and daughter together to sing this song. It's hard to see and realize that this video is, in fact, an amazing montage! The reaction of the crowd, when Lisa Marie appears, is very well done. The "digital encounter" between father and daughter is beautiful...

Elvis sang this song in 1968 (Lisa Marie was 2 years old) and Lisa Marie sang it 40 years later in 2008. Lisa's pic appears below.

Kev.



What have I been watching this holiday period? You may have caught the recent episodes about a company in Florida called 'Trans Am Worldwide?' This is a company set up by a couple of car guys who love Pontiacs and decided to re-invent the Trans Am and other models using the main body of the latest shape Camaro with today's technology and making subtle retro-Pontiac changes. They have created an amazing 'Bandit' example and the one I love, a new style GTO. Definitely worth a watch on the 'RUSH' channel.



I have also started watching 'The Elon Musk Show'. It's on TV3 and a great doco on the making of Elon and the challenges he faced as a boy (watching his mum being subject to domestic violence) and severe bullying at school because his intelligence made him different from the rest! If you love and believe in Teslas and Evs like me, you will love this programme.

Season Eight of 'Endeavour' has just started on 'VIBE' channel. For those familiar with the old Inspector Morse TV series that was around for many years, you will love this very compelling series of 'young' Morse. It is one of those special programs that makes your brain think about who did it! The series first started depicting the 1950s and has progressed into the 60s and now we are into the 70s (Season eight). I get to enjoy old cars, old music, old fashion and all the trappings of English infrastructure of that time and period. Morse drives an amazing Mk1 Jaguar. It's an old British Classic, as Taranaki Member, Frances McCurdy will agree, she being Secretary of the NZ Jag club as well as Secretary of our own CLC. A great TV programme worth watching.



Late on Sunday nights has Andre and I watching 'Line of Duty', TV1. This is another gripping drama featuring 'AC-12' which is the 'Anti-Corruption' Squad of English Police. They deal with corruptive cops in their force and it is surprising how many 'top brass' are connected to the underworld and crime syndicates. Great acting.

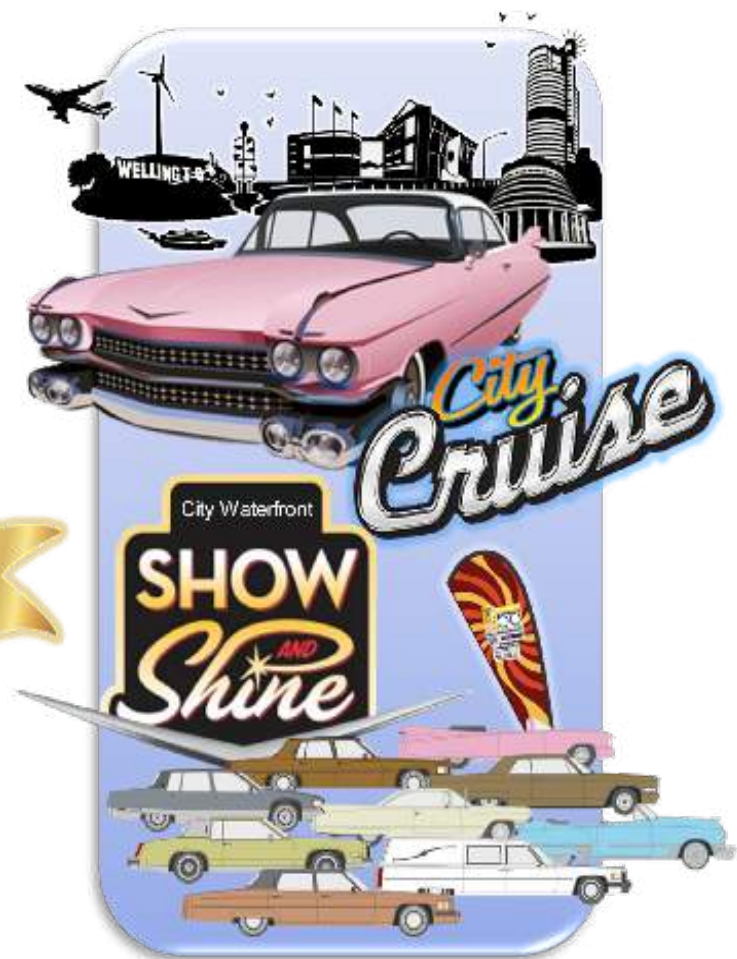
But my fav of the week right now is the complete re-run of '77 Sunset Strip' on Jones Channel. Yes, starting in 1958, in black and white, it features a Private Investigative agency and because it is set in the 50s, mostly every car is from that era. Brand new Fords are featured right now, Fairlanes, T-Birds (the 'Square Bird'), Edsel and Mercury. Even in black and white, the chrome is obvious and sparkles! Story lines are getting better and the latest episode moved into 1959. Just read the Roman numerals at the end when the 'Copyright' details pop up. A great brain teaser to work them out! Love the signature tune too. Is it finger snapping or pendulums clicking? Cool man, 'daddio!'



Tony & Tania Ziino
CLC Victoria, Aust



I can report that good interest has commenced already, so soon after Registrations opened. As well as a 'must attend' by all Kiwi members, I have also been made aware of Cadillac Members from Germany, USA and Australia making enquiry and some booking their accomodation already. Jason and his team will be providing progressive updates and these will appear in our *FINZ Magazine*. Reach for your diary or calendar now and block out a week between the 20th and 23rd October for the once-in-a-50-year-event! Registration & Accomodation PDFs attached. Latest 'Teasers are below' - Ed

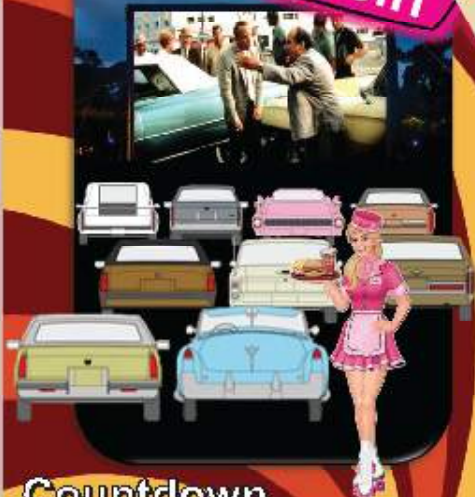


Memories & Photos of the past

Remember last issue I asked 'whatever happened to the big Cadillac sign (above, right)?' Well, it is safe and secure, living at the McCurdy home in New Plymouth! Well done Frances and Wayne - Ed



Drive-in MOVIE NIGHT



Countdown to Fifty...

A traditional drive-in movie night experience, watching a classic Cadillac movie under the stars, with a gourmet burger meal delivered right to your car by 1950s style carhop waitresses in period costumes and on roller skates!



1973
2023



CADILLAC LA SALLE CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY National Rally Weekend

20-23 October, 2023 - Wellington, New Zealand

REGISTRATIONS
NOW OPEN!



REGISTER
FOR CLCNZ
50TH

Event Registration Form Attached

We invite you to join us in celebrating our golden half century in true Cadillac style!

Club member family subsidised event registration cost: **\$50 PER PERSON**
'True cost' registration for Club affiliated non-members: **\$195 PER PERSON**

Planned Golden Anniversary Weekend highlights include...

- Golden Anniversary Dinner with 70s hits band and themed dessert & cocktail pairing
- Picturesque round-the-bays cruise
- City waterfront public show & shine display
- Drive-in movie night dinner with carhop waitresses
- Vintage market shopping
- Visit to the brand new Cars Inc Car Museum
- Souvenir event giftsand much more!



Limited Edition 50th Anniversary Gold and Silver Plated Commemorative Grille Badge

Wear your Club pride on your ride!

Grille badge cost (incl. NZ postage, please add \$4.80 for Rural Delivery): **\$50 PER BADGE**
Keen? Contact Jason at curried@hotmail.com or on 021 0221 5373 to order



Memories & Photos of the past

Wellington CLC Member, Denis Bulloch is believed to have maybe one of the most extensive collections of Caddy related memorabilia here in NZ. Here are a few more items from Denis' collection. Ed



Top is 'cloth' from 21st Anniversary in '94 Lower Hutt, below 25th Anniversary in Masterton



The best of the best finz images



From the May 2014 issue of FINZ Magazine its 'Marilyn', an amazing 1950 Cadillac DeVille Coupe (original-as!) owned by Chris Salisbury and Gudie Pohlmann of the CLC Victorian club in Melbourne.

Steve Gill and I were very blessed to join many of our CLC Victorian friends on a number of well-organised outings in 2014 pre our Perth trip (accompanied by Victorian members!) and this outing, at Chris and Gurdie's own premises. They own and live in a traditional Australian-brick Commercial building they also reside in together with their extensive collection of other old cars and lots of great memorabilia. It was only fitting that I took the photo (at the time plus others) in 'Sepia mode' which is the 'brownny-tone' reminiscent of the fifties! This is just one the wonderful memories one has when travelling overseas to visit fellow CLC Members. They treat you like family! Ed

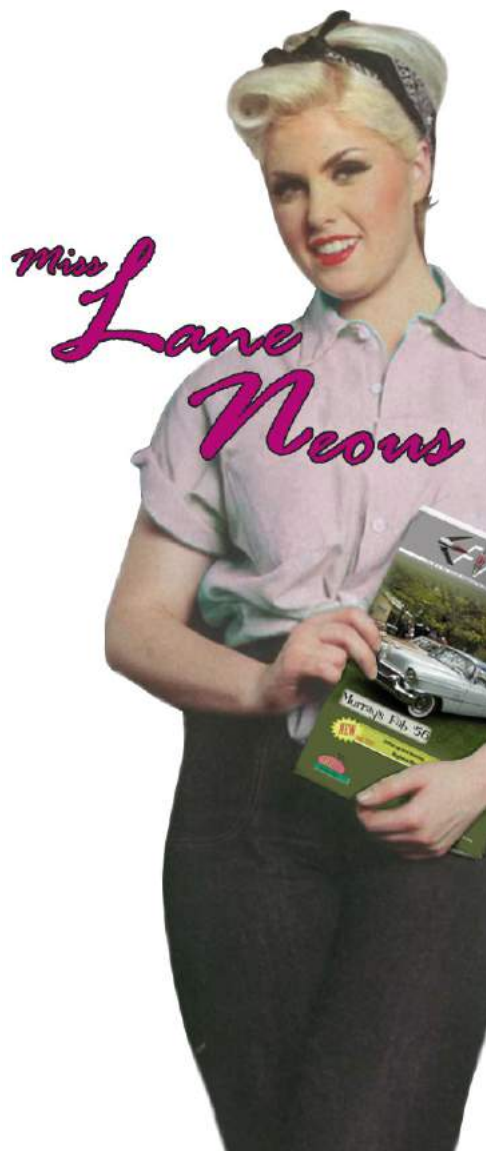
KEVS Caddies

For several years now BoP Member, Kevin Conder has surfed the net looking for cool Caddies and other rides to share with us. He and wife Christine own an amazing '60 Convertible (pic>>>)



At right. Taking delivery of a brand new 50s Caddy!





Miss Lane writes ~ Our Ozzie friend, Greg Short is making good progress after his nasty car accident.



An update to the recent NZ Club Membership Directory:

M/Ship Directory update: Please update your directories as follows:

□ New address: Taranaki – WILFORD, Ian & Debra. New Address is: 103 Young Street, New Plymouth 4310.

If you have an update to be made, drop me a line at: finzmagazine@gmail.com

Have you scored yourself a new 50th Anniversary Caddy Grill Badge yet? Contact Jason at curried@hotmail.com or ph 021-0221-5373



Not everyone loves EVs. Range anxiety is a biggie, whilst lack of the traditional 'V8 rumble' is another - although I read where Ferrari and Hyundai have developed a special sound system that exactly replicates traditional ICE engine noises in conjunction with the EV power! Anyway, for all you non-believers out there have a read of this. It is an EV that can run some 2000kms but not on a normal EV battery. It runs on salt water which is 'ionised' on board to produce electricity to produce enough power to take you longer distances than an ICE vehicle ever did! Period! See the Quantino below!

https://www.driven.co.nz/news/how-this-car-promises-to-make-petrol-and-batterieshistory/?utm_source=mailchimp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=



Even Telsa might be out-done by the likes of this evolutionary 'Nano Quantino Twentyfive Flow Cell EV'



Where we live



REGIONAL DELEGATES

NORTHLAND

>All Enquiries to Pres.

AUCKLAND

Phil Shaw
029-412-8953
phil@shawsjams.co.nz

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[Corrections to: finzmagazine@gmail.com]

What's on the Fridge?



FEB 4th - Heavy Duty Bike & Car Show, Mount

5th - American Vehicle Day, Trentham, Wellington
11th-12th Morrinsville Motorama

15th-19th - Art Deco, Napier
19th - All FORD Day, Wigram Canterbury

MAR 5th - All FORD Day, Wharepai Domain, Tauranga

11th - Nelson VCCNZ Swap Meet, Richmond

12th - Wheels on Windsor, Hastings

19th - All FORD Day, Palmerston North

22nd-26th Beach Hop, Whangamata



Limited Edition 50th Anniversary Gold and Silver Plated Commemorative Grille Badge

Wear your Club pride on your ride!

Grille badge cost (incl. NZ postage, please add \$4.80 for Rural Delivery): **\$50 PER BADGE**

Keen? Contact Jason at curried@hotmail.com or on 021 0221 5373 to order



Tail Lights

The Best Tails in Town!



Tony & Tania Ziino, CLC Victoria,
AustraliaSouth Island, 2014!
*PS - Note Elvis related
numberplate!*