

## Editorial

This month has been rather busy, watching late night the Americans Cup and getting up early in the morning, but it was worth it all.

**Well done Team New Zealand.** I hope they will bring home the big one.

By now the Annual General Meeting will have taken place. From next month on you will have a new editor, it has been a pleasure being an editor for the Auckland Mercedes Benz club, good health to you all and see you soon at the next event.

Liane

## New Members

A very warm welcome to:

Marcelo Mosaner and Kristy Mosaner 1973 280E

Mark Luty and Christine Luty 1971 280SE3.5,

Eric Kearney 1999 SLK230

Johannes Tietze and Rochelle Tietze, 1975 240D

Joy Collins and Eric Collins, 2001 E320CDI

Greg Parr and Janet Parr 2006 S500.

Please come to one of our events-you will be made most welcome.

## Past Events

***Visiting Allied Fighters*** 26/05/2007 – organised by Roy and Marianne Hobson

The Aircrafts we saw on that Saturday had two things in common, they needed to be restored and from what we saw the quality of the workmanship restored them to a near new condition. All of the Aircrafts had seen service and had built their own reputations.

Some more so than others, some had even accumulated laurels, and some will never be forgotten. Like our Marque they distinguished themselves in their intended roles.

Sorry folks but enthusiasm is getting me ahead of the customary introduction, so let's step back a bit.

Roy Hobson organised this event, rain or shine, so 22 cars with 42 people and one puppy met just north of Albany, and convoyed to Allied Fighter Rebuilds Ltd (AFR) at Dairy Flat. AFR is owned and operated by Mike Subritzky and his Brother Steven, both skilled Aeronautical Engineers with real Kiwi know-how but absolute precision in their workmanship.

They operate out of three Nissan Huts which serve both as workshops and as storage areas and Hangars. Needless to say, space is at a premium, and you really need to watch your

step. What these guys achieve with the facilities they have, is astounding.

Their international reputation is such that all their work is on commission. Mike said that if they were to accept all assignments on their books, it would take them 300 years to complete.

To give you an idea as to what their projects are, check what they have currently under way:

Curtiss P-40 Kittyhawk NZ3119 (a P-40M c/n 27501, ex 43-5813) - a complete rebuild to flying status. The P-40 operated with the RNZAF to the end of WW2, and was sold as scrap to John Chambers, and now been commissioned by an American Museum. To give you an indication as to the depth of the rebuild, look at the Photo of the nearly complete Wing.

Supermarine Spitfire Mk XVI – nearly ready to fly.

The Mk XVI was designed as a Low Altitude Fighter and equipped with the Merlin 266 Engine – this one was assigned to the Reserve Flight and looks just like it came from a mission, once the Fuel Tank is fitted. By the way, this sits just above the Pilots legs, who fervently hoped that any bullets hit other parts of the fuselage - ideally ten feet behind the tail.

Gloster Meteor NF11 Night Fighter built in 1954 and operational till 1955 with 29, 141 and 85 Squadron.

The Meteor was the Allies first Jet Fighter Bomber, but did not see operational service in WW2

De Havilland Vampire FB6 – This example is ex Swiss Airforce and came via the UK to NZ. At present the plane is in many parts, but what can be seen, is in good condition. The second Allied Fighter Jet, alas did not see service in WW2. Some were build in Switzerland, and we flew them also in the Austrian Airforce. It was the fastest Jet we had at that time, although sitting side by side took away some of the hunter killer spirit.

Some of the more senior examples were 4 Hawker Hinds built in 1933 and obsolete before WW2, but served well as a Trainer. A Vickers Vincent also 1933 vintage ex 54 Squadron, saw action in Iraq as a Peacekeeper, and finally transferred to RNZAF for Maritime Patrol work. The workmanship that Mike and Steven have put into these planes is exceptional. Look at the detail shots.

Mike is also rebuilding a crashed Mooney 21, which is reputed to be the fastest Mooney in NZ. Unfortunately something went wrong with the exhaust system, and the Pilot elected to land it in an area not user-friendly to a single engine aircraft, with a tendency to float when landing,

As you can see from some of the photos, everyone had a very interesting day, and that goes for the girls, although they might have been discussing matters more earthbound. Our hosts were splendid and provided an excellent Afternoon Tea.

It was good to see so many members and their friends.

Paul Kaiser

## Coming Events

**July 7 Saturday 6.30pm. Ryder's Dinner And Movie House**, 177 Riversdale Road, Avondale. If you have been before, you will know what a lot of fun this is. Meet first for a natter and a drink (BYO), followed by a Roast dinner and then a movie. Dinner and movie \$20 per head. The Movie will be selected from a small library they have on the evening. To book, SEND YOUR CHEQUE payable to Mercedes-Benz Club to P O Box 1587. Phone Heather Newkirk for more details on Ph 09 426 2664

**August 14 Tuesday 7.00pm. Annual Dinner and Prize Giving.** This year we are going upmarket. Join us at PORTSIDE at the Viaduct basin (132 Halsey Street). Wonderful outlook, great food and a fun MC to keep us entertained. Subsidised two-course dinner costing you just \$30 per person. Buy your own drink and dessert. Ample safe parking right outside for your Mercedes. Mark this date in your calendar now and be sure to keep it free. To confirm your place by 2<sup>nd</sup> August by SEND YOUR CHEQUE payable to Mercedes-Benz Club to P O Box 1587. Phone Lyn Hood for more details. Ph 6343573

### **October 12-14. Weekend in Pahia/Kerikeri.**

Travel North on Friday night to stay in Pahia for two nights at the accommodation of your choice. Consider the Abel Tasman Lodge or Admirals View Lodge (\$110-\$145 pn). Meet our Northland club members on Saturday morning in Kerikeri at 9am for a 9.15am start.

First stop on Saturday is Adrian and Sylvia Garrett's to view a couple of very early restored Rolls Royce's and an early Vauxhall. See their Shire Horses and perhaps ride on the cart. You can also look at the Gypsy caravans. On to Pete and Cecilia's museum which is the next stop. Here for \$16 per person we will have Morning Tea and entry to a newly established museum where we will view his collection including a mix of early 1900 to PreWar vehicles. In the past this collection has included Austins, a Stuz Bearcat and other special vehicles drawn from the several hundred in private hands in the Kerikeri area.

There will be some free time in the afternoon to visit the many attractions of Kerikeri, such as the Kaleidoscope Factory and a couple of craft shops where Ian Hillier has arranged a discount for Mercedes-Benz members who produce their Auckland Membership card. In your free time explore the many other shops and attractions around Kerikeri which include the Chocolate factory where you can watch chocolates being made and perhaps have a free sample.

In the late afternoon we hope to visit one more car collections before heading back to Pahia for a change of clothes, and then on to 7pm dinner which we will pre book at a reasonably priced restaurant.

On Sunday morning we will travel back home to Auckland. If we can add anything of interest to do on this day, we will let you know nearer to the event. To express interesting in joining us, please contact Lyn Hood ph 6343573 evenings, ([membership@mercedes-club.org.nz](mailto:membership@mercedes-club.org.nz)). Northland members, contact Ian Hillier on ph (09) 436-1888 or 027 436 1888.

**December 8, Saturday 11am. Annual Christmas function.** This year it will be at Willy and Hein Vankan's, 3 Mountain Road, Henderson. Bring your own drink, glasses, cutlery and plates and a couple of folding chairs if you have them. BBQ food will be provided. To let us know that you are coming for catering purposes, or for more information phone Willy Ph (09) 836 2734.

## ***RACING MERCEDES RAMBLINGS by Ken Williams***

13th May Mother's Day and I went racing with both cars! The BBM was now running well again after finding a weak valve spring. I qualified 2nd behind a Formula Ford but was able to out drag him away from the start & stay in front to the chequered flag. The next race was a handicap so I started from the back in pit lane & was able to pass all but two so finished 3rd in a troublefree run. We only got two races.

The 280 Qualified 3rd but because both races were handicaps I started 17th & although I had a good run I finished 15th. The car is handling much better now & I set my best time in it. Race 2, I started in 12th but after two laps the motor coughed & stopped ending my chances of maybe winning the series. It turned out to be a blocked fuel filter again so I've since cleaned out the fuel cell thoroughly & removed some old bits of silicon etc.

The reason we only had two races was because there was a 2.04 hour Le Mans type relay race starting at 2:30. I had the 280 entered in a team with a BMW 2002, a BMW 323i, & a 240Z Datsun, calling ourselves 'Team Sauerkraut'. I'd changed the fuel filter & the 280 was running well again so I started on the 1st stint at 7th on the grid with a rolling start behind a Jaguar XJ6 & a Porsche 924. I managed to pass them both in the 1st 2 laps but then the Jag started to haul me in every time down the back straight until passing me on about lap 10. However at lap 21 he pulled in for fuel so I carried on & did 31 laps before handing the armband over to the BMW 323i. What a neat way to get into a groove around a track & try different lines in corners etc. We ended up gaining 6th place after a couple of showers slowed things up a bit, but there were no accidents all race!

That's all the racing for this season & the 280CE is now fuming a little so I'll build up a spare motor over the winter & pop it in for next season. See you then???

The two 500SECs should be back on track then also.

### **Vehicular humour**

... I met her at the Civic. I'd been Holden up the bar all night and as she walked in I looked her Rover. I thought she seemed Familia, but that was just a Mirage. She came up to me of her own Accord. I said "Audi", she told me she thought I was Galant. I lied to her and said I was an Executive, I was just being Calais. She was quite a Starlet, wearing a nice Mini, but not like that of Hunter. Her name was Sylvia and she was a real Trooper. I'd drunk a few Corona's when I tried to Impreza. She told me not to Porsche it. I told her I wanted to Lancer. Turns out she was an Escort, so by her standards I wasn't that FWD. I didn't want to pay - she said "you don't know what your Nissan." So I paid. I took her back to my place - or HQ as I like to call it. I had a Bighorn and, of course, I was an absolute Legend. Later, when there was a Prelude, I went to see if there was any food left in the Lada. It was a great night, but I really should have worn a condom, because you see, I left her with my Legacy--a little Bambina.

## **June Points: (Year End)**

**As at 14 June 2007**

### **Club Member**

Ken Williams 120; Hein Vankan 112; Klaus Buwert 102; Garry Boyce 100; Paul Kaiser 91; Brian Hood 90; Roy Hobson 84; Iain Fletcher 82; Peter Fieldsend 77; Frank Parker 70; Jack Nazer 64; Brian Haslip 50; Howard Jack 45; Brian Fleming 42; Harald Pech 42; Barry Bollington 40; Harald Decker 40; Thomas Muller 40; John Tate 40; Gary Upchurch 40; Graeme Collie 36; Geurt Renzenbrink 32; Russell Clark 30; Dave Firkin 30; Rod Klarwill 30; Percy Young 30; David Blackmore 28; Alex Buwert 28; Jim Hetherington 22; Trevor Smith 22; Craig Stratton 22; John Stratton 22; Hoshang Tata 22; James Tata 22; Phil Ainsley 20; Scott Begbie 20; Joe Burns 20; Rob Henderson 20; Ian Hillier 20; Lloyd Marx 20; Malcolm Reynolds 20; Pater van den Brink 20; Peter Brown 12; Klaus Jnr Buwert 12; Malcolm Gibbons 12; Lloyd Williams 12; Wayne Bending 10; Eoin Burns 10; Andrew Campbell 10; Roger Clavell 10; Stu Fordyce 10; Tom Frei 10; Nigel Gerbic 10; Krishna Gopal 10; Geoff Halkett 10; Gerald Koller 10; Alex Newkirk 10; Barry Purves 10; Kevin Rush 10; Gerhard Wahl 10; Mike Walsh 10; Graham Yan 10; Bill Zwererijnen 10; Graham Judge 10; Ian Hutchinson 6;

### **Family Member**

Liane Buwert 116; Lyn Hood 90; Chris Fieldsend 77; Marianne Hobson 76; Noeline Service 72; Willy Vankan 72; Cilla Kaiser 71; Lyn Parker 70; Heather Newkirk 60; Linde Fletcher 56; Alison Boyce 50; Marilyn Nazer 44; Judith Fleming 42; Marion Bollington 40; Eveyln Tate 40; Pam Upchurch 40; Alison Reid 35; Jan Pech 32; Zena Renzenbrink 32; Wendy Clark 30; Vivienne Decker 30; Sue Hancox 30; Alison Haslip 30; Margaret Smith 22; Marilyn Stratton 22; Sarndra Ainsley 20; Colleen Begbie 20; Barbara Firkin 20; Estelle Hetherington 20; Karin Klarwill 20; Trish Marx 20; Robyn van den Brink 20; Jean Gibbons 12; Gail Godfrey 12; Cally McWha 12; Rashna Tata 12; Rosemary Burns 10; Sheryl Campbell 10; Carol Clavell 10; Jutta Frei 10; Lorraine Halkett 10; Dawn Judge 10; Margaret Koller 10; Lucy Tate 10; Agnes Wahl 10; Persees Antia 6; Kathy Zwererijnen 0; ;