



# MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB AUCKLAND INC

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Please email your content to publish in the magazine including 'Classified Advertising' by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month in plain text and electronic format to [Thomas@acoustix.co.nz](mailto:Thomas@acoustix.co.nz)

Keep on reading for future club events, "when & where" or check your Club's website [www.mercedesclub.org.nz/events](http://www.mercedesclub.org.nz/events) . See you there!

## ***What's on:***

### **Sunday 18th September - 10.00am: Mystery Run/Trial**

In conjunction with the Cadillac Club, meet at Brian & Enid Service's at 4/100 Alexander Crescent, Otara, Auckland at 10:00am. First cars will depart at 10:30am sharp.

A great run has been planned with a wonderful venue, with views, for lunch.

To join this event please contact: Ken Williams 027 497 9959

### **Sunday 16th October - 10:00am: Twin Coast Fun Run and Tour**

The run will cover approximately 160kms of interesting and scenic roads through the Rodney and Bream Bay Districts.

Organised by Grahame and Laura Boot, the run will start from the Albany Westfield Mall Carpark at 10:00am. It will finish by courtesy of Club members Frank and Lyn Parker on their farm property at Ruakaka.

A barbeque lunch will be provided for a small donation, by Frank and Lyn, and members of the Northland Street Rod Club, who will have some of their interesting and different cars as well as Frank and Lyn's own collection, for us to inspect.

From Auckland, proceed up the Northern Motorway (S.H.1) to take EXIT 410, go left and follow the directions below:

From the North take EXIT 410, go right at the lights:

Follow Oteha Valley Road past the MITRE 10 MEGA Store and turn left into Appian Way. Go right into Don Mckinnon Drive, take the left lane and turn up the rise into the Westfield Carpark Entry. Park on the left at the top of the hill. The car park is near the EVENT cinema complex.

A good opportunity for a lovely drive followed by some great "Northland Hospitality"!

To join this event please contact: Grahame Boot 09 427 4284

## ***Past events:***

### **Midland August Mid-Week Jaunt:**

Each month on the second Wednesday, the Midland Branch has a run that visits places of interest, and on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August members of the Auckland Branch got invited along.

We assembled for a coffee at the café attached to the Aero View Garden Centre opposite the airfield at Thames.

A total of twenty five members and friends turned up with two full cars from Auckland with four members and four friends. The Midland group came from Tauranga, Waihi, Hamilton and other parts of the Waikato.

Our first stop was Toyota's "Signature Class" factory where we were briefed about the history, ownership, and function of the plant.

Campbell Motors first opened the plant in 1964 for the assembly of CKD Peugeots and Ramblers.

It was in 1967 that the first CKD Toyotas (Corona RT40 & Daihatsu 360cc) were assembled at the plant.

In 1971 Toyota took over possession and at that time had a workforce of more than 400. Corolla, Corona, Celica, Hilux and Hi-ace were assembled in Thames until the government changed the tariffs so that in 1998 a Corolla was the last vehicle produced.

In 1999 the plant retained a staff of 50 and started refurbishing used imports to start what has become "Signature Class" with an ISO 9001 certification. Stocks of NZ new vehicles are sourced from low kilometer ex-rentals and ex-lease vehicles to make up 60 - 70% of the 4,200 per annum vehicles processed by the 98 staff. The balance is purchased by six Toyota buyers through the auction system in Japan. The plant owners Toyota Japan decided that the function of the plant was to provide the product without any profit, but to simply cover costs. "Signature Class" has a maximum odometer reading of 70,000 kms and carries a 3 year warranty with free warrants of fitness for that period.

On entering the plant we were split into three groups each with a guide. The first part of the tour was to checkout the 1967 Corona RT40, 1967 Daihatsu 360 and that last 1998 Corolla with just 1,600 kms on the clock. We were to follow the entire process from the stripping down of the Japanese imports for compliance to the final check before the "Signature Class" badge is fixed on. The guides allowed us to talk quite freely with the various staff. All vehicles have full mechanical assessment. Fresh brake pads and shoes are fitted together with any other refurbishment required. Tyres showing more than 3 % wear are replaced. A lady with 25 years of service was checking panel work and scribbling all over with a pen, marking every imperfection with the remedy required. The panel repair man used three methods of repair. 1. Paint less massaging 2. Traditional panel beating or 3. As last resort fibreglass filling. A lot of attention was put into the preparation and the painting. With 99% of NZ new vehicles, both, bonnet and front bumper, required repainting, whereas the Japanese imports only 30% required the same treatment. It was fascinating to see the each of the three vehicle paint booths with three cars being painted with different colours, and all at the same time. As we reached the final inspection area the staff knocked-off for lunch.

Out of the Toyota car park and drive to Thames town ship. It was a short run to the Thai restaurant for our \$10 lunch.

We then set off to Kopu and visited a well manicured property. Set off to the side of the driveway was a panel shop where the trying to retire owner had invited a number of enthusiasts to put on a show for us of about 20 of their prized classic vehicles. Vehicles included a Ford model T, several model A's, 1954 Silver Dawn Rolls Royce, 1963 Pontiac Bonneville convertible, 1952 DeSoto Diplomat, 54 Vauxhall EIP, 1957 Holden FE, 1956 Ford Customline, 1973 Triumph Dolomite, and a 1966 Daimler Jag in the final stage of restoration, but the most impressive was a shiny black 1962 low roof Zephyr with just 21,000 miles on the clock.

We then drove for 15 minutes towards Paeroa to a beautiful property of a retired farmer who has a collection of tractors and English cars. The immaculately restored tractors included several different model Farmall's, Ferguson, and an Allis Chalmers, some fitted with a sickle bar mower. His car collection had a very original 1947 Morris 10, with all the other cars having been restored. There were two 1954 Humber Hawks, a 1948 Hillman Minx, a 1953 Vauxhall EIP (side lift bonnet), a 1962 Vauxhall PAX, a 1949 Austin A40 Devon and a 1960 Morris 1000.

A great day, thanks to the organization of Midland's Doug Noffke with the only downside being the thought of having to head back to the rat race of Auckland traffic.

Jack Nazer

### **Club Points:**

#### **Club Members:**

Bill Bray 30. Eoin Burns 30. Ken Williams 30. Baji Antia 20. Grahame Boot 20. Andrew Campbell 20. Brian Hood 20. Rod Newport 20. Frank Parker 20. Jack Nazer 16.

Barry Bollington 10. Garry Boyce 10. Russell Clarke 10. Harald Decker 10. Brian Fleming 10. Richard Glenn 10. Dean Hart 10. Jim Hetherington 10. Roy Hobson 10. Bryan Jackson 10. Rod Klarwill 10. Annabel Moodie 10. Thomas Müller 10. Ian Murray 10. Michael Pearce 10. Harindra Pilapitya 10. Alva Stanley 10. John Stratton 10.

Hein Vankan 10. Gerhardt Wahl 10. David Winn 10.

#### **Family Members:**

Persees Antia 20. Laura Boot 20. Lynn Parker 20. Noeline Service 20. Marion Bollington 10. Hannah Bray 10. Teena Bray 10. Sheryl Campbell 10. Wendy Clarke 10.

Vivienne Decker 10. Judith Fleming 10. Rosemary Glenn 10. Estelle Hetherington 10. Marianne Hobson 10. Lynn Hood 10. Robynne Jackson 10. Karyn Klarwill 10. Emma Murray 10. Doris Newport 10. June Pearce 10. Marilyn Stratton 10. Willy Vankan 10. Agnes Wahl 10. Kath Winn 10.