

NZ Update Australian Pre-War MG Register Newsletter: March 2017

Denis and Desna Jury

The recent Pre-56 MG rally in Whanganui, while only three weeks ago seems like the distant past, but it is nice to reflect on meeting a number of old friends again and also making a number of new connections – especially a number of those from the Australian Pre-War MG scene. On that note, beware meeting and lunching with a friendly editor –we are now the New Zealand Triple-M correspondents for this Newsletter!

As a quick introduction we have been in and around MGs for over 40 years, having owned an MG TF1500 and PA for that time. Three years ago we sold the PA and purchased L0658 in Melbourne (a fabulous car with an interesting racing history in Australia, which we've documented). We have a deep interest in Triple-M MGs, and while putting on a mock, "who, us" (while looking over our shoulders) when Malcolm asked us to act as the NZ correspondents to the Newsletter, we are very happy to do this.

Here's an update of several recent events where Triple-M MGs have been active. Laurie Poolman's C-Type featured at the VCC annual Chelsea W.A.L.S.H Hill Climb -while Laurie was busy with marshalling duties, driving was shared between Di Humphries and Peter Croft. Di won the Barry Gay Trophy for FTD in a Borrowed Car.



Peter Croft and C-Type at the Chelsea W.A.L.S.H. start line

A contingent of Pre-War MGs attended a wet and soggy Napier Art Deco Weekend and parade. John Hancock took his K1 Special and reports that the parade "which is only available to Pre-1940 cars included quite a number of Pre War MGs; Pat O'Connell's F type, the K1 (with umbrella), Don McLeod's PB (*almost!*), and a fleet of SVW and TAs including Gary Wall's collection driven by Australian and UK visitors". Don McLeod drove in the run on Saturday morning and got to within 200m of the parade start when the gear lever popped out having completely worn through the tower. Don has now developed a very nifty repair for this, which is likely to be useful for many of us in the future.



Donald McLeod's PB ready for a fast ride home from Napier –looks like the car would fit in the cab!

Many of the cars at Napier proceeded south to Whanganui to the 21st biennial Pre-56 Rally (Feb 20-24). There were 73 Pre-56 cars at the event, including 6 Triple-M and a total of 21 Pre-War with all 'Ms' represented -the Widdup M-Type, Croft J2, O'Connell F-Type, Hancock K1, Jury L-Type and the McGarva NA. Whanganui turned on a splendid week and great weather and there were some good Triple-M results. Pat Widdup set some cracking times in the Motorkhana, winning the Triple M class, and getting times uncomfortably close to other classes (finishing 14th overall). The L-Type won the Pre-War concours, and second overall, and the K1 overall people's choice in the concours.



Pre-56 Rally concours line-up of 6 cylinder Triple-Ms

Geoff Broadhead is currently updating the NZ Triple-M Register and is seeking to enrich this with stories and information about the history of each vehicle and its owners. The register currently has 82 cars documented and Geoff welcomes information on any trans-Tasman movement of cars (geoffbroadhead01@gmail.com). We would like to see more Triple-M cars out and about and we are planning more events including an upcoming visit to the Warbirds Association Hangar at Ardmore where Michael Wood, PA owner, Chipmunk owner and Harvard pilot will give a tour and close up of the collection and the current work.