

July 2022

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National Committee:

President and Secretary: Andrew and Debbie Larsen 69 Parris Street Waitara 4320 Phone 06 754 4942
E-mail thelarsens@slingshot.co.nz
Vice President: David Timms 16 Beihlers Road Weymouth Auckland 2103
Phone 09 266 2343 E-mail weymouthpainter@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Lyn Morris 1 Court Street Waikouaiti Otago 9510 Phone 027 228 0942
E-mail lyn-morris@xtra.co.nz
Editor: Rob Jones 88 Harley Street Masterton or PO Box 18 Masterton 5840
Phone 06 370 2313 E-mail p76jones@gmail.com
Committee: Paula Buchanan RD6 Ashburton 7776 Phone 027 205 2302
E-mail p.r.buchanan@xtra.co.nz
Jan Moore 20 Elizabeth Street Reefton 7830 Phone 03 732 8643
Email office@msmoorecontracting.co.nz
Ed Tubman 20 Rodney Street Hamilton 3200 Ph 07 847 9116
Email tubmanp76@gmail.com

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	Parts Manager	Deliver to / Dispatch From	Telephone	Best Time
Northern	Mike King	40 Keith Rd RD 7 Rotorua	Ph 07 332 3430 Mob 027 544 0815	7:00pm - 9:00pm
Central	Paul Heath	220 Oxford Tce, Lower Hutt	Ph 04 567 1292	7:30pm - 9:00pm
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P76, anything but average

Penzed for July 2022

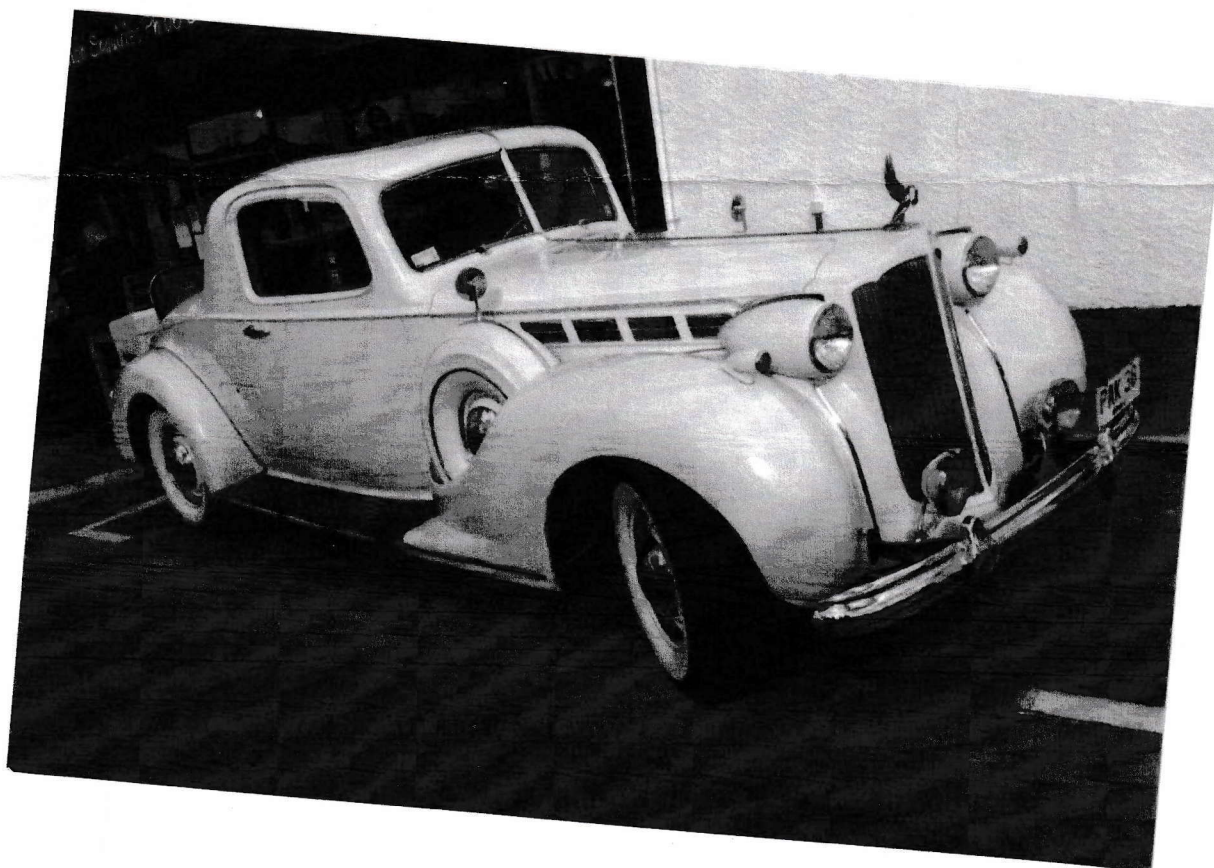
I had it in mind to do a particular issue this time only to discover I was chronologically incorrect so you will have to wait for that bit of news until next time. This issue welcomes more new members, sees a return of the "Where have we been" series, something to test my brain cells some years, and has prompted a slightly historical bent on this occasion.

In part due to not much happening, little has been reported yet. I know Reefton has a big car show in about 50 odd hours from now, but I don't have the report yet. Bruce Cooper and I were waving the P76 flag on a VCC Rally last weekend and may do so again in a fortnight. The second rally will generate photos for sure as it's a gravel event possibly to an outback collection, this has yet to be decided. We participated hard but I don't think we were very competitive but then we only used our local knowledge and hope whereas we are sure Google Maps helped many a participant. We covered 200 miles, had a ball, put faces to names and saw some lovely cars.

Amongst those competing was a HA SL90 Viva, 47 Talbot, Rolls Royce 20/50, VC Valiant, 45 Ford truck and similar Chev model, Austin 7 or 10 tourer, 35 Ford, Saab 96, 37 Plymouth, Morris Minor low light convertible, S2 Morris Minor, 60 Mk 2 Jaguar, MGB Roadster and a few others I don't recall.

The P76 was well admired by many of the crews, some never having seen a 6 cyl one before and many asked about the 44-gallon drum - no it wasn't in the boot. The Rolls owner showed us how well engineered his car was by operating all the various controls for fuel mixture throttle and something else from the steering wheel while we watched astonished as many levers, rods and springs did their thing along side the huge engine block. Great whilst it works, he said! Still a beautiful car.

The next day the P76 was at a different VCC event with few old cars in attendance, but one can't complain at the company, a 34 Bentley 3L tourer and a 38 Packard Super 8 coupe, straight 8 and another MGB Roadster and the S2 Minor. The Packard lives round the corner from us in Masterton. As we mention Packard in our AGM histories, I thought a picture of this 138in wheelbase car might be suitable. The other day I followed it right through town to the amazement of onlookers. The two cars caused a stir together!



I recently dined with Paul and Linda where Paul handed me a pile of old photos, mostly of old Leyland events and later that evening I was shown yet another P76 photo, this time definitely not on a club event. These photos have been passed onto the current owners of the cars, a couple of which I shall include here. The ex-Murray Bown/Phil Sweet car taken in 2008 on the Rainbow Tour of the Molesworth Track, the whole 9 yards, with the Marlborough VCC. Check out that terrain!



And stuck in slightly similar terrain from what we think is the 2005 Coast to Coast/Centre Island Meeting we see plainly illustrated, the reason for soft gravel around the wind turbines in the Manawatu. So you can't drive up to the pylon for a photo eh Ed! I recognise Ed, myself, and Clive Cottle with others trying to free Ed and Annette's P76 – and is Annette still in it!



Today I have received the news I have been waiting for, for many a long month, it seems I am to be blessed with a new knee after all. Strange just days after the scrapping of the DHB's my opportunity should arise from a Lower Hutt private hospital, an unsolicited invitation.

This prompted me to lift my spirits and my peeking fingers (I use two or more mostly) to get this issue under way with greater haste than the last few weeks had witnessed, so to continue with the good news we will move into:

Troop Movements

Here we note the shifting of our stalwart Levin members, **Brian and Colleen Francis** into their new adobe at **2 Ash Close Levin 5510**. Brian has been clearing out the shed/s at bit and a buyer came along to help with that and ended up buying the property too. And they had a place to move to and it all fell into place, and we wish them well in their new mansion.

New Members

I am super pleased to report the addition of a further three new members to the fold. It is fair to say that a couple of these are almost certainly due to the great work Allan Caple does with his registration queries and chasing up owners with cars on exemption that have passed their end date but still remain on the database. Well done, Allan. If Allan contacts you with a query PLEASE respond, you may be helping the club grow some more.

We welcome **Murray and Leah Fraser 36 Wilson Road RD3 Riverton** They have two cars; a B as B and I think an OF one. Murray's Dad was in the club from 1990/2000 according to the maps. His was the B as B car, one of the last two sold in Invercargill. Now the car and the son have returned, along with the OF car. A great welcome to you both and your cars.

Darcy and Gaye May 5 Bridle Street New Plymouth were with us in 2011 when he found his P76 had to go to the back of the shed, well here we are eleven years later and it's back at the front of the shed and progressing well. We welcome you back to the club and look forward to seeing the modified CW beauty fairly soon, right?

Alistair Rutherford 235A Waimumu Road 4RD Gore 9774 brings yet another car back to the club, albeit much changed since we last knew it. This SO Deluxe, the ex A Eady/ N Mennell and others car is now Matt Black and with Alistair. Alastair says there are improvements to be made and he has all the information required to achieve this through the clubs' contacts for parts and technical knowledge. We wish you welcome and well in your efforts Alastair.

This quite interesting really, we have 4 cars. All but one of them has been in the Club before. One returns with a family owner; one returns with the same owner, and one returns with at least four new names on its record. And Allan has it all recorded now.

Birthdays and Best Wishes

June and July on my birthday calendar are exceptionally busy, thankfully not entirely made up of Club members. June saw the advancement of several worthy members such as David Timms, Maria Williams, David Brown, Don Prouting receiving his first official Club birthday card. And those of us who know Di Bray in South Australia I'm sorry to say we missed the party. Probably wouldn't remember if we had been there! Happy Birthday June collection.

Now onto July, just as busy with Anne Cooper (I know the number) Ed Tubman, nephew Jared Simpson from the WA Club whom several of you will remember, Tyler Young, Allan Caple reaches retirement age – congratulations, Colleen Francis, Linda Graham (another # I know), Jim Fong attains a wonderful 89, Eric Connor is aging too and there's Nick Kounelis in Tasmania whom several of us know as well. Happy Birthday to the July collection.

And now for the best wishes to all of those who are labouring under some malaise. I'd normally not use names here, but Ron Butler is hopefully well over his Covid by now, Paula and Roy go on health strike together it seems but are coming through it. Brain Francis has been ill and shifted house just for good measure in the midst of it, well done Colleen and I know there are others out there and soon I will be joining you for a few weeks!

We all have to get well as summers coming and you know what that means, and don't tell me I'm nuts, Bruce Cooper there is blossom on that tree in front of your house and trees here are budding and bulbs coming through, well spring is coming anyway! Keep safe and well all.

Thanks go to the contributors to this issue although at time of typing that's Paul Heath for his continuing supply of photos both new and old and me. Oops, I have a couple of small parts pieces for you to write up in your manual for future reference, from Ron Butler too, and I'm looking forward to something from Don Alexander also.

Local Group Activities

Remember, all members are welcome to attend any event advertised in Penzed anywhere in New Zealand should you wish to join the party or happen to be in the locality at the time. The listings are only regionalised for the convenience of local group members. So don't be shy, gate crash an event mile from your normal stomping ground. You will be made very welcome.

Sadly, all scheduled events are subject to Covid 19 restrictions as and when they occur.

The Southern Group They now have their meeting as part of any event they are participating in rather than a set venue. If you wish to join them when you're passing through next time just phone Don or Paula for information on where to go. Don and Paula's details appear on page 2 of your Penzed so carry it with you. Can you spot them both?

Northern Group

While the Northern group consolidates, we advise contacting Vice President David Timms on 022 0399 880 or weymouthpainter@hotmail.com and he will fill in the blanks for you. Locals looking to talk Leyland or visitors should check with david to see what is available to you.

Hamilton offers members a **Classic Breakfast** opportunity. There has been autojumble for sale too. Join the classic fraternity at **Classics Museum 11 Railside Avenue Hamilton**, for a good head breakfast on the first Sunday of each month. Join in the fun and food at the **Juke Box Café**. Contact Ed Tubman if you need any further prompting. Try 07 847 9116 or 027 204 7112 or tubmanp76@gmail.com

Central Group

Ron Butler is our Social Convenor. Check with him on 04 902 0275 or email him on ron.butler43@gmail.com for information on our goings on. Regular venue meetings are no longer held by Central Group.

National Event open to all members almost everywhere, **August 21 2022 Daffodil Day** in aid of your local Cancer Society and run by the Vintage Car Clubs of New Zealand, all over the country. Generally, I would say be at your local VCC about 9 a.m. probably with your \$10 registration in hand ready for some fun and a whole lot of interesting cars. Check out your local branch and advertising to confirm precise details

The Cottles will be at Horowhenua, The Joneses at the Wairarapa event, hopefully now, The Alexanders may make the Canterbury run, the Buchanan's and others, the Ashburton VCC event, Mr Tubman, and others should be on the Waikato run, those Rotoruians and thereabouts should be with the BOP VCC. There must be West Coast, Southland, Auckland/Northland, Taranaki, Otago, and Marlborough events we (that's you) can frequent, and you can supply 100 words and maybe 2 good photos to the Editor so we can put in a National Report, and who knows, I could send it to Beaded Wheels as well. So, Mr Heath, you up for the Wellington Run, from Halford Place in Petone up to QE2 Park in Paekakariki.

Our local run is from Martinborough through the Wairarapa towns of Featherston, Greytown, Carterton and onto Masterton with a slow tour through two retirement villages along the way, finishing at The Farriers car park for a public display. Join us over here in Wairarapa if you wish, following the above rules.

I'm not aware or advised of anything else at this stage other than **Japanese Car Day on July 31st** and **Ford vs Holden day on 28th**, both at Tui HQ.

Parts Parts ~~Parts~~ PARTS Parts Parts PARTS and Bits and PIECES

Thanks to Ron Butler for the following information. Ron advised that his new engine was using a bit of oil, so he invested in some valve stem seals from BNT and these fixed the issue.

Permaseal brand Valve Stem Seal set VSS0118-04, come in a set of 4 so you will need 4 sets.

And in his own words. I decided to give my clutch linkages a spruce up that involved removing the clutch cable and cross shaft. That's everything from the pedal to the clutch fork. The cross shaft is hollow on the chassis side to take a nylon sleeve mounted on a ball-ended solid shaft which bolts onto the chassis. To keep grease in and dirt out. There is a rubber boot fixed on the hollow shaft but sliding on the solid shaft. Now unobtainable.

I went online to Basis LTD in Renwick just outside Blenheim email sales@basisnz.co.nz Website www.basisnz.co.nz all their products are shown with measurements. I selected a Boot Tie Rod end pair, 17H3501 their part # 285.005 \$ 7.60 freight \$5.60 gst \$1.72 total \$13.20 delivery 2 days. This Boot is a perfect fit and with new clevis pins and R clips it's just the cat's whiskers.

On a Facebook page for P76's Nick K and Stuart B were discussing V8 air filters and how to set up an alternative. First buy a Ryco A142 filter, I checked and these are still available, and then use it as a pattern to cut the flange/skirt off the P76 filter which you glue into the top of the filter housing. Done correctly the A142 will slot into the skirt providing a good seal and away you go. I believe the P76 correct filter is now quite hard to come buy and these two gentlemen discussing this option are quite well-respected Leyland Owners in Australia.

Where have we been all these years?

March 23, 1991, Southwards Car Museum, Otaihang Road, Paraparaumu was the venue for the 1991 AGM, and I was there, it's recorded in the Minutes. What happened at this event with 26 members and partners present? Nothing is jumping into my brain!

Subs remained unchanged, wonder of wonders, the committee was re-elected unopposed, and the P76 Spotter Competition was still the most productive recruitment method. The meeting opened at 2.07 and closed at 2.46. Incredible! I shall now see if my photo albums jog a memory of what we did as still nothing has popped into my head yet!

I did find some average photos of 17 P76's lined up in the car park. These appear on the cover and below I will try to determine the fate of each car going L to R top to bottom. It won't be terribly happy reading! Remember, comments refer to the car, not the 1991 owner.

Jones - gone, Tubman - still but ON now, Knight - gone, Hooper - still around chasing owner, J/B/B - Jones Butler and Bolt owned, sold within club and since disappeared, Tapp - in private collection not in club, Paton - gone *NB this car carried the only Hairy Lime panel I have ever seen in New Zealand*, Butler - still, Butler - shed stored in oblivion by ex-member, Bolt - HOTO 6D gone, van Kampen - still, Lewis - I'm unsure, Lyons - it remains unclear but this car appears to have gone to Merv Cox and may be the one written off outside Woodville, Crafts - gone, Brown - gone, Reid - still, Fong - gone.

I'm sorry but other than visiting the museum I recall little, but I think it was this year a bus load of Japanese tourists arrived and spent ages looking over these unknown cars before entering the museum and I'm sure Len Southward came out for a look at them as well. I recall staying outside to keep an eye on the display and Len appeared for a brief chat about the P76's.

March 14, 1992, Hobson Motor Inn Hobsonville Auckland. I have much greater recollection of this event, the cars, the people, my Sonya being with me. Special cars like Ian Ballantine's Datsun 260C P76 V8, a beautiful conversion with a 5spd box, headers fed through the inner guards and other go-fast bits attached. Resplendent in metallic blue with a white roof, Wayne Fletchers custom P76 with the see-through bonnet and so many other extras. A very trim Gordon Gruebner graced the cover of Penzed with his now long gone Nutmeg V8 PU647. The Monterey Park Vintage and Classic Car Museum, full of beautiful Packard's and which I now believe has a B as B V8 stored in it too.

We were still chasing the elusive louvre order then and looking at front indicator remanufacture. These still occasionally find their way back to us but the louvres not so much! Gordon Gruebner became our new Vice President; Constitutional amendments were approved as was the idea of granting temporary membership to visiting Aussie Club members and our fees remained the same. Visiting either Aussie or New Zealand now, members are just made welcome wherever you go as many of us can confirm. I will raid the old albums and see what I can find for you. Bear in mind it was 1992 and print technology has improved 100-fold since so reproduction of any of the grainy black and white photos appearing in the Penzed's is not going to happen and they can't all be mine or in my albums but I know there are some. Bill Bolt arrived in his newly panel and painted car, the one that appears on our old past it's use by date membership application. Yes, we are working on it.

A colour spread of photos will follow, a special mid-winter treat for the readers.



The 1992 line up of Leyland's shows G Webber CC, J Lawson B as B, W Fletcher CW, G Gruebner N, A Reid B as B, K Rowe AEB, B Bolt DR, K Turner ?, E Tubman AEB, R Jones CC, S Golding B as B and the 260C of I Ballantine. See the late Bill Bolt arriving in his DR S, "Turnon" Wayne Fletcher's novelty car. See through bonnet, gauges mounted into bonnet, sun shield, sunroof, spots, musical notes adorning the car, a telephone dial around the petrol filler with his business phone number underneath. Aerials, mags, written headlight surrounds and P76 badges set into the inlet manifold and all sorts of other extras! And a small shot of the Datsun with the like new Golding Super next to it.



Car For Sale

And again, Allan Caple was discussing a P76 with an ex-owner who in fact had been looking at another car that was for sale. He had decided against it but offered Allan the contact details for him to pursue. This he did and it is for sale and turns out that the car was in the club from 1988 until 1996 with Mr Russell Askew, listed in the Pukekohe area on our very old address lists. His son Scott has the car in storage and the time has come for it to find a new home.

Details as we know it, a Nutmeg Executive V8 on LPG, the car was GZ9164 then UD6427 being deregistered in May 1998. Below, Scott describes the car as it is now.

1974 Leyland P76, Colour - Brown (Nutmeg) Auto transmission V8

LPG and petrol changeover valve, I think the fuel lines to the petrol tank perished so I have only had it running on LPG.

Upholstery is very worn out would need full replacement.

Been in covered storage since last rego in 1997. Does have bits of rust but nothing terminal.

Body is in pretty good condition.

Did have it running and moving under its own power in February, but I think it might have finally ran out of LPG and tank is way out of reg.

Contact Scott Askew at his email address scottera@co.nz or 027 499 7352 for any other information or negotiation if you are interested.

For obvious reasons this will be little issue, for you new members you do get more most often but I'm running out of time here! As we are on an historical bent another of Paul's photos seems appropriate. This from 2005 as well, taken in the park in Wanganui where we met Lance in the Force 7V. Cars of Tubman, Heath, Jones, Maunder, King and Cox if I recall correctly, and Lance of course. We must have washed them after traversing the Gentle Annie!

