

# Austin 7 centennial car rally success in Timaru

Doug Sail14:14, Jan 25 2023



AIMAN AMERUL MUNER/Stuff

*An impressive line-up of Austins in Timaru for the Vintage Austin Register's Austin Seven Centenary Rally.*

Owners of pre-war Austin Baby Sevens revelled in the special rally marking 100 years of the arrival of the wee classic car.

There may have been a few breakdowns resulting in trailer rides, but the owners of the 59 pre-World War II cars involved in the Vintage Austin Register's Austin Seven Centenary Rally were full of praise for the three-day event at the weekend, organiser Chris Chambers said.

Morning tea events were highlights at Rollesby Valley in the Mackenzie District and at Geraldine according to Chambers.

"There was also a bit of fun at the Village Green in Fairlie with some owners appearing to hook their vehicles to the electric car charger," Chambers said.

He said that created some interest from passersby and comments from the unwary.



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David Mills of Dunedin with his 1930 Austin 7 Tourer at the Vintage Austin Register's Austin Seven Centenary Rally in Timaru. The vehicle is reportedly the first car to go through the Haast Pass back in the 1965.

Chambers said the Pleasant Point railway also drew a string of positive comments.

"I think most went on the train so that would have boosted them."



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*Mike Stuart and Pat Bren from Napier in their Austin 7 Ulster at the Vintage Austin Register's Austin Seven Centenary Rally in Timaru.*

Chambers said the most popular car title was voted on by all, including members of the public, at lunch in Geraldine and went to a 1931 A7 Box saloon car owned by Herman van der Weert and Glenys Ferguson of Christchurch.

A "blind auction" on Saturday night raised \$1300, Chambers said.

"I think it was a very happy rally and the feedback was great event, great rally.



*AIMAN AMERUL MUNER/Stuff*

*Grandfather and grand-daughter, Steve and Holly (13) Bright of Feilding with their 1931 Austin 7 Special at the Vintage Austin Register's Austin Seven Centenary Rally in Timaru.*

"The weather was great which meant open-top touring for many."

Chambers said it was fantastic to be able to get the rally under way after they had to cancel the original event in Easter 2022 because of Covid.

"It wouldn't have been possible without a lot of help."



*AIMAN AMERUL MUNER/Stuff*

*Phil and Diane Friis of Hawke's Bay head off in their 1932 Austin 7 Special during the Vintage Austin Register's Austin Seven Centenary Rally in Timaru.*