

Auckland:

If anyone has the magical answer to the question, "how do we get our members to get out and drive their Austins", would they please pass it on to every branch organiser in the country. Once again, we in the sunny Auckland area, have had to deal with this problem. If it was not for the loyal members, our runs would be very few and far between. I acknowledge the extreme difficulty all motorists are having with the construction in Auckland, but the rural areas of the South offer great touring routes. It is just the major problem of getting to the start, and then getting home. Will things get any better? I doubt it.

However, for the loyal few, we did have some good events over the last year.

In May, we combined with Auckland North, for our annual Memorial Day run, again held in the West. In July, and we did it all again, this time for the Mid-Winter Lunch, which ended at an excellent venue in the up and coming area of Hobsonville. Big developments going on here, at a price few can afford, but that does not seem to stop people from buying there.

Our Branch AGM resulted in the status quo, all committee re-elected, with Stuart Smith, who recently returned from Bangladesh, joining us. November brought about the regular overnighter. Waikato Branch was the organiser this year, and Rod Rattray welcomed us to his delightful town of Waihi for the two days. Steeped in the gold mining history of this country, the many places of interest that Rod included in this trip was outstanding. Who would believe that a large company, would move a thousand tonne building, rather than demolish it, for the sake of history. An amazing feat of engineering.

The big one for the year, was of course, the 50th Golden Anniversary Rally in Wanganui. We are all aware of the tragic event that occurred whilst we were there, and very difficult to put to the back of your mind, but the remainder of the Rally appeared to have been a great success. It was interesting to note, that more Auckland members attended the Rally, than we have seen on any local event.

We shall continue to soldier on, and provide runs and events, that we hope our members will appreciate, and attend.

Here's hoping,

Regards,

Mike Loosemore.