

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

No. 3 December 2023

1. Kia ora tatou – Hello all Lotus club members!

I must apologise for the lateness of this newsletter!! It originally started life as a Transalpine update however time has been against me somewhat and now Christmas is here! So, once all the fuss is over grab a cuppa and have a quiet read!

Hope you are all well and ready for Christmas and the New Year festivities and whatever you are doing; wherever you are; whoever you are with, I hope you have a truly lovely time and are being kind to yourself!

New Members:



Welcome to our newest members: Paul and Michelle Wilkinson. Paul drives a Series Four Lotus Seven apparently about to undergo a color change!

Welcome also to Paul Aston who has joined us here in the South Island after previously being a member of our northern counterpart – Club Lotus. Paul drives an Elise.

Welcome to you all - we are pleased to welcome you as new members and look forward to having you join us on some upcoming runs.

2. Events re-cap

Once again we have enjoyed some great events since the last update. It's always so great to see everyone and to have so many members participate! No one ever seems to run out of things to talk about and there are some great conversations on the go with everyone getting together. There's always a busy hum with the sharing of knowledge, swapping news and general club friendship!

So... what have we all been up to??

A couple of us headed northwards to Amberley to their Rock and Wheel meet. They're very organised and attract a large number of vehicles from the small right through to trucks, also including some from the sublime to the ridiculous! Always a good display – potential to consider for a club run next year?



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A small group headed off to the Kaikoura Hop in September and I understand they had a great day with the weather once again being very kind!

A group of folk braved the bracing cold and strong winds for a Club outing to Wings and Wheels just out of Darfield. The strong and gusty wind made for some interesting landings for some of the light aircraft that's for sure! Rather them than me I'm afraid – four wheels on the road will do me fine – unless it's a big jumbo of course! The new flag proved it was tough and stayed the course without flying away! All for a good cause with all proceeds going to the local volunteer Fire Brigade. There was in fact quite a large and diverse group of cars in attendance which made for interesting viewing. Just the right number and variety of stalls and this year there was a fantastic display of model airplanes doing their stuff – I mean serious model aircraft really doing serious stuff!! Brilliant to watch!

I must mention our Indoor mini-golf evening too. Thanks to David Crandall for organising this - a fun evening with a number of us non-golfers requiring additional shots to get through some of the obstacles! Thankfully once you reached 7 attempts you didn't have to count anymore attempts in your score — just as well I think!! Of course the true golfers stood out and Peter Jennings leaped ahead to take out the championship title of the evening winning the prestigious SLC Golf trophy!! Congratulations Peter! A fun evening and something to keep on our calendar for next year. Thanks David for organising this enjoyable event.

Swap Meet – Another great event with a good number of cars on show over the three days, once again proudly promoting the Lotus marque! Overall the weather stayed kind to us with only a minor rain shower on the Saturday. The swap meet is getting bigger with more stalls each year and the usual clubs, several with good displays; though not as many cars in the general display area this year. Unfortunately, despite a great display we didn't have the winning streak!

A BIG thank you to those members who helped with the set up and pack down – your help and support was much appreciated. Thanks also to 'Mr Boats' who kindly loaned the pop-top camper we used as our base for the three days. And another big thank you to the following members who supported the club by bringing their cars out for display over the three days;

Peter & Julia Flewellen – Evora / Peter Jennings – Elise Sport / Greg Mowat – Super 7 replica / Kit and Carol Peverill – Lotus 7 replica / Darryl Harrison – Espirit Turbo / John Chartres – Evora / Malcolm James – Elise / Murray Wall – Elise / AJ Williams – Elise S2 / Grant Harman – Elise S2 / George C - Elan



Several members enjoyed an evening at Classic Cars which I understand made a few people 'dream' or add to their wish list! A highlight for some was Sybil Lupp's E-Type Jaguar. Not sure who she is? Check her out on google or similar – an amazing female leading the way for women in racing and mechanics in the early 1950's!

A visit to Motorsport Solutions in October also proved very popular (previously based at Ruapuna Raceway – now at Kirwee). One of the leading race car set-up and fabrication workshops in the world – visits here never disappoint as they always have something unusual going on.

Malcolm's evening run over the hills was well attended with everyone enjoying the opportunity the lighter evenings now afford us. Hopefully we can get a few more of these in over summer.

And of course our annual Christmas dinner in early December with a great turn out at The Famous Grouse Hotel Lincoln. A great opportunity to catch up with other members, have a chat and generally have an enjoyable time – lots of chatter and a few laughs to end the year!

3. Committee meetings update

Thanks to all our Committee members who attend meetings without fail and many thanks to Allan Honeybone's generosity in allowing us the use of his business premises for our meetings. Your ongoing commitment and participation as committee members is much appreciated as you have the role of representing all our members.

Key points arising for your information:

- **Membership** Currently sitting at 63 paid up members (November 2023)
- **Schedule of events** we are working on our schedule of events for 2024. Remember if you have an idea for a run; garage raid or other get together let us know. We can organise it on your behalf if you prefer. Keep up to date and check out our webpage.
- Constitution Due to changes in the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 we will be looking at reviewing our Constitution to ensure we meet the legal requirements. Much of these are process related and will include all club members. If you're keen to find out more then you can access the link below (from Wheel Torque)
 https://www.parryfield.com/home/blogs/resources-for-the-incorporated-societies-act-2022/
- However, perhaps this also provides us with the opportunity to review our club name? Our legal name is Southern Lotus Register which we rarely use so perhaps it's timely to review our name and modernize it so it's a better fit for the club? Of course there will be considerable consultation with all members regarding any potential name change so keep an eye out for future communications regarding this. You might also like to put your thinking cap on about possible names that reflect our club and our enjoyment of all things Lotus!

4. Transalpine



What can I say about our calendar event of the year! I think we can safely say that the 75th Lotus Anniversary Transalpine was a great success! Whilst the Planning Committee did an amazing amount of behind the scenes work it was the participation of everyone attending that made it a memorable event.

Personally I can't thank the following key people enough for their commitment to making this the success that it was:

- Malcolm James a stupendous effort! Thank you so much for the incredible amount of work you did!
- Alan Baker and Heiko Jonkers from Club Lotus NZ whose efforts

in coordinating the North Island contingent required dedication and drive to make it all happen. It was great to finally meet them in person and enjoy their company throughout the trip.

- AJ and Helene for their planning and follow up especially for the Saturday dinner a great evening and absolutely fabulous location – thank you.
- And thanks to George for all your efforts in planning and follow up and dinner table 'Flag' production!
- I also need to mention Paul and Rosemary Royer from Blenheim for their amazing organisation and planning for the 75th Lotus photo shoot at Omaka airstrip what anamazing thing to do and how well it all worked the planning was phenomenal thank you both so much!

 Refer to recent messages about ordering these photos.

Thanks to Chris Parker Lotus NZ for his participation and for joining us as we commenced the trip from Christchurch, that was a great surprise and yes we all thought the new Emira was pretty cool! Some fortunate members even had a drive!

Thanks also to Chris and Lotus NZ for picking up the tab on the drone photoshoot – much appreciated.

Despite some rather unusual weather - heavy rain, hail (huge balls of hail!), sleet and yes snow (unbelievable!) as we headed to Kaikoura for lunch the rest of the weekend saw us enjoying lovely days – great motoring weather on our incredible South Island roads! We are truly very fortunate to have such great countryside for travelling in and to be able to do so with a group of like-minded people just topped it all off.

It was also great to see people who weren't participating in the trip come and see us off at Pegasus − thanks for your support folk[©]

Check out the article from Amanda Williams on our website – Amanda and husband Scott enjoyed their first Transalpine and Amanda has crafted a great summary of the trip – thanks Amanda.

5. Treasurer - John Chartres

A big thanks to John for all his work in managing the logisites of payments etc for the Transalpine events – another of the 'behind the scenes' work that was managed so well – thanks John.

For your information the previous Committee had allocated a sum of \$3,000 towards the cost of the event – this allowed us to subsidise substantial cost for participants around meals, transport hire etc. The final contribution came to \$3,037.06 – a smidgen over the allocated amount – good planning and accounting!



6. Secretary - Peter Jennings

Peter is happy to table any items you would like raised for dissussion at any of the Committee meetings, or any ideas you have for additional events etc.

7. General

NZ Federation of Motoring Clubs (FoMC) 'Wheel Torque' newsletter issue 40 (December 2023). If you've not read this yet then find a few minutes over the next few days or so to have a read — there is some interesting reading in it and it's an easy read. Can't find it in your emails? It's available on their website: https://fomc.nz/wp-content/uploads/WheelTorquelssue40.pdf

Got ideas rattling around for a run, garage raid or other event??

We'd love to hear from you! This is your club and we encourage you to have a say! The Committee are just here on your behalf and we really want YOU to have a say – let us know if there's something you're keen for us to do as a club or have ideas on events etc. We'll organize it if that's not your thing – just contact one of the Committee members and let us know – we'll do the rest if you prefer.

Also - Lotus Ladies – 'We are the Lotus Ladies from the Southern Lotus Club' – Don't forget to send any ideas to me for any 'ladies only' events. Be great to hear from you – drop me an email via gandc.cottle@xtra.co.nz Summer is here (?) and I'm sure there's things we can do – doesn't have to include a Lotus vehicle – it's just about enjoying each other's company!

YOUR contributions are welcome!

If you have any special Lotus news or items of interest to include in future newsletters / updates please get in touch with Murray Walls or me (Cheryl).

And while I've mentioned Murray – I would be very remiss not to thank him for the time spent on managing the communications for the club. There is actually a lot of communications traffic that Murray seems to make miraculously appear - thanks Murray!

Still at home? Not on holiday? Come join us on 30 December for an end of year **Three Gorges** run - Ashley Gorge, Waimak Gorge and Rakaia Gorge. Start in the New World car park Rangiora at 8.30am departing at 9am. Cancelled if wet. Check email of 8/12/23 or contact Grant 021 677 929 for more details.



Finally



A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all club members!

If you are on holiday – here in NZ or elsewhere, travelling or staying put, or working as usual; I hope you have an enjoyable festive season and very best wishes for 2024!

Safe motoring everyone!

Cheuf Cottle

President
Southern Lotus Club