

SOUTHERN LOTUS PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

December 2025

Merry
Christmas



News

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

Well, it's hard to believe that Christmas is here! Once again time has just whizzed by and the year seems to have disappeared more quickly than ever before!

It was fantastic to see so many members at our Christmas Dinner last month, thanks for your company – it's always good to catch up with you. I hope you enjoyed the evening as much as I did, managed to catch up with others and found time to nibble on your piece of Christmas cake with a nice cuppa or whatever your vice is when you got home!

Once again we've continued with an active calendar – thanks to everyone who has arranged events and contributed to our club activities. We had a great Mid-Winter pot luck dinner (way back in July which seems so long ago now!) with an amazing array of restaurant standard dishes and lots of great social chatter. Thanks to everyone who came, brought fabulous food to share and made it such a great evening – it is one of my favourite events. Of course the show stopper was Teresa's Cake! (See below right). Thanks for being so thoughtful and bringing such an amazing creation Teresa!

A good number of cars joined in the Mystery Car Run in September ending with a very enjoyable lunch and get together at The Valley Inn Tavern in Heathcote. Despite some attempted objections regarding quiz questions and answers the judge's decision was final and Noel and Nicky took the winning place!



October saw us in our usual place at The Swap Meet although with many trees removed it had a somewhat barren feel and the blustery wind tried it's best to rearrange the mounds of soil where trees once stood! The event was well attended by members with a good number of cars on display – thanks to everyone who came out with their car it is much appreciated. Thanks also to Grant Harman for the use of his newly

restored retro caravan and for staying overnight to provide added security support.



Teresa's amazing cake!

The cars always generate substantial interest from a wide range of people, and although not a winner we put on a good display of cars that changed daily.

Our traditional BBQ sausages for lunch provided by the club were also welcome as was the baking provided by some generous members (especially Julia) – thanks everyone!

And it was also great to meet Deborah Connor from First Mortgage Trust who visited our site.



An absolutely fascinating visit to Hamilton Jet Factory was a hit with everyone who attended. A tour around the working factory provided insight into the production of the Hamilton Jet Engine. The scale of some engines being produced along with the precision in the production process was truly incredible. The history of the business, its current global market reach and the huge new building recently completed to support business growth all provided insight into a very different production world. Thanks to Jacob Sikma for arranging this - a truly memorable visit.

A number of club members braved the wind and spent time at the Springfield Community Day Market which despite the cool day was enjoyable with lots on offer including hot food and drinks, and with all stalls located inside perusing what was on offer was warm and enjoyable.



We had a midweek evening visit to Ray Drury's Car Collection in Halswell. It has been a number of years since our last visit there and both Ray and Nancy were again very welcoming. It continues to surprise me when you enter the 'shed' and walk into that collection – certainly a bit mind blowing! Riley's appear to be a passion, however a Lotus also had plenty of display space as did some MG's and Jaguars to name a few. Ray has a story for every vehicle as well as the plane that is suspended from the roof! A great evening enjoyed by all who attended. The Club donated \$100 for the opportunity to visit however, the Drury's are well known for their philanthropic work with the proceeds from such visits donated to charity – they have a set group of charities they donate to with Cholmondeley and Child Cancer being two key recipients.

More recently the trip to Mt Peel Lilly Day saw a good number of members enjoy a great day weather wise and of course the magic Lilly that has a unique growing and flowering cycle. Thanks to Amanda for organising this picnic outing.

2. Transalpine



Well, what can I say about the recent Transalpine event to Fiordland – for those of you who participated in the trip you will understand that words just don't hit the mark! However one word that was offered via Allan Humphrey probably is most appropriate - Spectacular! I've mentioned before that we are so lucky to live in this country with such

an abundance of remarkable scenery and the trip to Fiordland certainly confirmed that. From soaring mountains covered with very recent snowfall, driving through the dripping Homer Tunnel, the pristine

glass-like Mirror Lakes viewed early in the morning mist and the magnificent boat trip, to name a few key events of the trip. Superb roads for driving – especially in a Lotus! Spectacular and stunning!!

And of course the opportunity for many members to once again drive around the Highlands Race track and for other members to experience it for the first time. It's always interesting to visit the museum with such great info about the cars on display along with other historical and current information.

It was great to have some members from Club Lotus up North travel all the way down to participate – super to have them onboard for this event. They certainly clocked up some K's with that! It was also great to meet and catch up with some of our more Southern members who live too far away to join us on a regular basis as well as our more northern based members who made the trip from the top of the South – was fabulous to meet some new members and to catch up with everyone.



An added and unexpected bonus occurred when Julia and Peter Flewellen quite by chance met Nick Adams from the UK. This was a unique meeting as Nick worked for Lotus and so was particularly interested to see our cars and to hear about the Transalpine. Of course we couldn't let the opportunity go by so Nick and his wife were duly invited to our Saturday night dinner where he happily regaled us with episodes of his working life at Lotus! Absolutely couldn't have been planned better!

An unexpected and truly interesting guest speaker who captured us all with his 'insider' information about Lotus. He was very happy to answer questions and a number of members kept him chatting for most of the night! I know some members have remained in touch with him which is great – connections can occur anywhere and everywhere! We couldn't let him go without gifting him one of our club hats – so a little bit of Southern Lotus now resides in the UK!

Our thanks to the planning team for this mammoth trip – Malcolm and Amanda, Mike and Olivia and Karen and Gerard Frater. An amazing transalpine, incredible roads, spectacular scenery and well planned activities and driving breaks all contributing to its success. Thanks also to all participants for their great driving, the usual Southern Lotus blend of camaraderie, friendship and social connection – well done all! I don't think we'll ever beat that trip!

If you haven't already, check out the photos on Facebook and the Club website they're superb and provide a great record of the event! Now that I've mentioned photos I'd like to pass on a huge thank you to Erin for her incredible photographic record of the transalpine. Thanks also to John given they did this together! Taking those photos often meant that they left a lot earlier to gain prime photographic positions to capture the best shots and of course did a lot of work at the end of the day editing and loading photos for sharing. Thank you both so very much – the photos are brilliant and very much appreciated.

There's also a little story about a white Lotus Elise that somehow left its owner behind and joined the Transalpine adventure with a new driver creating its own exciting journey – read about its adventures in the separately attached PDF – **Rare White Lotus Elise**.

What some cars will do for attention!

FYI – Club records indicate that the first Transalpine was in 1989! So, 36 Years of Transalpine Trips – incredible!

3. IMPORTANT.....IMPORTANT.....IMPORTANT NEWS!

Inaugural Avid Classic Brit and Euro Canterbury Car Show – Saturday 7 March 2026

Put this date in your calendar now! Join us in this fabulous opportunity to be part of a unique car show – the Inaugural Avid Classic Brit and Euro Canterbury Car Show to be held at Wigram Park (Airforce Museum). Organisers are hoping to have 600 – 750 cars on show.

As a club we - Southern Lotus, have registered for the event with a display area reserved. We will very shortly be calling for expressions of interest in having your car on display with confirmation required at the end of January. Come and show off your car and promote the Club and Lotus Marque! It would be fantastic if we could get 20 cars on display!

There are some requirements to display your car:

- Brit and Euro Cars only
- Cars must be positioned on site before the opening time of 10.00am Details re this will be provided.
- It is a Health & Safety requirement that no display cars move out of the display area until the end of the show at 3.00pm. You can leave but need to be back by 3pm to collect your car!
- Cars to be clean and presentable – concourse presentation NOT required
- As a club we would like owners to display an information sheet about their car – more on that later!

Other general info

- No charge – this is FREE for display cars and for the public to attend
- This is not a competition – there are no awards for cars or clubs
- Coffee and food trucks available (Café also at the Airforce Museum)
- Relevant trade stalls also included / some Brit & Euro car dealership displays
- Dogs NOT allowed (unless a service dog)
- Southern Lotus has donated \$200.00 towards this event – other car clubs have also donated funds along with larger key business sponsors with The Avid Group being the major sponsor
- We will have a gazebo on our site and relevant display items / material etc – if you have any ideas on what we can provide as ‘give-aways’ please contact me (email or text is great – thanks)
- This event is now future-booked at Wigram every year for the first Saturday of March
- This is a not for profit event – organisers still need more volunteers if you or anyone you know is keen to muck in and help in any way! Check out the website.
- Check out the website <https://canterburybriteuro.nz/cbeccs> there’s a good FAQ section that explains everything.

REMEMBER.....add the date to your diary now!

Saturday 7 March 2026 10am – 3pm Wigram Park (Airforce museum).

Display your car with the club – it’s FREE!

Keep your eye out for the expression of interest form coming your way soon!

Support the Club in ‘showing off’ the Lotus Marque! We will need to confirm number of cars for display at the end of January.

4. Committee meetings update

Thank you to all committee members for your ongoing support and also your enthusiasm in planning events – it's very much appreciated by all of us! Can't have a club without a Committee – thanks all!

Not sure of who's who? Check out your committee members below:

President	Cheryl Cottle 027 555 5016	Vice President	Grant Harman 021 677 929
Treasurer	John Chartres	Secretary	Amanda Williams 027 228 9844
Communications	Murray Walls	Web Master	Malcolm James
Committee			
Bev Stevens (Ashburton)	Graham Stevens (Ashburton)	Pete Jennings (ChCh)	Alan Humphrey (Luggate)

Hey you! Yes you! 😊

We're after some more committee members - like to give it a go? Touch base with John Chartres, Amanda, Grant or me. It's not overly hectic or time consuming with committee meetings held every second month and an annual AGM.

We have a number of committee members stepping down at our next AGM and do need some 'new blood' on the team - so come on give it a go!

Treasurer's report

Our bank balance remains stable with a balance of just over \$7661.00. We currently have 75 paid up members – that's great!

We made the decision to make a donation of \$500.00 to Westpac Rescue Helicopters given that they are a service we could likely need in an emergency. This is something we do annually.

Coming Up

Event planning for 2026 is already underway by Committee members so get your calendar ready to add in events! We have a busy start to the 2026 year so keep a look out for all relevant information. REMEMBER..... if you have an idea for a run or special event the committee is more than happy to assist you or to organise it if you're unable to do so – you just have to supply the details! We'd love to hear from you! The more ideas we have the better so do get in touch 😊.



5. New Club Sponosrs

Our new Club Sponsor is First Mortgage Trust with Deborah Connor as their representative. Deborah visited us at the Swap Meet and enjoyed looking at the vehicles on display and chatting to members. She has an interest in cars and hails from a 'car' family! Check out their services via their website, it's not just mortgages that form their business base.

6. Events Programme – Upcoming events 2026

Please note that some dates and events are yet to be confirmed (TBC) - we'll get those out to you as soon as that's organised. We always endeavour to get relevant info out to you about each event prior to the event. So keep your eyes on your emails and check the website for ny relevant updates.

Event	Date	Cost / Details	Organiser/s
	2026		
Committee Meeting	27 January		Cheryl / Amanda
Ivy Hall Picnic Run 154 Heywards Rd Clarkville	1 February	Bring a picnic / join in the games/ have some fun!	Amanda Williams
Skope Classic	6-8 February	10.00am- 5.00pm	Murray Walls
Timaru Southern Classic Levels Raceway Timaru	14-15 February	Accommodation if overnighting/meals etc	Malcom
Hanmer Motorfest	28 February	Entrance fee – best to pre-book & pay online and be there early!	TBC
Avid Brit & Euro Classic Car show	7 March	No cost. Further detail to come. Club is registered	Cheryl / Grant
Rotary Club of Ashburton Plains – Wheels Week Annual Classic & Vintage Car Run	26 April	\$20per vehicle - Bring your picnic lunch and chair. Meet at Ashburton Showgrounds 9.30am for a 10.30am departure.	TBC
Indoor mini golf competition Club Trophy!!☺	Date TBC Winter activity	TBC	Peter Jennings
TRANSALPINE 2026	30 & 31 October and 1 & 2 November 2026 Come for three or four days - whatever works best for you!	Pay your own way – meals and accommodation etc. Information provided closer to the time!	TBC
And lots more to come folk!! Just waiting on confirmation for events – and ideas if you have them!			

7. General

Club History

I was looking through some old Club Magazines from many years ago and came across the following information which I thought I'd share.

Some of you will be aware that as a club we initially started life as the Canterbury Branch of Club Lotus NZ in September 1983.

Membership fees at that time were \$15.00 with \$13.00 going to Club Lotus NZ. In 1986 the fees moved to \$20.00 with \$15.00 going to CLNZ. Then in 1990 the fees moved to \$30.00 with \$25.00 going to CLNZ.

Obviously the fee distribution became somewhat contentious with no return back to the Southern Branch for their investment, and in 1989 initial discussions re separating from CLNZ began.

As a result, in 1990 our name changed to Club Lotus South, with the club becoming independent from CLNZ in 1991 and a name change to Southern Lotus Register, and now as you are all aware the most recent change this year to our current name Southern Lotus Inc.

There is more information on our website as well in the Lotus NZ Archives link via the website if you're interested in the Club's journey.

Colin Chapman



I've included a link to this 1968 BBC Archive clip re Colin Chapman – if you didn't happen to catch it on Facebook have a look here. Despite its age it is still worth a viewing.
https://youtu.be/neJ6VeLK1SU?si=KPgrH1ZGueAj_yzH

AND..... saw this article online in AUTOTRADER – Some of you may have already seen this or know about it.



Really not sure about the name though!
What do you think?

Lotus item from AUTOTRADER

From Words: Andrew Sluys

Published 11 December 2025

Dubbed the For Me, Lotus has unveiled its first plug-in hybrid SUV, and has broken its decades-old naming convention in doing so.

Based on the Eletre SUV, this For Me makes use of a 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine paired with an electric system.

With a peak power figure of 710kW, it gets an electric motor on the front and rear axle, which are hooked up to a 70kWh battery.

It is able to accelerate to 100km/h from a standing start in 3.3 seconds, and gets an electric driving range of up to 420km, according to the CLCT cycle.

Despite possessing more power than the all electric Eletre SUV with its 675kW, this For Me is slightly slower in the 0-100km/h sprint.

It also makes use of a 900V electrical architecture, which allows for the For Me to regain 80 per cent of charge in just eight minutes.

Adaptive dampers and active anti-roll bars feature beneath the For Me, alongside six-piston Brembo brake calipers for stopping.

New Zealand availability for this model is yet to be released, but it will go on sale in its home market of China in early 2026.

If this For Me does make it to New Zealand, it will join the likes of the Eletre, Emira, and Emeya in the local range.



End of article.

Facebook

Remember to check out the Facebook links for current events and other news relating to our club and other Lotus news in general. We have two face book pages:

- This is the link for the Facebook page - that anyone can find and access:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083228347629>
- This is the link for the **members-only** Facebook chat group – only our members can access this therefore the content is private: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/118563461519218>

Have a look and see what's on there! Leave a comment / write something about your car or share some info / post a pic that you have or somewhere cool that you've visited in your car!

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 – gandc.cottle@xtra.co.nz) – thanks.

Committee meetings – Got something that needs to be discussed at a committee meeting? Easy! Just touch base with me or one of the other committee members and let them know all the relevant info – simple as that! Or you can attend the meeting to discuss your idea / suggestions.



Finally, I hope you all have a truly wonderful Christmas and the very best of wishes for the New Year!

See you in 2026!
Cheryl ☺

Cheryl Cottle

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A word of caution.....

Always be aware of potential hazards when out in your car!



A Few Pics.....

Cool colour contrast with Malcolm's car at the snow on an impromptu Sunday run!



Swap Meet 2025

Some good rear ends!





A few snips of cars on the Transalpine

– check out our website for more great pics.



We're a colourful bunch!



Ray Drury demonstrating his musical skills – not just a car collector!

Cars....cars and more cars!

Such an interesting evening with Ray and Nancy.



Coming Up in 2026...

SOUTHERN CLASSIC 26

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY CELEBRATED MARQUE

classicmotorracingclub.nz

13-15 FEB 2026

LEVELS RACEWAY TIMARU

HOSTED BY: FALCON FAIRLANE CAR CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH

HANMER MOTORFEST 2026

SATURDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY 2026

HANMER SPRINGS
DOMAIN, JACKS PASS ROAD

DRAFT EVENT MAP

AVID CLASSIC

Brit & Euro

CANTERBURY CAR SHOW

EXHIBITOR ENTRY (400FT LANE)

AVID CIRCLE (LIMITED SEATING)

LOTUS

with thanks to our sponsors, please support those who support us!

Air Force Museum, Wigram
Saturday 7th March 2026
www.canterburybrit&euro.nz

We're here!
This plan is DRAFT only at this stage