

THE



WORD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
WOLSELEY CAR CLUB NEW ZEALAND INC



FEBRUARY 2026



VALE HARRY SUTCLIFFE

Harry with his 1885 Wolseley at Waihi Beach RSA December 2024

OUR CLUB OBJECTIVES:

- To promote interest in and use of Wolseley vehicles.
- To arrange social functions for the purpose of promoting the objectives of the club.
- To promote and encourage the efficient maintenance of members' vehicles.
- To render technical assistance to members.
- To produce a newsletter regularly as a vehicle for the exchange of owners experience, technical information, the sale and exchange of cars and spare parts, or any other matters of interest to members.
- To maintain a library of information on the history, maintenance, repair and modification of Wolseley cars, to be available to members.
- To maintain a central register and stock of spares which may be established to assist members.



Club website (new one): www.wolseleycarclub.co.nz & Facebook

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Spare Parts Enquiries:

If unable to be handled by your local
Branch, contact: Colin Hey (Jenny)
Email: wolseley.spares.nz@gmail.com
Phone 021 883 807

All Newsletter Enquiries:

Send to: Gaye Dixon (Derek)
In 'Word' format please
Email: thedixons@xtra.co.nz
Phone 021 147 3509

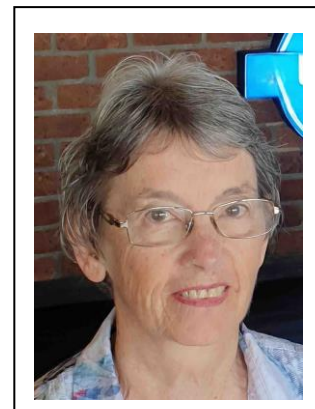
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EDITOR'S REPORT

Greetings Wolseley Enthusiasts,

Welcome to the February edition of *The Wolseley Word* – and what a full and heartfelt issue this has turned out to be.

Firstly, on behalf of us all, we acknowledge with sadness the passing of Harry Sutcliffe. Harry and Gay have long been such a warm and enthusiastic part of our Wolseley family. Whether attending rallies, sharing stories, or simply enjoying the company that comes so naturally within our club, Harry embodied the spirit of friendship and participation that makes this club so special. Our thoughts are very much with Gay and the family at this time. He will be greatly missed on our runs and gatherings.



On a brighter note it has been wonderful to see how active everyone has been despite the rather unpredictable summer weather. From Eilerslie to Upper Hutt, Geraldine to Christchurch, and plenty of places in between – our Wolseleys are certainly not gathering dust! I love reading the reports from around the country and seeing how each branch brings its own flavour to events. Whether it's racing at Ruapuna, gravel road adventures in Geraldine, Art Deco outings in Napier, or simply good company under a gazebo with shared nibbles – it's clear our club is thriving on connection as much as combustion.

There's also a definite buzz building as we head toward the 50th Anniversary National Rally in May. Fifty years! That's no small milestone. It's rather special to think that those first "wobbly Wolseley wheels" rolled out in Canterbury in 1976, and here we are half a century later, still enjoying these cars and the friendships that come with them. If you're still meaning to send in your entry – consider this your gentle nudge!

I'd also like to say thank you to everyone who contributes to the newsletter. The branch reports, event write-ups, photos, technical notes, and even the jokes (keep them coming!) all help make *The Word* what it is. A club newsletter only works when it reflects its members, and you certainly give me plenty of wonderful material to work with. I look forward to some Wolseley stories from the Vero International Rally and wish all the entrants' safe travels.

As we move into March, may the weather behave itself, may the engines start first time, and may there always be a cuppa (and perhaps one of Lord Wolseley's scones) waiting at the end of the run.

Warm regards,

Gaye Dixon,

Editor, *Wolseley Word*

Wolseley Obituary for Harry James Grout Sutcliffe (known as Harry)

Harry passed away peacefully on 29 January 2026, in his 90th year with Gay his beloved wife of 65 years and lifelong boating and travel companion, by his side. A private cremation was held on Tuesday 3 February 2026.

Harry was a respected school teacher, a man of kindness and fine storytelling. An active member of the Wellsford Warkworth VCC and the Eastern Bay VCC for over 20 years, the Wolseley Club for over 16 years and was also involved with Rotary. Harry was a man well-loved and we all remember Harry and Gay's active participation in the various events held over the years and their intention to live life to the full.

The Wolseley Car Club of New Zealand extends their sympathy to Gay Sutcliffe and their family on Harry's passing.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Members,

I don't know about you but I think the summer has be blown and washed away with the wind and rain, the sun trying to peek through with the odd hot day we are not used to. It is certainly difficult for those running events that go better with fine weather ending up with low attendances or having to postpone it to another day hoping it's going to be better. This then clashes with other programmed events which is frustrating.

Let's hope we get a decent spell of weather for the National Rally 11th to the 16th May celebrating 50 years of the Wolseley Club in New Zealand. There is plenty of time to get your car up to date with maintenance for the Rally.

I have just replaced the rubber bushes in the rear suspension as I could hear a bit of a knocking sound when going over rougher roads. Some of them were close to perfect and others were quite squashed out.

Looking after our members. Some discussion points from our Executive Zoom meetings.

We are very pleased with the Wolseley Word that Gaye is putting together for us. I have received very positive feedback the way it's been put together. Well done and thanks to Gaye.

When you require parts please Email wolseley.spares.nz@gmail.com NOT Email heywol----- Colin along with other Chch members will do their/his best to source and parcel those parts to you. Remember, Colin is a member just like you putting his best foot forward.

For all members to receive the Wolseley Word and other club information, National Secretary Michael, must receive from Branch Secretaries, up to date member information of New and Existing members to be added to or updated to the National Membership list. The National Membership list is where Email addresses come from when sending out the Word. If an existing member has changed their Email address or a new member has joined, if Michael has Not been sent corrected Email addresses and or New Member information then these people will not receive anything from the club which would be very disappointing.

Secretaries, while mostly this is being done, please forward all appropriate member information on to Michael as soon as you have it so he and the Executive can do our job.

The website has been updated with Rally information, also don't forget our face book page, forward photos with information on to Anthony anthonybilling@gmail.com , this keeps these sites interesting.

Please visit the Website and Face book pages and let us know your thoughts.

Graeme Lee is the Clubs new National Treasurer who is working through the change-over from Paul & Noeline Billing. We are looking forward to having Graeme's input towards the Club.

At our February meeting we were pleased to have Graham & Jenny Ryder join. Graham & Jenny are out here from England and at the time of the meeting were staying at Colin & Jenny Hey's enjoying their hospitality and of course rides in a few Wolseley's. They are members of the English Wolseley Club and Graham is President of "The Wolseley Register" and Jenny is the Regalia Officer. They were next going to the VCCs Art Deco in Napier.

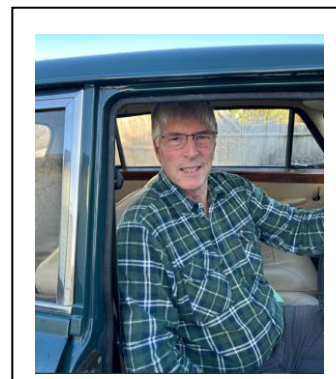
Finally, on a sadder note we heard of the passing of Harry Sutcliffe. Harry & Gay have been great supporters of the club and attended most national rallies and of course North Island events. They always attended these events in a very well presented Wolseley. Our sympathy goes to Gay, family and friends.

That's all for now.

Gordon Duthie

National President

Ps, I'll put another log on the fire.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi Wolseleyites,

We had a great break in Auckland with the grandchildren. We went fishing and swimming over the two weeks. Last weekend we went up to Auckland again this time for the twin's 5th Birthday Party. It was held in the Mt Wellington Softball Hall with 20, 5-year-olds and 30 or more others. There was face painting and a bouncy castle. A great time was had by all. In the meantime I have been working on the Wolseley 6/90 getting it ready for the VCC's Vero Rally in Nelson in March. The North Island Branch has been involved in two British Car days one in Wellington and the other in Auckland. There are reports later in the magazine.



Now just a little moan – please Branch Secretaries send me your up-to-date membership information. Otherwise, I will not have correct information to whom I send out the "Wolseley Word".

Also, un-financial members please pay your Subscriptions as after this magazine I will not be sending it out to un-financial members.

National AGM 2026 Hamilton Saturday 5th October Rod Mason has been working on this with further information to follow.

Enjoy the 50th Rally. It should be a great event.

Cheers

Michael

THIS MONTH'S WEBSITE

This month's website – just Control Click the link below:

<https://westerndistrictfamilies.com/tag/florence-thomson/>

Korney Korner

What do you get when dinosaurs
crash their cars?

Tyrannosaurus wreck!

Technical Advisors to help members with their Wolseley

The following list is a group of Wolseley Enthusiasts willing to help with any technical issues you may have.

<i>Veteran and Vintage</i>	<i>Post vintage (1930-35)</i>	<i>4/50, 6/80, 4/44, 15/50</i>
Colin Hey	Series II & III (1936-1948)	Ivan McCutcheon
021 883 807	Mike Driscoll	022 374 6326
	027 290 6755	
<i>15/60 and 16/60</i>	<i>6/90, 6/99, 6/110</i>	<i>1500, FWD Hornet, 1300, 18/85</i>
Stephen Belcher	C-Series engines	A & B Series engines
021 175 6009	Colin Hey	Michael Kruse
	021 883 807	027 6600 203

18/85, SIX, 18-22 (Wedge) and E-Series engines

Stephen Belcher.

021 175 6009

Deadline for next Wolseley Word:
Wednesday 25 March 2026

Spares Co-ordinator

A request from the Spares Coordinator.

If you require spare parts, the best way to do it is by emailing the spares address:

Wolseley.spares.nz@gmail.com

Please try to avoid emailing my personal email address, as your order may get lost.

Please let me know exactly what part you need. If there is any doubt in what it may be (particularly if its steering parts, bushes etc.) then take a photo of the part or send a scanned copy of a parts diagram with the parts you need circled.

In the email, please include your full name and full postal address (including the post code) and your phone number – this saves me having to look it up when I address the parcel.

An invoice for the parts will be sent out after the parcel is posted – this is to ensure you pay the correct price for postage, as for all but small items it varies so much nowadays.

I'm usually at the parts shed on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, so make sure you order before those times if you need anything urgently. I will dispatch urgent parts by courier if necessary. If you want the parts sent straight to a garage or workshop where you are having the work completed, just let me know. You will be invoiced directly for the parts though, not the garage.

Thanks

Colin Hey, Parts Coordinator

Colin's Report

February was a really busy month for Jenny and I with lots of events happening, and plenty of opportunities to get out and get motoring. The only problem has been the very unpredictable weather, constantly taunting us and other parts of the country with periods of rain and wind, some of it very damaging.



**Graham & Jennifer Ryder
at Napier Art Deco with
Winton & Ruth Cleal's
14/56**

It was a pleasure to welcome UK Wolseley Register members Graham and Jennifer Ryder back to NZ for another trip around NZ, this time the prime objective being to finally get to take part in Napier's Art Deco event after missing it during their last visit because of cyclone Gabrielle, and also to see as many NZ members of the Wolseley Register as they could when they travelled north to get to Art Deco. They arrived here in Christchurch from Melbourne on Friday 30th January, and stayed with Jenny and I for 10 days so they could have a look around Christchurch and Canterbury. They also wanted to attend the Skope Classic race meeting at Ruapuna held over Waitangi weekend, which they had heard about on a past visit. I was of course also racing the Wolseley 1500 at Skope, so it made perfect sense for them to tag along with Jenny and I as I prepared for and then took part in the event.

I collected them from the airport in the 6/99 on the Friday evening and took them home to get settled in. Saturday was mostly spent around home, and then on the Sunday we took them down to Rangitata Huts near Southbridge, where the Classic Motoring Society were having a run. Danny and Sharon O'Malley are members of this group, so it was a good opportunity for Jennifer to catch up with Sharon and deliver some Wolseley Register regalia that Sharon had ordered from the UK. We had a very pleasant afternoon there and of course it was a nice outing for Graham and Jennifer to a place they'd never seen before.

The next day (Monday) I carried on getting the 1500 ready for Skope – I had already re-set the wheel alignment, but there was some work to do on the brakes, a small repair to complete on the LH front wheel arch which was dented by an over-enthusiastic competitor at the last meeting I'd attended, and then just give the whole car a good check over and of course get it to Ruapuna on the Thursday.

Graham and Jennifer managed to fit in a visit into central Christchurch by themselves, and also spent one day driving over to the West Coast to see Arthurs Pass, Otira and Lake Moana. Graham was eager to help too with the 1500 – he has a few of them himself, and is regarded as the UK expert for parts and mechanical enquiries over there, so we spent a lot of time discussing 1500s as he helped with some of the preparation.

The 1500 was finished in plenty of time, and I took it to Ruapuna on the Thursday morning. Our class (VCC) didn't have its first testing session until Friday afternoon, so Friday was a day to get scrutineering and documentation out of the way at a leisurely pace, and then get out onto the track mid-afternoon to get familiar with it once again and check that there were no issues with the car. The session went really well, and the handling was back to its old self now that the wheel alignment was correct once again after the touch at the last meeting.



The 1500 in the pits at Skope

Our group was up first thing on the Saturday morning for qualifying, and I ended up 14th fastest in the large field of 30 cars. There were only two of us racing saloons in this group, the other car being a Mk2 Jaguar, so that was a bit disappointing. As it turned out the Jaguar had a significant engine issue and

Colin's Report cont'd

was retired after the first race, so I was left to race with a large variety of sports and racing specials, but the 1500 performed really well all weekend and I held my own with some of the guys that often end up ahead of me. All up a very good meeting, except in the last race when I got a bit over-enthusiastic on turn 2 of the 4th lap and missed my turn-in point and managed to spin the car – not the way I wanted to end the meeting. No matter though – as they say, if you can drive the car onto the trailer at the end of the meeting still running well and with no damage, then it's been a good meeting. It was certainly good to have Graham there to help park the car and check it after each race and to help with getting it ready each morning and with the refuelling. Hopefully Jennifer enjoyed it too.

Our monthly Veteran Coffee Morning at Thirsty Acres (the first for 2026) was the next outing. I took Graham in the 1909 Wolseley and Jenny took Jennifer in our Toyota. I'm not sure if Graham managed to relax for the first few minutes of the half-hour run out to Kirwee, as he seemed a bit perturbed about the mudguards and headlights and most other things vibrating, but I think he soon settled in and enjoyed the outing – possibly his first in a two-cylinder veteran. We had a good turnout at Kirwee, with 6 veteran and vintage cars and about 15 people enjoying a good catch-up.

Graham and Jennifer left us the following morning (Wednesday) to begin their journey north, and I dropped them off at Apex to collect their rental car and bid them farewell. The house seemed very empty for the next couple of days.

The next outing for Jenny and I was the Veteran Car Club Annual Summer Rally, held in Geraldine this year, on the weekend of 14 & 15th February. Colin and Judy Winter also attended this event in 'Grandma' the 1900 Wolseley. Once again the weather looked pretty patchy, but Geraldine seemed to put on its own mix of sunshine and overcast conditions which actually suited us perfectly. Most of the participants arrived on Friday afternoon, and after settling in to our respective motels we all gathered at one of the local bars for a meal that evening. The next morning we assembled outside Geraldine Auto Restorations at 9.30 to get our instructions and prepare for our adventure for the day. Local member Austin Guerin had set the route, which took us north a few miles to Woodbury, and then travelled the back route to SH79 near Gapes Valley. Much of that route was shingle, but the roads were in pretty good condition, and also damp from some rain the day before so there was no dust to worry about. From Gapes Valley we carried on along SH79 through and past Kakahu Forest, tackling the two challenging hills along the way. We were glad that a long downhill section was in the early stages of reconstruction with a 30km/h speed limit in place, as it meant we weren't responsible for holding up modern traffic which included a few tour buses and campervans. Although the veteran cars were very slow on the uphill sections, most other drivers seemed to be patient and waited to overtake in safe places. We then turned off at Mulvihill Road and doubled back to the south side of Kakahu Forest and to our lunch stop at Kakahu Angus Stud. Lots more gravel and one big hill in this section with a few very rough patches requiring a bit of care. At Kakahu Angus Stud we were hosted by the owners of the property, Tom & Anna Hargreaves. Although the Angus Stud is still an important part of the business, they have diversified the farm into a more mixed operation, including dairy, deer and crop production. The homestead and garden on the property was very impressive, and nowadays Tom & Anna focus on looking after the mature English trees and lawns around the homestead, rather than detailed gardening as such. It was a beautiful setting to park the cars in and enjoy our picnic lunches. In the afternoon a mini-bus had been organised to take us up to the nearby Ravensdown limestone quarry where one of the staff was on hand to provide us with a very informative talk about the operation there. After the visit we had a very easy drive back to Geraldine, and enjoyed a very nice catered meal at the Geraldine Vintage Car & Machinery Museum that evening.

Colin's Report cont'd



**At Waitui Homstead - Geraldine
Grandma, the Winter's 1900
Wolseley is on the left, our 12/16
is in the back row in the middle**

On Sunday morning we met again at Geraldine Auto Restorations, and then set off to the first of two homestead visits, the first one being on Waitui Deer Farm, a restored 1860's triple-brick homestead just on the northern fringe of Geraldine. Elevated on a hill overlooking the Woodbury area and beyond as far as Four Peaks, this was an amazing property, and we were made extremely welcome by the owners Mark & Ginny Bolderston. After an hour or so there, we then drove another 25km – again on a lot of gravel – to finally arrive at the Pankhurst Farm homestead just west of Woodbury. Another fabulous homestead set in a large wooded garden, with owners Ange & Regan Blair on hand to show us around after we'd enjoyed our picnic lunch.

Unfortunately, about 20 minutes into the garden tour a rain shower arrived which effectively ended the visit, but heading back to Geraldine the weather cleared again and nobody got wet. All up a great weekend of motoring and socialising which was enjoyed by everyone.

A week to get organised again, and then it was another full weekend taking part and helping with the VCC Canterbury Branch Annual Rally. As I was helping I wasn't able to compete in any of the events this year, but it was another well organised Annual Rally with good runs on Saturday, an opportunity for a good social at the Kaiapoi Club that evening, and then field tests, a BBQ lunch and prizegiving on Sunday. I used the 6/99 for the Saturday run (which finished at Amberley Domain), and then took the Hornet Special out on Sunday to the VCC grounds where the field tests, lunch and prizegiving took place. The VCC grounds were humming that day as the Annual All Ford Day was also being held there, and the Kustom Car Club next door were having their annual Swap Meet.

Not a lot to report on the cars this month, as we've been busy with everything mentioned above. I have however managed to get the few small issues with the 1919 Wolseley 16/20 sorted, and it's now running again and booked in for its first WoF since 2007 on Friday 27th February. We might get to take it to the VCC Vero Festival of Historic Motoring in Nelson mid-March after all. I'll let you know next month, but for now I'm just pleased it's going again.

Have a great month,

Colin Hey

BRANCH NEWS and EVENTS – North Island

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

2026 has begun with a rush, and what a big year it is. The Vero International Rally in Nelson will see many members of the North Island Branch of the Wolseley Car Club travelling across the Strait to take part. This is followed hot on its heels by our own 50th Anniversary Wolseley Car Club Rally in Christchurch. At the time of writing, over 12 entries from the North Island have been received, a great effort on everyone's part. It is hoped more may yet join us.

Because of these two rallies, nothing is planned for the first six months of this year in the North Island. However, there are quite a few events coming up that members may want to attend. The first is the Brit and Euro Classic Car Show on Sunday March 1. The details about entry etc. have been emailed to members.

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT cont'd

The Brit and Euro Classic Car Show at Upper Hutt was attended by members from the southern part of the North Island. This was organised by Larry Naik, and was a most enjoyable day. Thank you Larry for organising this. It is great to see you back to your old self.

The Waikato Vintage Tractor and Machinery Memorabilia Weekend is on at Morrinsville on March 14-15. I attended this event last year, and it is well worth a visit. The Central Hawkes Bay Steam Fair is on in Feilding on March 21-22, as well as many Vintage Car Clubs holding local runs. There is always plenty to do with a Wolseley!

Along with our North Island Chairman Pieter Deutz-Ebeling, I had the good fortune to meet with the President of the Wolseley Register, Graham Rider and his lovely wife, Jenny. Because Pieter is a member of the Wolseley Register, Graham was catching up with him and other members whilst on a vacation from Birmingham, England. In the North Island, they had spent time with Winton and Ruth Cleal in Wellington before heading off with them to Napier for a fabulous Art Deco experience. They thoroughly enjoyed their time with Winton and Ruth, before catching up with Ivan McCutcheon and travelling on to the Waikato to spend an afternoon with us talking all things Wolseley.

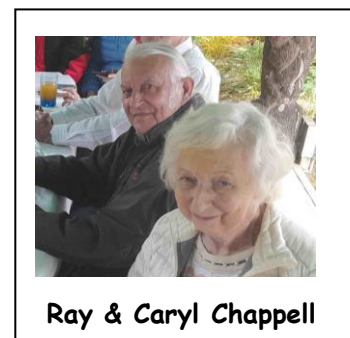
Pieter and Kevin proudly showed off their Wolseleys and other vintage vehicles, and the visitors were suitably impressed. Thank you to Johanna for providing a lovely afternoon tea with delicious Dutch cookies.

Our North Island AGM has to be held before October. In past years it has been held in July and August. This may be our next rally, depending on member's interest.

We will miss both Ray and Harry on our rallies. Our rallies will not be the same without them. Our thoughts and good wishes are with Caryl and Gay at this time.



Gay & Harry Sutcliffe



Ray & Caryl Chappell

So there is lots happening in 2026. It will be a year of celebration. Let's all jump in and enjoy the ride!

Happy Wolseleying
Annette McKnight

North Island Events

Date for your Diaries.

Taranaki Garden Festival 6th – 8th November



Hi everyone, this is an advance notice for the Taranaki Garden Festival run. This will be held the weekend 6th – 8th November.

Please mark your diaries now, with information being available closer to the time. The Auto Lodge has always been a good place to stay with breakfast available and a short distance from the city. But there are other great accommodation options to choose from.

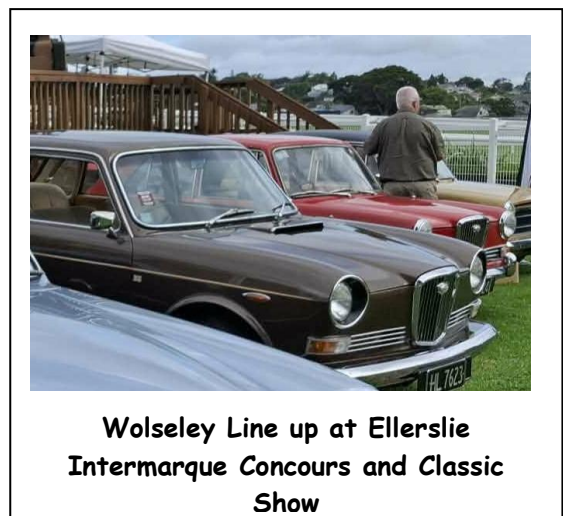
UPPER NORTH ISLAND EVENT

Ellerslie Intermarque Concours and Classic Car Show

Sunday 8th February 2026 at Ellerslie Racecourse, Auckland



**Attendees at Ellerslie Intermarque
Concours and Classic Show**



**Wolseley Line up at Ellerslie
Intermarque Concours and Classic
Show**

North Island Events cont'd

LOWER NORTH ISLAND EVENT

British & European Car Day 2026

Sunday the 8th of February dawned beautifully fine as numerous motorcars and motorcycles with their enthusiastic owners and others in tow arrived at Trentham Memorial Park in Upper Hutt for the 40th anniversary of this ever-popular event. There was a big turnout of many makes and models spread across the park.

Our Wolseley marque and car club was represented with a diverse selection of seven Wolseley vehicles. Very pleasing was the turnout of club members and accompanying family members which brought our total to fifteen. Seventeen when we include the presence of two member's grandchildren. The young ones are mentioned as fostering an interest and appreciation for automobiles of a bygone era in younger generations is to be applauded and encouraged. They are the future!

Our Wolseley cars drew their share of attention and

photographs

from
admiring
onlookers

inspiring

questions and conversations with many who reflected on their own experiences and knowledge of Wolseleys from years past.

As the sun bore down we were thankful for the shade of two gazebos (thanks Ruth & Winton and Bronwyn & Hugh). That said, some made the most of relaxing in the open and catching some sunshine which, to date this summer, has been in short supply across the motu.

As with previous years it was a thoroughly enjoyable day. Members commented on it being a lovely social get-together. Great people, company,

conversations, laughs, fun, common interests, and delicious shared nibbles. Notably, again, the Wolseley Car Club members were among the last to depart the event.

Thanks to all who made the effort to attend.



Members who attended the British & European Car Day



Wolseley Line up at British & European Car Day

BRANCH NEWS and EVENTS – Christchurch

Congratulations and all members' grateful thanks I'm sure, go to Gaye Dixon for picking up the reins as Editor and producing a first Class publication of the Wolseley Word. Such a great first edition which was appreciated by all. It really is the cement that bonds the entire Wolseley movement nationwide together.

February on the Christchurch scene has been very much business as usual... The Wednesday and Saturday mornings usually just have the regulars turning up, but in saying this, others knowing their chance of having a cuppa, and one of Lord Wolseley's scones, should he be able to attend, is becoming a draw card

Last Saturday was the normal scheduled working bee / committee meeting which was well attended including guest members and held once again outdoors in brilliant sunshine. The business that keeps the Branch afloat was tabled with the usual monthly reports etc. In addition the word is out that ECAN is going to provide Oak Trees that will be planted by their own personnel that will replace the felled pines. A vast number is the spoken word that will be planted over the ensuing months.

The events calendar for the ensuing month has the Club giving support for the inaugural AVID Euro & Classic car show on the 7th March at the Air Force Museum at Wigram. Already there are in excess of 700 cars entered. Following on the following weekend on Sunday 15th March is the ever popular Twin Rivers Annual Car show at the A&P Showgrounds. This is always popular and we do hope our members will consider this worthwhile event. Then most probably towards the end of the month we intend a midweek event to cross the harbour from Lyttleton to Diamond Harbour on the ferry and have a picnic lunch of sorts, and return using the Ferry Service. Fine tuning upon options for this event still need to be established.

Colin is very satisfied with the response to date for the National Jubilee Rally celebrating 50 years of Wolseley with the entries he has received. An update on this no doubt will be submitted and included in his writings. It's just a matter of prompting our own local members to respond to the call, as the history records that Canterbury is where the first set of wobbly Wolseley wheels were spun on the very first official run. Could be embarrassing if other Branches led the way in terms of their members recognising the significance of this event with their supporting members out weighing our own in what will be a memorable milestone. Also who knows with the organisational professional shaping the event. it could hit Nationwide TV. (just a little joke perhaps) But not many other motoring clubs can credit themselves with this sort of milestone. And when we look to the future towards the next 50 years, - say no more.

Kindest regards,

Stuart

Coming Events – Christchurch Branch

Saturday 7th March – Inaugural Canterbury Brit & Euro Show at Wigram Air Force World. Entry is free for display cars – go to www.canterburybriteuro.nz for more information. Over 600 cars and motorcycles are expected. Contact Stuart Penny if you haven't already registered and want to take part.

Sunday 15th March – Twin Rivers Motoring Extravaganza at the A&P Showgrounds. Always a great event to be part of, entry fee is \$20 per car with all proceeds going to the Child Cancer Foundation.

Malvern Anzac Day Run – Saturday 25th April.

The annual VCC-organised run to celebrate and remember Anzac Day. The run will once again start in Darfield from the Darfield Recreation Centre, North Terrace. Meet from 10am, run departs after a short commemorative service at 11.00am, then visits several Malvern War Memorials before finishing in Glentunnel. Any Wolseley Car Club member is welcome to take part in a Wolseley – Contact Colin Hey if you would like to participate.

50th Anniversary National Rally Update

To date we have already received 26 entries for the Rally, with about half of those from the North Island. I am aware that there are many others who have mentioned they are going to take part in some or all of the Rally events, so if you are one of them, please don't delay getting your registration form in.

Remember that if you are coming from the North Island, the club will subsidise your ferry crossings to the sum of \$150 per car for the return journey. Entry forms and the full Rally programme were emailed out to everyone late in January, but if you have lost it or didn't get it, just email me or Michael Kruse and you will be sent both. Early Entries close on 20th March.

Nearly all the entries coming from out of Christchurch have booked their accommodation at the Redwood Hotel, so it will certainly be the centre of activity for the Rally. The final awards dinner will be held there, as well as the farewell breakfast at the end of the Rally.

Bookings have now been confirmed for most of the venues we will be visiting, and towards the end of March a booking form will be sent out to all those who have registered, on which you will be able to nominate the various events you wish to attend.

We have also made contact with Colin Higgins, a member of the Higgins family, who organised the inaugural meeting of the club in 1976 in a hall in Linwood, Christchurch. He will be our guest of honour at the final awards dinner, and is going to try and attend some of the other activities during the week.

Sharon O'Malley is getting organised to put in orders for Rally regalia during March, and will send out a separate email detailing what items will be available and how much they will cost. Payment for this regalia will need to be made directly to the regalia account with the order – this will be detailed in Sharon's email.

So, it's all shaping up to be a great and memorable event. If you do intend to come, get that entry form in straight away so you don't miss out.

Colin Hey

50th Anniversary National Rally Convenor

BRANCH NEWS and EVENTS – Southern

WOLSELEY SOUTHERN REGION ARTICLE

Fergus & Mary Jane Sime bought a new car, but is it a Wolseley?

On 25 October 2022 Fergus joined the National Executive Meeting by Zoom. We were waiting for others to join when someone asked those present, 'has anyone got any car news to share?' After no one said anything I said, 'we've bought a new car!' I could feel the anticipation in the 'room' rise – 'have Fergus and Mary Jane finally bought a Wolseley, and if so what is it?' were the unspoken questions! (We own a 1964 A110 Austin Westminster.) I then proceeded to tell them it was a 1998 Ford Fairlane NL Ghia sedan. I could feel the anticipation quickly drain from the 'room'!! But, I said, this is no ordinary Fairlane. It's an ex-Government (VIP Transport Service or Crown) Fairlane that still has the flags and flag holders along with a head roll and blanket that were in the car when it was owned by VIP Transport. VIP Transport provide limousine transport for the Governor General, MP's Judges etc. The car is in mint original condition. The interest in the 'room' had increased a bit by

now! Some questions and discussion followed.



Winston Front View

Why buy such a car? Ever since I got my driver's license at age 15 I have enjoyed transporting people around. My great great Grandfather McIntosh owned a coach that took people and goods between Dunedin & Lawrence in the late 1800's before he retired and sold to Cobb & Co.; my Grandfather Sime had four Ford Fairlanes (one after the other) and enjoyed taking people for rides in them and my parents gave people rides in our cars so it was 'in my blood'. My first three cars were Ford Laser

Hatchbacks. People enjoyed riding in the front seat, but

there wasn't much legroom in the back seat for the arthritic or tall people! I had been considering what I could do about having a vehicle with more legroom in the back when I came across a photo of my Grandfather's 1965 Fairlane, a car which I adored as a young boy. I remembered the legroom in the back of Granddad's Fairlanes and thought this could be the answer to my problems. I eventually bought a 1965 Fairlane which I thoroughly enjoy driving but was disappointed with the legroom not being as much as I had remembered.

I subsequently read an article that said from 1979 onwards Fairlanes were built on the same length chassis as the higher specification Ford LTDs were. At that time Ford LTDs were being used by VIP Transport for their limousine transport work, but because Fairlanes were the same length, had the same leg room and were cheaper, VIP Transport started buying both Fairlanes & LTD's from 1979. The penny dropped. The legroom I was remembering was that of Granddad's last Fairlane which was a 1979 one. This made me think I needed another more modern Fairlane that had the legroom I was looking for. I particularly liked the body shape of the 1995 -1998 Fairlanes more than the other models built from 1979 onwards. I had looked at a few 1995 -1998 Fairlanes for sale over the years but didn't buy them.

When this ex-Government 1998 Fairlane came up for sale on Trade Me in mint original condition I thought this is the car with the legroom I've been looking for. Added to that it has an interesting history being an ex-Government Fairlane and what fun we could have taking people for rides in it especially when putting the flags on!! I remembered my Grandfather saying he used to get questions from people about whether his 1979 Fairlane was a Government limousine because it looked identical to them! It wasn't because he bought it brand new. With all this in mind I couldn't resist buying it!

When I initially phoned the seller to make enquiries about it, he wanted to know what I wanted to use the car for as he wanted to be sure it went to a good home and would be kept in original condition. I

WOLSELEY SOUTHERN REGION ARTICLE cont'd

told him we wanted it to transport people in because it had the legroom I was looking for and I wanted to keep it in its original condition. He was rather relieved to hear this as he told me that all his other previous enquirers wanted to buy it to lower, significantly alter or wreck the car! To assure him of our interest in classic cars in original condition I emailed him photos of our 1965 Fairlane and Austin Westminster which are both in very original condition. The deal was sealed.

For those of you who are mechanically minded it has a 4 litre 6 cylinder overhead cam engine with multipoint electronic fuel injection. Many Fairlanes came out with a 5 litre V8 engine, but all the VIP Transport Fairlanes of this era had 4 litre engines. The 4 litre engine has plenty of power for what we need to use the Fairlane for! It is a wonderful car to drive.

Being a former Government Fairlane its original Crown Numberplate was CR424. The numberplates are not reused or sold with the car when the car is sold. The seller knowing its Crown numberplate got a personalized numberplate made for it which is XCR424. A very clever way of saying what the car was, it was a former, or ('x') ex-Government car and its crown number was CR424.



Winston Side View

I was very keen to learn about some of the car's history, so I contacted VIP Transport. They told me it worked in Auckland and Northland during its three years in their ownership and they gave me the name of the driver, who no longer worked for them. When we were on holiday in January 2023 a family member who was a retired Employment Court Judge told me he rode in our car when he worked in Auckland and Northland because he remembered the driver's name. What a coincidence! He also told me that when he came to Dunedin to judge cases an identical car with the flags on for every trip would pick him up at the airport, take him to his hotel, then each day back and forth to the Employment Court, then at the end of his time take him back to the airport. I have promised him that if he comes to Dunedin I will be his chauffeur and he can relive the experience! He has yet to take up the offer.

More information about the car came from the seller as he has connections with the next owner after VIP Transport, which was Marlborough Limousines Ltd. They used it for the next 15 years to transport people around in including having the contract with VIP Transport to transport Government officials around in that area for them. The seller also recounted being transported to school in the car as a primary school boy! Later when he owned the car he said his grandmother loved being driven in it and loved waving to passers-by!

The car was subsequently sold to a private owner for about 4 years before the current seller purchased it and owned it for about 3 years before selling it to us due to moving overseas. Every owner had looked after the car very carefully so that was why it was in such good condition.

The seller also told me the car came with a name - it's called Winston after Winston Peters! This was due to several interesting adventures the car had with Winston Peters in it!

Since we have owned this Fairlane we have used it to transport people all over Otago & Southland for my work and other personal travel. People enjoy riding in it because of its comfort and legroom. A good number of people enjoy hearing about its history. Some friends will request, if not demand (politely of course!) to be transported in this car rather than any of our other cars!

One person who has had head injuries says it is the only car he has been in that he doesn't get a headache while going around the winding road on State Highway 1 in and out of Balclutha in South Otago. That was quite a touching remark. Another person who suffers from sleep apnea enjoys riding in it rather than driving, as he cannot drive long distances.

WOLSELEY SOUTHERN REGION ARTICLE cont'd

Many people enjoy riding in it with the flags on. They can pretend to be someone important and enjoy waving to people they pass by!

Near Christmas a few years ago Mary Jane had a function at a hotel where parking would be difficult, so I took her and a friend to and from the hotel in the Fairlane. As we arrived at the hotel entrance the friend said, 'it would have been a much more impressive arrival if you had put the flags on.' I thought to myself she was right! When I came back to collect them I arrived back with the flags on and parked outside the hotel entrance. They were a bit late finishing the function, but during that time I waited no one coming or going or the staff at the reception desk, which the car was in full view of, came to ask who I was or what I was doing there. Having the flags on can be an advantage! Mary Jane's friend was very excited to see I had put the flags on when she came out. She waved to everyone she could see all the way from the hotel to her home!

Recently we took a longtime family friend with her daughter and son-in-law to her 95th birthday party with the flags on at her request. We were heading into Mosgiel when we came upon a police checkpoint. I was looking forward to being asked about the car, where we were going and who of importance was in the car, but sadly we were waved through without even being stopped or questioned!!

Another elderly friend a few years earlier asked for a ride to a restaurant lunch we were going to and insisted on having the flags on the car. To my surprise she had asked her niece to take photographs of the whole event from when we left to go to restaurant, getting out and back into the car at the restaurant and back at the retirement village where she lives. It made her day and I was very pleased to be able to do that for her.

At the other end of the age spectrum a friend asked if we could take her niece to a High School annual ball as she was going on her own and it was part of the tradition for students to arrive at the ball venue in a classic car. I willingly agreed and was looking forward to seeing what other vehicles turned up. However, before the ball she had found someone to go with, and they had access to a classic car, so we didn't get to do that.

We primarily bought our classic cars to use and transport others in, but occasionally we have put them in car shows. Over the years all three cars have been in the Lawrence Car Show which Gordon Duthie is the chair of the organizing committee for. In 2023 Dunedin City Ford celebrated the 100th anniversary of their dealership. They wanted to have a cruise and display that had a car from each year. When I phoned the organizer I found that the 1998 Fairlane was the one he wanted. On the day of the show we met at the Ice Rink Carpark. When we arrived I met the organiser at the gate. He saluted me on arrival and was very pleased to see the Fairlane with the flags on. The cars were lined up in chronological order then we had a cruise to the Ford dealership yard where we parked for the show. I have a 'sandwich board' with details about the car which I put in front of it. People read it, then looked at car and had 'aha moments' as it made sense to them. We had a constant stream of people coming to talk to us, including friends and some people we hadn't seen for years. Car shows can be great fun.

On 1 April 2023 we took the Fairlane on the April fools day Wolseley Car Club rally. It couldn't be in the photo with all the Wolseleys, so George Strong took a photo of it, put it in the branch report in the Wolseley Word January – March 2023 with a caption that read, 'Fergus and his ex-Govt Limo – wonder how many big deals have been done in the back of that one?'

There are many other stories about this car, and many more to come in the future too! We thoroughly enjoy our three classic cars and using them to give others travel and pleasure is a great gift we can offer.

Fergus & Mary Jane Sime

Cars and Parts For Sale

Wolseley 18/85 Tow Bar

For sale a tow bar for a Wolseley 18/85.

Custom built and with all bits including nuts & bolts. Removed from a donor car in Gisborne.

I have decided not to put it on my 18/85.

I want \$100 plus any freight if not picked up from Kawerau.

Contact Gay Sutcliffe: Ph 0210 343 707

Korny Korner

Wow, I think you went too far with the plastic surgery!



Wanted to Sell

Wolseley Eight, 1947 approx

No WOF, registration dead, but papers can possibly be found. Mechanical condition unknown, probably only suitable for parts. Needs to be sold and moved as soon as possible, and open to offers.

The car is in Christchurch. Contact the owner, Samantha on 022 653 3116.





REGALIA

Many people have their own private collections of regalia on their subject of interest. The New Zealand Wolseley Car Club is no different. Some of the items we have for sale are related just to the New Zealand club, while others have been sourced from England, the home of the Wolseley marque.

From window stickers for your cars to lapel pins, coasters, key rings, and fridge magnets.

We can supply you from our own stocks. And now we can add shirts and caps to the mix. We order in lots of eight or more to make the embroidery run efficient and cost-effective. Our order can be a mixture of T-Shirts and Polo shirts or eight or more caps.

Wolseley Caps, Tees and Polo Shirts are made to order and must be an order of 8 garments or 8 caps at any given time.

So place an order now and when the magic number has been reached, we'll do a run and get your new clothing posted out to you as quickly as possible.

Caps are \$20 each, with T-Shirts \$25 and Polo Shirts \$35 all in a very serviceable green.

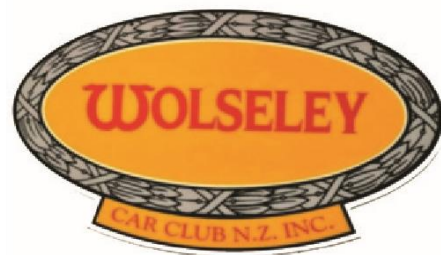
For any questions look on the website <https://www.wolseleycarclub.co.nz/> or to order any of the regalia or clothing items are shown here, **please contact**

Sharon by phone or text on 021 498 162 or by email to dandsomalley@gmail.com

- Wolseley Car Club Cooler Bag \$55
- Wolseley Car Club Ladies Blouse \$65
- Wolseley Ladies Blouse \$65
- Wolseley Lapel Badge \$10
- Wolseley Workman Overalls \$95
- Wolseley Number Plate Surrounds \$10
- Wolseley Embroidered Badge \$10
- Wolseley Car Club Window Sticker \$5
- Wolseley Car Club I Bought Wisely Sticker \$5
- Wolseley Car Club NZ Cap \$20
- Wolseley Car Club NZ Polo Shirt \$35
- Wolseley Car Club NZ Tee Shirt \$25
- Wolseley Car Club 125 Yrs Sticker \$5
- Wolseley Car Club Red Wolseley Lapel Pin 02 \$8
- Wolseley Car Club Wolseley 680 Lapel Pin 04
- Wolseley Car Club Maroon Wolseley 690 Lapel Pin 01
- Wolseley Car Club Wolseley Lapel Pin 05 \$8
- Wolseley Car Club Wolseley Lapel Pin 06 \$8
- Wolseley Car Club Wolseley Lapel Pin 07 \$8
- Wolseley Car Club Wolseley Lapel Pin 09 \$8
- Wolseley Car Club Wolseley Car Club Stickers \$3-\$5
- Wolseley Car Club NZ Beanie Wool blend \$25 Acrylic \$15
- Wolseley Car Club NZ Sweatshirts \$50
- Wolseley Car Club NZ Bucket Hat \$25
- Wolseley Car Club NZ Key Ring \$15



Lapel Badge \$10.00



Sticker \$5.00



Cooler bags \$55

The  *Word*

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