

## Reflections of the Packard Safari Rally



**FRIDAY 8th FEBRUARY / SATURDAY 9TH FEBRUARY:** Malcolm and I had travelled down from Auckland with Brent and Lou Mathieson on the Thursday, leaving bright and early and just taking our time. This was a very hot day with cross winds, so our hood remained up until we were well south at Bulls (it's the furthest we have travelled with our hood up!). We stayed at Paraparaumu overnight. Headed off into Wellington to meet our South Island friends arriving on the ferry. This was our

first look at Tony and Jane Devereux's 1927 343 Roadster – on its maiden voyage having completed restoration. Wow what a beauty, and we could see that Tony was so proud, albeit hesitant about it being its first outing. After lunch we headed back to Waikanae through the Akatarawa Gorge. This was very narrow and windy and one-way on many areas, but what a fabulous drive through the bush—a highlight for me.

After checking into our motel at Waikanae, we welcomed others as they arrived. After a swim, stocking up with supplies, and a little libation, we finished Friday with a delightful meal at the restaurant at Waikanae Beach, where we met the others and had a great night....this was going to be a good rally!

**SATURDAY:** Was a free day, however in the afternoon Michael had arranged a visit to a private museum of English cars, quite a large collection of Minis.. I think one could have fit 2 minis into some of the Packards there!!! This was our first photo opportunity with most of the cars gathered on the road. Saturday evening saw us at Michael and Mary's beach house, where we greeted each other, chatted, and had a fabulous BBQ complete with crayfish (A big thankyou to Terry O'Leary for the crays—they went down a treat!). We met and welcomed the Australians, and the Americans who were here for the rally. A lovely evening.

**SUNDAY:** All gathered at Southwards Museum to look through the workshop and museum. It is a wonderful testament to Len Southward's passion and vision, with an awesome collection of vehicles. One by one we headed off....answering questions all day, onto Tokomaru Steam Museum. 'Tho not quite a 'girlie' thing it houses many interesting steam engines with many great stories, and is still owned run by a lovely old couple. Here, the first mechanical problem of the rally occurred — flat tyre on the 1922 Packard Town car. Soon sorted with willing hands. Off down the road to Shannon's 'Owlcatraz' where we were treated to a super luncheon by super friendly owners and staff. We were taken in groups into the owl enclosure which is temperature controlled to match the forest environment they are from. What a passionate and funny information session we had from the owner, as we stood silently in the enclosure and were fascinated by these creatures. Onto the farm for a guided tour. Sad to hear about the 2nd mechanical problem and to see Peter and Judy Talley's 1926 243 Phaeton being towed in after a small hiccup. Problem discovered after a 'boys investigation', but sadly was no longer on the Rally. However, Peter unperturbed, arranged for a rather lovely replacement car to be delivered next day to the motel—his 1929 Cadillac V8 Phaeton! We were impressed!! I think he and Judy were having far too much fun to let a little 'hiccup' stop their Rally. Back to Palmerston North where that night we were bussed out to the Manawatu Branch VCC rooms for our AGM and dinner. A great start to the Rally.

### **MONDAY:**

After a short briefing by Michael, we left town on a pastoral jaunt around the local countryside. We followed our directions, answering questions, which took a bit of concentration because the countryside was so agreeable that it was easy to just gaze and enjoy. Morning tea was at "The Gables", a lovely old two-story home with enchanting, if slightly tangled, gardens and numerous domestic fowl who regarded us as vaguely disagreeable intruders. The lady of the house was a delightful soul, vigorous for her age and very friendly. She assisted in ensuring that we were all appropriately fed and watered before continuing on our journey. We paused (somewhere!?) to admire the progress on Michael's Waterhouse Replica, then shortly afterward were directed into a stunning homestead called "Pukemarama". This sprawling wooden home sits atop a rise which gives it a commanding position, and looks out on a picturesque English-inspired garden, with many steps down to a lawn dominated by a huge umbrella tree so neatly "manicured" that it became the focal point for many cameras. The local Plunket group had arranged our lunch for us and we enjoyed it sitting on the verandah. Afterwards we were able to have a look through some of the house and see how it was being brought to life again with some serious updating of amenities, while trying to hold on to the olde grande essence of the place. Not a job for the faint-hearted or the empty-pocketed! The afternoon's ramble included Foxton Beach and when a whole bunch of cars arrived at the same time it was the signal for yet another line-up and photo session. Leaving the beach, we got ourselves horribly muddled regarding the instructions, and eventually decided to toss them and head straight for the next attractions, which were the Windmill and the Trolleybus Museum in Foxton. The windmill's workings were fascinating, although the stairs were perilous, then some of us decided to forego the Museum in favour of a cup of nice fluffy coffee at a nearby café. After this we were free to head straight back to Palmy' or do a bit more rallying and answering-of-questions. Most of our lot were lazies, taking the short route home, and as we were free to cater for ourselves that evening, we took the easy way out and visited the local takeaway.

I SAY CHAPPIES.....WHAT LIES AHEAD.....



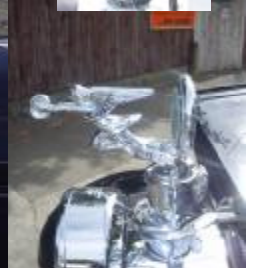
Arrival of our South Island friends



After meeting the South Islanders in Wellington, 5 cars journeyed through the Akatarawa Gorge between Upper Hutt and Waikanae

# Saturday Pics

Our illustrious leader Michael



Welcome BBQ at Michael & Mary Taylor's beach house

# Sunday Pics



The 4 colours of Packard shirts—see later for details to order



Monday pics...



Pukemarama Homestead



Cars at Foxton Beach



Tuesday pics...

Our Australian Packard Cousins



World's longest bike



Boys discussing the merits of 4 cylinders.... Yeah Right!!



Cars at the Wind Farm



Wednesday Pics...



Guavas Homestead



Wallingford Homestead



## Prizegiving



Our Safari leader Michael in full flight at prizegiving, and finally....relaxing with Mary, after a job well done.

## Thursday Morning Pics...at Oruawhero



Rally photo taken at Oruawhero Homestead

# ART DECO WEEKEND 2008



## Reflections of the Packard Safari Rally

**TUESDAY:** Another day on Safari—Palmerston North to Waipukurau. Would have loved to poke around at the curiosity shop in Ashurst, but damn, closed on Tuesdays!!

Travelling up to the Te Apati Windfarm viewing area was energising - to see the magnificent 55 x 70m high giant turbines close up. Quite a climb for our Packards on the Saddle Road. We gave our Aussie Packardians Jeff and Rob a wee drive of our 1937. Late morning onto Mangatainoka Tui Brewery tour.



**We came on the Packard tour to see how the beer's made—YEAH RIGHT!!!**

Then it was onto the Purple Haze Lavender Café for a very generous lunch—the food just kept coming!!! 4 'Jaffas' ('Just Another Friendly Aucklander' ..*Ed.*) on Safari—what were they looking for in the lavender fields????? A TUI perhaps!!

Some people may have looked at antique shops in Woodville, but we carried on following the base of the Ruahine Ranges—Topgrass Rd was a long one—lots of dairy farms passed to Dannevirke substation and deer farms.

Somebody must have prayed for rain at Ormondville as it rained 'cats and dogs' - it was a good test for our new hood—yes a few leaks!! Didn't stop for the 'Coldest Beer' in Ormondville, but headed onto Waipukurau and our motel, where our evening finished with a catered BBQ at Thornton Lodge.

Margaret Taylor

**WEDNESDAY:** Another fabulous day dawned for our penultimate rally day in Waipukurau. I was offered a day's ride in Phil Dunstan's 1935 supercharged Auburn—quite some power under the bonnet of that wee baby!!! Adele rode with Mal in our Packard roadster. We assembled at the Waipuk Railway Station and made quite a lineup for many locals to view, before heading off out the back of Waipukurau on lovely country roads to Onga Onga for morning tea.

We then meandered up Highway 50 to Guavas Homestead for lunch. This is yet another huge homestead which is undergoing major renovations by the younger generation of family. We were allowed to have a look inside to see floorboards uplifted to lay new piping, computer wires and electricity in nearly every room—what a mammoth job!! They had nearly finished their kitchen and it looked fabulous. We then had a very short drive within the property, to what was the original homestead still lived in by the parents—a very quant home full of atmosphere and lovely gardens. We enjoyed a veritable feast of food for lunch and relaxed in the lawns for a very pleasant sojourn. It was then back to Waipuk. *Some* people just wanted to 'blow the cobwebs from the engine' and put the foot down on those wonderful open back roads—thanks Phil it was fun!!

We were then 'bussed' out to Wallingford homestead for our final dinner and prizegiving. This began with relaxing around the cabana/pool, clay shooting (a bit sore on my old shoulder from the recoil!), croquet and conversation. The evening was wonderfully relaxing and fun as prizegiving finished with a 'fining session' from our appointed 'Sheriff' Dave Lane—great fun! What we noticed in the photos, was that everyone had a smile on their face—it says it all really!! We gave Michael a warm thankyou with some champas. *See the photos as they tell the story.*

*By Terry Dean*

**THURSDAY:** We headed out the back of Waipukurau to 'Oruawhero' Homestead in Takapau. This was originally 85 rooms but when short of money at some point they demolished 22 of them!!!! Unbelievable. We sat down to a brunch with 3 tier cake stands and a tantalising range of herbal/fruit teas to imbibe, guided by our hostess as to which to choose. Peter Smith then related, humourously, the history of the homestead until they purchased it about 7 years ago. They have spent well into 7 figures on the grounds and internal heating, but honestly the job ahead is still daunting to my eyes!!! What I observed is that it is a true dedication that these homestead owners have the passion to bring these magnificent homes back to their former glory, and if it weren't for them, these places would just lie in ruin. It's a part of our NZ history and I salute them! Peter offered to climb up inside the onto the roof to take a grand photo of all our cars. We then all headed off into Napier for the start of Art Deco weekend.....What better way to finish a memorable time with our wonderful cars, sharing them with wonderful people. Thanks everyone!!!!

*By Terry Dean*

# ART DECO WEEKEND 2008

After a marvellous week 'Parkarding around' we all came to Napier and straight into the annual weekend celebration of the Art Deco Era. This was the first encounter of the weekend for many on the Rally.

Around 330 registered vehicles for the weekend (vehicles must be prior to 1945) made for an awesome sight. On Friday, around 24 of us had a lovely luncheon at 'The Church' as Meeanee which has been recently renovated into a restaurant/function venue. It's something to behold and the chandeliers!!!! We were taken on a small run out the back of




Napier, ending up at the Mission for afternoon tea. What a great day! That evening we all went into town and met up with other friends who had travelled down for the event. Some of these were Packard owners, and of course, we were only too willing to impart all adventures from our previous week!

Saturday, once again dawned very hot, as we assembled at Church Rd Vineyard for the registered entrants morning tea. There were over 900 people at this!!! Then lining up on the outskirts of the city for the parade. (Oh boy it was hot waiting for the parade to begin — not conducive to being in suits and furs. Once again we were blown away by the crowds of people gathered to cheer us all on. It must be quite a spectacle for them to see over 300 cars process by. We then made our way to the Port to welcome in the Queen Victoria on her maiden voyage around the world—boy did she cause some traffic hassles!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Saturday evening was once again in town with everyone dressed in evening garb—another lovely evening.

Sunday saw the trolley derby with the kids and parent—always a highlight of the weekend, and the Gatsby Picnic in the afternoon. We finished off the weekend with a lovely BBQ at a friends place to unwind and reflect. I really hope those of you who had experienced it for the first time, had fun, as we sure did! Roll on next years and maybe some of you will be back, having been 'bitten by the bug'.

Terry

## South Pacific Packards Art Deco Safari. Order form for Packard shirts



**Colours:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Black/Charcoal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cherry/Maroon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey/Charcoal
<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	White/Charcoal

**Weight:** 160 GSM

**Size:**

S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL

**Details:**  
**MENS** breathable BIZCOOL COMFORT 100% Polyester - New Sports knit. Raglan polo with tonal tipping. Tipped knitted collar and cuff with single stripe. Self fabric side panels with tonal tipping. Side splits. Loose pocket

8	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
0	2	4	6	8	0	2	4	

**Size:**

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**Details:**  
**LADIES** breathable BIZCOOL COMFORT 100% Polyester - New Sports knit. Raglan polo with tonal tipping. Tipped knitted collar and cuff with single stripe. Slim-line 3 button placket. Self fabric side panels with tonal tipping.

**4 colours available:**  
 Black with charcoal trim & logo  
 Cherry with maroon trim & logo  
 Grey with charcoal trim & logo  
 White with charcoal trim & logo

Price is \$55 each incl GST and postage to a NZ address. Additional \$5 for Overseas

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
 '2008 Art Deco Safari' logo on sleeve is only available for order during rally. After this the logo on sleeve with only be 'SOUTH PACIFIC PACKARDS'.

## PACKARD POLOSHIRTS

We had made 4 sample polo shirts (which we showed to Rally participant: see Page 7 for colours). These were made for the Art Deco Safari Rally. They had the "Packard" script on the front and 'South Pacific Packards—Art Deco Safari 2008' on the sleeve. They are a lightweight fabric and very easy to wear and look very smart. We are however, taking orders for a generic "Packard" club shirt, without reference to the 'Art Deco Safari'. In our next magazine I will have this order form (see left) as a colour page, however, if you wish to make an order for a shirt please telephone me (09) 4473141, and I can explain further to you. Many of us ordered shirts during the Rally.

*For those of you who ordered shirts, they have arrived during the weekend, and I will post them off to you this week.*

Terry



Name:		Phone:	
Address:		Email:	
		Payment made:	
		Amount:	
		Cheque?	Cash?
Qty	Mens or Womens	Colour	Size

Hand this order form with your payment to Terry Dean or fax to 09-447-3142 or email to [terry@sonatec.co.nz](mailto:terry@sonatec.co.nz). Payment must be received before order is placed with supplier.