



The

Squeaky Wheel



Issue #45 - December 2022

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Dear Members of the MOTAT Society.

Your committee and administrator wish you and your families Merry Christmas and every success for 2023!!

We have adventures lined up for the summer and beyond, the plan being to hit them hard and quickly with frequent trips to places that will interest you. Trips are free if you are a member, and someone else is doing the driving for you. Keep an eye on the Events & Announcements newsletters, Squeaky Wheel, our website, and Facebook and Instagram pages for updates.

We hope to see you in the quorum at the SGM/AGM in February. Keep safe - walk around the vehicle before getting in.

The MOTAT Society Committee and Administrator



MOTAT AVIATION HALL TOUR

The hardest part of any trip to MOTAT is finding somewhere to park the car, then getting to the entrance. This expectation has been resolved with the new carpark!!! Approached from Motions Road, with the Zoo pulling in huge numbers of excited families, down the long new concrete drive with shuddering judder bars in place of the former potholes, the car park was nearly empty of cars. The generous parking spaces and clear directions with wheel stops and delineated pedestrian paths rising slowly to the east and expanding to the west across an apron of pedestrian crossing to the AH made a welcome and relieving sight. While we're currently not having to pay for parking there will be a pay station up and working from February 2023.

Across the forecourt the entry to the Aviation Hall appeared unchanged - although tidy and crisp with new finishes and approach layout. Once inside our group reassuredly gathered on

seats provided before the check-in and shop beyond. Our guide was young Andrew Fisher, keen and intent on sharing stories he will never forget. Members of our group also shared their stories as we encountered the drama and wonder of the massive and small aircraft on display.

The collection is a wonder – it feels almost a secret, the space is so internal. The air was full of planes, overlaid and positioned within millimetres of each other at dramatic angles.

The Lancaster was the significant first encounter and we moved through to the Sunderland, gun turrets restored by Ron Wilson (Lush Award recipient for 2022) with an abundance of thought and conversation - where did they keep the rowboat? How did they load bombs? How did they drop them? The romance of the moored aircraft bobbing at anchor in the lagoon overnight with the imagined noise in the tropical warm air.



Continued on page three...

ROLLING OUT TO ROLLS ROYCE

The Brookby countryside was inspirational - rolling hills, manicured fields, and classic wood railing fences culminating in an imposing entrance, guiding us into what could easily be mistaken for an English country estate. William Wordsworth would have been impressed with it all.

Continuing on up a kilometre of elegant drive and acknowledging two very large and hairy highland cattle bulls, our arrival was announced by several geese outside of a classic English-styled stable of the kind used to house racing thoroughbreds.



We were greeted by our host, Auckland businessman and gentleman farmer, Richard Langridge at the entrance to his "garages" and started the tour with a very rare Bristol car that Richard had purchased in London from the owner of Bristol cars. This rare beauty is housed with a Saracen armoured car, a twelve-tonne armoured personnel carrier. Apart from huge, this vehicle is awe-inspiring.

Incidentally, all of Richard's vast collection of vehicles are roadworthy, licensed, registered and all have current warrants of fitness. On entering the garage area a touch of a button on the entrance wall simultaneously opens the doors of all the garages revealing the static beauty of some forty Rolls Royces, this was so impressive that we could have just remained there overawed with jaws dropped to boot level.

Brought back to earth by the starting of the tour proper we turned left under the arch and were introduced to two very rare vehicles nestling either side of a large Rolls Royce. My personal favourite of all time, the V12



Below: Our host, Richard Langridge

drophead Lagonda dating from 1938 (see copy picture below).

As the tour progressed we were introduced to each car individually with an explanation of its history of previous owners and how it arrived at Brookby Farm. Although all of the collection is now in beautiful condition and working perfectly, many have



had to be saved from a rusting demise, the costs of which have been breathtaking. For example, \$30,000 for re-upholstering a 1920's Rolls. OUCH! Only a brave man takes on tasks of that magnitude.

Richard guided us around his gloriously full stable of treasured vehicles (all of which he drives on a three-monthly cycle) and we were left star-struck and more than a little envious.

Although Richard did give us a little of the life history of each and every vehicle the tales are too numerous to recount in depth in this article. Some of the more noteworthy previous owners

include Elton John, the Shah of Persia, and the Marshal of the Royal Air Force during WWII. There are, of course, various film stars, politicians and actors from yesteryear including the owner of the much coveted Lagonda, Lydia. And inevitably, majesties and



highnesses various have graced the seats with their regal bottoms whilst smiling and waving.

After the deeply informative viewing of the Rolls Royces in the garages, we were led to the home of our host where more Rollers unassumingly reside in the personal R.L. stable. The final cap of glory must go to the latest arrival, this being a 2022 Rolls Royce Ghost, a most apt name for this majestic but unassuming car... until you open the door and understand then what vehicular luxury is really about. The roof lining of this vehicle is the Southern Hemisphere star map. The other hemisphere of course can get the Northern Hemisphere equivalent. The seating is as luxurious as only soft Conolly leather can be, with a depth of squab that defies any to find fault with its welcoming comfort. What a car!

We came to the end of this privileged tour with a view of the very lovely garden and looking onto the farm. Mr L farewelled us with an invitation to return sometime soon when he expects to have more of these wonder cars in his collection (in fact he is already building extra accommodation for them in anticipation).

Mention should be made also of the very pleasant lunch and social exchanges in the Coffee Club and the much anticipated Tutchen Touch of humour, from our Chairman whilst underway in the most excellently driven bus ride home.

Thanks go to the generosity of our host Mr Richard Langridge, MOTAT Board member Brian Young, who suggested the tour and made the initial introductions to Mr Langridge, and also to the organisational prowess of our administrator Jodie who once again organised this visit. We look forward to the next one Jodie, thank you.



Mr Google provided me with a few interesting but brief facts about the RR company which I will share with you below:

Henry Royce, an engineer, built his first motor car in 1904 and later in May of that year met with Charles Rolls the man who became Royce's partner and whose company sold quality cars in London. An agreement was reached that Royce Limited would manufacture a range of cars to be exclusively sold by CS Rolls & Co – and that they were to bear the name Rolls-Royce.

The world's oldest surviving Rolls-Royce, which dates from 1904, was sold on 3 December 2007 by Bonhams

for 3,521,500 GBP breaking two world car auction sales records.



Above: 2022 Rolls Royce Ghost

The first Rolls-Royce was a 1500cc twin-cylinder car rated at 10HP which was made from 1904 to 1906. This was shortly followed by a three-cylinder 15HP and a four-cylinder 20HP which came in both a heavy chassis form for carrying Limousine coachwork and light chassis form for a more sporting Tourer.

The Rolls-Royce car emblem is the 'Spirit of Ecstasy' that is used as a bonnet ornament. It is a sculpture of a woman leaning forward with her arms stretched back. The Rolls-Royce emblem means grace, beauty and energy as present in the Rolls-Royce cars.

The Spirit of Ecstasy remains on modern cars but due to safety regulations is retracted once the car starts moving yet another impressive detail to go with the thousand other impressive details of Rolls Royce.

Article and pictures by Henry Swan.

MOTAT Aviation Hall Tour...continued from page one

That triangular shape below the underwing hatch was for popping out if an engine was required to be loaded. The wing mounted prop engines mounted out of parallel.

Then the Solent – what a gem. The personal and human scale of travel at low altitude.

Each aircraft told a story of war, of travel, of industry and farming. Sometimes both, with previously armed craft being used for topdressing after the war.

Andrew shared stories of the popularity with children and parents queuing to experience the newly acquired helicopter. Memories of childhood watching and hearing Harvards (the tips of the propellers turning faster than the speed of sound – breaking the sound barrier – bang bang bang) and Vampire jets over Wellington.

The MOTAT Society thank Andrew for his passion and informed enthusiasm. Overall a very informative and interesting tour.



Words and pictures by Bruce Wild.

THE MOTAT SOCIETY CONTACTS

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Contributions to the MOTAT Society quarterly The Squeaky Wheel newsletter and/or monthly Events and Announcements newsletter can be sent to admin@motatsociety.org.nz.

MOTAT Society & Tramway Social Club

Dockline BBQ

Enjoy a talk and a ride on the Dockline Tram around the Wynyard Quarter and back to the Tram Shed for a BBQ Supper. Contact the MOTAT Society Administrator on admin@motatsociety.org.nz to register your place at the picnic table.



Saturday 11 February 2023 4.30pm


The Wonderful Story of Baldwin Steam Tram N°100

by Chris Cameron


This latest book from the MOTAT Society, compiled and edited by Chris Cameron, a long-time volunteer at the MOTAT Tramway, brings together stories of incredible luck, exceptional engineering skills, and the tenacity of a group of dedicated tramway museum volunteers determined to return a 120-year-old steam tram to service.



\$35 post free in NZ. Order from our website www.motatsociety.org.nz/shop.



**RESCHEDULED
SGM™ & AGM**
6pm Wed 15 Feb 2023



Due to not meeting the quorum on 16 November 2022 the MOTAT Society Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting have been adjourned to 15 February 2023. (location to be advised but will be onsite at MOTAT).

Please join your fellow members at the MOTAT Society SGM at 6pm to decide on proposed changes to MOTAT Society Rules, followed by the AGM at 6.30pm commencing with the Election of Officers to the MOTAT Society Committee and the presentation and discussion of Notices of Motion.

Notices of Motion are required to be provided in person or via admin@motatsociety.org.nz by the time of the commencement of the Annual General Meeting.

Documentation for SGM and AGM can be downloaded from our website www.motatsociety.org.nz/events-announcements.

2022 LUSH AWARD RECIPIENT Ron Wilson

This year the MOTAT Society is proud to present the Lush Award to Ron Wilson for his ingenuity and expertise in the detailed recreation of the Short Sunderland gun turrets and his many years of contributing to the restoration of several aircraft displayed in the Aviation display. Congratulations Ron.

