

Mustangs in May.

Over the weekend of May 26th-28th this year, the Southern Mustang Owners Club had an event in Dunedin. With the bulk of the club members being based in Invercargill, the weekend was organised by Bob and Lorraine, who live in Dunedin.

The weekend kicked off with Registration on Friday night at the Mercure Leisure Lodge, which was the event base for the weekend.

Bags were issued to each couple/car which contained the itinerary for the weekend, route instructions, a couple of competitions, and an ID lanyard for each registered participant. The registration evening was held in the Oast Room of the hotel; and with its stone walls, massive fire, and cash bar operating, the atmosphere was warm and friendly as people caught up with each other and socialised until 10pm. During that time the bar needed to be re-stocked a couple of times.

Saturday morning dawned grey and wet, but everyone was up early to get the cars set up for the display in the Octagon that ran from 9am to 11am. While the cars were on display, many of the entrants headed to the local cafes for a hot drink in dry surroundings. Others stayed with the cars and chatted in the rain. The rain only lasted for the first hour and then the sun came out, as did the general public. 25 Mustangs were on display, including two additional cars in the form of Paul & Shona Coory's genuine '66 Hertz Shelby, and a freshly completed '67 fastback that sounded, and looked very impressive.



Once 11am came the cars all fired up and headed off on the Harbour Cruise, which was a drive out along the Otago Peninsula, and then back around the Otago Harbour and out to the Carey's Bay Hotel for our lunch stop. The Spoto competition was to be completed along the way, and if you had any spare time you could do the Mustang crossword too. The Careys Bay Hotel had reserved all their parking for the Mustangs, and had their conservatory room booked for us to dine in. We spent a very pleasant two hours dining at the hotel and enjoying the spectacle that the Mustangs created being parked in front of the Hotel. The weather had cleared to blue skies and bright sunshine, so the day was shaping up well.



At 2 pm we all headed off on the 40 minute run to Chain Hills Rd above Mosgiel, and our first shed visit for the afternoon. To describe Barry and Liz Carmichael's garage as a shed is bit like saying a '67 Shelby is just an old Mustang. The place is unbelievable!! Consisting of a very generously proportioned 3 bay garage with bar, attached work room, and then a double height garage with hoist, it would be every petrol head's dream. There are thousands of pictures (all laminated) decorating the roof and doors, with enough vintage

fuel pumps and pedal cars to make any collector drool. The Olds, Caddy, and Chev in residence in the garage have fantastic surrounds.



After half an hour or so, it was time to move on to our second shed visit, back in the city. This was pretty special, as it was a private collection of spectacular racing machinery. There was one 1970 BOSS 302 Mustang in the collection, and it, along with most cars in the collection were built for track racing. The collection included a Group A Rover Vitesse, a GT3 Porsche, a few road going Porsches, a fully restored Escort Mexico, and many others. One of the collection's owners provided us with a drink at the door, and gave us a brief run down on each car in the collection. It was a real treat, and something few people get to see, so we were very fortunate. Although we were allowed to take pictures, it was requested that nothing go on social media or the internet, so I'm afraid I can't put any photos here.

At the conclusion of the tour we all departed, with the out of town cars heading back to the Leisure Lodge, and the rest heading home to get ready for the evening's activities.

There were Pre-Dinner drinks in the house bar from 6pm, then it was upstairs to the function room for a buffet dinner at 7pm. The meal was great, and everyone seemed to have a good time. The prizes for the Spotto and Crossword competitions were awarded, and every couple that attended the dinner, went home with something.

The dinner concluded the day's events, although the House Bar continued on I believe.

Sunday dawned fine again and a leisurely 10:30am start had all the cars gathering at Forrester Park for a photo op from the Drone.



After all the happy snaps were taken we departed and toured south to Balclutha where a visit to Drew Galog's Flat Out Engineering had been arranged. What a fantastic place, and if you're a Flathead fan, it was eye watering.



Drew was a great host, and after spending about an hour there we went on to the Rosebank Lodge in Balclutha for lunch. They did a great job feeding us all, and the meals were excellent. After lunch we all departed for home, tired but happy.