



## The Mainland Classic Tours' history to date in Brief. 1991 to 2008 & 2010.

**1991** - A small group of Triumph TR enthusiasts (David Mehrtens, Stuart Trounson & Les Hogbin) put together an event called the "Pirelli TR Southern Lakes' Tour", a 4 day tour which started in Geraldine November 2<sup>nd</sup> and finished in a Wanaka winery on the 5<sup>th</sup>, this involved about 10 cars and 18 people.

**1992** - Following the 1991 tour's fun and success, a small Dunedin group (David & Christine Mehrtens, Mike & Trish Duffy) put the first "Pirelli Mainland Classic Tour" together. This had 65 vehicles, 150 people and ran 6 days from Christchurch to Dunedin. Running from November 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

**1994** - Pirelli Mainland Classic Tour - November the 6<sup>th</sup> saw a Dunedin start with 75 vehicles, 160 people and over 7 days of full on motoring over to the West Coast and on to a Nelson finish on the 12<sup>th</sup>. This Tour was filmed for video release. Organised again by the Mehrtens & the Duffy's.

**1996** - Pirelli Mainland Classic Tour - A Labour Weekend start in Blenheim with 73 vehicles and around 150 people heading south to Dunedin over 7 days. A lay day was enjoyed in Wanaka township midweek. This years running was October 28<sup>th</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event had a new organising team of David & Christine Mehrtens, Trevor & Jane Payton and Brian & Susan Hope..

**1998** - Pirelli Mainland Classic Tour - Again a long weekend start, this time in Ashburton's main street heading northwest to the West Coast then east, then south to Dunedin. This time 82 vehicles took part traveling 7 days with a lay day mid week in Akaroa. Approx. 160 people were involved this time round, running October 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>.

**2000** - Pirelli Mainland Classic Tour - Labour weekend start in Dunedin, this time outside the historic railway station. We headed south through the Catlins into Southland, north through the Southern Lakes districts, over to the West Coast via the Haast Pass, back east over Arthur's Pass and then south to Dunedin. This time 65 vehicles took part traveling 7 days with an easy day mid week in Central Otago. Approx. 140 people were involved this time round, running October 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

**2002** - Penrite Mainland Classic Tour -October 20-26<sup>th</sup> - involved 76 vehicles and 160 persons and had seven days of touring and fellowship. Picton start and headed to Takaka. Day two, around to Nelson lakes area Blenheim, Pine Wood Derby fun Evening. Day Three, an easy day to Kaikoura. Day four, headed to Greymouth over the Alps. Day five, over the Southern Alps again to Christchurch. Day six, headed to Oamaru. Day seven, Oamaru to the Finish in Dunedin.

**2004** - October 16th-23<sup>rd</sup> Christchurch start: headed to Methven. Day two: headed to the West Coast and a stop over in Hokitika. Day Three: north to Karama and back to Westport. Day four: traveled over the Alps to Hanmer Springs settlement for the night. Day five: through the central South Island to beautiful Lake Tekapo. Day six: south west to Wanaka to stay the night. Day seven: travel up the Haast Pass and return then over the Crown range to finish. Day eight: relaxed drive to a lunch venue, part 1 of prize giving and return to Queenstown. An evening the final social function and final prize giving that finished off the eight days of the Penrite Mainland Classic Tour of 2004.

**2006** - October 14th-21<sup>st</sup>. Involving 54 vehicles and 120 people. Dunedin start: full day within the City. Day Two: Dunedin to Invercargill with a Tapanui lunch. Day Three: From Invercargill to Gore via the Catlins area. Day Four: Gore to Milford Sound and return to Te Anau for the evening. Day five: Te Anau to Cromwell via Roxborough. Day Six: A relaxing lay day in the Cromwell area. Day Seven: Motor from Cromwell to Timaru. Day Eight: Timaru to mount Cook Village. An evening the final social function and prize giving to finish the 8 days of the Penrite Mainland Classic Tour of 2006.

**2008** - The Penrite Mainland Classic Tour - October 18th-25th. Involving 47 vehicles and 100 people. Christchurch start: full day to Akaroa & return. Day Two: Christchurch to Nelson with a Sefton School morning tea & lunch at Boyle River Outdoor Education Centre. Day Three: From Nelson to the Marlborough Sounds & return. Starting in Founders Park and Lunch at Linkwater School. Day Four: Nelson to Hokitika. Stopping at Tapawera School for morning tea & then onto Inangahua Junction School to Lunch. Day five: Lay day. A full day of relaxation. Day Six: Hokitika South to Haast, set off with packed lunches to picnic on the road site. Day seven: Haast to Alexandra. Morning tea at Makarora and Lunch at the Tarras Primary School. Day Eight: Alexandra to Dunedin. Lunching at the Macraes Flat Moonlight School. A Civic Reception and the final social function and with prize giving to finish the 8 day 2008 Tour.

**2010:** *Planning of another October tour is underway. Watch the website for developments the next Penrite Mainland Classic Tour. With all the normal elements of previous tours, the 2010 event is going to a special one - as it's the 10th running after 18 years!*

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