

# From the pages of the past – NIMAFc Club History -

By Paul Smith – Club Historian

## OUR LIFE MEMBERS

The North Island Model A Ford Club Inc. has not gone out of its way to appoint Life Members, nor should it, but the recognition bestowed upon these people for exceptional work, for and on behalf of the Club, deserves mention, and the respect of the other members.

Back in 1972 the club was formed in Mt Roskill and one of the founder members was Alan Minson, who had just moved to Auckland from Christchurch where he was also a founder member of the Canterbury Model A Ford Club. In 1973 the members of the then Auckland Model A Club nominated and approved the Life Membership for Alan. While his work and other commitments have meant we have not seen a lot of him, Alan attended both the Hamilton 1993 and Taupo 2009 National Meets. He also attended the Club's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebrations and cut the cake as longest serving member. He recently also attended the Club's 40<sup>th</sup>. His 1930 Phaeton was originally moved from Christchurch to Auckland and later restored, currently resplendent in black with red wheels. Alan motors the car when he can and is still fluent in "Model A", having grown up with the cars from his childhood days.



In 1995 Murray Ashby was nominated and approved as a life member. Murray is widely known for his friendly help when it comes to anything Model A Ford. Until recently he had been on the committee for more years than he cares to remember, mostly in the position of Newsletter editor. Murray was also on the organising committee for the 1993 Hamilton National Rally and has been chief judge at several other national events and will do so again in 2013. Driving his Model A is what Murray likes best, having driven the length and breadth of New Zealand on numerous occasions. Following Murray's recognition it was decided that Anne should join Murray with life membership, and Anne has always participated in Model A activities. Both their children, Elizabeth and Sarah learnt to drive in Model A's and Murray's garage door is always open. Murray & Anne

have many Model A's and are regular participants in either their 1928 Phaeton (restored in 1980) or their yellow 1930 Roadster. All of their cars are currently being prepared for Elizabeth's wedding next March. They have been members for 37 years.

In 2006 Paul Smith was nominated and approved for a Life Membership. Over the years Paul has stood on various committees, as Club Captain, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. He has been a member for 36 years. Paul was also part of the 1993 Hamilton National Rally organising committee, instrumental in attracting over 200 entrants for the event. Having rebuilt a 1930 Town Sedan as an 18 year old, then followed a 1930 AA Truck and a 1930 Roadster, Paul has regularly attended Model A events here, in Australia and the USA. Having always wanted a genuine 1930 Roadster Pickup, in 2011 Paul purchased one from Bill Quelch, ex Nelson Council, Ken Ivory, Len Hoyland, and Martin Howsen. Paul currently looks after the Club's website and is also the Club's Historian, holding records and information from the Club's past, much of which was displayed at the recent 40<sup>th</sup> celebration weekend. Now also interested in Antique Tractors, and Historic Rallying, Paul and Vicki have recently moved to Waiuku, with a much larger shed to house his 14 various vehicles.



In 2009 Len and Stella Hoyland were made our most recent Life Members. Len and Stella were members since 1976, were very active members in their later life years, travelling the world with the Model A hobby. They took their Model A Roadster to Australia for the bi-centennial rally in 1989. The hobby spread throughout the family to sons Dugald and David and onto grandson Owen Jones who often drives Len now in his 84<sup>th</sup> year to local events. Len & Stella took part in the South Island adventure in 1980-81 and well and many other NZ long distance rallies. Len stood on many committees, as well as being part of the organisation for the 1993 Hamilton Rally. Unfortunately Stella has passed away but Len still attends events when he is able.