

# NORTH ISLAND MODEL A FORD CLUB INC. - NEW ZEALAND

Chapter Members of:



## MODEL A TORQUE

Month: March 2025

Issue Number: 2025/2



**Welcome to the North Island Model A Ford Club Inc.**

The purpose of our club is to enjoy, restore, preserve, and protect the Model A Ford automobile and to foster a spirit of good fellowship and family participation using the Model A Ford.

Membership is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the Model A Ford. Ownership is not a prerequisite

**[Visit our website www.modelafordclub.co.nz](http://www.modelafordclub.co.nz) for new events, articles & updates.**

**Model A Ford Club Upcoming Event Planner 2024**

Date	Day	Event	Details
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Saturday	Club Run	Car collections in the West
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Wednesday	Tech Night	Terry Costello's shed Angle St Onehunga
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Wednesday	Tech Night	
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Saturday	Te Aroha Run	Cars and a Monarchy collection
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday	Tech Night	
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Saturday	Club Run	Putaruru Timber Museum
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Saturday	Ryders	Dinner and Movie

**The committee are working on events for the upcoming year. Please keep a watch on the website [www.modelafordclub.co.nz](http://www.modelafordclub.co.nz) for any recent updates.**

**FYI below – Non-North Island Model A Ford Club Events 2024**

**If you are aware of an event coming up, please let the editor know so we can share, thank you.**

Date	Day	Event
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Sunday	Waiuku Steel n Wheels

**Print this page off for reminders and stick to your fridge!**  
**or keep an eye on the website for updates.**



**Club Run 17<sup>th</sup> May**

**Visit to Bill and Angela Thompson's Car and Memorabilia Collection**

109 Centennial Ave, Te Aroha 3320. Saturday 17-5-25



**Bring your own picnic lunch & deck chairs.**

Assemble 0930 BP Drury for 10.00 departure. Route notes given on the day.

Contact person: **Terry Costello** 027 492 0642

## North-West Mystery car Tour

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Start point:** Mills Lane, Hooten Reserve carpark (left side) off Oteha Valley Rd, Albany. This is near Mitre 10 across Oteha Valley Rd from the Lone Star Restaurant

**Time:** 0900 for an 0930 start. We are visiting two private car collections today,  
One in the morning, the other in the afternoon.

**Lunch:** at the Huapai Golf Club which has a good range of cabinet food and larger meals and drinks can be ordered from the bar.

**Route instructions:** Provided by John Castle at the briefing session, on the day.



**Contact person:** John Castle

Mobile: 021 957 032

## Club Tech Night Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

7pm at Terry Costello's shed Angle Street Onehunga

Carburettors, Distributors and generators. Adjustments and faults that might stop you on the road.

Bring a chair and something for supper

## Club Captain's Report

Well, it is hard to believe we are already approaching April with Easter and Anzac Day—opportunities to get those A's out, especially if the weather remains as it has.

I hope those of you who attended the 17th National Rally had a good time, have recuperated, and completed any necessary repairs to your A's. As I am now sitting on the Sunshine Coast, my "ooghah" made it back home on the back of a tow truck (thanks to AA+) the afternoon before we flew out. I managed to quickly check it—it turned over, and the distributor still turned—but I tucked it up and put it to bed (as it's "ill").

I learned a few things from being involved with the rally, but the most important is this: make sure you know your car before going long distances. I had only done one trip to Mangawhai after so many years of not being on the road. Then we set off for Taupo mid-morning, arriving late afternoon. The next morning, Steve Driver (thank you, Steve!) performed a little tune-up on my car and refitted my exhaust to the manifold. He had it running so sweetly. But after a trip over the hills to Napier, stopping for lunch there, and continuing with the road from there being gentle, we encountered trouble north of Waipawa with a little irregular noise, smoke, and water.

I had Tricia following behind me, along with support crew Tony & Pam in their modern vehicle, and Steve and Leticia in the woody. I hope it won't be long before my car is back on the road. The diagnosis will be made after the dissection.

I wish to thank everyone involved in organizing the 17th National Model A Ford Rally for their dedication in running what I believe to be a successful event. We couldn't have done it without you! Least of all those who gave us a ride in their vintage, so we did not have to do whole rally in the modern.

Sadly we have been told by Mary Jones that Graeme passed away on Sunday night, 23rd March. On Monday, 31st March, his life will be celebrated at All Saints Chapel, Purewa Cemetery and Crematorium, 4a Parsons Road, Meadowbank at 2pm followed by an afternoon tea in the onsite Saint Johns Lounge. Club members are welcome to attend. Mary says Thank you for all the friendship, Model A knowledge, and help that was extended to him in the shared love of Model A Fords.

### Reminders:

#### WOF submission Deadline;

1/.If you haven't completed the WOF submission, please do so now by clicking the following link: [https://surveys.nzta.govt.nz/ife/form/SV\\_232I6GMC4NCLLgi](https://surveys.nzta.govt.nz/ife/form/SV_232I6GMC4NCLLgi).

The consultation closes at **5pm, Friday, 4 April 2025**. Don't miss the deadline!

2/.**Constitution Feedback:** You should have received an email about the Constitution being ready for submission. Here are the options:

- ☐ **Option A:** Approve the document as our official Constitution—no reply needed.
- ☐ **Option B:** Share any concerns via email to [nimafc.captain@gmail.com](mailto:nimafc.captain@gmail.com) **before the Committee meeting on 8th April 2025**. I'll address concerns during the meeting.
- ☐ **Option C:** Call a Special General Meeting, following the procedures outlined on page 13 of the attached document. To date, one person has contacted me with a valid point regarding the committee member residency requirements. I agreed that there should be no limitations on residency

in NZ for committee members, so only a small change is required there.  
 We have some members who are unwell at the moment. Please join me in wishing them all the best for a speedy recovery. If you know anyone in this situation, let the Committee know so we can recognize them with a card or personal email.  
 That's all for now!  
 Kind regards, Wade Alexander

## Committee Contacts

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## Rally report from Joe Scott

We have been members of the North Island Model A Ford Club for almost 40 years. This year the National 17<sup>th</sup> Model A Rally was to be held in Masterton and we were all booked to attend on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Saturday morning was beautiful and after loading up our Model A Vicky with all our important era clothing which is a must, specially, for the last night's dinner, we proceeded to Turangi for the night.

The next morning, we set off for Masterton, via National Park as the Desert Road was closed.

As soon as we arrived at our Motel, Jill indicated that she felt unwell and thought it might be a good idea to test for covid. Jill's test was positive, not exactly the positive we wanted to hear. Up until now we have been able to avoid getting covid. A number of other Model A participants were staying at the same facility. We had really been looking forward to attending this Rally.

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> I took the car down for the photo shoot at Solway Showgrounds. Met up with people I had not seen for years. As they walked up to greet me, I quickly suggested that no cuddling was permitted, as Jill had covid and was back at the Motel. It was funny the way people reacted to the news, "Oh the poor thing." I retreated back to our motel where we road it out for the week.

A few days later I tested positive – picture the scene, here we are standing at the door waving to the Model A members as they left for the day's rally. Give them credit, we did appreciate all their help and concerns. Numerous phone calls as well. Boy do you find out who your friends are at a time like that.

Our last day was spent down at a park with a cup of coffee in our hands. Gave Jill time to stop at Farmers before we went back.

The next day being Saturday it was time to leave Masterton and head back home. We went via Napier where we stayed the night and then home over the Napier – Taupo Road which provided us with all the joy we needed.

All three Model A Vickys made it home safely and when we communicated with Greg & Vicky and Keith & Margaret, they all had a gaggle of motorists, that being motor cycles and other vehicles all content to follow the leader with no intention of passing. Keith & Margaret said they stopped near the turn off going South to video all the bikes. 2 ½ minutes later they all gave them the recognition they deserved. I tell you it was the icing on the cake.

Joe Scott

# 50 years ago in the Club (March - April - 1975)

## **From the original Minutes Book:-**

### **April 1975**

Meeting was held in the board room of Smith, Doughty & Gerrard Ltd , Federal St, Auckland and 6 committee members were present with 1 apology.

It was noted that the North Island Model A Ford Club is now a member of the Museum of Technology for the year to December 31<sup>st</sup> 1975.

Five new club members were approved by committee.

It was arranged for a work day on Stan Ayling's A for 26<sup>th</sup> April - 10am and 4pm.

The next Club Night to be at MOTAT with a film to be shown. The usual arrangement for Beer was made.

A combined run with the Ford Club was to be arranged for late May.

John Gilberd was to arrange a pool night with Mike Watkins at the Henderson Police station against their members.

It was suggested a new PO Box and number was to be arranged in a central location in Mt Roskill. (Owairaka is in Mt Roskill)



## **From the Newsletter:-**

### **March 1975**

Club Captain Roger Bale noted that over the last month membership had grown phenomenally, compared to the last 2 years. The club now has over 70 members, with applications almost daily. Amongst the new members is a delivery van with original? alloy paneling.

The last weekend rally attracted seven Model A's and six moderns with a few new faces, which was encouraging. As usual Ross Ward and his wife were great hosts with your Club Captain just edging Peter Harvey out of first place.

From next month we will see a change of venue for Clubnights to MOTAT and regularly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month. This will see the club save \$60 a year on rental fees. A list of clubnights dates was provided.

A special Meeting for 7 April was called to select a new Secretary.

*Gymkhana event was promoted for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 1:00pm at the Lynmall Shopping Centre carpark.*

*The Trading Post page noted 6 good second hand 19" tubes for \$2 each, and advertised many model A parts at 37 Buckland Rd, Papatoetoe. In the wanted Barry Pothan from Te Awamutu was looking for a good windscreen and 4 shock absorbers.*

*The names and vehicles of eleven new members were listed.*

*Cooks Service Station in Wellington provided a list with prices of Model A Ford Spare parts.*

### **March 1975**

*Club Captain Ray Williams noted that John Gilbert was the new Club Secretary, and changes to some positions noted. Thanks paid to outgoing / retiring committee members for their great service.*

*It was good to see member Peter Cox all the way from Wellsford, as well as founder member Allan Minson present.*

*The new venue for clubnights was not as flash as the VCC (in the old school building at MOTAT) but is more central for most members.*

*A swap meeting at the Glenfield Shopping Mall was arranged for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April and would include Model A parts as well as other Ford Models.*

*The Gymkhana at Lynfield was reviewed as a real fun day. Driving skills against the clock with 3 tests giving the spectators some action. Eight A's turned up as well as a "32 V8 Pickup and an Indian Motorcycle and a Model A Racer chassis. These were all curtesy of Rene Dunn and his mates. Congrats to Ross Ward, Neil Lopez and Ray Williams who wont he 3 events. Ross Ward also won the modern section, and Stan Ayling was seen competing in his Austin. During the event one driver kept losing his passenger out the door that refused to stay closed!! and there was the usual incident where a certain members A would not start, with the culprit needing to be reminded that petrol should be turned on first.*

*Five new members were welcomed including from Horipito Motors Wreckers.*

*An extensive report was printed from the American Antique Car Association on a seminar held on Model A Fords by Edward Francis and George De Angelis for the Ford Motor Company, with Lesley R Henry from the Henry Ford Museum, Herman Smith from The Ford Motor Company of Canada and David Lewis from the University of Michigan.*

*It noted such things as the reported 5000 changes made to Model A over the 4 years of production, and covered Engines, Radiator Shells, Carburetors, painting, Hardware, Upholstery and relevant to us in NZ Canadian Fords.*

**Paul Smith (Club Historian & Life Member)**

The AACA report mentioned by Paul will be published in the next newsletter.

## And a Rally report from Tony Mannington

As a member of the NIMAFC it was a privilege to attend the 17th Annual National Model A Rally in Masterton.

Pam and I take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to the Rally Committee Team of Wade, Martin, Terry and Hugh. Also we mustn't forget the behind the scene help of the wife's and friends of the Rally Organisers who helped out to make this a very memorable Rally.

Arriving on Saturday, we quickly got ourselves into Rally mode and seeing the Rally routes board already up and having had instructions from our BOP friends to join them in the red group, we luckily got the last spot.

What a great idea splitting up the cars into 4 groups with approx 30 cars per group.



Masterton was a great choice for our Rally, large Hotel, plenty of space at the Showground to spread out and allowing each group to have their own space. Great space for our show and shine. Room was a little tight for the Hubley Track, but the Hubley Team stepped up and put on a great show.

Being in the red group our first route on Tuesday was out to Castlepoint. Wednesday out to Wharekauhau, Thursday out to Cape Palliser and on Friday the short route out to Pukaha Sanctuary.

We thoroughly enjoyed every Rally route, something different every day but unfortunately our Run out to Wharekauhau became a very wet day with a temperature drop. No morning tea on the beach.

We attended a Model T Rally based also at the Copthorne in 2022 and did similar Rally routes, but you guys stepped it up by travelling into farms and along the coast. We certainly enjoyed all of the Rally routes, great lunches something different every day, but unfortunately for us we had to view the Rally routes through the windscreen of our modern car. Still fun following many Model A 's.

Being unable to have our Model A at the Rally due to problems beyond our control, we came to enjoy and we did. A shout out

should go to the Copthorne Solway Hotel providing excellent meals on the 3 meal nights. They set up the buffet to feed our large crowd. Probably the largest number of meals they have served in a while. All I can say is they stepped up and delivered.



Again we had a wonderful time and those that didn't make it for various reason, please look forward to 2027.

To those that had car problems, hoping you all got home safely. Having AA Plus certainly helped a lot of our Club members get home. Unfortunately one of our members was stuck on the roadside in Turangi unable to get assistance from AA plus. They

were experiencing a very busy weekend due to Ironman and it looked highly unlikely they would get back to Auckland. So, time to phone a friend. Having contact numbers in the Rally Booklet was a great idea. Taupo To the rescue, loaded the car up with parts and headed off down to Turangi. It was a bit of a mission but we managed to replace the faulty water pump and within a couple of hours they were back on the road to Auckland.

I believe it's all about Club members helping Club members out, as was done to a number of Model A's needing assistance during the week. Thanks again Rally Team

Cheers, Tony and Pam Mannington



### **So why didn't Tony and Pam's Model A make it to Masterton,**

All we had to do was fill it up with gas at Taupo and head on down.

Our journey should have taken us 5 or 6 hours with a few stop along the way. The best part of our journey would have been travelling together with fellow Club members all driving our Model A's. Travelling in the modern is not the same.

A little history; We purchased our 1931 Ford Model A in August 2010. Always been currently Registered and Warranted during our ownership. First registered December 1931, it was again re-registered in May 1978 and has been continually registered since.

Fast forward to November 2024 when our current WOF was due, preparing for the upcoming National Model A Rally. Taking our Model A to our garage for a new WOF, not a problem until computer records showed our Model A had been issued with a "VIN Number" at some stage. We knew it hadn't been issued with a VIN number while in our ownership, that's why there was no VIN tag.

Our WOF garage has been pulled up for issuing WOF's without sighting VIN tags. If a VIN shows on their records and there is no VIN tag on vehicle they cannot issue a WOF. To get this sorted out we were asked to take our Model A around to VTNZ Taupo.

VTNZ filled out a form on our behalf and we paid \$240.00 for a duplicate VIN tag.

They inspected the vehicle, including engine, chassis and body numbers and sent this Information to NZTA. A Second inspection was requested by NZTA and VTNZ sent this on too.

We were told that an investigation would take place and we will just have to wait. An email came from NZTA to say our Model A was issued with a VIN on the 13th August 2018, 8 years after we purchased it.

Now it was our turn to do some investigation and we tracked down that the VIN was issued at the VTNZ branch in Palmerston North. August 2018 also rang bell with us as we were holidaying in Europe. Palmerston North VTNZ couldn't help us when we asked: Who applied, who paid and what vehicle type?

All VTNZ records are only kept for 5 years. They just kept putting the brick wall in front of us.

The moral of the story is that we never applied for or paid for any VIN to be attached to our vehicle. Our pleas went unanswered and time was running out. We believe that the VIN number was assigned to our vehicle in error, by NZTA staff and were told that once VIN is assigned to a vehicle it cannot be removed. Finally after 3 months of pleading NZTA finally appointed a Certification, Border and Entry and Safer Vehicles Officer to come to our home and inspect our Model A. This was carried out on the Thursday before the Rally. We asked the question.

So we can now take the Model A to the Rally?

A firm NO, still needs the paperwork to be done.. One week later we had a phone call (while in Masterton) to come into VTNZ Taupo and get the VIN attached.

Two weeks after the inspector visit we had VIN tag attached and a new WOF.

We are baffled why it took over 3 months to appoint a Certification Officer and once that happened, all sorted in two weeks.

We suspect there is another vehicle in New Zealand that shares our VIN number, but not our problem. Just couldn't believe how NZTA have treated us over the last 3 months. Our phone calls ended always. "This is an investigation and it will take time." Sounded like we were on a murder charge, murdering a Model A.

VTNZ have never explained or acknowledged why our vehicle was assigned a VIN number, we didn't apply for it to start with. We have always been of the understanding that vehicles registered before April 1994 don't need VIN numbers. They then focused on engine and body numbers not aligned with their records and why the vehicle has been issued with WOFs in the past. Our engine number and body numbers have remained the same throughout our ownership.

Who hasn't swapped an engine in the past? Do whatever you have to, to keep engine numbers as per ownership papers.

So this investigation took over 3 1/2 months and we missed out bringing our Model A down to Masterton by 2 weeks.

We came down to Masterton to enjoy and we did, even though we did all the runs in our modern.

Our issues are all in the past now and we are looking forward to joining the Model A family again at the Top of South.

See you all in 2027 and in-between.

Cheers Tony and Pam Mannington,  
Taupo.

"Dora" lives on



A selection of images from the 17<sup>th</sup> National Rally











## Model 'A' Ford Technical Manuals.

### 'The Complete Model 'A' Ford Restoration Manual' by Les. Pearson.

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Apologies for the late arrival of this edition, there have been many distractions. My story here of the Masterton rally is hardly needed after Tony, Joe and Wade's but may help explain the photos to those who weren't there. It is interesting how the weather gave each group a totally different experience at the four destinations. Thanks to those who sent photos and those who posted the ones I found on Facebook.

With 138 Model A Fords entered and some insurmountable breakdowns, there were 268 people and 135 cars enjoying the Wairarapa. A good number for one of these events, and the weather was kind as well.

Due to limits on numbers at destinations and lunch venues, we were divided into four groups all going in different directions from Tuesday to Friday. Monday everyone was at the Solway showgrounds for concours judging and gymkhana. At the beginning of the day cars parked with precision in a field for a drone photo. This can be seen and purchased at [www.pete.co.nz](http://www.pete.co.nz) under 17<sup>th</sup> National Model a Ford Rally. Before the rally began there was an opportunity for flights in vintage aircraft. A spectacular experience by all accounts.

On the Tuesday, our Blue group headed to Wharekauhau or Ocean Beach to the south of Masterton. The Fell Locomotive museum at Featherston was well worth the visit and there is an AA fire engine hidden in the other museum next door. The wind from the west was extreme, making driving on 21 inch wheels in a straight line more of a challenge than usual. So strong was the wind that most rally direction signs blew away and the portaloos for our convenience were not just blown off the trailer, the whole trailer blew over while being towed. Most of us huddled at the end of the road without going along the beach road as planned. This was wise to avoid sandblasting, but seeing some Aussies driving back from the beach, I thought we should do that. That would have been alright staying in the vehicle, but getting out for a photo the door was wrenched from my hands and now needs some panelbeating. Yeah I know, round up into the wind next time. On our return, lunch was at the Greytown Cobblestones museum, another good place to stop.

Wednesday we were off to Cape Palliser with morning tea at the Lake Ferry Hotel. Past the extreme boat trailers and bulldozers at the Ngawi fishing village and climb the 254 steps to the lighthouse. Lunch today was at the Luna Estate vineyard near Martinborough then return to base at Masterton

Thursday was a day of questions for the competitive rally to Pukaha bird sanctuary. Lunch at another vineyard then a visit to a privately built and owned Greek Orthodox Church. This was really something out of the ordinary with some incredible icon art work by a young New Zealander. The Pointon Collection museum was visited on our return. Here we had many more questions which made you look really closely at the exhibits.

Castlepoint on Friday was our "rough road" day with back roads, farm roads, roads with grass in the middle and even a sand trap at the end. Here our tow rope was put to good use. One memory from this day is the number of dogs that can balance on the back of a quad bike in motion. More than you would think.

There was the usual crop of breakdowns from driving these almost 100 year old cars long distances. Three distributor faults that I know of, a broken rear spring, a couple of head gaskets and even a broken crankshaft, the only one that did not get going again that day. The wooden spoon was again, very wisely I

think, given to a person who helped others in mechanical distress rather than for a misdemeanour. Bill Crooks of Arrowtown is the recipient for the second time running.

So, good company, roads, meals and interesting speakers, and we all look forward to the next one.

And proof that Model A parts can be found everywhere. While visiting a small building that was once my great-great grandparent's house, the first thing seen in the entry, was a Model A engine under a cover. The Sambers lived there in the T era so inheritance rights probably don't apply.



**Please send articles/reports/photos to the Editor by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month (or earlier if you can). In Microsoft Word or directly into an email (Editor can format to publish in the Newsletter).**

*The views and articles expressed in this Newsletter are the views of the authors and may be reprinted provided acknowledgement is given. Where articles have been reprinted, the NIMAFc recognises those authors and thanks them for allowing their article to be used in our Club Newsletter.*

Thank you to all contributors to this newsletter

### For Sale

Early 1928 ('AR') Tudor. Good condition. 1970's body restoration needs a paint refresh but no rust and only a few minor dings. Good upholstery. Engine reconditioned in 1999 and reworked 2022 with new adjustable tappets, valves & seats and main bearings adjusted. Multi-disc clutch converted to machined flywheel, V8 clutch/pressure plate, etc. Gearbox overhauled with new bearings and good, used main & input shafts. New brakes with cast iron drums. New WOF.

Receipts for work and parts from the last 25 years. Includes lots of extra parts, spares (new & used), books, manuals, specialty tools and shop tools - everything Model A in my shed and under my house is included and must go!



\$29,000 Contact: Mary Jones, 0220819435

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