

Wairarapa Zenith



A WAIRARAPA WINTER WANDER

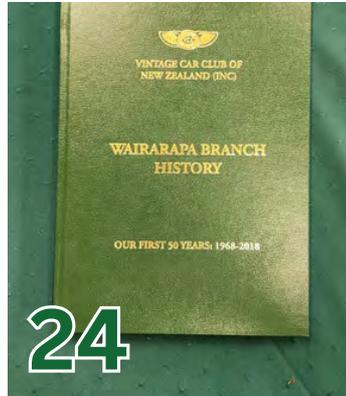
JULY 2023 EDITION

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the revitalized Zenith, the monthly newsletter for Wairarapa Vintage Car Club members.

As the Editor, I am thrilled to unveil our new look, featuring captivating articles, engaging stories, and so much more. We have expanded our content to cover a broader range of topics, ensuring there's something for every vintage car aficionado. Prepare to be immersed in inspiring profiles, and exciting interviews. We aim to ignite your passion for vintage cars and foster a vibrant community.

Join us on this thrilling journey through the fascinating world of classic automobiles.

Pictured left is my cat, Finn, sitting on the roof of my Austin 7.

Editor, Zenith

Send in your contributions

Send through articles, photos, reminiscences, mechanical tips, notices and funnies to editorwaivcc@gmail.com so we can include in future newsletters.



Front Cover

Pictured is Rex Bateman, prospective member, driving his 1957 Bedford truck in the recent Winter Wander.

Read more on page 12



Chairs Report

I start this month's report acknowledging Ruby Holme's dedication and personal commitment to the Wairarapa Vintage Car Club. Ruby joined the ranks of the club in 1985, the following year was the start of a long association with the club starting with being responsible for the typing. She then helped with the Newsletter and took on the role of secretary of the club in 1998. She continued in this role for eleven years. In that time, she was also the treasurer of the clubs twenty-first jubilee committee. She assisted Will with organising rallies and overnight trips. Provided baking and teamed with other wives to cater for various club events.

Her organisational skills were to be envied, she could be a little gruff if you didn't cut the mustard but always with a warm and endearing manner. She enjoyed other's company with their needs taking priority. Her name really did reflect her character, she was one of a kind and a real gem. It was humbling today listening to so many people from various other organisations. Ruby was a member reflecting on the same strong values and dedication she had brought to our club. We have all been very privileged to have been associated with such special person. Rest in peace Ruby.

I attended the Wai Wheels breakfast gathering at Greytown Working Men's Club on Sunday the 9th of July. The weather was not very helpful, but the food and company made up for it. Pleasing to see a number of other club members bring their vehicles along and chatting. Last Sunday was the annual Gravel Challenge which started with a cup of tea at the clubrooms and finished with lunch at the Masterton Men's Shed. Many thanks to those who attended and Pat Dutton for her hard work and time organising the run. The word gravel does send the shivers up the spine of some members. The Men's Shed certainly did have an array of items that could be purchased. We came home with two Tui bird feeders.

The National A.G.M is next month in Nelson over the weekend of the 11th to the 13th. I will be attending as the club's representative, if there are any queries or items you wish raised at the meeting, please let me know. You will also have received the 2022-2023 Annual Report and Voting Papers. There is a notice of Motion, re Club Name and Affiliations. Can you please read the explanation and vote accordingly. Please make sure you have returned it by the 7th of August.

You will have also received a survey being conducted by NZ Federation of Motoring Clubs Inc. We look forward to the analysis of the information collected and any worthwhile initiatives highlighted.

The Daffodil Annual Fund Raiser is on the 20th of August, please pass the word around. The format will be a little different with the start still being from Martinborough. There will be no stops along the route, with the run finishing at the Farriers carpark in Masterton as a Show and Shine. Look out for the advertising.

A warm welcome to our new club member, Bryan Lawrence from Martinborough. I look forward to having a chat with you at the August Club night.

We will be hosting the Wairarapa Machinery Club on the August club night with the annual quiz night. It's time to swat up on your general knowledge and refresh those memory banks.

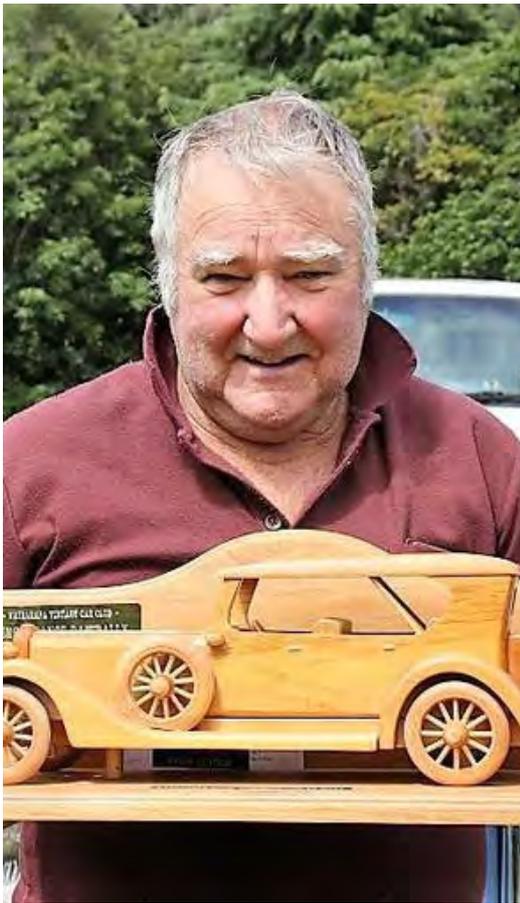
We welcome Alec O'Hara on board as the new Zenith Editor. A new segment to the magazine is a personal bio of officer holders and committee members each month. I am sure this will be interesting reading.

Safe motoring.

Graham Hodder
Chair



Graeme's
1930 Model A on
the Club Captains
Run 2023



Club Captains Report

We are well into our new season on from the AGM which was a very enjoyable occasion in a very pleasant venue.

We should have some good meetings coming up, I am looking forward to our encounter with the machinery club at the August Club Night.

We will have *The Car is the Star* again, so any interesting (cars, bikes or machinery) members have and would like to show off, please come forward. I would like to see us have some interesting meetings and runs so any ideas or suggestions would be welcome. With COVID-19 behind us, we only have to battle the road conditions and the fuel prices.

In July, we completed the Gravel Challenge which was a huge success with a good turn out. Unfortunately a mishap for one member. It was sad to see a nice car damaged. I hope the vehicle can be repaired. The Gravel Challenge was won by Neil Algie in his Buick. Talking with him, he has some interesting plans for next year. After a breakdown with our camper at Hastings, the service we got from the AA leaves me strongly recommending members to join the AA and add AA Plus.

Hope everyone is surviving the winter and looking forward to the Spring.

Hugh Hunter
Club Captain



Reviving the Classics: Alec O'Hara's Passion for Dodge Brothers Shines

When it comes to car enthusiasts in their twenties, vintage vehicles don't typically spring to mind. Most often, it's the allure of Japanese boy racer cars that captures their attention. However, Alec O'Hara breaks the mold. We had the opportunity to sit down with Alec and delve into his remarkable collection, specifically focusing on his cherished Dodge Brothers trucks.

Alec's love affair with these classic trucks began when he stumbled upon a dilapidated, forgotten gem tucked away in the back shed of his workplace, Astrolite Motor Bodies.

Covered in two inches of dust and obscured by piles of rubbish, it took some effort to even discern its true form. Yet, the unmistakable charm of its age intrigued Alec, igniting a deep desire to make it his own. After months of contemplation, he mustered the courage to approach his future business partner with an offer to purchase it. To his pleasant surprise, the response was an unexpected, "You can have it. Good luck!"

Unearthing the vehicle, Alec discovered that it was a 1925 Dodge Brothers Four—a true mess, completely seized up.



The body was fragile, and nearly half of it was missing. Nevertheless, undeterred by the daunting task ahead, Alec dove headfirst into the restoration project. Every spare moment became dedicated to resurrecting the Dodge.



News of Alec's ambitious endeavor quickly spread, reaching the ears of fellow car enthusiasts. One club night, Frank Lipinski approached Alec, curious if he would be interested in a Dodge he had available for cannibalisation. The Dodge in question had languished on blocks in a barn for years. Naturally, Alec's interest was piqued. A couple of weeks later, he became the proud owner of his second Dodge—a complete rolling chassis with an engine and the entire drivetrain, accompanied by a battered body clinging on for dear life. To Alec's delight, the engine turned over by hand in the barn, and within an hour of arriving at his workshop, it roared back to life.

Initially, Alec had intended to merge the two Dodges into one. However, fate had a different plan.

Suddenly, he found himself with a drivable Dodge in need of only a body and some tender care. And so, the 1924 Dodge Project came into being. How hard could it be to resurrect, right? Well, as it turned out, it became a year-long undertaking. While some might perceive it as a nightmare, for Alec, it was a passionate love affair.





Building something from the ground up, he approached the project with resourcefulness, devising ways to tackle tasks on his own and streamline future repairs. The cab was meticulously crafted in three distinct pieces—a firewall, seat back and base, and the roof. This design not only allowed him to lift it single-handedly but also facilitated maintenance and repairs.

Nearly a year later, on the anniversary of his project's inception, Alec successfully obtained the necessary certifications, registration, and warrant of fitness for his Dodge. It emerged as a roadworthy, running masterpiece—rough around the edges, battle-tested, and infused with an abundance of love.



While the 1925 Dodge still remains a work in progress (a few other project cars managed to find their way onto Alec's plate), he eagerly anticipates returning to work on it once he completes the 2023 TARGA race in his cherished 1979 Mini.

Alec's dedication to preserving automotive history and his unwavering passion for breathing life back into these classic vehicles make him a true embodiment of the spirit of the Wairarapa Vintage Car Club.



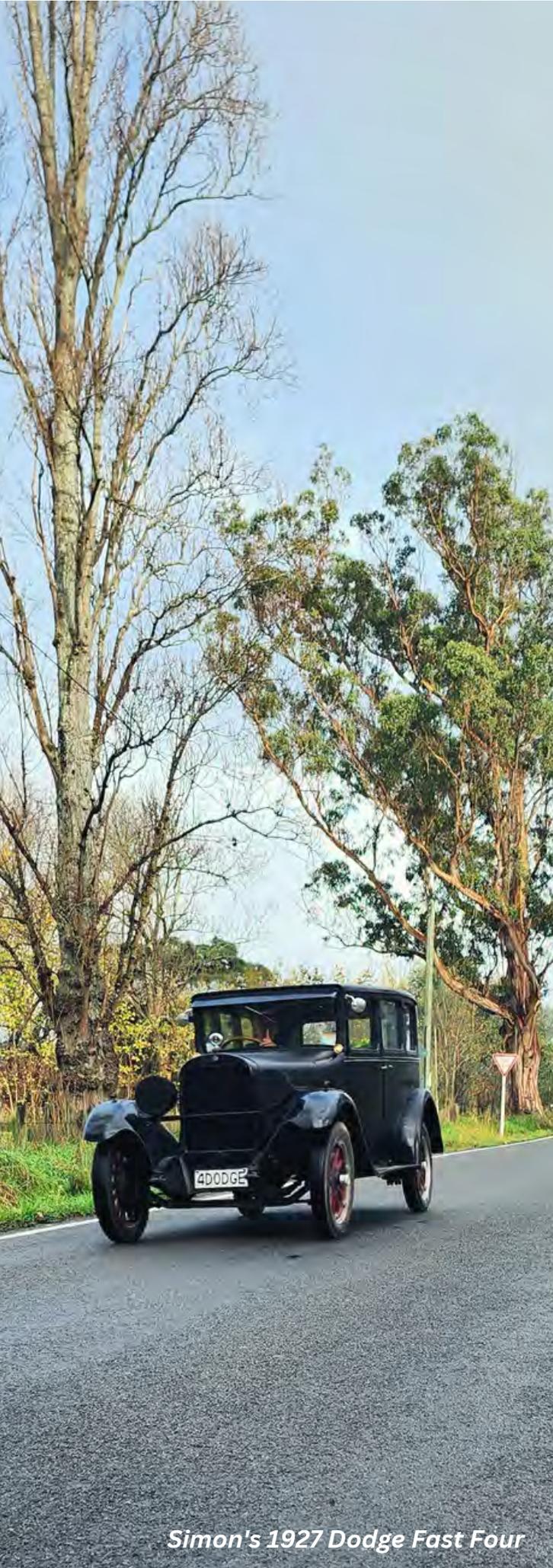
Dodge Specs	
Number of cylinders:	4
Cylinder bore:	3 7/8 inches
Stroke:	4 1/2 inches
Displacement:	212.3 cubic inches
Horse power:	Between 30 and 37 when new
Wheel base:	116 inches
Gear box:	3 speed plus reverse
Electrical:	12 volt system

For the giggles



FAST & FURIOUS **1910**





WINTER WANDER

Organised by Simon O'Hara

On a damp Saturday morning the annual Winter Wander took place, organised by Simon O'Hara.

The day began at the Masterton Railway Station, where twelve vintage cars lined up for a day of exploration. With everyone rugged up and ready to go, the group headed off on a meandering journey to Eketahuna via Whangaehu Valley.

Their first stop was at the Middleton Model Railway, a miniature museum that captivated the imagination with buttons to press, sending miniatures hurtling along their tracks. The intricate details and carefully crafted landscapes transported VCC club members back in time, complementing the vintage car theme.

Continuing their adventure, the convoy made its way to the Mellemskov Museum, a hidden Eketahuna gem that showcased the rich history of the township. To members surprise and delight, some old Eketahuna licence plates were on display!

After a brief stop in Eketahuna for refreshments, the group returned to Masterton via Alfredton and Dreyers Rock Road finishing with a tippie at the Farriers.

Winter Wander Highlights:

100 miles traveled

Oldest vehicle: 1927 Dodge Fast Four

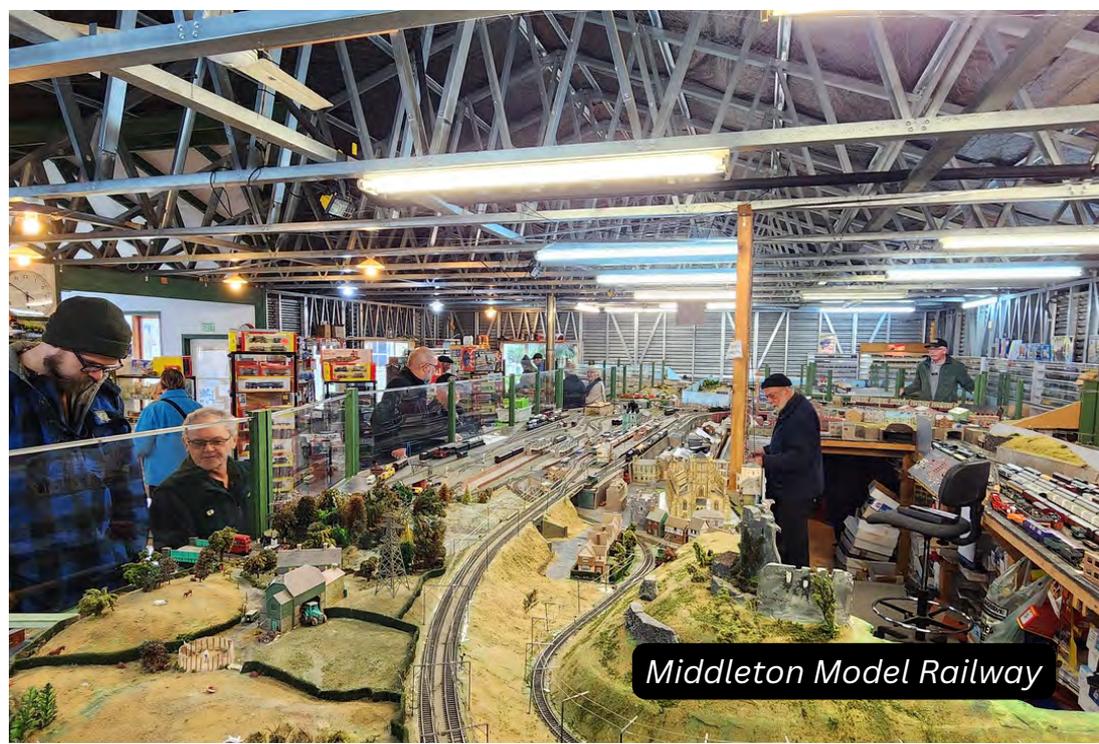
Simon's 1927 Dodge Fast Four



Frances Pointon 1938 Chev



Phill and Suze Halligan
1930 Ford Model A



Middleton Model Railway



Who came?	
1927 Dodge	Simon O'Hara
1933 Austin 7	Alec O'Hara
1974 Leyland P76	Rob Jones
1930 Ford Roadster	Phill Halligan
Modern	Ken McKay
Riley Pathfinder	Gary Wall
1957 Bedford Truck	Rex Bateman
1970 XJ6 Jaguar	Graham Hodder
1972 Rover P513	Lyn & Bob Cumming
1968 Wolseley 1300	Jim & Barbara Barr
1957 Morris Minor	Pat and Jill



Photo: Pete Monk

Wairarapa Dark Skies Reserve July Club Night

This month's club night speaker was Ray Lilley, a journalist from Martinborough speaking about the Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve.

He's part of a small group of volunteers from South Wairarapa and Carterton District who have worked hard over the past five years to achieve formal certification as an International Dark Sky Reserve. This was achieved in January 2023, covering an area of 3,665 square kilometres. The Wairarapa joins 20 other International Dark Sky Reserves, and one other New Zealand dark sky reserve in the Aoraki-Mackenzie region.

To support the application, South Wairarapa District Council approved a change to the Wairarapa Combined District Plan in 2021 to minimise light pollution in the night sky. This included changes to lighting rules around sports grounds and the rollout of downward tilting, warm-coloured street lights that contain the light's spread. The aim is that within 10 years, 80% of outdoor lighting complies with International Dark Sky requirements.

The darkest zone of the reserve is deep within Aorangi Forest Park, towards the southernmost tip of the North Island.

Thanks to the naturally low-lit surrounds of the Pacific Ocean and the Remutaka and Tararua Forest Ranges, you can often take in the celestial splendour from backyards throughout the region.

Collaboration between the Pūkaha, Aratoi Museum, Iwi, astronomers, universities, and others have raised awareness about night sky conservation. Most of the Reserve is easily accessible to the public for night sky viewing every night. There are also many benefits to birds, insects, plants and animals from reducing light pollution. Migrating birds are affected by the light, becoming disorientated. Insects such as moths fall victim to light. Plants are affected more than we notice, particularly when in constant light from street lights.

The benefits not only enable people to see the stars and enjoy the night sky, there are clear environmental benefits to all members of our ecosystem.

Calendar of events

AUGUST	
07	<p>Club Night Monday August 7th 7pm At the clubrooms Quiz night with the Vintage Machinery Club</p>
20	<p>Daffodil Run Sunday 20th August 10am departure from Martinborough \$10 fee to go to Cancer Society</p>

SEPTEMBER	
03	<p>Wairarapa Ram Rodders Show and Shine Sunday 3rd September 10am - 2pm Tauherenikau Racecourse Fee \$15 Registrations start from 8am</p>
04	<p>Club Night Monday September 7th 7pm At the clubrooms Details of speaker to come</p>

FUTURE EVENTS	
7pm	<p>Club Nights First Monday of the month</p>
27 OCT	<p>TARGA See more on page XX</p>
21 Oct	<p>Classic Car Run to Brewtown See more on page XX</p>
26 NOV	<p>Vintage Car Day Tui Brewery</p>
24-26 NOV	<p>Wings Over Wairarapa Talk to Graeme Hodder about displaying your car at Wings Over Wairarapa.</p>
	<p>Christmas Parades Tis the season to be jolly</p>



RALLY FOR CANCER

PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE WAIRARAPA CANCER SOCIETY



20TH AUGUST

DEPARTURE FROM MARTINBOROUGH

REGISTRATIONS OPEN AT: 9:00AM

ALL CAR OWNERS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE





We're Back

FATHERS DAY

SHOW AND SHINE 2023

SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 10AM - 2PM

TAUHERENIKAU RACECOURSE

1498 STATE HIGHWAY 2

**HOTRODS
MUSCLE
CARS
MOPARS
BIKES**

GOLD COIN ENTRY

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

Food trucks

Live Music

Bar

Prize giving 1pm

Club sausage sizzle

Miniature Railway

60s Dress up Prize

REGISTRATION

\$15 PER CAR

Register on the day from 8am. Cars to be parked by 10am.

Passengers please provide 1 item of non perishable food each, for the food bank.

www.ramrodders@yahoo.com

Classic, Hotrod and Specialist Vehicles.

Dogs not permitted.

National calendar of events

CHB VCC 1st Vintage Rally

- Open to all VCC eligible vehicles
- Major prizes for Vintage Section Only
- Entries close Sunday 16 September 2023

Assemble at Russell Park, Waipukurau at 10:45am. Briefing at 11:00am. First car away approximately 11:10am. There will be a short non competitive run to a rural property for a BYO lunch stop. The competitive part of the run will be after lunch and will have some gravel. Leaving the lunch stop at 2pm to arrive at Waipukurau at 4pm for a BBQ dinner and prizegiving.

Rally Organiser Bruce Poole

Phone: (06) 858 9940 | 027 244 9090

Email: brucepoole1930@gmail.com

**WHEELS & DEALS
SWAP MEET & CAR
SHOW**

CARD RESERVE, FEATHERSTON
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12TH, 2023

FUNDRAISER FOR
FEATHERSTON JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
PRESENTED BY

WAI WHEELS
- FEATHERSTON -

.CLASSICS. .MUSCLE. .VINTAGE. .HOTRODS.
.TRUCKS. .MOTORBIKES. .E.V.'S
.TRADE STALLS.

ENTRY \$10 PER CAR
VENDOR \$20
PER STALL

CONTACT DETAILS: VINNI - 0274479990 DAN - 021654725 GRAHAM - 0210737177
FACEBOOK WAI WHEELS FEATHERSTON



Hosted by

WANGANUI BRANCH

**6th National
Commercial Rally 2023**

**Friday 20th to 23rd October
Labour Weekend**

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST:

Rally Secretary - Linda O'Keeffe 0274 733 767

Treasurer - Neil Farrer 027 457 9634

Email: natcomrally2023@gmail.com

BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION EARLY!!





Classic car run to

Brewtown

For the Starship Foundation

Gold
Coin Entry



21ST OCTOBER

MEET AT PALMY NORTH SQ 10^{AM} 12:00 - 5:00 PM

NO PLASTIC BUMPERS!

Live Music

REGISTER YOUR CAR @ BREWTON.CO.NZ/CARRUN


Starship
Foundation
Community Star

Proudly
Supported
By





TARGA TIME TRIAL

27th/28th October

The Targa Time Trial was introduced as an additional Targa product in 2018, initially limited to members of the Vintage Car Club of NZ, it is now open to all. Primarily aim at NZ Road Registered cars over 30+ years to drive the same iconic roads as all the other Targa participants.

This is not a speed event, but an exercise in precise driving and time-keeping to maintain a set average speed through all the closed road stages.

Targa New Zealand Two Day Regional Time Trial 2023 is a two (2) day Tarmac Time Trial event, and is the last two Legs of the Targa New Zealand 2023 rally (being Legs 4 and 5)

Targa New Zealand Two Day Regional Time Trial 2023 starts in Palmerston North and travels through the Manawatu, Tararua, Masterton and Carterton districts and finishes in Masterton. There are 10 stages in total. This is broken down to 5 stages each for Legs 4 and 5. Service stops are as follows: Leg 4 – Apiti, Hunterville, Marton and Palmerston North Leg 5 – Pahiatua, Eketahuna and Masterton 3.2 Length: Comprises of approx. 254.80km of closed roads and 300.42km of touring. 3.3 Leg Four – Friday 27th October:

First Car starts from Palmerston North at 8:30am and finishes at 3:50pm in Palmerston North. 3.4 Leg Five – Saturday 28th October: First Car starts from Palmerston North at 8:30am and finishes at 3:20pm in Masterton.

THIS YEAR IS LOCAL. Make the most of the closeness of Targa in our district.



2023/24 Committee and Office Holders

Chairperson: Graham Hodder

(06) 308 9087 | 027 226 3738

g_jhodder@xtra.co.nz

Club Captain: Hugh Hunter

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j.h.hunter@xtra.co.nz

Secretary: Mike D'Alton

021 137 2395

secretarywvcc@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Kevin Sullivan

022 377 8443

kevsully52@gmail.com

Committee Members:**Dave Patten**

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dave.patten28@gmail.co

Pat Dutton

(06) 379 7918

betyjo29@gmail.com

Frank Lipinski

(06) 379 7167

Tina Goodin

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tina.goodin@hotmail.com

Jim Laird

0274 412 659

jim.laird@wise.net.nz

Simon O'Hara

021 141 2332

simonsandieohara@gmail.com

Custodians: Dave Patten & Kevin Sullivan**Librarian: Pat Dutton****Motorcycle Liaison: Kevin Sullivan****Publications & Newsletter Editor: Alec O'Hara** 027 775 0417**Beaded Wheels Scribe: TBC****Spares:**

Frank Lipinski (06) 379 7167

Barry Wells (06) 377 1152 ljandbjwells@gmail.com

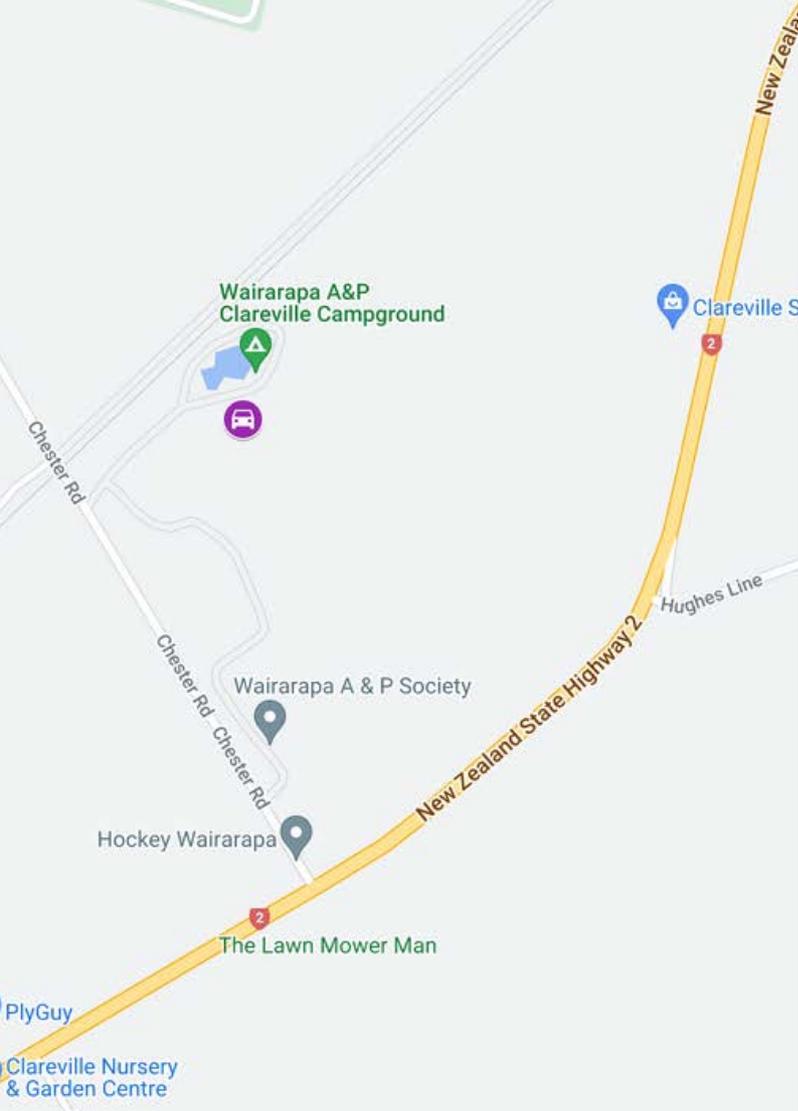
Jeff Percy (06) 377 4622 j.percy@xtra.co.nz

Vehicle Inspectors:

Francis Pointon (06) 378 6710 pointonmotors@xtra.co.nz

Graham Reidy (06) 372 7855 g-a.reidy@xtra.co.nz

Hugh Hunter (06) 306 9847 j.h.hunter@xtra.co.nz -



Clubroom details

Clubrooms:

A&P Showgrounds, Chester Road,
Clareville

Postal Address:

PO Box 7, Masterton 5840 Branch

Website:

www.sporty.co.nz/wairarapavcc

Club Night:

First Monday of the month (except
January) and June (second Monday) at
7pm.

CLUB NIGHTS 7PM START

Committee meet:

Second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm



Parts Department

Join Frank, Barry and Jeff for yarn and a cuppa when the Parts Department is open. In this treasure trove, you might also happen to find any bits and pieces you've been looking for.

Located at the clubrooms, the Parts Department is open:

- Each Tuesday morning following club night
- The 3rd Saturday of the month from 9:30am - 12noon.

You can also contact Frank for an appointment outside standard opening hours by phoning (06) 379 7167

Offers to members

Bluebridge and Interislander Specials

Both Bluebridge and Interislander are offering special prices for VCC members. Details can be found on our website: [Click Here](#)

Classic Tyres

Hamilton based Tyreline can provide access to a full range of Michelin tyres. More information and catalogue on our website [Click Here](#)



ATLAS AUTO SERVICES

Open Saturdays for WOF inspections on old cars, by appointment. Located in Featherston.

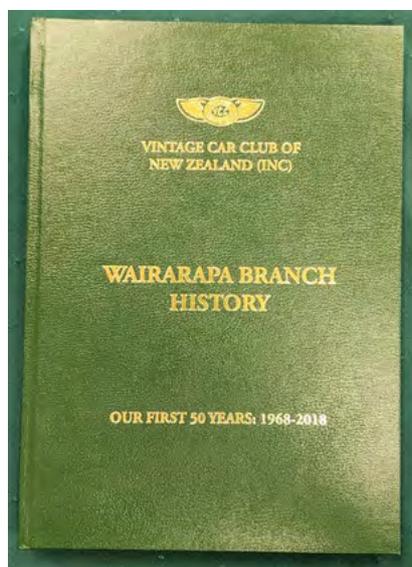
Contact Aaron Webster (Wairarapa Branch member)

Phone: 021 0853 0341

Email: aaron@atlasclassic.co.nz

Market Place - Buy, Sell or Swap

If you want to advertise something here, send an email to: editorwaivcc@gmail.com



Our First 50 Years

Jubilee History of the Wairarapa Branch.
Special price for new members \$45.
Buy at Club Night.



Wairarapa
Zenith



P.O.Box 7 MASTERTON 5840

CLICK HERE FOR THE WEBSITE
WAIRARAPAVCC