

# Wairarapa **Zenith**

November 2025



**V.C.C  
CARS  
ONLY**



**Rex Porter Rally 2025**

## Contents

Page 2	Secretaries Note
Page 3	Report from the Chair
Page 5	Events
Page 8	Travelers
Page 9	Manawatu Motorcycle Rally
Page 10	Rex Porter Rally
Page 13	Contacts
Page 14	Our Information

## Club Night 3rd November

### Bragging Rights

## Club Night 1st December

### Twilight Run + Special General meeting

## Notes from your Secretary

Mike D'Alton, Secretary

It was unfortunate that the weather conditions over the weekend led to cancellation of the Vintage Aircraft and Vehicles event at Hood Aerodrome. In the event the weather on Sunday morning turned out to be not too bad, but the wind was still too strong to risk the wellbeing of pilots and aircraft. Lets hope that next Sunday brings more clement conditions for the New Members Rally.

A couple of important points have arisen recently, and the committee have asked me to make the membership aware of the following two points.

### Branch Constitution.

As you will all know by now, to fall in line with the new laws governing clubs and organisations, The VCC, along with all other similar organisations, has had to rewrite the Club Constitution. In line with this, we also have had to make wholesale changes to our own Branch Rules, which are now known as The Constitution Rules of The Vintage Car Club of New Zealand Wairarapa Branch.

The rules will be emailed to you shortly, along with the Calling Notice to a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Branch, which will be needed in order for members to approve the change. This will be held as part of the monthly Club Night on 1st December.

Please take a minute to read the rules, and do get in touch with either Graham or me before the meeting if you have any queries. Hopefully then the SGM will only take a few minutes and we shall be able to get on with the social side of things.

### Legality of Members' Vehicles.

We love to see all your vehicles at our club events, but please make sure that they have the required paperwork to be on the road when you bring them along. This may sound pedantic, but it would not reflect well on our reputation should you be involved in an incident while attending, or on your way to, the club rooms.

### Christmas Lunch.

This will be held on 13th December at The Eketahuna Hotel. There will be a run from Masterton with a simple quiz. Full details will follow, but booking is essential.

Please email me, [secretarywvcc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:secretarywvcc@yahoo.co.uk) if you wish to attend. The cost is \$38, and numbers are limited to 50.

Finally, please remember to drop me a line if you change your contact details.

Mike D'Alton, Secretary.

I am finally back with a club report for you.

I have had few hiccups with my health, but are now firing on all cylinders. There was a short in the wiring which required the addition of a pacemaker.

It is with sadness I report the passing of two of our club members.

Barbara Thomson who joined the club in February of 1998. On behalf of the club, I pass our condolences onto Scott and family.

Graham Clark has also passed away on the 22nd of October. Graham joined the club in 1984 with his 1925 Ford Model T Tourer. In later years we would see Graham and Annette out in their 1947 Hillman.

Graham and Annette have been active members over the past forty-one years. In that time Graham also served as a committee member for eight years. He presented the Thorneycroft Challenge Trophy which is competed for annually between the Wairarapa Machinery Club and the Wairarapa Vintage Car Club. On behalf of the club, we offer our condolences to Annette and family.

Jim Barr's report in last month's Zenith, covering the Spring Rally was an enjoyable read.

A wonderful day's outing had by all. Despite Jim and Barbara's return trip home having some unforeseen challengers, he was happy to put pen to paper. Thanks Jim.

Great to see so many of our club member's supporting The Distinguished Gentlemen's Drive. A worthy cause that highlights prostate cancer. Thank you, Gina, for another informative article.

The annual Rex Porter Rally was well supported this year by local members and a couple from the Manawatu and the Wellington branch's. It is a real commitment to travel and be part of our day's activities. We appreciate your support and thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Simon and Sandie and their team of helpers for their hard work and personal commitment to putting a very enjoyable days rallying together.

The October club night was the start of the summer series "The Car is the Star" Triumph Motor Cars were the chosen make. The Triumph Motor Company was a British car and motor manufacturing company in the 19th and 20th centuries. Triumph manufactured its first car in 1923. The company was acquired by Leyland Motors in 1960, ultimately becoming part of the giant conglomerate British Leyland (BL) in 1968, where the Triumph brand was absorbed into BL's Specialist Division alongside former Leyland stablemates Rover and Jaguar. Triumph-badged vehicles were produced by BL until 1984 when the Triumph marque was retired, where it remained dormant under the auspices of BL's successor company Rover Group. The rights to the Triumph marque are currently

owned by BMW, who purchased the Rover Group in 1994. There were three examples to view with the owners providing background information about them. David Eade brought his 1976 Triumph 2500 TC, Joe Morris brought his 1969 Triumph 2000 and Mark Orange his newly purchased 1967 Triumph



Herald.

Many thanks for making yourself and vehicles available. It was disappointing the Bygone Era of Wings and Wheels Event at Hood Aerodrome was cancelled. The weather is always the challenge with fragile aircraft and older vehicles. The thought is it maybe rearranged in the New Year. November is going to be busy with a number of events planned. The Wairarapa A&P Society have invited members to display their cars outside the club rooms over the Show weekend. It is free entry over the 1st and 2nd of November.

The Wellington Branch are running their Annual Rally in the Wairarapa on Saturday the 1st of November. The run starts at the Fell Museum, Featherston at 10.00 am. For more details contact Angelica via email at mcarthys@xtra.co.nz or 04 5898248

The club has its New Members Rally on Sunday the 2nd of November.

See David and Bob's report for more info. We will see you on Sunday for a great days motoring. Monday Club night on the 3rd of November is called Bragging Rights.

Bring your car along and have between five and ten minutes to talk about why you are the proud owner of it and any other interesting stories that involve your car. Wai Wheels have their 4th Annual Wheels & Deals Car Show and Swap Meet in Featherston on the 16th of November. 10am to 2pm

The Clubs Gold Medal Motorcycle Trial is being held on Saturday the 22nd of November. Kevin Sullivan is working hard behind the scenes to put another fantastic event together. Get your entry in and enjoy the fun filled day riding your bike

Sunday the 23rd of November we are again having a Veteran Rally which will start in Masterton and travel to Martinborough for lunch and return.

The Annual Tui Brewery Vintage Car Day at Mangatainoka is being held on the 30th of November. Registrations online and on the day.

December starts with the Monday Club night on the 1st of December. There will be a Twilight Run starting at the club rooms and returning to the club rooms.

We have included a Special General Meeting which will not take up much of your time at the completion of the run. The purpose of this Special General Meeting is to ratify the Branch's new Constitution and Bylaws. There will be time for questions and then a vote will be called upon to accept the new Constitution and Bylaws. See Mikes report.

This year's Christmas function will be held on the 13th of December at the Eketahuna Hotel.

Fantastic to see our branch back in the Beaded Wheels Branch News. David Eade has taken on this role and we are very appreciative of his input.

Please make sure you send interesting snippets to David about our club outings.

That's enough from me.

Cheers

Graham



## Pointon Motors open for WOF's and repairs

Francis is open for WOF's and limited vintage repairs at reduced working hours. Contact Francis at (06) 378 6710

## New members rally



This year's New Members Rally will be held on Sunday 2 November.

Event Start: Farriers car park for a drivers briefing at 9.50am.

First car away: about 10am.

Event duration: about three hours, finishing at the Gladstone hotel.

Difficulty: About 10km of gravel on the route but easy apart from that.

Cars will leave at one minute intervals and be judged on finishing in the correct time.

There will be questions to answer and a small time penalty for incorrect answers.

We have allowed 15 minutes on the desired time to allow for a coffee / loo stop on the way around.

<b>November 2025</b>		
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> – Sun. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wairarapa A & P Show, Clareville	
Saturday 1st	Wellington Branch Annual Rally	Briefing at the Fell Museum- 10am
Sunday 2nd	New Members Rally	Meet at Farriers Carpark at 9.50 am for briefing
Monday 3rd	Club Night	Bragging Rights – Bring your best car
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
Sunday 16th	Wai Wheels Annual Car Show	Card Reserve – Featherston
Saturday 22nd	Gold Medal Motorcycle Trial	
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Veteran Run	
Sunday 30th	Mangatainoka Vintage Car Day	
<b>December 2025</b>		
Monday 1st	Club Night	Twilight Run
Monday 1st	Special General Meeting	Club Rooms following the Twilight Run
Saturday 6th	Manawatu & Central Hawkes Bay Veteran Rally	Meet at Tui Brewery Briefing at 10.30am
Sunday 7th	Mauriceville Country Fair	
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting (if required)	
Saturday 13th	Club Xmas Function- Eketahuna Hotel	\$38 per head – Max number of 50 people Confirm numbers by Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec.

Date	Event	Other dates / events of interest
<b>January 2026</b>		
Sunday 11th	Coastal Run	Akitio – to be confirmed
<a href="#">Sunday 11th</a>		<a href="#">Wheels with Attitude Dannevirke</a>
22/25 Jan		<a href="#">Cruise Martinborough</a>
<b>February 2026</b>		
Monday 2nd	Club Night	Motorbikes are the Star
TBC	Garage Raid	<a href="#">Francis / David Hitchens</a>
<a href="#">Sunday 8th</a>		<a href="#">British Car Day Trentham</a>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
<b>March 2026</b>		
Monday 2nd	Club Night	Car is the Star – TBC
Saturday 7th	Stretched Gymkhana	A&P Show Grounds Masterton
Sat. 7 <sup>th</sup> – Sun. 8th	March Executive Meeting	Christchurch – TBC
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
Sun. 15 <sup>th</sup> – Sat. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Vero International Festival	Nelson
Sunday 22nd	Garage Raid	TBC
<b>April 2026</b>		
Fri. 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Mon. 6th	Easter	
Tuesday 14th	Committee Meeting	
Sunday 12th	Club Captains Run	TBC
Sat. 25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Anzac Day Weekend	

<b>May 2026</b>		
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Night	
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Motorcycle Reliability Run	TBC
<b>June 2026</b>		
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	King's Birthday	
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Club AGM	
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	New Committee Meeting	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Winter Wander	TBC

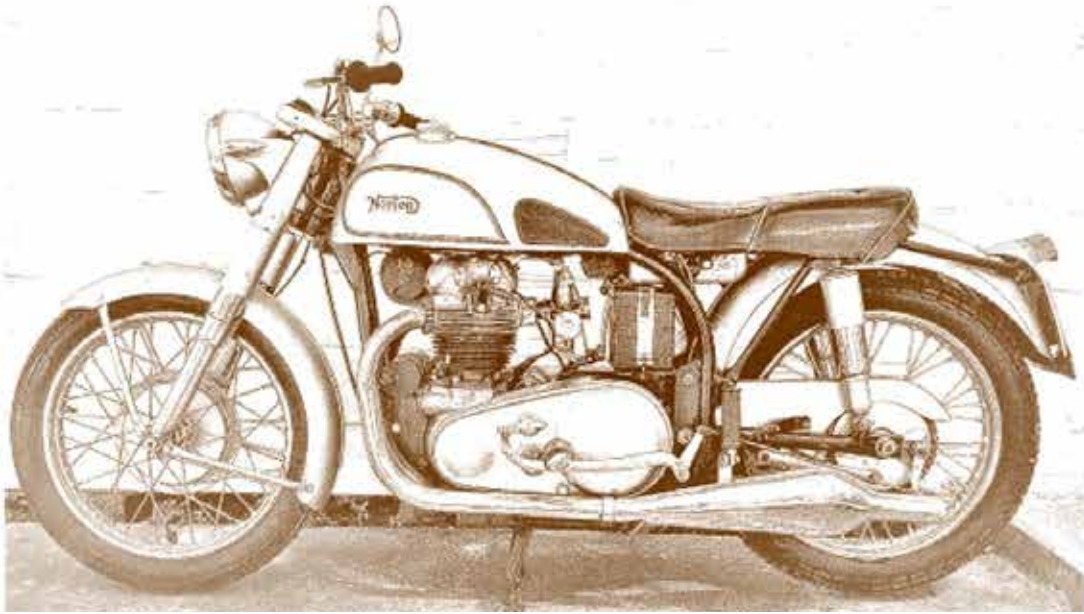
Date	Event	Other dates / events of interest
<b>July 2026</b>		
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Club Night	Fish & Chip – Website discussion -clubrooms
Fri. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Matariki	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Gravel Challenge	
<b>August 2026</b>		
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Night	Quiz Night with Vintage Machinery Club
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
Fri. 14 – Sat. 15 <sup>th</sup>	National A.G.M & Executive Meeting	Manawatu Branch
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Daffodil Run	
<b>September 2026</b>		
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Club Night	
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Rally	
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
TBC	Gentlemen's Drive	Fundraiser for men's health
<b>October 2026</b>		
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rex Porter Rally	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Club Night	Car is the Star – Triumphs
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Labour Day	
TBC		Targa Rally
TBC	Bygone era of wings and wheels.	Organiser is Wellington Festival



The Vintage Car Club of New Zealand  
Wairarapa Branch

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Gold Medal Trial

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2025**



Welcome to this, our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gold Medal Trial.

The Trial will be based at the Branch clubrooms in Chester Road Clareville.

This year the event covers all classes of machine and will be run over roads in south Wairarapa.

There are two routes for the timed morning run;

- A long route of approximately 72 miles
- A short route of approximately 55 miles

Entrants are free to choose which route and speed range they wish to ride.

Target average speeds will be set by the organisers and will be non negotiable.

The afternoon route will be a touring run of approximately 50 miles.

Route instructions are basic with no fish hooks, no straight line navigation other than 'straight ahead rule applies' i.e. no crossing the centre line unless your instructions request you to do so.

There are no closed road sections so riders must be aware of on coming traffic at all times, especially on narrow country roads.

Allow for wandering stock and high winds and as usual ignore all farm tracks and No Exit roads.

Shaun, Stephanie and Gerard ventured down south during the month

On their way to Wanaka they stopped at Tarras. There we saw a 1930 Chrysler. The owners were a couple from Ashburton who were on their way to Wanaka



While in Wanaka took the opportunity to visit the Transport & Toy Museum



On another day they went to Highlands Raceway in Cromwell. This is owned by Tony Quinn. Who also owns Hampton Downs.

There was a varied collection of Aston Martins, Porsche, McLarens, Ferrari's etc



The Museum is not large but the whole set up is very impressive. Cromwell is a stunning setting for a race track.



There is even mini golf and a Café overlooking the track. You can book a drive around the track with one of their drivers. Well worth the visit.

However they were in Tourist mode and just looked around the Museum, played min golf and had lunch.

They did spot a 1927 Buick similar to their 26 Tourer



Early one wet and windy October Saturday morning Willie James, Simon Byrne and I loaded our bikes onto Willie's ute and Simon's trailer and set off for Palmerston North to take part in the Manawatu Branch's motorcycle rally. Fortunately the weather improved once we crossed the Tararuas and we arrived at the Manawatu Branch club rooms in dry but slightly windy conditions. Another Wairarapa member Gary Graham had also braved the weather to enter the event.

All in all it was an enjoyable day and I recommend the event to other branch members. The rally winner was a regular entrant in our Gold Medal Trial, Robert Heath from the Manawatu branch.

Kevin Sullivan

After registration and a briefing the twenty or so entrants were preparing for the start when there was the sound of a skid, a scrape and a thump from the road outside. This was followed by distressed shrieking. A few of us hurried out to the road to find a car upside down up against a fence. Three young women had scrambled out and a fourth was still inside the car hanging from her seat belt. She was quickly freed and helped out of the car. All four had no obvious signs of injury but were in various stages of shock. They were however together enough to pull their phones out to telephone relatives and apparently post pictures of the event on line.

After that dramatic start to the day we set off at our allotted times on the rally course that would take us to Marton for lunch. For me all went well until I got to Feilding where I took the wrong road at an intersection. As I rode up the wrong road a number of rally entrants went past me heading in the opposite direction. I thought at the time that the route must double back onto the same road. The further I went I doubted that possibility and after a while spotted a bike ahead of me with a rider wearing a yellow bib. I am on the right track I thought and I followed the rider ahead to the lunch stop in Marton. It turned out that I had missed a large loop that included the timed section and I had slotted in behind a competitor who had completed the loop which came back onto the road I had taken. I suspect that the riders who passed me going in the opposite direction had also taken the wrong road but had realised their mistake and turned back.

Willie had the misfortune of a puncture on the morning section so he arrived at the lunch stop with his bike on the back of a ute.

The afternoon course took from Marton out to the Turakina Valley and then across to the Cheltenham pub for the wrap up and prize giving. A fiendish gravel section tested my already questionable gravel road skills by I safely albeit very slowly made it though that enjoyed the run to Cheltenham. Simon avoided the gravel section by following an alternative interpretation of the route instructions which took him down the Turakina Valley and on to Cheltenham.

After the prize giving we rode back to the Manawatu Clubrooms to load up our bikes for the drive home. We became a little concerned that Gary hadn't appeared but it turned out that he had suffered a problem with his bike and was picked up by the rescue team. While we waited for Gary to appear we entertained ourselves by trying to drive Willie's ute with the trailer behind it across a deceptively muddy field. That turned out to be an adventure in itself.

Saturday 4th October dawned very wet, but by the time registered cars (plus one motorbike) assembled at the Masterton Railway Station for the rally briefing the rain had eased off.

Vehicles set off at timed intervals travelling via Mauriceville, crossing SH2 to head west of Eketahuna, continuing via back country roads up to Pahiatua to the first checkpoint.

Leaving Pahiatua, entrants travelled via Makuri to Pongaroa, to the second checkpoint. Lunch break was held in the local community centre, but as the sun decided to shine, many chose to set chairs out on the grassed area and enjoy the company of fellow members.

In the afternoon, vehicles departed the third checkpoint, heading south on Route 52 to Te Ore Ore, turning east to go via Gladstone, returning to the clubrooms for the finish checkpoint.

With a sprinkle of questions and silent checks throughout the day, plenty of interesting countryside, and 160 miles covered, an enjoyable day had been had by all.

After afternoon tea, prize giving was held with the following winners congratulated:

Well done to overall winners Malcolm Fleming and navigator Gina Jones.

The hard luck story of the day, went to Ryan Dewes and navigator Sam Millar, driving the 1913 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, which made it within 600m of the clubrooms only to breakdown.

Socialising continued into the evening, with many joining in for a pizza and chip tea, followed by dessert.

Thanks must go to the volunteers for their assistance throughout the day and the many prize sponsors



Phil Brown in his 1952 Daimler Consort

Section	Driver/Rider	Navigator	Vehicle
Motorbike Winner	Dave Henwood		1952 BSA B33
Veteran/Vintage/Post Vintage Winner	Matt Hunter	Jill Hunter	1935 Morris 8 Sports
Veteran/Vintage/Post Vintage Runner Up	Mike Whitelock	Michelle Whitelock	1936 Austin 10
Post War Winner	Phil Brown	Liz Brown	1952 Daimler Consort
Post War Runner Up	Matthew Shute	Norma Shute	1955 Humber Hawk
Post 60's/Post 80's Winner	Malcolm Fleming	Gina Jones	1971 MG Midget
Post 60's/Post 80's Runner Up	Jim Barr	Mike D'Alton	1968 Wolseley 1300
Over All Winner	Malcolm Fleming	Gina Jones	1971 MG Midget



1929 Vauxhall - Neale Ryder



1935 Morris 8 Sports - Matt Hunter



Hugh Hunter with new branch banner



1957 Landrover - Kevin Sullivan



1951 Plymouth Cranbrook - Darryl Longstaffe



## MG Fox Triumphs at the Rex Porter Rally

Despite a bleak forecast and a soggy early morning, more than 30 cars assembled for this year's Rex Porter Rally, hosted by the Wairarapa VCC. The Masterton station car park was a sight to behold: everything from stately Plymouths and Morrisies to nimble MGs and Land Rovers, all lined up for a day of classic motoring adventure.



## Stage 1 - Tiny checks on the back roads

The rally began with a loop of back roads towards Pahiatua. Crews had questions to answer along the way and were challenged to find three "checks" — minuscule green markers that blended so well into the roadside that spotting them was almost a rally within a rally. Compared to the bold MG rally checks, these were practically invisible!

## Stage 2 - A Targa favourite

The second stage took us over one of our favourite Targa rally routes — a real driver's treat. The roads were flowing and familiar, with enough twists to keep navigators sharp. Spirits lifted as the skies cleared, and by the time we rolled into Pongaroa for lunch it was warm enough to sit outside in singlets. But true rally weather is never predictable: within minutes of our departure the heavens opened, complete with lightning and thunder. Fortunately, our run back towards the Wairarapa was mostly just light rain.

## Route 52 return and clubroom hospitality

The final leg took us via Route 52 — another favourite — and then through the backroads from Masterton before finishing back at the clubrooms. There we were greeted by a fabulous afternoon tea spread, a very welcome sight for road-weary crews. Conversations flowed as we compared stories of missed checks, close calls, and roadside views.

## Prize haul for MG Fox

Prize giving was a red-letter moment for our little MG Midget, affectionately known as MG Fox (or Foxy). To our surprise (and slight embarrassment when we saw the pile building!), we first picked up a lucky dip prize drawn prior to the main awards, and then added:

- First in the Post-1960s class — the largest field of the rally
- Overall winners of the Rex Porter Rally
- And to top it off, Gina received the trophy for Best Navigator

The champagne, silverware, and plaques barely fit into the tiny Midget. With the hardtop on and gear already packed, Gina likened herself to a sardine squeezed in amongst the loot. Luckily, the run home was short!



## Back in form

This year's success was especially meaningful. Last year we were bitterly disappointed to have to withdraw with water in the oil on the day — all the harder because the Rex Porter is one of our favourite events. To come back this year and see things come together was very rewarding. We did miss the straight-line navigation, though.

## Thanks to the organisers and sponsors

We weren't able to stay on for the dinner due to Gina's ongoing concussion recovery, but we left on a high. Our thanks go to the Wairarapa VCC team who staged such a professional, challenging, and thoroughly enjoyable rally.



**Rain or shine, the Rex Porter Rally is an event that keeps the spirit of classic motoring alive.**

<b>Chairperson</b>	Graham Hodder	027 226 3738	g_jhodder@xtra.co.nz
<b>Secretary</b>	Mike D'Alton	021 137 2395	secretarywvcc@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kevin Sullivan	022 377 8443	kevsully52@gmail.com
<b>Club Captain</b>	Position vacant		

## Committee

Hugh Hunter	027 665 9911	j.h.hunter@xtra.co.nz
Pat Dutton	027 711 2735	betyjo29@gmail.com
Simon O'Hara	021 141 2332	simonsandieohara@gmail.com
Francis Pointon	06 378 6710	pointonmotors@xtra.co.nz
Dave Patten	027 247 7956	dave.patten28@gmail.com
Frank Lipinski	06 379 7167	
David Eade	021 227 7338	
Bob Cumming		

<b>Social Convener</b>	Position vacant		
<b>Custodian</b>	Position vacant		
<b>Zenith Editor</b>	Dennis Burns	021 428 547	editorwaivcc@gmail.com
<b>Beaded Wheels Scribe</b>	David Eade	021 227 7338	davethehandyman11@gmail.com
<b>Librarian</b>	Pat Dutton		betyjo29@gmail.com
<b>Motorcycle Liaison</b>	Kevin Sullivan	022 377 8443	kevsully52@gmail.com

## Spares

Frank Lipinski	06 379 7167	
Graham Reidy	06 372 7855	g-a.reidy@xtra.co.nz
Jeff Percy	06 377 4622	j.percy@xtra.co.nz
Dave Walker	06 379 5008	

## Vehicle Inspectors

Francis Pointon	06 378 6710	pointonmotors@xtra.co.nz
Dave Patten	027 247 7956	dave.patten28@gmail.com
Hugh Hunter	06 306 9847	j.h.hunter@xtra.co.nz
Kevin Sullivan	022 377 8443	kevsully52@gmail.com



**Parts Department:**

A&P Showgrounds, Chester Road, Clareville

Join Frank, Graham 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:

- First Tuesday morning of the Month.
- 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

### Clubrooms:

A&P Showgrounds, Chester Road, Clareville

**Postal Address:**

PO Box 7, Masterton 5840 Branch

**Website:**

[www.sporty.co.nz/wairarapavcc](http://www.sporty.co.nz/wairarapavcc)

### Club Night:

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

**Committee meet:**

Second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm

# Wairarapa Zenith

November 2025

