

Chapter Members of:



MODEL A TORQUE

Month: September 2020

Issue Number: 2020/4

Season: Spring



Shelly Beach car run on the 20th September 2020, (Beautiful Day)

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 through the use of the Model A Ford.

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

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**Events Alert – 11th October Auckland Heritage Festival Birkenhead,
18th October - Water Gardens Patumahoe, 31st October AGM,
see details on website www.modelafordclub.co.nz**

North Island Model A Ford Club Upcoming Event Planner 2020/2021

11- Oct	Sunday	Auckland Heritage Festival - Birkenhead	Stephen Upson	Confirmed
18-Oct	Sunday	Water Gardens Patumahoe	Andrew Costello	Confirmed
26-Oct	Monday	Labour Day		
31- Oct	Sat Eve	AGM – 5.30pm Remuera Club	Hugh Hulse	Confirmed
31- Oct	Sat Eve	Dinner & Prizes - 7pm Remuera Club	Hugh Hulse	Confirmed
1 - Nov	Sunday	Swap Meet	Bruce Stratton	Confirmed
15 – Nov	Saturday	Concours Judging Seminar	Rob Brown	Pending
? – Dec		Christmas in the Park	Ralph	Pending
		Awhitu Winery		Pending
		Awhitu Regional Park		Pending
New Year's Day?		Kaiaua Run Neil Aston		Pending
Feb 2021		Matamata Stewart Broomhall		Processing

FYI – *Non* North Island Model A Ford Club Events 2020/2021

Last Sun of Every Month		Caffeine & Classics
3-Oct	Sat	Fielding Swap Meet
3-Oct	Sat	Te Aroha Cruise In
16-17 Jan 2021	Sat/Sun	Kumeu Car Show

Print this page off for reminders and stick to your fridge!

Captain's Comment September 2020

To our Members, Friends and Followers

Spring is in the air as the lovely flowers and trees burst again into life. The weather is getting warmer, very quickly, and suddenly, the days are longer, as if to mimic the variability of life for us at present. Unbridled from the harness of winter and confinement due to covid19, we can only begin to feel free again, but then, we have said that before. Daylight saving is almost upon us once more and we can only wonder at the year past, what did we achieve or not achieve?

It has been a most difficult year filled with interruptions, restrictions and confinements for all club members. I would like to think that the worst of covid19 is now behind us and that this next year it will be adventurous and rewarding. Time will tell but there is still an enormous economic burden from this crisis to surmount before we can relax completely.

The Club AGM is upon us again and will be held on the 31st October 2020 at the Remuera Club, 5.30pm, conditions permitting. Some committee members will be retiring while others offer again for re-election. Is it time to learn the inner workings of the club by placing your hands on to the wheel of club motoring?

It is necessary to say a big Thank You to all who have assisted with club activities this year, under difficult circumstances albeit, but enjoying the challenge none the less. A new web site about to go live, and video meetings for the committee are a couple of the challenges accomplished. Sadly however, the Club Committee. has decided that our traditional awards evening is not really possible this year due to the inability to enable clear and warrantable assessments for the awards themselves, and the necessity not to undervalue them. Instead, it is proposed to hold an evening function for all club members after this year's AGM, a night to relax and be free, conditions permitting.

Take care of each other, wash your hands and keep your distance,

Cheers,

Hewy

Welcome to new members:

Jon Turney – Ti Miro Cambridge

Bill & Robyn Duffy - Mairangi Bay Auckland

Officers and Committee member contacts – note new email addresses for officers

Position/Name:	Contact details:
Club Captain Hugh Hulse	Phone: 021 599 981 Email: nimafc.captain@gmail.com
Vice-Club Captain (Event Co-ordinator & Club Health & Safety) Andrew Costello	Phone: 027 4543 983 Email: nimafc.vicecaptain@gmail.com
Secretary Wade Alexander	Phone: 027 272 2130 Email: nimafc.secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer Fiona & Garry Learmonth	Phone: 021 191 5513 Email: nimafc.treasurer@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor Temp - Fiona & Garry Learmonth	Phone: 021 191 5513 Email: nimafc.treasurer@gmail.com
Committee (Event Co-ordinator) Bruce Stratton	Phone: 027 485 3634 Email: brucestratton@xtra.co.nz
Committee (Club Records & Assets) John Castle	Phone: 021 957 032 Email: jmcastle@xtra.co.nz
Committee (Event Co-ordinator) John Ross	Phone: 021 437 267 Email: john.ross.2010i@gmail.com
Committee (Event Co-ordinator) Jim Corbett	Phone: 027 417 8359 Email: jimzz52@outlook.com
Historian Paul Smith	Phone: 027 485 2234 Email: pfsmith@ps.gen.nz

Website update

I'm really excited to inform you all that the website is now live. Please visit www.modelafordclub.co.nz and enjoy ☺

Thank you all again for your patience. Kind Regards, Fiona.

Merchandise

Still some thought going into this – the committee is currently discussing the feasibility of obtaining and holding stocks of merchandise. In the past merchandise has been slow to sell due to varying tastes and requirements. We are looking at simplifying what merchandise may be purchased to try and meet our member's requirements. Any suggestions, please email Wade, the NIMAFC secretary nimafc.secretary@gmail.com with your thoughts & designs. Thank you.

Wanted

1930 Model A Ford Roadster

Running road worthy condition, with room for improvement would be preferred, but anything on offer would be considered.

Very keen buyer!

Contact Warren Thorburn

Email: wandmthorburn@gmail.com

Ph: 09 478-6147

Mobile: 021-476-440

Wanted

Model A – no objection to repairs or bits & pieces to build a car.

Contact Jeff 078848551

For Sale

1929 Model A Tudor – with wof & rego.

Lots of extras, if keen call Neil Aston 02102390639

Car is at Kaiaua near Thames

Potentially interesting items out there on the web, that Model A enthusiasts may find worthwhile looking at!
Copy & paste the links to your browser & enter.

Model A Fords set to swarm the Model A Ford Museum this September!

<https://tinyurl.com/y4x2klbe>

Coast to Coast in a 1929 Ford

<https://tinyurl.com/yxp5rcmd>

If you have links of interest that you have found on the web, please send them to the editor to share with others, I can make large links smaller now😊

Shelly Beach South Head Car Run 20th September 2020





[More photos of Shelly Beach Run in Gallery - Photos on the Website](#)

[South Head and Shelly Beach Club Run - 20th September 2020](#)

After a couple of months of postponed club runs and events due to Covid 19 restrictions, 32 people and 13 Model A's, along with a couple of modern day vehicles (which wish they were 90 year old Model A Fords), arrived at the Parakai Hot pools to join in on a run that club Member Ross Bolton organised.

The meet and greet for members at the carpark was followed by a briefing. Head north, follow the instructions and enjoy the scenery.

First stop, whilst a few did a slight detour to Shelly Beach to check out the beach, was a drive of 35 km's to Omokoiti Bay. A beautiful piece of coastline which most of us did not even know about. A hidden gem. Members got together to talk the talk, enjoy each other's company, and change tyres that only had air at the top.

Scott Dickson's pit crew would not stand a chance against our resident Model A tyre changing crew.

The run continued to Lake Rototoa. Another beautiful piece of New Zealand landscape. We are all so lucky to live here.

Then as our hunger pains grew, the dash was on to get to Shelly Beach to satisfy our craving's. The café was full, and the carpark was full of people who were out and about enjoying a little more freedom.

Lunch time banter, checking out our model A's, talking about engine modifications, what else is there?

Once the club members had solved the world's problems, the most important of which being the cost of Model A parts, our Club captain Hugh got us together for the day's words of wisdom and a short history of the area we were in.

We thanked Ross for his organising of the day's activities, started our engines and headed of on to the roads back to the metropolis.

An enjoyable day, great friends, good weather, awesome chariots. What else is there??

Thank you,

Garry Learmonth

Clarabelle's story.

In this month's edition we talk to Clarabelle. A 1928 Model A Ford open cab pickup. ENJOY.



An interview with Clarabelle, A 1928 Model A Ford Open cab pickup. For the sake of any concern the interviewer shall remain anonymous but is a close party to the parties involved.

Included also in this party (but lost his balloons) is Bill of the bush, (B.O.T.B), (no connection with George of the jungle). They live in quiet solitude in a humble hermitage among trees at Paparoa. Bill is beside himself with delight at the opportunity afforded and will contribute to the interview with salient thoughts as need be.

INTERVIEWER: I must say what a rare pleasure this is. Do tell me Clarabelle, of your name, how it came to be.



CLARABELLE: Well, Clara was our heroine, Clara Ford that is. She must have had the patience of a saint to cope with old Henry, the autocrat of his Empire, and belle because he (nudging B.O.T.B) says I'm beautiful, which is only right of course.

We were belle of the automotive ball back then, us new Fords. We still turn heads today. It took a power of convincing to persuade old Henry to let us emerge from the "T" years, but dear Edsel took on the challenge and we take our bonnets of

to him for that. It is his name we should have worn with pride, but no, we had to kick start the alphabet again with plain old A which we warmed to over time. Poor Edsel's name long after he departed us, a broken man, came to be associated with a diabolical failure, but Edsel chiefly created us with our cute baby Lincoln looks and our uniquely dimpled radiator cowl shape, and a little jauntiness of our forebears.

B.O.T.B: Yep! As a child of the 50's I identified Model A's by that dimple and badge as so many were still in regular use. In Matakana, where we farmed, some had been trucked with varying degrees of skill. People then would ask where Matakana was? Different now.

INTERVIEWER: Ah yes, well, moving along now Clarabelle, I believe there was a time you were reduced to a pile of bits and pieces.

CLARABELLE: Oh indeed. I looked like what lesser mortals would call a pile of junk. It felt like it was the deepest pothole in my life, and I feared oblivion. I thought back on decades of faithful service and reckoned I'd reached the end. Enter Mr Elliot of Kumeu to retrieve my hopeless looking pile in a couple of trailer loads and set about bringing me back to life, a lucky break. There I was again, in time transformed back to old glory and pretty authentic too. God bless his cheerful soul. I gloried in my resurrection with a South Island national rally and a M.A.F.C.A 5000-mile award! Life was never the consistent though, and by and by I found myself laid up again and languishing among other projects perhaps a little outgrown by now. I remember one day a fella showed up following his personal radar for an early Model A pick up to check me out. Must admit it was love at first sight, all the more painful for his missing out on two other possible purchases but selling was not on the agenda then, so he left again once more dispirited.

B.O.T.B: I might add at this point having failed again to find an early one, I took plan B, my next choice and adopted (for a price of course) a 1930 open cab pickup from Martin Hewson at Matakana, my old stomping ground. Originally a South Island vehicle it was put back into commission by Len Hoyland. Interestingly it was either optioned with or retrofitted with a four-speed commercial gear box about half the weight of the engine which I am sure accounted for a bit of lost horsepower. I was now a member of the NIMAFC Inc. and soaked in the friendship and enthusiasm of all I met.

Raising the funds for this exercise came at the cost of selling my old number one motorbike of 40 years, a 1940 Army Indian negotiated for 15 pounds of lawn mowing money when I was at high school and ridden (and worked on) extensively over the years. I had a couple of school mates with Model A's and several of us had old motorbikes, the likes of old velocettes, beezers and matchies. Compared to these the Indian was a bit of an old draught horse, but I loved it and have

had others and earlier Scouts over the years. I was an apprentice mechanic at Wilmot motors in Warkworth and acquired my first pick up from a customer. It was a 1946 Chevrolet with a wooden deck, once owned by a major Auckland plumbing company. Brilliant for camping trips to Coromandel and beyond. But back to the future and Model A matters. About 12 years ago on a local club run with the 1930 and Vivien, my patient companion and skilled navigator, I was approached by two friendly gentlemen as to whether I was still interested in the 1928 pickup in Kumeu which was now available subject to a sort of three shuffle. This of course had to be and the deal with all round plusses and minuses took shape. The 1930 is now in the hands of Paul Smith and has undergone extensive re restoration and Clarabelle (as she has now come to be,) has also been attended to mechanically between the front bumper and tow ball. We all put our stamp on things and such passions do not come cheap, whether cars or truck or tractors. Mine started with Meccano.

INTERVIEWER: Most interestingly but to get back on track here, Clarabelle, tell us a little more of the last few years.

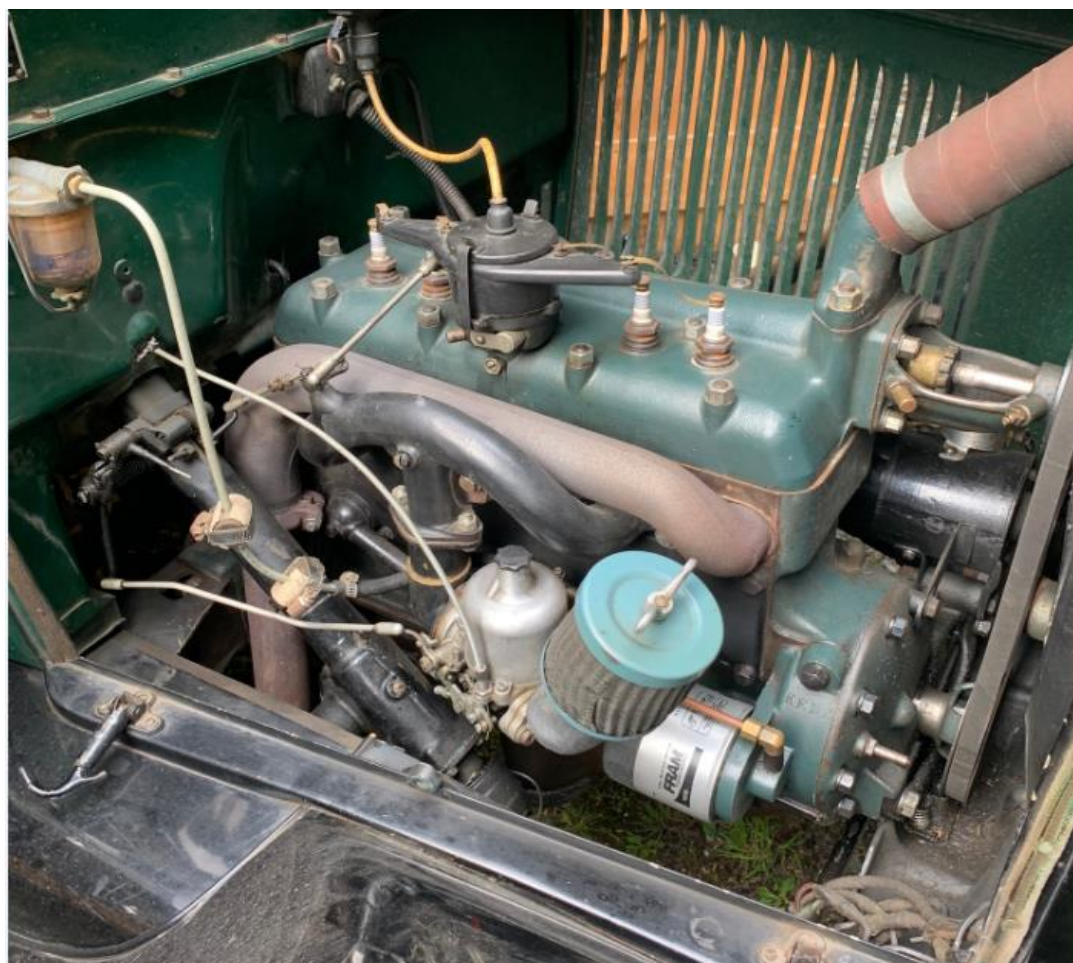
CLARABELLE: Thank you, happy to take over again. Well old whiskers here and Vivien and I have had some amazing journeys and local runs, especially the nationals, 3 in the north and 3 down south, and last time we made it right down to Bluff, 4000 miles all up. We catch up with so many friends were made and travelled all kinds of interesting and historical routes thanks hugely to the organisers. Of course, we include our own little deviations and tiki tours as well and they often park me up and



set of on long walks! I am always relieved to see them re-emerge and find me thankfully still there and undisturbed. Asian ladies in particular seem to find me good selfie value, perhaps why the top of my spare wheel is so shiny. On our trips it's much better when Viv's on board as Bills not a success at navigating on his own and its refreshing from time to time to have a lady driver. She was pretty good at picking up the double clutching too.

INTERVIEWER: Well so much can be said for the ladies in our life, but finally Clarabelle, I hear that the old bush dweller here has tinkered away on some economising measures, do tell.

CLARABELLE: Oh yeah, there's been a few bits of me fiddled about with (chuckles). Ranging from the usual things commonly done these days such as a mild touring cam grind and slightly higher compression about 5 plus a bit, I think. Some little mods



to my combustion chambers for better turbulence and flame path which means a better burn and less spark advance. Oh yes, and an ex MGB SU carb. (My only British component). After years of thinking about it he made an adaptor to make it fit me. I love it but still carry the old Zenith under the seat just in case. Of course, the over drive he fitted just before our last South Island trip helps too, not the least for easier conversation at 45 to 50 mph which I am comfortable with. In our old language around home I'm pretty consistent with 25 miles to the gallon, and on a long haul have achieved up to 30.5 between tank fillings. I'm a good girl now and no longer binge! I think he's pretty happy with that but still mopes over my footwear wearing out as they do.

INTERVIEWER: I quite understand that, but to wrap this up and time is flying, what thoughts or advice do you have Clarabelle for your siblings and their carers?

CLARABELLE: It would have to be an acknowledgement of our survival legacy among the ranks of fellow vintage. We pulled through a major world depression and I will say this for old Henry, he went all out to keep us affordable. Then there was a world war and rationing for years and proper maintenance was unaffordable for many or our families. Many old hands learned to drive in us and kept us going. It was common to see us with smoky old gas producers set up on the running boards or some on carriers. (Wonder what became of those and what if they had to be used again.) We oldies are the only vehicles they'd work on). But these days we do enjoy a bit of pampering, treats and attention and always smiles. And to our dedicated carer's, don't be tempted to push us too hard, well always get you home in the end. We have our ways and means you know, such as coming up with a new little noise or rattle that will knit any drivers brow and slow things up, for caution value if need be. So, so long my family and friends, there's more good times ahead.

INTERVIEWER: (Nervously observing clock on wall), thank you Clarabelle for your thoughts and reminiscence's and yes indeed, "Old Ford lives matter too". Interview ended 1.00 am.



N.B.: Clarabelle feels strangely at home on these dusty old roads in the north. Could it be that she had a past life travelling these trails?



In Memory of Tiddley Cox



We were saddened to receive an email from Rose Cox to say her much loved husband, Tiddley, had passed away on 26 July.

Tiddley and Rose, from Egmont Village near New Plymouth, joined the NIMAFc in 2016. With a name like Tiddley you would likely be something of a character and Tiddley was indeed a most likeable and memorable character.

How did he get his nickname? On the day he was born, his father looked at him and said, "What a little Tiddler". And that was it ... Tiddley. The name never left him.

Jenny & I got to know Tiddley and Rose when they came to the 2017 "Dare to be Deco" National Model A Rally in Napier. They arrived in "Rosie", their very smart 1931 LHD slant screen, Briggs body, Town Sedan. The photo above was taken at the Rally.

Rose has since sent some details about Tiddley's love of Model A's. His first, bought in 1962 when he was 18 years old, was a Roadster, which he painted buttercup yellow, with a black stripe. The next was a Tudor, followed by a Fordor. And finally, the 1931 Fordor mentioned above.

Over the years Tiddley also owned 3 Ford Model T's, a 1925 Hudson, a 1972 Rolls Royce and a couple of vintage motorbikes.

We received a note from Rose and Tiddley in April (around week 2 of the Covid-19 Level 4 lockdown), to say Tiddley wanted to get out and about in "Rosie". We knew just how he felt.

The NIMAFc sends Rose and her family our condolences and kind thoughts. We'll miss the man with a twinkle in his eye, a cloth cap and usually wearing a pair of sturdy work boots.

Ralph Levinson



Treasurer's Report

End of financial year has come and gone, and we are now in the club's new financial year 2020/2021. I am working on having the audit done and ready for AGM on the 31st October 2020 – 5.30pm at the Remuera Club.

Remember subs are due now for the 2020/2021 year, so pay before the 15th November to avoid the increased amount.

Take care, Kind regards, Fiona Learmonth.



NORTH ISLAND MODEL A FORD CLUB INC

PO Box 99249 Newmarket Auckland 1149

Website: modelafordclub.co.nz

Facebook: North Island Model A Ford Club

Club Subs

September 2020

Your subs information is below:

Annual Subscription, 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021

Individual / Family Membership

Paid by 15 November 2020 \$45.00

Paid after 15 November 2020 \$55.00

Payment (Preferred payment is by direct payment into the clubs account)– details below.

1. Online Direct payment to the Club's **ASB Account 12 3068 0187485 00.** Please include your name. As banks are now starting to stop excepting cheques, e.g. (Kiwi Bank from the 28th Feb 2020) others have & will follow.

We would like to encourage all members to pay by online direct payment to the club bank account. Details above and please remember to put your name as a reference.

However, if paying by Cheque, make the cheque out to North Island Model A Ford Club Inc. Post to the address above.

To keep our database current, please let us know any changes to your email address, postal address, phone numbers or Model A's you have bought/sold in the last 12 months.

Many thanks everyone!



NORTH ISLAND MODEL A FORD CLUB INC

PO Box 99249 Newmarket Auckland 1149

Website: modelafordclub.co.nz

Facebook: [North Island Model A Ford Club](#)

New Member Application Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Contact Details **Home** _____ **Mobile** _____

Email _____

Individual/Family Annual Membership \$45.00 (includes monthly emailed newsletters)

New Member Fee \$10.00

Youth Associate (under 22) no charge

Total Individual/Family New Membership **\$55.00**

Payment to –

Internet banking: Account #12 3068 0187485 00 North Island Model A Ford Club Inc.
Please include your surname as a reference.

Post: NIMAFC Treasurer, PO Box 99249, Newmarket, Auckland 1149

Year and Body Style of Model A(s) _____

Description / history, including colour & registration

I authorise the NORTH ISLAND MODEL A FORD CLUB INC., to include my details on a contact list, circulated to Club members.

Yes / No (please circle)

Signature _____ **Date** _____

The NIMAFC Committee reserves the right to decline any application. In this case the above fee will be refunded in full.

The Club's financial year is 1 September – 31 August.

Please email this form to: nimaft.treasurer@gmail.com

Fiona Learmonth

NIMAFC Treasurer

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ALL your
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CONTACT: Greg Stokes ph 021 955 459
or email gregstokes1932@gmail.com - North West Auckland

Hi everyone,

Once again, I have squeezed in compiling this latest edition of the NIMAFC newsletter. Unsure where time goes nowadays. One moment it is there, the next moment it is gone. Just like money!

I would like to thank the contributors to this edition of the newsletter this month. I endeavor to send the newsletters out by the end of each month, so I do ask that if you have any articles you would like to share with fellow NIMAFC members, to get them to me prior to the 15th of the month.

I have been working tirelessly on the new NIMAFC website for several months now, and I am pleased to say that it is up and running. I hope that you enjoy the new layout and using the website functions.

It is a work in progress. As I obtain articles and pictures from events, I upload them on to our website. This is an ongoing process.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please use the facility on the website to send them to us.

For those that don't use the website, we will continue to send out the printed newsletters and event flyers to you.

For those that would like to learn how to use it, we will be running a demonstration after the AGM on the 31st October.

Thank you for your support and patience throughout this mixed up year.

Kind Regards

Fiona Learmonth (NIMAFC Temporary Newsletter Editor)

Editor email: nimafc.treasurer@gmail.com

Please send articles/reports/photos to the Editor by 15th of the month (or earlier if you can).

In Microsoft Word or directly into an email (Editor can format to publish in the Newsletter).

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