

# 17<sup>th</sup> National Model A Ford Rally 23-28 February 2025.

Newsletter #1. 21-8-23



Hello, Model A Ford Club Members,

The 17th National Rally Committee comprising Club Captain Wade Alexander, Immediate past Club Captain Hugh Hulse, Club Secretary Martin Rees and Terry Costello a previous Vice-Captain of the Club did a reconnaissance trip to Masterton and the Wairarapa 22nd-26th May this year to evaluate routes and destinations and make contacts with important people who can help support the Rally. This was a very successful trip. We have a long list of 'contacts' and places to go and museums and vineyards that are worth a visit. There is so much to see and do in the Wairarapa that we will have to pick the best 'events' for all of us to do and give you a list of places to visit in your own time. Several afternoons will be left as 'free time' so you can use the travel guides and our suggestions to find special places to visit/enjoy in your own time with a group of friends.

As you can see above, we have finalized the Rally logo which features Steve Upson's colourful 'AA' Roadster pick-up truck. Thank you, Steve, for supplying the images.

'Early-bird' registrations costing \$40 close at the end of September this year. By registering early, you help to give us a 'seeding fund' with which to make deposits on bookings etc. Please see the Club website [www.modelafordclub.co.nz](http://www.modelafordclub.co.nz) and look for the presentation about the 17th National Rally which gives all the booking details and 'early-bird' registration details. We also encourage members to book with the Copthorne Solway Hotel (**Group reference number 71830**) who have given Club members a good group discount for booking accommodation with them. It will be easier for everybody if we have as many people as possible staying at the Solway Hotel as it is central to activities and close to the Showgrounds and

the Hood Aerodrome where the WOWA (Wings over Wairarapa Airshow) is being staged on the weekend immediately prior to our Rally. Many of you may wish to attend the airshow, so it is important to book at the Solway for Friday night 21st February 2025 so you can attend all day Saturday 22-2-25. The Rally registration desk will open Sunday afternoon at the Solway Hotel. The general population books early to secure hotels and motels for the airshow, so don't leave booking too late to avoid disappointment! An outline of our program is as follows.

### **Sunday 23rd February**

Rally Registration desk opens 3.00p.m. Solway Hotel. 'Noggin & Natter' Solway bar 5.00 p.m. Self-pay dinner Solway Restaurant or any restaurant of your choice in Masterton.

### **Monday 24th February**

Concours judging all morning.

Gymkhana and skills event all morning

For those not in the Concours or the Skills event there will be a static display of our cars in the Solway showgrounds, to which the Public will be invited to attend.

### **Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th, Friday 28th February.**

There are four good routes/destinations for 'runs' in the region, but there is not a lot of room for a large number of cars at each destination, so we are going to have four groups of cars A, B, C, D each group going to one of the four separate destinations each day. By the end of the four days everyone will have been to each fun/interesting destination without too much traffic congestion!

The four destinations are Castle Point lighthouse, Pukaha/Mt Bruce Bird sanctuary, Cape Palliser Lighthouse and Wharekauhau Lodge (on the coast south of Lake Wairarapa). The runs to Castlepoint and Cape Palliser will take most of the day whereas those to Wharekauhau and Pukaha are half day trips so on those days you will have the afternoon available to explore Museums and Vineyards etc in the region.

**Evening activities** planned are as follows.

### **Monday 24th February**

Dinner at Solway Hotel. Dress-up in 'period costume'. Mayoral welcome speech followed by a Guest speaker.

### **Tuesday 25th February**

'Free' evening so you can explore local restaurants or do viewing of the night sky by telescope in the 'dark sky area'.

### **Wednesday 26th February**

Informal dinner at Solway Hotel combined with a 'Quiz night' with good prizes to be won. 'Brush up' on your Model A and 'local knowledge' of the Wairarapa!

### **Thursday 27th February**

'Free' evening to explore local restaurants and night sky activities, again.

### **Friday 28th February**

'Prize-giving' dinner at Solway Hotel. Dress-up in period costume, prizes for best attired male and female. Auction of various items/products/services. Guest Speaker.

### **Saturday 1st March**

Farewell breakfast at Solway Hotel Restaurant.

For those travelling north on their way home and for those from the South Island who have decided to have a few days holiday around Taupo/Rotorua after the Rally we can stop off at the Model Railway Museum in Eketahuna for morning tea and stop again at the Tui brewery in Mangatainoka for a brewery tour and lunch before tackling the Saddle Road north of the Manawatu Gorge.

#### **Note:**

This is a provisional program. Some alterations may need to be made with the passage of time and due to weather events etc nearer the time. Further newsletters will be published about every four months. We will be asking for formal/final Registration in November 2024, so we have total numbers attending by December for final catering plans and clothing/merchandise requirements etc.

Kind regards,  
17th National Model A Ford  
Rally Committee.

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