

17th National Model A Ford Rally 23-28th February 2025

Newsletter # 2, 7th December 2023.

Hello, Model A Ford Club Members,

The Rally Committee has done another 'recce' to the Wairarapa to coincide with the postponed Wings over Wairarapa Air-show (WOWA) which was being held on 24-26th November as it had to be cancelled in February this year due to Cyclone Gabrielle.

Because accommodation was scarce, expensive and only available in outlying towns distant to Masterton we decided to hire a 4 berth caravan which we were able to park at Graham Hodder's farm near Featherston, power and water being supplied from his wool shed!

Wade Alexander was unable to come on this trip due to prior commitments, so Hugh Hulse, Terry Costello and Martin Rees drove to Featherston on Tuesday 21st Nov, collecting the hire caravan in Taupo. We bought food supplies for the week at New World Masterton then arrived at Graham's farm about 7.30 pm, set-up the van then had a chat with Graham about our objectives for the week.

On Wednesday 22nd we visited Francis Pointon and his Pointon Collection Vintage car Museum (close to Masterton) which also has a large collection of Period costumes on display which used to be maintained by his late wife, Kay. This Museum is a 'must see' with interest for both men and women. Francis is expecting to host groups of 40 cars each afternoon Tuesday through Friday for the week of the Rally.

We have established arrangements with Le Gra vineyard, Masterton, to provide wine tastings and platter lunches for each day after the group visits to Pukaha native bird sanctuary. Following lunch, we suggest visiting the local Greek Orthodox Church nearby to view it's amazing stained glass windows and painted ceilings. Truly a surprise finding in this part of the world. After this proceed to Francis Pointon's Vintage Car and Costume Museum to fill in the rest of the day in spectacular fashion!

On the days when our group tours go to Ocean beach/Wharekauhau via the Fell Locomotive museum in Featherston, there will be **two options** for lunch and afternoon activities. The **first** is to visit Luna Vineyard near Martinborough, for wine tastings and lunch in their superb garden setting. Following this will be 'on foot' exploration of the beautiful town square and many historic buildings in Martinborough where there are several lovely cafes for afternoon tea/coffee.

The **second** option is for those people who would prefer to go to the excellent historic Cobblestones Museum in Greytown. Lunch will be available there, where you can both park and dine in the lovely adjacent park/gardens. After browsing the exhibits in the museum, you will be able to do the historic buildings self-guided walk through Greytown and enjoy afternoon tea/coffee at their many cafes. The ladies will love the shops in Greytown!

For the groups doing the 'long runs' each day there will be different lunch arrangements.

The group going to **Cape Palliser** will need to take their own tea/coffee biscuits for the morning tea stop at Cape Palliser. The very fit may tackle the steep steps to climb up to the light-house for a great view. On the return trip stop at Lake ferry Hotel where we will have arranged lunch to be served. A visit to Stonehenge-Aotearoa at Ahiaruhe Road, Ponatahi on the way back to Masterton would be very interesting for those interested in Astronomy. Nearby is the historic Gladstone Inn and the Gladstone winery. Alternatively head back towards Martinborough and visit Ata Rangi or Runholder Vineyards or one of the numerous other vineyards in the area. See the vineyard map in your 'goodie bag'!

For the group going to **Castlepoint** you will need to take your own packed lunch and thermos for hot drinks. There is a café at Castlepoint village if you are desperate for a coffee! We suggest you buy your food at New World supermarket beside the iSite and opposite Queen Elizabeth Park at the north end of Masterton as they are very generous 'rally sponsors'.

The tides should be right for beach drag races which can be going on whilst the non-competitive of you are having your lunch at the beach. On the way visit Tinui, a small historic town with interesting buildings and public toilets. There are two lots of public toilets at Castlepoint.

Francis Pointon is going to talk to a farmer friend near Castlepoint to see if we can use one of the farm tracks up a steep hill that has great views from the top. Vintage cars have been up there before! Francis will ride the track on his motorbike then report to us if he thinks it is safe to use following the ravages of cyclone Gabrielle! (He has been on the track many times previously.)

We have visited the Solway Showgrounds again and spoken with Tracey Cooper the manager. She has allocated us areas for the grass gymkhana for Monday 24th Feb, and space for the static car display for those not wanting to do the competitive gymkhana. A spacious shed will be available to us for the Concours judging. Murray Ashby has graciously agreed to be Chief Judge again. We will need about a dozen volunteers to assist with the judging. If you have not done this before, Murray has printed guidelines available that makes it much easier for a novice judge!

As mentioned in the first news-letter the Hubley racing will commence with practice around afternoon tea-time on Monday 23rd followed by actual racing before the Welcome Dinner (informal) Monday evening in the Solway Hotel. Members can explore local restaurants in the region on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. A 'period costume' dress-up dinner will be on Wednesday night with a fun quiz on local and Model A topics with good prizes for the winners. Friday evening will be the Gala Dinner and Prize-giving. Wear your period costume again as there will be prizes for the most dapper male and most elegant female! We are still negotiating to get guest speakers for the Wed and Fri dinners.

The program is very close to being finalized. We have received 'Early-bird' registrations for 86 Model As so far. We are hoping to have nearly twice that number for final formal registration in November 2024. We'll send out another newsletter March/April next year.

We look forward to seeing you all in Masterton, February 2025! 😊❤️

(See Wairarapa Rally Presentation on the Club website www.modelafordclub.co.nz for booking information.)

