### NORTH ISLAND MODEL A FORD CLUB INC. - NEW ZEALAND

**Chapter Members of:** 









# **MODEL A TORQUE**

Month: June 2023

Issue Number: 2023/4



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

# <u>Visit our website www.modelafordclub.co.nz for new</u> events, articles & updates.

# North Island Model A Ford Club Upcoming Event Planner 2023

Date	Day	Thoughts and upcoming Events	Status
			Details to
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday	Tech night	come
			Details to
17-18 June	Sat-Sun	Matakohe Whangaroa	come
			Details to
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Wed	Tech Night	come
			Details to
July	Sun	South Auckland Run	come

The committee are working on events for the upcoming year. Please keep a watch on the website <u>www.modelafordclub.co.nz</u> for any recent updates.

### Other Non-Club events that may be of interest

Date	Day	Event	
June 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4th	Sat-Sun	Irishmans Rally VCC	
June 11th	Sun	Oogahs Hot Rods Swanson	
June 25th	Sun	Vintage Barn Orongo Rd	
		Thames	
July 9th	Sun	Rotorua Swapmeet	

# <u>17<sup>th</sup> National Rally Wairarapa 23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February 2025</u> Early Bird Registration

Please deposit \$40 per member/couple by online banking to ASB 17<sup>th</sup> National Model A Ford Rally 12 3068 0187485 51 "Reference" your surname and "code" 17thRally

Then please send a short email to Martin Rees, <u>nimafc.secretary@gmail.com</u> Giving your name/s, email, mobile phone number, Model A body style and rego number and \$40 paid. Martin will email you a receipt and the \$40 will be deducted from final registration fee in late 2024. Early Bird registration will close in September 2023. We would like as many people as possible to 'pre-register' so we get a good idea of numbers coming and have a fund for the 17<sup>th</sup> Rally.

## **Captain's Comment**

Here we are rapidly approaching the shortest day of the year .Hopefully everyone has been finding it quite mild apart from those storms that keep popping up. I can't comment on any runs, has have not been on this month's one organized by Paul Smith. Thankyou Paul for organizing as I know you have been quite busy, hopefully someone will give us a report.



However I can say the tech night at Stillwater was a success with Colin Howard having to answer a lot of questions. Pea & Ham soup was enjoyed by all with a bun, sweets and tea and coffee. Colin was very impressed with the positive feedback that members gave him and how the evening went.



Currently I have been in the Wairarapa with other members of the 2025 National Model A Ford Rally committee. I am more than happy with the organizing that we have got done to date, in fact so much so that I have actually booked my room. More info will come out in the near future and also be added to the website

The Special Meeting that turned into a discussion forum went ahead as such despite the dubious weather again. I was not able to attend in the end as was in New Plymouth attending a funeral and paying my respects. The committee has not met again yet since this but we will be looking at ideas given and discussing which is the best way forward for the committee to brief Club members for the next AGM, so any action needed can be approved by Club then.

Our website looks vacant of any details for upcoming tech nights and runs. I personally don't think it's the committee's job to run around looking for ideas all the time and have asked members in the past if they have any suggestions to come forward with them and the committee will help implement them. Don't think just because you are not in Auckland members won't support these events as well. I feel that we have some out of towners who make the effort to come to the city, so we should do the same and go out of town. Don't feel something cannot be done again. It can be a weekend event with a "TechNight" chucked in as well as a run if need be.

We do need ideas please!! There must be some things of interest in your areas to be seen by all.

Those off to the Irish Rally, go well, enjoy and share your adventures

Kind regards Wade Club Captain



Two old people sit on the porch, chatting. The first guy says, "I hear up in Seattle it rains cats and dogs" "Oh!" the second guy answers. "That doesn't sound so bad. I hear in New York City it's hailing taxis!"

Club Captain <u>nimafc.captain@qmail.com</u> NIMAFC 11 Charmaine Road, Torbay Auckland 0630 Mob:0272722130



# 50 years ago in the club (August – November 1972) From Newsletter Volume 1 Number 9, May 1973.

May has been a bumper month for the Club, with numbers boosted to well beyond expectations with the acceptance of seventeen new members at the last meeting. A hearty welcome was extended to them all.

A revised membership list was produced and attached to the Newsletter. 33 members were noted along with 2 associated Clubs.

In the For Sale section, Stan Ayling offered many parts including axles, brake drums, King pins headlamps and etc. also wanted shocks and 21" wheels.

Thanks was paid to those who turned out to assist Roger Bakes on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> to lift the Tudor body off the chassis, with around 10 keen members present.

#### Member Profile – Bob Comer

I am aged 31 and hold a responsible position in a large tyre company. I have a wonderful wife Margaret and have a 8 month old son Matthew.

I believe my interest in the Model A began around 1954 at the age of 13 when I was given joy rides in a white 1930 Model A.

After that the only car I wanted was a white Model A Ford Roadster. I did in fact own a 1930 Roadster but not until 1959 and by the time the boyhood dream had faded somewhat. This car was built in the era Hot Rod fashion that was creeping into New Zealand at the time. Still at the time Model A's were dime a dozen and nobody was restoring them. From then until 1964 I owned several cars mostly Ford's. I came upon my present car a 1929 Roadster in roadworthy condition (3<sup>rd</sup> owner) and took 6 months to get it roadworthy.

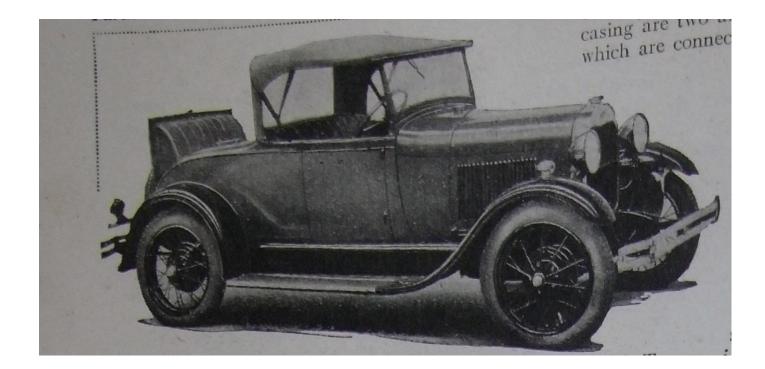
#### From the Minutes Book:-

A meeting was held 7<sup>th</sup> May at the Dominion Yeast Company Social Club Rooms. 9 members and several prospective present, with apologies from Bob Comer & Mark Henson. It was moved and seconded (carried unanimously) that John Story was to be asked to resign from Committee as he had failed to attend committee meeting and take any part in Club activities.

A letter was to be sent to Bob Comer expressing sympathy to his wife's illness, and that he was to be retained as a member of the committee and Newsletter Editor.

Future meeting were discussed and it was decided that a Meeting was to be held at the DYC Social rooms (Williamson Ave City) on the third Tuesday of each month, and that Adrian Irwin was to be added to the committee as events coordinator, Newsletters were to be Zeroxed as better quality that duplication. The secretary was to write to Cooks Garage (Canterbury Club) re parts available and discount to members. Roger Bale and Alan Minson to attend the next meeting of the Auckland Ford Car Club. A suggested run to Waiuku was to be checked out local Mr McCall.

#### Paul Smith (Club Historian & Life Member)



Canadian Model "A" and "AA" Production:

1932

Total Production

74,798 87,800 70,253 30,850 3,067

266,768

Canada Total

Canadian Model "A" Engine Serial Letters and Dates of Manufacture:

CA	December 1927 to	September 4 192	29
CAQ	September 4 1929		1929
CAW	November 18 1929	to February 4	1930
CAE			1930
CAR			1930
CAT			1930
CAY		and the second of the second	1930
CAV			1930
CAI			1930
CAO		Server and the server of the server of the server of the server	1931
CAP	February 9 1931	to April 1 1	1931
CAS			1931
CAD			932



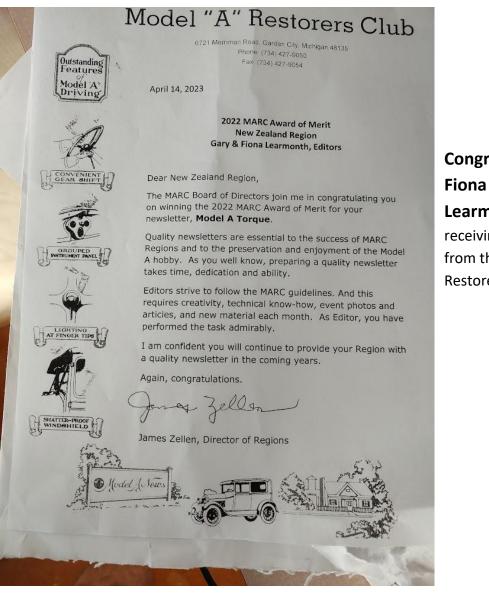
The largest component manufacturer outside of the U.S.A. was located at Manchester, England. The second biggest manufacturing complext outside of the U.S. was a factory called "Ford, Ontario, Canada". The name of the city has been changed to "Windsor" and it is located directly across the river from Detroit.

The Ford Motor Company of Canada was originally organised in 1904 with 17 men. By 1930, the company had grown to 7500 men and had assembly branches in Montreal, Toronb, Winnipeg and Vancouver. It had sales branches in St. John, London (Ontario), Calgary and Regina and there were over 700 Ford dealers in Canada.

All Ford cars that were sold in parts of the British Empire, other than Great Britain and Ireland were madeby the Ford Motor Company of Canada Limited, This meant that the Ford Motor Company of Canada EX was affiliated with the Ford Motor Company of Australia and South Africa, of India, the Ford Motor Company of Malaya Limited and New Zealand.

#### Notices

The **treasurer's position** is vacant at present and a volunteer is needed to take over the role. The committee made the decision to move our accounting to the xero on-line system. This will, after some initial training which Fiona Learmonth can provide, simplify the task and help us meet the reporting standard required by the Incorporated Societies Act. While some of the terminology and report titles may look a little daunting to someone without an accounting background, the data entry of income and expenditure is very straightforward. Please consider helping with this important task.



**Congratulations to Fiona and Garry Learmonth** on receiving this award from the Model A Restorers Club.

#### **OVERSEAS SHIPPING. By Keith Humphreys**

As a rule, Erroll McAlpine is excellent at providing parts for our Model As.However, it appeared that he wasn't able to supply a replacement LED tail-light lens which I needed as one had stopped operating its stop-light

I contacted Snyders in the States and the cost of the part was US\$33.25 but the shipping of this small item was US\$62.50! Ridiculous. In addition, when I queried the amount, the answer was "Unfortunately, whatever shipping options that our website shows happens to be the only options/prices that we have to offer".

However, I was able to use You Shop NZ (NZ Post) who charged NZ\$31.81 including GST; substantially less than the Snyders shipping cost and Snyders shipping within the States was only US\$11.55.

If you are unaware of You Shop NZ, it is ideal for getting items from overseas suppliers who won't ship to NZ, or whose shipping charges are outrageous.

I have found the service to be excellent.

#### Features of YouShop:

Quick online estimates: With our online shipping calculator tool.

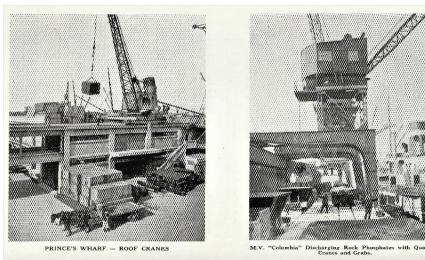
Repack service: We check to see if we can save you money by repacking your item into smaller packaging.

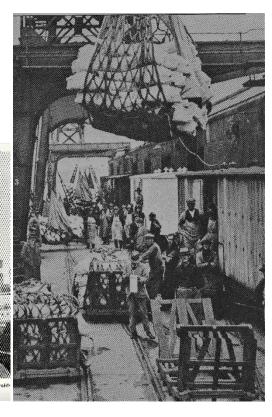
Consolidate & save: Choose to combine multiple parcels before shipping to NZ to save money.

Track your parcels: Using our online tracking tool

Regular updates: We'll send you notifications about your parcel's status.

Sea Freight option for air-prohibited and large items (USA only service temporarily unavailable Purchase items like perfume, batteries and electronics from USA and ship via Sea Freight. They have warehouses in the States and the UK.





#### ALMOST BEATEN TO DEATH

Some members may recall that I turned up at a BBQ evening carrying a piston and rod with the upper shell bearing looking like it had taken a beating?

I had posted a photo on the internet and received a variety of opinions on the cause. Similarly at the club meeting, but the advice from Stuart Jordan, whom I respect for his expert knowledge, was that it was probably running too far advanced. He followed this up with an extensive email.

The motor had developed a very metallic rattle at higher revs but one could drive though that period. It didn't appear to be a pinking knock of the type we had experienced in the early days of putting it on the road

However it was starting to get worse and it was time to investigate.

I removed the sump and dropped the big end caps and all appeared good.

I then removed the cylinder head to facilitate removing the pistons and rods, and it was

then that we discovered the damaged upper half of all four big end bearings. I also removed the centre bearing cap which, much to my relief, looked like new. They are pressure fed whist the big ends remain splash fed.

When we first put the car on the road, from memory, my reading was that there should be 10° of advance at 1000rpm, 20° at 2000 and 30° at 3000rpm.

Unhappy with the performance of a new replica original type Distributor I



purchased a new Mallory from Bubba, supposedly set up for a Model A, but in fact machined to fit the Model A, but only giving 10°advance.

I queried this with him, and he said that one had to bend the posts in to reduce the pressure on the advance weight springs.

I felt that I still wasn't getting enough advance, so set the timing at 5°at idle to get better numbers higher up.

The engine idled smoothly and quietly at 400 rpm, had great torque, but wasn't enthusiastic about revving. We've done 15,000 miles with this set-up.

Luckily, Errol McAlpine was able to supply new Snyders type shell bearings, replacement big end bolts, high compression head gasket, and a full motor gasket set.

I reassembled the motor and set it up with 0° of advance at idle. To our delight, the motor was sounding much sweeter, now revved freely and had as much, if not more power than before.

Also, as suggested by Stuart, I have limited maximum advance to 25°.

I now look forward to another 20,000 miles and much more without this problem re-occurring.

#### Keith Humphreys

The photos show the battered big end bearing and the set-up for mains pressure. There is a 25lb pressure reducing valve ex Charlie Yapp and feed lines down to each main bearing.



#### **A Silver Lining**

In 2015 we had an altercation with an American Tourist on our return from Americarna in our Classic car. As a result we received many lovely letters and cards offering sympathy and help.

One of those letters was from an English couple who spend each summer with their family in Stratford. During their stays here they had become keen followers of Americarna and already owned a Chevy Van in England.

Since then they have added us to their NZ visits and we enjoy their company for a couple of days most years. Recently they bought a Model A Coupe and on this last visit they spent a delightful couple of hours with Errol McAlpine in his Aladdin's Cave of treasures. Our friend came with a list, and went home with a suitcase full of parts!!!



So out of a bad experience we have gained some lovely friends and like to think maybe we influenced them with their latest purchase. Proving that owning a Model A has no boundaries.

Marty and Anne Perkinson

#### Informal meeting and discussion held at the Remuera Club 20<sup>th</sup> May

This is an editorial summary based on notes taken on the night by club Secretary Martin Rees. There were 30 attendees and 26 apologies. Initially this was to be a special general meeting with a motion to be voted on to increase subscription cost from \$45 to \$60. Subsequently it was decided that more time and discussion with members was needed before this and a range of other topics could be acted upon.

As both Wade and Andrew were unable to attend, Hugh introduced topics for discussion and took comments from club members present. Issues that led to this gathering were:-

- Implications of the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022
- Rising costs of running the club
- Proposed subscription fee increase
- Legal requirements around the sharing of contact details
- Development of club website to include an archival section

The Incorporated Societies Act introduced last year replaces that in force since 1908 and all societies have a 2 ½ year period from October this year, to re-register, meeting the requirements of the new act. Club member Don Windley has offered to keep your committee abreast of what actions need to be taken. Please use the link in Don's notice to see an explanation of the changes occurring. This may lead to increased costs to the club, but by going to the xero accounting system, we will meet most of the financial reporting obligations anyway. The xero system should also be easy for any club member to pick up and provide a continuity of reporting. There are many clubs going through this process, and it is likely some standardisation of rules and constitutions will take place.

The other main topic of discussion was the proposal to increase annual subscription fees. The increase was proposed because of rising costs such as the club website, zoom meeting and xero accounting fees. The club membership subscription fee has not been increased for many years and in the opinion of many present, \$15 is an insignificant increase, while others seek better justification. The number of club members has declined this year, with only 80% renewing, so further reducing income.

It was pointed out by emails received prior to this meeting, and some of those present, that club members living outside Auckland, and so unlikely to attend many of the mainly Auckland events, only get a newsletter which costs very little to produce in return for their subscription fee. Subsequent suggestions were for either a split Auckland/Provincial subscription fee and/or that the committee look at recent historical costs of club events and in future make all paid for by those participating. A remaining area of concern, is the lack of a treasurer and the possibility of having to pay for this work to be done.

The committee will consider all the points raised in discussion and report back in due course.

#### THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY ACT 2023

Our club is an incorporated society under the 1908 act.

From October 2023 the society's rules and regulations and requirements for re registration will change.

These new rules and regulations have not been finalised yet although the discussion period has ended.

The new rules and regulations will be announced in September 2023.

Societies old and new will have two and a half years to reregister from October 2023

We may be required to have our financial statements audited under the new rules

We can operate as we do now under the 1908 act until we are ready to reregister.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO US AND HOW WILL IT AFFECT OUR METHODS OF RUNNING THE CLUB?

As the new rules and regulations for October 2023 have not yet been announced my guess is very little change as we don't stimulate a lot of interest or investigation with our small turnover of money.

We may be required to relook at our constitution and represent details of the officers of the club and have an audit carried out on our finances.

At a recent meeting of club members held at the Remuera Club, concern was expressed that the cost of the new regulations and then compliance will be high.

I have looked into what is required and have registered to be kept informed by Companies House. I will report to the club as the information is available.

Don Windley

Member Northland.

For more information Ctrl key and click on the link

https://is-register.companiesoffice.govt.nz/law-changes-for-societies/

# ChatGPT: What is it?

# **Ralph Levinson**

Club members may have noticed the media attention to "ChatGPT" recently. I have to admit I've been a bit dismissive of it all, imagining it was just another reference to computer-generated Artificial Intelligence (AI). But then last week our 11-year-old grandson walked into our home office and asked what I was doing. I explained to Josh I was trying to write a poem to include in a birthday card to a friend, with whom we traditionally swap banana-themed gifts each birthday. (It's too complicated to explain how this tradition came about.)

"Easy-peasy" said Josh, just open ChatGPT and type in a few words like *poem*, *banana* and *birthday*. **In seconds there it was** ... a pretty respectable poem! Some of the lines were a bit cheesy, but it wasn't bad considering its immediacy and wacky theme.

What's GPT? Apparently GPT stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer. I Googled and found it described as "a natural language processing tool driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI), that allows you to have human-like conversations". It can also answer questions and assist with writing tasks.

Mmm, I wonder if it could write a story about the Ford Model A?

Today, Sunday, I'm supposed to be on paintbrush duties. But I can't resist asking ChatGPT to write about the Ford Model A. **Here's what it produced in 5 seconds!** 

#### Ralph

Write story about the Ford Model A. Include Henry Ford, when made, improvement on Ford Model T, its survival to modern day, people who get much pleasure from still driving the Ford Model A.

#### ChatGPT

The Ford Model A was an automobile that revolutionized the automotive industry. The story of the Ford Model A begins with its creator, Henry Ford. In 1908, Ford introduced the Model T, which was a huge success and became known as the "car that put America on wheels."

However, by the 1920s, the Model T was beginning to show its age. Its design had remained virtually unchanged for over a decade, and its features and capabilities were no longer competitive with other automobiles on the market. Henry Ford knew that he needed to create a new car that would be more advanced than the Model T, but he also wanted to make it affordable for the average person. In 1927, Ford announced the development of a new car, which he called the Ford Model A. The Model A was a radical departure from the Model T, with a new chassis, body design, and engine. It was the first car to feature a safety glass windshield, hydraulic shock absorbers and a 3-speed transmission.

The Model A was introduced at the end of 1927, and was an instant success. It was faster, more comfortable, and more advanced than the Model T, and it quickly became one of the best-selling cars in America. Over four million Model As were sold between 1928 and 1931.

The Model A's success was due in part to Ford's marketing strategy. He advertised the car heavily, and he even created a new color, "Ford Maroon," to make the car stand out from the competition. Ford also offered a wide range of customization options, including a variety of body styles, colors, and accessories.

The Model A's popularity continued long after its production ended in 1931. Many people continued to drive their Model As for decades, and some even passed them down to their children and grandchildren. Today, there is a thriving community of Model A enthusiasts who restore, maintain, and drive these classic cars.

For these enthusiasts, driving a Model A is not just a hobby, but a passion. They love the car's unique features, its vintage design, and the sense of history that comes with driving a car that was once at the forefront of automotive technology. Many Model A owners participate in car shows and rallies, where they can share their love of these classic cars with others.

Despite being nearly a century old, the Ford Model A continues to bring joy and pleasure to those who own and drive it. It is a testament to Henry Ford's vision and innovation, and it remains an important part of American automotive history.

I'll send this to our NIMAFC newsletter Editor, Rob Brown; hopefully he'll include it in the next newsletter. Just imagine the possibilities. Dozens of future ChatGPT stories flooding to Rob from Club members who are suddenly brilliant wordsmiths and experts on any Ford Model A subjects.

BTW, it seems you have the option of keeping your chat history private. And just one of its vast capabilities is to simultaneously translate, when you're talking to someone in an unfamiliar language. It does collect data to make its interaction with you more personalised. I take that to mean if in future, I'm having a chat with ChatGPT, it may ask me about my Ford Model A. Well, maybe.

# Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup> Club Run to Waiuku

Remembering our last trip over the harbour bridge in the Roadster, (unscheduled fuel blockage) it was with some trepidation that we ventured south to BP Papakura. About a dozen cars including Paul Smith's 1952 F100 and a modern or two met for an interesting and scenic backroad run to Waiuku. Thanks for warning us of the bent and camouflaged road signs. After a short stop at a Patumahoe antique shop, Paul had arranged a private tour of the Dickey museum. It is rare to see such a well displayed collection of vehicles, farm machinery, toys and household items, many with family connections. We entered the museum to the soundtrack of the Glenbrook Railway locomotive leaving the station with an impressive display of smoke, steam and momentary loss of traction. Thanks Paul for a good day out, and the very strong winds for not shredding the fragile Roadster top.

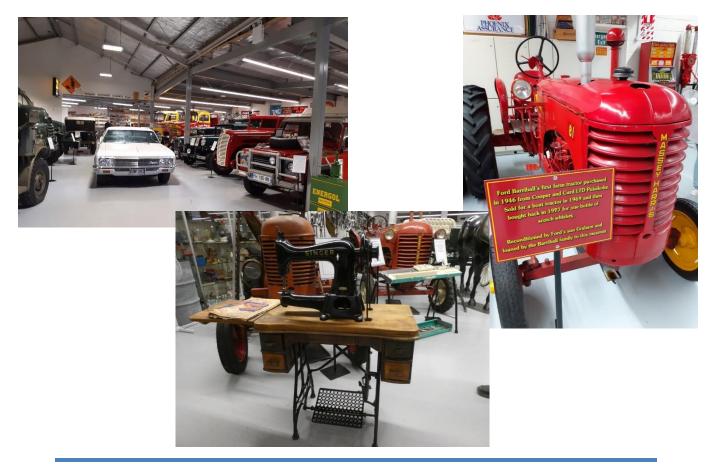








Owner of a local transport business for many years, and still operated by his family, Graham Dickey had a passion for collecting and restoring agricultural machinery. This has led to an immaculate museum housed in what used to be the New World supermarket building in Waiuku. There is something for everyone here, and as it is not generally open to the public, is an opportunity not to be missed.



# **Committee Contacts**

#### Posted articles by arrangement with club secretary

•	<u>Club Captain</u>	Wade Alexander	0272722130		
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# <u>Historian</u>: Paul Smith <u>smithfordnz@gmail.</u>com

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#### Newsletter Editor/Website Corner - www.modelaford.co.nz

Last months' Tech night visit to the workshop of Colin Howard and assistant Gavin Tindell was something to behold. As the AA magazine article said "the workshop has an air of ingenuity, perseverance and achievement." There were only 188 1930 Alfa Romeo 8C Monzas built, but there in Stillwater, they are being re-created in exact detail, using an abundance of local talent, with 11 having been exported to the UK and Europe.

#### **Rob Brown**

#### (NIMAFC Newsletter)

#### Editor email rtmgbrown@xtra.co.nz

Please send articles/reports/photos to the Editor by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month (or earlier if you can). In Microsoft Word or directly into an email (Editor can format to publish in the Newsletter). The views and articles expressed in this Newsletter are the views of the authors and may be reprinted provided acknowledgement is given. Where articles have been reprinted, the NIMAFC recognises those authors and thanks them for allowing their article to be used in our Club Newsletter.

#### **Classified Advertisements**

#### **For Sale**

After much searching and negotiating with multiple vendors and authorities I am able to offer –

For Sale - New & still wrapped in its' box - a Model A Roadster Hubley For Sale – New & still wrapped in its' box – a Model A Phaeton Hubley

These un-assembled kits are possibly capable of running under 6 seconds on the track

Show your assembly skills and artistry! Build a winner!!

Priced to reflect the times

Call Steve on 0274949905

#### Wanted

Model A Ford Coupe in any condition for purchase I have a 1939 Chrysler sedan in original condition with warrant and rego to trade if interested. Condition of coupe not important, but fully restored preferred. Please contact club member Don Windley 09 4314118

Early style crank handle for 11/16 wheel nut Contact Editor Rob Brown 0274 745 726

Ford Model A closed cab pickup truck. Barn find or going but complete. Please contact Ian Weller at <u>irweller@outlook.com</u>





