

18th National Model A Ford Rally
Top of the South Model A Club (with assistance from West Coast As)

13th – 20th March 2027

Early Bird Newsletter #2, May '26

Welcome to our 2nd newsletter as we continue our planning for the different format travelling rally. Since this is a Top of The South event, the rally will be held in two locations: Blenheim (13th – 16th March) and Nelson (17th – 20th March). A reminder of our rally outline:

Blenheim 13th – 16th March

Saturday 13th Meet and Greet in Blenheim
Sunday 14th Judging/Gymkhana /Display Day, Blenheim
Monday 15th Local Marlborough Tours
Tuesday 16th Local Marlborough Tours

Nelson 17th – 20th March

Wednesday 17th Pack your bags to change your accommodation and for Rally Run to Nelson
Thursday 18th Local Nelson Tours
Friday 19th Local Nelson Tours, Final Rally Dinner
Saturday 20th Breakfast and Farewells

In the months leading up to the rally, we will be introducing you to some suggested self-drive options for both Blenheim and Nelson. But first some important basics, notices and reminders.

ACCOMMODATION: A detailed list of accommodation options was listed in our first newsletter but here is a summary of our recommendations. We do suggest you book early. Book direct and mention the 2027 Model A Rally to access any special rates. NB! March is a busy time in Marlborough leading up to Grape Harvest.

Blenheim Saturday 13th - Tuesday 16th March leaving on the 17th (4 nights)

Nelson St:

Cherylea Motel 03 578 6319

Middle Renwick Road

Knightsbridge Court Motor Lodge 03 5780818

Middle Park Motel 03 578 3329
Admirals Motor Lodge 03 577 7711
Commodore Court Motel 03 578 1259 or 0800 800 282
Maxwell Road
Ellena Court Motel 0508 335 362
Ashleigh Court Motel 03 577 7187
High Street
Lugano Motor Lodge 03 577 8808
171 On High Motel 03 579 5098
Raymar Motor Inn 0800 361 362
Aorangi Motel Apartments 03 578 2022
Grove Road
Blenheim Bridges Holiday Park 0800 268 666

Nelson Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th March leaving on 20th (3 nights)

Tahunanui/Stoke
Tahunanui Beach Holiday Park (new option since last newsletter) - 0800 500 501
or 03 5485159 [Nelson Accommodation | Tāhuna Beach Holiday Park](#)
Grand Arden Monaco 03 547 8233 stay@monacoresort.co.nz
Boutique Motel 03 547 1439 info@boutiquemotel.nz
The Honest Lawyer Country Pub & Hotel 03 5474070 info@honestlawyer.co.nz
Richmond
Parkside Motel 0800 161212 info@parksidemotel.co.nz

FERRY TRAVEL: Don't delay your booking and remember to use your VCC or other discount code you have.

JUDGING: We are still looking for volunteers to help with this. *Judges do not need special qualifications as there is a very established process to follow!* Each judge is given specific things to look for from all the cars so there is a narrow area of responsibility for each. Being a judge offers you a unique opportunity to look closely at other cars and how each owner has maintained or embellished their own car. Remember! Please contact our team if you intend to enter your car for judging.

HUBLEY DERBY: Remember the winner of the Hubley Derby will have bragging rights for the next two years. So, get your model cars polished and running smoothly in anticipation. In the meantime, some information on Hubleys.

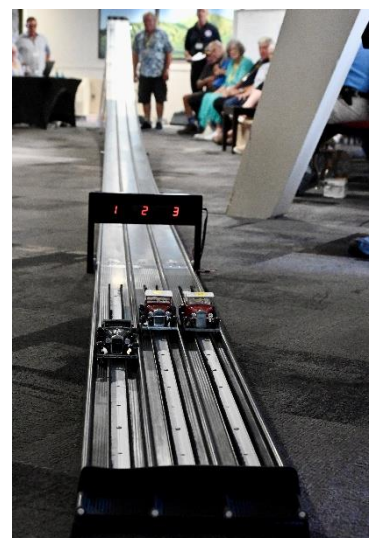
Background : From 1959 – 1974 , the Hubley Co. in the USA manufactured and sold accurate 1:20scale model replicas of Model A Fords. There were seven Model A Ford body styles available : Roadster, Roadster Pickup, Town Sedan, Coupe, Station Wagon, Victoria, and Phaeton.

The kits contained several metal body castings and an assortment of plastic parts. It takes some time to clean up all the pieces and paint them, but the results are well worth the effort.

Around 1975, Hubley sold out to Gabriel who continued to produce the Model A cars and trucks for several years, exactly like the original Hubley models.

Then around 1990, Gabriel sold out to ERTL Scale Models who changed the packaging but the models were 100% the same as earlier Hubley and Gabriel models. Production finally ceased around 2001. All parts are interchangeable between the three manufacturers.

The Derby relates to gravity racing the models side by side down an approximately 40 ft long, 3 lane wide track usually incorporating an



automatic starting gate and electronic timing. We are grateful to be borrowing the NI track that was used at Masterton

Rules. In order to participate the following rules will apply :

- Models must be metal 1:20 scale models made by Hubley, Gabriel or Scale Model.
- Any of the body styles detailed above may be used.
- Models must be stock including the original tyres, wheels, and axle screws. No modifications allowed. Steering may be secured or loose at owner's choice.
- Weight of each model can be no more than 595 grams. A small amount of leeway will be allowed due to possible difference of scales. Weights up to the permitted level fitted to lighter models must be secured, not loose in the model.
- The only lubricant permitted is dry graphite. Oil or wet lubricants are prohibited.

BLenheim It has an estimated population of 29,800 as of June 2025.^[4] The surrounding [Marlborough wine region](#) is well known as the centre of the [New Zealand wine industry](#). It enjoys one of New Zealand's sunniest [climates](#), with warm, relatively dry summers and cool, crisp winters.

In and around Blenheim you'll find an array of cafes, restaurants, wineries, bars, shops, artisan food outlets and golf courses along with popular walkways along the Taylor River Reserve.

There are more than 30 wineries within easy driving distance of the town, and most of them welcome visitors for sampling sessions and cellar door sales. Character accommodation is a Blenheim speciality.



Figure 1 The Taylor River in central Blenheim



Apart from the fabulous wineries, a particular attraction is the world class Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre including **Sir Peter Jackson's Knights of the Sky**. Lord of the Rings director, Peter Jackson, brings his personal collection of war memorabilia to life in the stunning Knights of the Sky exhibition. The exhibition features several reenactments of real-life WWI battles, with each scene being brought back to life with unerring realism though dioramas produced by Wingnut films, accompanied by unbelievably believable mannequins from award-winning special effects company Weta Workshops. This attraction is highly recommended.

BRAYSHAW PARK Our base HQ for Rego (VCC Rooms) and the Show Day/Judging/Gymkhana/Hubley Races. Brayshaw Heritage Park is in Arthur Baker Place, off New Renwick Road, Blenheim, Marlborough. It is 4.5 km from Blenheim's town centre and easily reached from SH1 or SH6. The Park is a five-minute drive down Maxwell Road from the Railway Station and iSite Visitor Information Centre. There is plenty of free parking on site.



In 1965 Norman Brayshaw formed the Marlborough Vintage Farm Machinery Society & leased land from the Marlborough Catchment Board in November 1968. Prior to this & for a long period of time the site was used by the Blenheim Borough Council as a rubbish dump. To the East of the dump was a site used for saw milling operations which was for a good period of the time occupied by Musgroves. An area adjacent to this & close to the Taylor River was the Borough Council's gravel screening, crushing plant & stock piling areas.

Parts of the original lease were sub leased in 1969 to the Marlborough Associated Modelers Society & to the Marlborough Branch of the

Vintage Car Club.

The Park was officially opened on the 25th September 1971 by Mr. Bill Chisholm, who was at the time manager of Molesworth Station, from where much of the vintage machinery in the park had been donated.

In 1972 a further area was sub-leased to the Marlborough Historical Society.

The whole park with all of it's clubs & organisations which now number twelve are part of the Brayshaw Heritage Park.



VCC Rooms Brayshaw Park

We wish you an enjoyable Kings Birthday weekend and safe motoring.

Remember if you have any questions please get in touch. Help spread the word about the rally and keep those Earlybird registrations coming in.

Rally Directors

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Kind Regards from

*The 18th National Model A Ford Rally Committee
Top of the South Model A Club*