

# *A Ford Script*



April 2020

# Official Newsletter of THE MODEL "A" FORD CLUB OF AMERICA

Canterbury New Zealand Chapter. PO Box 4212 Christchurch

## COMMITTEE

|                   |               |               |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Club Captain      | Graeme Scott  | (03)384-8773  |
| Vice Club Captain | David Dacombe | (03) 313-7341 |
| Treasurer         | Brent Miles   | (03)349-8108  |
| Secretary         | Brent Miles   | (03)349-8108  |

## General Committee

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Anne and Graham Evans       | (03)351-5919  |
| Glenn Birnie                | (03)347-4849  |
| Peter Bayler                | (03) 313-7067 |
| Pam Dacombe                 | (03)313-7341  |
| Russell Genet               | (03)329-9065  |
| Lindsay and Annette Painter | (03)342-5247  |
| Vaughan Morrison            | 021660762     |

|                           |              |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Webmaster</b>          | Graeme Scott | (03)384-8773 |
| <b>Script Editor</b>      | Graham Evans | (03)351-5919 |
| <b>Club Car Custodian</b> | Graham Evans | 0273207948   |

**WEBSITE** 'Model A Ford Club Canterbury'

Did you know our club has its own Website, type 'Model A Ford club Canterbury' into google. There are a number of pages of interest including all the Scripts from 2014 (able to be downloaded and/or printed), notes on future events as well as market place where free adds for members can be posted. Any questions or suggestions please contact Graeme Scott (webmaster) at '[scotts.belfast.nz@gmail.com](mailto:scotts.belfast.nz@gmail.com)'

COVER. The view at lunch stop, Mesopotamia

## CLUB CAPTAINS REPORT

As the saying goes what a difference a day makes. Who would have predicted a month ago we would be seeing such a change to our everyday activities and more sobering is what will be our situation going forward.

Since my last report we have had our Club weekend away in Geraldine, both well attended and enjoyed by a number of you (a detailed report on which is included elsewhere in this edition). From the feedback I have received it seems that this type of event is one that should be repeated on a more frequent basis. My thanks to the organisers Russell and Wendy Genet for the thought, time and effort they put in on our behalf to make it such an enjoyable and successful Club event

I would also like to acknowledge the very generous donation by Club members Wes Hartley and Beverly Biggs in providing the funding for two new Firestone tyres for the Club car. Being domiciled in Western Australia Wes has availed himself of the opportunity to use the Club car for some National events and made the offer to the Club when we were recently faced with significant costs in attending to some long overdue maintenance. Likewise my sincere thanks to George Spriggs who also donated a significant amount to the same project.

Over the last month we have had new members join our Club. Welcome to Dean and Kaylene Yeoman (1930 Roadster), Neil Marett (1928 ute) and Wayne Wetton. I hope you all enjoy being part of our Club.

Looking forward while we can (and should) all be out driving our vehicles (what better place to 'self-isolate'), it is almost impossible to predict just what activities the Club can safely hold and to what degree.

As I rewrite this we are shortly to go to the 'total lockdown' at 'Threat Level Four' requiring us all to adhere to a new set of guidelines. When I asked Richard (Muir) for his thoughts he kindly responded with the following ['That we should follow the advice on the Ministry of Health Covid-19 website and National Radio health bulletins. Also we need keep talking to each other with Social Media and talking over the fence to our neighbours but keeping a minimum of 2 meters. If you get any flu like symptoms talk to the Health line phone and DO NOT GO TO THE Dr's Rooms without phoning first'](#).

Given the uncertainty of the current situation the committee believe we have no option at this stage but to **postpone April / May/ June events and possibly even the July AGM to a later date.** When the predicted worsening situation is restored to some degree of normality we will resume our activities as quickly as is felt prudent. I will update and inform you of any changes on a regular basis and it is our intention to continue to publish our Script newsletter as normal.

Clearly this is not a situation anyone wants but the consequences (especially given our age demographic) to our membership are almost certainly guaranteed to be dire should it reach our community and given the insidious nature of how this virus is spread what once would have been considered as being over-cautious it has now become the accepted 'norm'.

As with any Club our strength is in our mutual interest and support for each other. We all have different individual circumstances and varying needs at times like this so please keep in contact and look out for each other to provide that support. I would also ask that if anyone finds there comes a time when a particular situation has arisen that you feel you could use some help with, then please let us know by contacting one of the committee so we are able to get the assistance you need.

Stay safe and most importantly take care of both yourselves and each other.

Graeme Scott Club Captain

## Model A Club Run to Geraldine 13—15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

27 Model A members registered for what was to be an excellent weekend. We had representatives from Mosgiel, Dunedin, Queenstown, Oamaru, Timaru, Geraldine, Pleasant Point, Rangiora and Christchurch.

We gathered at 6pm in the Village Inn for our weekend instructions, and soon were occupying a good portion of the dining area where we dined and caught up with old friends.

Saturday dawned fine as we lined up outside the domain for our rally instructions



Cars lined up prior to start

There was more catching up and meeting new members, all fuelled up we set off for Peel Forest for morning tea, Wendy had set up for us to meet at the Peel Forest Café for coffee and muffins, which concluded with an interesting history lesson on Mount Peel from John Acland. Following his briefing we motored up to Mt Peel Church, which has been beautifully restored along with the reconstruction of the stained glass window, which was put back together from 1000s of broken glass retrieved following its collapse. We were led back through the grounds and viewed the brick homestead through a clearing in the trees. This building survived the earthquakes due to a prior \$300,000 strengthening phase having been completed.



Mount Peel Church



Mount Peel Homestead



Lunch at Mesopotamia

After lunch, we followed Kevin Mercer, who had arranged a visit to Forest Creek Station, a 4200 hectare property, half of which is planted in Douglas Fir, planted in 2000. As our hosts Doug and Marie Harpur spoke to us, we learnt about many aspects as to why this wood is used for its structural strength. We followed Doug and Marie through the property, stopping for him to explain the thinning processes used in readiness for the felling of this forest probably in about 20 years.



Douglas Fir on Forest Creek Station



Forest Creek Station

Saturday evening we gathered at the Geraldine Bowling Club, and where we enjoyed our evening dinner. A few special nut prizes, for incidents noted on tour.

Sunday morning we gathered outside to visit Lillia's Lace collection a treat for those that attended.



Lillia's Lace Collection



Peter's Workshop

Following this visit we travelled a short rally to the car collection of Peter Little of Orari.

Peter gave us an extensive talk on his early days of owning a Model A , on to the interesting projects he has undertaken. The workshop barn had a very tidy layout and was a pleasure to see. If that wasn't enough the house garage had a very interesting collection including horse drawn carriages , MG A and a exquisite original piece of motoring 1966 Iso Gaffo.



Peter's Model A Pickup



Peter's 1966 ISO Giffo

Thanks to Wendy & Russell Genet for organising this event, & to Kevin Mercer & Glen Birnie for organising the 2 visits.

The delights of a 1929 model A Ford or A maintenance learning curve.

My model A has not been going well for many years and I kept putting off working on it for other priorities but I decided the other week that it was time as the rego was about to run out. I tested the battery and the charger came up with a “need new battery” message so that was it for another two weeks.

OK. It is Saturday again and a person with a model A had suggested that the coil was the problem so I called the advertiser in Christchurch from the last Ford Script and asked them if they had a coil and a set of points for my 91 year old car and they said yes of course so I went and purchased these. I put the coil in and got about five turns of the motor before the battery died completely. There was no fire in the old girl so I did what any sane man would do and closed the garage door.

OK. I need help. I called my son and he said he would come over on Saturday to help.

On Thursday I suddenly remembered that I needed a new 6 volt battery for the car. I called a couple of places for pricing before calling one in Rangiora and they said it was not a problem and would I like the one that was sitting on their shelf? I went and purchased it all the time thinking that was a hell of a cost for a battery in a car I hardly use!

Saturday dawned fine and my son arrived from the other side of town in his 2017 Ford beast to help. I looked for the points but in the perfectly? organised garage there was of course no sign of the points I had bought before.

OK. So it is Saturday morning and I have a 91 year old car sitting there as well as a person to help me but no parts! Great I thought. Nice organisation. Wait a minute – I call the same store in Christchurch again. Do you have a condenser, points, plugs, and a main coil lead for my Model A? Yes of course they do and they are open. So we go into town and they supply all of the parts as well as giving us the right gaps for the points and plugs. I return with this ‘overhaul kit’ to home after parting with under \$100.00 for the lot and we lift the bonnet.

OK. Its been a long time since either of us worked on a car with points so we decide to have a wee look on the internet for some clues. After looking at a web site where the Model A being worked on had barbed wire for leads and the person doing the instruction looked like he was his first cousins sons father we got to work. Not that we had actually learned anything from the video but we had a good laugh.

To cut a longer story short we worked out how everything came apart and then put it back together with new parts. My son was amazed when I showed him the process for getting top dead centre and we set the timing. The new battery had been on charge and recondition on the charger and was fitted.

Ok. I looked at the last record I had for the car to see how old the fuel was and seen it was December 2018 when the car last ran. Not when the fuel was bought but when it last ran. Badly. It was now February 2020. Hmm. 14 to 15 months. The fuel was still in liquid form and I had used fuel preservative in it so I said, lets fire her up.

OK. So despite the very sceptical look on my sons face I retarded the spark, turned on the gas, pulled out the choke and hit the starter. The engine turned over twice and she started and ran perfectly. I had to pick up his jaw from the ground and put it back in place!

OK. Jump in I said! Well, he is about 6 foot 7 tall and is a good solid lad. After a couple of minutes struggle and with his knees up above the dash we set out. The Model A just purred. We went around the block and returned home. After thanking him he toddled off home and I made an appointment to get a WOF.

The WOF time came and I started the old girl. Puurrrr. Down for the WOF. Wow says the mechanic– lovely old girl. How far have you been since the last WOF In Dec 2018? I look at the papers I keep. 7 miles. What? Yep, 7 miles. I really need to get out more. He issues the WOF.

So I go home and put the Model A away and then I think - What else have I neglected to service? And....Do I need to do this every 7 miles?

Article sent in by Danny Chesmar

## *Rushmore Motors (NZ) Ltd.*

**Veteran, Vintage, Post Vintage & Classic Vehicle Marketing.**

Over 50 vehicles on offer. Subscribe for a free monthly emailed catalogue. Listing is completely free.

**027 22 45 045** OR [rushmoremotors@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rushmoremotors@xtra.co.nz)

**Rushmore Motors Ltd do not buy and sell motor vehicles.**

### **For Sale.**

**1986 Roper Steam Bicycle. Replica.** Priced at \$55,000 NZD.

Made to an extremely high standard. Any variations are no more than 1mm from the original. Has a square boiler as original. All parts are hand made. Wheel size is 2 ¼" x 28" as original. Videos can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/HiW7NCKBuoo>



*W*hen driving my Ford Model 'A', time stands still in a sense, and I am magically transported back to a simpler time. There are no modern luxuries in the Model 'A', it's a basic simple machine. There is no radio or CD player, so you're forced to spend time by yourself thinking or conversing with whomever is with you. There is no digital cluster in front of you on the dashboard giving you more information than you'll ever need, simply a gas gauge, speedometer and ammeter. Vehicles back then didn't even have heat and obviously air conditioning was out of the question, but the front windshield folds out so you can get some air into the cab.

The mechanics of the car are beautiful in its simplicity also. This was long before fully automatic transmissions, so a standard three speed transmission without synchronized gears makes you double clutch when you drive. You have to manually adjust the spark, throttle, and gas mixture when starting the car! The brakes consist of mechanical brakes, not the hydraulic ones we've come to know and love in our current vehicles. No power steering either, just basic transportation that tops out at about 50 MPH.

When I drive the Model 'A' I'm in another place and another time. I realize all the finer points of what at the time was cutting edge technology in transportation. With nearly 5 million Model 'A' vehicles sold, not including the USSR, Henry Ford revolutionized the auto industry and all of our lives as we know it today. Up until Henry Ford, automobiles were only for the rich and well to do. Henry realized there was some decent profit to be had for making a car for the common man. Driving a Model 'A' forces you by its sheer design to slow down a bit from the rat race we all live in. The Model 'A' makes you take a moment and surprisingly you see a lot when you slow down. You appreciate the countryside around you, you suddenly notice that gorgeous horse in the field, and you see the beauty of God in everything you pass that you would have otherwise missed if you were flying by at 70 MPH.

Driving my Model 'A' gives me some quality alone time, or quality time with my wife. It's a beautiful ride and once you're used to not going 50, 60, or 70 and you realize that you can take life slowly. The Ford Model 'A' makes you take a step back in time to a much simpler time and a much simpler pace. We have become a society of rushers, we rush to work, rush to get the kids off to school, rush to the grocery store, rush to the drive thru to get a coffee, we rush our lives away. It's nice every now and then when something comes into our lives that make us slow down and take a look around and enjoy life rather than rushing through it.

The old adage "it's the journey, not the destination" holds so true when driving my Model 'A'. That car has allowed me to enjoy more journeys in the past years and given me some great views along the way. It made me think of what a visionary Henry Ford was, he made these cars to handle over rough roads, out in the country where mechanics were few and far between, and an owner had only a basic set of tools to fix their Model 'A' and keep it running. From the Dust Bowl through the depression, the Model 'A' was designed to endure hard times, Henry built them pretty much indestructible to endure all that.

Lesson learned that life truly is about the journey and not the destination.

Enjoy your Model 'A' and drive it with pride!

*Headnut,*



## **2020**

### **COMING EVENTS**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm**

**Night Trial (Postponed)**

**May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Breakfast Run (Postponed)**

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Mid-Winter Dance (Postponed)**

**July 26th**

**AGM**

### **CLUB CAR REPORT**

No activity during the month.

If you have your car unserviceable for a run, you can book the car by calling  
Graham on 3515919 or 0273207948

# ROBERTSON SCREWS

Suitable for the Model A and T Fords plus other  
1920's—30's Canadian  
built cars.



Email [kandjstraw@gmail.com](mailto:kandjstraw@gmail.com) or  
phone Kevin 0295-245-048



for details of all the various sizes available.

**FOR SALE**

Model A Ford Shock Absorbers rebuilt as exchange \$210 each, or \$240 outright.

Ph. Jack at 03-352-6672 ChCh. or 0274-322-041

**WANTED**

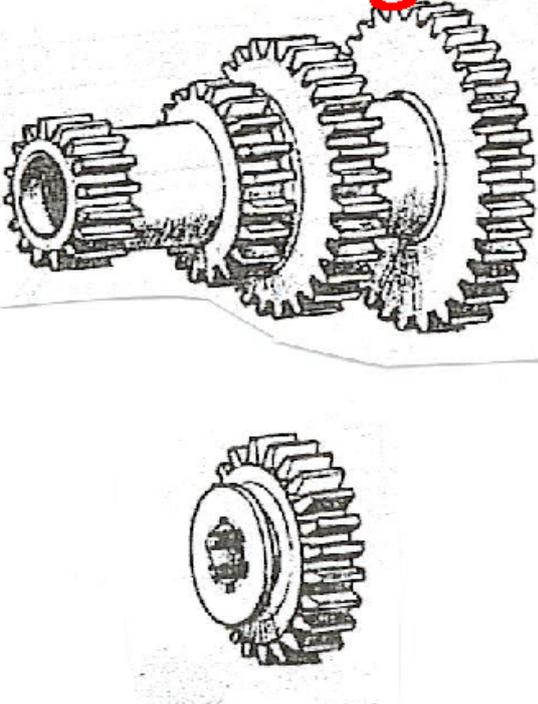
1930 Model A a straight chassis

Phone Vaughan Morrison Ph 021660762

Help us make The Script a success. We would be grateful for any material you feel could be appropriate to include in our Club's newsletter.

CLOSING DATE for copy for the next Script is 20 APRIL 2020. Please send to the Editor, Graham Evans [afordscript@gmail.com](mailto:afordscript@gmail.com) . The views expressed in this magazine are personal opinions of those who contribute and do not necessarily represent the views or methodology of the Canterbury Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America. Thanks goes to MAFC member magazines and web sites as well as other sources who supply material to our club which we reprint in the magazine.

# Model-A-gearbox upgrade.



Improved 2nd gear ratio by 15% to increase overall road speed in 2nd gear and hill climb ability without stress revving your engine.  
With the installation of this new cluster and 2nd gear, this is all that is needed to achieve the effect desired i.e.: higher speeds in 2<sup>nd</sup> gear, making traffic driving and hill climbing not a problem.

**COST**  
All new cluster and 2<sup>nd</sup> gear **\$1890.00 + P&P**

**CONTACT**  
Errol or Linda McAlpine  
On  
1127 Scenic Drive  
Swanson  
Auckland 0614  
New Zealand

PH (09) 8329818  
MOBILE (0274) 543 983  
EMAIL: [vet.vin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:vet.vin@xtra.co.nz)  
Web; [www.veteranvintagecars.co.nz](http://www.veteranvintagecars.co.nz)

## **CLUB CAR :**

Remember that the Club Phaeton is available for members to use. If your Model A is not mobile, give some thought to borrowing the Club car to join in one of our runs.

Guidelines for its use are printed inside the back of the membership list.

Graham Evans (ph. 03 351 5919) is the custodian of the car and looks forward to your call requesting the use of the car.

**CANCELLATIONS :** In the event of unsuitable or doubtful weather, cancellations or postponements will be emailed to you. We will be printing the run organiser in the coming events, please feel free to contact them or any of the Club committee members.

## **ANTIQUUE FORD PARTS**

**THE MODEL 'A' SPECIALISTS  
DEREK & JUDY THOMASON**

**492 MAIN ROAD HOPE, R.D.1,  
RICHMOND, NELSON  
PH / FAX: (03) 544 7826**

**Email: [antiqueford@xtra.co.nz](mailto:antiqueford@xtra.co.nz)**

**OPEN 7 DAYS if HOME**

**Large range of new and original parts at  
REALISTIC PRICES**

# Veteran **AND** Vinfage

Spares and Repairs Ltd. - Model T & Model A

Ph: 09 8329818 or 027 4543983

Email: [vet.vin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:vet.vin@xtra.co.nz)



**LUCAS  
BLACKWALL  
TYRES 19"**  
475x500x19  
\$310 each



**LUCAS  
BLACKWALL  
TYRES 21"**  
440x450x21  
\$310 each



**LUCAS  
BLACKWALL  
TYRES 30x3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"**  
\$ 453 each



**FIRESTONE  
BLACK  
TYRES 19"**  
475x500x19  
\$442 each



**FIRESTONE  
BLACK  
TYRES 21"**  
440x450x21  
\$442 each



**FIRESTONE  
WHITEWALL  
TYRES 19 OR 21"**  
475x500x19  
440x450x21  
\$ 538.20 each

(Prices subject to change without notice)

Prices exclusive of GST ex **Auckland**

## NO HIDDEN COSTS

# Early Ford Parts

## Muffler's



Muffler's as per original design and shape.  
Lock formed cone as original  
Original length and also long tail pipe version available

**\$320.00 inc GST**

- Over 2000 new Model A parts in stock
- Competitive prices on all Model A parts.
- We also import larger items on indent. Air or Sea.

**GET A QUOTE BEFORE SELECTING YOUR  
SUPPLIER!!!**

Early Ford Parts  
10 Grafton Street  
Ph 03 379 7370  
After Hours 021 637 656  
[www.earlyfordparts.co.nz](http://www.earlyfordparts.co.nz)  
[earlyfordparts@xtra.co.nz](mailto:earlyfordparts@xtra.co.nz)  
All prices Include GST