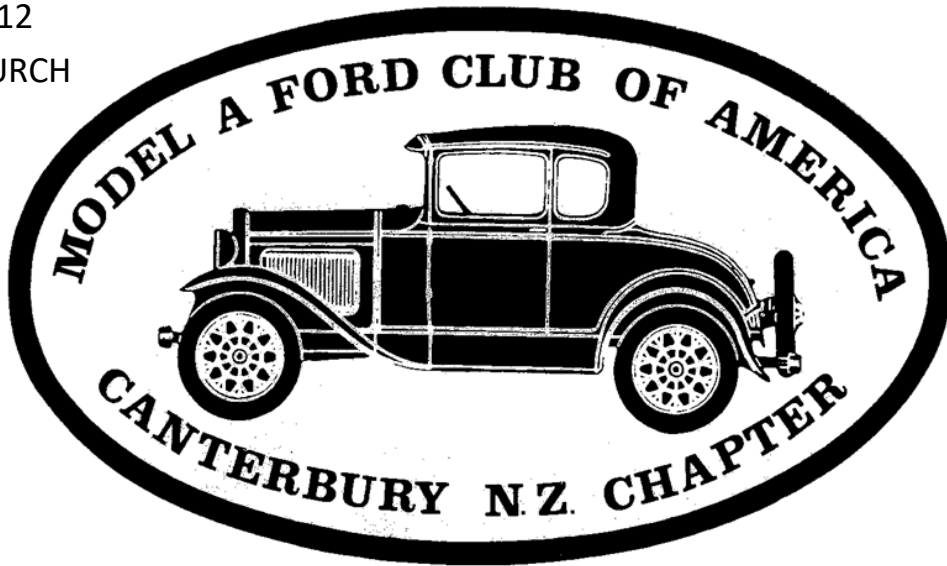


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A Ford Script



A Ford Script

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

Canterbury New Zealand Chapter. PO Box 4212 Christchurch

COMMITTEE

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Vice Club Captain	Bruce Miles	027 2389692
Treasurer	Barrie Shipley	(03)383-4640
Secretary	Brent Miles	(03)349-8108

General Committee

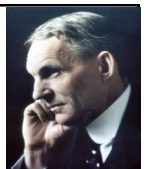
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Website www.modelaford.co.nz

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COVER PICTURE High Country run to Mt Cheeseman ski field. Thanks to Rosalee Bayler for the photo.

HENRY FORD QUOTE:- Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is probably the reason so few engage in it.



CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

High Country Run

Thank you to Donald Wright and Bob Scott for organising the run up the Mt Cheeseman Ski Field.

17 Model A's, a Ford Jeep and a backup 4WD met at 3 points, Yaldhurst, Sheffield and Lake Lyndon to ascend the Mt Cheeseman Ski Field access road.

It was pleasing to see the numbers that attended, as the closeness to the Napier Nationals had meant that some members and cars were unavailable due to this coming event.



Model A Nationals Napier 2017

Most members who are attending the Napier Nationals, have now left Christchurch on route to Napier for the Nationals. I am flying up along with Graeme and Marlene Scott, Brent and Lynne Miles, Garth and Pauline Moore, Kevin and Judy Straw to reunite with our cars, having driven them up to Napier in February for the Art Deco weekend.

Graham Evans.

COMING EVENTS

May 20th Saturday Evening. Fun and Feasting.

Night Trial **5.30 start** . Meet at Brent Miles home, 6 Devine Drive Rolleston. Brent's ph number is 03 3498108 cell 0274326512. Please bring a pot luck dish to leave with Brent and they will transport it to the mystery destination. Dress for the weather on the day.

June 10th Saturday Mid winter dinner.

July 30th AGM Sunday Lunch (Note: Date has changed) At the Elmwood Tavern.
Please could you please return those nice shiny cups by the end of June.

National Meet 2019. Kevin has put the Early Bird Registration form on the club website . You are able to download this for your entry.

THANKS to every one who sent in great photos from the high country run. Sorry, there is just not enough room for them all.

Script. We have just realised that a very few of February 2017 Scripts had 2 pages the same in it. If you got one of these, let us know and we can send a properly collated one to you.

Club Magazines. The editors are sent quite a number of magazines from other clubs, New Zealand, Australia and U.S. There are about 15 publications, some are regular monthly and others more occasional. If you would like these forwarded to you, please let me know by email and I will endeavour to organise it.

Holidays. We are off on holiday late May so could you have any contributions to June's script to us by the 18th of May please. Wendy and Russell.

Car Photos. If you would like a picture of your car on the club web site, could you please contact the web masters, Kevin or Ken to arrange this as they are keen to have everyones.

SITUATIONS VACANT SCRIPT EDITOR.

We are no longer able to edit the Script and would like to pass the role on to someone else . It is a good way to get to know people and get involved in the club. We are happy to get

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Next committee meeting is 7.30pm, 16th May 2017 at Barry Shipley's home, 38 Lakewood Drive, Burwood. If you have any matters you would like raised, please contact a committee member before this date.

High Country Run
Palm Sunday - 9 April 2017

A Visitor's Account of a Classic Event

Upon arrival with my wife Beverley in Christchurch on 8 April in preparation for the "Dare to be Deco" National Rally in Napier over Easter, our delightful hosts, Club Captain Graham Evans and his wife Anne, a Club Committee member, informed us that there was "a bit of a run" the next day if we would like to come.



We had no way of knowing that the following morning, on a brilliant autumn day, was the beginning of what turned out to be the most unbelievable of Model A runs in our entire experience.

As the support car for the day, we were in a "modern", but as we ambled out of Christchurch we soon met up with five other As, as we gathered at a Christchurch institution, known as the Sheffield Pie Shop. Apparently the produce of the said pie shop was self-replicating, because in a matter of minutes Model As appeared as if out of nowhere to sample the wares.



There was everything from a Speedster and a "Woody" delivery van, to Tudors, Fordors, pick-ups and a collection of Roadsters. Each car had a certain patina, indicating that these cars were driven for the fun of it, rather than as models for a static display.

So off we went, heading down the Alpine Way, soon surrounded by spectacular snow-covered mountains and we just knew the day was going to special. Apart from offering a myriad of Chinese tourists photo opportunities along the way, by the time we arrived at the turn-off to Mt. Cheesman Ski Field for our first briefing, there were a total of 18 Model As, a very decent turn-out.

It was explained that the road to the 2000 metre peak was very torturous and we needed to be very aware of each other, especially as there were many volunteers working on the rough, winding, unpaved (shingled) road.



So whilst busily taking photos, Stuart Skurr said me “I don’t like driving on my own, as my car is for sharing”. It was a no-brainer when he suggested riding in his open-top Roadster might be a bit more exciting than riding in the support car. What an understatement!

It was like being transported back to the '30s as we wound along the twisting road in just 1st and 2nd gear, often calling on the passenger to be the hand-brake operator, while the driver (Stuart) concentrated on the gear changing and keeping us on the wet and muddy road. Along the way we had to stop in convoy as the volunteer road crews sawed tree trunks in sections to clear the road for the next part of the ascent.



The air grew crisper, thinner, but the scenery became all the more spectacular as we looked down into deep ravines, and twisting rivers, overlooking one of the main locations for the shooting of the “Lord of the Rings” film series.

Then it was time for the first stop to make sure all the As were still ticking along. Dave Oakley’s Tudor arrived radiator steaming “tea-bag” ready, while Russell Genet demounted from his trusty steed and mounted the dicky seat of Stuart’s Roadster and his wife Wendy joined the support car.

On we went, with 1st gear ascent being the standard modus-operandi until we arrived at the chair lift take-off point. The peak was spectacular for scenery in the crisp air silhouetted by a clear blue sky, such a superb location for our lunch, followed by a hike up the mountain trails surrounded by fresh snow on the ground.



Having got up the mountain, we had to get down again, this time with 1st gear and the trusty hand-brake routine. No sooner had we reached the first “recovery point”, we were being buzzed by fellow Canterbury Model A enthusiast Fred Bull in his Piper Cub aircraft, who had traded his Model A for an easier aerial ascent, giving disabled young people an experience of their lifetime.



What a scene! Model As snaking slowly down the mountain-side, with Fred literally in the box seat peering down upon us from just 100 metres above our heads.

Driving skill was at a premium and not the time to fluff gear-changing, but everyone remained disciplined (sort of), apart from a few hot brakes, a jammed choke rod and just the place to be dragging one's front brake rods on one's Tudor! However, as always, there was the army of support crew to lend hand. It is what belonging to a Model A Club is really all about.

Once we were down to the Alpine Way, Stuart declared it was my time for a drive, but that there was a small diversion to the home of fellow High Country participants, Donald and Jenny Wright, who had a few cars to show us.

A "few" cars turned out to be three Bentleys from an original 1928 racer, to a V12 coupe, with a 1904 Cadillac, a 1927 Chev, a 1934 Rolls Royce, not to mention his trusty 1930 Model A Roadster thrown into the bargain. As we arrived back in Christchurch surrounded by the light of the Easter full moon, we reflected on what was truly a "most excellent day".

As temporary custodians of the Club Car - a 1928 Phaeton - we now looked forward to the Easter "Dare to be Deco" Rally, but it will be hard act to follow the 2017 High Country run!

Chapter 2 of our North Island experience to follow...

Wes Hartley
Busselton, Western Australia

CLUB CAR REPORT

Wes & Beverly Hartley - April 12 leaving
Christchurch for Napier Nationals



As I write this, the club car is on the Interislander Ferry en route to Wellington, for a drive from Wellington to Napier on the 13 April. With the aid of rainex on the windscreen, along with the driver Wes and passenger Beverley (our members from Busselton, Western Australia), covered from feet to waist in a tarpaulin to deflect the water off their legs, awaiting the sunshine.

Graham Evans

Our THANKS to George Spriggs, from Early Ford Parts who donated plugs and points for the car.

New Zealand Model A Ford Club National Meet
“Dare to be Deco” - 13-17 April 2017
Christchurch-Napier-Christchurch

Tuesday 12 April in Christchurch was cold, damp and immersed in a pea-soup fog as we left the home of MAFCA Canterbury Chapter Club Captain Graham and Anne Evans, in the Club Car, a 1928 Model A Ford Phaeton, being led on our journey of adventure by the indefatigable Bruce Miles and his trusty steed, known to every Model A enthusiast in New Zealand as “Angus”.



We were soon joined by Gary and Mary Smith in their 1930 Roadster as we made our way through sleet, rain and numerous road works to the small village of Murchison, now a very busy place as a result of the previous November earthquake that took out the main Highway 1 to Picton, requiring all traffic to travel through a central route via the Lewis Pass.

There were lots of trucks, road crews every few miles repairing roads, clearing rock falls, building small Army Bailey bridges to increase two-way traffic flow, heavy rain turning the fine clay road surface into something akin to slow-drying grey concrete. If one were trying to replicate the driving conditions of the early 1930s, it would have been almost impossible to improve the travelling conditions.

Day Two of our journey consisted of rain, rain and more rain, plus yet more road works travelling from Murchison to the Ferry Terminal at Picton to board the Inter-Island Ferry to Wellington, followed by a rather vigorous drive to our accommodation at Paraparaumu, accompanied by more rain, heavy Wellington peak-hour traffic, not to mention driving in the dark with 6 volt candles for headlights and a clutch that was misbehaving.

Thursday 14 April, Day Three, was more rain as we headed towards Napier, via the spectacular Manawatu Gorge and finally to our excellent accommodation in Napier overlooking Hawke's Bay. Soon 147 Model A Fords with over 400 participants from throughout New Zealand, as well as Australia and Canada, gathered for the welcome event.



However, it was relatively short-lived as Cyclone Cook unleashed its destructive fury, 170 kilometre-per hour winds, torrential rain, uprooted trees and not the place for Model A Fords to be. Yet all the vehicles survived the rather brutal overnight onslaught from the elements.

Just when everyone was thinking two years of disciplined planning for the "Dare to be Deco" Rally was in a state of fragility, miraculously Good Friday dawned with a most spectacular vista sunrise across the ocean, with clearing blue skies. Literally the calm following a storm, acting as a prelude to three glorious days of weather. It was time to have some fun!

Day One of the Rally was an orientation run of Napier with 20 separate locations, highlighting the magic of this delightful Art Deco region, albeit a little bruised after the cyclone the night before. The spirit of resilience was to the fore, with road crews and hundreds of private citizens involved in the massive clean-up of uprooted trees, damaged roads and power lines, as well as minor flooding.



Day Two of the Rally was the Rally Drive and period picnic day, with participants dressed in 1930s fashion - gents with their boaters, cloth hunting caps, rowing jackets and plus fours ready for golf; ladies with a fine array of dresses, cloche hats and parasols to shield from the now welcome sun.



Over 140 Model As took to the highways, byways and mountains around Napier and Hastings, silhouetted by seemingly endless vineyards, orchards and olive farms, many bearing the aftermath of the cyclone's fury, damage everywhere to be seen, but people remaining cheerful and in good spirit.

Evening meals were also themed on the "Dare to be Deco" era. Saturday night saw boater hats, rowing jackets and floral finery, exchanged for novel clothing choices for a "Depression Dinner" of soup and stew, with many hard luck stories, both vehicular and personal, the subject of the proceedings.

The 20 Australian participants were recognised as the largest overseas contingent that ever attended a New Zealand Rally, including six from Western Australia: MARC of WA President Colin Davidson and partner Maureen Oulaghan; Dean and Jenni Roberts in a 1930 5 window Coupe; and Wes Hartley and Beverley Biggs in the MAFCA Canterbury Chapter Club 1928 Phaeton, who were duly presented with their new membership badges for the Canterbury club.



Day Three of the Rally was a fantastic “Show and Shine Day”, a glorious Easter Day morning on the Napier seashore, with four lines of magnificent Model As, with the morning including an Easter Wedding of a couple who had previously suffered a lifetime of abuse and neglect, but miraculously met at the Rally. There was the 88 year old “Angus” and his new love, a slightly incontinent 87 year old “Elsie”, both previously lonely, but now touchingly joined in magical automotive nuptials, as their rusty bumpers were lovingly linked together. The ceremony was complete with celebrant, flower girl, page boy and many onlookers.



The shiny wedding bands came in the form of gleaming piston rings, as “Angus’s” owner, Canterbury’s Bruce Miles and “Elsie’s” owner, Malcolm Roy from Narabri NSW, pledging eternal automotive loyalty, as the wedding rings were placed touchingly over their radiator caps. A hilarious and wonderful “Model A Moment”!

The formal Sunday night Art Deco Dinner revealed the pinnacle of Napier Art Deco era fashion, with a very high standard of presentation, as clearly many had spent long hours preparing for the grand event, highlighting that being able to dress so as to match the era of our Model As is a large part of the exciting hobby we love to pursue.

Day Four, Easter Monday, was the farewell breakfast with a reluctance to take leave of many new-found friends, but many of those relationships will be rekindled in late September 2018, as many New Zealand participants are planning to attend the 25th National Model A Meet at Murray Bridge in South Australia and again, with many Australian participants filling in their Early Bird forms for the 2019 NZ National Rally based on Te Anau, in Fiordland, at the entrance to Milford Sound.

Many took to the chaos of Easter traffic, while our return journey to Christchurch accompanied by Graham and Anne Evans and Graeme and Marlene Scott, both in their 1930 Town Cars, was delayed to Easter Tuesday, with Night One spent at Paraparaumu. A great highlight was a visit to the Southward Car Museum, the largest collection of veteran and vintage cars in the Southern Hemisphere with over 400 exhibits, including three magnificent Model As: an Arabian Sand 1930 Coupe; a 1930 Dark Green Phaeton; and a Dark Blue 1930 Town Car, emblazoned with "20 Millionth Ford Built".



Wednesday 19 April was a gentle drive to Wellington and a celebratory meal before boarding the Inter Islander Ferry to Picton on the Thursday morning before overnighting at Murchison and safely into Christchurch on Friday 21 April.

It was a great privilege for Beverley and I to be granted the Club's permission to use the Club Phaeton. 1200 miles of trouble-free motoring over every conceivable road condition in all manner of weather enabled us to experience the ultimate New Zealand road trip. The whole experience with the Canterbury Club and the wider NZ Model A community was beyond our wildest expectation.

Thank you all and especially to Graham and Anne Evans for their exceptional and very generous hospitality.

Wes Hartley and Beverley Biggs
Busselton, Western Australia

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 18th May 2017. Please send to the Editor, Wendy Genet 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.

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.

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