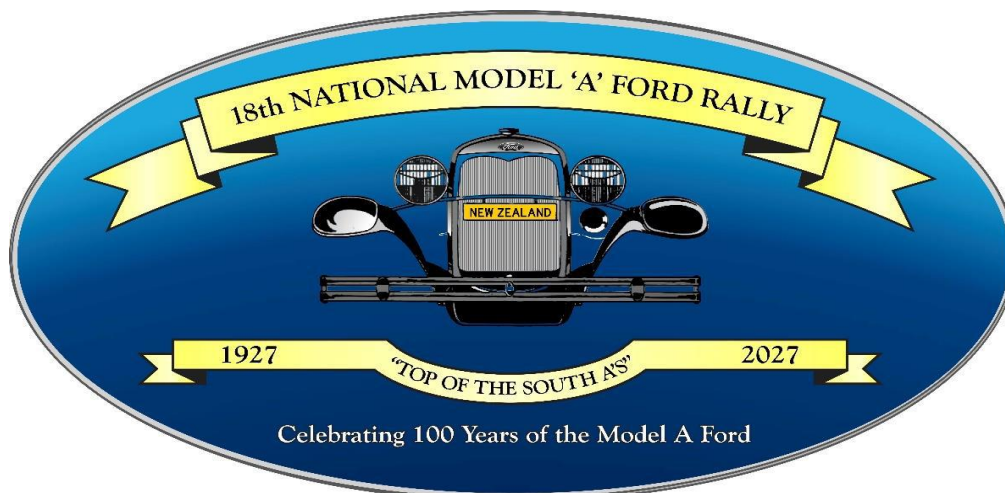




EARLY BIRD NEWSLETTER #4, OCTOBER '26

Welcome to our 4TH newsletter. We are close to getting the registration forms out but are waiting on a couple of details so we can get them complete. In the meantime, to keep you up to date, here is the Rally Timeline in a bit more detail.

BLenheim 13th - 16th MARCH

Saturday 13th March 2027

3pm-6pm Registration open at VCC Club Rooms, Brayshaw Park
Own arrangements for dinner.

Sunday 14th March

9.30am Registration Continues
10am-3pm Open Day for Public at Brayshaw Park
10.30am-1pm Gymkhana Challenges
Food Stalls
1pm Hubley Racing
Own arrangements for dinner.

Monday 15th March

9am **A Group** – Tussock Country Long Run
Lunch available for pre-order
9.30am **B Group** – Vintners Short Run
Lunch own Choice
5pm The Vines
Delegates Meeting
6pm The Vines
Era Fashion Parade
5pm-11.30pm The Vines
Food Truck Night

Tuesday 16th March

9am **B Group** – Tussock Country Long Run
Lunch available for pre-order
9.30am **A Group** – Vintners Short Run
Lunch own Choice
Own arrangements for dinner.

Wednesday 17th March

Pack your bags to move to Nelson

9.30am Depart Brayshaw Park to Rally through to Nelson
Lunch own choice

3.30pm Welcome to Nelson at Higgins Park, Wakefield
Light snack provided
Check into your new accommodation
Own arrangements for dinner.

NELSON 17TH – 20TH MARCH

Thursday 18th March

9am **A Group** – Intrepid Interior
Lunch own choice

9.30am **B Group** – Beaches & Bays
Lunch own choice

3pm **Both Groups**
Afternoon Tea – Māpua Hall
Own arrangements for dinner.

Friday 19th March

9am **B Group** – Intrepid Interior
Lunch own choice

9.30am **A Group** – Beaches & Bays
Lunch own choice

Awards Night and Dinner

5.00pm Drinks at Club Waimea

5.45pm All seated

6.00pm Dinner is served

Saturday 20th March

7.30am **Farewell Breakfast**

-10.00am Club Waimea, Richmond

Final times will be posted in your Rally Program at Registration. The rally start times may alter slightly as we adjust for any roadworks etc that may come up on the routes.

To help with traffic control on the Rally runs we will have rolling starts and we will split the local Marlborough and Nelson Rally runs into two groups, which will mean about 50 cars going in each direction each day and swapping over the next day. You will have the chance to nominate your group at Registration.

Most days will be self-catering for lunch except the Blenheim long run where there will be the option of pre-purchasing lunch which will be supplied by a local school.

NOTICES AND REQUESTS

OVERSEAS VISITORS:

Loan of a car. We have had an enquiry from one of the Australians asking to borrow a Model A if possible (same people who borrowed an Auckland car for the Masterton rally).

Empty seats. Will anyone have empty seats to fill? If so, please get in touch with us.

LOCAL PLACES OF INTEREST

ST ARNAUD & LAKE ROTOITI

During the course of the 2027 National Rally we will be visiting the village of St. Arnaud and associated Lake Rotoiti. The following is a brief outline of the history and background of these respective entities.

St Arnaud, the alpine village and gateway to Nelson Lakes National Park, features a history shaped by Maori hunting parties, early European pastoral settlement, and ongoing debates surrounding its unique name.



Maori Roots: Long before European arrival, local Maori regularly traversed the area while travelling between Tasman Bay, the West Coast, and Canterbury. They relied on the lakes and rivers for food, with historical midden sites found in the Travers Valley and Kerr Bay.

European Discovery : The first European explorer to discover the lake was JS Cotterell, a surveyor with the NZ Company. Cotterell, aided by a Maori guide, explored the Tophouse and Wairau Valley areas, eventually finding the lake in early 1843.

Original name : The first European settlers used the land around Lake Rotoiti for grazing sheep in the late 1840's. For decades, the small settlement was known as "Lake Rotoiti" or "Rotoiti".

The Name Change (1921 – 1951) : The Department of Lands and Survey officially renamed the planned township to "St Arnaud" in 1921 to avoid persistent mix-ups, as mail intended for the Nelson Lakes area frequently ended up at Lake Rotoiti near Rotorua in the North Island.

The Namesake : The town and the adjacent St Arnaud Range were named after **Armand-Jacques LeRoy de Saint Arnaud**, a French Commander-in-Chief during the Crimean War. The name officially became gazetted in 1951, though local debates and petitions to revert to Rotoiti continued for decades.

Birth of a National Park : As New Zealand transitioned into the 20th century, the area shifted from farming to outdoor recreation. In 1956, the 101,733 hectare Nelson Lakes National Park was created, officially protecting the native beech forests, mountain ranges, and deep glacial lakes (Rotoiti and Rotorua).

Modern Era : Today, St Arnaud serves as a vital basecamp for year-round alpine activities. It is a popular destination for skiing at the Rainbow Skifield, hiking, kayaking, and enjoying classic New Zealand. Lake Rotoiti also provides a great venue for the annual Classic Boat Show and other aquatic activities.

TAKAKA HILL

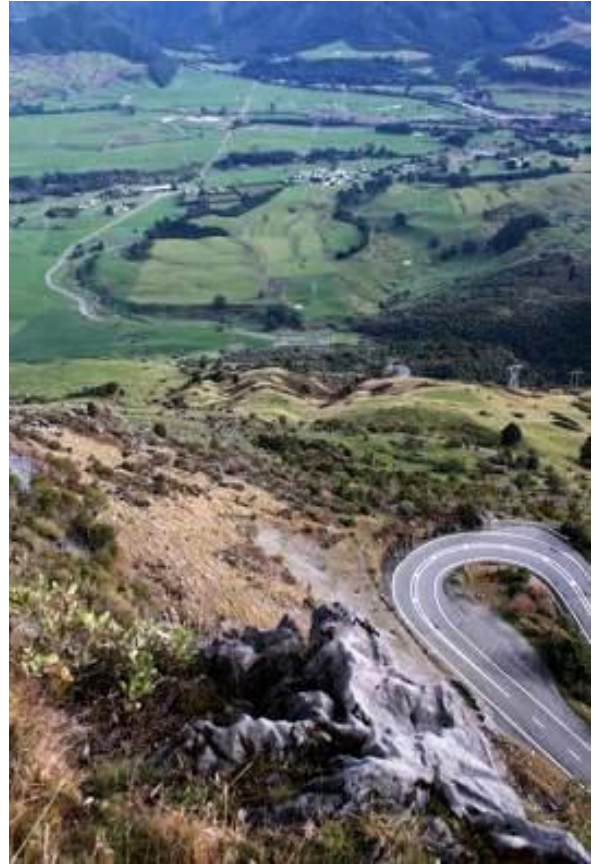
Famously known as the "Marble Mountain", the Takaka Hill offers an incredible mix of rugged limestone landscapes, underground caverns, and panoramic views spanning Golden Bay and Tasman Bay. Located along State Highway 60 between Motueka and Takaka, it is an essential stop for adventurers and sightseers.

Getting There It should take around two hours to drive from Nelson to Tākaka (around 1-1/2 hours in a modern car). The Motueka side of the Takaka hill is steep with lots of tight cornering. Take your time and try and avoid driving in the dark if possible.



RIUWAKA RESURGENCE

Check out the Riuwaka Resurgence if you have time. The Riuwaka Resurgence (Te Puna Wai o Riuwaka) begins from deep underground caves and limestone/marble fractures within Tākaka Hill, emerging into a crystal-clear pool at the foot of the hill in **Kahurangi National Park** (located at the end of Riwaka Valley Road in the Tasman region, about 16 km north of Motueka). The turn off is at the bottom of the Takaka Hill (Motueka side)/ There's a stunning riverside track leading to a hole/cave from which the river emerges.



The northern side of Takaka Hill

NGARUA CAVES

The Ngarua Caves are a series of limestone caves on the Takaka Hill range south of Abel Tasman National Park. The caves are located close to Takaka Hill's summit, adjacent to State Highway 60 as it winds its way over the Takaka Hill between Motueka and Upper Takaka.

Discover the cave's extensive and breathtaking variety of stalagmites and stalactites, also featuring an excellent skeletal display of the extinct moa.

Scheduled tours suitable for people of all ages are provided from the car park, please note the caves cannot be visited unattended.

Ngarua Caves contain a variety of cave formations along a comfortable walkway through the caves. Ngarua Caves is listed as one of the "101 Must-Do's for Kiwis"

Experience the Ngarua Caves then relax with a coffee/refreshments or bring your own picnic lunch and enjoy the spectacular views of Tasman Bay and the surrounding Karst landscape. Also browse our souvenir shop with crafts by local artists.

Ngarua Caves:

- Open daily throughout summer.
- Cave tours are hourly from 10am-4pm.
- Bookings essential in the winter months (June-Sept).
- Price per adult is \$30, for children aged between 5-15 it is \$10 and under 5s are free.
- The user-friendly access to view the Ngarua Caves is suitable for all ages.
- Breathtaking stalagmites and stalactites.
- An amazing skeletal display of the extinct moa.

WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE SOME OF OUR RALLY SPONSORS AND RALLY SUPPORTERS



McKendry Ford

5-7 Nelson St

7240

Blenheim



Waimea
Vehicle Testing Station

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