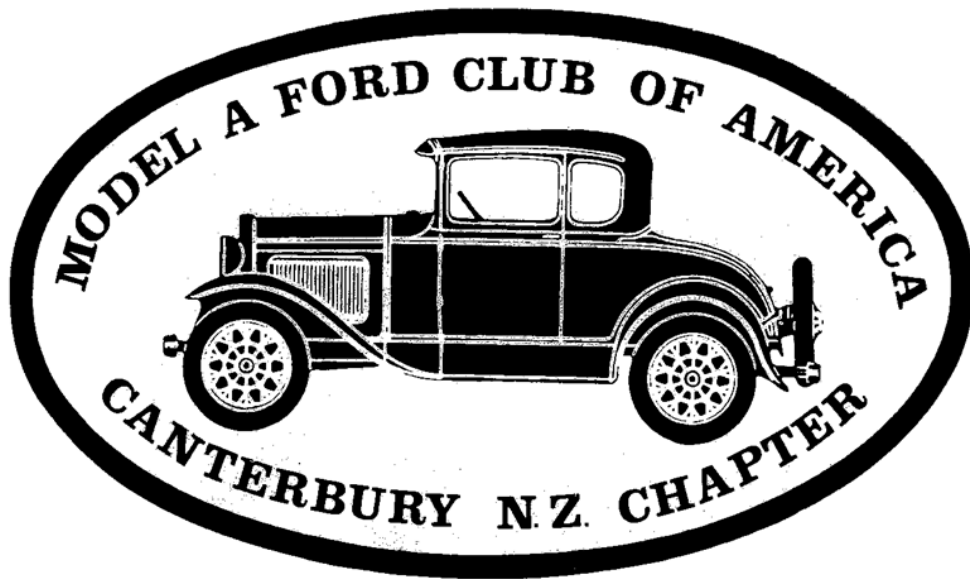


PO BOX 4212 CHRISTCHURCH



# *A Ford Script*

OCTOBER 2015

# A Ford Script

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

Canterbury New Zealand Chapter. PO Bo 4212 Christchurch

## COMMITTEE

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Treasurer	Barrie Shipley	(03)383-4640
Secretary	Brent Miles	(03)349-8108

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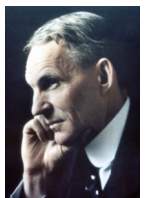
Website [www.modelaford.co.nz](http://www.modelaford.co.nz)

Script email [afordscript@gmail.com](mailto:afordscript@gmail.com)

COVER PICTURE:- Some of the cars assembled for lunch at Rakaia Huts. 50th celebra-

## HENRY FORD QUOTE:-

"Thinking calls for facts; facts are found by digging; but he who has gathered this wealth is well equipped for life."



## CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

What a fabulous 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend. The Organising Committee with Garth & Pauline Moore, Alan & Shirley Wills, Ralph Biggs & Jill Keir did a terrific job planning and achieving a wonderful event enjoyed by the 69 entries.

It was very pleasing to see this event well supported, with lots of encouraging compliments for a well-run event.

Thanks to Garth as the chair of the organising committee and to his team for a splendid event.

Thanks to all the entrants for helping to make this event a success.

*Graham Evans*

*Club Captain*

### Club Car Report

Thanks to Brent Miles, Lindsay and Andrew Painter for carrying out some maintenance on the club car. Brake light holder replaced, and adjustments to steering arm and radius rod ball joint.

This led to Club car being used by Richard and Jan Muir on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary run to the Rakaia Huts.

The club car was completed in 1987 and it would have made the late Peter Keir proud to see the car in Rakaia Domain along with 60 other Model A's.



**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:** Tuesday 20 October 2015 7.30pm, at Barrie Shipley's home, 38 Lakewood Drive, Burwood. If you have any matters you would like raised, please contact a committee member before this date.

## COMING EVENTS

### 2015

- October 4 Men's shed, Oxford. Meet at The Peg 9am sharp. Brunch at Oxford.
- October 9—11 Club display at Swap Meet. Contact Brent for details if you would like to display your car (free entry for the day).
- November High Country Run. Set aside 1st or 8th
- December 6 Santa Parade
- December 9 Children's Christmas Party. Despite the redevelopment which is being undertaken the area, this event will again be held after work, at the Groynes, Johns Road. Gather up a picnic tea and the younger members of your family to come and join us for a relaxing pre Christmas outing. Everyone is welcome—you don't have to have small children to come. The "man in red" is going to pay a visit during the evening. If you have family members 10 years and under, please contact me with their age and details by Monday 9 November at [abhill@usnet.co.nz](mailto:abhill@usnet.co.nz) or 03 313 6008 so we can arrange a small gift for them. *Barbara Hill*
- December 12 Christmas celebration— evening meal Capones restaurant Rangiora at 7.30pm. To confirm that you are coming please contact me by Wednesday 2 December. On the same details as above. *Barbara Hill.*

## *A Ford Script*

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to The Script over the last few months while Wendy and Russell have been away. Your efforts make the editors' lives easier to provide a worthwhile magazine. Keep up the good work.

If you have any contributions please e-mail [Wendy afordscript@gmail.com](mailto:Wendy_afordscript@gmail.com).

## 50th Celebration Weekend

### Friday evening— 11 September. The beginning of the 50th jubilee celebrations

50 years since the Model A club Canterbury and what a beginning to a wonderful weekend. We all commend our organising committee.

Hornby Workingmen's club was the ideal venue for our Meet and Greet, so many familiar faces and so many new ones.

68 cars entered with visitors from Hamilton, Blenheim, Nelson, Brightwater, Blackball, Ikamatua, Greymouth, Rananga, Hororata, Waimate, Naseby, Mosgiel and Queenstown, plus so many from Christchurch and surrounding areas. What a fantastic response to help us celebrate. Food and drinks flowed all night and no-one was in a hurry to end the evening celebrations.

*Annette Painter*

### Saturday 12 September

On Saturday morning, 67 Model A's from all over the South Island, plus one from Hamilton, rolled into the Hornby WMC car park to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first Canterbury Model A Club run.

After meeting up with friends old and new, including Mark and Debby Smith who had come from Hamilton area to be with us, we were handed our rally directions and sent off at one minute intervals to hopefully find our way to the lunch stop.

The route took us through some of the Christchurch suburbs and out to Lincoln. On the way we had to drive between Halswell and Lincoln check points at a set average speed (goodness knows what it was !). All cars had photos taken—many on the white line—as we viewed at the evening meal on the BIG screen !

We continued on through Coes Ford, where many stopped for morning tea, and lakeside to Southbridge. At the check point we were given 20 seconds too scan and memorise a board of Model A parts, then onto another checkpoint where we had to recall as many of those parts as we could.

Our final stop was Rakaia Huts—the same place as the first Model A run in 1965 —where we had lunch, socialised and admired the line up of cars.

For the return to Christchurch we were given several routes of varying lengths. On the scenic route home over the Port Hills, the Jeffersons had the misfortune to lose a fan blade through the radiator, which lead to a recovery operation using a Model A to lower the car down the hills with a rope from behind, and then conventional towing on the flat.

It was a great "A" day, well organised and very enjoyable. A big thank to those who planned the rally and manned the check points. Well done !

*Rosalie and Peter Bayler*

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner and Cake cutting Saturday 12th

The Golden Anniversary Dinner was held at the Hornby Working Men's Club, decorations in the hall had a golden theme and some treasured framed memos on the wall for guests to view. Guests dressed in their finest era clothes all added to create a great atmosphere.

Mingling of old friends and new before the buffet dinner; which was a wonderful variety of food to suit all palates.

During the break between mains and desert there were a few short speeches to mark the occasion and a presentation of a special 50 year certificate from the Model A Ford Club of America.

Good to hear an outline of the beginning of the Canterbury Chapter, from Alan Wills, and that Model A's weren't seen as true vintage vehicles, this being a reason why the club was formed.

Jill Keir petitioned to have ladies included as members; her reasoning was that if families were included, then ladies should also have a say in the running of the club, a move that was frowned upon by the VCC at the time but, they followed within a few years to include Women members too.

The Anniversary Cake was cut by Foundation Member Representatives Alan Wills and Jill Keir, (Peter Keir's widow). Peter was the main driver in getting The Model A Club started.

It is interesting to note that the Canterbury Chapter was the first chapter formed outside of America.

"Young Computer Wizz" Lance, managed to load photos of earlier days events for viewing on the big screen, great coverage.



Cake cutting  
with original  
members  
Alan Wills  
and Jill Keir

## Sunday 13 September

Model A owners must be as hardy as their cars. After a Friday night of lots of talking and lots of eating and then a full Saturday of driving, lots more talking and lots of eating, on Sunday the owners were up and at it again and by 9.30 the cars were rolling in to the Vintage Car Club grounds at McLeans island for another session of eating talking and driving.

The sunshine and lovely grounds made for an ideal setting for the Gymkhana for more than 60 Model A's, all sorts, shapes and sizes. The VCC Motorbike section provided the person power for the event and there were four challenges to put drivers to the test. Cars lined up, were ushered to the start line and then the drivers were able to display their skills, or not, as the case might be. Like so many things, it is just not as easy as it looks, congratulations to all those who managed a flawless run, and to those who knocked over a cone or two, stopped far too short, dropped the rope or missed the blocks, never mind, it was fun.

The official photo was next on the programme and the cars were lined up and the photographer got 2 shots, one with and one without the owners. It was a spectacular sight to see so many cars lined up, glinting in the spring sunshine. The founding members of the Canterbury Chapter and the members who have been involved with the club from the start deserve to feel a little surge of pride to see such a sight. I am sure if Henry was watching he would have felt a little pitter patter in his heart.

To end the day a lovely spit roast lunch was served, the prizes for the weekend were given out and there was a lot more talking.

So, a very enjoyable weekend. While the Club's fiftieth anniversary and the Model As were the stars of the show, the real success must have been the friendships, old and new, the stories, real and imagined, the sharing of knowledge, the fun, laughter and the memories taken home. We all know events like this just don't happen and it was lovely to see the special mention of all Pauline and Garth's work.

Mark your calendar for the hundredth! – see you there.

*Wendy Genet*



## LOOKING BACK

## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

This month we are looking back just a few weeks to the club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. One of our speakers at the Saturday night dinner was Alan Wills. Alan was one of the five MAFCA members who formed the Canterbury NZ Chapter in 1965.

Alan has kindly agreed to have his speech published in the A Ford Script. Here it is -

Good evening members and fellow enthusiasts – for those of you who can't read my name tag from up here ,my name is Alan Wills ,sole remaining founder member ,and life member of the Chapter.

I will start my brief little message with a rhetorical question ;

Why are we here tonight ,why this weekend ,why at all ?

We are here because of one mans vision to bring Model A Fords into the mainstream of the Vintage car movement.

In the 1960s the Vintage Car Club was very much focussed on veteran vehicles ,and I might add anything with a posh sounding English or European name.

Model Ts were tolerated (just) Model As were treated with disdain by many of the old school ,and that attitude persisted for years with them being only 'half-pie' acceptable.

LET ME EXPLAIN WHY WE ARE MEETING HERE IN 2015.

In the VCC in the early 60s we gathered to socialize in our Clubrooms in Colwyn St. Bryndwr .and it was at one of those monthly social occasions that the late Peter Keir drew me aside with a proposition .

Now Shirley and I were vintage motorcycle enthusiasts with a small collection of Harley Davidson's from the 1920s .but ,more importantly I had a Model A Pickup for my panel beating business. It was sign written from "stem to stern"( and looking at it know perhaps a little overdone) ,but this over decorated little truck had a place in the Grand Plan.

We will call it 'Peters Plan'.....it was simple enough .Peter ,a long time devotee like no other I have ever met, used a Model A as everyday transport, was a member of the Model A Ford Club of America, and been in touch with the Chapter co-ordinator about forming a Chapter in NZ.

I don't know what their first reaction was (because there were no Chapters out side of the USA/Canada) however they must have considered that the same criteria that applied to Chapters in the USA would suffice for an overseas one.

The rules were 'If five full members of MAFCA made written application to the parent body to form a separate group it would fulfil all the statutory obligations.'

This is where my truck fitted into the scheme of things.

Peter had befriended a retired gentleman in Highstead Rd. with a Cabriolet ,Harry Barnes ,he got along side a neighbour from near Rakaia, Bob Marshall .Now with Peter ,Harry ,Bob ,and myself he was almost there .Did I know of any other owner who would be prepared to join MAFCA to make up the numbers.



Yes ,I did , the local farmer from whom I had purchased my first Harley had a Coupe in his shed and Harry Williamson was press-ganged to make up the numbers.

History confirms that we were successful and the Canterbury NZ Chapter was the first overseas group to claim that title.

Very quickly we gathered up foundation members ,and we have Garth Moore and Robin Fear as two of these first recruits here this weekend.

Peter was A to the core ,loved them with a passion ,bordering on obsessive ,and we became good friends ,even at times partners, purchasing derelict As for the sole purpose of systematically dismantling and redistributing parts to the ever growing group of enthusiasts that quickly formed in those early days.

Model As were expendable items ,for example, the Milkman from Tinwald South Ashburton delivered from a trailer towed behind a Fordor .He chugged along in second gear on the hand throttle while he ran to and from with his bottles ,single handedly until the steering needed a small correction ,or a corner came up.

Understandably this was very hard on transmissions and diffs. and as a consequence Peter and I were able to aquire two such vehicles for next to no cost .Both had terminal differential problems .

We saved every Robertson headed screw ,every window hold open knurled knob (for even then they were shedding their plating),door handles ,escutcheons ,window finishers ,blind roller parts ,interior lights and switches ,every single item was kept for passing on to others.

Peter also had collected for one of his future projects a Cragar overhead valve engined car with an enormous sump that had been raced at Wigram by the late David Habgood.

There would not have been many cars restored during those formulative years that did not benefit from this trove of bits and pieces.

The humble Model A had very little value unrestored ,and one December the Bursar of Lincoln Agricultural College ,(this was before it gained University status) called me and asked if I could come and remove a Model A Roadster from the students car park ,left there by a departing student and the end of his final semester.

They were 35 years old, too old to be current ,and not yet old or scarce enough to have large amounts of money spent on them to restore .

Not unlike picking up an HQ Holden or a 120Y today.

Now .....how does the old vehicle movement regard the A today..

The Model A Ford has been well and truly vindicated, loved and admired by all ,and it is in no small way that it has been the Peter Keirs ,and you enthusiasts here continuing to restore ,preserve ,and most importantly drive ,the best vintage era vehicle ever built that has guaranteed its rightful place in history. *AlanWills*

**FOOTNOTE** As the club has now commenced its second fifty years, this is the last “Looking Back” article. Perhaps I will do the same prior to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

*Garth Moore. (We look forward to seeing you there Garth !)*

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 20th November 2015. Please send to the Editor, Wendy Genet [afordscript@gmail.com](mailto:afordscript@gmail.com) . Yes, she is back !

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 site 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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