

Top of the South Model A Club Inc.

c/- 111 Kohatu Highway, RD 1 Wakefield. 7095

Chairman : John Herd 5418818 027 6888 200

Secretary : John Herd / Dot Humphries

Treasurer : Dot Humphries 539 0071 027 2222464

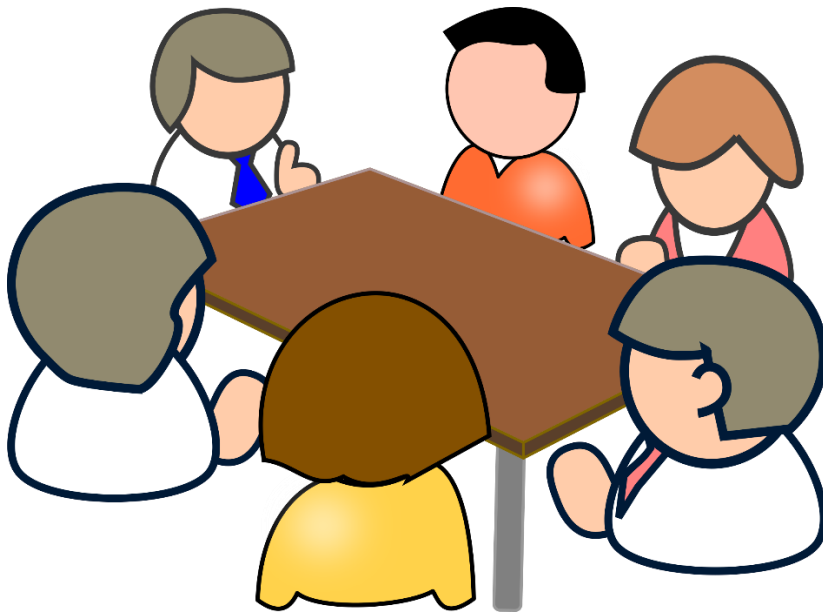
Committee: David Holmes. Ann Holmes. Malcolm Baker. Ross Sice.

Marlborough Liaison Officer : Bob O'Malley 03 5728380

May 2024 Newsletter

With what appears to be the passing of summer with the rapid onset of much cooler weather it's time to think of that great and much anticipated annual event grandly known as the [AGM](#).

Hopefully this introduction has grabbed your attention and woken up that dormant desire to participate in the committee – so if you are interested now is the time to put forward your intention to volunteer to take on one of these exalted roles.



[Take your pick of the position you most desire !!](#)

As you will note in the outings section we are planning to hold the **AGM on Sunday the 9th June**. The venue will be the Historic Havelock Hotel and will be associated with a mid-winter luncheon. As per existing practice the Club will be subsidising the meal at \$10 per head for participating members. Further details will be advised as they come to hand with respect to the meal menu and cost as well as the respective attendance time.

As per the most recent event at this venue we will be requesting members to notify their intention to attend as well as prepaying for the meal into the Club account. Details to follow.

At the AGM we will also be putting out a call for members to consider either coming on board with the sub committee who will be undertaking the arrangements for the 2027 National Model A Rally, which will be hosted by our Club. Alternatively, we will be asking members to consider providing assistance to the organisers without necessarily taking on a committee role – every little bit of assistance will be appreciated with respect to making this event a success. The proposed programme will see the rally commence in Marlborough prior to proceeding to the Nelson region where it will terminate. We have already received an offer of assistance from the West Coast members of the canterbury Club.

Letter of thanks.

Thanks to those members who were able to attend the recent memorial service hosted by the Nelson VCC for John king.

With respect to John, we recently received the following letter of appreciation from John's wife Elva which was addressed to Dot :

*Thank you for your thoughtful message acknowledging the passing of John.
John's decline in health was over a long period. I nursed him at home for 5 years and two years were spent in residential care.*

John owned his Model A for 60 years, he purchased it in Masterton.

Thank you also to past and present members of the Model A Club.

Sincerely

Elva King.

The recent" Get Lost With Ross" event

Wow, what a great day. Whilst numbers were down it must be said that this was a truly fun run taking participants to local places most of us either were unaware of or had never been to.



Guess where ? Ponds in the middle of no where!!



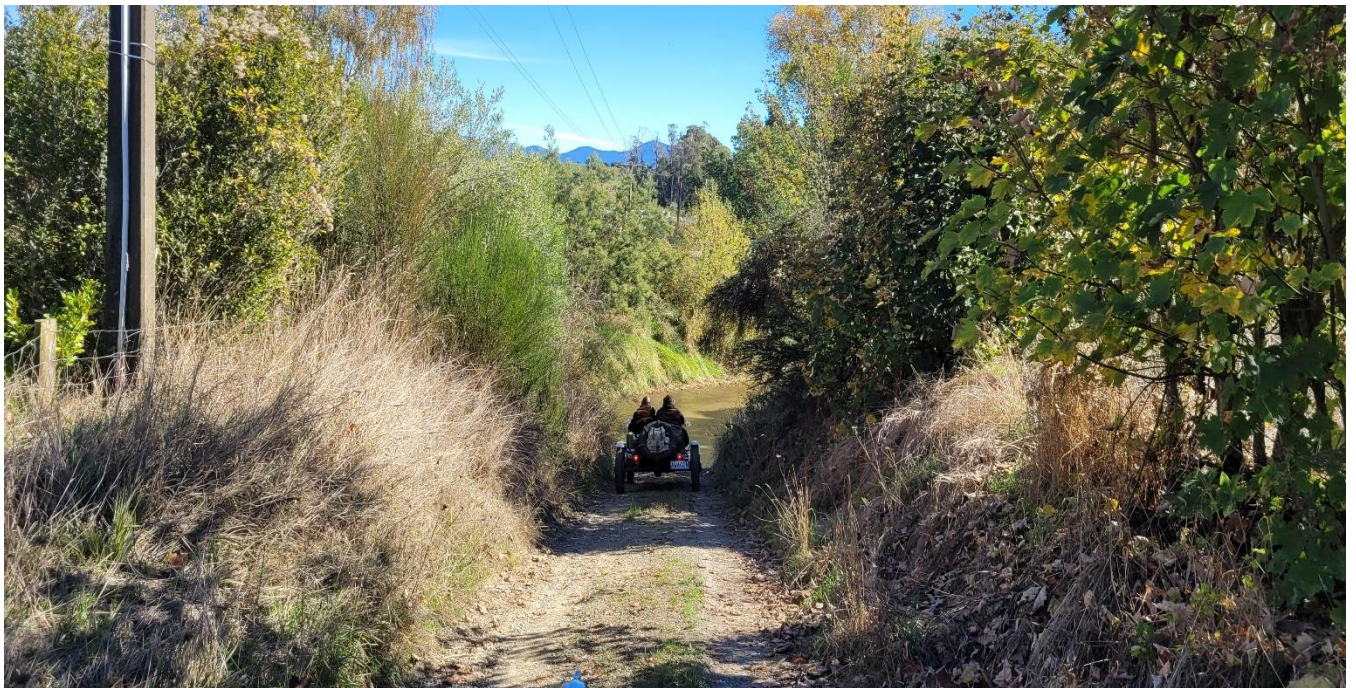
A little bit of “Off Roding” – how did we get here and where is it ?



Time for a bit of mud !!



Time to get wet feet or at least wash off the mud.



A Ford heading to a Ford.



Final destination and a well earned picnic session.

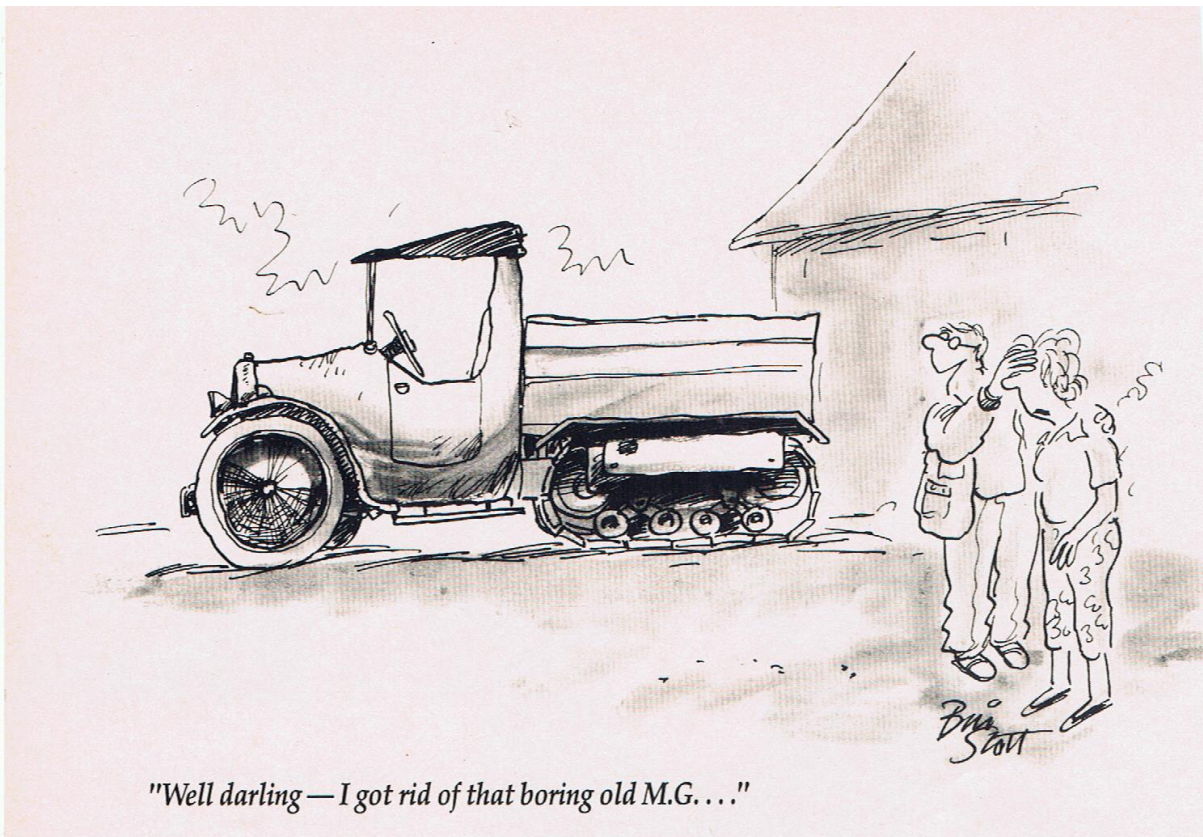
All credit to Ross for arranging this outing – plenty of varied driving and road conditions encountered along the way. As we well may rerun this outing sometime in the future I thought it best to not disclose the various areas / roads/ mud flats/ ponds/ stream crossings etc that we encountered on the day. Leave this to others to enjoy and / or experience in the future.

Hard luck trophy for the day must go to “Grumpie” aka Malcolm. He apparently set off to join us at the appointed meeting spot but the old 32 decided to spit the dummy on the way there. No luck trying to restart it after changing the suspect fuse – time to reach for the phone. No luck there either as he then recollected that he had left it at home on the charger. No other recourse but to trudge a considerable distance back towards Brightwater for family assistance. Much changing of bits and pieces didn’t resolve the issue in time to get to the days outing – unfortunately (or perhaps best) that no recording exists of the choice words expressed during this event !!

Whilst numbers were down a bit for this run it was great to see that on the same day a good number of Marlborough members were able to take part in a picnic run to the Leefield Station located in the Waihopai Valley. By all accounts this was a great day out visiting an historic station which is now a well respected winery.



Picture of one of the original farm buildings at Leefield Station from their web site. Bob advised that the owners are only too happy to host the Club again at some future time. Something for us to all consider.



Perhaps something like this would be a good winter project to build prior to undertaking another "Get Lost with Ross" adventure — just about needed an all - terrain vehicle (well you would have if you weren't in a Model A).



My recently completed “T” project – perhaps a set of tracks may be in order for the next “Get Lost with Ross” outing !!

Tech Tips.

If you are considering storing your Model A for extended periods consider the possibility that insects such as wasps or mason bees love to crawl into dark hiding places, especially crank cases of Model A's. The entry point is the oil filler tube. The oil screen mesh on the oil pump can grab these pests and they are not drained out with the oil (I have seen a screen partially blocked due to this).. To avoid this, you could consider soldering a copper mesh screen on the bottom of the filler cap or else just cover the filler opening with a single layer of cheese cloth or similar.

The slight fluid oozing of a head gasket is not uncommon even on trued block and heads. Replacement copper head gaskets have a minimum of crimping and can allow capillary action to pull fluid out the sides. The use of a proprietary radiator sealant will usually stop this unsightly condition if the problem persists. Do not exceed normal head bolt torque (50-55 foot pounds). It may make the condition worse.

Should you jack up one rear wheel for dry run testing in gear, remember that the raised wheel is turning twice as fast as indicated on the speedometer. At 50mph you would be placing undue stress on drive line parts. Jack up both wheels and keep speed moderate.

The heavy flywheel will slide on and off easily if a headbolt stud is used as a guide by screwing it into the crankshaft flange.

If you are considering having excess weight machined from a standard flywheel, it is worth checking with someone who has had it done. There may be some instant acceleration advantage but slow speed power pulses may show up as well as poor idling.

The steering column must line up with the dashboard or tank support bracket in order to avoid hard steering. If necessary, enlarge the chassis frame mounting holes slightly and / or add shims between steering housing and frame to clean up side to side misalignment, if any. With a Model A you need all the steering ease you can arrange.

From the web.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcSJnez9h78>

The model A Ford in everyday life during the 1920's & 1930's

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrEtQINvCCU>

Model A Ford – precision timing and finding top dead centre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5DtKoleRNO>

How to trouble shoot a Model A that won't start.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFmO8E4sPew>

Electrical issues – how to trouble shoot a Model A

Upcoming runs / outings.

19th May. Marlborough group have arranged a run to Northbank. Meet 10.00 am at weighbridge on Renwick side of Wairau River bridge. BYO picnic lunch. Wet weather alternative to be arranged.

26th May. Nelson group have arranged local run to finish at Mapua. Lunch stop at the Bakery.
Meet at NMIT carpark, Richmond @ 11.00 am

1-3rd June. All Ford Day weekend at Westport.

9th June. **AGM** to be held at Havelock Hotel. This will include the annual mid year dinner. Time, menu and meal cost to be detailed once confirmed.

29th June. Reefton Car Show. Not a TOSMAC event but may be of interest.

27/28th July. Henry Ford Birthday event. Hosted by Marlborough Ford Club. Shed visit & rally on Saturday. H Ford birthday Show-N-Shine meet on Sunday. Time / location to be advised. Note that an alternative local Club event may be held in Nelson for those not able to attend Blenheim event.

11th August. Picnic run to Marahau (adjacent Abel Tasman Nat Park). BYO as local area café's probably closed for off season. Meet NMIT Richmond car park @ 11.00 am and / or Motueka Clocktower @ 12.00

25th August. Annual Daffodil Day rally hosted by the Nelson VCC. Further info to be sent out when available.

13/14/15th September. International Model A Day weekend event to be held in Kaikoura. Entry forms to be distributed when available.

Cheers

JH for TOSMAC Committee.