

FOMC Presidents Report 2020

First it seems that this has been a period of considerable change for the classic motoring community but a quiet year for the Federation. Naturally the onset of the restrictions following the worldwide Covid-19 virus outbreaks has severely curtailed not only the Federation's activities but also many of our member clubs usual events and meetings.

That said I want to thank our executive, Vice-President Tony and especially our new Secretary Chris who has certainly hit the ground running. Together we produced regular advisory newsletter updates which went electronically to all clubs. They provided advice, information and linked to official sources which, by all accounts, were very well received. In addition to enduring a long recovery from a serious accident, Chris has dramatically reorganised our website and our filing systems, revamped our membership renewals etc. and organised our regular meetings.

During the year we held three executive meetings, September 14 at Southwards Museum, December 14 at the AA HQ in Wellington, and May 14 by Zoom. It would be fair to say we are all now comfortable using Zoom and our decision to save on expenses by using this medium is working well. The executive has also had several other discussions using Zoom which has enabled better communications and planning with substantial savings.

Wheel Torque has continued in the capable journalistic hands of Roy Hughes who has agreed to continue as Editor and Submissions Secretary. In the most recent edition he included a fine tribute, by way of an obituary, to founding FoMC member Norman Pointon. Norm remained involved right up until his last weeks contributing to Federation affairs. He had a fine grasp of legal and practical matters which, along with his ability to draw the best out of people, often guided our discussions to achieve the most worthwhile outcomes. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Jocelyn and family.

Another change in the executive lineup this year is the retirement of long-serving member Fred Fellows who has done an excellent job of representing the Motor Caravan Association and has assisted the FoMC with his unparalleled technical knowledge. Fred's replacement as MCA delegate Peter Thompson was a successful candidate in our recent election and we welcome him to the executive.

Another change to our executive is that I have asked Past-President Malcolm Lumsden to continue his involvement (because there are many times when his wisdom and advice are invaluable) but also to take on an advisory role in the field of historic military and commercial vehicles which he knows inside out.

On the weekend of July 11/12 we held our Victory over Covid events. May I thank all those clubs who organised outings? In my own area we had two, one in Hawera for MCA members and one in New Plymouth organised by the Classic Motorcycle Club which, despite the poor weather attracted about 40 vehicles from Mustangs to Morris Minors, including sports cars, VCC members, vintage speedway and classic motorcycles, along with a good crowd and local newspaper coverage. We will be interested to hear details of how Victory over Covid events went around the country and the charitable donations made as a result.

Finally during the year I have personally visited six clubs to talk about the Federations and its activities and I have been pleased just how much our work is appreciated by our member clubs. I don't think we are likely to be short of issues to work on. Thank you to all our executive members for their contributions and support.

The Hon. Harry Duynhoven