

Presidents Report: FoMC 26th AGM, 16 May 2021 (NZ Vintage Machinery Club, Canterbury)

My first observation this past year is that even though by the calendar it has been a short year (our last AGM was severely delayed due to COVID) it certainly has not seen any reduction in activity. Interest in our world has not diminished at all, quite the opposite in fact - car, motorcycle, vintage machinery shows and other activities are all more vibrant than ever. One of the clubs I am a member of just had its largest rally for many years (if not its largest ever) last week end. The New Plymouth Classic Motor Cycle Club is soon to have its annual motorcycle show, as at last week it was already at 99 entries and I'd be surprised if the final number is not well past 120. This year's Americana had to be capped at 700 vehicles and the Inglewood Rotary Club Charity Car show had, I'm told, the largest turnout in its 30 year history.

The Ellerslie Car Show was simply spectacular. Well done to the organisers of all our clubs' events, following Covid we've seen a real reinvigoration. While passing I should congratulate the Porsche Club of NZ, who have once again won the team prize at the Ellerslie Concours with 2 spectacular Porsche 356's. Being my favourite car and also from Taranaki I should also congratulate Revive'M of Inglewood, who restored these two team winning Porsches, I think their 4th time in the winner's circle. The Managing Partner of Revive'm, Dave Hermanns, tells me their biggest problem is simply getting the skilled people he needs to do the work, no issues with finding customers - they've always had more work than they can handle.

Covid, together with the economic situation world-wide has caused a rethink by many people. They are looking at their lifestyle, re-evaluating their assets etc. Many have seen the attraction of investing in an asset they can drive and cherish, something that makes them feel special, rather than simply an entry on their bank statement, share portfolio or spreadsheet. As bank deposit returns approached zero percent, many people have thought differently about investments which has resulted in benefits for sectors of our hobby.

Dave's problem of finding top quality staff is widespread, with a shortage of heritage trained skilled people worldwide. We must continue to emphasise, through our involvement with MITO, the Workforce Development Council and the MTA etc, the importance of ensuring there are thoroughly trained young people filling the spots as older workers finally retire, many of whom have continued working well past retiring age. It is very appropriate then that (FoMC Exec Member) Michael Anderson is leading an FoMC project which will clearly identify the value to the NZ economy of our sector, so that we can have more thoroughly informed input into Government decisions affecting us. Later in this meeting he will update us on how that is progressing but the recently released British Heritage Vehicle Study shows the significant input into their economy and the considerable increase over the past year. I'd be willing to bet that it is even bigger here.

I never fail to be amazed at what is hidden away in garages that I never knew existed - in the last 2 weeks I've seen 3 significant classic cars within a couple of km from my home that I didn't previously know of. Interest in the FoMC is also growing. In the last few months I've spoken at 4 clubs with 3 more in the next 8 weeks. Our AGM is well attended and we have over 100 paid up clubs and new clubs joining.

To that end can I express my thanks to Chris Butler, who has worked extremely hard over Covid, but has not slowed down since and our Federation now is in very good shape with a thriving website, totally up to date records, electronic billing and recording of membership, instant communication with clubs. This has been very useful in responding to issues. All of this has been Chris's work or led by him, well done and he deserves our applause.

The second person I'd like to thank is Roy Hughes whose submissions and columns and the "Wheel Torque" newsletter are always to the point and thought provoking. He continues to have a major input into our responses on behalf of our membership on issues which have importance

to our members, such as the current Clean Car Standards.

The third person who I'd like to give a special thanks to is Tony Bartlett, our Vice President whose sage advice, business-like approach and good humour plus his considerable experience are immensely valuable. (We do need to make a small amendment to our constitution to regularise the position of Vice-president, which we discovered during the year hasn't been formally notified as one of our officers, despite the position having been in place for many years.)

Our treasurer David Raven has, as always, "delivered the goods", we've used technology to make our transactions easier, we've met by Zoom to save costs and even though it seems the ASB are still using MS DOS or something similar as their banking computer system architecture, we are coping well. David will report fully on our finances later in the meeting.

These 4 guys, together with the executive, have made it possible for me to continue doing this job as your president. Quite frankly, without them we couldn't function unless we employed staff which would be a significant change in cost structures to our members.

Since our last AGM we've had 2 meetings of the executive by Zoom, with resulting savings of costs & travel time. We've also forged a stronger relationship with the NZHRA and the LVVTA over the past year or two. You may notice our past secretary and advisor Mark Stockdale's absence today. His career has gone in a new direction but he continues to offer his considerable expertise as and when required. Another apology today is from past president Malcolm Lumsden, who has been unwell but tells me he is strongly recovering. He may be following us on the computer link as we speak.

That is another technical innovation of Chris's, the temporary cell site with internet coverage was specially set up for us today so that we are able to have a presentation from Sigurd Magnusson as our (virtual) guest speaker. As one of the key people involved in the proposals by government associated with climate change, we will be solidly informed on the ramifications for us. We will get facts "from the horse's mouth" so to speak, rather than the inaccurate rumours etc. that some people are taking "as gospel".

Finally, may I thank the executive for their patience and their work, even though it's shorter than usual, we've had a huge year which sets us up very well for the future.

Thank you all.

(Hon.) Harry Duynhoven, President FoMC.