



Issue 45, September 2025

In this issue: Presidents Patter, Heritage (Meeting with Minister), Communications & upcoming survey, Annual WoFs for 40 Year and older cars, Focus on Insurance, Secretary's corner & Upcoming Shows

We are also proud to be supported by 3 organisations: CarTrack, Cumulo9 & Rothbury Insurance Brokers.

President's Patter – Garry Jackson



Welcome to Wheel Torque issue 45, and to the Spring and Summer months ahead.

This is always a great time to enjoy our collective passions for historic and classic vehicles! And it's even more special right now knowing that we've succeeded in

our long-running pursuit of annual WoF's for a great proportion of our prized vehicles.

For this particular issue, I thought I would touch on some wider issues that are very much on my mind, and on the table for the Federation's Executive. Deliberately, I won't go into much detail on any of the following subjects but my words will serve as a "teaser" for forthcoming stories in more detail.

"Communication" is very much one of the buzz words for all of us today, and it's especially so for the Federation as we head into the future (refer to "Are you receiving us loud and clear" article below).

I've been focused on this communications issue for some time now, and as I highlighted at our AGM last May, I'm concerned that as an organisation of some 150,000 individual members, our communication processes with some of our member Clubs is disparate at best, and in some cases probably in need of major improvement. Why is this important? ... for several reasons, probably the most significant is the fact that **we are working hard to set up great personal benefits from large scale supplier companies for all individual members**, but we cannot progress the arrangements until we know that effective communications to all individual members is in place. The current model whereby we communicate with Club Officers, then trust that each club communicates with each member within 24 hours (or sooner) continues to let us down. More work required!

On a separate note, it's become clear that a number of clubs have a great social media presence (especially Facebook) and they use it to mobilise their membership, build club spirit, and promote the cause. One of the great examples with the annual WoF announcements on July 31 was the way in which the VCC had the story up and running on their national VCC Facebook page by 5pm that afternoon, with great engagement and feedback. That's the standard the Federation needs to match.

Enough negativity from me ... on a positive note there's great signals that our world of historic and classic vehicles is continuing to grow, and to attract more and more attention. Witness the stories that are building around next February's Ayrburn Classic Festival in Arrowtown, the huge entries already signed in for the VCC Vero International Historic Motoring Event in Nelson next March, and many others. The year ahead looks really great.

And if all that isn't enough to keep us busy, our Government has announced the new Road User Charge (universal RUC) policy for all vehicles, replacing petrol tax. There are considerations for the historic and classic vehicle sector that the FoMC will be working through with Government and NZTA.

Best wishes to all and have a great summer ahead enjoying our collective passion for our vehicles and our friendships.

Garry

PS The associated photo of yours truly is from last year's VCC Daffodil Rally supporting the NZ Cancer Society. I'm writing these words just ahead of this year's rally which promises to be the biggest yet, thanks to their great efforts across all their branches and communities. It is certainly a flagship national event for the VCC, and for all of us in the Federation.

Heritage – Garry Jackson

A short heading, but a big subject!

The subject of the heritage values of our collective historic vehicles, the fact that it's not well recognised (if at all), and the challenge of how to get this onto the agenda with Government and others have all been on the Federation's work plan (or maybe better termed "wish list") for many years.

The subject of heritage has been steadily growing in recent years, sparked by developments in Europe by [FIVA](#) (Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens), and in the US by the [Hagerty Drivers Foundation](#). (Casey Maxon from Hagerty was a guest speaker at the Federation AGM in 2023). It's also important and relevant to note that the Vintage Car Club of NZ is a founding member of FIVA, and is their appointed NZ representative.

A common theme of these European and US developments is the recognition of historic vehicles as "**Moving Monuments**". In comparison, both the NZ Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage, and Heritage NZ, only recognise fixed assets (buildings, trees, etc) as heritage assets.

Picking up on all of the foregoing, and discussions with George Kear (President of the VCC), I decided that the only practical initial step was to start "at the top", with a meeting with Hon Paul Goldsmith, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage. He was receptive to such a meeting (July 28), despite his busy schedule with his other portfolios (Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, Justice, State Owned Enterprises and Media and Communications).

The meeting was attended by two heritage officials from the Ministry, and whilst limited in time we covered a lot of ground. He was very attentive, interested and appreciative of the role of the Federation (the \$16.5 Billion economic impact statistic got his attention, again proving the value of our Survey). He acknowledged that the Ministry's focus was on buildings and fixtures, not on vehicles and the roles they have played in developing our nation, and the associated stories and legends that shape our culture. He agreed that our vehicles are an opportunity and that the approach will need to be cooperative and collaborative.

We concluded the meeting on the understanding that the Federation will now develop further ideas and possible initiatives for discussion with Ministry officials, and we tentatively identified further discussion with him early next year. I emphasised that the VCC (and others) would be an integral part of our work. These are very much early steps, but they're positive and encouraging. Watch this space!

Are you receiving us “Loud and Clear” – David Raven

At the recent AGM, a number of attendees advised us that they aren't receiving copies of Wheel Torque from their respective Clubs, which is a major concern to us.

As an organisation, the FoMC has been working hard on behalf of its' member clubs, with submissions and meetings with Government Agencies that will benefit our members in the long term. We have put in the “hard yards” over the last 5 years to finally achieve annual WoFs for classic vehicles which will save members both time and money (**\$9m for the cost of WoFs alone across 128,000 registered vehicles**). We're also looking at individual member benefits that we are actively working on to provide, such as:

- Discounted Ferry crossings
- Discounted fuel and
- Possibly Insurance (watch this space).

These will provide additional income to the FoMC to aid us in our operational running costs, whilst also providing cost savings to members.

It's therefore vital that we can communicate efficiently with all Club members so that they are aware of these membership opportunities, and that the companies providing these discounts will support us, as they will know that they are being heard directly by all of our members.

Note; We will soon undertake a survey all of the Club officials, so that we can work with Clubs to determine the best methods for timely communications to your members.

Annual WoFs for 40 year and older vehicles – Garry Jackson

The Minister's great announcements of July 31 are now well communicated and understood, so we don't need to repeat what we all already know.

Similarly, the Federation's August 16 note to all member clubs clearly outlined some pertinent supporting points regarding the significance of the Government's decision and how it was reached ...

- The importance of the 13,000 plus submissions (highest ever for the NZTA) and the fact that all Federation clubs put in such great efforts. Note: many other suggestions were submitted to NZTA and they established a register of those suggestions for consideration.
- The importance and impact of the Federation's NZ Historic and Classic Vehicle Research Survey that dimensioned our scale and economic impact (\$16.5 Billion).
- The effort we put into building strong, evidence-based and respectful relationships with elected ministers, and ministry and agency officials.

- Our persistence, dating back to the initial efforts of our pioneers such as Rod Brayshaw of the VCC commencing in 2003! (I recently met Rod at the VCC AGM and we shared our stories).

Over and above all of the foregoing, I think other great outcome of the whole situation and the announcements has been the increased profile and respect that has been extended to the Federation. It has been quite humbling and overwhelming.

Importantly, the Executive's attention has now turned to the next steps with regard to the areas of desired regulatory change not covered in the July 31 announcements. There are two broad aspects:

- The opportunity for special, extended WoF terms for Veteran vehicles (1919 and older). These vehicles number less than 700, with nil fatality and serious injury risk due to mechanical condition, yet the Federation's submission for WoF terms greater than 12 months was rejected.
- The need for specialised conditions and terms for the unique sector of military, historic commercial and agricultural vehicles..

Concurrent with this issue of Wheel Torque, The Federation Executive has commissioned two separate working groups to work on these business cases, and to develop strong submissions for each to the NZTA (with copies directly to the Minister). Each working group will involve specialists from member clubs as applicable, to maximise the specialist knowledge and experience that we can bring to bear in both submissions.

Further updates in the next Wheel Torque!

Garry Jackson, President

Pictured are Rod Brayshaw and Garry Jackson reflecting the efforts of the FoMC on annual WoFs which has spanned the years 2003 to 2025!



Focus on Insurance – Michael Anderson

Increasingly our Member Clubs and their members, are facing the stark reality of Insurance Premiums continue to rise exponentially year-on-year, with no let up. Like a lot of things, there are factors why this is happening, some within New Zealand and others Internationally driven. From the Insurance Industry's point of view, New Zealand has recently experienced a number of significant events, including earthquakes, severe storms and associated flooding, resulting in increased premiums.

We at the New Zealand Federation of Motoring Clubs Inc have been looking at what we could do to assist members and we are working with Rothbury Insurance Brokers, a leading Brokerage House in New Zealand with a wide portfolio offering.

Initially, it will focus on growing FoMC's current Insurance Schemes covering Public Liability, Association and Offices Liability and Statutory Liability. We are also working on other forms of insurance to offer our clubs and their members.

With the changes to the Incorporated Societies Act (2022), and the need for many of our member clubs to re-register their Clubs by April 2026, the reality about the "risks" for Club Officers and their club activities, has become more important. This is where the FoMC Insurance Scheme could assist in providing some protection.

Shortly we will be communicating with all our Member Clubs on this matter.

In the meantime – happy and safe driving of your historic or classic vehicles.

Michael Anderson

FoMC Insurance Adviser

Secretary's' Corner – Chris Butler

Harry & I had the wonderful privilege to attend the [Manawatu Classic Motorcycle Club](#) Show in Palmerston North on Sat 16 & Sun 17 August, the first since before Covid!. The range of bikes was astounding and it brought back many wonderful memories. Particularly memorable was for more than a year riding my Yamaha XJ650 after work on a Friday Wellington to Auckland, "playing" all weekend and back at 3am on Monday morning to arrive "fresh" at work. Something to do with a certain little lady.



FoMC executive member Chris Dyer was particularly chuffed today (1 September) on putting his **12-month WoF** sticker on his 1926 Model T Tourer. I wonder how many others waited for today and descended upon their testing stations and garages.



The two-day format for this year's AGM was a real hit with delegates, where we received much praise on the quality of the events and the 30th Anniversary dinner at the Canterbury VCC clubrooms. So much so, that the same format 16 & 17 May next year, based at the Sudima Hotel in Rotorua, was a no-brainer. On Saturday we plan to fill the village green with as wide a range of vehicles as can be mustered. Book the dates and bring your old timers !

Reminder to those clubs who are planning to reregister with the Incorporated Societies Register, you have just seven months left to update your constitution and perform the reregistration process, following your AGM or Special General Meeting. Don't leave it until the last couple of months!

Calendar Note – 2026 FoMC AGM – Bruce Lewis

Following the recent successful 2025 AGM, which had a longer 2-day format, the feedback received has been that this format continues.

So book your Calendars for the FoMC AGM Weekend (May 16th & 17th 2026), based at the Sudima Hotel Rotorua, including:

- Sat 16th Joint FoMC & Rotorua Vintage Car Club Car show in the Village Green, Rotorua. 10am – 2.30pm. Any car clubs is warmly invited to attend and display your special vehicles.
- Meet the FoMC Executive Team.
- Stay over Saturday evening at the Sudima Hotel and attend the AGM on Sunday 17th in exciting Rotorua.

Watch out for further details on competitive accommodation rates & Saturday activities!

Ayrburn Classic Show – 22 February 2026

The Ayrburn Classic, is “definitely not your typical car show”. We all know the scene:

A windswept paddock, a takeaway flat white in a paper cup, a muffin on a cardboard plate, and nowhere to sit but the car bonnet. For many wives, partners, and families, the “car show experience” is more endurance event than enjoyment. But Ayrburn is not that.

Set among vineyards, lakes, and heritage buildings, Ayrburn offers magnificent surroundings, fabulous cafés, beautiful food, and world-class wine — all within a venue designed for comfort, style, and lingering conversation. There are shaded courtyards, sculpture walks, and places to sit, relax, and truly enjoy the day. In fact, a good number of our entrants are here this year because — and I quote — “my wife said we’re going to Ayrburn.”

And the husbands? With something on the programme for everyone, they’re more than happy to come along for the ride.

You can apply to enter your vehicle at: [Ayrburn Classic, A Festival of Motoring, Arrowtown](#)

Cheers,
Bruce Lewis

You’ll also be able to chat with Federation of Motoring Clubs, Garry Jackson & Bruce Lewis near the “Mustang Stampede” site.

Subscribe to the Wheel Torque Newsletter!

As a member of an FoMC member club, you can [Subscribe to the Wheel Torque newsletter](#) and receive it as soon as it is published. It is easily read on multiple device types such as desktop/laptop computer, tablets such as iPad and smart phones.



Digital Communications Transformed

Cumulo9 is proud to support the Federation of Motoring Clubs in New Zealand. As the country's leading provider of digital communications, we're here to help your club connect better with its members.



Visit our website www.cumulo9.com to learn more, and if you're an FOMC member, email us at support@cumulo9.com for a **special members-only price** on our campaign Email system — complete with a free trial, template, and training to get you started! Advise that you are an FoMC Member Club.



Rothbury Insurance Brokers are delighted to continue supporting the New Zealand Federation of Motoring Clubs Inc by providing ongoing Insurance Services.

For more information, contact michael.anderson@fomc.nz