

## **Presidents Report: NZ FoMC 28th AGM, 26 June 2023 (Wellington Vintage Car Club)**

Good afternoon, everyone and thank you for the opportunity to present my final report. It seems like a long year, but it's actually been shorter than usual as we are still catching up from the COVID era when AGM was late.

It's been a busy period where we have dealt with a number of issues. We are heading back to our usual timing for AGM's. Next year we are due to have a South Island AGM, because it has been a few years since we have been in Christchurch.

Worldwide, we are seeing a real surge in the interest in all forms of classic and vintage motoring, historic racing, motorcycles, commercial and military vehicles, and large numbers of people attending events. There have been way more events, shows and amazing vehicles attending and our Federation have seen an increase in the number of member clubs and large numbers of vehicles being restored or having work done as interest increases. Most restoration shops are flat stick.

New Zealand craftsmen and woman have an enviable world reputation for quality innovative work, and we have to keep our attention on this, because without keeping our attention on it, we are going to lose those vital skills in our economy. That is one of the things I'm sure our survey will show up.

Last year coming out of COVID, we noted how much our clubs value and appreciated the guidelines we provided through our updates, etc. over the last 2 years.

This year our focus has been on trying to complete more projects that were disrupted over time, including the Historic and Classic Vehicle Survey project. Now, as you heard this morning, we are on the point of requesting clubs to take part to encourage their members to fill in the surveys. A huge thank you to Michael Anderson, Garry Jackson and Chris Dyer for getting so much work done and prepare probably the most important project that the Federation will ever undertake. It will inform all future negotiations with Government ministers and its agencies. A sincere thank you also to the many clubs who put their hands in their pockets and some very generous individuals to support us, as they see how important this work is for our future.

Another large piece of work which will be important in all of our clubs futures is the Incorporated Societies Act. After 114 years, it is hardly surprising that it is a bit of a refresh for us all. Can I sincerely thank Tony Bartlett and Chris Butler for their huge work in guiding us all through the coming process and for David Raven in his work on the financial aspects. All clubs will have an opportunity to get up to speed on these matters.

The future is what we must focus on. We have a strong history. The Federation is 30 years old next year and should work out how to celebrate that too. It is also great to welcome back Carl Peterson. He was involved in setting up the very first meeting in Taupo which led to the Federation in 1994.

Succession is important. We are getting grey. We are not seeing many women in the room. I'll leave it with you. We need to see new faces around the exec table in the coming years.

We also need to think carefully about how we treat those with new technology. Not just EV's, we'll have fuel cell cars over the coming few years. We need to think about how we will incorporate those folk. Before you know it, there will an EV club or a TESLA club, or BYD club. There will be a whole bunch of new technologies and new ideas. We wouldn't turn away a steam car if it turned up. We should not discriminate against EV's. After all, in the early part of the 1900's there were more electric cars in the US than petrol cars. All those enthusiasts have something to add to us.

Refreshment and succession plans are vital. After seven years, I'm stepping down as President and I am delighted that Garry Jackson has agreed to take on the position. One of the reasons is for that we've discovered in the review of the constitution, we have a four year maximum. Over the past seven years we've built on what the previous president Malcolm Lumsden and then secretary Roy Hughes, with more engagement with Government and authorities, and a complete modernisation and upgrade of all our systems.

I want to especially thank our secretary, Chris Butler. Along with the huge work he continues to do in making improvements and developing new ways of doing things, also the technical expertise he brings which gets us to do things like guest speakers in from the US to talk to us in such an engaging way on topics that we wouldn't be able to get if we were looking just at NZ, because we wouldn't be able to get that level of expertise, as there just isn't anyone who knows this stuff. Those are the sorts of things we can look forward in the future too.

This use of technology and our focus on doing things in a more efficient way has saved a lot of cost for our member clubs. Our treasurer continues to excellently manage our finances and keep your clubs' costs to a minimum.

Thanks also to exec member Murray Maclean who has look after all aspects of the Motorcycle sector. We are in very good hands.

As I said earlier, quite a lot of my effort over the last couple of years has been in discussion with NZTA on the issue of extended periods for WoF's and CoF's for our vehicles. Progress is finally being made. However, it is frustratingly and annoying slow. There is nothing new in that. I remember having a fight over black and silver number plates when I was a Minister. Some of you will remember this. Today we have new cars with black and silver number plates. They were "absolutely dangerous and should be got rid" of according to the officials. I simply manoeuvred them into a corner where I said that if they are absolutely dangerous and should be replaced with every vehicle re-entering the fleet having a black and white plate, surely we should be recalling all the black and silver plates and giving those owners a new black on white plate because obviously they are safer. There was a quick retraction for some reason.

Finally, might I say that it has been a privilege getting so many of the marvellous people who fill our world and the terrific array of vehicles that we have in NZ. We are second to none in the world in the number of classic and historic, veteran and vintage vehicles that we have in our country, motorcycles, cars, commercial vehicles, etc. on a per capita basis compared to anywhere else in the world.

So thank you all – we make progress. The great thing for me personally, the Federation has made a lot of inroads into relevance with Government Agencies and Ministers. We are now regarded as the Go-To because we are relevant for all the aspects of our sector in NZ.

We can very proud of what has been achieved in the past decade or so. Roy & Malcolm, Chris & my predecessors did a huge amount to lift us up, to generate new clubs, to help us grow. In the last few years, we have had a 20-25% growth simply because we keep doing what we are doing and you folk keep doing with your members out there. Well done!

**(Hon.) Harry Duynhoven, President FoMC**