



Protecting our heritage into the future

President's Report

Federation of Motoring Clubs AGM, May 26, 2024

Thank you for this opportunity, and for new experience that the last year has been for me.

What a year!

And it hasn't even been a year, just 11 months since our 2023 AGM, as a result of our decision to get the AGM back to the timing specified in our Constitution, after years of forced delays due to covid and other factors.

As I reflect on the "year", my overwhelming feeling on a personal level is that it's been a year of huge learning. Yes, we've achieved many significant highlights, but the over-riding factor for me has been learning the ways and culture of the Federation, treading water in the deep end but with great support from the Executive team around me. I'm the first to recognise and acknowledge that some of my demands, and the pace I try to drive at, probably caught some by surprise but that's who I am. I'm very driven by the scale and the opportunities ahead for the Federation, and in the challenging and changing times we live in, I believe that standing still is actually going backwards. More about those challenges and opportunities soon.

As I look back on the past year, my opening thoughts and comments gravitate immediately and directly to the Federation's ground-breaking NZ Historic and Classic Vehicle Research Survey. Work on the Survey actually commenced back in 2022 and early 2023 as the project was scoped, designed and funding support initiated through Project Director Michael Anderson's great efforts, but it all came together in the past twelve months. This included the final funding, the field work design and 15000 interviews, the challenging data compilations, analysis and interpretation by one of NZ's leading agencies, and two separate levels of result reports, the Preliminary Report in September 2023 and the Final Report in February 2024.

Through all of this we all became experts in "research speak", we produced artwork and words for news releases and summary reports, we communicated with a huge media network, and we made special effort to ensure that Government ministers were briefed as they took up their new portfolios after the September elections, including Prime Minister Chris Luxon after his social media post with his Riley Elf.

I don't think that we're overcalling the Survey when we describe it as a ground-breaker for the Federation itself and for the whole of the sectors we represent, not just our direct member clubs. The scale of the research, and the magnitude of the key outcomes and

insights, set us up for a wonderful and far stronger future if we have the courage to grasp that challenge and if we all play our collective parts to do it.

From the deep end of the Presidential pool, we moved straight from the early Survey results to start thinking and talking about the future of the Federation itself, in a two-day workshop at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington in November.

As you've seen and participated in the Strengthening our Future workshop today, I think we've got a pretty good early plan, helped by the contributions you have all given us today. I'm personally and overwhelmingly committed to get these critical strategic action plans in place and starting to deliver what we need to do before this time next year. No reasons why not, no excuses, and no stone left unturned. I think it's safe to say that the next twelve months will be rather busy, and our Executive will tighten our seat belts, fuel up with high octane, and put the right foot down!

Concurrent with the Survey and our Brentwood discussions and the flow on work from that, we committed ourselves to pushing (perhaps "re-igniting" would be a better word) the warrant of fitness workstream with Government and NZTA. As you've heard earlier in this AGM we have totally revamped our approach, now calling for a blanket 12 month WOF term for all vehicles 40 years and over, and no WOF requirements at all for veteran vehicles 1919 and earlier. We met with Minister Simeon Brown in a productive and positive meeting on May 15, the detailed 15-page Proposal Paper was submitted to the Director of Land Transport of the NZTA a few days later, and we have just been advised of a meeting with the Director in mid-June.

Underpinning all of the foregoing, my personal mindset is very much on the future, and the world we live in and enjoy with our beloved vehicles. Times are changing, more rapidly than ever before, taking us on a journey that is more complex, more challenging and in many ways more complicated. At the same time the dynamics of the Federation are also changing: none of us are getting any younger, costs continue to spiral, new classics are changing the operating dynamics in some of our clubs and beyond, and high profile commercial auto events are growing and taking some of the high ground from our traditional / enthusiast / volunteer driven activities. All I know is that tomorrow will be more demanding and challenging than yesterday, and none of us can turn the clock back.

Despite those challenges, I see the year ahead positively and optimistically, based on all the points I have mentioned: the NZ Historic and Classic Vehicle Survey and the foothold it gives us; our early Brentwood thinking and all the great input you've given us today to strengthen the Federation; and a deep-down confidence (hopefully not mis-placed) that we have an interested and supportive Government.

But there's something else. Beyond all those factors and challenges that I have touched on, I sleep easy knowing that what we all do in our various roles within the Federation and in our clubs is **relevant**. From the Survey, we've identified the huge contribution we make, a \$16.5 Billion footprint; over and above that substantial economic and social impact, the Survey identified and quantified in a number of ways the love, the passion, and the energy that characterise owners of Historic and Classic Vehicles; and perhaps even more powerful, we've quantified the overwhelming support, encouragement and interest we have from the NZ public at large; in our vehicles, in what we do as clubs, and in the substantial heritage and historic values that we represent. **We are relevant!**

It's going to be a great journey in the year ahead!

And as we move forward, let me close with sincere thanks to my fellow Executive Committee members and advisers, and special appreciation to our two colleagues who have decided to retire from the Executive at this time, Peter Thompson and Tony Bartlett. Both have given great service over many years and we recognise and thank you for your contribution to the Federation and your expertise. And as we farewell Peter and Tony, we warmly welcome Bruce Lewis to the team.

To you all here at this year's AGM, and those who are not with us today, my sincere thanks and best wishes to you all.

Garry Jackson
President
NZ Federation of Motoring Clubs Inc
May 26, 2024.