



NORTH ISLAND MODEL A FORD CLUB INC NEW ZEALAND

Model A Torque

November 2025

Issue No: 2025/10

Chapter Members of



Welcome to the North Island Model A Ford Club Inc.

The purpose of our club is to enjoy, restore, preserve and protect the Model A Ford automobile and to foster a spirit of good fellowship and family participation through the use of the Model A Ford.

Membership is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the Model A Ford. Ownership is not a prerequisite.

Website: www.modelafordclub.co.nz

Club Events



DECEMBER

Wed 3rd

Tech Night – Paul Smith’s home, 80a Hyland Pl, Waiuku 6.00pm. Discuss anything Model A and view Paul’s shed collection of Model A memorabilia.

Sun 7th

Club Christmas Party Cornwall Park – 10am – 2pm. A fun day and final get-together before the festive season. Bring along the grandchildren as Santa is coming. Further details for this great day can be viewed on page 4.

JANUARY 2026

Fri 16th – Sun 18th

Kumeu Classic Car & Hot Rod Show. Further details to come. View Page 15.

Wed 21st

Mangere Beach BBQ 5pm onwards Mangere Beach Reserve. This has been a very popular get-together as it seems to kick off the New Year and allows us to relax a little after all that Christmas hype. Details page 15.

Sat 24th

Wings n Wheels Thames. 10am – 3pm at Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield. Page 9.

FEBRUARY

Sun 8th

Ellerslie Car Show and Intermarque Concours D’Elegance. 10am – 4pm at the Ellerslie Racecourse organised by the Auckland Mustang Owners Club. Page 16.

Sun 22nd

Kumeu Model A Run – Mark Corbett. Details to come.

NON-CLUB EVENTS – These may be of interest to some members

7th Feb 2026

East Coast Rally VCC event

28 Feb – 1st Mar 2026

Highland Fling Te Awamutu, Waikato

15-21st Mar

Vero International Festival of Historic Motoring Nelson – VCC event

25th – 29th Mar

Whangamata Beach Hop

18th April

Warbirds at Ardmore

30 – 31st May

Irishman’s Rally, Fairlie, Canterbury

Print this page off for reminders and stick to your fridge!

Do not forget to visit the Club Website, click on the Events Calendar. If you are unable to use the website and have questions a committee member would be only too willing to assist. Give them a call!!

Cover Photo: Tony and Victor Yukich, Model A Fordor



Committee Report



Hi Model A folk.

This past month has been very busy for club members with a display at Birkenhead Vintage Festival and the successful Inter-club Hubley Challenge held in Taupo. Andrew Costello, our Events Co-Ordinator has been very busy trying to keep the calendar full with various events for our members to attend and enjoy. The committee works hard to provide events that will appeal to the wider members of our club and we look forward to your support and meeting with you. View our Club Events and put a ring around the event that appeals to you. We look forward to meeting with you and sharing our common interest, the Model A. With Christmas just a few weeks away the hectic season begins. Club members Ralph and Jenny Levinson are kicking the festivities off with the Club's annual **Christmas in the Park**. Ask your grandchildren to help you dress up those cars and bring them along to enjoy their work and the day – you may win a prize for the best dressed car. This is a very relaxing day and we encourage everyone to bring their grandchildren. I hear Santa is coming too! Looking forward to seeing you there.

Karen Thomas
NIMAFC Committee.

Editor's Comment



Hello to all our Model A Friends

Welcome back to another month of happy Model A motoring events. I have attended two events this month, the Birkenhead Art Deco Vintage carnival and the Inter-club Hubley weekend in Taupo. It was exciting to witness the interest created by these popular cars and to hear the stories of various individuals who had parents or grandparents who used to own "one of these cars". If you have any old photos or stories that you wish to share with other club members, be sure to send them through to me. News for publication must be received by the **20th of the month**. I intend to bring the distribution of the club newsletter to the beginning of the month. This will incorporate all activities planned for that month in detail. An upcoming event will hopefully be advertised in the newsletter approx. 3 times (pending notification of that event) however the detail in that article will vary monthly pending the availability of any new instructions for that event. You will appreciate it does take time for an event to be organised fully. Tech night details will be emailed to members due to the complexities of these evenings. Members who are completing write-ups for events need to send the information through to me as soon as possible but I am sure we can make this work. Let's go with the news – some may call it 'gossip' but reality is that is what makes the world go round. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Karen Thomas, Editor
Email: nimafc.editor@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK



Sunday, 7 December 2025



10.00AM – 2.00PM (arrive/depart as you wish)

If seriously wet, we will postpone to Sunday 14 December

- Where:** Cornwall Park, Greenlane in our usual spot.
- Directions:** From Greenlane West (opposite Puriri Drive), turn into Cornwall Park (Pohutukawa Drive), then right at the first roundabout into the carpark (adjacent to the Cherry Tree Grove).
- Bring:** Model A or modern, picnic lunch + drinks, chairs, sun umbrella (optional), sunscreen, children/grandchildren/family. Wear something Christmassy – hat, socks, whatever! Feel free to decorate your Model A. Prizes!
- Quiz:** Ralph's annual Club Mastermind Quiz. This year, anyone can win – it's all multichoice! Bring a pen. More prizes!
- Santa:** Yes, Santa is coming! If you're bringing children (we hope you will), please bring a small wrapped gift for each child, clearly showing their name. And ... all adults at Christmas in the Park will receive a gift from Santa.
- Hey Kids!** Fun competition with prizes! Still working on this. Ideas welcome.
- Enquiries:** Ralph & Jenny Levinson
021 1727 637 (Ralph)
027 2848 666 (Jenny)

COME ALONG AND JOIN US FOR THE FINAL CLUB EVENT OF THE YEAR





We welcome another 6 new members to our club. We look forward to meeting with you at one of the many club runs, events or tech nights that are held. If you have any questions, please be sure to make contact with us

Members Name	Town	Model A
Kevin Clemens	Lower Hutt	1930 Tudor
Bruce Urquhart	Auckland	1930 Deluxe Fordor
Simon Clayton	Wellington	1928 Tudor
David Harrold	Coatesville	1929 Roadster Pickup & 1929 Phaeton
Oliver Midgley	Napier	1930 Sport Coupe
Roger Morrison	Orewa	1930 Roadster

BIRKENHEAD VILLAGE HERITAGE FESTIVAL – Saturday 25 October

With 5 Model A's and 1 brass Model T parked amongst the trees and market stalls outside the library we were kept busy with the many people flocking to look at these great cars. The crowds were larger and appeared to stay longer than other years, perhaps because of the addition of vintage market stalls and brilliant weather. The generous but watchful Model A and T owners allowed many children and adults to sit in the cars posing for innumerable photos. Vigorous blowing of klaxon horns led to some battery isolators being switched off though. There was a lot of interest and many came away well-educated on the Model A. The very original Chev Club bus was kept busy all day taking passengers on an endless loop around the shopping centre. Thanks to those who came and helped make this a good day, especially Jim Corbett who travelled from Kumeu.

The organisers appreciate our attendance year after year and have asked if we could supply cars for the Christmas Parade on Sunday 14 December, 11am – 12pm. If you can help out on this day please contact Rob Brown 0274 745 726 so he can organise this.

Supplied by Rob Brown



RACE4LIFE – Hampton Downs – 30 September 2025

Thank you to John & Ngaire Cheale for organising this annual event at the Hampton Downs Racetrack and to the members who participated on this very rewarding day. The Race4Life Trust is an incredible not-for-profit organisation dedicated to fulfilling the wish lists of palliative care patients (18+). They are a volunteer based Trust with all monies raised going directly to the Wish Service and their Track Day events for palliative care patients. John Cheale has been supporting this event for many years and we appreciate his input into raising the spirits and well-being of patients.

Patients on palliative care are invited to this day to enjoy a ride in all types of cars and motorcycles etc. on a country road. Also available are helicopter rides, ambulance and large trucks. In the afternoon club members were able to take the invited people for a ride in their Model As on the racetrack along with other sporty cars i.e. Ferraris, Porsche and Lamborgini's. Breakfast and Lunch was provided and the weather was fantastic.

Later in the afternoon they provided race cars for the volunteers and I was able to ride in a V8 Ute. It was a real buzz for me doing almost 200km's/hour on the straight. Thank you again to John Cheale for your support. I am looking forward to next year's event.

Supplied by Andrew Costello



John Cheale announcing the Model A event



Selection of Model A cars

SWAP MEET – SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER at Bruce Stratton's Workshop

Thank you to all those who attended the club swap meet. We understand a lot of good buys were made and a good day was had by all. Enjoy the photos supplied by Martin Rees.



ANNUAL INTER-CLUB HUBLEY CHALLENGE, TAUPO – 7 – 9 November

Well.....what a weekend. A great time was had by all who converged on Taupo to race their hubley on the Bruce Stratton International Hubley track. The event started with a Friday night dinner at Finn's Bar and Restaurant. This was a very sociable evening with dinner and drinks and plenty of chatter. The food was excellent with most enjoying the fish and chip special. Saturday began with a great breakfast at Cafe Lacus. Once again an excellent meal with a plate of bacon and eggs to begin our busy day. After that most of the men headed off for a raid of the Taupo VCC parts shed where some of us found and brought treasures. Then a 2-hour boat cruise on board the Ernest Kemp on the wonderful Lake Taupo.



Steve Driver, David Mossman, Sonja & David Heilbron, Stuart Jordan with Maori Rock Carving in background

The weather was perfect for cruising as well as being able to view the world famous Maori Rock Carvings. Tea coffee and some biscuits were provided. Thank you to those club members who provided the extra baking for us to nibble on. After disembarking we headed to the Cosmopolitan Club where we began to set-up the hubley track for racing.



Club members boarding the Ernest Kemp

About the Ernest Kemp replica Steam Boat Lake Taupo

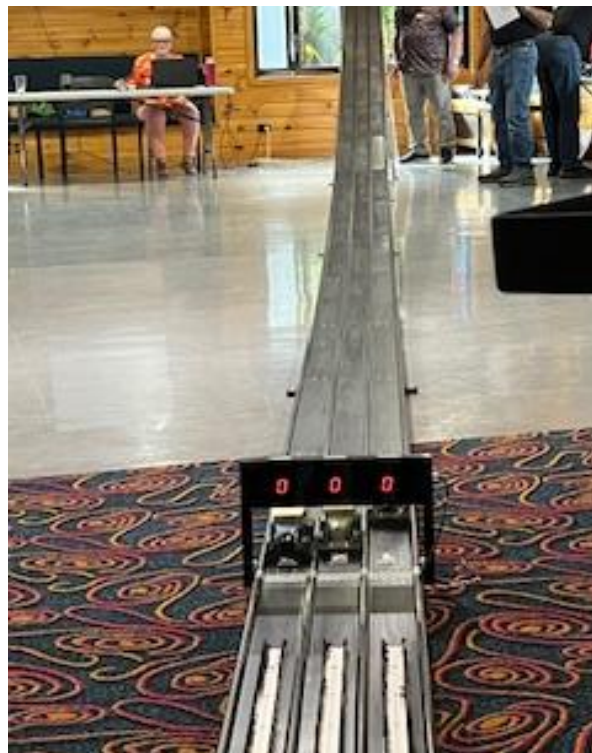
On 7 December 1982, the Ernest Kemp felt the fresh water on her hull in her new home, Lake Taupo. She is 14.5m long (47ft), weighs just over 20 tonnes, and has a draft of one metre (3ft). The upper wooden superstructure is built from NZ native Kauri timber. The steering wheel was originally one of two winding reels mounted on a horse-drawn hose reel used by the New Zealand Fire Brigade, while the steam whistle came from a New Zealand bush steam locomotive engine that operated hauling logs years ago in the Central North Island.

Enjoy this authentic kiwi cruise experience when next visiting Taupo. Well worth your time.

The real fun started when 30 treasured Hubley racing cars were unboxed and put on the racing table for scrutineering and registration for the challenge of racing against others. By 4.30pm the crowd had amassed to watch the Hawkes Bay / Auckland challenge get underway. The racing unfolded and the cheering began for their favourite cars. Last year Hawkes Bay took home the trophy. This year Auckland managed to win the trophy with Bruce Stratton being overall winner, Steve Driver 2nd and Sonja Heilbron 3rd. Sonja won the prize for the fastest lady. After racing we sent the top 9 cars down the track to race against each other. Positions actually changed – the top 3 cars became Sonja Heilbron 1st, Bruce 2nd and Steve 3rd. All others finished in the same order as the racing results. Following racing we all enjoyed a great buffet meal.

This buffet meal, put on by the Cosmopolitan Club was very tasty and enjoyed by all. The meal was a pleasant ending to a great weekend with everyone heading back to their accommodation for a well-earned night's sleep. Sunday morning, we all gathered for breakfast at Tony and Pam Mannington's house where they had put on a great breakfast of cereal, yoghurt, eggs, bacon butties etc. I could let the cat out of the bag and let you in on Pam's secret recipe for the yummy bacon butties but then it would no longer be a secret. Great hospitality shown and many thanks to Tony and Pam. Thanks also to all organisers of this great weekend Andrew and Marlene Costello, Pam and Tony Mannington and head chefs Wade and Tricia.

Supplied by David Heilbron



RESULTS FROM NIMAFc / HAWKES BAY INTERCLUB HUBLEY CHAMPIONSHIP 2025 – Pinewood Derby

NAME	CAR NAME	CAR NUMBER	OVERALL PLACE	AVERAGE TIME
Bruce Stratton		18	1	3.6769
Steve Driver	Blackjack	1	2	3.6908
Sonja Heilbron		17	3	3.7073
Peter McCool		24	4	3.7253
Jan Hart		26	5	3.7372
Rae Emus		21	6	3.7407
Steve Driver	Ethel	9	7	3.7509
Marlene Costello	Grace	14	8	3.7754
Terry Hart		27	9	3.7927
Marlene Costello	Lizzie	4	10	3.8067
David Heilbron	Mr Slow	12	11	3.839
Joan Castle		19	12	3.8413
Martin Rees		15	13	3.8473
Neil Malcolm		28	14	3.8637
Andrew Costello	Charlie	5	15	3.891
Leticia Driver	Jack Flash	10	16	3.8992
Kaye Upson	Dancing Queen	11	17	3.9472
Victor Ulrich		16	18	3.9546
Tony Mannington		6	19	3.9581
Hugh Hulse		20	20	3.9595
Pam Mannington		7	21	3.9826
Anne Marie Hulse		13	22	4.0174
Terry Costello		3	23	4.0312
Gavin Harris		23	24	4.2095
Vivienne Harris		25	25	4.2165
Suzanne McCool		22	26	4.2427
Joss Costello	Pearl	2	27	4.2874
Pat Malcolm		29	28	4.3364
Hugh Hulse		30	29	4.5363



Sunshine Report

We have been informed that two of our long term club members are unwell at present; Tom White, Hawkes Bay and Jack Nazer Auckland.

We wish them well in their recovery and send them some cheer from fellow club members. Looking forward to seeing them both up and about again soon.

Make someone smile whenever you can, you never know how much of a difference you could be making in their life at that moment.



Wings & Wheels Thames – Saturday 24 January 2026

This event will be held at the newly named Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield, 395 State Highway 25, Thames from 10.00am – 3.00pm. A day full of entertainment with food stalls and many displays of vintage vehicles, classic trucks, tractors, FMZ bikes, military vehicles, aircraft and classic cars. To enable the committee to ascertain the interest in attending this great day and displaying your car please let Terry Costello know so we can organise the day accordingly.

If you are displaying your car there will be a charge of \$10 per vehicle with cars on the field by 9.30am to meet permit requirements. More details next month.



TWO TOOTH STEERING BASICS

Simple once known

By Paul Modlin and Mishawaka High School students
Tim Glasco, Bradley Howe and Christian Mestach.

The Ford Model A two tooth steering system is designed to be adjustable to compensate for wear. There are three adjustments to the two tooth steering system that can be made with the steering column in the car. They are: **1. End play in the two tooth sector.** **2. End play in the steering shaft, and 3. proper mesh of the two tooth sector in the worm gear.** The Model A Ford Service Manual recommends "When it is necessary to make one of these adjustments, the other two adjustments should also be checked". Make all adjustments in the order listed above.

Tools: **Standard Screwdriver**
 Offset Screwdriver

Needle Nose Pliers
5/8 Wrench



Prior to Inspection and Adjustment

Jack up the front of the vehicle, place the car on jack stands and block the rear wheels.



Initial Inspection For Problems

Inspection For: End play in the steering shaft

To Detect: Push and pull on the steering wheel and feel for movement.

WORM GEAR —

Inspection For: Proper mesh of the two tooth sector in the worm gear

To Detect: Grip the pitman arm and rotate it back and forth, checking for play before it engages.

SECTOR —

(TWO TOOTH)

Inspection For: End play in the two tooth sector

To Detect: Push and pull on pitman arm and feel for movement.

— STEERING SHAFT

— PITMAN ARM

1. End Play in Two Tooth Sector

To adjust: Loosen the lock nut and with an offset screw driver, tighten the Sector Thrust Screw.

To inspect: There should be no end play, yet the steering arm should rotate freely. Repeat the adjustment if necessary.

Remember to: Tighten the lock nut on the thrust screw when finished.

2. End Play in Steering Shaft

Setup: Turn the steering wheel to either extreme and back 1/8 of a turn. Loosen housing clamp bolt.

To Adjust: Loosen the lock nut, and turn the worm adjusting screw clockwise until tight; back off 1/6 of a turn. Retighten lock nut.

To inspect: Grip the steering wheel; push and pull to check for movement. **Note:** the steering wheel needs to rotate freely with no stiffness.

Remember to:

Tighten clamp housing bolt and worm adjusting lock nut when

3. Proper Mesh of the Two Tooth Sector in Worm Gear

Before adjusting:

Loosen Eccentric Stud Nut 1/2 turn

Loosen Cover Nuts 1/4 turn.

To adjust: Turn the Eccentric Adjusting Sleeve slightly clockwise.

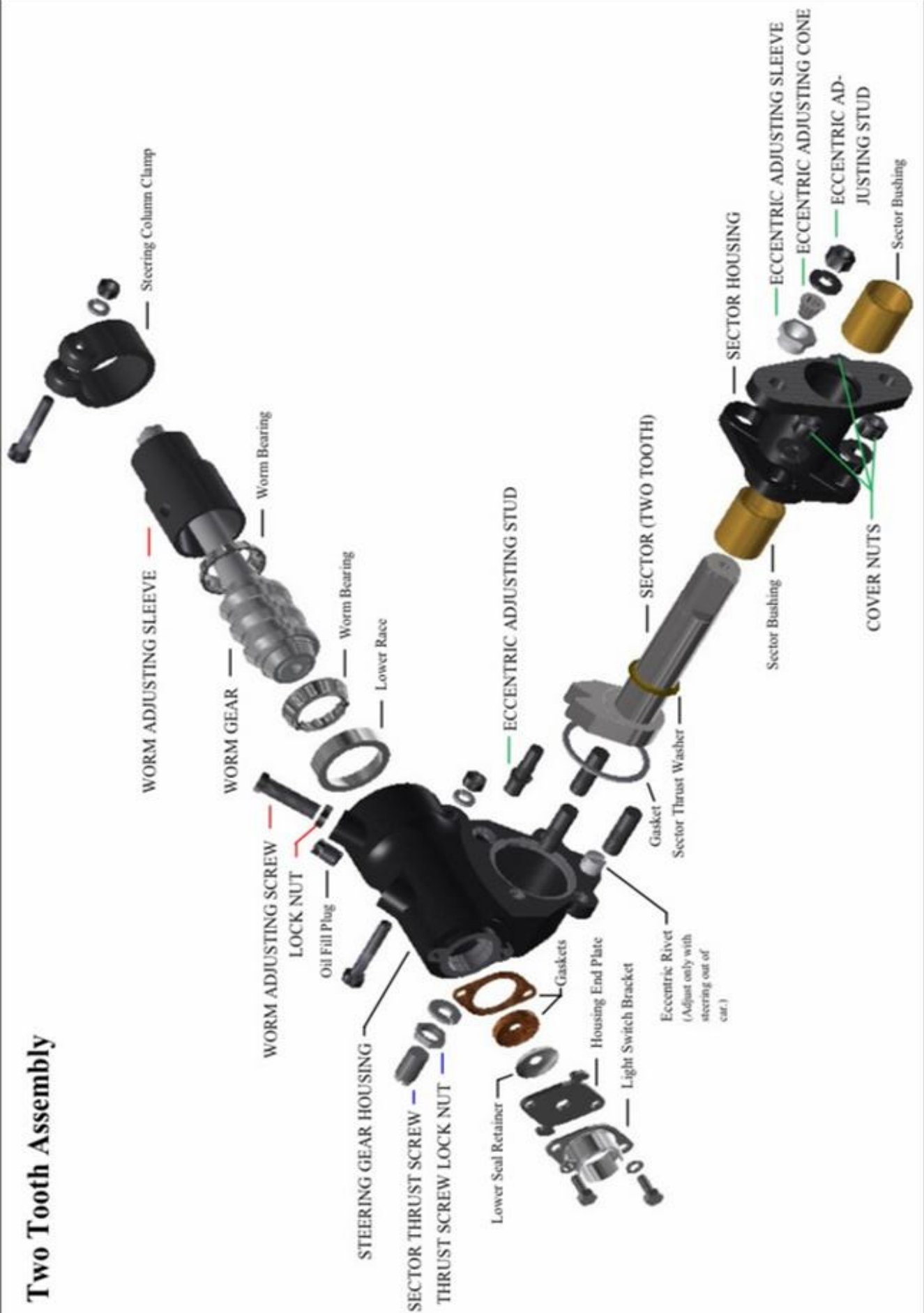
To inspect: Grip and rotate the pitman arm. There should be no loss of motion before engaging. Next, turn the steering wheel from extreme to extreme position there should be no binding. Repeat the adjustment if

IMPORTANT:

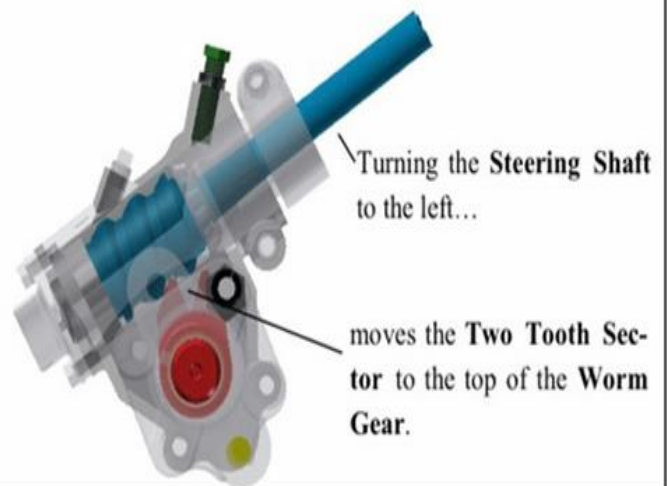
When finished, tighten the Eccentric Stud Nut first, before tight-

Final Inspection: Attach the drag link, and turn the steering wheel from one extreme to the other. If all feels well, remove the car from the jack stands.

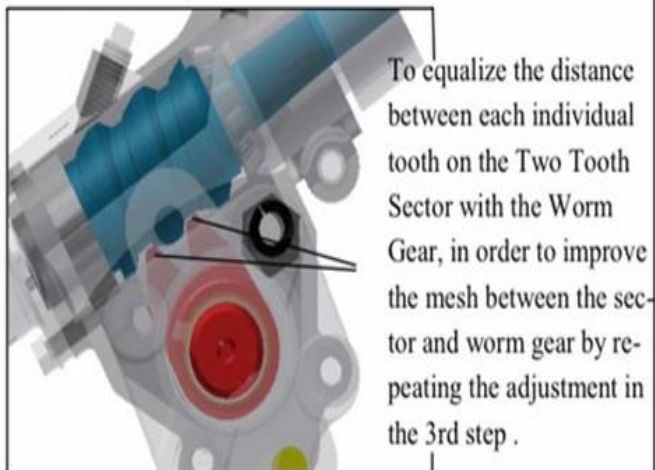
Two Tooth Assembly



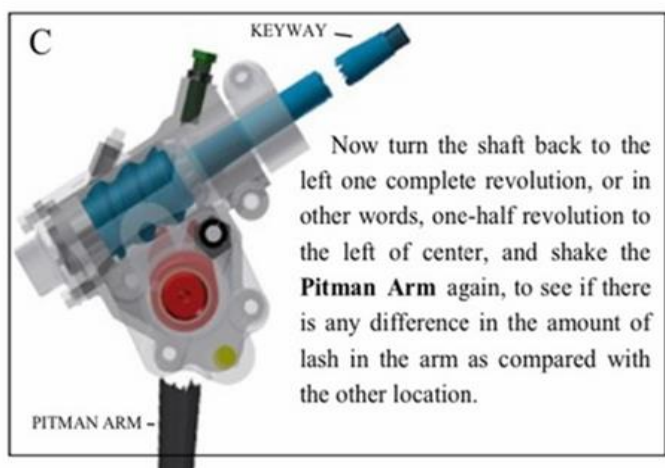
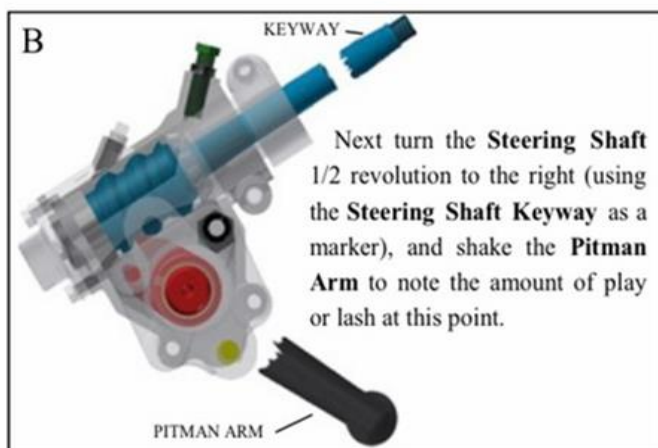
Things to Know:



Objective:



Setup:



Look out next month 'Centralising the Sector to the Worm'.

Model a fashion shows should be as enjoyable for men, as they are for women. It is really more of an accomplishment to put a man's outfit together than it is a women's as the suits, shorts and accessories as well, are harder to find.

Three styles to look for are illustrated on this page. The suits were the double breasted jackets in three variations. The six button, with natural shoulders, very slightly fitted natural waistline and flap pockets; the four button with longer lapels, with flap or welt pockets and; the six button, English style in which the lapel is broader and longer, the armholes well fitted and the shoulders slightly squared. The single breasted notch lapel jacket is a two button type with flap pockets or in the more fitted type suit the welt pocket is smarter. Colours were predominantly blues and greys, with or without pinstripes, with brown remaining popular also.



In sport styles, the belted jackets were worn with odd knickers of the same colour, but different patterns. However, the straight backed, notch lapel style were still worn. The golf hose should be plain or inconspicuous. The pullover sweater with V-neck is good with this in plain colours of soft wool.

Flannel slacks in grey or biscuit colours were more popular than white, though these were still widely worn, either striped or plain. Jackets of dark blue, dark brown, grey green, grey or bright blue make a good combination.

Ties were found in plain colours, small geometrical designs, diagonal stripes and small patterns in a variety of colours.

Top coats were double breasted in winter, but the fly-front, peak lapel were favoured for the spring and fall. Camel hair, black or dark blue were the predominate colours.

Shoes were Oxfords with straight tips, with either a perforated or a smooth toe cap. These were found mostly in black. The combination of tan or black calf and white were popular for sports wear.

Hats were Fedora, snap brim, either welted edge or plain, straw sailor, brown straw braid, Optimo shaped Panama's, Derby and the Homburg. Visor caps were worn for sport or casual wear.

KUMEU CLASSIC CAR AND HOT ROD FESTIVAL – 16 – 18 January 2026



The Kumeu Classic Car & Hot Rod Show 2026 is set to return bigger, bolder, and brighter than ever. This is a celebration of horsepower, craftsmanship, and community spirit that has long stood as a highlight on every car enthusiast's calendar. For decades this iconic event has drawn gearheads from across New Zealand and beyond — uniting classic car lovers, builders, and families for a weekend of nostalgia, innovation, and good old-fashioned Kiwi camaraderie. The NIMAFC will have their tent open with a display of Model As on Saturday only. Come along and wander through the many vehicles on display and visit the markets and stalls. If you are interested in showing your Model A contact Terry Costello.

MANGERE BEACH BBQ – Wednesday 21 January 2026 - 5.00pm onwards

Come along and join fellow club members at the Mangere Beach BBQ. This annual event is now being held at Mangere Beach, which is more sheltered from the prevailing SW winds, on the southern side of the Onehunga Harbour (not Onehunga Beach). This area does have easy motorway access.

The Club traditionally has always had a very good turnout at this event so come along and join us – share your Christmas stories or your New Year wishes. Please bring your own picnic dinner plus choice of sausages/steak to cook on Club BBQ. Also supply your own drinks, folding chair, table, cutlery and drinking vessel and soak up the atmosphere of a summer evening in the fresh air.

Where: Mangere Beach peninsula that has the Mangere Beach Boating Club building and the Mangere Beach boat launching ramp Kiwi Esplanade Road. Lots of sealed parking, trees and picnic tables set in a grassy reserve. For further information contact Andrew Costello 021 943 063 or view the club website for detailed driving instructions.



ELLERSLIE CAR SHOW – Sunday 08 February 2026 - 10.00am – 4pm

Don't forget to put a ring around this date, a great day for car enthusiasts at the Ellerslie Racecourse. Meander in the sun and view the vast selection of vintage, classic and modern vehicles on display. Keep an eye out for further details re club participation at this event. We intend to have a 'themed' display of club vehicles creating the movie scene 'Bonnie & Clyde'. If there are any members who wish to work with me in creating this display for the club please contact Karen, Editor for further details. Watch this space.



2026 MAFCA NATIONAL CONVENTION – PENDALTON, OREGON – May 31 – June 7

Make plans to attend the 2026 MAFCA National Convention hosted by the Blue Mountain As in beautiful Pendleton, Oregon! Every alternate year the National Model A Ford Convention is held in America and 2026 is their year. Consider attending one of these events as you won't regret it. More information to be added to this event as it becomes available. Please watch the video on YouTube about this fabulous upcoming event.

MODEL A FORD CLUB OF AMERICA NATIONAL TOUR – 13 – 18 June 2027

The Model A Ford Club of Colorado is pleased to announce the 2027 MAFCA National Tour is coming to Colourful Colorado in the Summer of 2027! This will be a Hub and Spoke Tour out of the city of Durango, Colorado. Six days of activities are planned and include a Welcome Party, 3 or 4 driving tour days, a day to ride the Durango & Silverton railroad, a day for car games, a Model A car display with a free ice cream social, Hubley Derby, and a Farewell Banquet. This tour is being run by the Model A Ford Club of Colorado.

Having experienced these tours I can guarantee you will have a good time. Put a ring around the date, you do have time to save for this adventure.



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS



There is no charge for members advertising in this newsletter. Items will be advertised 3 times unless renewed or cancelled with the Editor.

1928 Truck with Kwila deck. Registration is on hold and no current WOF but passed last time. Runs well and new starter fitted. \$22,000. Contact Clive O'Halloran at clive.o@xtra.co.nz

1929 Pickup excellent condition \$42,000. Phone Terry Costello 0274920642 or email tcmodelanz@gmail.com



Wanted Model A Engine in good running order. Please call/text Shane on 027 296 2965.

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or email gregstokes1932@gmail.com - North West Auckland

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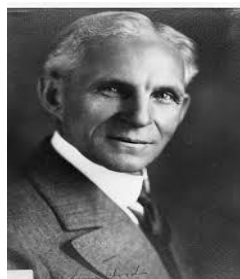
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Please send articles/reports/photos to the Editor by 20th of the month (or earlier if you can) in Microsoft Word or directly into an email. Editor will format to publish in Newsletter.

Thank you to all contributors to this newsletter



The last words are from the man himself.



You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do.

Henry Ford



North Island Model A Ford Club Inc.

Website: www.modelafordclub.co.nz



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