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15th Annual

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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



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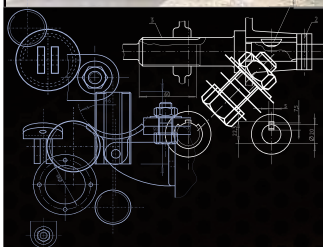
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Welcome to

15th Annual

AMERICARNA

CELEBRATING USA CULTURE 2022

New Zealand



Photo by
Ricky Malcolm



IAN LIND
TRUST CHAIRMAN



LARRY BARNETT
BDM, CLASSIC COVER INSURANCE
NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR

Taranaki Vehicle Events Trust [TVET] welcomes you to Americarna 2023.

It has been a nervous 18 months wait but Americarna 2023 is happening.

The world of travel has changed immensely but it has provided huge opportunities and more appreciation for our own piece of paradise.

This year we have a bigger focus on encouraging Kiwis to embrace travel whether you are a car owner, or a car enthusiast, the message is "COME TO TARANAKI AND BE PART OF AMERICARNA 2023" We want our local residents to encourage their out of town friends and family to come and stay for the four days and enjoy.

Classic Cover Insurance combined with Venture Taranaki, TOI Foundation, Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET), and many other sponsors, help us to create what has become an annual tradition for our community. Their contribution enables us to provide the essential services and the free children activities for all on the Saturday.

TVET extends a huge thank you for

the incredible support of vehicle entrants. We know it's great to get the car out for a drive but the fact that you are also prepared to share your pride and joy by cruising and park up in a display, enables us to bring Americarna to Taranaki doorsteps around our great Mt Taranaki Mouna.

We thank Inglewood, Stratford, Ōpunakē, Waitara and Hāwera who help to bring the Americarna enthusiasm and atmosphere out in the community.

JR, Caitlin and the management team have endured a challenging 18 months of planning coupled with uncertainty, wanting to commit but on a knife edge of risks associated with potential lockdown. Well done on navigating through this frustrating and at times incredible task.

On behalf of Taranaki Events Trust Committee; Mark Robson, Marilyn Davies, Tony Ewens, Yvette Preston we are extremely proud to present Americana 2023.

Drive safely and enjoy the views of Taranaki.

Welcome to Classic Cover Americarna 2023! The Classic Cover Insurance team are excited to be back once again this year as the naming right sponsor.

How great is it to be in the beautiful Taranaki region, to celebrate the best of American vehicles in NZ! We look forward to this week every year and absolutely love celebrating everything the Classic Cover Americarna stands for. You just can't beat the strong support from the community, the efforts from the fantastic entrants, and the seamless organisation that make this one of the best car events in the calendar each year.

A big thank you to John Rae, Caitlin and the TVET Board for all the behind the scenes work that goes into putting on such a

successful event. But also to the other sponsors, volunteers, the Taranaki community and all of the local businesses that make this event possible.

Classic Cover are the original specialist vehicle insurers since 1983. We're the insurance experts who love cars just as much as you. We offer cover for classic cars, hot rods, muscle cars, modified vehicles, performance cars, prestige vehicles and motorbikes. If you'd like to find out more, ask your Insurance Broker or head to www.classiccover.co.nz.

We will have our tent set up at the stadium and would love you to come say hi, meet the team and chat about vehicles.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Classic Cover Americarna 2023.



NEIL HOLDOM

MAYOR, NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

Kia ora koutou,

We're thrilled to welcome Americarna back to the streets of the New Plymouth District and Taranaki.

We missed our regular injection of muscle cars with their owners and our residents are excited to be lining the streets, waving their flags, admiring your cars and joining you in celebrating the festival in our beautiful region again.

If you can put the brakes on for a moment, there's plenty to see and do here. Pukekura Park is an unparalleled treat to visit with tunnels of cool greenery and lakes perfectly framing our mouna; cruising by the Govett Brewster Art Gallery/ Len Lye Centre you'll see your car reflected in its mirrored façade, and if you hop out and look inside, you'll discover a world-class selection of artworks and exhibitions. While you're out of the car, our Coastal Walkway hugs the sea for most of its 13.2km and will spoil you with stunning views of our black-sand beaches.

Thanks again for visiting and I trust you will enjoy your time in our Sustainable Lifestyle Capital.



PHIL NIXON

MAYOR, SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT

Welcome to South Taranaki. We are very pleased to have our Americarna visitors back in our District. We hope you enjoy your time here cruising the coast and taking in the sights with the backdrop of the ever-present Maunga Taranaki. Stop and enjoy our small towns and visit the best private museum in New Zealand – Tawhiti Museum or, if you're a lover of all things 'the king', you can't miss KD's Elvis Presley Museum. We hope you enjoy stopping at one of our popular surf beaches at Ōpunakē, the buzz of the market day in Hāwera and one of our many great cafés throughout the district. Thanks for coming to South Taranaki, enjoy your stay and come back again soon!



NEIL VOLZKE

MAYOR, STRATFORD DISTRICT

On behalf of our community, welcome to the Stratford District. After the cancellation of the 2022 event, it's really great to have the Americarna event back in the region in 2023. It will attract even more interest and support than usual. Nothing beats that rumble of a V8 and I am sure large numbers of people will turn out to view the spectacle of the cars in our main street.

For the participants who cruise the regions roads, we know as locals, that the dominating presence of Mt Taranaki and the beauty of the region will make for some great scenic cruising for you. We'll even endeavour to be pothole free to make your journeys more pleasurable!

I encourage visitors to the region find to the time to explore what's on offer in Taranaki and stay on for a few days to enjoy the hospitality, beauty and attractions of the region. Whether you're returning, or this is your first visit here, I am sure you'll have a great time.

My very best wishes to all the participants for a successful event in 2023. Thanks for coming, stay safe, we will see you again soon. Keep cruising and living the dream.



Photo by Ricky Malcolm



CHRIS USSHER

CHAIR, TOI FOUNDATION

Tena Koutou Katoa,

Toi Foundation warmly welcomes you to Americarna 2023. Those returning to the region or visiting for the first time – welcome.

For Taranaki, this event provides a great opportunity and experience for so many people - from car enthusiasts, the hospitality, tourism and accommodation sectors. As the regions most significant funder Toi Foundation is committed to enabling opportunities and collaborating with others to support our communities to build a thriving inclusive and equitable Taranaki. On behalf of the Foundation we hope you enjoy Americarna 2023 and get to experience the many events on offer around our Mouna. We wish you all a memorable experience

Nga mihi

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in Hāwera!

CBD Business Window Displays
Best Dressed Parade - 3.30pm
Mechanical Bull Challenge

Town Square Cnr High & Union Street
Friday 24 February, 2023 • 1.15pm
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KELVIN WRIGHT
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 VENTURE TARANAKI TRUST

Nau mai haere mai, welcome to Taranaki. Here you'll find passionate communities and stunning regional vistas giving life to world-class surf breaks, diverse and vibrant festivals, such as Americarna, and award-winning museums and art galleries, with the iconic Taranaki maunga, a tupuna of our region standing at the heart of it all.

As you traverse around the maunga you'll discover a wave of eateries and bars to fuel your passions, abundant nature including stunning gardens, walkways, rivers, forests, and beaches as far as the eye can see. In-between Americarna's action packed programme, take time to delight in all there is to see, do, eat and drink in our region like no other.

Discover our thriving shopping scene, regional attractions such as boat rides with Chaddy's Charter's, immerse yourself in local history at Tawhiti Museum or cruise down the foreshore or boardwalk to embrace what the Taranaki region has to offer. Taranaki is New Zealand's home of new energy, and as a region we're branching out into new food and fibre opportunities, there's something here for everyone. Enjoy your time in Taranaki, the region like no other, that will leave your mind and body feeling nourished and energised. We hope to see you again soon, ka kite anō.



MARIE PEARCE
 CHAIRPERSON,
 INGLEWOOD FIRST TRUST

Welcome to Inglewood. It's fantastic to be hosting Americarna 2023 and celebrating 15 years of this fabulous event.

Inglewood extends its warmest welcome to all Americarna visitors.

With the support of Taranaki Electricity Trust, Taranaki Civil Construction, New Plymouth District Council and the Inglewood Community, Inglewood First Trust is planning another fantastic Inglewood Street Party on Thursday 23rd February 4pm.

With the fabulous Hamilton based Che Orton Band to entertain us... Fabulous Cars...Fantastic Food, wonderful Inglewood hospitality and our very popular 'Free Kids Zone' the scene is set for another outstanding event.

We hope all our visitors have a truly memorable day and will return to Inglewood again soon.

Happy Cruising.



Photo by
 Ricky Malcolm

DAVID CORNEY AND JUSTINE ALEXANDER'S 1957 Buick Caballero



Three years ago when Whanganui couple David Corney and Justine Alexander put the word out that they'd like to import a mid-1950s Buick Caballero station wagon, they didn't expect to be able to locate one right away. "There were only about 10,000 of them built in 1957 and 4500 in 1958 before Buick stopped building them, so these days they are as scarce as hen's teeth," explains Justine. "But the guy who was on the lookout for us, found one right away. It was in a farmer's barn in California, and was part of an estate sale. We couldn't believe our luck."

The 1957 model was in totally original condition too, complete with red and white paintwork, two-tone red and white vinyl upholstery, 364 cubic inch nailhead V8 and variable pitch Dynaflo automatic. All this meant that when the Caballero arrived in New Zealand there was little David and Justine needed to do, apart from changing the vehicle's wire-spoked wheels to mags because the original wheels were not suited to kiwi road conditions, and lowering the big estate slightly in the interests of better ride and handling.

The couple also gave the big Buick a bit more character by installing a vintage 1960 Atlas Woods surfboard on a roof rack, and choosing the personalised plate SUFING. They've loved the car ever since, but they've never actually used it to go surfing – the board's there for effect only.

The Caballero was Buick's most expensive station wagon of the time, and was arguably the most stylish, featuring several of the now-famous Buick design elements, including Ventiports just above the front fenders that mimic the nose of a fighter plane of the day, and the so-called Sweep Spear, a stainless steel strip that runs right down the vehicle's flanks and separates the two-tone paintwork's colours.

Unfortunately for Buick, a combination of low sales and high construction costs meant the Caballero was built for only two years before being dropped – and the Caballero name (which roughly translates to the Spanish word for Gentleman) has never been used again. But that is all good news for enthusiasts such as David and Justine, because the vehicle's rarity adds to its value and appeal.

"It's a lovely car to drive," says Justine. "You sit behind a great big white steering wheel and cruise. It was a bit of a handful before David lowered it, but now it is great. It's interesting doing a U-turn in it though," she added, referring to the vehicle's 3.1 metre wheelbase.



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★ EVENT GUIDE

TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY

Today is Registration only day. Entrants will start arriving into town, collect their Event ID/Entrant Information Folders and start getting into the Americarna groove. Our Registration Centre is based at the TSB Stadium, off Rogan Street, New Plymouth. This is also where all cruises depart from each day.

Event Merchandise is available for purchase at the TSB Stadium New Plymouth and our vendors/stalls will be open from 1:00pm – 7:30pm.

WEDNESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY

Today is the first 'official' day of Classic Cover Americarna 2023 and departure from the TSB Stadium is 10:30am. The cruise will head to Opunakē via Surf Highway 45. Arrival at Opunakē Beach is from 11:30am, where vehicles will be parked on display. While entrants lunch and enjoy the beautiful location, public are invited to view the cars.

Departure from the beach is from 2:30pm when entrants will make their way back to New Plymouth to the TSB Stadium.

Important to note: There will be a road closure in place on Beach Road, Opunakē, and access for Americarna vehicles only. Parking for public will be at the top of Beach Road and on the surrounding side roads. Please follow instructions from marshals to ensure you park in the correct areas.

Event merchandise is available for purchase at the TSB Stadium New Plymouth and our vendors/stalls will be open from 8:00am - 6:30pm.

THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY

Day 2 of Classic Cover Americarna 2023. Vehicles of those who wished to be part of the Rest Home visits will gather at the TSB Stadium. Cars will take the excited elderly for a drive around the block in cars that they may have owned back in the day.

At 12:00 noon, we depart to see the wonderful people of Waitara. Vehicles will be parked in the Waitara CBD from 12:30pm. This afternoon you can check out the cars, enjoy the local cuisine and take in the unique culture of the town.

At 3:00pm we hit the road again and head to Inglewood. The route will take us along Waitara Road and the scenic countryside. The Inglewood community is renowned for their amazing street party so if you are in the area be sure to visit to see the cars and have a great evening. There will be entertainment by Che Orton, playing some old favourites and a variety of food and refreshments will be available along with craft stalls and great entertainment for the kids. Entrants depart at 8:00pm.

Important to note: There will be road closures in place in Waitara and Inglewood. Access will be restricted in certain areas. Please be patient, take caution and follow marshals instructions.

Event Merchandise is available for purchase at the TSB Stadium New Plymouth and our vendors/stalls will be open from 8:00am – 2:30pm

FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY

Day 3 of Classic Cover Americarna 2023. Departure from TSB Stadium will be 9:15am with Stratford as our first destination. The route to Stratford will see us cruising by schools. On arrival into Stratford at 9:45am, vehicles will be parked on Broadway, providing the public an opportunity to view.

At 12:45pm we cruise on to South Taranaki with Hāwera as our destination. The route to Hāwera will be via Kaponga and Manaia, again allowing more children the opportunity to enjoy the passing convoy. Upon arrival into Hāwera at 1:30pm, vehicles will be parked on High Street for public viewing.

During this time the Acceleration Event will be run on Albion Street, kicking off at 2:30pm. Be sure to be there in time to get a great spot for viewing. Please follow all marshal instructions as this is a high-risk area that requires public cooperation and caution. At 5:15pm vehicles will depart from Hāwera to head back to New Plymouth for Devon Street cruising, via the amazing Mangorei Road Street Party! Cruising ends at 9:30pm.

Important to note:

There will be road closures in place in Stratford, Hāwera and New Plymouth. Access will be restricted in certain areas. Please be patient, take caution and follow marshal instructions.

Event Merchandise is available for purchase at the TSB Stadium New Plymouth and our vendors/stalls will be open from 7:30am – 10:30am





SATURDAY 25th FEBRUARY



Today is Americarnival day in the New Plymouth CBD. Entrant vehicles will be on display for the public viewing from 10:00am – 3:00pm. There will be free kid's activities on Puke Ariki Landing, craft stalls at Huatoki Plaza and Currie Street, as well as music with great food and refreshments options in the local bars, restaurants & cafés.

Event Merchandise will be available for purchase on Brougham Street, New Plymouth, from 10:00am – 3:00pm

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The sound and sight of hundreds of American vehicles is one not to miss. However, we ask that you take extreme care near the roads when viewing the convoy and ensure you keep yourselves and children back from the moving traffic. Find a safe spot, bring out your deck chairs, picnic lunches and afternoon teas and enjoy the spectacle.

WEDNESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY

Destination: Ōpunakē Beach

Time: 11.30am – 2:30pm

Convoy Route & Timing

- 10.30am Depart New Plymouth Racecourse onto Gover Street
- Left turn onto Leach Street
- Right turn onto Morley Street
- Left turn onto Devon Street West
- Follow State Highway 45 to Ōpunakē
- 10.45am Pass through Oakura
- 10.55am Pass through Okato
- 11:15am Pass through Rahotu
- 11:30am Arrive Ōpunakē Beach
- 2:30pm Entrants depart Ōpunakē Beach and will return to New Plymouth TSB Stadium

Important:

Times are worked out as accurately as possible, however, unforeseen circumstances could delay the convoy. Americarna reserves the right to change and alter any routes and timings as deemed necessary to ensure entrant and public safety.



TARANAKI **90.0** FM
SOUTH TARANAKI **91.2** FM



THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY

Destination 1: Waitara CBD

Time: 12:30pm – 3:00pm

Destination 2: Inglewood CBD

Time: 4:00pm – 8:00pm

Convoy Route & Timing

- 12:00pm Depart New Plymouth Racecourse via Rogan Street
- Turn right onto Coronation Avenue
- Left onto Mangorei Road
- Right onto Rimu Street
- Left onto Chilman Street
- Right onto Waiwaka Terrace
- Left onto Paynters Ave
- 12:05pm Right onto Heavy traffic overbridge
- Merge onto State Highway 3 – heading north
- 12:10pm Pass by Bell Block on State Highway 3
- 12:20pm Arrive Waitara on Nelson Street
- Entrant cars will be parked on display in the main street
- 3:00pm Depart Waitara for Inglewood
- Exit Waitara CBD
- Right onto W Quay/Parris Street
- Left onto Nelson
- Right at SH3 - CAUTION
- Left onto Waitara Road
- Left onto Everett Road
- Left onto Bristol Road
- Right onto Kaimata Road
- Right onto Tarata Road follow through to Inglewood.
- 4:00pm Arrive in Inglewood
- Entrant cars will be parked in the CBD on display
- 8:00pm Entrant's head back to New Plymouth via State Highway 3



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FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY

Destination 1: Stratford

Time: 9:45am – 12:45pm

Destination 2: Hāwera via Kaponga & Manaia

Time: 1:30pm – 5:15pm

Destination 3: New Plymouth CBD via Mangorei Road

Time: 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Convoy Route & Timing

9:15am Depart New Plymouth Racecourse via Rogan Street
Right onto Coronation Ave
Follow State Highway 3 to Stratford

9:25am Pass through Egmont Village

9:30am Pass through Inglewood

9:40am Pass through Midhirst

9:45am Arrive Stratford
Entrant cars will be parked on Broadway on display

12:45pm Depart Stratford on State Highway 3

12:50pm Turn right onto Celia Street/Ōpunake Road

12:55pm Veer right past monument
Continue heading to Manaia

1:05pm Turn left onto Manaia Road
Follow Hollard Garden sign

1:20pm At Manaia turn left at the roundabout onto State Highway 45 / South Road

1:30pm Left onto Caledonia Street or Collins Street
Left onto High Street
Arrive Hāwera CBD
Entrant cars will be parked in the CBD on display

5:15pm Exit Hāwera onto Argyle Street
Left at Glover Road
Take 3rd exit at roundabout onto State Highway 3 for Eltham
Left onto Bridge Street/Eltham Road
Right onto Hastings Road
Right onto Opunake Road to Celia Street
Left onto Broadway
Continue on SH3 to New Plymouth

6:00pm Turn right at State Highway 3 / Mangorei Road intersection
Cruise Mangorei Road
Turn left at Devon Street East – NEW ROUTE
LOOP 1
Turn right onto Hobson
Left onto Molesworth Street
Left onto Egmont Street
Left onto Devon to enter the road closure
LOOP 2
Straight onto Devon Street into the road closure
Left onto Robe Street
Left onto Powderham Street/Courtenay Street
Left onto Eliot Street and then left again to continue in the loop

6:30pm Entrant Friday Night Cruising - New Plymouth CBD

9:30pm Cruising ends and roads re-open

SATURDAY 25th FEBRUARY

Destination: New Plymouth CBD

Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm

Entrant cars will be parked throughout Devon Street for FREE public viewing.

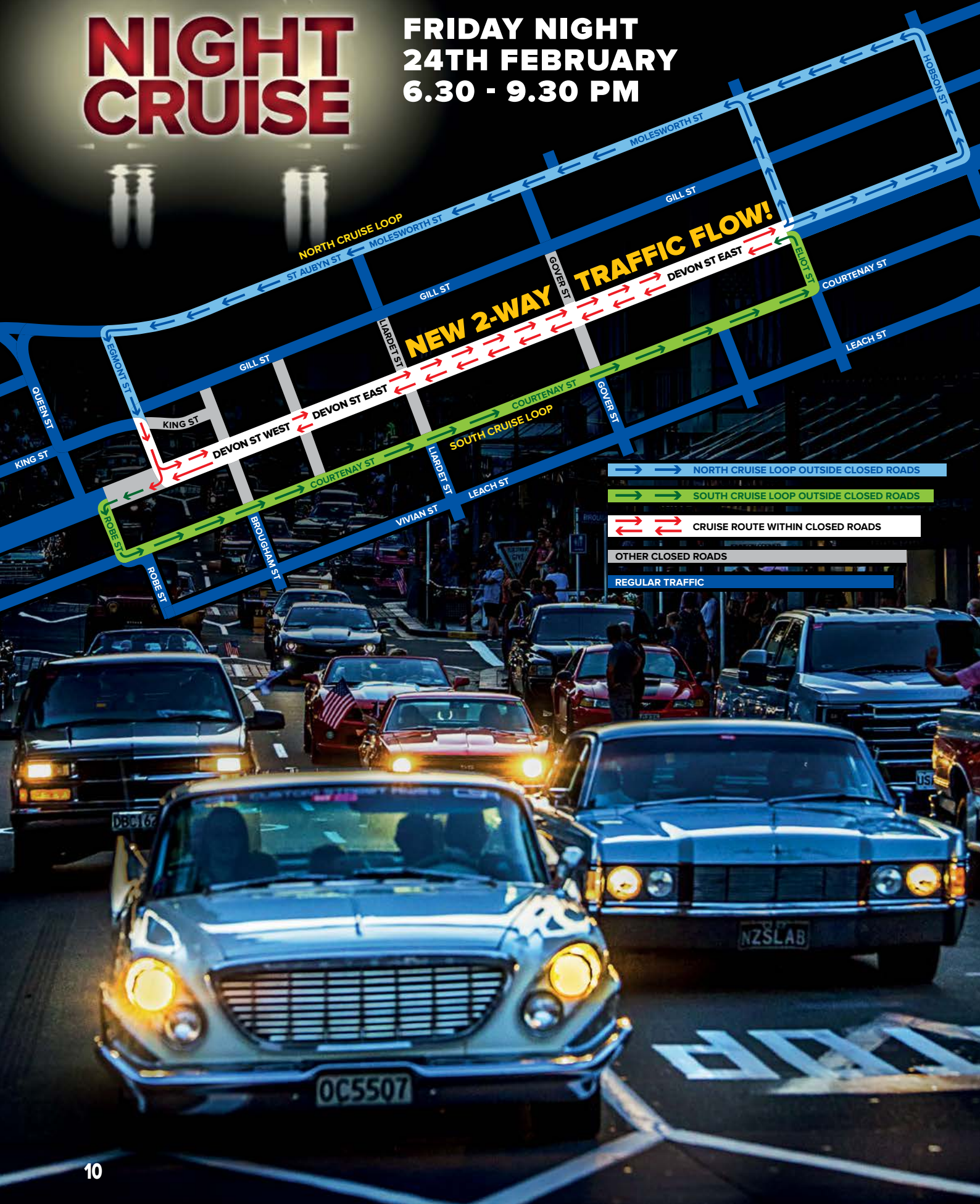
Americarnival supported by TOI Foundation.



Photo by Ricky Malcolm

NIGHT CRUISE






FRIDAY NIGHT
24TH FEBRUARY
6.30 - 9.30 PM



NORTH CRUISE LOOP

NEW 2-WAY TRAFFIC FLOW!

TRAFFIC FLOW!

-  NORTH CRUISE LOOP OUTSIDE CLOSED ROADS
-  SOUTH CRUISE LOOP OUTSIDE CLOSED ROADS
-  CRUISE ROUTE WITHIN CLOSED ROADS
-  OTHER CLOSED ROADS
-  REGULAR TRAFFIC

NIGHT CRUISE

Brand New Double Loop Route For 2023!

The roads are officially closed from 4:00pm with the vehicles rumbling through from approximately 6:15pm. Come into town early and secure your favourite viewing spot. We recommend the Devon Street flat between Eliot & Gover Street for great family viewing.

The convoy will return to town just before 6:00pm from South Taranaki. Vehicles will make their way to the CBD via Mangorei Road where residents will get a special first glimpse of the parade. This leg of the cruise has become an iconic part of the event that all entrants and locals look forward to!

The convoy will reach Devon Street and Hobson Street intersection where they will be directed one of two ways. Loop 1 will turn right onto Hobson, left onto Molesworth Street, left onto Egmont Street and then left onto Devon to enter the road closure. Entrants will continue up Devon Street, left onto Eliot and then left onto Molesworth to continue the loop. Loop 2 will be directed straight onto Devon Street into the road closure. This group will then turn left onto Robe Street, left onto Powderham Street/Courtenay Street, left onto Eliot Street and then left again to continue in the loop.



IMPORTANT

This new route will help with the flow of the traffic and crowd control. We ask that all public respect the liquor ban and please keep to the footpaths. Lining the road to catch a better glimpse is extremely dangerous. We have witnessed children sitting on the road side in past years and ask that all parents ensure they keep their children at a safe distance from the vehicles. The full length of the cruise route should allow plenty of space for great viewing without compromising safety. We ask the public to please respect and follow all instructions of the marshals as they have been put in place with your safety in mind.

If you are parked in the CBD on Friday afternoon, we ask that you remove your car from within the road closure by 4:00pm. The roads are officially closed from 4:00pm with the vehicles rumbling through from approximately 6:15pm. Planning, timing and cooperation are the key components that ensure this night is a success. The road will reopen at 9:30pm.

A big thank you to Centre City who are kindly keeping their carpark open until 10pm during the Friday Night Main Street Cruise. Entrances to the carpark are on St Aubyn Street (at the Wind Wand end of the Centre) and on Ariki Street (which runs into Gill Street). Please ensure you remove your car by 10pm before the carpark closes.

We would also like to give a big thank you to Venture Taranaki and TOI Foundation for their continued support to help us with costs associated with the road closures. The commitment from the business community and volunteers also contribute to this being the spectacular evening that the event has become renowned for. We wish everyone a fantastic night, play safe, drink wisely & enjoy!



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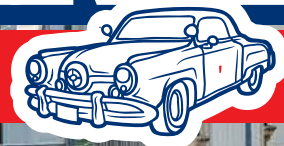
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Americarnival

New Plymouth's Main Street Car Display





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This year's Americarnival is scheduled for Saturday, February 25th and once again will be the perfect way to end Americarna. Entrants have been travelling around the region for the past three days and we welcome them back to the New Plymouth CBD where the cars will be on display.

The Americarnival is a popular event which sees the city come alive with hundreds of American vehicles, live music, children's activities, stalls and more! The Americarnival, which is proudly brought to you by the TOI Foundation, is all about fun in a family atmosphere. At Puke Ariki Landing there will be all sorts of activities for the kids, including face painting, human foosball, rock climbing wall, mechanical bull ride and bungee touchdown. The Hits Taranaki will also be there with their very own Candy Corner.

Visitors with an appetite will be well catered for in New Plymouth. You will be spoilt for choice with the array of restaurants, cafes and bars throughout the CBD. There will also be a range of treats including American hot dogs, donuts and ice creams at the Puke Ariki Landing.

At Huatoki Plaza there will be live music from The Blistered Fingers and Jack Moser throughout the day. The Retro Market, official merchandise and a range of stalls throughout Huatoki Plaza and Currie Street. Outside Crowded House on Devon St will be the venue for performances by local Line Dancers & Square Dancers. Their performances will be between 10:30am and 2:30pm. Look out for the City Band who will be doing roving performances.

WILL YOU GIVE A DUCK? The Waimanako Duck Race meets Americarna will start at 12:00pm from the back deck of Waimanako, 33 Devon Street West. The ducks will race down the Huatoki Stream and finish at the Puke Ariki Landing. Get in touch with the team to sponsor a duck 06 2150993 | email giveaduck@taranakiretreat.org.nz

And, of course, all the Americarna cars will be on display, all along Devon St between Gover St and Robe St. They will be on show between 10:00am and 3:00pm – the perfect opportunity for the public to view the vehicles up close and chat to their owners.

Photo by Ricky Malcolm

Michael Blackwood's 1965 Chrysler 300



When Waikato man Michael Blackwood was displaying his 1965 Chrysler 300 at last year's Americarna, he was surprised when an elderly lady walked up and told him she'd seen the car before.

That intrigued Michael, because he'd purchased the freshly imported two-door only a few months prior. So he asked the lady where she had seen it – and she replied that it had been on display at an auto museum in Las Vegas.

Michael went back to the man who had sold him the Chrysler – and sure enough, the car had indeed spent a large portion of its life as the museum exhibit. Not only that, he was told, the museum owner wouldn't release the vehicle until its engine, gearbox and other internals had been thoroughly checked.

"That probably explains why our Chrysler is in such great condition," he says. "It drives like a brand-new car. As a result I've done nothing to it, apart from fitting some larger exhaust tips."

Michael and his wife Majella already owned two muscle cars, a 1981 Trans Am and a 2017

Dodge Challenger, when they decided they would invest in a third vehicle.

"We looked at one car, but the guy selling it wouldn't let me drive it, insisting instead on taking us for a drive. I'd like to thank him for being such an a-hole, because we turned our attention to the Chrysler 300," Michael says.

"The man selling that car was completely different. He explained the car didn't have a Warrant of Fitness, but that he would get it done right away. So we returned the following weekend, drove the car, and purchased it."

This car is a rare example of what was known as the Chrysler 300 'non-letter' series of cars, as opposed to higher-performance and more expensive 'letter series' of 300s that were built from 1955 to 1965. The non-letter series vehicles were built from 1962 to 1971, and

...were intended as sporty but luxurious – which explains why they became known as "bankers hot-rods".

Michael Blackwood loves driving his example, which is powered by a 383 cubic inch 6.3-litre V8 mated to a three-speed auto.

"I just cruise around in it. It stops me from driving the Challenger, which is just as well because I keep getting tickets in that one," he says.

"There's no way in the world I'll ever get rid of it," he says of the Chrysler 300 with its personalised plate DZEIER. "I've already told my wife that if we ever split up, she's not having it!"





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Tracy Hazelwood's **1964 Pontiac Parisienne**



There's a bit of mystery surrounding Dion and Tracy Hazelwood's 1964 Pontiac Parisienne.

The Upper Hutt enthusiasts know that the Parisienne model was built in Ontario, Canada between 1958 and 1986, and that right-hand drive versions were exported in CKD packs for assembly in South Africa, Australia, and at Petone in New Zealand up until 1969.

But nobody seems to know why or how the car owned by the Hazelwoods got to New Zealand in the first place. Their research indicates that pillarless four-door versions of the Parisienne were not built at Petone, so their one must have been imported as a new car from Australia.

And it's a mystery when that happened, because registration papers show that the 1964 model was first registered in New Zealand in 1967. "We wonder if General Motors New Zealand imported the car for some reason, and then put it up for sale when the Petone factory was being closed," says Tracy Hazelwood.

"What we do know is that it was first purchased from a Christchurch dealership for \$2580, and that it remained with that owner until 2017 when it was purchased by another man. "And we also know that the day the sale went through, the original owner died."

The Hazelwoods had never owned any sort of muscle car before, but in early 2018 when they spotted the Parisienne for sale on TradeMe they were interested. "Dion liked the look of the car, and I liked its up-and-down headlights," says Tracy. So they flew to Christchurch for a viewing – and drove it home.

The Pontiac had already undergone quite an amount of restoration prior to them buying it, including replacement of the original 283 V8 with a 350 crate engine.

The Hazelwoods paid \$44,000 for the Parisienne, and since then they've spent at least a further \$60,000 getting it to its current mint condition. Work has included a transmission rebuild, a new diff, improved brakes, new power steer system, new wheels, and a lowering of the suspension.

Now, they've been thoroughly enjoying themselves attending car events throughout the lower North Island and upper South Island in their Pontiac with its distinctive blue paintwork – which is a Toyota blue, by the way. Over the past year the Hazelwoods have had their Pontiac re-upholstered by Dion Hunter of Cover Me Upholstery. And they've also fitted the car with a new personalised plate MISS64 – with the words "foot to the floor" adorning the top of the plate.

"My foot gets a little heavy when I'm driving her,"

explains Tracy. "Our Parisienne is a lovely drive though. It's a very good cruiser, turns on a dime, and overall is just a pleasure."

The couple also get a lot of pleasure from dressing up for car events – her in rock 'n roll clothes, and he more like a cowboy. They'll almost certainly be like that during Americarna, doing their bit in adding colour to an already colourful Taranaki occasion.

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Chrissy Chapman's 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air



When Chrissy Chapman decided she'd like a 1956 Chevy Bel Air sports coupe, she wanted its two-tone paintwork to be turquoise and white. Instead, she got gold and yellow. But that was OK, because Chrissy discovered that although the two hues were part of Chevrolet's standard colour palette, their combination was to a special order for the car's original owner, an Idaho woman called Hazel. A Continental kit and vinyl dash were also accessories that Hazel had ordered for her car.

"After a couple of weeks of her being home the colour grew on me, and with her history I couldn't bring myself to change the colour," says Chrissy. "And I'm so glad I didn't – I just love it."

The Chapmans also decided to honour the original owner by giving their Bel Air the personalised number plate HAZELO – the 0 having to be added because someone had already purchased HAZEL. And that put paid to an original plan for the plate to be 1HOT56, which is now among artwork on display in the bar at their home.

The Chapmans purchased the Chev in 2018, and when it arrived in New Zealand in October that year they were surprised to discover trophies in the trunk that the car had won at various meets in USA.

The pair also discovered that the Bel Air had a fascinating history. After the original owner had sold it to a dealer, it then became a competition prize at Cactus Pete's Resort Casino in Nevada which was celebrating its 30th anniversary. The winner was a rodding enthusiast who continued to show the car, and when he passed away it was left to his brother, also an enthusiast.

Although the car was in reasonable order, Chrissy's husband Paul Chapman did a full restoration, which included replacing the 265 Chevy motor with a 350 Chevy crate motor and a four-speed automatic with overdrive.

The Bel Air was repainted, its original yellow and black upholstery was replaced, suspension was upgraded, and power steer and power brakes were installed.

One thing the big Chevy didn't get, however, was air conditioning.

"I love to drive my car with the windows down – it suits her style,"

says Chrissy of her car. "She's a fantastic car, drives just like a new one. I take her out all the time."

And one more thing: If anyone knows the whereabouts of the personalised plate HAZEL, Chrissy would love to purchase it. "I'd buy it in an instant," she says.





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Friday Night Parking

With over 700 car parks- Centre City has plenty of space to park. The carpark will remain open till 10pm during the Friday Night Main Street Cruise. Entrances to the carpark are on St Aubyn Street (Wind Wand end of the Centre) and on Ariki Street. Please ensure you remove your car by 10pm before the carpark closes.

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The Taranaki Vehicle Events Trust

The Taranaki Vehicle Events Trust (TVET) was established in 2014 and works closely with John Rae who manages the Americarna event. The current members of the trust are Ian Lind (Chairperson), Mark Robson, Marilyn Davies, Tony Ewens and Yvette Preston.

The role of TVET is to provide additional support and planning to the Americarna event and our main focus is to give back to the Taranaki Community by providing a completely free event for the public to attend. We also strive to showcase our wonderful province not only in New Zealand, but internationally.

We are fortunate to receive funding from community grants and sponsorship which

enables us to provide free community activities throughout the region including the Hāwera acceleration display, the Inglewood street party, the iconic Friday night CBD circuit in New Plymouth, culminating in Americarnival held in New Plymouth on the Saturday. Classic Cover, our naming right sponsor, came on board in 2019. This is their last year as our naming rights sponsor and we take this opportunity to thank them, and all our sponsors, for their generosity and support.

Americarna could not take place without the businesses, organisations and individuals who volunteer their time or services to ensure the success of the event. It is especially pleasing

to see the same volunteers supporting the event year after year. Sherry Anderson said, **“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless”.**

This sentiment is echoed by TVET!

TVET warmly welcomes you to come along and enjoy the activities on offer and to celebrate Americarna 2023 with us.

Ian, Mark, Marilyn, Tony & Yvette.



IAN



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This handcrafted bench seat is a fundraiser for Conductive Education Taranaki, a charity dedicated to maximising the ability in disability. Conductive Education Taranaki was set up in 2017 by a group of passionate parents who were determined to create local opportunities for their children to thrive. Today, this 100% community-funded organisation helps more than 30 families, by supporting children with disabilities to become more independent, confident, and socially connected. They also hold social and wellbeing events for parents and siblings and host the region's only fully inclusive summer camp.

So please, take a seat, and take your place in the history of this legendary little community organisation.



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15 Years of Americarna in Taranaki



After being forced to cancel Americarna 2022 it is a given **we are thrilled to be able to have Americarna back for 2023.**

This is our 15th Taranaki based event and clearly is our largest to date.

We will have in excess of 900 vehicles and close to 2,000 entrants plus people who visit to see what the event is all about. This year we expect the event to pump \$4,000,000 into our community.

The event provides opportunities for various clubs and schools to raise funds from various areas the event travels to. We have been told previously that Americarna is the largest fund raising event of the year for

many groups around the region.

This is perfect to hear as it is one of the key principals Americarna was founded on.

The people of Taranaki are key to the success of the event. Friday night in New Plymouth CBD and the Saturday Americarnival sees potentially the largest crowds attending any event.

So to all that come out to see the cars throughout Taranaki, thank you! It is your enthusiasm that we feel brings the entrants back year after year.

I personally want to thank all the sponsors and supporters of Americarna. TOI Foundation, Venture Taranaki, Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET) and the New Plymouth District Council thank you for your support. Marie Pearce for the work her and the team do in Inglewood, along with Alison Bell arranging Waitara, Emma Vennell for Ōpunakē & Hāwera and finally Amy Kingston for organising Stratford.

The TVET (Taranaki Vehicle Events Trust) Board have been instrumental in ensuring we can continue to hold the event. The commitment to ensure they can secure the funding for the public component of Americarna is critical so to Ian, Tony, Mark, Marilyn, Yvette and Toni,

thank you from myself and the people of our region.

I trust all who get to see the event along with our entrants will have a blast in 2023.

Sincerely,
John Rae
Americarna Event Director

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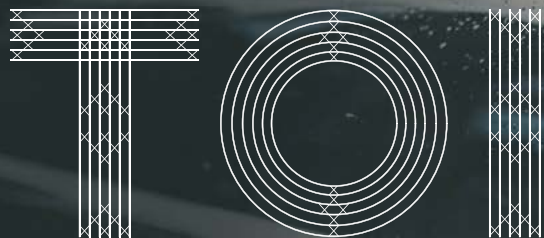
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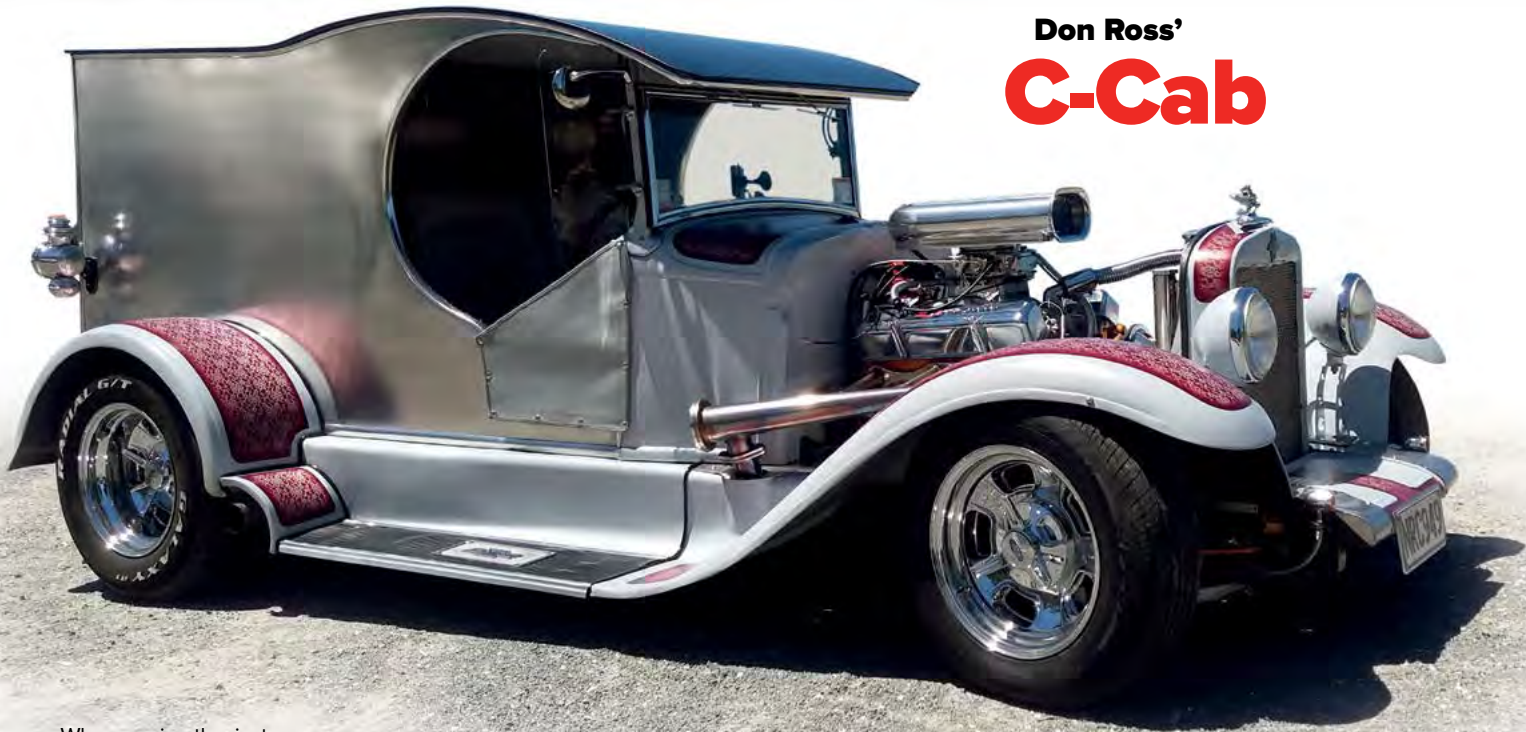
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Don Ross' **C-Cab**



Whangarei enthusiast Don Ross had always wanted to build his own C-Cab – you know, the vehicle that's similar to a T-Bucket but with a hard top and distinctive C-shaped side windows.

"And I'd always wanted to build one from nothing," he recalls. "Then back in 2019 I was well into my 70s – and my wife Shirley told me I'd better get started, because I was running out of years!"

So he did. Don began his project with just two pieces of steel on the ground, and got stuck into designing, measuring, cutting

and welding, using his many years of rodding experience to begin developing his very own motoring creation.

Once the chassis had been built from scratch, Don fitted Jaguar XJ12 front and rear suspension, then purchased a 350 Chev engine with a Powerglide two-speed automatic for use as the powerplant.

"The engine was supposed to have been fully rebuilt - however it was stuffed, so I had to do a full rebuild," he says. "I bored it out to .060, and

installed a bunch of high-performance bits, which meant it ended up as a very hot 360 Chev. I also replaced the Powerglide with a rebuilt Turbo 350 with race clutches and a shift kit."

Don's C-Cab received a Jaguar limited slip differential, and the steering was of Don's very own design. Then it was time to start forming the body frame. The cowl, front and rear guards and radiator surround were all 1929 Chevrolet, and the body itself was formed out of 2.2mm glued and riveted aluminium sheet.

After a few road tests the creation was sent to certifier Shane Speight for a final inspection, and the great news was the vehicle went straight through the certification process, then on through the WOF and Rego without any problems. Proof, says Don, of the benefits of doing things right, following the manual, and keeping in contact with your certifier.

"The satisfaction of knowing that I designed and built the entire car – nothing was out-sourced - is immense and worth all the blood, sweat and tears," he says.

Since then Don and Shirley have enjoyed more than 7000 km of trouble-free motoring in their C-Cab, and have also entered it into a few shows and rod runs – where it has won placings every time.



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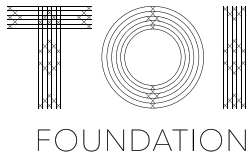
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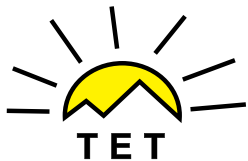
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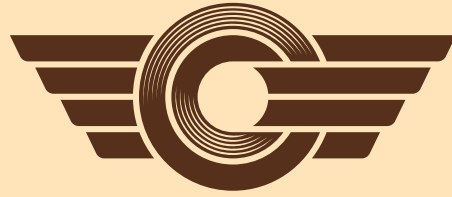
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