



Burble

The magazine of the Canterbury Mustang Owners Club

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National Mustang Convention 2022 - New Plymouth

After the covid created issues of 2021, and the disappointment of the cancellation of the first ever Bay of Plenty Convention, I think we were all really looking forward to this year's Convention hosted by Taranaki Mustang Owners Club in New Plymouth. If nothing else, this was evidenced by the larger than usual CMOC turnout, with 17 members and their Mustangs travelling north, plus additional CMOC representation by Rob and Shelley (Mustang Centre sponsorship) and yours truly flying in and out due to meeting schedule demands by my new Hurunui councillor role.

It was a well organised convention, in a friendly and very accessible city ... the Mustang show venue was an easy walk from the hotel (as were the parks and gardens), the weather was fine throughout (great photo ops of the mountain!), and the shops, nightlife and beachfront walks all in easy reach. There's so much happening in New Plymouth that a partners program would have been a welcome attraction.

Saturday evening was a free and Club Captain Dennis took a great initiative of specially organising a restaurant venue for a combined dinner for the Canterbury and Southern Clubs, a great together and a chance to button down our plans for next years exciting Mainland Muster (see elsewhere in this Burble).

The Saturday Mustang Show was held at the TSB Arena, adjacent to the racecourse (almost central city!). Approx 173 Mustangs on display, almost 100 inside the Arena (judging) and the balance outside, but nearby. Within the total line up, there was a pleasing mix of classic models, covering the entire spectrum of the legendary Mustang story, right up to the minute with Ford NZ's promotional Mustang Mach E displayed at the entrance doors (in the same spot that FNZ's very first regular production RHD Mustang GT caught everyone's attention at the previous Convention back in 2015 how time flies, and models change and move on!).

The accompanying photos capture some of the many Mustangs that caught my eye, and in terms of first time ever viewing, two Mustangs really impressed me: Dave and Emma Scarle's gorgeous 1974 Mustang II Mach 1 (Waikato), and Nigel and Diane MacDonald's eyewatering 1967 Shelby GT500, first time showing for these long standing Taranaki Mustang stalwarts.

The Saturday afternoon Presidents meeting went well, with good discussion on a number of subjects. Auckland President and 2023 Convention Convenor Craig Borland gave us an enthusiastic update of their plans for next year, with the Convention venue and designated hotel being new, co-located facilities in Manukau City, a first ever location. (This information has now been forwarded as advanced advice to members of all clubs.)

The Sunday drive event was superb, a blue sky day as we circled Mt Taranaki around the coastline to Hawera for the lunch spot and inter club games (our handpicked team performed perfectly, good enough to be competitive and stretch the opposition, but clever enough to not be a winner and bearer of the cumbersome trophy!).

Sunday night's gala dinner and prizegiving lived up to the "Masquerade" theme, with all the CMOC team resplendent in matching red and black fashion accessories (thanks Andrea!). With our limited number of entries versus Taranaki and the neighbouring North Island clubs, plus the travelling distances and road conditions, our CMOC haul of trophies was always going to be a challenge, and I think we can all be very proud of the team's success:

All in all, a great Convention, well worth the trip, and a wonderful CMOC turnout and presence. See you all in Auckland 2023! Enjoy the pics, and make sure you read the separate story from Dennis covering the road trip adventures to New Plymouth..... Garry





Immediately above and below CMOC Mustangs lined up in the stadium, including our 4 award winners



CMOC Mustangs on external display, VP Ray van Hamesfeld's Penske in foreground



Waikato member Dave Scarle's rare and gorgeous 74 Mach 1, first time convention showing



Taranaki 2022:
Well done!!
CMOC Award
Winners!

Ken and Rachael Pointon	1st, 2005-2014 Convertible
Dave and Andrea Bannon	2nd, 2005-2009 Coupe
Ashley and Sandy Smith	3rd, 1964 - 1966 Hardtop
Peter and Dallas Geddes	3rd, 2014 - 2014 Coupe



Ashley and Sandy Smith CMOC enthusiasts of the year!

CMOC life members Ashley and Sandy Smith first attended the Taranaki Convention back in the late '80's, with the same '64 1/2 Convertible that you see in the pic at this year's Convention ... how's that for dedication service? But their enthusiasm goes much further. Not only did Ashley trailer the convertible to New Plymouth (it's a non registered, unwarranted show car), in a separate trip he drove his unrestored 64 Notchback (6 cylinder) all the way north, complete with period style surfboard the resultant pic on the Kaikoura coast is a perfect "pose"!

But the story gets better, because as you will have read on the previous page, Ashley and Sandy picked up third placing in the 64-66 Notchback class. Outstanding devotion and enthusiasm for the Mustang brand!



Eye-catching Shelby GT500 - first time on show, and a winner!

One of the great things about Conventions run by other clubs is the opportunity to see (and really be taken by) great Mustangs that you don't know about, and have never seen before. One such car that really grabbed me at Taranaki was Nigel and Diane MacDonald's drop-dead-gorgeous '67 Shelby GT500. This was the Shelby's first public experience, fresh out of its restoration from a barn find (as per the pic). The car first caught my eye when I and a few others of the CMOC team were standing on the upper floor landing looking down (also a pic), and the gloss and fit lines caught our attention. Close up, it's even better!

And of course we weren't the only ones: winner of Best Shelby 1965-70, winner of Entrant's Choice, and winner of People's Choice. I guess that's a clean sweep!

Nigel himself needs no introduction, owner of a number of classic Mustangs (all '67's) including other Shelseys, a regular attendee at South Island Conventions, and one of the very early members of Taranaki. Oh, and in his spare time he owns and races the genuine ex Red Dawson championship winning 1967 Mustang in classic and historic events all over the North Island (and occasionally at Skope I think). He's a great guy, and he featured as a chapter in Steve Holmes' book "Kiwi Mustangs". Well worth the read, especially his eye-watering collection!





Getting there is half the fun! (Convention road trip)

Eighteen cars from Canterbury went to the National Mustang Convention in New Plymouth at Labour weekend and nine cars travelled in a true Mustang convoy from Canterbury on the Wednesday before.

The first stop was a quick brunch and loo stop at Cheviot in brilliant sunshine, then back on the road for lunch at the Kekerengu Café between Kaikoura and Blenheim. It's a gem of a place with a beautiful view of the coast and great food. Don't drive past it next time you are in the area.

At Cheviot one Mustang failed to proceed – posh way of saying it wouldn't start. Luckily a quick phone call diagnosis from the nearest Ford dealer and a new battery at Kaikoura solved the issue.

The rest of us proceeded at a canter as we had a ferry to catch and had to stick to our time schedule. We arrived in good time for check in and were able to alert the staff one Mustang was still coming.

And coming it was, after a gallop from Kaikoura to Picton, arriving just in the nick of time.

On the ferry we all retired to the lounge, enjoyed the food and swapped stories with other people, some we had just met.

At Wellington we were on the road again, soon travelling up Transmission Gully in a loose convoy. What a wonderful road and a great sight, seeing Mustangs beside you, in front and behind.

Most people stayed the night around Paraparaumu and on Thursday morning we reconvened at Viv's Kitchen in Sanson and caught up with others who had travelled up earlier. The place is famous for its cream horns and has an excellent knick knack shop across the car park.

We continued in a loose convoy up SH3 through Whanganui, Waverley, Hawera and Inglewood, enjoying the Taranaki roads before reaching our destination of New Plymouth.

Thursday night we checked out the local eateries, ditto Friday with a bit of car cleaning in between. Mustangs everywhere, some up on ramps, wheels off, inner guards cleaned, re-sprayed and engine bays cleaner than operating theatres. All very social and entertaining.

Me? I went to the local DIY car wash, sprayed water and gunk all over and returned to the hotel for an hour of making the car look presentable, just in time to venture out for lunch.

We went as a group to an excellent brewery/café, returning to the hotel for a relax before the convention started in earnest that evening.

The Convention? That's another story elsewhere in Burble.

Dennis O'Brien

