Southern Muster 2011 – 32nd National Mustang Convention: It's now been and gone; your Club was represented by 35 Mustangs and 68 people – a truly outstanding effort to support the Southern Mustang Club to host their first ever Convention.

Our involvement started on Tuesday 18 October with a CMOC BBQ (kindly hosted by Rob & Hibby at The Mustang Centre). It was so

cool to be able to welcome Club members from the North Island as they made their way south. In my view it was a great use of Club funds. Special thanks goes to Shelley and Johnno for their planning and the rest of the helpers.

Departure Wednesday Onwards: What a shocking morning to have met at Cookie Time for our combined (Auckland & Canterbury) run south for a luncheon date at Fleurs at Moeraki Boulders ... talk about a time warp – they are so casual, but the food was outstanding.

Onwards to Dunedin, a tour of Speights Brewery, a feed at Speights Ale House. Up on Thursday for a chance to check out Roy Macdonald's Auto Shop in Dunedin (great stuff happening there). Invercargill, via the Catlins, was the plan for the day – but the "Lumber Jack" Café was ready for us enroute.

Friday – boys (and some girls) got those cars cleaned and groomed. Registration followed – but quick enough so we could watch the Rugby Play Off's – who cares, but we watched it all the same.

Show Time: After shocking weather on the Wednesday and Thursday as we made our way south, come Friday it treated us kindly. Saturday morning we awoke to nice dry cars (no overnight rain or dew), so it was off to put our 35 cars into the Velodrome, along with another ninety stunning Mustangs. It was guaranteed to be a great Convention. Southern Club had organised Buses to collect the ladies for a girl's day out. Yep, they responded – 60 girls to do the shops in Invercargill – I hear reports that Retailers were smiling their way to the Banks this week. We all finished the day with a neat night at The Ascot Hotel, great company, wine great food and music; can't be all-bad – someone has to do it.

A Rugby Fan? They had that well and truly covered. But wait – we had a 170km return cruise for a gathering, a packed lunch, and a challenge. YEP, we did great – your team of Johnno, Suz, Hibby and our anchorman, Shane, did the works – it's cool being the winner of the Push 'n' Grunt Trophy.

Gala Awards – Southern did magic to work us in around an important game using the Oval Ball. First Convention we have needed a Grandstand erected inside the Function Centre. Jackie – you did outstanding Gal.

Awards Our Club Members did an outstanding job of presenting their cars for judging; we have numerous Awards to back up this statement. Check out our Web Site for actual results. Congratulations to all participants and also those who received recognition on the night. My award goes to all that traveled south – we were outstanding in our matching tee shirts – from normal to 7.1 (and the serious aftershocks) that changed ours lives forever.

The Return Journey We all had options: straight home; strait home slowly; or straight home via the Haast. From all reports I've received so far everyone made it home safe and sound, some added on extra days, and some just traveled further to get home – it was all about topping out a great week.

It was an honor for me to represent our Club at the Southern most Mustang Convention, hosted by the Southern most Mustang Club in the world.











There was a small group who travelled South via Lewis Pass shown here at the Summit (965m).

Q: How many men does it take to change a light bulb? A: We don't know it's never happened !!!

Q: How many men does it take to clean a Mustang ... Well this one we can answer!!

All groups encountered a variety of road conditions no matter which route or day they travelled ... everything from flooding, fertiliser, stock, road works and rain. Just as well you boys like cleaning!!



Show Day: Southland Stadium







Above: Historic Mustang Race Cars on display at the Car Show



Above & Below: Ponies line the infield at Tuatapere Domain



Below: Ponies line up for a gallop around Teretonga Race Track



Above: Picnic Lunch Tuatapere Domain



Below: You will recall Tony featured in our last magazine - he was busy overhauling the motor and stated that "Failure was NOT as option!"

As you can see he did make it out of town, not without some last minute drama and thanks to the inclement weather, very wet feet.

Apparently Convertible hoods are not completely leak proof when it comes to horizontal driving rain. Might as well be wet on the inside as well says Tony!







And this is why we love to get out cruising ...

What magnificent scenery - from stunning lakes & mountain views to beautiful coastal vistas.





Below: The Cantabrian Contingent on Awards night the theme 'dress in the colours of your favourite Rugby team'. No arguments about that one and of course it was World Cup Finals night. The room was themed accordingly with a grandstand viewing platform and big screens lining the walls. Great night! And yes Roger is a paid up member of the Canterbury Club even he if chose to dress in the Southern uniform!



2011 Convention - Stadium Overview





