

2016 National Mustang Convention, Auckland

This year's National Mustang Convention was organised and hosted by the Auckland Mustang Owners Club over Labour weekend in late October, and was especially notable for the superb Viaduct Basin Events Centre that the club secured for the Saturday Mustang show and public display.

Total entries were approx 142 spanning all years and models, albeit with a strong 2015/16 representation. Approx two thirds were housed in the high roof, floor to ceiling glass showcase within the Events Centre to be judged, with the (not for judging) immediately outside on the surrounding viaduct wharf areas. What a location!

The convention had strong sponsorship from Ford NZ and the three local Auckland Ford dealers, following on from the introductions we were able to initiate back in 2014. Pre-convention promotion included special publicity events around Auckland, and Ford's special Mustang Uber promotion on the preceding Friday.

The Viaduct facility included an upper floor display of special interest cars included a couple of historic race series Mustangs, Phil Hoffman's 2016 LHD Shelby 350GT, David and Moana Turner's Eleanor, and a feature car that was revealed on the morning of the show.....a resto-mod Plymouth coupe that reputedly cost \$1m to build.

As well as the CMOC members who registered and attended (Rob and Shelley, Roger and Anne Neilson, Bob and Janet Verrall, Don Mackay and Ray van Hamelsveld), it was good to see Ray and Gail Spencer, and Forbes and Megan Gourlay also visiting. Ashley and Sandy Smith were last minute cancelations for personal reasons. Loretta and I were also late cancelations, but I flew in for the Saturday.

Annual conventions always feature a brief meeting of all the club presidents (the only time this happens during the year). At this year's meeting, we canvassed the membership numbers across the clubs and it was interesting to see that the total Mustang club membership is approx 1155, headed by Auckland (300) and Canterbury (269 as at October). We discussed matters of common interest, including early plans that each club is thinking about for World Mustang Day 2017, on or around April 17.

I understand that aspects of the convention were well planned, especially the Sunday drive event which used roads and locations to the north of Auckland never visited before. Well done to the AMOC for all of their hard work and planning for a great show.

On a personal note, special thanks to Rob and Shelley for flying the flag for CMOC by attending all the functions in my absence, and speaking on behalf of the club at the farewell breakfast. As always, conventions are a great opportunity to share and experience the depth of the Mustang legendary brand and spirit, to renew existing friendships and make new ones. Roll on next year's convention in Invercargill, hosted by our good friends in the Southern Mustang Owners Club. This will be one not to be missed.



