

# Burble Newsletter

**July-August 2025**

***WebSite: [canterburymustang.org.nz](http://canterburymustang.org.nz)***

**daffodil day**  
Cancer Council





## Christchurch Security Services

Residential & Commercial Security Services

Call 03 338 4424 or 0274 313 998

 CONTACT US

-  CONSULTATION AND QUOTATIONS
-  SECURITY ALARM INSTALLATIONS
-  CCTV INSTALLATIONS
-  SERVICING & REPAIRS

Call us now on 03 338 4424 to discuss your requirements

## Call Christchurch Security Services for all your security needs

Looking for a team to assist you with the arduous process of securing your property? Have a chat to the team at Christchurch Security Services - quality peace of mind can come at an affordable price! Christchurch Security Services formed in 1995, and started out by contracting to various security alarm companies. For more than 2 decades, the team at Christchurch Security Services have been assisting clients with their security needs: whether you require brand new CCTV installations, or maintenance of your existing alarm, consult the security experts here in Christchurch.

Panasonic certified | Concept certified | Protect fog cannon certified  
| Micron certified installer | Limited electrical A/B certificated

### No job too big or too small

When it comes to securing properties, the team at Christchurch Security Services can take on any job. From small businesses to large corporations we know just how to keep your environment safe with our top quality security alarm options and installations. Call us in Christchurch today to discuss the best security system for you.





## Contents

## Page

A Message from the President.....	4-5
A Word from the Club Captain.....	5-6
Coming Events.....	7
New Members May-June.....	8
Amberley Rock'n'Wheels 2025.....	9
Ayrburn Classic 2026.....	10-12
Run to Oxford, Black Beach Wine Bar-Sunday 27th June.....	14-16
Mystery Run to Prebbleton Dispensary Bar, -Sunday 10th August.....	17-19
Mid-week Run to Tai Tapu Hotel.....	21-22
Daffodil Day Rally,- Sunday 24th August.....	23-27
Ray's Restoration.....	29
2026 Shelby Super Snake-R Debuts as Latest Supercharged S650 Mustang.....	31-31
Ford Performance Head Explains Why Automaker Goes Racing.....	32
2025 Ford Mustang Challenge at Le Mans Kicks Into High Gear on June 9th.....	33-34
Ford Mustang Coupe's Future will Remain Gasoline Powered.....	36





## **A Message from the President**



### **Dear Members**

Looking out my window and the sun is still glowing in the sky at 6.00pm. Are we passed the worst of winter weather or do we still cover the lemon tree in case of a late frost. I for one will be glad to feel those double-digit temperatures first thing in the morning.

The event list is looking full for the rest of the year with the Amberley Rock n Wheels on the 7<sup>th</sup> September being the feature for the month.

Christmas Dinner at Riccarton Park on the 29<sup>th</sup> November our biggest club get together and one not to be missed. Invitations to be sent out soon.

We have secured the New Stadium for our convention for the Saturday night and Sunday Gala October 2027 (Labour weekend)

I will be calling upon the people

that put their name down to help with the organizing of the weekend. The idea is to have a group of members that will lead each stage of the 3 days during the Labour weekend 2027 and utilize other members from the list along with any additional helpers along the way. This will be a Club Team effort and will be a great success if we are all on board.

A heartfelt thanks to all the committee members for keeping the club running as we have had members leave and the pressure does mount up to perform the voluntary duties that come with running the CMOC.

Brian Mills (Secretary), Sam Ng, Maria van Nus, Neville and Leslie Hyland, John Schafer (Treasurer), Richard Crawford and Garry Jackson thank you for being a big part of the committee with a special thanks to Dennis O'Brien (club captain) for his efforts over the years.

## ***A Message from the President—Continued***

A special thanks to Gary Pascoe and Mark Hanson who retired at the last AGM.

We are still looking for 3 new committee members and a Vice President to join up on the committee

To add to the existing valued members. Please reach out to us if you think you would like to have a go. The rewards are big!

Well, its time to get the Ponies out and start waxing as this summer coming is drawing close and I am

looking forward to seeing many of you out there.

Don't forget the second Tuesday of each month social gathering at the Speights Alehouse in Tower Junction. A great way to meet new Members and chew the fat with some of us older members.

Keep good health and see you on the road.

Ray van Hamelsveld

0274313998

## ***A Word from the Club Captain***

### **Early Adopters**

Electronic calculators, microwave ovens, VHS recorders, DVD players and mobile phones were all new and amazing products that blew my mind when they were released.

All were radical and expensive when new and now they are either radically better and cheaper or consigned to history, replaced by the next invention.

I have some Early Adopter friends. Solar panels and power wall batteries adorn their houses, electric vehicles rest in their garages, while robotic lawn mowers keep the grass trimmed outside while their robotic equivalents vacuum the floors.





## **A Word from the Club Captain-Continued**

Their early solar panels now seem woefully inefficient, their electric vehicles suffering rampant depreciation and battery degradation. One friend's robotic mower now needs human intervention to make it leave its docking pad.

We need these people as launch customers for these products which they paid so dearly for so we can follow behind and buy the much superior improved versions for half the price or less.

As a club we had a visit to the Northbrook Museum in Rangiora which a few members attended. Absolutely fascinating and again a great reminder of inventions that have come and gone.

One thing new technology brings are new sayings. If our petrol powered car is low on fuel we can do a "Splash and Dash" at the pumps to get us home. Our EV cousins now do a "Volt and Bolt" at the charger to get home.

Our recent Mystery Run was a lot of fun and the coffee table has a new home for the next year with Allan and Sheena, ably assisted by their son Lewis. The table is definitely a

great talking point.

Welcome to the new members who have recently joined our club and welcome back to other members who have re-joined. It's lovely to have you back in the club. I was delighted at our recent mid-week run to meet Sylvia who is 94. Her Son-in-Law brought her out in his Mustang and it was lovely chatting with her. I'm sure she had a great day. Another highlight was meeting new member Ali who had driven up from Oamaru to join us.

We have a great calendar of Coming Events planned with something for everyone. Your Committee has shrunk this year thru bereavement, moving overseas and members standing down. I thank all those members so much for their dedication and support and would ask for anyone who is prepared to join the Committee to give me a call. A little bit of help goes a long way and eases the load.

I saw this sign the other day and had to buy it as it appealed to my warped sense of humour.

Keep smiling

Dennis O'Brien

Your Club Captain

021 187 8488



## **Coming Events**

### **September**

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Essie Summers Retirement Home Visit

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Fathers' Day, Amberley Rock n Wheels,

Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Social Night, Speights Ale House, Tower Junction

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Big Tradie Park Up and Visit to Stewarts Classic Cars, Rolleston

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Kaikoura Hop

Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Ashburton Social Night, Phat Duck, West St. Ashburton

### **October**

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Life Members' Lunch at The Bridge Restaurant and Bar, Prebbleton,

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Memorial Run to Methven

Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Social Night, Speights Ale House, Tower Junction

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> – Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Mustang Convention, Palmerston North

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> – Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Run to Hokitika,

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Ashburton Social Night, Phat Duck, West St. Ashburton

### **November**

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Hurunui Garden Festival

Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Visit to a private car collection.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Xmas dinner, Riccarton Park, Christchurch

This is a list of known events planned by our club and also major events organised by others that may appeal to our members. Other events may be added and there may be changes to planned events.

Updated and full event details are on our Club website under EVENTS and details will be emailed to members near the event times.

Dennis O'Brien  
Club Captain  
021 187 8488

## ***New Members July-August 2025***

Andrew Smart....

1966 Dark Green Convertible

Sefton & Toni Early....

2017 Dark Gray GT

Stacey & Monica Neill, and Sandra Smith....

2019 Orange GT

Ali Cooper....

2016 Red Mustang

Stephen & Pauline Mitchell....

2017 Blue Convertible

### **Returning members....**

Peter & Pauline Watt....

2005 White GT Convertible

Garry & Pauline Brooks....

2016 White Convertible







# Wheel Show



If it's got wheels and you love it bring it along

2025

7TH

SEPTEMBER



**Time:**

8:30am - 3:00pm

**Price:** Adults - \$5 Children under 15 - Free / Craft site - \$20 / Wheel display - \$10 per entry (Driver+1)

**Location:**

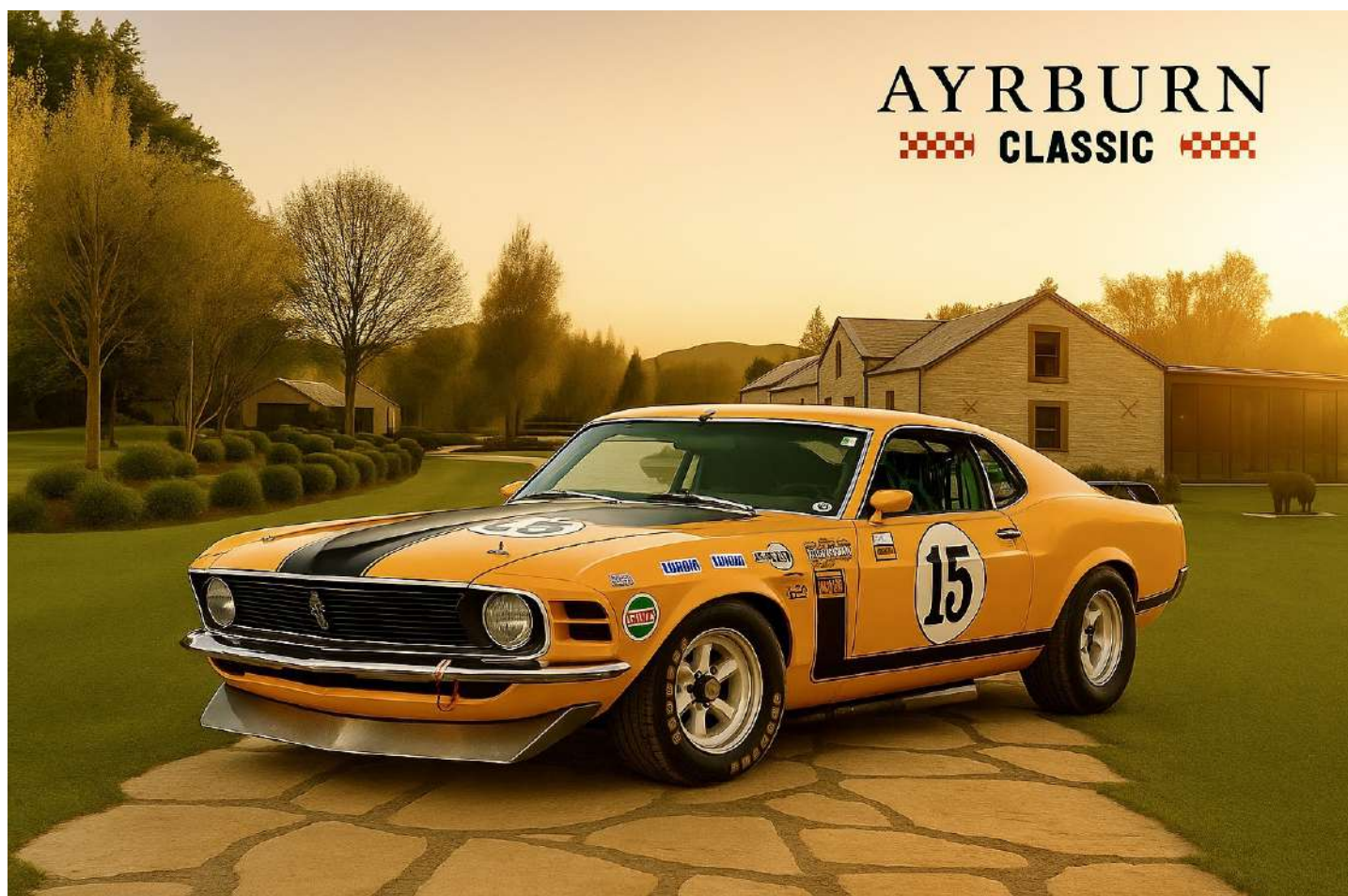
Amberley Domain Douglas Road, Amberley

**Contact:**

Call 027 389 7319

Email - [rocknwheelsmeet@yahoo.com](mailto:rocknwheelsmeet@yahoo.com)

Facebook - @rocknwheelsmeet



**About the event:**

The 2025 edition set an incredibly high benchmark and is fast becoming one of the leading reasons to visit Queenstown — amongst New Zealanders and international travellers alike. With over 150 classic and contemporary luxury vehicles on display the festival was a visual and visceral feast for attendees. Standouts included an \$8 million LaFerrari, the Delage Hispano-Suiza (pictured below), and a fleet of dream machines from Rolls-Royce, Bentley, McLaren, and more. The event's unique blend of elegance and accessibility attracted both seasoned collectors and casual admirers aplenty.

The Ayrburn Classic 2026 will unfold across the spectacular grounds of the Arrowtown food and drink precinct — a world-class setting to be studded with hundreds of show-stopping vehicles, and we know that Mustangs would be the perfect addition.

Think sweeping alpine views, pristine grounds, multiple bars and restaurants, award-winning wine, high fashion, and a curated celebration of automotive excellence. You'd be hard-pressed to find a more picturesque setting for a festival of motoring.

With exhibitors and owners already signalling strong interest in 2026, you'll be in great company. More than a festival of motoring, the Ayrburn Classic is a weekend of lifestyle and entertainment — for all.

**In 2026, we're curating:**

Ayrburn Classic, 12 judged classes with 25 vehicles per class

Ayrburn Showfield\* of 250 curated vehicles

Ferrari as the featured marque, presented by Continental Cars Ferrari

Ferrari Owners Club of New Zealand 40<sup>th</sup> celebration

**Event Highlights:**

Friday, Ayrburn Classic Welcome Cocktail Party with owners, sponsors, and VIPs

Tour d'Elegance through the Wakatipu Basin by invitation

Showcase on the Dell – selected vehicles presented on stage across the weekend

Onsite dining and entertainment across 7 restaurants and bars [Ayrburn](#)



Premium commercial exhibitors tailored to our audience  
Landscaped grounds, lakes, and walking trails  
With more to come.....

**\*The Showfield, new class for 2026:**

We've added a Showfield Class for 250 vehicles to be on display — styled like a Coffee & Cars and displayed across curated spaces of Ayrburn, this allows car owners to be part of the festival without the pressure of being part of the judged classes. This is your chance to rally your members for a spirited club display in a spectacular setting — the perfect summer event, getaway, and gathering in magnificent Arrowtown. Guests have the option to drive in and out and can choose from a weekend pass or day pass, giving car owners ability to have their pride and joy part of the Ayrburn Classic but with the flexibility to make the most of this fantastic part of the word.

We have an exclusive discount available for the Mustang owners for the Showfield.



**Car Entry Spaces Are Limited – Enquire Today**

We'll soon be accepting entries for the Ayrburn Classic 2026, and with just 25 cars accepted in each curated class, now is the time to enquire.

Naturally, both the Ayrburn Classic and Showfield Class entries are expected to fill quickly. With bookings opening soon and interest already running high, we recommend expressing your interest as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Simply reply to this email for further information and to express your interest.

**Ayrburn Classic Class:**

\$300 per car

Ayrburn Classic Owners Lanyard pass for two people for the weekend

Your vehicle judged against its peers in curated class

Eligibility for:

Ayrburn Classic trophy – Best in Show

People's choice award

Best in Category awards

Two tickets to Ayrburn Classic Welcome Cocktail party, Friday evening

Premium welcome pack

Limited edition Ayrburn Classic Hat  
Priority parking for your day-driving car (if needed)  
Parking for trailers on-site (if needed)  
Discount on exclusive merchandise  
First option for any other events, hospitality or features over the weekend  
Concierge service for hospitality bookings at Ayrburn forever



**Showfield Class:**

Saturday/Sunday Day - \$75 per car, special discount from \$100  
Showfield Owner's lanyard for two people  
Drive in drive out  
Weekend - \$125 per car, special discount from \$150  
Showfield Owner's lanyard for two people for weekend access  
Drive in drive out

*Note: Showfield entries receive general event access, but are not part of the judged concours*

With your guiding we're selecting halo Mustangs for the Ayrburn Classic and believe your group includes vehicles to make the Mustang Stampede class a show stopper.

If any members are interested, we'd love to hear from you.

We'd love to see a proud Mustang convoy arrive at Ayrburn in full formation.

Let's make this an unforgettable celebration of motoring passion, friendship, and shared stories.

**Share the Excitement**

If you have contacts in other clubs, I'd really appreciate it if you could pass on their details or simply share this invitation with them.

Several clubs are already planning summer runs to Ayrburn with convoys from the North Island, Picton, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Invercargill — it's shaping up to be a fantastic weekend, and we'd love to see your community well represented.

Please feel free to forward this to your clubmates or anyone who might be interested:

If you're interested, let's talk. We'll help you secure the best display spots for judging (if desired) and/or allocate club space in the Showfield.

Warm regards,

Jonathan Paape

*Car Curator – Ayrburn Classic 2026*





**\*Tyres**

**\*Batteries**

**\*Wheel alignments**

**\*Puncture repairs**

**\*Vehicle servicing**



At Bridgestone Shirley we are a locally owned and operated family business, we have been serving the eastern suburbs and wider community of Christchurch for the past 14 years. Our outreach is the whole country with customers as far away as Northland.

We support and provide discounts for the Mustang Owners Club. Come and see Ryan and the team for a quote on any brand of tyres.

## **Run to Oxford—Black Beach Wine Bar**

### **Sunday 27th June**

A great crowd of 30 cars turned out on a beautiful sunny winters day for the run to Oxford. Perhaps everyone was keen to get out after the very wet and cold June-July that we have had.

The run started at The West Melton Community Centre and went via Ho-

rorata and the scenic drive to Oxford, a run of about 1 hour.

Because of the numbers we were unable to all attend the chosen venue, so groups split off to the various eating establishments that are in Oxford, Ed went to his favourite bakery and had a legendary Sheffield pie!





## ***Run to Oxford—Black Beach Wine Bar Sunday 27th June***





## **Run to Oxford—Black Beach Wine Bar**

### **Sunday 27th June**





## **Mystery Run to Prebbleton-Dispensary Bar Sunday 10th August**

On a not so fine Sunday afternoon with a chill in the air, with a change from the customary morning start, 16 cars set off on a mystery run to where? no one knew. The route went West out of the West Melton community centre car park then after a short distance we headed on a back road route to the Rolleston Izone via Sandy Knolls Road, Newtons Road, Wards Road on to Jones Road. A short rip down the motorway and off at Weedons Rd. On to Lincoln University via Boundary and Springs Rd a quick circuit via Ellesmere Road and

into Prebbleton to the Dispensary Hotel. A run of about 45 minutes.

At the start teams were provided with a list of directions and questions which related to sights on the route. As far as I am aware there were no marital disputes and everyone managed to finish the run at the right place. The Hotel provided a separate room and a beautiful heart warming open fire. The food was good pub grub and a convivial time was had by all.



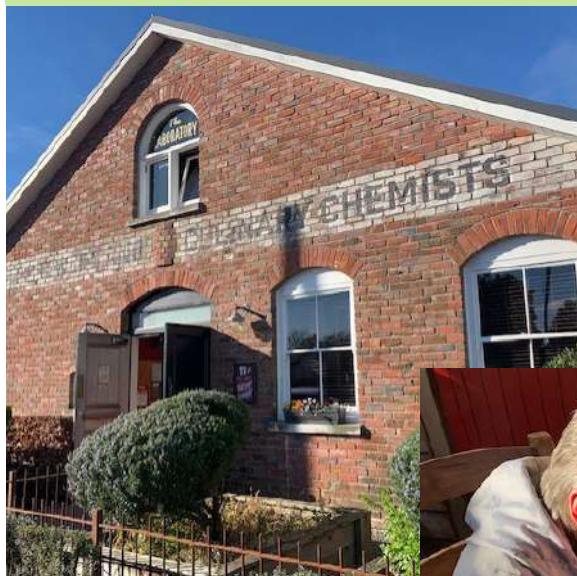


## **Mystery Run to Prebbleton-Dispensary Bar Sunday 10th August**





## Mystery Run to Prebbleton-Dispensary Bar Sunday 10th August



The hardworking  
judge and event  
organiser Viv O'Brien



Publicans choice, (1)  
Debbie Rahurahu

All prizes presented by  
Club Captain and event  
organiser Dennis O'Brien



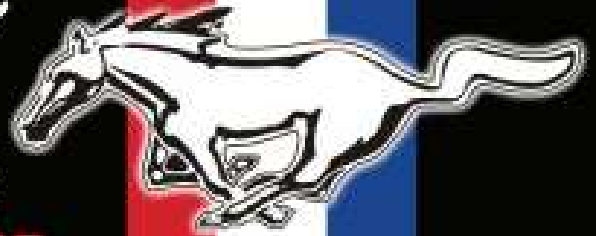
Publicans choice (2)  
Neville Ohlson



The "winners" Sheena, Allan &  
Lewis Walton

# Mustang CENTRE

QUALITY PARTS & SERVICING



[www.mustangcentre.co.nz](http://www.mustangcentre.co.nz)

**NZ'S LARGEST MUSTANG PARTS SUPPLIER,  
IN STOCK AND ON THE SHELF!**

We cover  
all years  
from  
1964½ to  
Current



- Interior / Exterior • Steering • Drive Train • Engine
- Suspension • Brakes • Sheet Metal • Spare wheels
- Dress-up Parts • Gift Ideas and Lots More!

OVER 7000 PRODUCT LINES! ONSITE SERVICING AND REPAIRS

**-- WE CAN SOURCE THOSE HARD TO FIND PARTS --**

30 KINGSLEY STREET, CHRISTCHURCH

EMAIL: [SALES@MUSTANGCENTRE.CO.NZ](mailto:SALES@MUSTANGCENTRE.CO.NZ)

PH: 03 3813 289 OR 0800 MUSTANG

**WE BUY AND SELL MUSTANGS - TALK TO US FIRST!**



## **Mid week Run to Tai Tapu Hotel**

### **Wednesday 20th August**

The weather for mid-winter runs is always a bit of a lottery, but by the time the group gathered at the Wigram Air Force Museum the worst of the rain had passed (although the wind chill factor was something else!).

We took a bit of a circuitous route out to Tai Tapu, which started with the South Island's only stretch of state highway that has a 110km/h speed limit. In my opinion, the recent decision to increase the speed limit over that 17km stretch was a logical one – the road was clearly engineered to deal with traffic travelling safely at a slightly higher speed.

After leaving the highway we took mostly back roads through to Prebleton and then on to Tai Tapu. In fairness, the route would have been a bit more picturesque had it been a decent day. We ended up with about 16 cars and 30 members for lunch.

It was great to welcome Ali Cooper to the club. She had driven all the way from Oamaru to be there!

Thanks to the staff at the Tai Tapu pub for their friendly and efficient service.

Cheers

Neville Hyland





## **Mid week Run to Tai Tapu Hotel Wednesday 20th August**





## **Daffodil Day Rally**

### **Sunday 24th August**



Daffodil Day is an annual charity event held to support people affected by cancer and raise funds for cancer research. It is celebrated in several countries, including Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, usually in late March.

#### **History of Daffodil Day**

Daffodil Day was first organized in Australia in 1986 when the organization Cancer Council Australia began selling daffodils as a symbol of the fight against cancer. The funds raised were used for cancer research and treatment, as well as to support patients and their families. The daffodil flower became the symbol of the event, associated with life and hope.

#### **Objectives of the Celebration**

The main objectives of Daffodil Day are:

- \* To raise funds for the fight against cancer.
- \* To increase awareness about the importance of prevention and early detection of cancer.

- \* To support cancer patients and their families, and to draw attention to the needs of oncology patients.

#### **How Daffodil Day is Celebrated**

On this day, people can participate in various activities, such as:

- \* Buying daffodils: Many people buy daffodils to support the cause and take part in the fund raising efforts.
- \* Organizing charity events: In various countries, concerts, fairs, sports events, and other activities are organized.
- \* Highlighting important health issues: On this day, lectures and discussions about cancer and cancer prevention are held.

#### **Symbolism of the Daffodil**

The daffodil, as a symbol, represents hope and new life. It blooms in the spring, which is associated with rebirth and overcoming difficulties. In the context of Daffodil Day, it has become a symbol of the fight against illness and the pursuit of healing.



# Daffodil Rally for Cancer

Sunday 24 August 2025  
*"Driving our History"*



## A Message of Gratitude

This year, our partnership with Ford New Zealand has again lifted this event to new heights. Their support and enthusiasm have been outstanding and have helped amplify the Daffodil Rally across the country. The Cancer Society is equally ecstatic, sharing just how much your efforts mean to families and individuals navigating their cancer journey.

To each and every member, volunteer, and supporter, thank you! Your commitment, your time, and your passion are what make the Daffodil Rally such a standout event. Whether you coordinated a run, decorated your car, shook a donation bucket, or simply joined the convoy, you've been part of something truly special.

This year has shown, more than ever, that the Vintage Car Club is not just about cars; it's about community, connection, and making a difference. I am incredibly proud of you all and look forward to sharing the final fundraising total and more stories in next week's update.

Ngā mihi  
Kaaren Smylie

VCC Daffodil Day Rally 2025 - National  
Coordinator

*'Driving our History'*

E: [kaaren@linsa.co.nz](mailto:kaaren@linsa.co.nz)  
M: 021 66 43 41





## **Daffodil Day Rally**

### **Sunday 24th August**

On a beautiful, but cold Autumn day a good crew of 36 Mustangs assembled in the reserved area at the VCC grounds at McLeans Island after partaking in the rally that started at a number of venues throughout Christchurch. What a great venue and the VCC do a great job in hosting this annual event. A large number of trees have been felled since the last time that we were there. My understanding is that the airport authorities requested that the trees be felled because they were a possible hazard for air traffic. It has certainly opened up the area to the sun light which was appreciated given the chilly conditions to start the day.

Unfortunately the proximity of the air port also foiled my latest attempt to use my new drone to take some arial shots. After being forced to re read the instruction manual after previous failed attempts to use the drone, I thought it was all go, but the drone software told me I was too close to the airport so would not al-

low me to take off. So it was back to my hand held camera!!

As well as pictures of our club members Mustangs, I have included a selection of the "other" brands" that took my eye. There are certainly some enthusiasts out there.

This year the organisers included an award for the best Mustang. The prize was provided by Avon City Ford. The winners were Steve and Gail Wright with their Teal 1970 Sportroof 351. That color is something special, they also won the publicans choice at our last Christmas function at Hamner Springs.

In Canterbury, members rallied together for a fantastic day, raising an impressive \$10,195 through donations and raffles, with even more still to come from Avonhead Rotary, Mr Frosty, the coffee team, and a staff fundraiser at Avon City Ford. That's the equivalent of 57 nights of accommodation for families staying at the Cancer Society Centre.





## Daffodil Day Rally Sunday 24th August



Steve & Gail Wright  
receiving their award



Steve & Gail with their  
1970 Teal Sportroof 351





## Daffodil Day Rally Sunday 24th August



A mob of Morries

DAFFODIL  
DAY



A hive of Healeys



A mixture of Minnies



A Steam Punk creation



A range of Rovers

DAFFODIL  
DAY



# Ford Mustang RTR

5.0L Ti-VCT V8 Engine, 10-speed automatic transmission



## Thinking Mustang? Think Avon City!

New & Used Sales, Trade-Ins, Valuation, Servicing,  
OEM Upgrades or Aftermarket Parts & Accessories.

Get in touch with us and we can help!

### Avon City Ford

Corner Main South Road & Epsom Road, Sockburn | 0800 655 551 | [avoncityford.com](http://avoncityford.com)





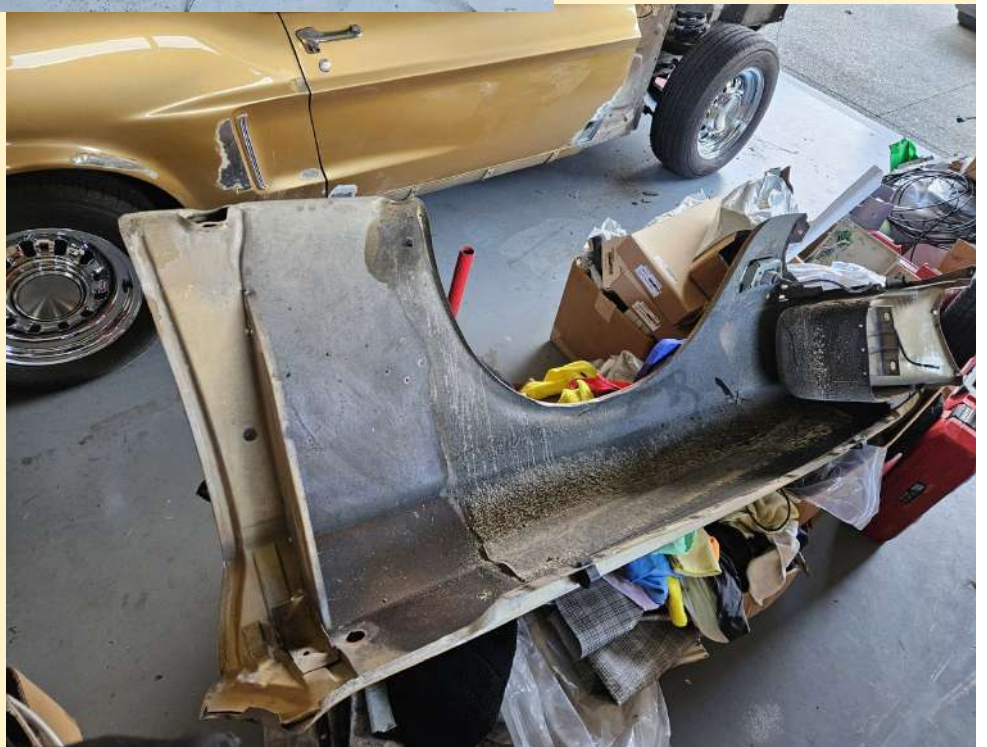
## ***Ray's Restoration***

### ***1968 Fastback Deluxe 302 J Code***

Well I have progressed slowly the dissecting of the 68' and removed all chrome and brightwork.

Now onto interior, wiring, heater box. I have run out of room in the garage to put stuff away so now moving to fill up my lockup. Hard to believe there's so much hardware that goes into building a Mustang.

Note to myself, buy more sticking plasters and CRC as I have on a few occasions left behind my DNA on bits of mustang metal.



## **2026 Shelby Super Snake-R Debuts as Latest Supercharged S650 Mustang**

The Ford Mustang Dark Horse is a killer in its own right, packing the legendary 5.0L Coyote V8 to the tune of 500 horsepower in harness under the hood. Naturally, Shelby American couldn't keep its hands off the go-fast pony, officially revealing the 2026 Shelby Super Snake-R as the latest rendition of the supercharged S650 Mustang.

The limited-edition build is based on the S650 Mustang Dark Horse, packing a number of upgrades that put it in league with high-performance sports cars. Shelby saw fit to slap a supercharger on the Dark Horse's already mean 5.0L V8, coaxing upwards of 850 horsepower from that howling Coyote. All that power is routed to the rear two wheels (RWD) via either the Tremec TR-3160 six-speed manual transmission, or the 10-speed automatic transmission.

Though the horsepower is the star of the show, the 2026 Shelby Super Snake-R packs a fully adjustable coil over suspension system. It's been given a wider stance, too, helping to keep it planted at any speed, along with special bodywork and a Shelby-spec chassis stiffening system. Designers opted for extensive carbon fiber and lightweight aluminum components, keeping the pony car light on its feet despite its extra equipment. In fact, the tuner states that the 2026 Shelby Super Snake-R is just 116 pounds heavier than the stock S650 Mustang Dark Horse.

"The 2026 Shelby Super Snake-R simply has the best handling prowess that we've ever offered in the history of the car," said Vince LaViolette, Shelby American Vice President of Operations and Senior Designer. "From the fully adjustable coil overs to replacing rubber bushings with





## **2026 Shelby Super Snake-R Debuts as Latest Supercharged S650 Mustang**

metal spherical bearings and a harness strut bar that ties together the rear shock towers, this advanced suspension is very impressive. We tuck everything underneath a gorgeous wide body package that allows us to fit massive tires on the car to maximize traction.”

He added, “We were obsessive in our efforts to reduce weight and improve the car’s balance. From our proprietary hood to the splitter and other key components, we used carbon fiber components to minimize weight and redirect the wind for better cooling. The power to weight ratio of the Shelby Super Snake-R is staggering.”

The 2026 Shelby Super Snake-R

starts at \$224,995(US), including the price of the base Ford Mustang Dark Horse.

The Super Snake-R is Shelby’s third vehicle based on the S650 Ford Mustang, joining the likes of the 2024 Shelby Super Snake.



## **Ford Performance Head Explains Why Automaker Goes Racing (Ford Authority)**

Ford racing fans rally behind a clever acronym: First On Race Day. The Blue Oval's racing heritage spans short tracks and drag strips alike, and soon, it will take to the open wheel scene thanks to its new Formula One partnership with Red Bull Racing. Mark Rushbrook, head of Ford Performance, recently sat down to explain what motivates the automaker to hit the track every week.

Ford Performance competes in all manner of motorsport, and Rushbrook said that racing serves three purposes. First, of course, it's good for the brand.

"Take our entrance into F1," Rushbrook said. "Our collaboration with Oracle Red Bull Racing and Visa CashApp Racing Bulls from 2026 will showcase our leadership in technical innovation to an audience of over 1 billion F1 followers."

It's also good for business. Rushbrook touted the Ford Mustang Dark Horse R, which gives customers a relatively accessible springboard to help launch their own racing endeavours. After starting with the Dark Horse R, prospective racers can jump to the likes of the Mustang GT3 and Mustang GT4, both of which have been making waves in international sportscar racing.

Finally, Ford Performance racing helps the automaker gather data and information that can then be ap-

plied to its roadgoing line. For example, "ultra-tough" competition like the FIA World Endurance Championship and even the Baja 1000 help engineers innovate. After all, if vehicle tech can withstand the demanding conditions of motorsports, it can surely perform on the street, too.

"Whatever the theatre, we're there to show the world what Ford can do when there's a challenge to be tackled, and we're enormously proud of what we've achieved," Rushbrook said. "Yet, despite being so varied, our Ford Performance programs are chosen carefully. Strategy is at the heart of any successful racing campaign, and we're equally strategic about how and why we race."

In short, Ford Performance does race just for the sake of racing, but it's also a way for the automaker to prove itself in front of a global audience.





## 2025 Ford Mustang Challenge at Le Mans Kicks into High Gear on June 9th (Ford Authority)

The Blue Oval's Mustang Challenge puts race car drivers and automotive enthusiasts from all corners of motorsport behind the wheel of the Ford Mustang Dark Horse R. Ford has lofty goals for its single-make racing series, planning to take it global – and that will start this weekend at the inaugural Mustang Challenge Le Mans Invitational.

A massive car count will take the green flag at Le Mans this weekend. On-track action kicked off on June 9<sup>th</sup> and the final race is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, preceding the iconic 24 Hours of Le Mans set to start later that evening. Forty examples of the Mustang Dark Horse R will race in the Mustang Challenge at Circuit de la Sarthe, split among three divisions: Dark Horse, Dark Horse Legends, and Dark Horse Stars.

The Dark Horse Stars class is the star of the show, as its name implies. It's unique to the Le Mans Invitational race, featuring talent from other motorsports, veteran sportscar operators, and more. Notable entries in-

clude Sir Chris Hoy and Chris Harris, along with Ford Formula Drift drivers Chelsea DeNofa and Tanner Foust, the latter of which is a 10-times X-Games medalist, three-time Rally-Cross champion, and two-time Formula Drift champion.

"This opportunity is huge, and that's a big reason why I got involved in Mustang Challenge in the first place," said DeNofa. "You don't just become a race car driver and then shortly after, able to drive at Le Mans in a spec homologated chassis. Those are all words that are not really thrown around in motorsports nowadays."

Franke Muniz, who played the titular character on popular sitcom *Malcolm In The Middle* before transitioning to motorsports, will drive a Dark Horse R this weekend. It'll be his first attempt on the storied asphalt at Le Mans. And never to be one left out of Blue Oval-powered action, Ford CEO Jim Farley will take up the reins of his own Mustang Challenge machine this weekend.





## **2025 Ford Mustang Challenge at Le Mans Kicks into High Gear on June 9th (Ford Authority)**





# THE ALL-NEW FORD MUSTANG®



SECURE YOUR MUSTANG TODAY



Talk to the team today  
about securing your  
7th Generation Mustang.

Full RTR packages available:  
Spec 1, Spec 2 and Spec 3.



Contact New Zealand's  
Mustang Specialists today.

Hamish 027 206 7807  
Wills 021 338 496

**Team Hutchinson Ford**

186 Tuam Street | CHCH | [teamhutchinsonford.com](http://teamhutchinsonford.com)

MY FORD  
FINANCE





## **Ford Mustang Coupe's Future Will Remain Gasoline Powered (Ford Authority)**

It was just a few years ago when a full transition to all-electric power seemed inevitable, but a lot has changed since then. Today, automakers have scaled back electrification plans in a big way, all to adjust for weaker than expected demand for such vehicles. As for the iconic Ford Mustang, it has always seemed to be destined to hang on to traditional ICE powertrains longer than most vehicles – a notion supported by comments from Blue Oval CEO Jim Farley himself – and it seems like nothing has changed on that front, either.

According to *Automotive News*, the Ford Mustang won't be going all-electric anytime soon, as The Blue Oval will "be building gasoline pony cars well into the next decade." The report notes that the Mustang is slated to undergo a refresh in late 2026, followed by a redesign anticipated for 2029. Previously, FoMoCo was mulling the idea of transitioning to an EV-only pony car as part of that latter action, but now, that's

no longer the case.

What's particularly interesting about this report is the fact that back in May 2024, Farley said that "we will never make an all-electric Mustang. I look at other users of pure-electric power such as Formula E, and even companies like Rimac, and I just don't think that would be right for Mustang. Great for other Fords – look at the worldwide success of Transit – but not for Mustang." It is possible that the decision to nix an EV next-gen pony car was made prior to these comments, however.

Regardless, we do know that the Ford Mustang will be getting some sort of partial electrification, hybrid powertrain before 2030, based on the automaker's plans to add a hybrid option to every model in its Ford Blue lineup by 2030. We were previously promised a V8 hybrid-powered pony car way back in January 2017 for the 2020 model year, but that still hasn't come to fruition.





DRIVEN BY PASSION OBSESSED WITH PERFORMANCE

# HAMMONDS

## COLLISION + MECHANICAL



## OUR SERVICES

- WOF, SERVICE & WHEEL ALIGNMENT
- COLLISION & MECHANICAL REPAIRS
- REPAINTING & RESTORATIONS
- STRUCTURAL & RUST REPAIRS
- PRE PURCHASE INSPECTIONS

## WHY US

ALL MAKES AND MODELS  
ALIGNED WITH MOST  
INSURANCE COMPANIES  
COMPETITIVE PRICES  
FREE QUOTES



admin@hammonds.nz



46 Battersea Street,  
Sydenham



03 366 18 09



*Signature*<sup>®</sup>  
**HOMES** Est. 1983

**YOUR HOME. YOUR WAY.**



## Build your new home with Signature Homes

Whether you're searching for a House & Land package in Christchurch South or building from one of our pre-designed house plans – Signature Homes has got you covered. Our expert team will seamlessly guide you through every step of the build process, ensuring a stress-free experience, all under one roof.

---

**Contact Rhys Gould today | 027 294 4000 | [rhysgould@signature.co.nz](mailto:rhysgould@signature.co.nz)**

Signature Homes Christchurch South | 31 Watts Road, Sockburn | [signature.co.nz](http://signature.co.nz)