

NZ Federation of Motoring Clubs – 2019 AGM – Presidents Report by Harry Duynhoven

This has been a mixed year, good progress on some fronts, less than stellar on others and if you're like me, not nearly enough time in the garage.

The FoMC last AGM saw us farewell our long serving Secretary, Roy Hughes, with the appointment of Conrad Petersen to the role. Some time later, Conrad offered his resignation from this position, but is prepared to continue as an advisor to FoMC and we thank him for this. His experience with government departments and with transport entities give him great knowledge and skills in this area. We sincerely thank Roy once again for serving as secretary in the interim and also for his willingness to continue as Submissions Secretary and as editor of our Wheel torque publication. During this year Roy has produced some excellent articles and submissions, on the Zero Carbon Bill, to the Productivity Commission and on ACC changes. There have also been a variety of other issues, including some which will require ongoing work, such as the public liability costs issue imposed by some councils, Compulsory 3rd Party Vehicle Insurance, various NZTA rule changes, and other issues as they arise. We welcome Chris Butler into the role of secretary and thank Roy for his long and continuing service.

As president I have visited five clubs during the year in my area and hope that we can expand our membership. Over the coming year I hope to visit the remaining local clubs and my aim is to gradually bring all to see the advantage of being in the Federation. I also made an courtesy visit to the Associate Minister of Transport, Hon. Julie-Anne Genter, who I had not previously met. She is able and is the first minister in years with formal qualifications in transport. She is a reformer and has shown a willingness to try new ideas, especially in attempts to reduce the road death and injury rate, the recent seminars for motorcyclists around the country being a good example. I'm sure there will be more initiatives in the coming months. I do feel it is time we made a formal approach to visit her and I imagine she or Minister Twyford would be a very good speaker at next year's AGM.

We certainly have no shortage of issues to discuss. There are growing constraints on the ability to drive and use enthusiast and heritage vehicles in some countries and we need to watch that well-meant initiatives do not compromise this here. We also continue to advocate for the age of recognition of classic status for licencing fees be reduced to 30 years from the current 40. There are very few vehicles in daily use older than 30 years, even though a large number of 30+ years are registered, many of these not continually licenced. The current push for electrification of the vehicle fleet may also create future issues but current EV prices and today's battery technology make it hard to see worthwhile reductions to CO2 emissions if there are to be massive increases in the numbers of EVs and corresponding scrappage of partly used ICE vehicles. Perhaps conversions of existing daily use vehicles may be a more useful approach. Maybe LPG or CNG may make a return as a lower carbon emitting interim solution. The real long term solution for individual vehicles is likely to be the fuel cell vehicle but costs will have to be slashed before that becomes realistic for most drivers.

So it looks as though the future will still see plenty of issues for us to get involved with, and I haven't even talked about the Incorporated Societies Act or Health and Safety issues yet!

Thanks to all of the executive, particularly David who does such a great job keeping all our finances in good state, and welcome to Michael this year, and to Chris.

Thanks for all of your attendance and your support for the Federation

Harry Duynhoven, 19 May 2019