

Z Club of NZ Newsletter March 2024

Issue 14



From the Editor:

March already, summer is on its way out. I'm using the last of the good weather to do some painting on my house. I am still finding that the paint is drying really fast. My latest project is an FD RX7, on which I have done body work and am preparing for paint. It is almost completed and should get sprayed in the next few weeks. Once this car is completed, I will do a Spotlight article on it. I have a couple of smaller jobs lined up, and then will get back into my own projects. I feel quite privileged that in my retirement I can do this sort of work. It's something I really enjoy.

Committee:

Presently we have 6 people on the committee and will be down to five after our next AGM. We still meet monthly at Eagle Tech in Newmarket. The biggest problem we face as a committee, is that most of the committee members have been doing this work for decades. Even though we do this willingly, we have committee members who have filled positions for over 20 years and would really like to hand those positions over to someone else, but there is nobody to hand them to. We now have the situation where committee members are performing multiple roles.

One of the steps we are taking is to set up an online function for the committee. We are hoping that this will mean less traveling to monthly meetings, and also open the door for others to join the committee, especially some outside Auckland. If we are to do that, we can also look into holding events in other centres, rather than just Auckland and Waikato.

Have a think about this, if you are able to offer some of your time, flick me an email.

Ramblings:

Finally, EV owners will be paying road user tax. If you are an EV owner, I'm sorry, but it had to happen. I understand why electric cars were exempt, but personally I think that road tax should have been applied right from the beginning.

The Road to Zero: I have talked about this before, it is an unattainable goal. NZTA say that The Road to Zero doesn't mean zero deaths, but is more of an aim rather than an achievement. That still doesn't make sense.

Simeon Brown, our Transport Minister has advised us that “ The election promise to reverse the previous Labour Government's blanket speed reductions will come into operation”. The minister said lower speeds were the number one issue people raised with him as he walked the streets of his Pakuranga electorate in East Auckland. Aucklanders have also become increasingly frustrated by the persistent slowdown in their daily commutes over hundreds of speed bumps being put on our roads, and want a different approach. The new rules will ensure that when speed limits are set, economic impacts, including travel times, and the views of road users and local communities are taken into account, alongside safety,” he said.

Our government is busy drafting some new rules around this. It will be interesting to read this when it comes out. Brown has said that there will be a general review. From what I understand, we will not be going back to what we had, but will be looking at a different approach. Some speed restrictions will go back up, and some stay the same. There will be a greater emphasis on travel time, especially for transport vehicles, with a possibility that we will see more 110 kph sections on our highways.

The new rules will be going out for consultation mid-year, and approved later in the year. Finally, a sensible balanced approach.

There will also be an increase in Safety Cameras. Note NZTA doesn't use the word speed when it talks about these cameras. NZTA once again remind us that these are not to create revenue, but are there to keep our roads safe. The income from these cameras does not go to NZTA, but into the government consolidated fund. They say that fixed cameras will be signposted, but mobile ones will not.

Past events:

Drag day: We had good attendance on the day. Leading up to the event it was



looking like the numbers would be low, but we had a lot of people turn up on the day. We had great weather and a good turn out, what



more could you ask for. My thanks to those that supported us, and it was great to see a wide variety of cars in attendance.

We even had electric cars competing. The committee is keen to repeat this event again at some stage.



I have added pictures onto our gallery of this event. I think I managed to include all the cars that attended.

You can view the rest of the pictures here:

<https://zclub.nz/latest-gallery/>

Unfortunately, we couldn't afford to pay for the official Race timing system, opting for personal timing slips to drivers with their completed times. As a result we don't have an official report on the fastest to slowest, but are working on trying to get this info. If we do, we will post it up.



Ellerslie Car Show and Concourse: As it turned out, the show was on the same



date as our Drag Day. This is difficult to control when events are organised so far ahead of time. But it all worked out okay.



We had seven cars on display, representing all the different generations with the exception of the 350Z.



The show was a success with good attendance and a great day out.



If you have never been to this Car Show it is certainly worth the visit. If you are keen to show your car, just drop me a line. bernjean59@gmail.com

Meet and Greet: We met with fellow members at the Union Post on Wednesday 13th of March. We had 7 people attend. It's always great to catch up with fellow members. It's a nice way to get to know each other over a beer and bites. We hold these quarterly, Consider coming to the next Meet and Greet. I forgot to take some pics but will try to remember for next time.

Future Events:

Forgotten Highway Event: 19th – 21st April. Come and enjoy a weekend together. Join us as we cruise Highway 43, overnighing at National Park and New Plymouth. This event is in the middle of the North Island, so is convenient for all North Islanders. Or make it a day event with an early Saturday start. Check this out on our Web site. If you intend coming, please book your own accommodation. Find all the details below. <https://zclub.nz/events/forgotten-highway-tour-2024-april-19th-21st/>

AGM: 5th May Please set this date aside, details to follow. This is a good opportunity to meet your committee. In the past we have had strong attendance, but more recently lower, and would love to see more members attending.

Mini Club Night Trial: 22nd June, 5.00pm. The start point is the top of the Bombay Hill at Coffee Club. The Mini Club have invited the Z Club to join in with its annual Night Trial. Bring a navigator, clipboard and torch. Dinner at end point.

Mini Club Fish and Chip Cruise: 14th July, 10.15am. Start point is the top of the Bombay Hill at Coffee Club. Back road to Kauiaiu for lunch, then up the coast road to Clevedon for an Ice Cream.

Events in the making:

Drive some of the Targa Roads: Peter Martin, managing director of Targa NZ has offered to take a group of keen Zedders on a run on some of the roads that Targa NZ uses. We are hoping to do this later in the year and have asked him if we could have the Targa notes as well. Please note this event will be run at legal speeds.

Many Thanks, Bernie Kant

President Z Club of NZ

