

# Celebrating 40 Years of Mustangs!

## The Great New Zealand Mustang Run



### ***Kaitiaki to Bluff: 29 March to 9 April 2004***

It won't have escaped the attention of many Mustang owners that next year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the production of the very 1<sup>st</sup> Mustang. It rolled off the Dearborn line on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 1964, and the new model was officially launched 5 weeks later to massive publicity on 17 April. And as they say, the rest is history!

To celebrate this milestone there are several large events happening in the USA, the biggest being the MCA event in Nashville. However there will also be a major event in NZ ; the first ever NZ Mustang Marathon - 3000 km from Kaitiaki to Bluff. All seven Mustang clubs are co-operating to organise this historic event.

The "Great NZ Mustang Run" leaves Kaitiaki on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March and finishes in Bluff 12 days later on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April. The itinerary is set out below.

Date	Start	Finish
Mon 29th March	Kaitiaki	Orewa
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Orewa	Tauranga
Wed 31st March	Tauranga	Taupo
Thur 1st April	Taupo	New Plymouth
Fri 2nd April	New Plymouth Masterton	Masterton Wellington
Sat 3rd April	Ferry Crossing	
	Picton	Nelson
Sun 4th April	Rest Day in Nelson	
Mon 5th April	Nelson	Christchurch
Tue 6th April	Christchurch	Dunedin
Wed 7th April	Dunedin	Queenstown
Thur 8th April	Queenstown	Invercargill
Fri 9th April	Invercargill	Bluff

Where time permits, the cars will be on display for short periods in the main cities and towns as the run passes through.

The prime aim is to get as many Mustangs participating as possible, so all Mustang owners, club members and non club members alike are being invited. So if you know someone who owns a Mustang but is not a club member, be sure to pop around and tell them about it. It's probable that this will be the biggest single marquee event ever held in this country.

While some cars have already registered to run the entire distance over the full 12 days, it's envisaged that most owners will opt to join the event for just a day two, or perhaps run down one full island over 5 days.

Each overnight stop will include at least one organised activity such as a combined meal, visits to local attractions, karaoke evening etc etc so this will definitely be a fun event where you can mix with Mustangers from all over NZ. In fact initial registrations suggest that as many as 40% of the participants will NOT be members of any of the existing seven Mustang Clubs. Therefore this is a never to be repeated opportunity to see new cars and meet new people. (Also a fantastic recruitment opportunity for the club.....!!)

Each club is individually organising that part of the event which passes through its own area. To ensure the event is properly co-ordinated, each club has appointed a representative. In our case this is ..... The seven reps together form a national steering committee chaired by national coordinator Wal Marshall, who also runs the national Mustang website [www.nzmustang.com](http://www.nzmustang.com).

The steering committee have met twice. The first meeting was in April 03 in Taupo with Jim Chism from the Mustang Club of America who gave the event the formal MCA status as an international 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. He also gave approval to use a variation of the official USA Logo Nashville for the NZ event, and this offer has been taken up. A second meeting of the co-ordination committee was held during national convention in Christchurch.

Because of this combined effort the organisation of the Run is proceeding smoothly, with registrations now open and rolling in, event posters appearing around the country, and sales of event branded clothing proving very popular.

Each registered participant will get an A3 glossy poster, a certificate of participation and a copy of the official event booklet providing the background and history of the event, maps of each stage, lists of participants, etc. Further items such as flags and banners are also likely if funding permits.



Full information including route maps, registration details, pictures of the event clothing, order forms etc etc can be obtained by going to the event website at [www.nzmustang.com](http://www.nzmustang.com) , or contacting your rep .....on ph .....

Be sure to register early because the prearranged overnight accommodation at each venue is definitely limited. Also you want to make sure your details are received in time to be included in the event booklet which will be an enduring record of the event and a potential collectors item in future.

Also an Auckland professional photographer has registered interest to travel the entire 12 days, with a view to publishing a book on the event for international distribution. The BOP clubs have two days of radio coverage planned as the station announcers travel with the event.

Few Mustang owners will want to miss being part of this historic event, the likes of which may not be seen again in this country for a long time, if ever!

Don't miss out, plan and register now!

