



***CANTERBURY CAR CLUB***  
***RACING TO THE FUTURE***



• EST 1947 •

CANTERBURY  
CAR CLUB

## A word from our President, Lewis Low



Lewis, with his Datsun Scarab.

I've been a petrol head all my life. Back in my 50s (some time ago now), my then-17 year old son looked at my Ford Cortina sitting in the garage and said, "Well Dad, what are you doing with this thing? Is it sitting around, or are you going to do something with it?"

And that was the start of my Motorsport career!

My Motorsport journey is all about the passion for being on the track with my mates and competing—it's what I love. The thrill is what brings everyone here, and the energy of the people is contagious. We can't all win every time, but its those moments when you do that keep you coming back!

Ruapuna has produced many champions who've found success globally, but we're still a Club. While Motorsport in New Zealand has changed over the past 77 years, we've stayed true to our roots, avoiding commercialisation, and we're proud of that. The future is open, and it's exciting to see young people getting involved in Motorsport.



## A word from our General Manager, Mark Wederell

The Club means the world to me. There's so much passion in what we do, and each year our events get bigger and better, and our membership grows.

As I look to the future, I believe the best part of the Club's history is still ahead. It's crucial that we take the next step to make the circuit future-proofed for years to come. This ensures our members will have an affordable, accessible, world-class motorsport facility in Christchurch for another 77 years.



## WHO WE ARE TODAY

### Honouring the Legacy

Canterbury Car Club embodies the shared vision of Motorsport fans to provide a world-class facility in Christchurch for members, fans, and the community to enjoy. Our core belief is that Motorsport should be enjoyed by all, without financial barriers. As the largest and most active circuit-owning Motorsport club in New Zealand, we have over 850 members, including past and current NZ Championship drivers.

The Club is the reason the Ruapuna track exists today, and as its managing body, we take pride in being a non-commercial, professional organisation.

Ruapuna is one of the few remaining club-owned tracks in New Zealand, putting Canterbury on the map for Motorsport enthusiasts of all levels to meet and compete.

To ensure the future of our sport, the Club offers a space where the passion for Motorsport can thrive—not just for current enthusiasts, but for the next generation. It's vital to provide a safe, welcoming environment where young people can foster their interest in this beloved pastime. We strive to keep event and membership costs low, so Motorsport remains accessible to the many, not just the few.

***"Canterbury Car Club embodies the shared vision of Motorsport fans to provide a world-class facility in Christchurch for members, fans, and the community to enjoy."***



## ***OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE RUAPUNA, THE ONLY PLACE TO RACE!***

**Our vision is to be a world-class Motorsport facility, for our members, Motorsport fans, and the community to enjoy.**

As the heart of South Island racing, Ruapuna—managed by Canterbury Car Club—draws racers and spectators from across New Zealand. The races grow bigger and better each year, and membership is on the rise as we work toward achieving our long-term goals and bringing our strategic plan to life.

While much has changed since 1947, we remain a club built by and for our members. Looking to the future, we are, and always will be, a fun, friendly, and affordable club with accessible facilities for all.

# STEPPING ON THE GAS

## Our 10-year strategic plan

We are launching a strategic plan to help us move forward with achieving our long term vision. This plan includes four key areas of focus for the next ten years.



### FACILITIES UPGRADE

#### Club assets

Our track, buildings, and pit garages are essential to the Club, and we're dedicated to upgrading them to world-class standards.

#### Safety

We ensure a safe environment for Motorsport enthusiasts of all ages to enjoy their passion.

#### Enjoyable facilities

From washrooms to lounges, we provide quality facilities for members of all ages.

### ACCESSIBILITY

#### Community Inclusion

We value local support and offer affordable access to groups within the community.

#### Ensuring accessibility

We strive to provide world-class events that are inclusive of all, including disabled members.

#### Affordable access

We work to make Motorsport accessible to all by removing barriers to participation.

### GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY

#### Protecting the Ruapuna brand

Our heritage and international standing are vital, and we work to protect the credibility of our brand for the future.

#### Future sustainability

We are committed to building a sustainable infrastructure to ensure Ruapuna thrives for another 77 years.

#### Membership growth

We welcome new members to grow our Motorsport community and share the joy of racing.

### THE ENVIRONMENT

#### Our Future

We are committed to taking climate positive action with regular tree planting initiatives.

#### Renewables and Recyclables

We promote the use of fuels created from renewable sources, and we recycle used tyres to make safety barriers.

#### Electric Vehicles

We are the first track in New Zealand to have BYD Electric Safety Car.



## OUR HISTORY & HERITAGE

### Standing on the shoulders of giants

Following the arrival of the first motor car in 1901, Christchurch quickly became New Zealand's Motorsport hub, despite the lack of a permanent circuit. Races were held at Lancaster Park, the Port Hills, New Brighton Beach, and Wigram Airbase. For years, the Canterbury Car Club dreamed of a permanent base, and after discussions starting in 1960 with Christchurch Speedway, Ruapuna Raceway officially opened on November 24, 1963, drawing 7,000 spectators.

***“Christchurch came alive ...  
on 24 November 1963.”***

**—Ruapuna: The First 50 Years (Lindsay Kerr, 2013)**

The creation of the original track, control tower, and facilities was made possible by the generous contributions of time and money from the Canterbury Car Club's small but dedicated membership. Thousands of volunteer hours went into building the site, a testament to the skills and networks of its members. To this day, members remain the lifeblood of the Club.

Over the past 77 years, we've evolved and grown, but the heart of the Club remains the same. We exist to provide a home for Motorsport enthusiasts in Canterbury, and we're deeply grateful to those whose dedication has made the Club what it is today. Our members and volunteers have shown unwavering passion and commitment from the start.



## ***RUAPUNA, A BACKBONE OF THE MOTORSPORT COMMUNITY***

With seven Motorsport NZ licenced track variations, Ruapuna is the centre point of motor racing in Canterbury, hosting many large-scale events, including:

- SKOPE Classic
- Super Weekend
- Wigram Revival
- South Island Endurance Series
- Speed Festival

Nearly every weekend of our track calendar is busy, with both Club and externally-run events.



## ***GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY***

Our community focus extends beyond racing, offering a venue for events like local and national school duathlons and cycling. We provide affordable rates to local groups to show our appreciation for their ongoing support.

A great example is the annual South Island School Road Cycling Championships event held at Ruapuna. Hosting it on a sealed race track simplifies logistics for organisers, eliminating the need to close roads or manage traffic. It also enhances the experience for spectators and support crews, who can follow the riders throughout the event, making it enjoyable for everyone involved.

### **Driver Safety**

Defensive driver training is held regularly at Ruapuna Raceway, helping drivers develop the skills needed to navigate New Zealand roads safely. The race track provides a safe, controlled environment for this type of learning, facilitated by various driver training providers.

We are proud to partner with Street Smart, a world-class, hands-on programme that follows best practices in cognitive and experiential learning. Street Smart aims to make a positive impact on young Kiwis' lives across the country.



## HELPING THE NEXT GENERATION

### Will Neale from track toddler to rising star

I was basically born at this track. I was here at just a couple of weeks old, and now, at 17, I've never left. I'm here every Friday, most weekends, and any other chance I get. Ruapuna means a lot to me because I've grown up here and made two of my best mates, who are like brothers to me. We used to play on the playground as kids, and now we're racing together—it's pretty cool.

I've been competing in New Zealand for the past two years, winning five races and placing third in the national championship last year. My goal this year is to win it. But my favourite moments aren't



just about the racing—they're about growing up here, running around, playing, and having fun.

Ruapuna is great because everyone is so friendly. If you need something, someone will help out. It's all about enjoying the sport and having fun. Sure, some aim to be world champions, but most are here for the love of it. Many of my racing sponsors are people I've met at Ruapuna—they're just passionate Motorsport fans. I've learned to connect with people, and no matter how intimidating someone might seem, at the track, we're all there for the same reason—to enjoy the cars and each other's company.

### Andy Neale (Will's father) a family legacy of racers

I'm immensely proud of Will's achievements. Motorsport runs in the family and it's one of those things where playing together keeps you close. Like any father and son, we butt heads at times—it's an intense sport, with accidents and losses, but you're always pushing to be better. The competition makes you better, and that's what's helped generate such a world-class crop of drivers. Ruapuna is a tough track, and if you can drive here, you can drive anywhere.

Looking at drivers like Shane Van Gisbergen, Mitch Evans, Nick Cassidy and Earl Bamber, they all spent

a lot of time at Ruapuna. For Will and the younger racers, it's a great opportunity to interact with a wide range of people, including those very successful in their careers, and learn valuable life skills. There's so much to learn from human interactions.

The future of Ruapuna is limitless. With the right vision, upgrades could elevate us to the next level, hosting bigger events that would not only boost the local economy but also enhance the professionalism of the track. The future is very positive.



## OUR UNWAVERING APPRECIATION OF OUR LOYAL VOLUNTEERS

It was a team of passionate volunteers that laid down the track's first chip seal in 1963, and our volunteers have been essential ever since.

Ruapuna could not exist today without the help of our loyal volunteers, who take pride in the track and how it fits into the community.

*“Without volunteers, we just wouldn't exist. Our events wouldn't be able to be materialised. These are the people that go out in the flag posts. They're the pickup people, the rescue people, but also the Management Committee itself. All are volunteers, and without that group of people, we wouldn't be a club and wouldn't be able to go forward. We're so lucky that we've got such a big volunteer base.”*

—Mark Wederell, General Manager

## A WORD FROM OUR PATRON, TREVOR CROWE

It is an honour to be Patron of Canterbury Car Club. I was at the second ever race meeting, so I do go back a bit!

I've won a few championships, and managed some good placings at Bathurst, and the old Wellington Street Race. I'm the Asia Pacific Touring Car Champion, a title I am extremely proud of. I've had so much out of Canterbury Car Club, and I'm so happy to be able to give back, in my role as Patron.

When I think of everyone who has come out through the ranks at Ruapuna, I think particularly about the young guys—the families who have started racing at Ruapuna, and have gone to the next level—national, and then international. I know a lot of their parents, because they're my generation! I'm looking at these guys now aiming for Formula One, and thinking, "man, isn't that amazing?"

Ruapuna has always been good at welcoming everybody and anybody, regardless of the level of racing or Motorsport they're at. It's a family circuit—we are very good at nurturing those people that are just starting in the sport.

The volunteers at the club are fantastic, and they've been with us for right from the beginning—those who that turn up on their own, who do flag marshalling, make sure the days run, the guys in safety vehicles. Back in the day, I was one of those volunteers, because I could see the potential. I thought "this is going to be amazing!"



**The three generations: Trevor's son Rick (left) and grandson Kurt (right – straight from a building site), at Skope meeting in Ruapuna 2022.**

I've been blessed throughout my Motorsport career—it's amazing how many people have been happy to help me over the years, most of the volunteers. I never went on my own. We won as a team, always a group. We call it family, and in Motorsports, it is such a critical factor.

Those who support the Club are supporting the next generation of Motorsport. New Zealand circuits are turning out to be fantastic places for these young guys to hone their skills, and then head overseas

to race at the highest level of Formula One, or American racing. Supporting Ruapuna is critical to that.

The Club is in great hands, it's run by the heart and soul of everyone who works there, and who supports the racing. The atmosphere, the people, the vibe—it's fantastic.



***"It's not just a racetrack—it's about people. Over the years, I have seen the effort put in, and Ruapuna truly does a fantastic job at all levels. The input from donors is going to go a long way towards the lives of others. We're helping competitors, but we're also helping the experience of the spectators. New facilities and upgrades will be for everyone to enjoy."***

**—Trevor Crowe, Club Patron**



*The CAR Project updates will see significant improvements to our track, club rooms and buildings.*



Concept illustration of proposed Canterbury Car Club club rooms.

## ***THE CLUB ASSET REBUILD PROJECT***

Ruapuna's non-commercial, Club-owned status has made it a member favourite since 1947. With growing events and membership, we must keep the momentum going for Motorsport enthusiasts nationwide. To ensure top-quality facilities, our track and buildings need vital upgrades, which our **Club Asset Rebuild (CAR) Project** aims to deliver.

**See overleaf for the project stages.**

*“While the track is our foundation, vital upgrades are needed for our buildings and pit garages to bring the Club to the world-class standard it deserves.”*

# CLUB ASSET REBUILD PROJECT STAGES



## STAGE ONE

Essential upgrades to the Club will begin with the resealing of the track, rebuilding our Clubrooms, addressing the kerbs, improving drainage systems, and updating the flag point lights and cameras.

**Cost to complete Stage One: \$4 million\***



## STAGE TWO

Our facilities will evolve alongside the growing popularity of Motorsport and our diverse community, ensuring everyone feels welcome at Ruapuna. Planned upgrades to the control tower will accommodate more controllers on race days and improve accessibility for all.

**Cost to complete Stage Two: \$2.2 million**



## STAGE THREE

Aligning with our desire to be a world class motorsport facility, we want to move our existing pit lane garages to the back of the pits, and build new purpose-built garages in the pit lane, including viewing platforms above, and provision for corporate suites. Upgrades to the children's playground will ensure the next generation enjoys their time at the track.

**Cost to complete Stage Three: \$5 million**

\*costs shown are approximate.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## Together we can keep the wheels spinning

We have a goal to raise **\$11.2 million** to complete the stages of our CAR Project, all between 2024 and 2034. We invite you to be a part of this project, and contribute to help further our vision of having world-class facilities for our members, Motorsport fans, and our community to enjoy.



## WHAT YOUR DONATION COULD HELP US ACHIEVE

Ruapuna's uniqueness lies in being non-commercial and Club-owned, a quality cherished by our members since 1947. Your support today ensures the track continues to serve Motorsport enthusiasts nationwide.

While the track is our foundation, vital upgrades are needed for our buildings and pit garages to bring the Club to the world-class standard it deserves. A donation to these projects is an investment in our future, funding essential improvements for all to enjoy.

**Help us in honouring the past as we step on the gas and accelerate towards a future where Ruapuna stands as a world-class Motorsport Park**



Concept illustration of proposed Canterbury Car Club club rooms.



## ***WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN MAKING TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE HAPPEN***

There is essential building work to be done so that our members and the community alike, can continue to enjoy our Club-owned racetrack. A donation to help us fund this much needed work is an investment into the future of our Club, and we would be so grateful.

We invite you to join us in raising the level of our professional Club to the standard it deserves to be. You can be a part of the future, and together we can ensure that our vision to be a world class Motorsport facility, for our members, Motorsport fans, and the community to enjoy, can become a reality.

***“If you’re considering donating to Canterbury Car Club for the CAR Project, you’re making an investment in Motorsport in Canterbury. You’re going to ensure that the Club exists for hopefully another 75 years, you’re investing in the heritage of the club, the future of the Club, the legacy.”***

**—Lewis Low, Club President**





## WORDS FROM OUR LONG-STANDING VOLUNTEERS

### Anne Stewart

I've been Race Secretary for nearly 30 years, and I love it because I get to meet all the drivers! Our whole family is involved in the Club—my husband Dave and our son John volunteer, and even our granddaughter helps me in the office. Dave drives the safety car, and John drives the intervention car, so they're both on the track at the same time, one at each end of each race. Motorsport has given us so much, and we're not ready to stop.

My favourite cars are the Formula 5000s, especially the sound of the V8s—there's nothing better. One of my most amazing moments was getting a ride in a two-seater during our SKOPE Classic. It's also wonderful seeing the next generation of drivers



come through—grandfathers, sons, and grandsons, just like our granddaughter. I hope the future of the Club continues with the next generations. Without Ruapuna, there wouldn't be a Stewart racing team, and that would be very sad.

Motorsport always comes first for us. The only time it didn't was when our eldest son got married—on the same weekend as SKOPE! I asked Dave if we could ask Ross to change the date, but Dave said no! We still made it back for the end of the meeting on Sunday.

In 2003, Dave and I were made life members, which was a huge honour for both of us.

—Anne Stewart, Race Secretary

### Jason Fraser

I've been involved with the Club since about the age of five. Dad was the Club Vice President, and as I didn't have much on at the weekends, he brought me along with him—and I'm so glad he did! From that young age, as a family, we've never looked back—Mum even ended up running the shop downstairs for over 20 years.

I just wanted to be a flag marshal, because Dad was too. My biggest buzz was being on the flag point with him. I started unofficially in 1985, when I was about eight. It's now a hobby that's out of control—some of us can't get enough of the place. Even if we want to be done with the place, we keep coming back. It's a life sentence that I love. And now I'm dragging my kids out here too!

My little fella's a buzz. He can't get enough. He's here for everything. And my oldest son, he's just about as crazy as I am. I'm hoping my kids get to experience the same enjoyment I have, the just the emotion, the growing up, the people you meet, I hope they get the chance to experience everything I've experienced.

Back in the day, so much building work was done just by

a few hardy volunteers. It was only a handful of us, and we did it every weekend from mowing lawns to digging holes for the fence around the Club, to unblocking toilets, all that sort of thing. We all just did so much for this place.

Ruapuna is unique as it is so welcoming to newcomers.

There is so much entry level stuff for the kids to get involved in, somewhere safe for them to do it. I think this is why we have so many good drivers internationally.

We've got to keep going. We've got a 75-year legacy that we've got to keep going and I want to see another 50, and my kids want to see 50 years. We've got to keep growing. The work in the CAR Project is an opportunity to make this place as big as it

should be. We should have international race meetings. There is no reason why we can't. We just need a bit of help. That's why we need the help of our community.

**An investment in the Club is investment in the future, and we can't not invest in our future! I think we need to help the younger generation. My kids need that. The younger generation needs that, for Christchurch, and for Canterbury.**





## **FINAL WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

**Thank you for taking the time to read about our vision for the future, to be a world-class Motorsport facility, for our members, Motorsport fans, and the community to enjoy.**

Canterbury Car Club relies on the generosity of our volunteers and I invite you to consider how you can help, not only for your own benefit, when you visit Ruapuna, but for the future generations that will get to enjoy the passion, exhilaration of speed, and competition that drives the motorsport community.

It's now time to acknowledge those who created a great place to play and ensure the future of **Ruapuna: the only place to race.**

Happy racing,  
**Lewis**

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### **With Gratitude for Our Board of Directors**

Our Board of Directors is made up of eight dedicated, passionate members with extensive expertise. Their collective experience in fields like business management, accountancy, and more, places the Club in a strong position for effective governance.

They are accountable and committed to helping the Club reach its full potential, united by a lifelong love of Motorsport.

But the Board is just the beginning. We deeply value our 850+ members and hundreds of volunteers—without them, we wouldn't be where we are today.

### **Board Members, 2024**

**Lewis Low**  
Club President

**Graeme Cornelius**  
Club Vice President

**Jason Smith**  
Club Captain

**Lindsay Kerr (QSM)**  
Motor Racing Club representative

**Peter Thorby**  
Club secretary & accountant

**Blair Thorpe**

**David Proud**

**Chris Hyde**



***Canterbury Car Club was built by members, for its members. Help us to ensure that our track can remain Club-owned and enjoyed by all for years to come.***

For more information, please get in touch with our president **Lewis Low** on [president@canterburycarclub.co.nz](mailto:president@canterburycarclub.co.nz) or our general manager **Mark Wederell** [mark@canterburycarclub.co.nz](mailto:mark@canterburycarclub.co.nz)  
[www.canterburycarclub.co.nz](http://www.canterburycarclub.co.nz)



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