



AA Wairarapa Council

June 2018 | An occasional publication

GUIDING
LIFE'S
JOURNEYS
FOR OVER
110 YEARS.
New Zealand
Automobile
Association



Helping to make our roads safer

About us

Kiwis are very familiar with AA services like breakdown assistance, travel guides, and driver training. But did you know the AA also has councils of local volunteers who contribute to making our roads safer?

The AA Wairarapa Council is a group of 10 local volunteers who meet monthly to discuss transport and road safety issues affecting the Wairarapa area. AA Councillors liaise with many other people working in the transport sector.

AA Wairarapa Councillors

Martin Napier (Chair)	Neil Wadham
Chris Horrocks	Dave Stevenson
Francis Pointon	Handley Thomson
Craig Bowyer	Tom Wyeth
Tim Hintz	Warren Forbes

What we do

The AA Wairarapa strives to represent the concerns of our district's approximately 12,500 AA Members.

Our district extends from the South Wairarapa coast to the Pahiataua district just south of the Manawatu Gorge.

As well as working to improve local transport and road safety, the AA Wairarapa Council also contributes to AA national policy. There are 17 AA districts in New Zealand, of which the Wairarapa is one, and the opinion of each is sought when policies on national transport and road safety issues like drink/drug driving, speed camera use, and many other transport issues are considered.

The AA Wairarapa is one of the oldest organisations in the district, established here in 1912.

Local improvements we're advocating for...

Build a roundabout for the intersection of SH2 and Ngaumutawa Road



Above: a truck waits in Ngaumutawa Road, the well-used Masterton bypass, to turn onto SH2. Southbound vehicles often encounter extensive delays accessing SH2. The area is complicated by another junction almost opposite Ngaumutawa Rd into Buchanan Place.

Widen the Waihenga Bridge on SH53



The Waihenga Bridge on SH53 between Martinborough and Featherston is too narrow for large vehicles to pass. The South Wairarapa District Council and NZ Transport Agency differ in their views on whether a replacement is necessary and how many years of life are left in the bridge.

We understand funding pressures, but in this case believe safety and efficiency gains from widening the bridge outweigh the cost. It's unacceptable to have a 100kmh state highway, that is increasingly busy with truck and general traffic, where large vehicles find it impossible to cross the bridge without crossing the centreline.

More projects we're advocating for:

- A roundabout on SH2 at Norfolk Road
- A safety realignment for SH2 at Mt Bruce
- Improvements to the Mangamaire access to the Pahiatua Track

Local success!

Three safety improvements achieved in the past year:

✓ Remove tight corners on Rimutaka Hill Road



A particularly tight corner has been widened over the past year so trucks don't have to cross the centre line.

✓ Safety improvements on SH2 at Clareville



Revised road layouts now provide safer access to off-road facilities.

✓ Intersection improvement - Ngaumutawa Rd and Westbush Road



Work on this intersection has enhanced safety for vehicles exiting Westbush Road.

Speaking up for you

If you come across a local transport or road safety issue that you think the AA Council could help resolve, please get in touch. We welcome your input!

Contact the AA Wairarapa Council:

District Manager

Jacqui Sefo

T: 06 377 0802, E: jsefo@aa.co.nz

Working with other local transport organisations

There are two state highways in Wairarapa managed by the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA): SH2 through the Wairarapa and SH53 between Featherston and Martinborough.

The four District Councils in our area - South Wairarapa, Carterton, Masterton and Tararua - have responsibility for local roads. The AA has a close relationship with staff from all these organisations and we are consulted on plans that affect road layouts, speeds and other safety matters.

The AA also maintains close links with other local roading and road safety organisations. We have a strong partnership with the Wairarapa Road Safety Council, which is very proactive and consistently delivers positive benefits to our community. We also hold a seat on the Tararua Road Safety Council.

AA Driving School: our new instructor



Lee Quayle became our AA Driving Instructor last August, teaching college-age learner drivers and those working towards their restricted and full licences. He also offers coaching assessments to senior drivers and the AA Defensive Driving course.

Long service to AA recognised



Two AA Councillors retired this year after many years of dedicated voluntary service, namely Walker Bowyer (on left, 51 years) and Peter Cameron (46 years).