

AA Councillors - Canterbury/West Coast District – 2025-2026



**John Skevington
(Chairman)**

John Skevington has been on the AA Council for almost 20 years. He was inspired to join having been impressed by the work the AA does for mobility issues and the respect the organisation holds within the public. He brings experience in heavy transport and has good knowledge of transport issues relating to rural communities. His main objective on the AA Council is to achieve better outcomes for all forms of mobility. Outside of the AA his other interests include a love of Italian supercars, travelling overseas and spending time with friends and family.



**Ben Selby
(Vice Chair)**

Ben joined the Canterbury/West Coast Council after befriending Chairman John Skevington in 2022. He is passionate about all things automotive and mobility and recognises the importance of working to achieve the best possible outcomes when it comes to the future of New Zealand transport and mobility.

Ben is a Baker, but has an extensive background in Automotive Media, creating content on all things automotive since the age of 17, including car reviews, features and other articles for a variety of online and print publications, which he continues to do on a regular part-time basis.

His other interests include spending time with his family, going on walks, music, cinema and watches.



Brian Palliser

Brian Palliser, QSM, has been an AA Councillor for 37 years. His reason for joining was a significant interest in transport safety. He holds a Fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport and several other Fellowships. His main objective as a Councillor is to ensure the engagement of the AA Council in all local and regional roading issues and the maintenance of sound relationships with all road transport and local authorities. His other interests include travel, aviation, earth sciences, tennis and rugby.



Graeme Dodd

Graeme Dodd has been on the AA Council for five years, but prior to that he was on the North Otago AA Council for 25 years and wished to continue his involvement with the AA when he moved to Christchurch. He brings experience of his many years of being an AA Council member and is passionate about representing AA Members. His main objective on the AA Council is to represent the district's AA Members and be seen by organisations as a voice that provides sound and reasoned communication. Outside of the AA his other interests include spending time with family, cycling, walking, caravanning and motorsport.



Ivan Wilson

Ivan Wilson has been on the AA Council for 5 years and it has fitted in well with his professional career as a Road Safety Coordinator. He is able to share his knowledge of the West Coast region and its roading network along with being an experienced defensive driving presenter and driving instructor. His main objective on the AA Council is to represent AA Members and to continue to hold local city councils to account over their traffic management. Outside of the AA his other interests including reading, writing, fishing and gardening.



Jinsong Chen

Jinsong Chen has been on the AA Council since 2019 and joined to share her roading project management experience with the AA. She has previously been a roading project manager in China. Her main objective on the AA Council is to be a voice for AA Members and the community and to help the AA provide a balanced view in its feedback on proposed road improvements and traffic safety issues in the district. Outside of the AA her other interests are gardening and house renovations.



Mark White

Mark White has been on the AA Council since 2020 and joined to represent local road safety issues and be a voice on behalf of AA Members. He brings experience as a former FMCG brewery site manager being responsible for all staff. His main objective on the AA Council is to be more proactive in promoting the AA to our Members by supporting local districts in resolving roading issues and effectively communicating AA views on important issues. He says Members are highly valued as our local road safety partners. Outside of the AA his other interests are flying remote-controlled aircraft, reading, gardening and home beer mash brewing.



Warren Masters

Warren Masters has been on the AA Council for 19 years and joined to continue his association with the NZAA having previously been an AA staff member. He was previously an AA Canterbury/West Coast District Manager, then AA South Island Regional Manager. Since becoming a member of the AA Council he has also served 9 years as a NZAA Board Member. His main objective on the AA Council is to continue to raise the AA's profile within the Canterbury/West Coast community by building stronger communication with local councils and emergency services. Outside of the AA his other interests are flying model radio-controlled aircraft, recreational cycling, gardening, plus an interest in most sports.



Sam Smith

Sam Smith joined the AA Canterbury/West Coast Council at the 2025 AGM, but brings prior experience having served on the AA Marlborough District Council. He is passionate about motoring and transport, and his values strongly align with the AA's core values. With a background in civil transport construction and maintenance, Sam provides valuable insight into roading infrastructure while also offering a balanced and forward-thinking perspective that reflects the needs and concerns of younger motorists. Through the AA Council, he aims to contribute to advocacy on all mobility issues within the wider community, ensuring that transport remains safe, efficient, and accessible to all.



Kalum Perera

Kalum Perera has been a member of the AA Council for two years. He initially joined the AA Southland District Council and later became a councillor for the AA Canterbury/West Coast District Council in 2024 after relocating to Christchurch.

His keen interest in motoring, transportation, and road safety motivated his involvement in both councils.

Kalum has a professional background in information technology.

In addition to his work with the AA, he enjoys traveling, biking, and camping. He has a particular enthusiasm for 4x4 driving, which has allowed him to explore rural areas in both the Southland and Central Otago regions, as well as overseas.