

Rod McKenzie

Rod has been a significant contributor to our Central Hawke's Bay community for most his adult life. His interest in vintage cars, contribution to local events, social support for other men of his generation, and now mentoring of young people. Rod is a passionate CHB local, born and bred, who has used a lifelong interest and hobby in vintage and veteran cars to offer services to the community in local events, through to offering social support for other men of his generation, and now mentoring of young people. He is an outstanding citizen and worthy of an award that recognises integrity, the passing on of skills and knowledge, and service to our community.

- He established the Central Hawke's Bay Branch of the Vintage Car Club of New Zealand and was the first Chairman.
- He is currently Club Captain, with a membership of 120 people.
- Nationally, Rod also instigated the establishment of the Model T Ford Club of New Zealand in the 1990s and held the position of National President for 10 years. He was one of only two ever 'foreign' nominees for the prestigious Walter Rosenthal Award for outstanding service to club membership from the USA.
- He helped establish the local Menz Shed in Waipukurau, which now has over 30 active members. Menz Sheds are an important outlet for men of Rod's generation who want to remain physically and mentally active in their retirement, also providing important opportunities for older men to connect and contribute to the community.
- He has also been a regular contributor to the Veteran & Vintage Motoring Magazine "Beaded Wheels" magazine since the late 1970's, with articles going as far back as The Club's Old Vehicles [Beaded Wheels, Number 123, April/May 1980] for example.

Because of his interest in vintage cars and how motors work, Rod now also offers his services as a volunteer driver mentor to local youth through an association with the Eastern Institute of Technology, local secondary school, CHB College, and the Connecting for Youth Employment (CYE) Trust. Rod gets great enjoyment out of this work, which he sees as helping the next generation into a safer driving future.