

# Wayne Edward Churton

## Forever 74

08.07.1950 - 08.09.2024



## WAYNE CHURTON - NCC Life Member

Compiled and Written by Alan Strong.

**Wayne** joined the Northland Car Club about 1970 and drove an Austin A40 Farina, which he soon sold and brought a Mk1 Cortina GT. I don't have a record of the events Wayne used the Cortina for, but he did do Doctors Hill Road Hillclimb in it in March 1972 and also won best kept with it. In 1972 he co-drove with Pete Bryna in a Ford Anglia.

In 1973 **Wayne** and Sue both used the Cortina GT to compete in the first Motorkhana held at the Jones property in Glenberrie and were the only two (from that event) to also do the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event last year (2023), but this time in their Subaru's. 1974 saw **Wayne** and Sue doing more Motorkhanas now with the yellow Escort which he also used for Drs Hill Hillclimb and the 1/4 Mile Sprint. At the AGM he joined the committee as PR Officer and in November his photos started to be in the Car Club mag.

Sometime during 1975 **Wayne** changed cars again, this time to the purple Twin Cam Escort (this car is still in Northland and is owned by Malcolm Campbell in Kerikeri) which he again double ran in motorkhanas, he also done Drs Hill - 4<sup>th</sup> overall and an event at Western Springs. He remained on committee doing Clubrooms.

Still pedaling the Twin Cam in 1976 **Wayne** and Sue continued doing motorkhanas with **Wayne** getting a couple of 2<sup>nd</sup> placings which is also where he placed in the 1/4 Mile Sprint with a time of 16.4 seconds. Drs Hill was ran twice that year, in May he got a time of 55.56 placing him 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, then in October he was 5<sup>th</sup> with Ian Attwood. In November he co-drove in the NCC Waitangi Rally with Carl Smith in a RX3. He remained on the committee doing clubrooms and won the best kept car trophy again.



In 1977 they did more motorkhanas, **Wayne** co-drove with Carl in the NCC Rally and did Henty's Autocross in Carl's RX3. Back in the Twin Cam he did Drs Hill Hillclimb, an autocross at Jone's Property coming 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and did a trial with Rowan McLean. He was now Deputy Club Captain and in charge of Speed Events.

February 1978 was when **Waynes** photos first appeared on the cover of the magazine while continuing to do motorkhanas with Sue. He also did the 1/4 Mile Sprint and co-drove for Ian Attwood in the Cibie Lights Rally. While not standing for committee at the AGM, in December he became Club Captain and in charge of Speed and Rallies when the Club Captain resigned.

1979 was a big year for **Wayne** and Sue as they took on the organisation of the clubs annual rally and I think this was the year he unfortunately crashed the Twin Cam on the last corner in Glenberrie Forest while doing lead car. He was still Club Captain, also doing The Club points and they also did a couple of motorkhanas.

It was an even bigger year for the Churtons in 1980 as they again organised the rally. But also after the rally having to deal with the aftermath of a member of the public entering a stage, causing John Tee to run off the road to avoid having a head on with a Land Rover. **Wayne** also took on the mammoth task of doing the clubrooms up to the ancillary licence standards which involved building new ladies and mens toilets and putting a firewall between the clubrooms and the flat. They still did more motorkhanas, a trial with Rowan and about October they brought an Escort Sport.

In 1981 the NCC had a combined rally with NSCC which Wayne had less involvement with but still did motorkhanas and came 4<sup>th</sup>

in the economy run and was on committee as PR Officer. This was the year that **Wayne** became a Life Member of the NCC.

The rally was on again in 1982 and was successfully run by **Wayne** and Sue, they did a motorkhana at Henty's and came 4<sup>th</sup> again in the economy run. They were still on committee, in charge of rallies and won the Most Notorious Act trophy with Chris Francis.

The Churtons again organised a successful rally in 1983, he did a motorkhana in Petes Escort, was again 4<sup>th</sup> in the economy run this time driving a BMW323i.

In 1984 **Wayne** was still on committee doing equipment, clubrooms and rallies, still doing the odd motorkhana but their biggest disappointment would have been having to postpone the rally they had spent months organising because of the weather, but they put it behind them to re-organise it and it was run in October.

By 1985 the Churtons involvement with The Club decreased, Greame Taylor and I organised the rally with advice from **Wayne** and Sue but **Wayne** still turned up at events taking photos. It was about this time that **Wayne** became a MANZ steward, so he could then become the MANZ steward for our events. **Wayne** was a MANZ steward for about 10 years, and then became a competition licence examiner for Northland, which he did until his recent passing.

The Churtons had a variety of cars starting with Fords, mainly Escorts then Toyota Corollas, a couple of Mazdas and finally his Subaru which I guess the 2 door WRX probably being his favourite but the car most people will remember is the purple Twin Cam Escort. **Wayne** also had several dirt bikes which was also a big interest of his.

While **Wayne** did Doctors Hills Road Hillclimb about 6 times with the best result of 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in 1976, he didn't do any gravel hillclimbs, just about every motorkhana he did Sue also did as well and with plenty of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> placings he didn't manage to win one.

**Wayne** loved co-driving in rallies and co-drove with several drivers, with the NCC drivers being Pete Bryan Ford Anglia and Escort RS2000, Clive Smith Mazda RX3, Ian Attwood, John Tee, Neil Johns in Escorts, then Reece Jones in the ex Neil Allport RX7 then Mazda 323 4WDs and then Mitsi EVOs doing the Woolf Muffler Series, then the NZ Rally Championship rallies.

His shortest co-drive was probably with me in my Subaru RX at Marlow Road Rallysprint in 1990 when about 2km into the event the tail of the car went wide and then the front wheel hooked the inside of the corner climbing the bank and putting us on our roof.

For the next 20 years **Wayne** still attended NCC hillclimbs for a chat, a stir or taking photos, then at the AGM in 2021 Sue took on the position of Secretary and Treasurer for The Club, so **Wayne** would be at club meetings with her. Sue did this for 3 years until August 2024, so their interest in The Club was continuous for about 55 years.

I think a best image of **Wayne** is shorts, jandals, felt hat, camera in hand, Butch the dog standing beside his purple Twin Cam Escort.

So a big thank you from the Northland Car Club to **Wayne and Sue Churton** for all they have done for The Club.

### R.I.P Wayne



Photo taken by Scott Davison at the Dargaville Rally 2024

