



# AA Wairarapa Council

June 2020 | An occasional publication about our activities

## Helping to make our roads safer

### About us

The AA Wairarapa is one of the oldest organisations in the district, established here in 1912. Since this time, the AA's services for Kiwis have grown enormously.

Right from the early days the AA has represented the interests of drivers, which continues today.

### AA Wairarapa District Council

We are a group of 10 volunteers who meet monthly to discuss local transport and road safety issues.

*Neil Wadham* – Chair and National Councillor

*Craig Bowyer* – Vice Chair

*Martin Napier*

*Dave Stevenson*

*Handley Thomson*

*Tim Hintz*

*Chris Horrocks*

*Francis Pointon*

*Tom Wyeth*

*Warren Forbes*

AA Councillors liaise with others working in the transport sector, including staff at Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and the four District Councils (South Wairarapa, Carterton, Masterton and Tararua), other local roading and road safety organisations and the Wairarapa and Tararua Road Safety Councils.

### What we do

The AA Wairarapa strives to represent the concerns of our district's approximately 13,800 AA Members. Our district covers a large area stretching from Cape Palliser in the south to north of Pahiatua.

As well as working to improve local transport and road safety, the AA Wairarapa Council contributes to AA national policy. In total there are 17 AA Districts Councils in New Zealand and the opinion of each is sought on national transport and road safety issues.

Across the county, the AA now has over 1.7 million members, meaning over 50% of Kiwi drivers are AA Members.

### ✓ More Remutaka Hill safety improvements



Photos: Waka Kotahi NZTA



Over many years, a range of safety improvements have been made on the Remutaka Hill Road. Recently this has included improving barriers and reflective lighting. In total, 2,553 new yellow reflectors have been added at two metre intervals along the guardrail barriers to improve night-time visibility and safety. This means 80% of the 10.4km hill's guardrails are now fitted with reflectors. In addition, 675 meters of under-run guardrail barriers on dangerous corners have been added to the existing barriers to give improved protection for motorcyclists.

### Masterton to Carterton intersection safety

For many years, the AA has strongly advocated for improvements at two high risk intersections on State Highway 2 at Norfolk and Ngaumutawa Roads between Masterton and Carterton. Finally, safety upgrades are being planned for this high-volume highway and Wairarapa motorists are eagerly awaiting details.



Current Norfolk Road/SH2 intersection



Current Ngaumutawa Road/SH2 intersection

We would be hoping to see in the near future roundabouts at the major intersections of Norfolk Road and Ngaumutawa Road, as well as barriers along the route to prevent head-on and run-off road crashes. We are also likely to see amended speed limits in the short term, but these must be set to ensure traffic continues to move smoothly as well as aiming to improve safely.

**More projects we're advocating for:**

- Widening the Waihenga Bridge on SH53
- A safety realignment for SH2 at Mt Bruce
- Improvements to the Mangamaire access to the Pahiatua Track

**School speed limits – a new standard**



Around the country there is no uniformity in signs advising motorists of speed limits around schools when children are present.

Proposed new rules for speeds around schools were announced late last year by the Government. They want the speed limit past all schools to become a maximum of 40km/h (urban areas) or 60km/h (rural areas) when

children are present. The Government says the new limits will be rolled out over the next decade. The long timeframe is because some schools will require road engineering changes so the new limits make sense to drivers and work safely for everyone. The AA supports this initiative - ultimately it will ensure speeds are safer and more consistent past all schools throughout the country.

**We're a proud supporter of SADD**

The AA is proud to be a principle funder of Students Against Dangerous Driving (SADD) and its activities in schools educating young drivers about road safety and preventing loss on our roads. SADD is the leading organisation for student-led road safety, giving students a voice in promoting a safer New Zealand.



Here in the Wairarapa we are particularly fortunate that our local Road Safety Council is pro-active in running creative SADD programmes at all our colleges. Holly Hullena acts as project co-ordinator and holds regular monthly group meetings with students throughout the region.



Holly Hullena from the Wairarapa Road Safety Council (front left) with SADD students in 2019.

**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 ideas and your input!

**Contact the AA Wairarapa Council:**  
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 Jacqui Sefo  
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