

Tree Planting For Race Car Emissions

Over the period of my discussions and submissions to Motorsport NZ over the fuel issue, I realised that while MSNZ talked about their and the sports "Social Responsibility" toward emissions around leaded fuel, it was just that, talk, with no real action toward taking any form of responsibility.

In reality the term "Social Responsibility" was used to justify the banning of leaded fuel. The more I learned about the approved fuels these were just as bad in emissions only different they seem socially accepted, but no one was actually doing anything about the sports reputation as being a "dirty sport" and by banning leaded fuel there is a belief that enough had been done.

This position did not sit well with me, I discussed the whole matter with my daughter Nikki, Nikki is a committed conservationist and in the past had organised various programs toward her conservation views, one very successful was to get people and organisations to take some responsibility toward the environment, and Nikki had most unlikely groups like Black Power and the Girl Guides planting trees together.

Nikki pointed out that for every 15,000 kms of travel in the average saloon car, if you planted 23 trees these would remove the emissions created, which got me thinking that Pre65 could do some thing positive, I contacted Mark Roberts of Green Fleet; Green Fleet is a conservation group who assist companies and groups in assisting the environment.

I proposed to Mark that we remove all our emissions over the life of the club and for 10 years into the future, which will put Pre65 in environmental credit.

Mark responded very favourably and came up with a calculation which took the number of years, meetings per year, average of cars at each meeting, Kms per car per meeting averaged and an average of fuel consumed by each car.

The result is that if we plant 2500 trees we as a club will remove all our previous 20 years of emissions. This will be followed up by two further planting of another 2500 trees, giving years of credit for Pre65

I spoke to Merv and a couple of other club members and all agreed it was a very good thing for the club to do, at the last committee meeting all support the move.

The end result is at the start of the tree planting season in early May 2011 Pre65 will be planting 2500 trees, the trees will be provided by the Auckland City Council parks and reserves Free of Charge, we will be planting at Hamlin's Hill in Mt Wellington, the intention is for this to be a family day, we will have cars on display, a BBQ, the tent flags and banners, both TV and the print media will be there.

The trees are only small and I am assured that any one can plant 20 trees per hour, if 50 people plant 50 trees each that are 2500 trees, not a huge task.

We had hoped to do the planting in September but the council believe it will be a dry summer and hard on young trees hence the May date.

There are strict rules around planting trees for this purpose, firstly the trees can not be harvested in anyway, the grounds must be protected from any future removal, the trees should be

indigenous to the area, so in a 100 years time there will atypical native bush areas for all to enjoy.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Pre65 to do something that is positive not only to the country but also show that we will be pioneering in this very important area, we will be the first car club that is retrospectively taking care of our emissions, it will snowball into something very big. I have told MSNZ Executive of our plans and I have had responses from Shayne Harris and Crunch Bennett both totally supportive of our endeavour.

The day after the last committee meeting I got an email from the Wanganui members saying they have a bus load of people wanting to come to Auckland, how good is that. What do you need to do? Turn up with your family and a spade, let's do something very special. Wear your race gear (Not race suits) lets show who and what we are and be proud of what we are doing.