

# Auto Watch

LAST OF ITS KIND

PG. 5



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019

# JINGL ALL THE WAY

OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE

COVER  
VEHICLE  
PG. 2



# SANTA'S RIDE GOT PIMPED

## *Powered by belief*

SANTA can take it easy this year because the White64 Motors JNGL64 can carry him autonomously to every kid's house.

Santa Claus' sleigh can carry toys to children all over the world on Christmas Eve but it doesn't have much style or modern tech.

White64 Motors aims to give Old Saint Nick a 21st-century upgrade by building the JNGL64 autonomous flying vehicle for him. This sporty pickup can still haul a load of presents and eases Kris Kringle's workload.

Santa can leave the reindeer in the stables this year because the JNGL64 runs on the power of belief, with a Zero-Emission Holiday Miracle Engine so it is both eco- and imagination-friendly and is a very green, renewable fuel.

With a top speed of Mach 3000, that's the power of over 600,000 Reindeer (3.676 million kilometres per hour), Saint Nick should have plenty of speed to make all of his important deliveries.

The Rudolph Red-Nose Guidance System means the whole ride can happen autonomously, too.

Long trips feel shorter with Signature Elf Craftmanship Hand-stitched, Fluffy-As-A-Fresh-Snowfall seating with spine support.

The new sleigh features a 10-star safety rating. They had to make a new scale.

Inside, Santa can enjoy heated cup-holders for his hot cocoa and in-built Wi-Fi hotspot to get real time updates for the Naughty-or-Nice List.

The reindeer pelt interior upholstery

might not go over too well with Dasher and Dancer, though.

A Mistletoe fragrance dispenser keeps the cabin smelling fresh and the huge boot gives ample room for all the presents in the world.

A Rudolph Red-Nose Guidance System guides you through even the foggiest nights and features a built-in Chimney Finder.

The Jingle-less Bell Landing ensures the sleigh lands so softly the kids will stay nestled all snug in their beds.

In an emergency, the OnNorthStar Emergency Response™ means a 24/7 Emergency Elf Response Team (EERT) at your fingertips.

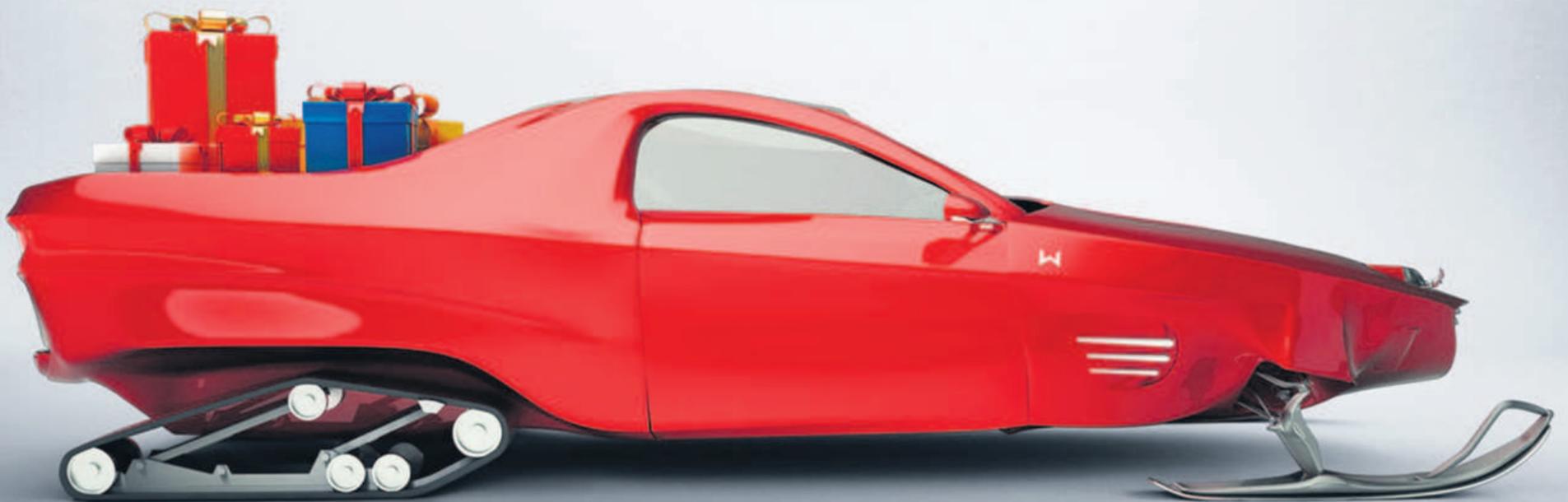
As you might guess, the JNGL64 isn't a real undertaking. Instead, it's the annual holiday project by advertising agency White64 the company uses to build workers morale and market itself to potential clients.

This year the firm decided to parody the earnest teaser campaigns by the autonomous driving tech businesses that have flooded the market.

White64 Motors has a configurator available for the jolly old elf to build his JNGL64. He can choose from four vanity licence plates, five shades of red, and whether the vehicle has treads or skis. There's even a variety of hood ornaments, including a reindeer, angel, snowman and decorated Christmas tree.

For the JNGL64, White64 has fake auto designer Chris Eve (get it?) and has him pitch the new project.

Check it out on the website [www.white64motors.com](http://www.white64motors.com)





## When tows go bad

AS the holiday season approaches, Kiwi families are going to be hitting the tarmac with the family, dog and boat in tow, but exercising caution is a must when you are carrying a load.

Dashcam footage that recently surfaced out of Australia proves this point perfectly as a lack of patience ended up with this ute (pictured) on its side and the boat it was towing spinning across the road.

The GPS speedometer built into the dash cam video starts with the car following the boat doing around 100kmh. Considering there is a 110kmh speed limit around Australia, this may have been considered “slow” at the time.

To reach the boat ramp before the tide goes out, the driver of the ute towing the

large boat decides to pull out and overtake a string of cars down a hill, building up quite a pace while at it.

As the speed increases, the trailer starts to fishtail behind the ute, increasing in severity the faster it goes. The trailer makes contact with the board railing on the bridge before flinging the boat from its grasp and flipping the ute on its side.

The resulting carnage blocks both lanes of the road and leaves the ute jack-knifed with the trailer, while the boat comes to rest about 20 metres further up the hill.

From the images of the aftermath, it doesn't look like anyone was seriously hurt in the wreck but one can imagine the driver of the ute would have been severely shaken up.

## Police to get power to conduct random roadside drug tests

THE Government will give police new powers to do random roadside drug testing and to prosecute drugged drivers in a bid to save lives on the road.

“The new powers will send a clear message that if you take drugs and drive, you will be caught,” Associate Transport Minister Julie Anne Genter said.

Last year, 95 people were killed in preventable crashes where the driver was found to have drugs in their system.

The new rules — which will go through Parliament next year — mean the police will be able to conduct oral fluid drug testing on drivers.

Genter expects these to come into force in early 2021.

Any drivers who test positive for the presence of drugs will be fined and immediately suspended from driving for a minimum of 12 hours.

Drivers will also face criminal penalties if they fail a compulsory impairment test and blood tests confirm impairing levels of drugs in their system.

“The change will allow police to test drivers for the presence of drugs and impairing medication anywhere, anytime, just as they can for alcohol,” Genter said.

The Drug Foundation's executive director Ross Bell welcomed the Government's move.

He said it represented a change in heart not just for the Government but also for New Zealand.

“We know drug driving is an issue and we know police need to be equipped with the right tools. But the Government has been a bit nervous about rolling out (these tests) because they are not without their issues.”

There had been some issues in the past with tests producing a false positive reading.

But he said it was likely technology would be developed that would help mitigate this issue.

Genter, however, said the Government had a plan to tackle the false positive issue.

“The way we have designed this means it does have some practical and pragmatic fail-safes to ensure we're not getting false positives.”

That means if someone fails one test, they will be given another one. If they fail that, “they will face penalties”.

The new rules comes as welcome news to the National Party, which has been campaigning for such a test for much of this year.

“National wants a proper roadside drug-testing regime in place as soon as possible and before any of the Government's law changes liberalising access to drugs take effect,” National leader Simon Bridges said in a May press release.

# Xmas tree car

ELECTRIC cars may have been introduced as an alternative to burning fossil fuels but thanks to their large power storage abilities, they make for great rolling batteries.

Nissan has demonstrated this potential perfectly with the new LEAF, turning it into a spectacular rolling Christmas tree (pictured below) to celebrate the silly season and show just how much power the LEAF possesses.

Alongside the festive-themed video, Nissan wants you to know about the LEAF's e-Pedal, which allows the driver to start, accelerate and decelerate with just one pedal.

This is Nissan's version of regenerative braking, which recycles the momentum of the car and uses it to charge the battery.

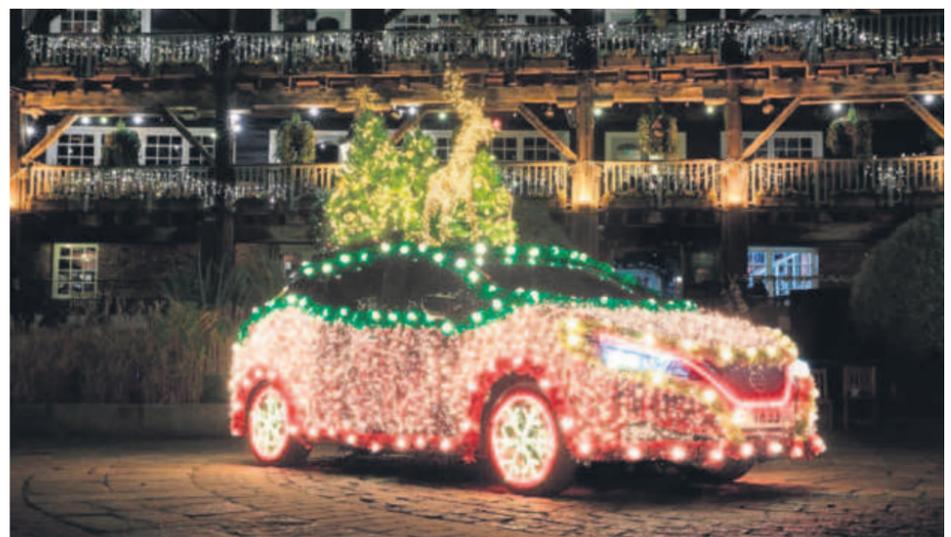
If recycling isn't your thing, there's always

the “B” driving mode, which regenerates energy under braking, and the two pedals work as they would in a traditional vehicle.

According to Nissan, the average driver regenerates 744kWh of clean energy if the car is driven 17,000km each year. This is the equivalent of a 20 percent power saving on electricity consumption of an average household.

Conveniently, this saving is enough to power 266 Christmas trees with 700 incandescent lights, which is less than half the number of lights the Nissan tree is wearing in a video.

“Santa shouldn't be the only one with a festive mode of transport,” said Helen Perry, of Nissan Europe. “We wanted to make the Nissan LEAF more fun at this time of year while driving home a very important message.”



## Big Bang Theory: Spraying aerosol + lighting cigarette = EXPLOSION!

MACGYVER was famous for being able to solve problems by creating quirky gadgets out of everyday items, but in no episode of the TV show that ran for seven years did he manage to blow up a hatchback with a can of air freshener and a lighter.

That trick has been trademarked by a young UK resident who somehow blew the doors and windows off his hatchback by spraying an aerosol can before attempting to light a cigarette (see picture below).

According to the BBC, witnesses at a local bar described how they heard an almighty explosion.

Miraculously, the driver managed to walk away from the blast that blew out every single window and buckled the doors.

It was also reported that nearby windows were shattered.

Local police shared a statement about the explosion on their Facebook page:

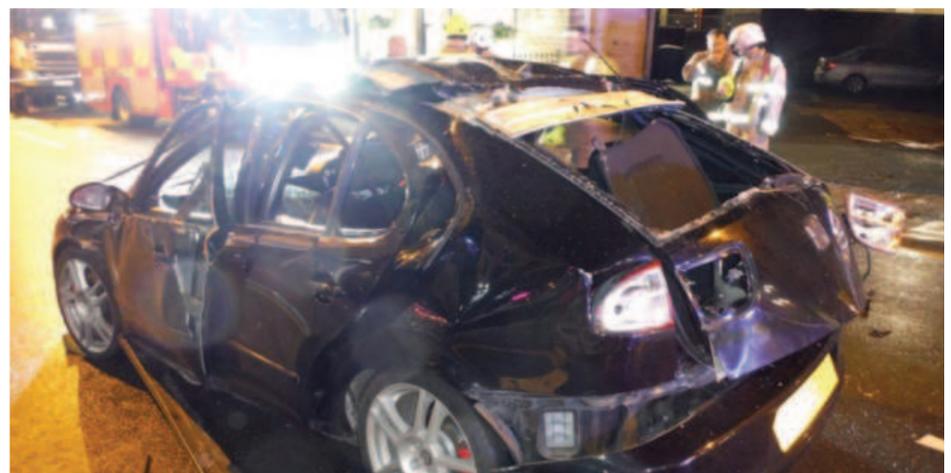
“The fumes exploded and blew out his windscreen, along with some windows at nearby business premises. The owner fortunately sustained only minor injuries but this could have been worse.

“Can members of the public please be careful and follow guidelines when using air freshener cans?”

This isn't the first case of an aerosol can destroying a car from the inside out.

Earlier this year, a shampoo can ignited in the centre console of a Honda due to the heat. Remnants of the can were found as far as 50 metres away.

Heading into the warmer months, caution is advised when leaving aerosols and other flammable liquids inside vehicles.





1930 CHRYSLER 77 Six

XMAS!  
2019  
HAVE A GOOD  
ONE  
"HAYLEY"  
Doug Curtis  
19-12-19.

XMAS! 2019 HAVE A GOOD ONE — Hayley xx

# Remarkable successor

Story, illustration by Doug Curtis

WALTER Chrysler founded his automobile company in the US in 1924 having bought out Maxwell Car company, and with his gifted automobile engineers, Breer, Skelton and Zeder, created a remarkable car to succeed the old Maxwell Marque.

His new six-cylinder side-valve model had a high-compression Ricardo-type cylinder head and the new car featured four-wheel hydraulic band brakes, with a drive shaft independent handbrake, which were an innovation on a popular-priced car.

A total of \$50 million worth were sold in the first year.

A cheap four cylinder car was added in 1925 and even a luxury Imperial six was added to the range.

Chrysler expanded rapidly and the De Soto and Plymouth marques were created in 1928. In the same year Chrysler acquired Dodge.

The company's reputation for new innovations was sustained by the widely copied new radiator ribbon design and in 1929 a Cord-like L29 radiator was adopted.

Two straight-eight side-valve engines, one a 3.9 litre and a huge 6.3 litre, were options in the Chrysler Imperial luxury car range.

Chrysler had a factory in Canada as early as 1925 and one in Antwerp, Belgium in 1926.

In 1928 he set up a commercial truck range under Fargo Motor Corp.

Chrysler cars were offered in all price ranges with multi body styling selling at that time between \$665 to the top-of-the-line Chrysler Imperial luxury limousines at \$3495.

The 1930 six-cylinder model 77 I have drawn was very popular on a 124 inch wheelbase chassis. The engine was rated at 93bhp and the coupe price was just \$1895.

These cars all used 6-volt electric systems with a three brush generator for battery charging.

All Chryslers had their four-wheel hydraulic brake systems and used a single dry-plate clutch with a three-speed manual floor change gearbox to the rear drive.

There were lots sold and used here in New Zealand and they had an excellent reputation as reliable vehicles.

Merry Xmas to all Autowatch readers from Doug and "Hayley".

## autohelp trades and services

### Finance

- MTF  
152 Ormond Road ..... 868 8490

### Motorcycles

- Gisborne Honda  
368 Gladstone Road ..... 868 9109

### Panel Beaters

- Allan Kellett Panel & Paint  
72 Disraeli Street ..... 867 8088
- Gisborne Motors Panel and Paint  
Mid City - Grey Street ..... 867 6759

### Parts Department

- Eastland Toyota  
62 Carnarvon Street ..... 867 9444
- Enterprise Auto One  
329 Gladstone Road ..... 867 8368
- Gisborne Motors  
Mid City - Grey Street ..... 867 6759

### Spray Painters

- Allan Kellett Panel & Paint  
72 Disraeli Street ..... 867 8088
- Gisborne Motors Panel and Paint  
Mid City - Grey Street ..... 867 6759

### Tyre Dealers

- Goodyear Tyres  
125 Grey Street ..... 868 1938

### Vehicle Servicing

- Eastland Toyota  
62 Carnarvon Street ..... 867 9444
- Enterprise Commercial Centre  
310 Gladstone Road ..... 868 4581
- Enterprise Service Centre  
342 Palmerston Road ..... 867 8368
- Gisborne Motors  
Mid City - Grey Street ..... 867 6759
- Goodyear Tyres  
125 Grey Street ..... 868 1938

### Wheel Alignments

- Goodyear Tyres  
125 Grey Street ..... 868 1938

### WOF

- Eastland Toyota  
62 Carnarvon Street ..... 867 9444
- Enterprise Service Centre  
342 Palmerston Road ..... 867 8368
- Gisborne Motors  
Mid City, Grey Street ..... 867 6759
- Goodyear Tyres  
125 Grey Street ..... 868 1938

### FOR MORE INFO OR BOOKINGS

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andy.searle@gisborneherald.co.nz

Leave message, name & phone no. and I will contact you.

## AUTO ACTION AROUND TOWN

**Gas Guzzlers Breakfast**  
First Sunday of each month  
Behind the Courthouse,  
8am-11am. Rick 027 490 1373

**East Coast Museum  
of Technology**  
Open Sun-Fri 10am-4pm,  
Sat 1pm-4pm  
Main Rd, Makaraka

**Gis. American Car Club**  
Various Events  
Colin 868 1454;  
Rick 027 490 1373

**Tairawhiti Aviation Museum**  
Open Tuesday 9am-4pm and  
Sunday 9am-4pm  
Gisborne Airport

**Ulysses Motorcycle Club**  
Monthly meeting held on the first  
Thursday of the month.  
7.30pm at the  
Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club

## Want a free listing?

If you know of an event coming up by an automotive club or automotive fixture let us know. Phone Andy 869 0616 or E-mail: andy.searle@gisborneherald.co.nz

## GOODYEAR



**Auto Service Centre**  
Specialising in mags,  
tyres and servicing of  
all vehicle WOFs and  
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**Authorised Cooper Dealer**



**Tyres Worth Owning**

**125 Grey St, Gisborne**  
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Fax 06 868 1910 • gistryres@xtra.co.nz



# CYBERTRUCK

IT'S one of the most refreshing vehicles seen in modern times but while engineer Elon Musk plans to take his Tesla Cybertruck to Mars, it sounds like the steel truck may not be able to be sold on its home planet.

A report from a German safety inspector raises concerns about how the massive electric machine will react in an accident with another vehicle or when a pedestrian is struck.

The problem is the "nearly impenetrable exoskeleton" made out of ultra-hard 30X cold-rolled stainless steel, said the inspector.

This material may give the truck a cyberpunk aesthetic and mean pesky shopping trolleys won't ding the doors, but it doesn't have any give in it.

This incredibly hard bodywork "contradicts the common European security philosophy" about vehicle occupants and pedestrians. Due to the lack of crumple zones, the body has absolutely no give and the energy of a

collision will act on the occupants directly. "The occupants feel safe but they are not."

Along the same lines, pedestrians will feel the full force of the solid front end when hit by the truck — a massive issue.

"The front of the vehicle must not be stiff" while "the bumper and bonnet must be able to absorb energy to protect the pedestrians".

The only way to remedy this situation is to make "strong modifications" to the vehicle's frontal structure, creating soft bumpers and crumple zones that absorb energy.

It was pointed out Musk could attempt to get around these strict rules by registering the Cybertruck as a specialised armoured vehicle but European officials will likely see right through this.

As the rules surrounding pedestrian impact differ drastically between Europe and the US, Elon will have less of an issue getting the truck road legal in America. Crash tests will determine this, but it's too early to make a call about those.



## Child's play proves costly

MOST of us have been there.

The family are out and about and managing accompanying children becomes the biggest chore of the day.

It's a storyline that tends to punctuate when things like expensive cars are introduced, and that's represented best by this tale from China.

Two parents have been sued by an Audi dealership for damage caused by their three-year-old daughter on 10 different vehicles.

After a seemingly long period, the parents discovered their child had used stone to decorate her 10 shiny Audi canvases (including one new Q8).

The Lingui People's Court confirmed the father was initially sued by the dealership to the value of 200,000RMB

(NZ\$43,415). It claimed that on top of the damage to the paint on each car there would be loss of income given that none of the vehicles would be able to be sold as "new" once repaired.

The cars, the dealership stated, would be vulnerable to "false advertising" claims from buyers if they were to be marketed as new stock.

Each would instead need to be sold with a heavy discount.

The father, unhappy with the dealership's claim, is said to have negotiated the figure downwards to 70,000RMB (NZ\$15,194).

A cautionary tale, and perhaps one worth remembering if you happen to be shopping for an Audi in China and come across a cheap deal or two . . .

# The last L88 on Earth

CHEVROLET'S Corvette is one of the most quintessentially American cars the world has ever seen.

It has been produced for over six decades, making it a true automotive icon.

Now the Corvette is going mid-engined and coming to New Zealand next year.

If you turn back the clock to the 1960s, when mass producing mid-engined cars was mostly reserved for the Italians, you could come across the second-generation Corvette, (pictured below) complete with a massive V8 and a tiny body.

Over 117,000 examples of the C2 Corvette were built between 1963 and 1967, but only a handful of these ones were built — making it quite a rare piece of American history.

Listed for sale by Corvette Mike, this yellow beauty is a 1967 L88 model and is the last original L88 coupe to exist on Earth.

While Chevrolet manufactured 20 L88 Corvettes throughout 1967, most were entered into racing series, leaving them as mangled piles of steel.

Offered as a package that could be ordered

directly from the factory, the L88 option boosted the performance of the Corvette significantly.

Under the hood sits a 427CI big block V8, with a four-speed manual transmission attached that sends power to the rear wheels. Back in its day, the L88's engine was good for over 550hp or 410kW, which was more than enough to keep things interesting.

Thanks to its racecar nature, every car was delivered without a radio or a heater.

To save some extra weight, the engine didn't have a choke either, making the L88 a nightmare to keep running until it warmed up.

Other upgrades included the heavy-duty brakes, racing suspension system, and racing harness in the cabin.

The seller states that this car has undergone a meticulous ten-year restoration, and has only clocked up 424km on its odometer.

This "Holy Grail" of Corvettes is to go up for auction next year and is predicted to fetch around \$6 million.



Celebrating **100** YEARS

at 75 Grey Street  
1919-2019



As we are all about to enjoy our holiday break it is time to reflect on what has been a memorable year for both the Ford & Mazda franchises in this region.



2019 has seen a record number of new vehicles sold by Gisborne Motors which indicates new vehicle buyers appreciate the product and after sales support offered by our company.



2020 will see some exciting new models introduced to the New Zealand market by both manufacturers, so we look forward to presenting these when they become available.



Have a great summer break everybody and please drive safely over the holiday period so together we can all take advantage of the Gisborne economy while it is running hot.



**Gisborne Motors Ltd**

75 Grey Street | GISBORNE | P 867 6759 | [gisbornemotors.co.nz](http://gisbornemotors.co.nz)

# Hamilton will go

F1 LEGEND and former team owner Eddie Jordan believes F1 should prepare for a bombshell defection next year, with six-time world champion Lewis Hamilton (pictured) and Mercedes boss Toto Wolff “absolutely certain” to move to Ferrari.

The claim comes after months of speculation surrounding Hamilton and a move to the prancing horse, which he has yet to deny.

Hamilton won the season-ending grand prix in Abu Dhabi as a victory lap on another title-winning campaign and admitted he was weighing up his options, refusing to rule out meeting Ferrari chairman John Elkann.

Ferrari CEO Louis Camilleri confirmed there had been conversations between Hamilton and Elkann, but they were very early.

“It is common knowledge that Lewis has had conversations with (Elkann),” Camilleri told reporters at Ferrari headquarters at Maranello.

“But that was a little exaggerated. It was at a social event; they have mutual friends.

“We have a long-term agreement with one driver and with the other driver the agreement expires at the end of 2020,” he said.

“We clearly are very flattered that Lewis, in particular, and other drivers want to come

and join us, but it would be premature to decide anything now for the future.”

The denial has done little to quash the rumours surrounding a move.

Hamilton, who is contracted to Mercedes until the end of 2020, has been widely linked to a move to Ferrari when his deal expires.

Jordan, the former Jordan team owner, told Top Gear that 2021 was shaping as the right time to go, and that Hamilton would drag Wolff with him.

Jordan has long been involved in motorsport and launched Eddie Jordan racing, which eventually evolved into the F1 in 1991.

The team gave opportunities to the likes of world champions Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher.

“The real belief that I think Lewis will go to Ferrari in 2021 is that Toto Wolff’s contract expires at the end of next year,” Jordan said. “He knows Mercedes’ long-term future in Formula One is not a certainty.

“Lewis has mentioned Toto’s contract on more than one occasion, which is unusual for an F1 driver to do.

“Lewis would only go to Ferrari if someone could protect him against any possibility Charles Leclerc could usurp him. So Ferrari would bring Toto along, too.



# A title closer to Supercars

FRESH from a maiden ECB SuperUtes Series over the ditch, Kiwi racer Tom Alexander is hoping to step up next year into another category.

This season’s SuperUtes competition was Alexander’s second international motorsport season.

After a positive debut last year in a Holden Colorado prepared by fellow Kiwi Ross Stone, he and Stone switched to an Isuzu D-Max.

Alexander spent almost all season as the man to beat and bested defending champ and former V8 Ute champ Ryal Harris.

Now, Alexander hopes to add his name to the tally of New Zealanders who’ve raced Supercars’ second division — the Dunlop Super2 series.

“I don’t know of my plans for next year as yet. I am still working on plans and weighing up all the options,” he told Supercars.com.

“Looking at all my options, it’s no secret I would love to do Super2 and I have definitely been looking into it.

“It all comes down to sponsorship and how much money we can raise, but I’m definitely not writing off a return to the Utes at some stage.

“I think they will be a seriously cool thing with a V8 in them so would love to have a pedal at some stage.”

“It was great to get the title. We’ve been trying for two years now and that was always our goal when we came into the series when it first started.

“Obviously Ross put a lot of effort in to get the series running with the development phase of it early on so he definitely wanted a championship to repay his hard work. I’m happy I could help him achieve that.”

While hopping out of a diesel four-cylinder SuperUte and into a Super2 car sounds like an extreme shift, Alexander has raced similar cars before.

In the BNT V8s he competed in an ex-Andre Heimgartner Holden VE Commodore NZ SuperTourer — similar in lap pace to a Supercar.

Numerous Kiwis have come through the Dunlop Super2 ranks to become Supercars stars.

Two-time Supercars champion and newly crowned Bathurst 1000 winner Scott McLaughlin is the most obvious example, having won the Super2 title in 2012.

But the likes of Heimgartner, Richie Stanaway, Simon Wills and Chris Pither (both former Super2 champs), the late Mark Porter, Simon Evans, Ant Pedersen, Gene Rollinson and John McIntyre have all cut their teeth in the class.



# Rising Kiwi’s new racecar revealed

THE 2020 Supercars Championship season is just around the corner, with the final touches to the silly season-impacted driver line-up starting to take shape, and the first new liveries being unveiled.

Among the first to be shown off is the Ned Whisky-backed Kelly Racing Ford Mustang of Kiwi André Heimgartner.

The 24-year-old is coming off a break-out season in Supercars.

While unlucky to not finish on the top 10 of the championship table following an unlucky run through the PIRTEK Enduro Cup, Heimgartner managed to claim his first solo podium finish at Phillip Island, then backed it up with an impressive Bathurst 1000 campaign alongside co-driver Bryce Fullwood.

For 2020, his Kelly Racing squad is downsizing to a two-car operation and switching from the outdated Nissan

Altima platform to a pair of Ford Mustangs.

Former champion Rick Kelly will be Heimgartner’s teammate, with the expectation Castrol will remain on his car.

“It’s exciting and a big step in my racing career to have Ned Whisky come on board with a multi-year partnership for my new Ford Performance Mustang Supercar. It is a fun brand and I cannot wait to represent them next year,” said Heimgartner.

With Kelly Racing’s switch to Fords, next season marks the first since 2012 where the full grid will be made up solely of Fords and Holdens.

The future of Holden’s involvement is admittedly in doubt, although the manufacturer has committed to run unswayed through until at least 2021.

# Just happy to finish

ONE of Daniel Ricciardo’s worst results of the year provided him with a season highlight as he overcame a “scary” situation to cross the line in Belgium.

The Aussie F1 star (pictured) finished 14th three times in his debut campaign with Renault — his poorest results aside from five retirements — and while he would normally be despondent after falling so far behind, his effort at the Belgian GP provided him with plenty of perspective.

That Sunday in September was an emotional one for everyone on the grid as the grand prix took place in the wake of F2 driver Anthoine Hubert’s tragic death.

The 22-year-old died after a horrifying 240kmh collision at the famous Eau Rouge turn at the Spa circuit that weekend as drivers were given a sobering reminder of their own mortality and the risks involved with racing at such high speeds.

Ricciardo said the weight of that knowledge — then suffering a bump himself and carrying car damage throughout the race — meant he was incredibly proud just to see the checkered flag, even if he was the 14th driver to finish.

Asked in an interview with Motorsport.com for his season highlight, Ricciardo said the Belgium GP, given it came after Hubert’s death and involved getting hit in turn one and having to overcome a lot of

floor damage.

“The car was quite scary to drive after that. We had a lot less downforce. I was probably flat through Eau Rouge less than half a dozen times the whole race. So that gives you probably an idea of how scary it was through there.

“I just drove with some level of attention and some form of inspiration that day. I was very happy with how I drove and I ended up being 14th, but on a personal level, that was one of my best drives I felt ever.”

Ricciardo put up an admirable fight at Spa and his drop from seventh to 14th late in the race was mainly the result of tyre degradation rather than any fault of his own.

Unfortunately for Ricciardo, there weren’t many results to cheer as he finished ninth in the drivers’ standings on 54 points — a sizeable 38 points behind eighth-placed Alexander Albon.

Renault were fifth in the constructors’ championship, unable to make good on a pre-season goal to lead the midfield pack.

But while Ricciardo finished sixth in his final year with Red Bull (2018) and scored more than three times as many points as he did with Renault this season, the Honey Badger is adamant 2019 wasn’t nearly as frustrating as last season which he said “started so promising and then just never really got going for the most part after that”.





# 'Too Jeep-like'

Have you ever seen David Attenborough-hosted footage of parental fauna pushing their young out of the nest, vis-a-vis just blimmin' well get on with life? No mercy, no sentimentality, no nurture, just nature?

Well, that's sort of how one feels about poor old Mahindra's likely exit from the US market this week.

Mahindra, the massive Indian auto conglomerate you've probably barely heard of, was a favoured child of Jeep back in the day (the "day" being the 1950s).

Over half a century ago, it used to make legally licensed versions of the Willys Jeep for the Indian market, with the American manufacturer's blessing.

Then it kinda sorta kept doing it. That licensed Jeep morphed into the Roxor and . . . well, it didn't morph far.

Fast-forward to the late 2010s and

Mahindra had high hopes of tackling the American off-road enthusiast market with its cost-cutter 4x4.

But the parent now seems to have turfed the fledgling out of the nest. And some.

An administrative law judge in the US has ruled in favour of Jeep owner, Fiat Chrysler Automotive, finding that the Mahindra Roxor violates Jeep's trade dress.

"Trade dress" is a term for the distinct characteristics of a product's visual appearance. Jeep was concerned at how the Roxor's hood latches, body shape, door cut-outs — essentially the entire vehicle — resembles the classic Jeep CJ.

And yeah, you can see its point . . .

So the Roxor looks likely to be banned from US roads, questioning the future of Mahindra in the North American new vehicle market.

# Handy driver apps

IT'S strange to think of a time when mobile phones didn't exist.

Today, smartphones make up a huge part of our lives and, believe it or not, in New Zealand there are more cellphones than people.

Most modern vehicles have the ability to connect wirelessly to a mobile device, often through services such as Apple CarPlay and Android Auto that are designed with safety in mind.

Here are a few handy apps designed for drivers to use when pulled over safely.

## Gaspy — NZ Fuel Prices

300,000+ downloads

Gaspy is committed to helping Kiwis find the cheapest and closest fuel prices, with a convenient free app. The app relies on feedback generated by motorists to find and share the best petrol and diesel prices in the country. It's available on iPhone and Android.

## AT Park

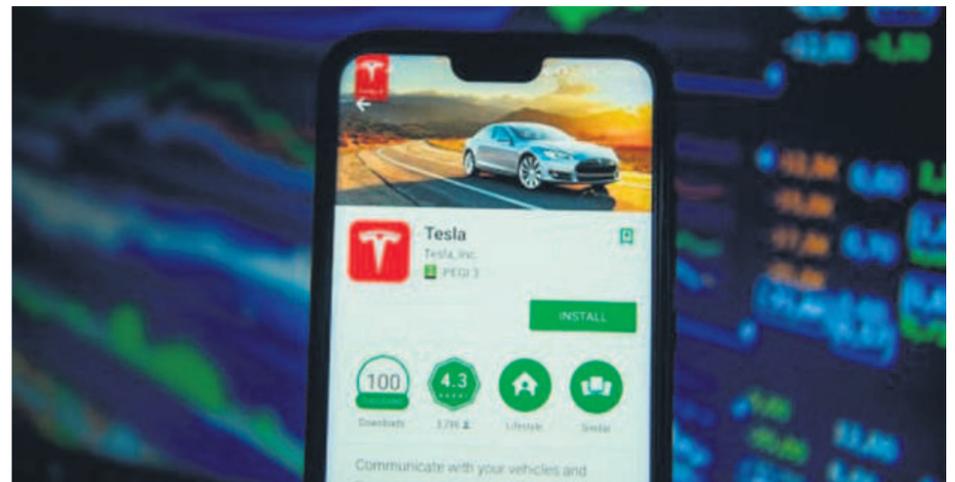
50,000+ downloads

Looking for a street park for a short stay in the heart of the city? Then you may want to check out Auckland Transport's parking app, AT Park, which simplifies parking in the central city. Users can pay for parking from their phone without the need to visit a parking machine or display a ticket.

## Waze

110 million+ downloads

Always know what's happening on the road with Waze. Waze has GPS navigation software that works on smartphones and tablets with GPS support. It provides turn-by-turn navigation information and user-submitted travel times and route details, while downloading location-dependent information over a mobile network. The app tells you about traffic, construction and crashes in real-time.



We've put together a few handy apps designed for drivers to use.

Photo / Supplied



**PAYMENT HOLIDAY**

**NO PAYMENTS UNTIL APRIL 2020**

**NOW THAT'S SMART**

NISSAN INTELLIGENT MOBILITY

**1.9%**  
APR FIXED FINANCE  
ZERO DEPOSIT

**36 MONTH TERM**  
ACROSS THE ENTIRE  
SUV & NAVARA RANGE

QASHQAI ST+

**\$32,990** +ORC

MSP FROM



nissan.co.nz

7" TOUCHSCREEN | SATELLITE NAVIGATION WITH TRAFFIC ALERT | INTELLIGENT AROUND VIEW MONITOR | MOVING OBJECT DETECTION | POWER-FOLD & HEATED DOOR MIRRORS | PRIVACY GLASS

\*Finance offer available to approved applicants of Nissan Financial Services only and excludes all lease and some fleet purchasers. Available on new Nissan SUV & Navara vehicles only. 1.9% PA Fixed Interest. Interest is charged from the commencement of the loan. Maximum term 36 months. No deposit required. \$375 establishment fee, \$8.05 PPSR fee, and \$10 monthly account keeping fee apply. Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid from 1 November 2019 to 31st December 2019. Units must be registered by 31st December 2019. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Nissan New Zealand reserves the right to vary, withdraw or extend this offer.



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ACROSS THE ENTIRE  
SUV & NAVARA RANGE

NAVARA RX 4WD AUTO SPECIAL EDITION

**\$44,990** +ORC

MSP FROM



REVERSING CAMERA      20" KATANA 8 WHEELS WITH AT TYRES      WHEEL ARCH FLARES

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# Holden CLEARANCE SALE

**ACROSS  
THE RANGE  
OF NEW AND  
DEMO MODELS**

**TOP OF  
THE RANGE**



**Trax LTZ<sup>1</sup>**  
from \$**30,990** + ORC

- Heated front seats
- Apple CarPlay & Android Auto
- 1.4L turbo auto

**DEMO**



**Equinox LT<sup>2</sup>**  
from \$**35,990** Driveaway

- MY18 clearance model
- 2.0L turbo performance
- Autonomous Emergency Braking

**DEMO**



**Trailblazer LT<sup>3</sup>**  
from \$**44,990** Driveaway

- 3 tonne towing capacity
- Trailer Sway Control
- 7" touchscreen

**TOP OF  
THE RANGE**



**Colorado LTZ 4x2 manual<sup>4</sup>**  
from \$**38,490** + ORC

- Top of the range
- 2.8L Duramax diesel engine
- 3.5 tonne towing capacity

**LIMITED STOCK**



**Spark LS auto<sup>5</sup>**  
from \$**17,990** + ORC

- Zippy 1.4L engine
- Class leading connectivity
- Apple CarPlay & Android Auto

**POWERFUL**



**Commodore VXR<sup>6</sup>**  
from \$**57,490** + ORC

- 20" alloy wheels
- Adaptive cruise control
- 360 degree camera

**3 YEARS / 100,000km FREE SCHEDULED SERVICING\* ON ALL NEW VEHICLES**

Max sale price on (2) Equinox LT automatic demonstrator, (3) Trailblazer LT automatic demonstrator sold by 31/12/19 and delivered before 31/01/20. Driveaway pricing includes all associated on road costs.

(1,4,5,6) Offer available until 31 December 2019 at participating Holden dealers or while stocks last. Private buyers only. Not available with any other offer. Offer excludes Acadia.

\*Free scheduled service 3 years/100,000kms (whichever occurs first) for Holden vehicles sold in New Zealand by a Holden dealer. See Holden.co.nz for details. 3 years free scheduled servicing is applicable on demonstrator models from the date of first registration.



29921-01

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