



press clip

Ginger Meggs is a traffic-stopper

By IMOGEN NEALE

A few years ago Ross Jones set off from his Ramarama home in his World War Two Willys jeep nicknamed Ginger Meggs.

To the avid collector there didn't seem to be anything remiss about driving the open-top jeep down the southern motorway.

But he says it's a mistake he won't make again.

"I almost caused a traffic accident – people were pulling over and pointing."

It could have been Mr Jones' meticulous restoration job but it's more likely they were pointing at the two guns mounted on the jeep's side and the central one poking out

above the windscreen.

The gleaming rounds of replica ammunition dangling from the guns probably didn't help.

Mr Jones says when he takes Ginger out now he puts covers up the guns – it's safer that way.

This Sunday though the covers will come off when he and the 1942 Willys jeep make an appearance at the Karaka Vintage Day.

There's a chance Mr Jones will reload the jeep's oxygen-propane driven anti-aircraft guns and take part in a mock battle with a Tiger Moth plane.

Hosted by the Karaka Historical Society and the Vintage Engine

Enthusiasts Auckland the biennial event is in its sixth year and organisers say it's just getting "bigger and better."

This year spectators can expect to see a 1947 Bell helicopter, classic cars, military vehicles, vintage engines, machinery and aircraft, as well as a grand parade.

Masport is also using the event to celebrate the company's 100th birthday.

Society president Violet Eggleton says it's a fantastic day for everyone, young and old.

"We've always had such good feedback," she says.

"People come from all over and there are plenty of stalls and things for the children.

The event raises money for the Karaka Museum project, which Ms Eggleton says is "well on its way" to being built.

The museum aims to preserve Karaka's history pre-subdivision.

Ms Eggleton says the museum will have a "war room" with photos and memorabilia of people from Karaka who served in the war, family boards with photos and stories of early families and machinery – artifacts that used to be on display at the Karaka War Memorial Hall.

The Karaka Vintage Day is on this Sunday at the Karaka Sports Complex from 9.30am.



Big boys toys: Nick-named Ginger Meggs, one of Ross Jones' World War Two jeeps can stop traffic and bring down aeroplanes – well, pretend to.

Photo: IMOGEN NEALE