



ms voice



Bangers to Bluff Special Edition



e-Newsletter

Tēnā Koutou Katoa. A warm hello to you all,

Welcome to our March 2025 [Bangers to Bluff](#) Special Edition of MS Voice, your go-to place for the latest news, updates, and real life stories from Multiple Sclerosis New Zealand. Grab a cuppa, get comfy and read what we've been up to and what's to come with this years [Bangers to Bluff Car Rally](#).

Remember to keep an eye on our [website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram page](#) for the most up to date information.

Bangers to Bluff 2025



We are super excited, pumped and ready to go. [Bangers to Bluff](#) Car Rally kicks off next week! You have surely heard about the rally and our participation over the last seven years, but if not, let us fill you in.

There's lots of ways you can participate and help us advocate and raise awareness for MS. Read on to see how you can make a [donation](#), join us on the [steps of Parliament](#) or send a [message of support](#) to our amazing advocate Graham as he

tries to beat the cars on two wheels!

An Adventure Like No other!

On March 25th, 18 adventurous teams will hit the road. Participants will embark on an unforgettable journey, driving 'bangers' - vehicles costing less than \$2000 - from Auckland to Bluff. This unique rally takes teams through scenic, lesser-known routes across iconic regions, creating lasting memories and thrilling experiences. The rally promises excitement, camaraderie, and plenty of fun challenges along the way.

The 12-day car rally, is organised by the Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay (Inc). This exciting annual event not only supports Multiple Sclerosis NZ (MSNZ) but also regional MS Societies we meet on route and several other deserving causes supported by the Rotary Club. Over **\$400,000 has been raised** for good causes in the past nine years and **\$240,000** has supported the work of MSNZ and MS Societies nationally.



Driving For a Cause

Bangers to Bluff is our biggest fundraiser of the year. By joining this event, you're not just making a donation, you're becoming a crucial part of a movement that's working to create lasting change. Your support fuels our advocacy efforts and helps build a future where everyone in New Zealand living with MS receives the care, respect, and support they deserve.

"Bangers to Bluff is more than just a rally, it's a journey of collective hope and action. By coming together, we're not only raising crucial funds for MS New Zealand but also reminding everyone of the power of community in driving meaningful change. Each dollar raised goes directly toward improving lives, and we're honoured to be part of this incredible cause," says Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay spokesperson Ian Thomsen.

Donate Today and be a Driving Force for Change

By supporting this fundraising event, you're making an impact where it matters most: improving care, promoting equity, and changing lives. Your donation will make a difference by:

- **Ensuring Nationwide Access to Accurate MS Information:** We're working to provide reliable, evidence-based resources for everyone living with MS.
- **Advocating for Timely Diagnosis & Treatment:** Your support helps us fight for equitable access to specialists and treatments for those who need it most.
- **Expanding Access to Disease-Modifying Therapies:** We're pushing for broader access to proven therapies to improve quality of life.
- **Breaking Barriers for MS Patients & Carers:** Your generosity helps us advocate for better funding, services, and support for people with MS and their carers.
- **Amplifying the Voice of the MS Community:** Together, we raise awareness to drive better funding and policies that directly benefit the MS community.

MSNZ donates a portion of the proceeds received from the event to regional MS Societies on route to support local services in the community.

Share Your Voice on the Steps of Parliament

This year we have been given a unique opportunity, and we welcome you to join us.

Six of the Bangers to Bluff cars, including our own for Team Keep S'myelin, have been invited to drive their cars onto the forecourt of Parliament. Following this, members of Multiple Sclerosis New Zealand will meet with the **Minister of Health** to discuss the critical challenges people with MS face in accessing healthcare services and treatments.

This is a fantastic opportunity for us to amplify the voices of those impacted by multiple sclerosis.



We will be on the [steps of Parliament](#), with our Banger, at 11:30am on **Thursday, 27th March 2025**, to raise awareness about MS and the vital issues facing the community. The more of us there, the louder our message, and the bigger the impact we can make.

Your presence matters! Come join us and help ensure the voices of those living with MS are heard. Together, we can make a real difference for the MS community in New Zealand. Let's stand united and make a difference!

Riding to Inspire

A prominent highlight of the event is the participation of Graham Walker, an inspiring advocate for MS awareness. Diagnosed with Primary Progressive MS in 2013, Graham has embraced the mantra "use it or lose it."

As a former competitive cyclist, he will set out each morning at dawn to cycle as far as possible before the rally cars catch up, a challenge he's undertaken for four consecutive years. Previously clocking distances of up to 40 kilometres daily, Graham embodies the powerful message that *exercise is medicine*.



"This event not only raises crucial funds for MSNZ and the Regional Societies we engage with on route but also showcases the strength and resilience of our community. Exercise has transformed my journey with MS, and I'm grateful for this platform to inspire others. Remember, Exercise is Medicine!" Says Graham.

Donate to [support Graham](#) as he cycles ahead of the rally each morning, cycling as far as he can before they catch him! Go Graham!

Learn more about Graham and watch as he was celebrated as a [Good Sort](#) or send him a message of support by replying to this email. Your encouragement is his fuel.

Support Graham

Your Support Matters

Whether you choose to sponsor, donate, or cheer us on from the roadside, your support truly makes an impact! If the rally is passing through your area, come on over and meet team Keep S'myelin, we'd love to see you there! Check out the [maps here](#) to see the rally's route through the North and South Islands. If you'd like to join us along the way or meet up with the team, don't hesitate to reach out by replying to this [email](#). Let's make some noise for a great cause!



Let's drive forward together toward a brighter future for those living with MS. Your generosity matters more than ever. Thank you for being part of this life-changing journey!

Join the Movement and Donate Now

Exciting Auction Ahead

At the conclusion of the rally, auction items including the rally cars, Grahams bike and bike rack along with some amazing items from sponsors and donors will go up for auction. There will also be some fantastic mystery items from MS Southland up for grabs.

If you can't attend in person, you can still participate by placing bids by phone. Simply call 027 976 0442 – thanks to William Todd & Co Auctions. All funds raised will directly benefit charities supported by the Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay, including MSNZ and local MS societies. Here's some of the bangers on offer at the auction this year:








Grab yourself a bargain!






Support charities at the same time!






CHARITY CAR AUCTION

Contact Neal

021418184

www.bangerstobluff.co.nz

nsadgrove@xtra.co.nz

When the bangers reach the finish line, the fun begins with the auction! Proceeds go to charities supported by the Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay.

When: 5th April 2025, 4pm. Cars can be viewed from 3pm.
 Where: Waikiwi Tavern, 181 North Road, Invercargill.
 How: Bid in person on the night or by phone: 027 976 0442
 Auctioneer: William Todd & Co (2011) Auctions

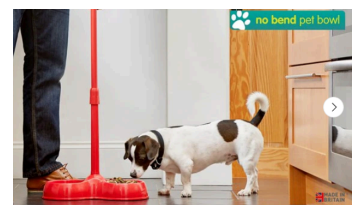
Up for grabs

2013 Hyundai i45 ✓	2001 Toyota Platz ✓
UT4602 1997 Maxima ✓	2002 Toyota Corolla ✓
Ford Territory TX 2005 ✓	2006 Lexus GS450h 3.5l V6 ✓
2007 Ford Fairmount MK11 Ghia ✓	1990 Honda Concerto ✓
Nisan Pulsar 2001 ✓	Toyota Caldina ✓

direct sold prior

Giveaway Alert! ★

This month, MS New Zealand and Allied Medical are giving away a **No Bend Pet Bowl** so you can feed your pet easily. Use the handle to put the bowl down and lift the bowl up from the floor, with minimal bending required. The handle is height adjustable, allowing you to choose the perfect height for you and its large easy-grip makes it simple to move from worktop to floor.



Enter Competition

Congratulations to our February winner, Susan Wedgwood. We hope you are enjoying your pedal exerciser! 😊

Our Sincere Thanks







Thank you!

Our AMAZING SPONSORS














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Let's drive forward together toward a brighter future for those living with MS. Your generosity matters more than ever. Thank you for being part of this life-changing journey!

Join the movement and donate now.

[Donate Now](#)

Stay up to speed by following our journey on our [website](#), [Facebook Page](#) and [Instagram Page](#).

Noho ora mai. Stay well and look after yourself.



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