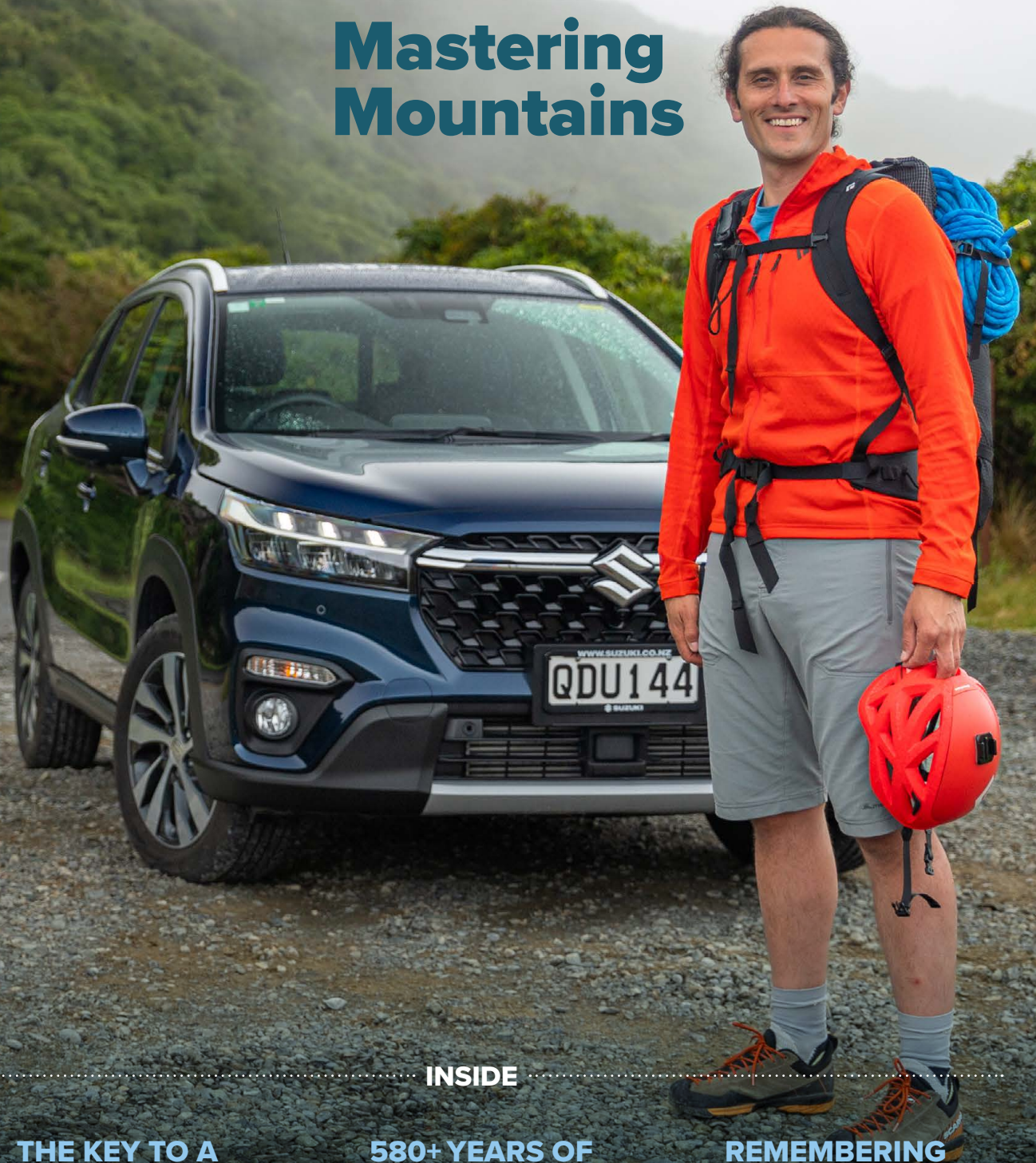


SUZUKI **now**

Mastering Mountains



INSIDE

**THE KEY TO A
SUZUKI SUMMER**

**580+ YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE!**

**REMEMBERING
OSAMU SUZUKI**

The key to a Suzuki Summer

Four unique journeys unfolded across New Zealand as these Suzuki owners and their trusty companions wrote their own chapters in the story of the great Kiwi summer.

Tom Crawford and his third-generation Jimny carved their path with a “big South Island road trip from North to South and back again.” Along the Alpine Saddle of Rainbow Road, they claimed bragging rights at 1,347 metres on New Zealand’s highest through-road. Between conquering these new heights, Tom enjoyed calm moments paddling on Lake Gunn and Lake Tennyson with his Jimny waiting faithfully at the shore.

Meanwhile, a nimble Swift called Stan

flashed up and down the nation’s highways. In the capable hands of photographer Derk Schoemaker, this 2012 manual Swift – named in touching tribute to a memorable Hūkerenui dairy farmer – proved that adventure isn’t just the domain of 4x4s. From Kaikoura’s rugged coastline to the hidden bays of Akaroa, Stan delivered his owner to perfect shooting locations with remarkable efficiency. Derk says, “Stan the Suzuki ran like clockwork and never missed a beat.”

The South Island roads welcomed an outstanding sight this summer. If you thought our legendary Suzuki Jimny was iconic, wait until you see the Jurassic Park-themed Jimny Sierra piloted by Cerise Kelsey. @Jurassicjimnygirl to her Instagram followers, Cerise and her distinctively decorated buddy brought in the New Year by proving that style and strength can go hand-in-hand. Alongside family and friends, they navigated New Zealand’s stunning landscapes and thrilling





trails. Now that's what we call adventure!

Last but certainly not least, meet Plankton – Saffron Abbott's adventure-loving Jimmy. Their summer journey was spent exploring the tranquil bays of the Marlborough Sounds and tackling the rugged tracks of the Wilberforce River. "The Marlborough Sounds were stunning," Saffron recalls. From there, Plankton's wheels took them to more challenging terrain. The remote Wilberforce

River tested their mettle ... "so remote, so rugged, so worth it!" as Saffron puts it. Plankton proved to be the perfect partner for whatever the day had in store.

As summer fades, these four adventurers and their trusted Suzukis have left their tracks across some of New Zealand's most beautiful landscapes. Together, they paint a picture of what makes a Kiwi summer with Suzuki so special. It's not just

about the destinations – though they're spectacular – it's about the camaraderie built between driver and vehicle, the memories created, and the freedom to write your own adventure.

What's your Suzuki story? We'd love for you to share it with us at suzukigo@suzuki.co.nz



Mastering Mountains with Nick Allen

Nick Allen's life story is nothing short of phenomenal. And the roots behind his charity, Mastering Mountains, have the calibre of a blockbuster film.

Growing up an outdoors lover, enjoying hiking, cycling, and rock climbing, Nick's life took a dramatic turn at 21. Nick noticed his strength and physical capability declining; he was quickly diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome. It wasn't until five years later, at 26, that Nick was re-diagnosed. This time with multiple sclerosis (MS). However, in 2019, after noticing an aggressive return of his original and new symptoms, a clinical eye finally diagnosed Nick with functional neurologic disorder (FND). A condition where the brain has trouble sending and receiving signals properly, leading to symptoms like weakness, tremors, seizures, or difficulty walking.

In 2015, after years of physical therapy, Nick set out to achieve his dream of climbing in the Himalayas. To fundraise and drive support behind his goals, Mastering

Mountains was born. Generating \$10,000 worth of support from his expedition, Nick saw an opportunity to help others who shared his ambition and dreamed to conquer their setbacks.

Ultimately, Nick achieved his goal, summiting Imja Tse – a 6,165m climb, just 10km south of Mount Everest. Reflecting on the trip, Nick emphasised "...watching the sunrise was a real highlight. Looking out to the world and thinking about the journey that got me there was just incredible."

Since 2016, Mastering Mountains has helped people across New Zealand with MS and FND access the tools and support they need to cover rehabilitation costs, gear, and expedition expenses. All to bring hope, community, and life changing experiences to those in need. Having donated over \$53,000 and hundreds of hours of free access to

their support services, Nick says they're just getting started.

Looking to 2025, Nick has an exciting set of goals on the horizon. The biggest of which is to summit 52 peaks, across New Zealand, all 1000m+. With twelve down already by mid-February, he's well on his way to achieving his target. In discussing the year ahead, Nick highlighted that without Suzuki's support, getting there would likely be the toughest obstacle – "Getting there requires a lot of driving, so I've been absolutely blown away by Suzuki's support."

We're thrilled to have a role in supporting Nick and the team at Mastering Mountains. And we're beyond excited to see them grow and do good throughout New Zealand. If you're interested in helping, head to their website to learn more and get in touch.

masteringmountains.org.nz



On track together

As the home of Suzuki New Zealand, Whanganui holds a very special place in our hearts. From Friday 31 January to Sunday 9 February, our city welcomed thousands of athletes, supporters, and spectators for what proved to be an outstanding celebration of sport, community, and active living at the 2025 Downer New Zealand Masters Games.



The Games have come a long way. Since 1989, it has grown to be recognised as one of Aotearoa New Zealand's largest multisport events. This year's lineup of sports included traditional favourites, namely athletics, swimming and cycling. However, for those seeking something less conventional, the 2025 Games offered several niche events, like jigsaw puzzle racing and euchre. Whether on the track, in the pool, or at the card table, it was inspiring to see the spirit of the

Masters Games come to life in our very own backyard!

At the heart of it all was the Games Village which buzzed with daily entertainment, bringing old friends (and new) together, to share in a drink or two and celebrate the day's achievements.

The Suzuki team were excited to get involved in the Games, with two teams taking part in the Corporate Challenge and another joining the 11 a-side football. We're delighted

to be encouraging people to keep playing, no matter their age.

The New Zealand Masters Games proves that sport is for everyone, at every age. We're already looking forward to getting behind the next Masters Games in Dunedin Feb 2026.

nzmg.com



580+ years of expertise Go Team Suzuki!

With an average tenure of 11.6 years from a team of 50, there is no shortage of talent and knowledge across the car, motorcycle and marine industries at Suzuki. Together the team has over 580 years of combined Suzuki experience across sales, service and parts support.

Gary Collins, CEO of Suzuki NZ says, “For many years Suzuki has been a part of the local Whanganui community, and at the heart of our success are our people. Their expertise, enthusiasm, loyalty and sense of fun keep us moving forward, making it a great place to work.”

After finishing university, Gary joined Suzuki NZ and has been involved in the automobile department, over the last 31 years doing everything from sales and marketing to events, sponsorship and dealership support.

Matt Shepherd, another long term member of the team, has been working at Suzuki in the Parts and Accessories division for over 44 years.

“I joined Suzuki after working at the Waiouru Military Camp. I was actually hired by another long term Suzuki employee, Dave Kitt and stayed because I saw the automotive industry as a long term career. I took in all the product knowledge that was freely

available from Suzuki team members and found it was good to work for a company that wanted people to succeed and progress the Suzuki brand”.

With 31 years, Mike Wink has been the friendly and calm voice behind the Motorcycle and Marine team offering support to its many Suzuki dealerships nationwide.

“I’ve had the pleasure of working with a great dealer network and the team at Suzuki New Zealand help ensure there is never a dull day”.

Another integral person in the supply chain is Unit Control Manager, Dave Kitt. With over 48 years of experience, Dave also manages to find time to look after the building maintenance and make sure the fire drills run like clockwork.

“Suzuki has had such a long history here in Whanganui and I started with the company back when we were assembling vehicles here. While there were a few more antics back then, the one thing that has remained

the same is the great group of people that I get to work with each day. You spend a lot of your life at work so it’s important you enjoy the company of your colleagues and Suzuki has been a special place for me to spend the majority of my career”.

Even the Accounting and HR department are not without their long-standing veterans of knowledge. With 25 years at Suzuki, Margaret Stanley has seen many changes.

“One of my favourite changes across the years has been watching the younger faces making their way through the ranks and the demographic of the staff change over the years. In a male dominated industry it’s nice to see more females taking on the challenge and working across all parts of Suzuki.”

While these are just a few, there are many more at Suzuki who have reached significant milestones and contributed to Suzuki’s success.



Remembering Osamu Suzuki (1930–2024)

Osamu Suzuki, the visionary leader who shaped Suzuki Motor Corporation into one of the world's leading mobility manufacturers passed away on 25 December, at the age of 94. Leaving behind an extraordinary legacy spanning over seven decades, Mr Suzuki's vision lives on through the company's continued commitment to its customers worldwide.

Born in 1930, Osamu Suzuki's journey with the company began in 1958 when he joined Suzuki Motor Corporation through marriage to Shoko Suzuki, the granddaughter of founder Michio Suzuki. Taking the Suzuki family name, he would go on to shape the company's future in ways few could have imagined.

Under his leadership as President (1978–2000) and Chairman (2000–2021), Suzuki Motor Corporation experienced unprecedented growth and expansion. His sharp business acumen was perhaps best demonstrated by his early recognition of India's potential – leading to the establishment of Maruti Suzuki (formerly Maruti Udyog) with the Indian government in 1982. This venture transformed both Indian mobility and Suzuki's global footprint. Today India is one of the company's most significant markets.

Under his guidance, Suzuki established a strong presence around the globe, including New Zealand. Osamu Suzuki's emphasis on producing reliable and innovative transport solutions helped establish Suzuki as one of New Zealand's most trusted automotive, motorcycle and outboard brands.

Throughout his leadership, Osamu Suzuki was known for his hands-on management style and unwavering commitment to efficiency.

He famously conducted factory floor inspections well into his 80s. He was committed to the Suzuki philosophy of "Genba, Genbutsu, Genjitsu" – going to the source to find the facts. Even after stepping down as chairman in 2021, he remained an influential figure as Senior Advisor, with his experience and wisdom continuing to guide the company he had helped build.

With his son Toshiro Suzuki at the helm, the family's principles of quality, value, and customer focus continue to remain at the heart of Suzuki's global and local operations. We honour his legacy by continuing to serve our customers with the same dedication and passion that defined Osamu Suzuki's remarkable career.



Playing it safe

Our fast-paced lives often have us in a hurry. As our children start to play more independently outside, ensuring their safety around the driveway is crucial.

Whether it's your family, friends, or neighbour's driveway, they can all pose a risk. Incidents around this area of the home often happen because drivers are, simply, unaware that children are close to their vehicles.

Here's our guide to keeping kids safe around driveways.

CHECK YOUR CAR AND SURROUNDINGS

Before getting in your vehicle, do a 360-degree scan around your vehicle. Check for kids, toys, bikes, or even pets that could be in harm's way. Making this a habit will help keep your driveway a safe space.

CREATE A NO-PLAY ZONE

Designating the driveway a no-play zone will encourage your kids to stick to safer spaces. Remind them of the dangers that come with playing around, behind, or in front of vehicles, and to always tidy up toys and bikes after playtime.

SUPERVISE AND STAY ENGAGED

Kids are curious – we get that. Nonetheless, supervision is key to keeping them safe. Be sure to hold their hand when near cars and take these opportunities to emphasise the need to stay safe. Explain why it's important to stop, wait, and follow an adult's instructions at all times.

DRIVE CAUTIOUSLY

Slow and steady will always win the safety race. Wherever possible, drive forwards out of your driveway and keep an eye on blind spots. From wing-mirrors to reversing cameras, cars have a range of safety technology features at your disposal to ensure the safest exit from your driveway.

So remember, be proactive and you create a safer environment for your family. Let's keep our little one's safe and out of harm's way, at all times!

Road Safety Week

Mark your calendars! NZ Road Safety Week is coming to a road near you. From 12-18 May, the road safety charity Brake, will be calling on everyone to be a road safety hero.

From bright outfit days, to bake sales, and even charity cycle events, there's plenty of ways your community can get involved to raise awareness and make our streets safer for all Kiwis.

roadsafetyweek.org.nz

