

SUZUKI now

SUMMER 2018

**New Swift
Sport has
arrived!**



ALSO INSIDE:

East coast
cruising in a
Baleno RS

A very
rewarding year
for Suzuki

Swift GTi –
Swift Sport's
heritage

Gixxer Cup –
Growing future
champions

Suzuki's
advanced
safety systems

Going
back to
kindy

Welcome

Is that another year gone by already? It's true what they say then, "Life is Swift" and 2017 was certainly Swift's year. The new Swift launched in June and was an instant hit – with both drivers and motoring experts. Towards the end of the year the awards came flooding in – people just love it. Ignis also premiered last year. We were all excited by the retro cool design and

didn't quite know how to categorise it. The Compact SUV seemed to defy definition but whatever you call it, it's a whole lot of fun. Again, we've had great feedback from owners and professional drivers alike along with even more awards including best car under \$20k. Vitara continues to be a strong contender – we're seeing more of them on the road every month. And Baleno has just

been updated with the RS model receiving the powerful BoosterJet engine. Looking forward to 2018 we think it's going to be another great year. We hope you had a relaxing break – because with new Swift Sport making its New Zealand debut, it's going to be a fast and exciting 2018!

GARY COLLINS
GENERAL MANAGER, MARKETING.



LEANER MEANER SWIFTER



New Swift Sport!

Swift Sport has always held a special place in Suzuki's lineup. Engineered from the ground up for pure performance, it has earned a reputation for being an uncompromising driver's vehicle. The all-new third generation Swift Sport builds on the legend and takes our 'hot hatch' to even greater heights. With its lightweight HEARTECT platform and astounding BoosterJet engine it's leaner, meaner and Swifter than ever before.

HOT HATCH STYLE

There's no mistaking that iconic Swift Sport design – but as you can see, it's been ramped up, reimagined, and refined. The new Sport is lower and wider with customised skirts, twin exhausts, and a unique rear spoiler. You'll also notice a new honeycomb grille, a business-like rear diffuser, distinctive 17-inch polished alloys and check out those hidden rear door handles!



Proud Owners Snap their Suzukis

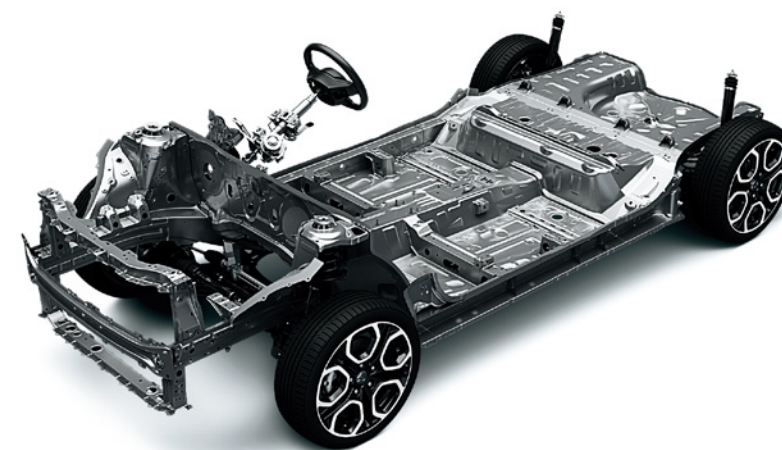
The Swift Owner Competition was a resounding success with photos pouring in from all over the country. We were swamped with shots of proud owners and their vehicles.



For the latest Suzuki news from here and overseas visit www.suzuki.co.nz or follow us at facebook.com/SuzukiNZ



New Swift Sport is available with a sport-grade six-speed manual transmission or a smooth-shifting 6-stage auto with paddle shifters.



LIGHTER, STRONGER HEARTECT PLATFORM

New Swift Sport features a state-of-the-art, high-rigidity HEARTECT frame. Its smoothly curving continuous shape effectively disperses impact energy in the case of a collision. Fewer joints and the use of special high-tensile steel mean less reinforcements are required which reduces weight. In fact new Swift Sport is up to 90 kg lighter than its predecessor. With a kerb weight of

just 970 kg (manual) – and that incredible BoosterJet engine, it boasts an outstanding 4.2:1 weight-to-torque ratio (kg:Nm). Translation? Higher fuel efficiency, increased agility, quicker acceleration and even more responsive handling.

STATE-OF-THE-ART SAFETY

Swift Sport sets the standard for safety. On top of the stronger HEARTECT chassis, it features an Advanced Forward Detection System with a range of incredibly accurate

sensors including a monocular camera, laser, and millimetre wave radar. These innovative accident avoidance and electronic driver assistance technologies have helped Swift Sport achieve ANCAP's highest safety rating of 5 out of 5 stars.

See the article later in this issue for more on Suzuki's game-changing Advanced Forward Detection System.

MANUAL \$28,500 plus orc
AUTO \$29,900 plus orc

INTERIOR INTUITION

Inside, Swift Sport is laser-focused on delivering the ultimate experience to the driver. With meticulous design, quality components, and an intuitive layout the car becomes a natural extension of your body. There's a sporty D-shaped steering wheel, a premium competition shifter, and race-style alloy pedals. The main console features a prominent speedometer and tachometer along with turbo boost, oil temperature and G sensor readouts.

The Swift Sport's semi-bucket seats incorporate lightweight tubular frames to hold you firmly during cornering. Even the internal pads have been carefully shaped and fine-tuned to transmit road-feel but remain comfortable for everyday driving. In the rear there's plenty of clever storage with roomy seats that fold down to make the most of the practically-proportioned boot.

As you would expect, new Swift Sport has all the latest mod-cons including a 7-inch touchscreen display with a built-in reverse camera. This gives you access to a range of multimedia features including audio, hands-free phone, navigation, and smartphone integration. Automatic air conditioning helps you keep your cool when things get heated, and the Adaptive Cruise Control system utilises millimetre wave radar to make open road cruising more comfortable and safe.

TURBOCHARGED EXCITEMENT

It wouldn't be a Swift Sport without a race-tuned, championship-worthy engine – and the newly developed 1.4L BoosterJet delivers in spades. This direct injected, intercooled turbo powerhouse is a technological tour de force. It's compact, lightweight and fuel-efficient while delivering a robust amount of

torque even in the low rev range. It responds instantly and accurately delivering punch, dynamism and authority.

POWER: 103 kW @ 5,500 rpm
TORQUE: 230 Nm @ 2,500-3,500 rpm
FUEL: 6.1 L/100 km combined
CO2: 141 g/km



Quick Get Away

Exploring the East Coast in the New Baleno RS



When you have a two year old, a trip to the supermarket by yourself feels like a holiday. So when the grandparents offered to babysit for three days, my wife and I were giddy with gratitude. With no real plan in mind we decided to head towards the East Coast for a short break in our Baleno RS – sans kids.

In our typical last-minute way we threw a few things into the roomy boot and took off from Wellington. The steep, winding climb through the Rimutakas is State Highway 2's first challenge. With the smell of burning clutch hanging heavy in the air, older cars and trucks labour over the hill. But the Baleno's BoosterJet engine made such short work of it, I almost wished there was more. This was also my first excuse to try out the 'flappy paddle' shifters. Pop the gear selector into 'M' and with a quick flick of the paddles located on the steering column, you

can 'manually' change gears. On challenging roads it's enormously entertaining as you can 'engine brake' into a corner, then push the revs higher as you power out.

After having my fun I put the Baleno back in auto as we cruised through the string of quaint little towns that make up the Wairarapa. Further on, State Highway 2 has a nice meandering character, weaving its way along rather than plowing straight through like SH1.

Approaching Napier the glittering expanse of the Pacific Ocean came into view.

Parking up, my wife and I sauntered through the charismatic art-deco city, down to the beach. Over a very nice coffee we finally did some planning and booked a motel in Gisborne. What we didn't do was top up on petrol. Perhaps it was the relaxed, optimistic vibe brought on by the East Coast sunshine. Perhaps it was the excitement of seeing the sea. Either way, we forgot to refuel the Baleno and were very relieved to see a service station as we reached the outskirts of Gizzy. Also impressed. Wellington to Gisborne on a \$60 tank is pretty economical. According to the Baleno's trip meter, we averaged about 5L per 100 km despite the winding roads and hills.

The next day we awoke in the first city on Earth to see the sun and enjoyed an excellent breakfast at Zest café. We then took a long walk down Waikanae Beach

– and memory lane for me as we used to stay at the campground there as kids. I'm not supposed to be eating sugar but who can resist a hokey pokey ice-cream when you're on holiday?

Back on the road we decided we'd go as far as Tolaga Bay before heading back. This section of the Pacific Coast Highway serves up some of the most spectacular coastal scenery New Zealand has to offer. The 130 year old Tolaga Bay Inn is good for a hearty lunch, and no visit would be complete without a stroll along the historic pier.

After the obligatory photos we decided to make a beeline for the Morere Hot Springs about an hour south of Gisborne. We booked at the lodge just opposite which turned out to be a great idea. Our host Paul arranged a spectacular dinner for us and teed up a special afterhours visit to the hot springs. After consuming more ribs than anyone should eat in one sitting, we wandered up to the pools and had the place to ourselves. Which was good because neither of us had thought to pack togs.

I can't vouch for the therapeutic nature of the salty water, but I can say we both slept well that night. After a quick brekkie in the

local café (muffins to die for) we decided to spend the day on the Mahia peninsula. I felt a tad guilty talking to a guy who was just about to cycle up to Lake Waikaremoana – having just cycled 4 hours from Gisborne. We hadn't even walked up the driveway!

The surf beaches along the road to Mahia are rugged and spectacular. Even in my surfie days I'm not sure I would've taken on the waves there – but, all along the coast a hard-core of mostly older surfers, bronzed and wrinkled by the sun, were loving every minute of it. Mahia Bay was more our pace. A gentle curve of golden sand, light zephyrs and sparkling waters. It was a perfect day and, thanks to the driver of an immaculate vintage Mini, a fun drive home. Together we took on the twisting road, roared past the trucks, and finally rolled into Napier.

With the New Zealand Iron Man the next day there was no hope of finding accommodation. Plan B was to drive to Taupo, stay there then head home via SH1. This section of the Thermal Explorer Highway is nothing short of spectacular – it definitely rates as one of my favourite drives with rolling farmland and bucolic vineyards morphing into mountainous

ranges, precipitous gorges, and dramatic volcanic plateaus. Again, the Baleno felt eager – even on the steepest inclines. After many a visit, Taupo feels like home to me. We had no trouble finding good digs and had an exquisite meal at The Bistro – highly recommended if you're in the neighbourhood.

After a good night's sleep, we headed round the lake via a section of the Volcanic Loop Highway – better known as good ol' State Highway 1 to Waiouru. The Desert Road was moody as always. We made a traditional stop to get milk from Bulls, then it was on to the fancy new Kapiti Expressway. At Paekakariki we squeezed back into a single lane to face the winding uphill grind through Pukerua Bay, then coasted down Ngauranga Gorge into Wellington. As we cruised around Marine Drive back to our home in Eastbourne we reflected on how much we'd enjoyed the trip – and the Baleno RS. It was only 3 days but it felt like we'd gone a long way and done a lot. Rested and refreshed we were nearly prepared for the onslaught of the children when we arrived home. Nearly.

Words and images by Nick McHugh – freelance writer





2017 Awardsmania

It's always fun when the experts heap praise upon your products. Here are some key awards that Suzuki cars and SUVs won in 2017. And just for the record, we agree!

AA CAR OF THE YEAR MICRO/LIGHT CAR BEST IN CLASS – NEW SWIFT

AA motoring's New Zealand Car of the Year Awards are highly anticipated and hotly contested. New Swift only had a short time to make an impact in 2017 but it went straight to the top, taking out Best in Class in the competitive Micro/Light Car category. "Bigger, bolder, and better with a fresh new range of engines and transmissions, greater levels of specification and more technology than ever before, including driver assistance systems. New Swift has a wider stance and feels more substantial on the road, and yet Suzuki has achieved weight reduction for improved economy."

New Zealand Motoring Writers' Guild & AA Motoring

AA CAR OF THE YEAR PEOPLE'S CHOICE – NEW SWIFT

This is the one the NZ public voted for. Over 50,000 people had their say and new Swift took top honours. Your vote counted. Thank you!

NZ AUTOCAR'S CAR OF THE YEAR UNDER \$30K CLASS WINNER – NEW SWIFT

"Swift has been a Kiwi favourite for the past decade and Suzuki has taken the latest generation to a new level. An all-new lightweight platform and engine range help make Swift more economical, yet it remains as entertaining as ever to drive. It's packed full of new convenience features and safety gear but the price remains low, making its bang for buck hard to match in this crowded segment where value is king."

NZ Autocar

STUFF TOP SUB \$20K CAR – IGNIS

"We're constantly amazed at just how much quality and driving-fun \$20k buys. Quirky but so very cool: Suzuki Ignis puts retro styling over a fun-to-drive city-car package. It's technically a micro-car, but it has such a distinctive personality that you'd almost call it "classless". Call it what you like the Ignis is a brilliantly lovable machine."

Stuff Motoring

STUFF TOP CAR INTERIOR SUB \$20K – IGNIS

"You have no right to expect great interior design on a car that starts below \$20,000. Which makes it all the more impressive that Suzuki has delivered such a feel-good, well-designed cabin environment. The Ignis cabin manages to feel truly special without being over-styled. The layout has been kept simple, the controls large and logically laid out."

Stuff Motoring

BRITISH MOTORING JOURNALISTS CAR OF THE YEAR – IGNIS

With every new car introduced in the last 12 months to choose from, this influential group of 31 writers put Ignis at the top of their list. "Suzuki's tremendous performance in recent years has been remarkable. Ignis is one of the marque's many splendid vehicles and truly satisfies our principal criteria - value for money."

Alan Domville, General Secretary, British Motoring Journalists

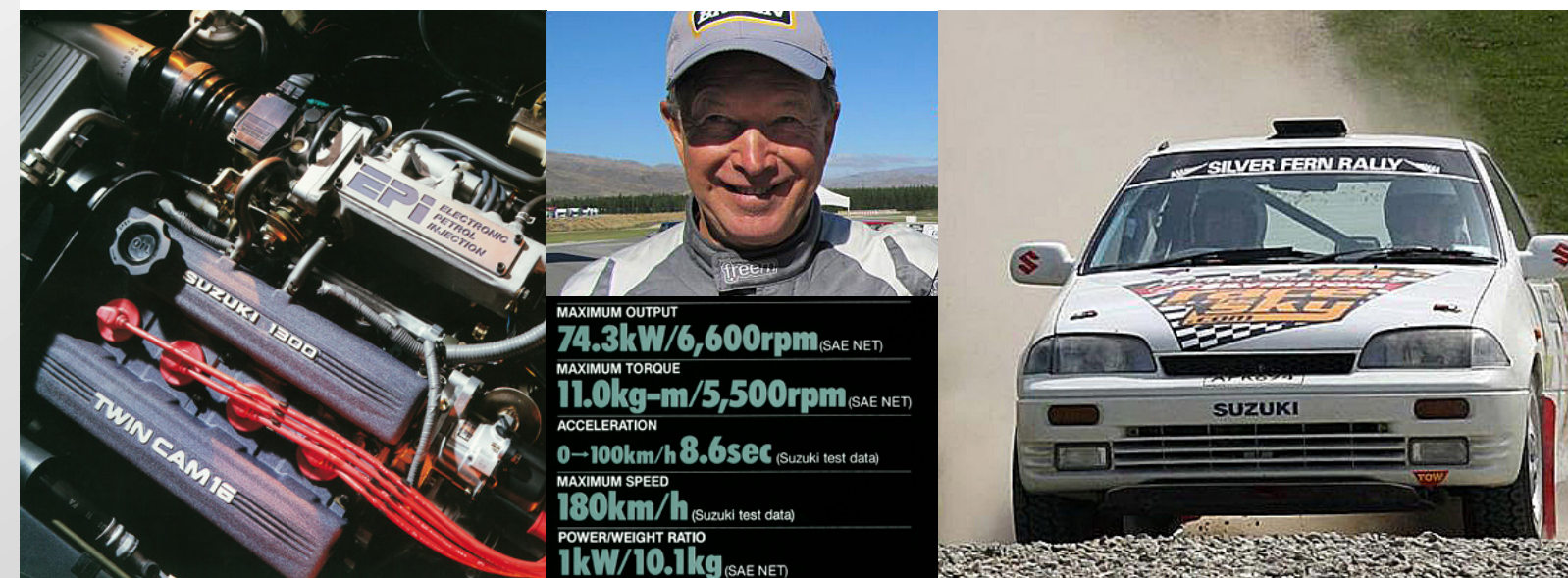
NZ COMPANY VEHICLE COMPACT BUSINESS VEHICLE OF THE YEAR – NEW SWIFT

NZ 4WD COMPACT 4WD SUV OF THE YEAR – VITARA

NZ COMPANY VEHICLE COMPACT SUV OF THE YEAR – VITARA

CANSTAR BLUE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY 2017 – SUZUKI

The Suzuki passenger car and SUV brand was a clear winner in the 2017 Canstar Blue awards, being the only brand to achieve five stars in all categories, vehicle reliability, driving experience, value for money, point of sale, after sales service and overall customer satisfaction.



Hot Hatch Pedigree

With the launch of the new Swift Sport, we wanted to follow the iconic hot hatch's lineage back to its roots in the legendary Swift GTi.

When it comes to NZ motorsport and the history of the GTi the man to talk to is Grant Aitken. With over thirty years of high performance driving experience Grant has competed at every race circuit in New Zealand as well as Calder, Oran Park, and Bathurst in Australia. He's rallied in New Zealand, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Myanmar and Laos. Driving a Suzuki Vitara, Grant placed 1st overall in the Rally of Asia in both 1998 and 1999, and third in 2000 and 2001. He was awarded the Ron Frost Award for services to Motorsport in 2007 for creating and running the Silverstone Race to the Sky for ten years. Most importantly for this article, Grant used to drive a Suzuki GTi competitively – and still has one in his garage.

Having pushed cars to their absolute limits in the harshest driving conditions, Grant knows all about the enormous amount of extra strain it puts on a vehicle. We asked him to list the attributes of an ideal performance vehicle – purpose built for competitive driving. While light weight is first on Grant's list, for better performance and handling, he also places a lot of value on durability and simplicity of design. "To win,

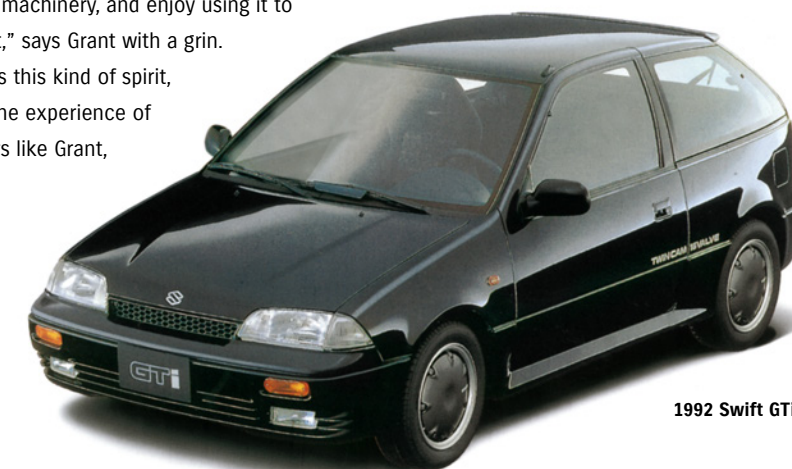
first you have to finish," he says. "And that's what made the Swift GTi so special; legendary reliability. In fact the engine in my GTi has never been apart," says Grant. "Here at Highlands we used a Swift GTi for the YOURLaps experience for several years – and it's only just been retired after being thrashed around literally hundreds of laps of the Highlands circuit."

The Swift GTi Grant still has in his collection has completed endless circuit and Rally events, winning its class in the Silver Fern Rally in 2006 and 2008. He also held on to his Suzuki Baleno which was used for the NZ Touring Car series in 1995. "I get a significant amount of enjoyment from having good machinery, and enjoy using it to effect," says Grant with a grin.

It's this kind of spirit, and the experience of drivers like Grant,

that has guided the development of the new Swift Sport. Just like the GTi before it, it's light, nimble, and powerful. With its BoosterJet turbo engine and new tech such as advanced forward detection, it's destined to continue the legend.

The coming year will be another fast and furious one for Grant. His calendar's packed with events including the Leadfoot Festival and the endurance series later in the year. He hopes to be one of the first to test drive the latest generation Swift Sport. "I am so looking forward to it," Grant enthuses – and he's not the only one!



1992 Swift GTi



Life in the Fast Lane

Christchurch triathlete Andrea Hewitt is one of New Zealand's most successful sporting personalities. She represented New Zealand at the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games, the ITU World Championships, and the World Triathlon Series, winning too many medals to mention. At the end of the 2017 season Andrea ranked 5th in the world and was recently selected for NZ's 2018 Commonwealth Games team.

To kick off the year Andrea has the Oceania Cup in Adelaide, and with the AUA Rohrman Triathlon being held in Antigua, she'll be flying to the Caribbean for heat training. Then there's the first race of the World Series in Abu Dhabi – and that's just the first three months of the year!

It's fair to say Andrea has a very busy schedule, so how does she keep up – training for three disciplines and competing on the world stage? "Most weeks my training is approximately 5 swims, 6 bike rides, 7 runs, and a yoga session," says Andrea. This adds up to around 30 hours of training each week with one day off." It's hectic but there's a short down-time between seasons. "That's when I can travel and visit friends I've made in Europe. I also like to make the most of my time there and do some sightseeing before

coming home," says Andrea.

In Christchurch, when Andrea's not training she enjoys going to the beach, visiting friends, and spending time with her family. Post training she enjoys cooking. "Eating properly around my training sessions helps my body recover more quickly."

Staying motivated isn't a problem for Andrea. "I love training," she says "and I find the travelling fun – there's always a race and a destination to look forward to. Knowing what I have to do to win motivates me to go out and train for those special moments. I'm proud to represent New Zealand on the world stage and still get goose bumps when I compete. I get recognised sometimes and greeted – the New Zealand public are so friendly towards sportspeople."

Andrea's proudest moment was when she

won the 2011 World Series Final in Beijing. "To bring tears to the eyes of the closest people around me was a moment I will never forget. My Dad made a last minute decision to come watch by himself and he told me it was the best day of his life."

To help her get to her training sessions around Christchurch, Hollands Suzuki supplied Andrea with a red Swift Sport. According to Andrea, "It's the perfect car for driving around town. It looks good, it's simple to drive and so easy to park."

Suzuki sponsor Triathlon New Zealand, a non-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of the sport in New Zealand. As well as working with youth, coaches and referees, Triathlon New Zealand delivers a high performance programme, helping athletes like Andrea, take on the world.

Moon Rover Update

As part of its mission to promote technological development Suzuki is helping to fund Team HAKUTO in its bid to win the Google Lunar XPRIZE. The competition has challenged corporate teams to successfully place a spacecraft on the moon's surface, travel 500 metres, and send high-definition photos and video back to Earth.

The ambitious HAKUTO group announced it has raised over \$90 million. This is the biggest investment to date for an XPRIZE team, sending a strong signal that the private sector is serious about lunar exploration. In late 2017 Team HAKUTO signed a 'rideshare' agreement with Team INDUS to carry its 4WD rover to the moon.

The launch aboard the Indian Space Research Organisation's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle is scheduled sometime before the end of March 2018 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, India.



25 Million Sales for Japan

Suzuki sales just passed the 25 million mark in Japan. Since launching in 1955 Suzuki has been a leader in small cars with an emphasis on value, economy, and fun. Its global sales total now sits at around 63 million.



Growing future champions

This summer, as part of the New Zealand Tri-Series Road Racing Championship, a new racing class dubbed the "Gixxer Cup" has been launched. This class is a great competition for young racers (aged 14-21) to start their careers, making it affordable and giving them an opportunity that hasn't previously existed.

This has been a great opportunity for Suzuki Motorcycles New Zealand to promote and showcase their new GSX150F at racetracks around the country, and further build Suzuki's reputation as a high performance road bike brand.

After five rounds the competition is still wide open and the young riders are delighting the crowd with thrills and spills galore. All the details of the series can be found here on Suzuki's website at <https://www.suzuki.co.nz/gixxer-cup-riders-2017-18>

Photo courtesy Andy McGeachan, BikesportNZ.com

Positive Partnership

Suzuki and Toyota are teaming up to produce EVs – electric vehicles, for the Indian market. With a population of over 1.3 billion spread over a vast area with varied terrain, setting up infrastructure such as charging stations and recycling facilities will be a massive challenge. The two automotive giants have agreed to share technology, resources, and systems with the goal of introducing EVs to India in 2020.



Toshihiro Suzuki, President of Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, Indian PM Narendra Modi, Osamu Suzuki, Chairman of SMC and R C Bhargava, Chairman of Maruti Suzuki.

Worthy Winner for Silver Ferns Swift

The Netball NZ Silver Ferns Swift has been won – and it couldn't have gone to a more worthy recipient. Leeanne Brown is a Plunket Nurse and Family Start worker in Palmerston North. With over 20 years of Plunket nursing under her belt she still loves the work, "It's two jobs that are so rewarding and it's such a privilege to be involved in a family's parenting experience" says Leeanne.

The lucky winner is a big fan of New Zealand netball. "My playing days are over due to age and injury but my mother and I are fanatic fans. I have a couple of nieces that play and we go to their weekend games. I'm hoping the Ferns will do well on their latest overseas tour!"

Leeanne found out about the Ferns Swift competition while watching the netball series on TV. "I thought, 'why not enter?' never thinking I could win," she remembers.

To enter the competition fans had to vote for their favourite accessory package for the special Silver Ferns Swift. According to Leeanne she had no winning strategy "I just picked the best looking Swift," she laughs.

When Sara Farr from Netball NZ rang and

told her she had won the Swift Leeanne couldn't believe it. "I thought someone was playing a joke!" Even after visiting her Suzuki dealer, she still couldn't believe her luck.

BEST BIRTHDAY EVER

Sometimes the stars align and luck shines on the right people. It turns out the delivery date was Leeanne's birthday! "The team that delivered the Swift, including netball great Irene van Dyk, were incredible," says Leeanne. "It was such a fun day, my family were there – it was way beyond anything I could wish for."

Leeanne's now using the Swift for work, visiting family, going to aqua aerobics and to the Manawatu gorge walk. "My heart flutters

each time I look at the car and I LOVE it," says Leeanne. "It drives beautifully. It looks great. It's just perfect. I'm extremely proud to be driving such a lovely car – who wouldn't want a Swift!"



e-SURVIVOR Makes an Entrance

The 2017 Tokyo Motor Show saw the debut of Suzuki's electric go-anywhere e-SURVIVOR concept vehicle. This futuristic compact SUV pays tribute to Suzuki's proud 4WD heritage blending cutting-edge tech with unparalleled off-road engineering experience.

As you can see from its extremely high ground clearance, the e-SURVIVOR is ready to take on any challenge. Powered by dual electric motors it offers instant torque and acceleration which makes it great fun to drive. But when you want to relax and let someone else take the wheel, the e-SURVIVOR is autonomous. Switch to

driverless mode and its array of advanced sensors and on-board electronics will get you home safely while you have a nap or enjoy the view.

Designed to deliver fun and value e-SURVIVOR was primarily intended to be a recreational vehicle, however it's already attracting interest from first

response providers. Its rugged design and Suzuki's reputation for reliability will make it extremely effective in challenging situations. You can imagine it being used for surf-rescue, snow patrol, fire prevention, or getting first-aid to remote locations.

New dealerships

Southerly changes

BALCLUTHA BOOMING

With the South Otago region experiencing strong growth Jared McPhee recently added Suzuki sales and service to his dealership in Balclutha. Jared has a thorough knowledge of the local community and rural customers having worked previously as a mechanic and farm machinery dealer.

Since taking over Balclutha Motors eight years ago Jared has made a lot of changes. These include a new service and parts department, the introduction of Tyreland and Pie Face café, a new showroom and offices, new underground fuel tanks, fuel pumps and an overhauled Caltex shop. He also had a brand-new car wash installed, and of course introduced Suzuki sales, parts and service.

"We enjoy being able to offer our customers all the options and a high level

of service without them having to leave the district," says Jared. "What I like about Suzuki is its performance and reliability. We sell a lot of new Swifts, a few Jimnys – some with flat decks as they're a very safe and cost-effective way to get around the farms here. It's also a great place for Vitara with all the gravel roads we have."

Jared puts a big emphasis on friendly 'good old fashioned' country service so if you're in the area, pop in and meet the team



at Balclutha Motors on the corner of James & Elizabeth St, Balclutha.

NEW TEAM FOR QUEENSTOWN AND CROMWELL

Husband and wife duo Scott and Emma Billman have taken over the Suzuki dealership in Queenstown and parts and service centre in Cromwell. They purchased the business last year from Winger Motors which had been operating in the region for just over three years.

Central Otago Motor Group, as it's now known, supports the entire region including Alexandra, Clyde, Wanaka, and Queenstown. They have the full Suzuki range available in Queenstown and provide servicing for Suzuki in both Queenstown and Cromwell. "Our team is young, yet experienced, friendly and will go out of their way to deliver the best customer service," says Emma.

Collectively the Billmans have 17 years' experience in the automotive industry. Previously Scott was National Sales and Marketing Manager for Hyundai New Zealand for 12 years. Emma also worked there for 5 years in corporate sales, company leasing and then sponsorship and events before moving to Coca-Cola Amatil. But Emma's an Invercargill girl. "So when the opportunity arose to purchase our own dealership and move 'home' [from Auckland] the choice was relatively easy," she says.

Scott is General Manager of the group

while Emma works as Operations Manager and they're both very hands-on. You'll find one of them at each location almost every

day. Suzuki is their new baby but they also have a wee 2½ year-old girl called Harper and a golden Labrador named Gus.





Suzuki's Advanced Forward Detection System

Featured in new Swift GLX, RS and Sport

New Swift is the first vehicle in New Zealand to feature Suzuki's Advanced Forward Detection system, and it will begin appearing in more new Suzukis in the future. With an ensemble of high-tech sensors it brings you new safety features and enhances existing ones. Currently this includes Dual Sensor Brake Support (DSBS), Lane Departure Warning, Weaving Alert, Headlamp High Beam Assist, and Adaptive Cruise Control. As well as supporting your safe driving Suzuki's Advanced Forward Detection System uses a range of alerts and prompts to warn you if it detects trouble. If required it can act – even before you do, to help you avoid accidents and reduce the impact of serious collisions.

DUAL SENSOR BRAKE SUPPORT (DSBS)

This system can detect a potential collision and act accordingly. A monocular camera 'sees' mid-to-long distance and can detect pedestrians. There is also a laser sensor for short-distances and at night.

LANE DEPARTURE WARNING

At 60 km/h or faster the vehicle predicts your course and if you drift, vibrates the steering wheel and gives you a visual warning.

WEAVING ALERT

This system calculates your driving pattern and issues audio and visual warnings if it detects you're 'wandering' due to driver fatigue, for example.

HEADLAMP HIGH BEAM ASSIST (RS & SPORT)

At 40 km/h or faster, high beam assist can automatically switch the headlamps between high and low beam depending on the presence of other vehicles and the lighting environment.

ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL

Cruise control is ideal for long journeys. When there are no vehicles in front of you it maintains your set speed so you can relax and concentrate on driving. When there is a vehicle in front of you the adaptive cruise control system uses millimetre-wave radar to automatically maintain your following distance depending on the setting selected and vehicle speed.

The Advanced Forward Detection System. It is only an aid and the ability to detect obstacles and lanes, and control the vehicle is limited. Always drive safely.



SUZUKI GOES BACK TO KINDY

He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua Free Kindergarten Association Inc is a registered charity that manages 85 kindergartens with around 700 teachers. When renewing their fleet recently, they chose Suzuki Swift and S-Cross from Mexted Motors in Wellington. We spoke to CFO Brendon Fyfe-Gits about their decision making process: "When I started in 2010 the association already owned some older Swifts," says Brendon. 13 more were purchased in 2013, another one in 2014, and two more in 2016. So we've been with Suzuki and Swift through a couple of model changes".



While the association was happy with their Swifts and the service from Mexted Motors, the decision was made to look across all brands and do a fair comparison. "It was organised by our CEO and deputy CEO and was quite a thorough process" says Brendon. "We wanted to make a robust decision not just driven by price or an individual opinion. We had a range of staff do test-drives with a load of gear... everything down to wheel size was considered. Staying with Suzuki certainly wasn't a foregone conclusion or a decision that was taken lightly."

Some of the key concerns for the association in moving to new vehicles, were safety, engine size, and storage. "Some Wellington teachers travel regularly to kindergartens in the Wairarapa," explains Brendon. "That means tackling the winding Rimutaka Hill which can be particularly treacherous in bad weather, so power and

safety were big factors. Also, coordinators in local communities often have to transport passengers including children and need to fit large items like buggies. Our vehicles travel roughly 17,000km each year."

A small car was the priority, "but we also needed a few larger vehicles," says Brendon, "and we wanted them to be the same brand which narrowed it down. We looked at Toyota Yaris and Corolla, but Suzuki Swift and S-Cross won on every count – power, safety, fuel economy, luggage capacity, and warranty". Brendon adds that overall, across the 18 vehicles, the association saved a significant amount of money – not just on the purchase price, but also on fuel.

"The new Swift is great," enthuses Brendon. "We're really impressed with the boot – it's double the size of the older model! Our drivers preferred the styling, the interior trim felt more modern, and they

loved improved features like the reversing camera – that's a real bonus. Also, our vehicles are in a pool and there are drivers who swap in and out. So it's good to have controls and things like Apple CarPlay consistent across the two models."

According to Brendon, when it came to choosing a dealer the process was just as thorough. "We can't afford to have cars off the road for a long time," he says. "After-sales service – having a good relationship, is really important to us. We used to be based in Tawa which is why we initially chose Mexteds. We're now in Porirua but the staff at Mexteds are just awesome, I would sing their praises to anyone. They're so good to us. If a car's in for servicing they provide a courtesy car or drop people home. They spend time with new drivers, hand the cars over properly... it's all those little things – not just competitive pricing."



"The new Suzuki's look great – a real step up." Brendon Fyfe-Gits, CFO Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens.

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