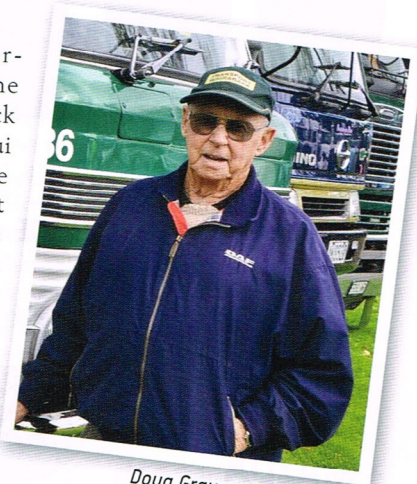


Classic D series Ford

BY JOHN HERON

I was wandering around the Mangatainoka truck show held at the Tui Truck Stop, where there were about 100 working trucks on display. I spotted an elderly gentleman wearing a Transport Wairarapa cap. His name is Doug Gray and as I chatted with him he told me about his D series Ford that was on display, so we went for a looksee.



Doug Gray

The D series had been restored with lots of TLC and is now back in show room condition. It is a 1980 model, 6x4 DT2418 powered by a V8 Cummins putting out 180hp through a 6-speed Ford gearbox with 2-speed Eaton diffs.

Doug drove for Transport Wairarapa from 1941 until 1985 and this was his last new truck for the company. It still has Doug Gray written on the driver's door.

When Doug got the truck brand new it pulled a 27 foot three-axle trailer carting stock and general freight. Tippers were put on the decks so he could also cart fertiliser. Country trucks had to be versatile and be able to carry a wide variety of rural freight.

After his retirement in 1985 Doug kept relief driving for Transport Wairarapa, he often drove the half bus, half freighter on the daily return run to Wellington.

The truck was restored by several mates with some help from Doug. □



Doug Gray's "D" series. Note the special V8 badge on the grille