

BEHIND THE SHED DOOR

Sunday 15th June 2025

This month's run, organised by Roger Pick, provided an insight into the car modernisation, hot-rod and restoration business. Our run started at the Palmerston North Railway Station at 9.30 am taking us along back roads via Hiwinui into Ashhurst to arrive at Hot Rod Haven.



During our visit we sighted a number of cars in various stages of rebuilding into specialised hot-rods to their owner's specification. One American car was 7 meters long. Of interest were two wooden crates carrying new chassis recently arrived from the USA. Those among us who had mechanical knowledge found their conversations with our host most interesting.

From Hot Rod Haven we cruised around to the Ashhurst Domain for a morning cuppa in the bright sunshine, although the air was still chilly. We then travelled State Highway 3 via Aokautere to Shannon. The new Te Ahu a Turanga / Manawatu - Tararua Highway (the 'Gorge' replacement road) opened during the preceding week, we had to queue to get onto the new roundabout to enable us to turn right into SH 57. There was a large volume of traffic trying out the new road for the first time.



After morning tea we continued on to Shannon, and as we had spread out during our drive down, we gathered in Shannon before proceeding to Buckley Road and Mercury Garage. Our host, Stacey, was arranging a move to the South Island so he only had a few cars under restoration. Again, the cars were under various levels of finish. One car, in road worthy condition was a 1950's Mercury Coupe, once owned by one of our 1970's Prime Minister's Sir Robert Muldoon.



There were a good number of cars for this winter outing, joining Roger and his friend were Robert and Glenn, Sandy and Trevor and Sandy's brother, Roger C, Chris, and Margaret from Whanganui and another Whanganui couple Ian and Sue, Alec and Betty, Ken, John E, Neil and Liz, Alan and Robyn, Ian B, Graeme, John and Anne and ourselves. 15 cars in all. After touring Stacey's workshop and learning about the cars under restoration, we gathered on his front lawn together with his two little terriers and very friendly cat, for our picnic lunch. Out came the deck chairs, picnic baskets, tables, thermos flasks and food. Surprising what a MG can carry.



After lunch and enjoying each other's company, we packed up and made our own way home.

Thank you, Roger, for an interesting day out amongst vehicles we would not normally have had the opportunity to view whilst under reconstruction.

Robyn & Steve