

MG Manawatu Hawkes Bay Run
Saturday 20 March 2021

At 9.15 on Saturday morning ten cars assembled in Ashhurst for the full day tour organised by Robert Wilson and Sue Forde. Four BGTs, one B Roadster and two Fs were joined by Ian and Sue Pearson in their Magnette, and Larry and Sue Jones in their bright blue ZR. Alan and Robyn Henry were very welcome along in their modern car while their BGT is receiving some TLC.

The weather was nice on our side of the ranges, but true to the forecast it proved not so nice in the east after the convoy had bounced its way over the poor old Saddle Road. Robert had planned well to keep us rural, away from the main highway most of the way to a 10.30 rest stop in Dannevirke. Through the hill country on the way to Waipawa and out east to Patangata Tavern the weather looked consistently dodgy. Top down in MGKIWI we judged it wouldn't come to much and pressed on, as did Robyn and Graeme top down in the B Roadster, and we were rewarded with a super fresh air drive through not much more than a heavy dew.

Several of our Hawkes Bay members in a bevy of MGFs greeted our arrival at the tavern and there was much chatting over a very substantial lunch. Sue in her new MG3 led the expanded convoy onward through the very scenic route to Havelock North where we visited the HQ of the old-established Arataki Honey business. After some interesting tasting and purchasing we made a beeline for The Figgery Cafe for afternoon tea. This was followed by a delightfully entertaining talk by Murray, an owner of the fig growing enterprise. As well as entertaining he educated us about figs which haven't seemed to figure a lot in New Zealand horticulture.

Our thanks to Robert and Sue for organising this very full day trip for MG Manawatu.