

Antiques and Collectables Road Trip

Saturday 17 September 2022

Eleven cars assembled at the Ministry of Books in Sanson for the start of Ian and Sue Bailey's Road trip. Things were looking up when the first half dozen or so cars departed, but the stragglers soon found themselves behind the local Morris Minor club's own 12 car convoy travelling at the sedate speed of 30mph. Fortunately they turned off onto Lees Road as our group continued on to Halcombe and then to State Highway 54 to our first stop at Stormy Point for a photo shoot. Although to be fair this was not the first stop for one eagle eyed photographer who stopped enroute to take a picture of a mother duck and her 13 babies in a farmer's culvert.



At Stormy point we were met by John in his 'Blu Bee', who joined us on our tour.

From there it was on to Rewa Gallery, where we discovered John and Viv sitting in the gallery's porch waiting our arrival. The gallery's owner is a potter and after a visit to this store he took us out the back to witness his kiln in action.



Our next stop was at Vinegar Hill Reserve for our morning tea. From there it was onwards to Taihape and their Museum.

Our run sheet said that this museum was a 'hidden gem in the rough' and as it turned out, a very good description of the artifacts from the local area. After a brief talk by a very well informed and spoken volunteer, we were split into two groups. One toured the outside attractions such as old farm and transport machinery; 'rose cottage' depicting home life in the early 1900's; the old local telephone exchange and printing press, plus an old, very old, howitzer gun built by Skoda and sold to the Hungarian Army in 1917 as part of their WW1 war effort. How this gun came to be in Taihape is anyone's guess, it was only recovered from a farmer's paddock in recent times.



The other group, under the guidance of another volunteer, toured the museum building which originated as the local Methodist Church until sold to the museum trust. One of the displays of interest was focused on the brewing industry. Taihape has excellent pure spring water which is ideal for brewing beer. In 1908 a chap called Kutztze using European technology was the first in New Zealand to practise continuous fermentation, so Taihape is considered the home of modern brewing in New Zealand. Another well-known brewery, in its day, was Cascade Brewery. We changed 'tours' after a while so both groups got to see all the attractions.

Our lunch stop was at the 'Duke Road House' in Mangaweka, where we enjoyed a casual lunch and good fellowship. Then it was on to our last stop of the day, Hunterville.



Hunterville. The home of (sheep), amongst other things, stores selling antiques and collectables. Our run notice advised 'Ladies – bring your handbags – there's bargains galore'. And yes, we can report that handbags were sighted and what's more, seen to be opened.

After a time visiting and talking to the various retailers it was time for us to make our own way home. Thank you, Ian and Sue, for a relaxed and enjoyable day out.



Robyn and Steve