

## Rob's Manawatu Tour

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023

On an overcast morning with rain threatening, 12 cars assembled at the entrance to Manfeild, Feilding for Robert Wilson's places of interest tour.

We left shortly after 9 am heading to Colyton, Spur Road, along the gravel section of Watershed Road and then on to Ashhurst for our first stop of the day. 'Boutique Bash' a quirky retail outlet. Then in the cars and off to Aokautere Road to Caroline's Creative Interiors store and café for morning tea.



After a look around the store it was in the cars and back through to Ashhurst to 48 Harrisons Line to visit Steve and Kirsty Ward's 'Black Barn'. Black Barn is a beautifully constructed large barn housing their home and their large collection of motoring and other memorabilia. They even had a couple of cars for sale which I understand Kirsty wanted Steve to sell. The barn is so large that it has its own meeting space. As it was raining, we decided to have our BYO picnic lunch under cover in the meeting space.

After lunch it was back over the Manawatu River bridge at Ashhurst for the third time to visit the information and lookout centre for the new gorge replacement highway.



Following a short stop Robert lead us into Aokautere and on to Palmerston North where we toured the Esplanade, past the fields of cricketers avoiding the showers, and out on to Park Road. We were then lead on a tour around Savage Crescent. Savage Crescent was named after Prime Minister Michael Joseph Savage and was envisaged in 1938. Our run sheet informed us that;

*'Savage Crescent is in the West End area of Palmerston North, bounded by College Street, Cook Street and Park Road. Fifty acres was bought by the Government for the development, and between then and 1944, 245 state houses were built. For the time, Savage Crescent was designed upon the most modern ideas, as a garden suburb, with a large central, recreational area, communal garages and a variety of house designs built for the sun and with ample gardens. While the majority of the houses in Savage Crescent are now privately owned, the precinct remains as a significant example of state housing in New Zealand.'*



Aerial photo of Savage Crescent circa 1950's

As a matter of personal interest, Robyn's grandparents were the first residents of number 3 when they arrived from England.

From there we headed along Botanical Road, Bennett Street and JFK Drive to Milson Line and towards Feilding for our last stop. Down a long country drive nestled amongst trees was the lifestyle block of Harold Sargent speedway rider extraordinaire. Where Harold commented on his large collection of vintage speedway bikes, most of which he rode in the day, his son, Les, showed us through the family workshop containing some interesting bikes and cars in the process of being rebuilt. It's amazing what can be found down long country driveways.



Thank you, Robert, for another interesting MG outing. I understand that the planning of this day's outing had its moments, as a host's illness and a sporting event covering some of our route required Robert to change some aspects of his tour on Friday night. This took some considerable time as he had to find another property to visit and to re-route the course to be travelled. Thank you, Robert, for your commitment.

Steve Higginson