

## MG Taranaki Day

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024

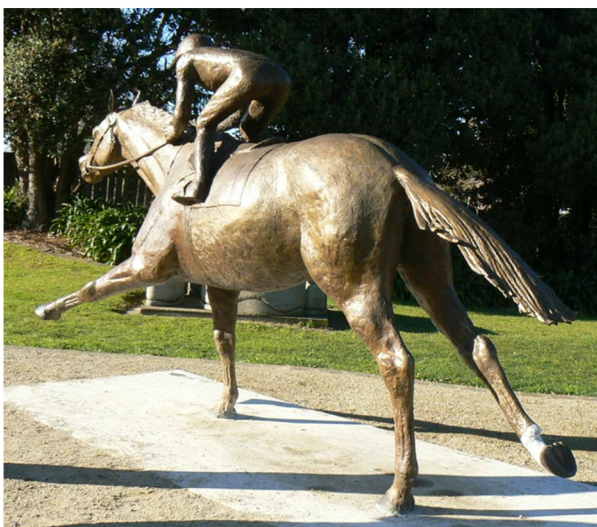
The alarm sounded at 6.30am, after hitting snooze twice we got moving. It was an early start as we had a huge day in front of us, organised by our Whanganui member Chris McLeod. The Manawatu group met at the Blokart track in Sanson at 8.15am, 8 MGs gathered; Graeme and Robyn, Ian, Alan and Robyn, John and Anne, Neil and Liz, Robert and Glenn, Roger and Mary and ourselves.

It was sunny and very chilly. The brave jumped out of their cars to say hi while others waved from the warmth of their interiors. There was a brisk cold wind blowing, good for blokarts not so good for group chatting. It was just after 8.30am when we rolled out for our drive to Whanganui.



We joined the Whanganui group of 6 cars; Chris and Evert, Brian and Matt, Rob and Frank, Bernard (Morgan Aero), Ken and Alan (TR6) and Mark (Stag) at the top of St John's Hill. Catching up for a chat before driving off in convoy to our next destination.

At Waverley we stopped for a break and coffee to take a look at Kiwi, the famous Waverley racehorse who 40 years ago won the Melbourne Cup in a remarkable dash to victory.



The bronze sculpture of the 1983 Melbourne Cup winner was gifted to the South Taranaki District Council by the late sculptor Fridtjof Hanson. The work was later cast in bronze and installed on the main street.

Unfortunately, the Morgan experienced a front right wheel issue just out of Whanganui and Bernard chose to drive back home rather than incur further damage.

The Elvis Presley Museum in Hawera was our next stop. Kevin Wasley (KD) has been an avid collector of Elvis records and memorabilia since 1959. His collection is amazing, Elvis is everywhere, covering walls and ceilings, the volume is overpowering. There was even mention of Elvis's red 1960 MGA which is now on display at his Graceland's Museum.

Our visit became one of those 'where were you' moments, as during our stay, there was an attempted assassination of former USA President Donald Trump.

There was 'A little less conversation' but 'That's all right' as there was plenty to look at. 'All shook up' still looking for that 'Hound dog' we gathered for departure 'It's now or never'



It was lunchtime, we moved downtown to check out the local bakeries and cafes. Grouping together again after lunch we drove to Cardonal Classics Ltd.

Based in Hawera, Cardonal Classics is a boutique classic car outlet established by Don Learmonth, a long-time collector and restorer of classics. Specialising in British and Australian classics from the 60s thru 80s with the occasional European. Amongst the display were a couple of Leyland P76's, two Sunbeam Rapier's, an immaculate 1960's Daimler 2.5 litre V8, a yellow Stag and a variety of Bentley's to name a few.



Motoring a few kilometres out of Hawera on Highway 45 we visited a private collection of classic Studebakers, including a couple of cars from the vintage era, some of which were very rare, only models in the country. One in immaculate condition and the others in various stages of restoration. We spent some time looking around the workshop appreciating the many vehicles on display.

At the conclusion of this visit we independently made our own way home, although a few called into the St John's Club in Whanganui for an ale or two to break the journey.

Thanks to Chris for organising a very interesting day out that we all enjoyed and for including fellow classic sports car enthusiasts from Whanganui.



Robyn and Steve