

MG Manawatu Rangitikei Tiki Tour Sunday 8 November 2020

22 keen members lined up at 9am in Bulls in a selection of MGBs and Fs, plus the Stag from Rongotea that we hadn't seen for some time. It was really good to see the good old Goods, Alec and Betty, out again in their good old Stag.

The weather was OK but 'iffy' enough to have all hoods remaining in use as we set off towards the coastal village of Scott's Ferry. On site at the restored ferry, local history enthusiast Kevin Ellery, who led the restoration project, used the ferry as his 'pulpit' to tell us of the busy early settlement days including a port at the Rangitikei River mouth and the vital part the ferry played for 58 years until 1908.

After a quick look at the colourful Scott's Ferry village we motored north to Tutaenui near Marton to the rural 1911 courtyard house of John and Sarah Vickers for a nice guided tour. This house designed by the celebrated craftsman/architect James Chapman-Taylor is full of interesting features and the Vickers' art and furniture collection.

The nearby Tutaenui Hall was a perfect venue for lunch. Then a big improvement in the weather made for an excellent afternoon Rangitikei hill country tour followed by a flat run south from Sanson to the home and garden of Ian and Bev Wilson for afternoon tea.

With their extensive well-kept garden to see and plenty to talk about it was suddenly 5pm and time to head back home to resume battling our own weeds.

Many thanks to Steve and Robyn Higgison and Ian Bailey for a fine job planning the route and arranging the visits included along the way.