

# Whanganui Vintage Day

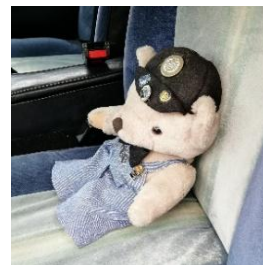
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Our group of 5 cars arrived in Whanganui, there was an air of quiet anticipation as Chris McLeod directed us to the assembly point in Victoria Avenue's Bridge Block joining the 8 Whanganui MGs at about 8.45am. We had driven on the back roads to Whanganui avoiding the road works south of Turakina where Traffic Control had scheduled 10-minute stops. Upon arrival a well-earned coffee at a café was warranted.



The day's organisers had blocked off four blocks of Victoria Avenue, up to Ingestre Street, where cars of different makes and vintages were also parking up. The number of cars was huge requiring parking not only on the side of the road but also down the middle. Whanganui Vintage Car Club had an extensive display including the 'MG - Old No 1' replica which the lads from Kakaramea, South Taranaki, had trailed down for the day. Joining the cars were food stalls with all kinds of fare and places for various bands to entertain us during the day. Not only was Victoria Avenue a hive of activity but Ridgeway Street to Drews Avenue and down to the Saturday Farmers Market was closed as well. This area featured such activity as medieval fighting displays on the green and trolley derby races down Drews Avenue as well as the market.

10 am saw the people begin to arrive. They came and came - they came in numbers; the streets were alive with people, some dressed in vintage clothes. Even M.G. Bear made an appearance.



By mid-day the clouds began to roll in and at about 1.30pm the clouds opened and it poured down resulting in a mad dash to put hoods up and tonneau covers on. But the band played on, albeit with a rush for cover under a shop veranda. The rain did not last and activities carried on.



The crowd began to thin out by 3.30pm which saw a number of cars begin to leave for their journey home.

Those leaving from Bulls that morning were Graeme Barnard, John Edwards, Roger and Mary Pick, Helen Gilbanks with Catherine, and ourselves.

A great day out well organised by the town's folk of Whanganui. A special thank you to Chris McLeod for organising MG's involvement in the day's activities and Graeme Barnard for arranging the run from Bulls.

Robyn and Steve