

An MG Trip down Memory Lane

I have to confess, I had no idea that the Mangahao Stream just north of Shannon was the basis of an electric power system established in 1924. The tour through the building on Saturday 24th June was a fascinating journey into Horowhenua's history.

About 30 MGers first met at the Shannon Railway Station with the intent to travel together up the Mangahao Valley – beautifully scenic route of classic NZ bush and very steep hills, interspersed with lines of heavy duty power lines. The power station, built high into the valley was opened in 1924 with the intent of providing power to the Horowhenua, Taranaki, Wellington, Hawkes Bay and the Wairarapa regions. Mangahao makes use of small remote rivers high in the bush clad Tararua Ranges, each river being linked by pipes and tunnels into the Mangahao Power Station. A talk given by the Manager, Paul Robinson was very interesting and one gained a great insight into the production of power as it was back in the 1920's -30's etc to today as it continues to contribute to the national grid. Historical documents, images and apparatus in the museum added to the fascinating journey.

Following that visit, we all made our way back to Palmerston North where we met at the Boho Café in Pitama Road. Our mystery guest for the evening was Russell Harris, a former sports commentator who wandered down his own memory lane, recalling his experiences meeting famous sportspeople he'd met during the 70's, 80's & 90's. He certainly had an interesting and fun filled career.

After a lovely dinner, we all then played beetle, everyone trying to get the first beetle completed, with the toss of a dice, evoking childhood memories of a good while ago. Truly a very successful day, despite the cold and occasional fleeting shower. Thanks to Pat and Lynette for a well organised day, for the opportunity to catch up again with fellow MGers and to discover yet another piece of our country's beauty and history.

Sue Forde