

# East Island Run

Sunday 25 November 2018

There was a good variety of MGs among the 17 cars assembled in Ashhurst for the 9am departure via the Saddle road signalled by Robert's bugle. With an ominous easterly blowing and low cloud over the ranges only Ian and Sue Bailey were bold enough to set off hood down and enjoyed a surprisingly good run well into central Hawkes Bay before hitting the expected rain. Doug and Jan in their new blue F were absorbed into the convoy outside Pahiatua and we enjoyed a nice back country route before joining the main highway at Oringi. We travelled on to the Waipawa morning tea stop and rain wasn't a problem there but being able to sit around inside the rotunda for morning tea was good insurance against it. A short hop from there took us to Otane to team up with three more MGFs and enjoy a chat and a wander around the village market. Again the rain that seemed inevitable held off to not spoil that.

A short drive across country from Waipawa took us to Highway 50 near Tikokino and soon we were at the run destination, the grand old Gwavas Homestead built in 1890 and set in nine hectares of woodland garden.

An excellent lunch for 41 MGers was first on the agenda before the history of the property and its enduring family connections to a property in Cornwall was well told by Stuart Gibson. His wife Phyllida is a great granddaughter of the original owner ASG Carlyon and when Stuart and Phyllida re-occupied the house in 2008 no one had lived in it since 1963. Following Stuart's talk members were able to explore the house which survived its 45 year abandonment remarkably well.

The forecast rain had set in so it was a wet departure when everyone dispersed to make their way home. Thanks to all who attended, a very long day for some, and to Robert for producing another Hawkes Bay masterclass.