



Magical Mystery Tour - Report

14 August 2016

10 a.m. A lovely crisp day with a slight breeze and a little overcast was quite pleasant as we one by one gathered at the assigned meeting point of Cambridge Avenue in the bustling CBD of Ashhurst.

Getting away on time we headed up the Manawatu Scenic Route through the picturesque vistas of Pohangina Valley. The route provides a lovely drive for the drivers and great views for the passengers, a win win in anyone's book really.

There were no slips or inconvenient rough patches along the way only a couple of areas of grit lain on the road by the road crews to keep the ice at bay, unnecessary on this day though.

Onward up the valley following up to the intersection with Oroua Valley Road where we turned left and headed into the lovely village atmosphere of Apiti.

Here we arrived at the abode of our welcoming hosts June and Murray. June has the jug boiled and warm muffins buttered and ready, mmmmmm what more could a weary traveller want. Weary is a bit of a stretch as we have only travelled 50 minutes so far, but any excuse to be able to say "I need some sustenance" eh especially when it involves June's melt in your mouth muffins.

Topped up we headed into Murray's shed. Shed is a bit of an understatement really as I have seen smaller full on operational workshops than this 'shed'.

There we are greeted by all sorts of mechanical fascinations. From the barn find baby Austin, a good story is behind how Murray attained this little delight which I won't go into here as it involves sensitive information involving a local Policeman and a family heirloom, to the current build in progress of a 'historic' midget circle track racer.

I won't go on about all the details of the contents of Murray's shed as others may get the chance to have a look for themselves one day and I don't want to spoil it for them.

We then wandered over to the Apiti Tavern for a lovely lunch and a good old natter.

After collecting the bags of popcorn June had made for us, she's a little gem that June; we head back down from the lofty heights of Apiti, through Kimbolton to Feilding.

We head into Eric's Private Cinema owned and run for the enjoyment of anyone who wants to visit and watch a couple of good movies by Eric Clarke QSM.

Firstly we watch the semi-silent movie (there is sound but no one has any spoken lines) The Plank. The Plank is a slapstick comedy centred around two builders laying a floor and finding they are one plank short they set off on an adventure to obtain the last plank. With a cast of Eric Sykes (also the writer), Arthur Lowe, Bill Oddie, Tommy Cooper, Jimmy Edwards and many others including my personal favourite the everlasting Joanna Lumley this film is a side splitter for sure.

Following this we watched some coverage of Austin's and Morris' then some Morgan's at two separate car shows. First the A & M's at Brooklands Museum and historic race circuit followed by the ever elegant Morgan's. Although the Austin/Morris's are slower cousins, the Morgan you have to line up to own new, and neither are MG's by any stretch they are both worth a look from time to time.

Overall a good time had by all on a relatively chilly day filled with fun and laughter.

Rob Illingworth.