

Wicked Wairarapa Weekend - 15/16 October 2016

The trip got under way when six MGF's, a BGT and a B Roadster set out from the Ballance Bridge Cafe at 10.45. Earlier there was a problem at Ashhurst when a certain F owner accidentally locked his keys under the bonnet. Thanks to the efforts of new member Alan Collins from Hastings and old member John Edwards of Ashhurst the unfortunate F owner was able to join the trip albeit with a bit of a 'Jury rig'. A smooth run in patchy weather saw us greeted in Masterton about 12.30 by a wicked southerly front which made a joke of our picnic in the park plan. However, the sports grandstand made a practical shelter and the crowd went wild over lunch.

We went to the Vintage Aviator hangar at Hood airfield at 2pm for an absorbing couple of hours with John Langham a hugely experienced pilot with a lot of knowledge of the World War One era. We were joined there for the tour and the rest of the weekend by our member Graham Lovejoy in his MGF and he had four friends we welcomed along for the hangar tour.

From there we cruised in nice weather to Featherston and down the western side of Lake Wairarapa to Lake Ferry Hotel by 5.30. A very pleasant dinner and social evening concluded the day.

Sunday dawned fine and stayed that way. The self-help hotel breakfast works well and after fleet photos out the front we got away on time at 9.15 to Martinborough. A brief stop there to farewell Barry and Raewyn and we then kept our 10.30 appointment at the Wheelwright Shop at Gladstone. Greg and Ali Lang are an extremely talented and engaging couple who work superbly together. While Greg demonstrated the art of wheel making Ali served a delicious Devonshire Tea. Then a tour of their fascinating premises created in the old Gladstone Store revealed they do far more than just make wheels. Several very big old passenger vehicle restorations were in progress. No job too big or too small for them. Dragged ourselves away from there to keep the 1.15 lunch appointment at Whakataki Hotel at Castlepoint. Trev and Sandy Hardy and Robert Wilson had driven over to share lunch and the afternoon with us and locals Willie and Sharyn James were there with their 1956 MG Magnette. After lunch we gathered at their classic waterfront bach for a yarn and photo stop in glorious weather. Again we had to drag ourselves away to head home.

A smooth run back to Masterton for a fuel stop and then away north. The convoy split on the way with some going to Woodville and on home and six cars taking the 'Track' for a farewell snack at McDonald's in Palmy. The consensus there seemed to be it was a 'Wicked Wairarapa Weekend' !

