

Morrinsville Classic Collection Run-October 17th

By Tas Scott

The sky on Thursday 17th October dawned a little grey in the Waikato, but the promise of a Jag run to see some vehicle collections promised to brighten our day ahead.

Club members from further afield set off towards Morrinsville from the Bay and points north, south and west for an eventual rendezvous at 10.15 at Dick and Marianne Marshall's just outside of Morrinsville. Our team from the Waikato was pleased to include two extra visitors, one from Christchurch and the other from Cumbria, UK. These ladies, Angie and Gloria were old school mates of Shirley from the village of Balcombe in Sussex and they had arrived for a couple of weeks of catch up and fun.

On Wednesday our latest club member, Richard Swarbrick, from Te Awamutu phoned to say that he and a problem with his Mark 2 and he might have to flag this Jag run. We couldn't have this so Richard and I took my XK8 and Shirley got to drive her pals in the S Type.

We arrived at Marianne and Dick Marshall's place near Morrinsville ahead of most people and were waved up the drive by our host to the forecourt between the house and a large 6 double bay vehicle garage with impressive height and six rather large roller doors.

The home and garage were located on a beautifully landscaped garden setting and we soon learnt that Marianne was in charge of the garden department and that Dick looked after the huge garage and his fantastic collection of 25 cars.

Twenty-three of Dick's cars were on display and at first glance appeared to be mainly American classic, such as

Thunderbirds, Pontiacs and Impalas. Down one end of the vast garage were some classic British models as well as Dick's first car, a red Morris Minor convertible, a Daimler 250 sports car and two Triumph sports cars – a TR2 and a TR4 and a Sunbeam alpine. Dick was a Triumph Sports car club member and had won a few awards with his cars.

The American fleet of cars seemed to be Dick's current passion and he has been known to travel to the USA to track down one particular model that he wanted, only to end up buying 4 cars in total in one trip!

Marianne also had a "She -Shed " - located along side Dick's garage. This garden shed contained a big display of orchids, which was a bonus for visitors.

It was a big turn out from the Club with about 30 cars and 60 people total, but the big shed provided plenty of interest and shelter from the intermittent drizzle, which was hanging around during the morning.



After a morning cuppa and delicious cheese scones and muffins provided by Estelle, we set off on a run, which gave us a chance to stretch our cars on the way to our next venue. We travelled in a loop around Morrinsville back through Gordonton to the outskirts of Morrinsville and then to John Walsh 's place at Kiwitahi just south of the town. This location was on an operational dairy farm with a massive 20 by 40 metre double storey shed located next to the farmhouse.

In side this shed were about 50 tractors on display out of a total of 71 owned by John. There was a large number of Massey Ferguson tractors but also other brands on display such as Fiat, Case, Ford and also some other rare types.

John gave us a comprehensive history of the Massey- Ferguson tractor development and explained that Ford in USA took up the Ferguson hydraulic three-point linkage system through a commercial partnership. This arrangement eventually ended in a legal argument and an out of court settlement that enabled Ferguson to further develop his tractors in the UK and around the world.



John explained the involvement of David Brown with Harry Ferguson initially to form the UK firm of Ferguson-Brown in 1938 and how a merger in 1953 formed the Massey –Harris –Ferguson Company (Massey was a Canadian based Company). This company name was shortened to the Massey Ferguson Company in 1958.

The Massey Ferguson tractor has been famous for its compact size and versatility. The hydraulic powered attachments were a major selling point for the brand- something like 160 different attachments have been developed to service the farming sector.

We all enjoyed a sit down lunch break in the big tractor shed with a chance to catch up with club members. By now the weather had picked up and it was quite pleasant with some Spring sunshine streaming through the roof skylights.

About 2 o'clock the visit came to a close and we all set off home having had a great club day visiting a couple of amazing private vehicle collections.

Many thanks to our hosts Dick and Marianne, and John Walsh, for their friendly welcome and the hospitality given to our club.

Thank you also to Club Captain Gary and the organizing team for this spring run, just the job to lift our spirits after a soggy winter.

A thoroughly enjoyable day out.

Roll on summer.

Tas