

## *Art Deco Rally to Hawkes Bay*

### *Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup> - Tauranga to Taihape*

*By Chris Douglas*

Welcome to a beautiful day to start off our ART DECO trip.

Many of the Jags setting out on the Art Deco run met at the 'COFFEE CLUB' in Rotorua as a starting point to the run.

After a non-alcoholic drink and a catch-up, a column of Jaguars set off south for a morning tea stop at the Waiouru Army Museum. After setting off from Turangi, John & Raewyn Bourke had a problem with their E-Type and after stopping and not finding the problem returned to a garage in Turangi. They left their car in the capable hands of the mechanic, organized for Raewyn's car to be brought down to Turangi, and waited in the hope of eventually catching up!

I meanwhile transported their 'gear' in my car and caught up with the main team of jags at the Waiouru museum. The rest of the jag crew were conducted on a tour of the museum & enjoyed a 'tea & coffee' stop at the museum café before carrying on to the motel at Taihape. Here, after settling in, we congregated in one of the motel units and had a well-earned wine and natter.

Later, we all wandered down the road to the Gretna Hotel for a bite to eat, where John and Raewyn joined us in Raewyn's reliable Jag which mastered the rest of the trip - then it was off to bed as some of us old's need our sleep!

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### *Thursday February 14<sup>th</sup> - Taihape to Havelock North*

*By Dennis Catchpole*

We woke to a beautiful day in the big city of Taihape, which has recently grown from a one-horse town to a two-horse town.

The good people of Taihape were treated to the dulcet tones of 16 highly tuned Jaguar engines as we set of to find the road known as "The Gentle Annie."

This road of some renown travels over some of the most delightful county on its way to the Hawkes Bay. This is truly the Heartland of New Zealand where for may years prime beef and high-quality wool have left the farms for countries abroad bringing in much needed overseas funds to our economy.

We passed romantic sounding Stations which are in reality large farms. Names like Ngameta Station - 28.000Ha - the largest run holding in the north island, Otupae Station - 8632 Ha and Erewhon which is "nowhere" spelt backwards.

Soon after we left Taihape we were treated to a view of mount Ruapehu looking back across the Desert Road.

This area of New Zealand has an interesting history if you have the time to read up on it.

We crossed the Rangitikei river which eventually runs into Lake Taupo by way of the hydro system at the southern end of the Lake.

There is also a famous suspension Bridge at Springdale.

A hotel used to stand at Kuripapanga, which is now a camping site.

Phil and Ngiare who have travelled over many NZ roads led us to a very pleasant spot on the edge of the Kaweka Forrest, for morning tea.

This was Valentine's day so it was duly celebrated by JD who presented Annie with a bunch of NZ roses, known to most of us as Ragwort. Very romantic I thought.

We very soon came down of the hills and were treated to a great view of the Hawkes Bay Region, then on to the flats where of course a great deal of fruit and wine is produced.

Having settled into our two motels we then gathered for drinks, and this is always a nice part of the day as we get to know other members better and some new ones as well.

Havelock North is a very pretty Village and was our base for the next few days.



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## ***Friday February 15th - Beachams visit***

*Penned by Rose with a little bit by Grumpy Geoffrey.*

After a very comfortable night in the 'Te Mata Lodge Motel', at Havelock North, Hawkes Bay, the Jag. team assembled at 9am for John's briefing. It was decided that the 'Chaps' would go to 'Beacham's' Workshops for a look see (and buy?) whilst the 'Girls', mostly, would go sight-seeing.

### *Over to Grumpy:*

Whilst the ladies were gadding about, the chaps descended upon the 'Independent Jaguar Specialist Beacham' located at 1424 Maraekakaho Road, some 2km north-west of Hastings Town centre. In my 'mind's eye' the business would be situated close to the CBD, fronted by a showroom behind and to one side of which were the workshops. How wrong I was. The spacious set-up is located on the edge of a commercial orchard. The comparatively short entrance road leads to two parallel, large industrial buildings separated from each other by a wide, asphalted driveway. The two units are linked at their rear end by a transverse building, the arrangement being in the form of a 'U'. The latter building in part houses the extensive spares and parts department.

Beacham Holdings was registered in 1991 by Dr. Gregory ('Greg') Marc Beacham, who was and is a practising GP. I understand he only works at that profession for a few hours in the morning, allowing him the rest of the day to oversee the automobile business. His Son Alex is involved with the management of the business. Incidentally, 'Beacham's' does have a Showroom south of the Harbour Bridge, close by the Southern Motorway, at Penrose, Auckland.

The two large buildings are 'home' to the most extraordinary array of classic Jaguar cars, almost all of which were being totally rebuilt from the bodywork shell to the completed vehicle. Attention to the suspensions and reworked bodywork appeared to be 'second to none'. Almost all the stripped bodywork shells had or were being 'treated' to carbon fibre bulkheads and strengthening in other strategic areas. Amongst the models being rebuilt were the iconic Mk 2 saloons and



E-Types. Our party was led around the workshops by the manager Greg Burke who assured us that their finished product is better than the original models produced at the 'Browns Lane Factory', Coventry and I have no reason to doubt him. The costs of this or that rebuild were rather eye-watering and I heard figures being bandied about from between NZ\$ ½ million to NZ\$ 800,000 plus. Incidentally, the firm has produced a GRP bodied E-Type.

The only uncertainty I had about 'Beacham's' during our visit was how few people appeared to be actually working on the various rebuilds. Perhaps we struck a 'slow news day'? On the other hand John has pointed out we arrived at the time of the morning coffee break and opined that the staff were instructed to give us the 'red letter' treatment .

### *So back to Rose:*

Our party headed up to the 'Te Mata Peak', having lost Marilyn and Annie en route. From the Peak there were amazing views over Hawkes Bay and the 'Craggy Range' vineyard. The weather was perfect and after photo shoots and 'oohs' and 'aahs' we relocated at the said 'Craggy Range' winery which was set in lovely grounds but was not open for coffee.

We were directed a little further along the road to a pleasing spot, really just a shed, with smiling staff in deco dress, a chocolate coloured lab. called Molly and very good coffee. Whilst imbibing we were lucky enough to see a mini tour of vintage cars, all duly cheered.

At around noon the 'Boys' rolled up and off we went to the 'Red Barn' vineyard for an excellent lunch under the vines. Don Bowater kindly gave me a lift in his lovely red E-Type and off we and a few set for Napier, some 19km along the coast. We were fortunate to get parking



*Te Mata Peak from Craggy Range*

along the Marine Parade, where all the action was taking place. The atmosphere was lovely and as the location was not too crowded we could enjoy the costumes and the music on several street corners. Murray and Corrie 'bagged' pole on the green at the 'Soundshell' Stage and Forecourt to wait for the Evening Concert. It was a show of swing and singing with



a wonderful, young Samoan lad singing 'standards' and a large Tongan lady 'doing the blues'. Also performing was an artiste from the Opera Company currently appearing in 'La Traviata' in Napier, with the rest of her cast cheering her on. Sounds great. A number of us could not wait so long so we headed back to Havelock North, finally having supper in the very good Irish pub. Wonderful day.

Thank you John and the team.

## *Art Deco in Napier*

## *A female point of view*

*By Shirley Scott*

On Thursday February 14th, Tas and I joined with the Jag club touring group at Havelock North. We had a lovely warm welcome from June Catchpole and an invite for lunch. In the afternoon Tas and I drove to Hastings to an Art Deco market. Here we bought essential items of white braces for Tas and black lace gloves for me. We also tried out our limited French to buy macarons from a French stallholder.



*A rare  
1930  
Austin  
Swallow*

Then it was back to Havelock North for drinks and nibbles with the club members. After a lot of chatter and some wine, eight of us decided to walk to the Irish pub for a meal. This was a lovely end to our first day and we were able to enjoy sitting outside on a warm evening. During the evening conversation we found that there were 6 Brits and only two Kiwis in the group.

On Friday Tas and I set off for Napier. Our first stop was the wool shop Skeinz for more knitting supplies for me! Then it was into Napier city to visit an antique fair and an antique shop. The latter had the most amazing collection and a huge range of Art Deco fashion.

Then it was time for coffee and people watching. The people in their costumes going by were fabulous, especially the children; boys in braces and caps, girls in feathers and sparkles. I loved the parasols too and so useful on such a hot day.

Next was a marvelous bookshop called Wardini Books, followed by a short stay listening to Jazz music and watching the girls dancing near the sound shell.



We did look at the cars too, I loved the big American ones, Tas liked the Rugby.

Finally, after a late lunch it was onto the railcar from Napier station to Hastings. Tas tells me this was a vintage NZR RM standard class, the Tokomaru, built in 1938. On arrival in Hastings we were met by Michael Fowler a writer and historian. He took us on a walk around the city center showing us different architectural styles. We learnt how to identify Art Deco, to see the Spanish influences in some buildings and to see Art Nouveau. Apparently, there are actually more significant buildings in Hastings than Napier, but they are more spread out.

Finally, we arrived back to the motels, thank you John for organizing these. More drinks and nibbles with the group, however these were cut short for us as we needed to dress for our evening out. We went back into Napier dressed in our 1920/30 style clothes and went to a Late-

Night Jazz Session at the Cabana. This club had a 5-piece Jazz band from Wellington called High Society, featuring Nicole Chesterman Kircher as lead singer. So after three hours dancing and enjoying the music, we wearily made our way back to Havelock North for a 1 am finish. Then it was back to Hamilton the next day, having enjoyed a short, but great time at the Art Deco Festival.

Next time I go we must have daytime costumes too and be able to stay longer to watch the Parade.



## ***Sunday Feb 17th - Gwavas Homestead***

*By Denise Ward*

After a relaxing drive from Havelock North we arrived at the Gwavas homestead near Tikokino on SH50. An imposing manor with 20 acres of woodland gardens, although a far cry from the original 30,000 acres when

purchased in the 1850s. Crimean war veteran Major George Gwavas Carlyon left his family home of Tregrehan in Cornwall and with his wife Mary landed in the Hawkes Bay and settled on land to develop one of the most important sheep and cattle runs in the area.



***Gwavas Homestead***

Unfortunately the home suffered from neglect in the 1950s and it wasn't until 2008 that great granddaughter Phyllida, with husband Stuart and their two children moved back in to manage and maintain the historic family home, which for the previous 40 years had not been occupied, and to re-establish the gardens.

A woodland garden means no defined footpaths or manicured flowerbeds, in other words al-la-natural with improvements. There were many huge trees planted in the late 1800s and lots of the shrubs originally came from seeds sent to New Zealand from Tregrehan.

The Carlyons bred their own hybrids and exchanged trees and plants with other growers. The garden is a treasure trove of rare and unusual specimens: Himalayan lilies; a very large Michaelia doltsopa, planted in 1851 - one of the earliest in the country and a Quercus suber (cork oak) planted in 1894. The aptly named raspberry plants, Semper fidelis, have faithfully continued to yield a delicious crop every year since they were planted over a hundred years ago.

We were then given a tour of the house, single story until 1890 when the first level was added. Wood paneling greeted us from the front door with an ornate stairway. High ceilings add to the occasion including eight fireplaces. Stuart delighted in telling us about its history and the fact that all records and receipts have been kept from day one, even correspondence from the Daimler car company re the purchase of a vehicle similar to that of Edward VII, compiling a fascinating tale of early NZ.

It is amazing to find so many majestic homesteads in the Hawkes Bay area. Well worth a visit if passing.

## ***Sunday Feb 17th - Oruawharo Homestead***

*By Paul Doherty*

Following our visit to Gwavas Homestead, we headed off to Takapau for lunch and a visit to the historic Oruawharo Homestead.

Completed in 1879, Oruawharo was built for Sydney Johnston, the son of Scottish immigrants. The homestead originally stood at the heart of an 11,000 hectare station and is built of Kauri, Totara and Matai, all of which was milled locally.

Consisting of 67 rooms and 23 chimneys and boasting a floor area of almost 14,000 square feet, Oruawharo is one of the largest private homes ever built in New Zealand.

The settlement of Takapau was established on part of the station and various blocks were split off by the Johnston's, who retained ownership of the homestead till the 1960's when a personal tragedy in the family saw the house gifted to the Catholic Church after which it slowly slid into disrepair.

In fact it was set to be demolished the week after it was rescued by current owners Peter and Dianne Harris, who bought Oruawharo in 2000.

Appreciating the privilege of owning one of Hawke's Bay's most splendid examples of early colonial architecture, this courageous (some would say crazy) couple have sought to restore rather than renovate and stay as true as possible to the vision of Oruawharo's founders.



***Oruawharo Homestead***

Oruawharo is a New Zealand Historic Places Trust category II listed building and the owners have worked closely with the trust for advice.

A feature of the homestead is the impressive collection of Art and Antiques.

Oruawharo contains a growing collection of early New Zealand colonial furniture, with at present 46 pieces including examples of the work of master craftsmen, William Norrie, William James, A H Dachenhausen and Anton Seuffert.

Nestled amongst the mature trees in the grounds of Oruawharo is the historic St Vincent's Church, which was relocated in 2012 from the nearby township of Takapau. The church was donated by the Johnston family, who originally owned the homestead and surrounding farmland.

The church building has been respectfully renovated and is now used for weddings and other private functions including the superb al fresco lunch we enjoyed before heading inside for the historic presentation.

## ***Monday Feb 18th - Wallingford Homestead***

*By Peter Davies*

Approximately 30 minutes driving south from Waipukurau and through more wonderful country scenery, we arrived at Wallingford Homestead in Porangahau.

Here we were divided into two groups - one to have morning tea and the other to enjoy a guided tour of the homestead, learning its five generations of history from previous owner Mick Ormond. After about 45 minutes, the two groups swapped over.



Originally built in 1847, the estate comprised 14,226 acres and 25,354 sheep. It now comprises approximately 2,000 acres and a few sheep. It was destroyed by fire in 1895 and was re-built as a grand home that we were privileged to visit.

We were expecting a scone with tea and coffee for morning tea, but were amazed to be served a large number of cakes and scones plus a huge quiche.

The new owners, Christopher and Jeanette, made us very welcome, explaining that they

used to own the - "Little Jean Restaurant" - in Sydney where Christopher was the chef - hence all the great food. Thanks for an excellent guided tour and beautiful grounds.

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## ***Monday Feb 18th - Chapelwick Homestead***

*By Bruce Jamieson*

After our interesting morning run and our after lunch look, around Chapelwick Coastal Estate, with its historic chapel, garden, motorhome park-over and swimming pool, which we were invited to use – no time, no togs – so thanked our hosts, took photos and headed south. Blue seas out to the left and dry golden grassy hills to the right. A few kms south of Chapelwick we turned left down a short road to the small seaside settlement of Porangahau Beach. It is between the Porangahau river and sea. The river runs parallel to the sea for about 4km forming a peninsular about 1/2km wide.

We stopped for a few minutes at the public reserve, which was being used as a Motorhome park over by a dozen or so caravans.

After a quick look at the beach from the top of a sandhill, we continued on our way.



Driving through Porangahau township a few km further inland it was sad to be reminded that this small country town has suffered from the modern times, the few shops all closed and abandoned. This country town is only a memory of the great days, when the town was a buzz with farmers, workers, all coming to get supplies, and a catch up at the local pub, and of course the drovers dogs and horses outside, waiting for the Boss!



**Chapelwick Homestead**

A bit further on we pulled over at a layby with a sign about 20metres long with only one name on it. It is supposed to be the longest place name in the world:

**Taumatawhakatangihakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu.**

*(Translation: "The summit where Tamatea, the man with the big knees, the slider, climber of mountains, the land-swallower who travelled about, played his kōauau (flute) to his loved one". )*

Wimbledon was our next stop. Looking for refreshment by now – Plan A – yes the pub, as it is still operating - but not on Mondays. Yes you're right - no tennis, no wombles, no beer. So off again still heading home along the lovely countryside, with long golden grass up to the sheep's undercarriage and the best looking beef cattle I've seen for a while. Passing through Ormandville, out onto the SH at Norswood and then back to the motel for a cold drink which was very welcome.



**Saturday night dinner at St Georges Restaurant in Havelock North.**

**Great to see several members dressing up in Art Deco gear.**

**Well done**