

Lake Ferry Classic Car Excursion

10 December 2016

by ??

Again the AEB D6 was prepared for this event with a good wash of the body, glass and shine applied to tyres and mud flaps, a good sized picnic hamper filled with food and drink, some chairs, picnic rugs, camera Abby and me. Abby's friend Caitlyn was collected along the way and off to Featherston we headed singing Christmas carols!

The weather was indifferent but holding when we arrived in Featherston and I decided to park on the second block away from the melee that was the Fell Engine Museum street. It seems the local Christmas party was to be held in the park opposite the museum and no one had told the Sunbeam Club of this additional load on the street, where to be fair they had been gathering now for some 30+ years.



(Left: A ray of sunshine on a dull day!)

This did mean an opportunity to sample some different takeaway foods but did put a bit of stress on members of both groups and frankly put some cars at risk.

There was the usual selection of cars to admire, some seen before like many of the Sunbeam's and many new or not seen for many a year it turned out. I saw Ron arrive in his P76 adding to the great mix of makes which included the following either on display in Featherston or awaiting our arrival at the Lake Ferry Domain or in many cases the local pub seeing as the weather failed upon arrival at the domain! Makes recorded included

Cadillac, Riley, Lotus, Hillman, Sunbeam, Wolseley, Mazda, Vauxhall, MG, Austin, US Ford, Triumph, Holden, Bradford (in stunning pink and white) Jowett, Alfa Romeo, Jaguar, Bedford, UK Ford, Volkswagen, Armstrong Siddeley, Toyota, Mercedes Benz, Fiat, Chevrolet, Morris and of course Leyland. A bit like Dannevirke, everyone is very welcome.

Bear with me, recording the number of marques at this event has been a long time practise – 27 I managed to note this year and that is not the largest number by any means!



(Left: Gary Foote and a rarely seen group of Hillmans.)

Two pages of photos follow with notes on these here. It shouldn't be hard to follow the sequence with the first being three Hillman Hunters with a Super Minx hidden behind, and an Imp elsewhere. When did you last see three Hunters together anywhere? The two Austin 7's attracted immeasurable attention as their owners explained the

various ways of extracting more power out of the 750cc "little block" engines, and the use of 1 ¼ inch SU carbs to

add significant urge to their go anywhere capabilities! Fascinating stuff kept the young guys spell bound. That little alloy bodied sport model has real provenance.

(Left: Gary Foote and a rarely seen group of Hillmans.)

Then a big bright yellow 2014 Corvette for a comparison of almost everything!

The Vauxhall PC Viscount is being admired by the son, Neale, of the late lady owner Ngairie Ryder. Probably some of the first people I met after my move to Wellington, I've been parked up at this very domain with the Ryder's and other WVBC members having late afternoon refreshments back in the late 80's. It was called a crate! The refreshments, not the car. This is the first time in many a year that I have seen the Viscount. And another Toyota in Penzed!

This early 70's model in active service with the Wairarapa Rural Fire District was definitely not required on the day due to rain but was an interesting addition to the collection of vehicles. And it's a fire engine so how could I resist? Lastly a superbly original Morris 8 Sports, a little beauty. We can again see Hugh Mackenzie's Wolseley 6/110 in the background making three P76 Club members present. You really should join us next year, worst case scenario, the pub will keep you dry! I should mention Wolseley was very well represented on the day too.



The exciting Austin 7's



A fire engine for 2016

Neale checking up on the old family Viscount



The delightful Morris 8 Sports with Hugh's 6/110 in the background