

Coast to Coast MG Run

Friday: The group that wished to travel together meet at Bulls at 1.00 pm.

The weather was looking better than expected and we set off on SH3 with several regroupings on the way and with a longer re-group at Patea.

On through to Hawera still in sight of the convoy, weather now looking less promising.

By the time we arrived in Stratford the rain had come and we dashed to a café across the street for an afternoon tea break.

Cruising on north between Stratford and New Plymouth we encountered some very heavy showers and my windscreen started to fog up also. Quick flick of all the switches, no navigator, so do it yourself.

Arrived in New Plymouth late afternoon and meet other members queuing up at the Flamingo Motel office with Tony busy allocating rooms. Some members had arrived a bit earlier in the day.

Dinner Friday night was for each to organise but Gay Baxter had booked 20 seats at the Treehouse Café and Bar which was just up the road, 800 metres ? give or take some, more.

This turned out to be everyone's choice as we ended up with over 30 members sitting down to eat.

Saturday: The morning arrived too soon but the weather was looking okay after a night of rain and wind.

We departed from the Flamingo at around 8.15am and our meeting place was Ngamotu Beach where we lined up for a photo shoot and filled our bottles of water from the Tasman Sea.

The convoy of 18 cars headed off south along the coast road before joining SH45 and continuing around the coastal side of Mt Taranaki. On to Opunake for morning tea, re-group etc and continuing south to Hawera and back onto SH3.

The next driving break was at Patea and we were all pretty much still in a group.

The next important instruction was to look for Blueskin Road, on the left approx 7km past Kia iwi.

I must have had my eyes shut and missed this turn off so did a quick U- turn but that was good as other cars turned so I knew I was not last. We followed the back roads into Whanganui and parked up at Caroline's Boatshed for a bit of kai. Some members had pre-ordered lunch while others just selected from the food cabinet.

Following our lunch break some members had to find a petrol station and this caused the cars to separate into splinter groups. Leaving Whanganui I had a feeling I was at the back of the group so took a short cut towards Turakina where the instructions were to turn off SH3 and head into Marton. A short stop for me here then 2 more cars with solo drivers and tail end Charlie arrived. The instructions then took us through Marton, Halcombe, Feilding, Bunnythorpe and through to Ashhurst where all the cars were waiting and we re-grouped for the drive over the Saddle Road. Oh what fun !

On the other side, the lead car had to refuel [MGF of course] so we ignored the instructions and continued into Woodville for another re-group. Off again, left into Pinfold Road and then onto TopGrass Road for several miles [km] before turning on to Laws Road, and ½ a dozen other roads before we got into Dannevirke.

Dannevirke was cuppa tea time and a 30min stop but it seemed that the big 'M' became too difficult for some to pass. As it was late afternoon some were anxious to move on and the group became split again with ½ heading north and onto SH50 through Onga Onga, Tikokino and Fernhill. As the photos show 9 cars arrived on Marine Parade to finish our journey from coast to coast and to pour our water bottles into the Pacific Ocean. Because of the time [close to 6.00pm] others went to their accommodation as we were booked for dinner at the Taradale RSA for 7.00pm.

What a great evening, Bruce and Sue joined us at the RSA so there must have been around 40 people that night who sat down for dinner. There was so much scrumptious food to choose from it was difficult not to eat more than one should!

After dinner, most retreated to the other bar area to watch the Rugby.

Sunday: This morning 'not so bright and early' we gathered together to plan the trip home.

Some went to the Marine Parade and emptied their Tasman water bottles while others got together to go home over the Gentle Annie. I took the opportunity to look around Napier and a drive up Bluff Hill to the lookout. Following that a drive along Marine Parade and out through Clive

to Havelock North to look at Sue Forde's new residence. There were a few others that had an invite and by the time they found their way, morning tea became brunch.



We all departed early afternoon and went our own way home. Helen and I headed south out of Havelock North down Middle Road to the T intersection and turned right which lead us into Waipawa then down to Waipukurau where I went to visit friends. Thanks to Gay for organising another fantastic MG weekend to remember.