

Ian and Sue Bailey's Garden Ramble

Sunday 24th November 2024

Ten cars gathered at 9.30 am on State Highway 3 opposite Viv's Kitchen in Sanson for Ian and Sue's Garden Ramble. With no time to enjoy one of Viv's famous 'cream horns' Ian and son Jason lead our group followed by Robert and Joanne; Liz and Neil; Dave and Michelle; Cliff and Ally; Roger and Mary; Helen and Catherine; Bernard and Brian; Lisa and Sue and ourselves on our trip to Whanganui. Joining us in Turakino was John and Viv. First stop was at the reserve at Lake Wiritoa, just south of Whanganui for BYO morning tea. A great stop for morning tea by the picturesque lake and surroundings. After a cuppa and a chat, we continued into Whanganui and up to the Durie Hill Tower and Elevator. Some took the challenge to climb the 176 steps of the tower, while others took an elevator ride down to river level and back. One brave sole having already climbed the tower took the elevator down and climbed the hundreds of steps back up. He survived and was keen to climb the tower again. It was at this stop that Toni, her mum and wee dog joined us.



From Whanganui we headed to Fordell to visit the Paloma Gardens and owners Fabulous Motorcycle collection, forty-three bikes mostly modern, which is believed to be one of the best collections in New Zealand. We had 2 hours to tour the gardens and enjoy our BYO picnic lunch. The gardens are certainly a labour of love.



When it was time for our group to leave for the next phase of our trip Bernard and Brian returned home to Whanganui and John and Viv took the back roads home to Mangaweka. The rest of us headed back along State Highway 3, through Halcombe, Feilding and Bunnythorpe to Stoney Creek Road where we gathered at Longwood Gardens, the owners supplied us with a wonderful afternoon tea and a guided tour of their award-winning garden. Arguably one of the very best gardens in the Manawatu. At this stop we were met by Anne and Sandy, who brought along her daughter in law Susanne and granddaughter Peyton.



After an hour or two the ramble concluded with each making their own way home from what was a very enjoyable day, well organised by Ian and Sue with something of interest for everyone.

Robyn and Steve