

Horowhenua Area Run - 15 September 2019

A total of 13 cars duly arrived at the designated meeting place in Foxton opposite the Windmill in the main street. Unfortunately the weather was rather unkind to us in that it had decided to blow the cobwebs from our heads, but that did not deter this enthusiastic group of MGer's.

After a briefing by our organisers of the day, Josie and Paul and being given a detailed set of driving instructions (including noteworthy sights to see along the way) we made our way to SH1 and headed South.

After crossing the Whirikino Trestle Bridge (and before the second bridge) we took a left and meandered along what was a brilliant driving road for MG's, passing through a once thriving flax growing area, which was later developed by Landcorp and converted to dairy farms.

We were soon heading into Shannon and passed a large building originally built as a nylon processing plant in 1963. Upon its closure in 1980 it then became a woolskin tannery and fellmongery, but sadly today now stands empty.

Carrying on through Shannon we made our way out to the Mangahao Power Station for a quick stop to view the world class kayaking facility here plus a short walk up to the power station, before heading back to the Shannon Railway Station for our morning cuppa. The Station is now set up as a Museum and there was time for those who wished, to take a peek inside.

Once on the road again, we continued heading South on SH57, with many a diversion through various country roads, leading us as far afield as past the Ohau Vineyard, the old Manakau Hotel, some amazing life style blocks and Tatum Park. Back on the main road, we then headed North to Levin, turning once again to drive through the extensive horticultural area of which Horowhenua is well known for. We were also able to see the southern end of Lake Horowhenua and further on passed by the original Levin Race Circuit (now a horse training track) and RJ's Liquorice factory. More views of the Lake were afforded, before rejoining SH1 to head to our lunch destination at Waitarere Beach, the home of members Elaine and Bruce.

While those elements of our pot luck shared lunch were heating, some of us took a short stroll to a well kept secret, or so it seemed, the Fairy Garden and Middle Earth adventure playground, all built and added to, by locals and set amongst the sheltered forested area. After a sumptuous lunch, the more adventurous of us

braved the blustery conditions and headed down to the beach to view what was left of the wreck of the Hyderabad.

With a huge thank you to Josie and Paul and Elaine and Bruce for organising such a brilliant day out, it was time to say our goodbyes and head home to our various destinations and to look forward to our next club outing in October.