

# John and Viv's Waipukurau Weekender

May 9, 10 & 11 - 2025

The day (Friday 9<sup>th</sup>) had turned to drizzly rain by the time we met our fellow travellers at the Lincoln Park sportsground in Ashhurst at 12.30 pm. We took cover under the pavilion's extensive veranda where run organiser, John, handed out our run instructions to Waipukurau. Joining us was John E and his very friendly chocolate labrador, Buddy, who came to see us off.

Participants on this trip were; John & Viv, Helen, Neil & Liz, Davis and Michelle, John & Anne, new members Peter Ennis, Lucy Knight and Dave Ward, Craig, Robert, Paul & Josie, Bruce & Elaine, Ian and Sue (Pearson) and ourselves. Our new member Dave from Waitarere Beach was running late, we chatted and caught up while waiting for his arrival before departing for the Saddle Road.

The trip to Dannevirke via the Saddle, Pinfold Road and Top Grass Road was thankfully uneventful in the wet conditions. We joined State Highway 2 at the northern end of Dannevirke beside the Mangatera Hotel and travelled north to turn onto the Matamau-Ormondville Road and taking the Takapau – Ormondville Road to Takapau. A very scenic trip even in the rainy conditions. From Takapau we took the Oruawharo Road onto Woburn Road to join Arlington Road, left into Porangahau Road to our accommodation base for the weekend, the Leopard Hotel, in Waipukurau.



We gathered in the restaurant/bar at around five for our 6pm meal. Our meals were outstanding and the young lady looking after our group must be complimented for her exceptional service and attention to detail. It was a great night filled with fun, laughter, good food, a few drinks and shared stories.

Day 2 – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>.

After a light breakfast we departed for our trip to Kairakau Beach. We travelled to Waipawa, turning into Tamumu Road, in town, heading for the beach. It was about 5km along this road that our MG came to an abrupt stop. The heater tap in the ole 'B' decided it would break taking the cooling fluid with it. Fortunately, we stopped before any damage to the engine occurred. It was rather ironic that we were the 'Tail End Charlie' for this run and held the clubs 'walkie talkie' to communicate with the lead car if any member had issues along the way.

A few years ago, at a MG Christmas dinner the club held a pass the parcel op-shop secret Santa gift swapping fun event. We managed to receive a collapsible emergency triangle, like many cars in Europe carry. We put it in the MG's boot and forgot about it. Well out it came, and after a walk of some two hundred meters back up the road from which we had come, we put it up.



Although there were many offers, there wasn't anything the rest of the group could help us with, so we called the AA, and they continued on towards the beaches. During our short wait for the AA man to arrive, many cars stopped to see if they could help, which was appreciated. The AA man couldn't fix the issue on the spot, so we were brought back home to Feilding on the back of a trailer. Arriving home at 12.45 pm while the rest of the group enjoyed lunch at the Patangata Tavern.

A big thanks to John and Viv for organising this run.

Robyn & Steve

To be continued....