



Eastern Country Tour

Wow, what a day. With a start time of 9.00am. MG'ers were starting to line up near the Ashhurst Bridge from 8.30.

What a beautiful day with warm sun shine trying to push the cold from the morning.

Getting away on time heading up SH3 onto SH2 through Woodville and onto Dannevirke where a quick stop to refresh and refuel was had.

Onward up SH2 to turnoff at Matamau, head up through Makutoku to Ormondville where a warm welcome was waiting from Doug Scott and his collection of cars and collectables. Discussions abounded on the origins of some MG Manawatu members and a good time looking around Doug's was had by all.

Robert Wilson produced something that looked like it might have been a musical instrument once, but produced something I am hesitant to call musical. Anyway he sounded whatever it was and we rushed to our cars in fear that he might sound it again.

Off towards our lunch date at The Duke of Edinburgh at Porangahou. Taking various pleasant back roads we were all delighted with the sunny countryside vistas we soaked in on the way.

Arriving at the Duke at just after 12 noon we sat on the Duke's sun drenched patio and chatted till our meal was ready at 12.30.

Full with lunch, the Proprietor, David Severinsen, issued a challenge to us all that whoever could pronounce the longest name place in the world ('Taumata whakatangi hangakoauau o tamatea turi pukakapiki maunga horo nuku pokai whenua kitanatahu') would take away a bottle from the cellar. John Ireland did so without hesitation and much better than any of the rest of us could ever hope for.

Once again Robert produced the brass thing twisted in such a way that one might guess that it was a horn once and sounded it, and once again everyone ran to their cars in fear they might lose whatever hearing they had if they listened to it for too long.

Just a few kilometres south of Porangahou we all stopped at the longest place name in the world, took the obligatory photographs and carried on towards Weber.

As we travelled south the sky clouded, the wind speed increased and a few drops of rain appeared. One pair of travellers had a problem with a split heater hose. Some running repairs and water found in various cars fixed the problem and the travellers were on their way again. They decided to head for home rather than risk the wrath of the BL gremlins with any more travel than necessary.

A stop at the Waihi falls with more photos taken and we were on our way to our final stop at the warm Pongaroa Hotel where a lovely afternoon tea was awaiting us.

Then the final stretch to our various homes with some choosing to take The Gorge home rather than going via the Pahiatua Track.

I was pleased with the numerous positive comments regarding the tour. I think we all had a very good day and everyone, including Sandra and I, enjoyed catching up with all (about 38) of the club members who came along. For us and some others it was a great opportunity to meet and get to know many more MG Manawatu club members that we have not met before.

Rob Illingworth.