

The year of MGF20 celebrations kicked off as planned on Friday 27 February when nine cars gathered at Turoa Skifield, Mt Ruapehu on a beautiful evening. A chicken and champagne dinner was enjoyed by the crews of five cars from Auckland and Bay of Plenty and four from Manawatu. From our end were Des Mudford, Helen Gillbanks and John and Viv Eames in their MGF's and Trevor and Sandy Hardy on their first outing in their immaculate 2004 TF. After seeing an impressive sunset we cruised down the mountain with sights set on Mangaweka and the 2nd MGF/TF Festival beginning at 10am next morning.

MGF20 was still in focus when exactly 20 MGF's and TF's from all over the North Island assembled at Mangaweka campground on Saturday 28 February for morning tea and photos. Cars were placed to create a number 20 but unfortunately the best photographers' vantage point used to get last year's big letter F photo had to be hastily abandoned when I was attacked by wasps when trying to set up early Saturday morning. The Mangaweka fire engine was called in to provide the next best vantage point and I turned out to be not too wasp-allergic despite several stings, so order was maintained. Following the lovely lunch provided by the Heritage Mangaweka volunteer ladies, a 100km rural run took in Apiti where Manawatu members Murray and June were on hand to entertain with a real man's shed visit and a superb afternoon tea. The annual Apiti Sports on nearby offered another attraction. At 7pm everyone gathered at Awastone Riverside Haven for an excellent dinner and social evening to cap a successful day.

Sunday at 9.30am all gathered at Awastone again for morning tea before three activities on offer. Two rafts were filled for a river trip while several cars did another backcountry run. Garry and Lorna Wood from New Plymouth set up a fun grass gymkhana course which was enjoyed by several who never thought they'd do such a thing. Garry and Lorna also kindly donated an MGF model which Malcolm Fleming, with the best gymkhana time, took home to Wellington as a trophy to defend next year.

Lunch at Awastone rounded off a successful 2nd MGF/TF Festival held in marvellous hood-down weather. By popular request the event will be held again on the weekend of 27/28 February 2016. If you do have an F or TF mark next year's calendar now. If you don't have an F or TF, get one and be there!