

## The MG Manawatu Great Lake Escape 16/17 September 2017

Saturday morning at 8.30 nine MG's led by Robyn and Graeme in Robyn's trusty MGB Roadster departed Feilding, and as the convoy cruised through Mangaweka four more cars seamlessly joined stage one to the Taihape Railway carpark.

After a short rest and briefing, stage two to Ohakune was under way and a planned stop at the Tangiwai Memorial site was enjoyed during a window of sunny weather.

The group then joined Larry and his Midget at the Ohakune Carrot and managed a photo stop before rain arrived and persisted on the run to National Park. But then it cleared for a nice side excursion to the Chateau and a great view on the descent into Tokaanu for lunch. Larry and Diane had their bases covered weather-wise with a very suitable venue for lunch near the marina. Two boats with capacity for the group were on hand to give us a fun lake cruise in nice conditions with passing showers and rainbows adding variety. Special thanks to Larry and Hugh for providing that experience. Many of the group then enjoyed the Tokaanu hot pool before checking in at Turangi Bridge Motels. A super in-house dinner and surprise guest speaker completed a most enjoyable day.

The red Midget appeared as promised at the motels at 9.15 Sunday morning and Larry led the way to his Motuoapa home for breakfast. And what a great cooked breakfast was produced by Diane and Larry and daughter Sydean. Nine holes of golf on the property was next on the agenda but some rain came and about half the group decided to flag it.

But the weather optimists who stayed on were soon rewarded with a clearance and attacked the course. On the first tee it was obvious that we had misunderstood Larry and we were actually facing a round of gulp. Certainly there were no bunkers, but neither were there any 'fair'ways or greens, just elusive little holes obscured by rough. As an experienced course consultant I am recommending Larry modifies the holes with culvert pipe to make it a gulf course. Anyway, the outcome was that Viv was deemed to have struck the most fluke shots to take the honours and everyone won another cup of tea. Great fun to complete a weekend superbly organised by our Motuoapa members, the Hadley family. Sincere thanks to them for putting so much effort into this event.

On the return journey the two red MGF's took on a top-down Desert Road crossing and arrived dry at Waiouru. Sun at each end and low cloud, fog and flying traffic spray along the way made it a memorable drive. Ken, Rachel, Helen, Robyn, Graeme, and Viv and John enjoyed a farewell coffee at the Army Museum, capping off a superb weekend and an entertaining birthday for Helen.