

MG "MANGAWEKASTAN" RUN SATURDAY 19th MAY

I was asked to organise a group run to Mangawekastan for those that enjoy a drive together.

A small group of us meet at 2.00pm in the PN square with 2 MG midgets, 2 MGB's, 2 MGF's and a Mazda and a Toyota.

We headed out from the square car park turning right to continue down Broadway. It wasn't the best exit to use as the traffic lights were only on green long enough for 2 cars to get through. We regrouped again further down Broadway and cut through to Main St and headed out Napier Road

In Ashhurst we meet Bill, with another MGF to join us.

The planned drive was fairly straight forward, out through Raumai to Totara Reserve then turn onto the Pohangina East Road up through Komako and Umutoi on what they now call the Manawatu Scenic Route.

This route eventually comes to a 'T' intersection just north of Apiti where we took a right turn onto The Back Country Road. This section of road winds down through the Oroua River valley and across a single lane bridge at the bottom.

I love this road as it's very scenic and is great driving. Further on we come to another wide 'T' intersection on a sweeping curve where we do a right turn onto Ruahine Road. Along this section is where we have two B&B that were on the accommodation list that John sent out.

Mairenui Rural Retreat at 1019 Ruahine Road and Mt Huia Farnstay at 906 Ruahine Road. Both have web site so take a look.

Along this road is also where we come to the Papa clay cliffs and down below on your right the Mangaweka River. We take extra care along here as Papa rocks fall on the road but we are soon at the old wooden Mangaweka Bridge and the gate into Awastone.

Drive time was close to 2 hrs at a speed less than 100km and we didn't lose any travelers - Great roads and great country.

Once at Awastone we joined other MG'ers who were already there and enjoyed some refreshments and chit chat before dinner was served. After dinner we settled in to hear and see a slide show all about Claire and Robin's amazing 20,000km journey over 82 days from Vladivostok to London through lots of countries ending in 'stan' Very interesting and an amazing journey!

The night was then tinged with a little sadness as we then bid farewell to Rachel (and Madge), who after 14 years in NZ and with MG Manawatu is heading back home to the UK next month – safe travels and our best wishes!

Those that weren't overnighing now left to return home and a few others settled in with a live stream to watch the Royal Wedding taking place on the other side of the world and we had multiple 'live' commentaries running which provided much amusement!

Thanks to all those that joined us.

Robert Wilson