

MGF20 South Event

After hours of planning over several months 22 cars gathered at a sunny Greytown for lunch on Saturday 24 October at a lovely property owned by Gina and Malcolm, members of both Wellington and Manawatu MG clubs.

Three groups merged there after travelling different routes. Seven cars from Auckland and Bay of Plenty had travelled via Hawkes Bay, eleven cars travelled from Mangaweka and four had come over the hill from Wellington. The Mangaweka group, including four cars from New Plymouth and Auckland, dined together in Taihape on Friday night and had a superb Saturday morning breakfast at Awastone, Mangaweka. After rain all night the Manawatu Scenic Route was closed by slips, but local knowledge enabled an instant successful route change and the group arrived at Ballance cafe on time for morning tea.

The weather had cleared on the way and for the rest of the weekend it provided great top-down motoring. A beautiful afternoon drive took us around Lake Wairarapa to Cape Palliser lighthouse and back to Lake Ferry Hotel where 38 people were treated to a lovely dinner.

Sunday dawned beautifully and the group gathered at Murdoch James vineyard at Martinborough.

Some miscommunication found the vineyard not well-prepared, upsetting Gina and Malcolm's carefully planned day. The subsequent run to Castlepoint Hotel became a little confused, but almost everyone made it there to enjoy a fine lunch in lovely surroundings. Another great drive in convoy took us back inland to Gladstone Winery for a happy afternoon tea and wine-tasting finale.

This was the best attended MGF20 event so far with nine MG Manawatu cars involved. A lot of effort went into the organising and as sometimes happens, not quite everything went perfectly.

But that can all add to the adventure and it was lots of fun with the mixing of Manawatu, Wellington and Auckland members, the fantastic weather and the stunning scenery.

Our thanks to Alan Thorn for his enthusiasm and northern organising and to Gina and Malcolm for putting so much into their first time organising an event. It is well to remember that all this is done entirely voluntarily.