

MG MANAWATU'S TRIP TO Mt HOLDSWORTH

We met at the Chalet carpark at the Centennial Lagoon and to our horror as we waited for everyone to turn up we noticed there were not many carparks left as numerous cars had come in with kayaks to off load into the lagoon. Luckily most dropped off the kayaks and their participants and then exited car park in time for our MG'ers to arrive at 9.15.

Twelve cars departed after Neil and Liz had a problem with their MGBGT and resorted to their modern. While we waited for Neil and Liz to arrive we were treated to look at the history book of Service Officers in the AA Palmerston North, written by our own member Sue Forde complete with an array of photos. Congratulations to Sue this book is excellent part of AA's history.

We went over the Pahiatua track. The use of the two way radios was great, Neil and Liz were tail end Charlie and were able to radio to us when everyone had reached a certain point. This worked really well as it meant for us we knew everyone was on track without stopping.

We went via the back roads until SH2 and then through Eketahuna, and at Mt Bruce, turned off to the Mt Bruce Pioneer Museum.

This proved to be an amazing history of everything imaginable, so many memories brought back. I heard one member say "oh wow I remember this, it doesn't seem so long ago that I used that".

For me personally, Masterton being my home town, I loved reading a book I found there on the history of Masterton from 1850 to 1926 and I saw so many memories for me of places where my parents worked and there was a photo of a huge coal and wood merchant depot in the very street where I lived which when I lived there only had houses.

It was hard to drag some people away from the Museum as it had many rooms and just seem to grow and grow as you went around yet another corner, for those that missed it, it's so worth a visit.

We left at 12.30pm and went via the back roads of Masterton to Mt Holdsworth. I was surprised to learn how many people had never been to Mt Holdsworth before.

The caretaker greeted us, he was very helpful, and we found a lovely big area for us to park our cars and then lunch as everyone was starting to get hungry.

The weather was beautiful, cloudy and warm and when the sun came out it was very hot. There were lots of cars there so lots of people picnicking and tramping on the various walks.

It was a favourite place for my parents to take us on picnics and there were a lot of families doing the same.

After lunch some of the MG'ers had to return home, we had some from Turangi and Wanganui so along way to go.

Approx half of us walked into the bush to Donnelly's flats a 20 minute walk in beautiful bush surroundings on an easy track, and then we turned around and walked out.

By this time it was 3.30pm as the last of us left, 8 of us stopped at the Mt Bruce Café for a well-earned ice coffee.

A lovely day to start our 2016 runs.