

OSH Autumn Leaves Run Thursday 23rd April 2015

With the MGCC Old Speckled Hen runs happening on Thursdays each month we usually never have the chance to participate on these, but from previous reports they are often very interesting outings and quite well attended. With us being on annual leave and this run heading into the Manawatu / Rangitikei districts it was a great opportunity for a good day out and we weren't disappointed!

Originally we were going to take our MGB which has been 'resting' a bit too much lately and on start up poured fuel all over the garage floor probably due to a stuck carburettor needle valve. However I didn't need much of an excuse to use the RV8 instead.....

We met up with the Wellington contingent at Sanson along with the other MG Manawatu members who also attended. From there a pleasant drive in lovely sunshine and mild temperatures up to the next meeting point at Rata where we met up with two more Manawatu members including our tour leaders, John and Viv Eames. By now we had a nice size group with eleven cars in total and a nice mix with 2 RV8's, 2 MG B roadsters, 5 MG B GT's, an MGF and an honorary MG B-MW!

After a quick chat and briefing we were off on a very scenic back road off SH1 that looped around and brought us into Hunterville from the eastern side. A short stop was made at the site of the old Hunterville railway station which closed quite some years ago and now has a rather attractive and colourful garden planted there. This was down to an elderly lady living nearby who rather than let the grounds turn into rack and ruin has planted it out with colourful flowers and shrubs etc to visually enhance the area and create a garden for all to enjoy. She accepts donations which she then forwards to St John. What a great thing to do and very community minded.

Lunch at one of Hunterville's cafe establishments followed and with everyone refreshed and refuelled we headed off into the back blocks of the Rangitikei area and the Turakina valley. John and Viv know the area well and took us over lovely undulating and winding back country roads, all sealed apart from the odd small patch of road works here and there. The scenery was beautiful, especially on such a fine blue day with the autumn colours in this part of the country really looking their best and the colourful leaves swirling up behind the cars.

Apart from the scenery, we crossed various interesting bridges both new and old, the little church at Mangamahu and several local road hazards presented themselves along the way also with wandering sheep on the road, the odd wasp buzzing around the cars, a herd of cows coming along the road - always met with great anticipation when one is driving in a low open top car! One of the best sights had to be the four farm dogs all perched up on the farmers quad bike watching the cattle and the MG's going by - really typified the country side we were motoring through.

Nice to have two RV8's on the road together as well and enjoy the sight and sound of them - it was fun to see what the car looked like on the road rather than just the view from behind the wheel!

A stop to admire the view near Fordell before we all headed on to Whanganui to enjoy the view over the city and river from Durie Hill. This was the finishing point of the run and from here every one split up and headed back on their respective homeward journeys. It was a very good run - well organised, fantastic weather, roads and scenery - a very nice way to finish the summer MG motoring season! Thanks to John and Viv and also Michael Anderson for his organising and continuing support of these Old Speckled Hen Runs - if you haven't been on one yet, give it a go!

Now back to fix the MGB!

Dominic and Jennette Scott