

MG Manawatu – Picnic Run, Saturday 21 November 2015

While the weather was not looking promising, nine cars took the bull by the horns and decided to take on the picnic run.

Meeting in Feilding at the appointed time we braved the windy conditions to have a chat and catch up while awaiting the last of our group to arrive, who unfortunately had a break down on the way (not the first time might I add) and had to have a quick change of vehicle.

Departing at 11.30 am we headed out of Feilding and took a look at a bit of the local farming scenery via Aorangi Road, Reids Line East to the little settlement of Hiwinui and then through Ashhurst and arriving at our destination of Totara Reserve just on lunch time.

We couldn't believe it! Overcast skies hinting at possible showers, which did not eventuate and no wind! Couldn't be more perfect (except a bit of sun would have been nice!) Chairs and tables and picnic lunches materialised from our cars and we sat around the covered BBQ area to fuel up. What an amazing facility here. Free gas bbq at the push of a button, (which just had to be tried out to see if it did actually work) and a new shower/toilet building for camping.

After taking a little walk to see what else could be found, we headed away just after 2pm for our next destination, Tiro Roa Gardens & Nursery. "What a wonderful hidden gem" exclaimed everyone. Bare land 25 years ago has been transformed into a wonderful Cottage Garden example. Thank you Dee and Terry for sharing your garden with us and taking the time to chat with us too. Many of us took something away to plant in our gardens, so if you are looking for something different for your garden, this is the place to visit.

Unfortunately, the heavens did break into an annoying light shower just as we were about to leave. So to finish off the day, we all headed to the Waterford Café for coffee, tea and a slice of something delish!