

Third Annual MGF/TF Festival at Mangaweka

This fun event held over the weekend of 27/28 February began with 15 enthusiasts from as far afield as England, Auckland, and New Plymouth gathering at Gumboot Manor in Taihape on Friday evening for dinner. It was a great pleasure to have Elizabeth and Neville Hill from Herefordshire MG Owners Club here for our event.

There was some trepidation about the weather for the weekend with the remnants of 'Winston' lurking around but Saturday dawned nicely and apart from a dull but dry period on Saturday afternoon the event enjoyed hot sunny conditions. Everyone assembled at 'Awastone' by the river at 10am Saturday for morning tea followed by the tradition of then arranging the cars for a photo shoot. An impressive line-up of cars was captured from a platform of stacked river rafts with the intrepid Gina up there doing most of the photography.

After a sumptuous 'Awastone' lunch we set off on a back-country run north-west of Taihape. In areas like this, unfortunately there are often unsealed link roads with dusty conditions to travel to access the best views. A nice afternoon tea was hosted by Mataroa School and a few cars elected to take the 'lowland' route to there avoiding unsealed roads. We certainly understood that point of view beforehand but when circumstances after the event found me with four cars to clean.....pew!

The run ended at Taihape about 5pm and we gathered at 'Awastone' from 6.30 for a lovely dinner. The evening was capped off by Doug Dingle from Auckland MG specialists Paul Walbran Motors sharing some of his extensive knowledge on maintaining our cars.

Sunday's programme at the Mangaweka Campground began with morning tea at 9.30 provided to the usual magnificent standard by the ladies of Heritage Mangaweka.

By then, Garry and Lorna from New Plymouth had already laid out a gymkhana course and Doug had used the special laptop to extract several cars' previously unknown security numbers for pleased owners.

The morning was filled with great socialising and fun watching or participating in the grass gymkhana. Garry put up the best time but gallantly awarded the trophy to Rachel to grace her mantlepiece for the year as top female driver. After another sumptuous lunch it was farewells all round and time for happy owners to F off home.