

## MGF & Modern MGs: Hoods Up Run 18/08/2024

(Words Haydn Reynolds, Pictures David McNabb)

The Run was named in recognition of the fact that statistically the second week in August has an extremely high probability of rain. It rained for two days prior to the Run\* and for several days afterwards. However, the day of the Run was dry and mild!! So, no 'truth in advertising' in this instance.

(\* On inspecting the route on the day before the Run, visibility along sections of Wickams Hill Road was down to 30 metres!)

The Run had a choice of two 'starting points'. The full 110km version had a 10:00am start at Veale Gardens and then proceeded to McLaren Flat where a second group of participants joined at around 11:15 am for the remaining 66km leg to the Aldgate Pump Hotel and lunch.

The McLaren Flat meeting place was at the previously named Bakery, but things have changed since this Run was last undertaken. The business has had a major makeover and renamed itself the 'General Store'. The upgrade has been well executed and is well worth a visit, if one is in the area and looking for a coffee.

On the recent 'April Fools' Run, it was noted that there had been an almost complete absence of cyclists on the route. Not so in this instance, however. In fact, there was an organised cycling event being held in the McLaren Flat area. Fortunately, our respective paths did not cross to the point where either group were in any way inconvenienced.

The Run was a mix of 'winding' bits (including the Adelaide Rally Stage up Wickams Hill) and higher speed sections (including 13 km of the B34) that was commented on favourably by Participants. The one taxing section was a 3km section of Main Road, between Blackwood and Clarendon, where kerbs were being installed on both sides of what is a narrow road to start with. Consequently, tyre damage was a potential hazard. However, the work was well marked and a little caution saw the forewarned Participants through safely.

The group arrived at the Aldgate Pump Hotel in good time for the 12:30 booking. An experiment of sorts was carried out regarding seating arrangements. One table was for those that were likely to be focused predominately on Club and vehicle related topics, while the second table accommodated those who were inclined to seek a wider range of topics. You may be able to pick which was which from the accompanying photos. As expected, the hotel staff looked after us well and there were plenty of choices on menu. The overall success of the lunch can probably be judged from the fact that it lasted some two and half hours, somewhat longer than the Run itself!

Normally, the lunch would have provided the opportunity to pass on information regarding the next scheduled MGF & Modern MGs event. Unfortunately, both the scheduled events for the remainder of 2024 have been rendered unachievable due to major events (including the Kimber Run) being rescheduled. This situation was conveyed to those present along with a reminder that the Breakfast Runs and the Kimber Run itself can help 'fill the gap'.

The Participants\* comprised: Robin & Didy Button (MGF/TF), Peter Coulson (MX5), Roger Dawe (MGF/TF), Daryl Kelly & Jane Dean (MGF/TF), Graham Lehman & Shane Murray (MGF), Dick Manning (MGF Trophy), Stephen & Chris Marlow (HS + EV), David McNabb & Kerry Hugo (MG GS), Trevor & Helen Praite (ZS), Haydn & Jeannie Reynolds (Honda Jazz), Richard & Carolyn Sutherland (MGF/TF), Stephen Wade (MGF), and Mark Whibley & Margotte (MGF/TF). (\* With the Author's apologies for omissions and errors!)

Enjoy what you drive!

Haydn Reynolds

Photo Files for these pictures herewith.



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