

# Run to Edgecombe and Whakatane

*By Michael Creak*

Before I start we must thank Natalie and Steve Cox for an excellent run and venue not to mention the fact there was no power cut to mar the lunch! Being the day after the election and the All Blacks game some disruption could be expected and there was.

Only about 10 cars turned up as a number of expected faces were missing being delayed by the finishing of the rugby. We (Shirley and myself that is)



usually meet up en route to a venue but this time the Marist Ruby Club park was pretty much on the way to the first venue for us. So at 9.30am we set off from the meeting place in convoy to the Bay Park new (to us anyway) interchange. The leaders took off as we fronted the rest and missed the lights. It took us almost to Edgecombe to catch up with some, travelling at quite a bit over the speed

limit - what happened to the mirror checking to ensure all were in convoy? It was, however, a simple matter to follow route via our Satnav and this actually gave us a slightly faster connection at the end so we all arrived at the Funtastic Gardens at virtually the same time.

Margaret is a very enthusiastic owner and guide and explained the formation and reasons behind the garden.





There is no web site but some details are on Facebook. This was our BYO morning tea stop and this took a while during which the late arrivals turned up bringing our numbers up to more like the 20 cars or so.

Maggie (Margaret) has spent some 45 years collecting and putting together many full size models and parts of buildings, a lot of which are on the site of the original house which came down after the Edgecombe earthquake. The earthquake also provided some of the display items saved from the neighbouring properties after the earthquake.



She was lucky in that her property was not flooded in the Edgecombe flood that caused so much loss and damage nearby.

Maggie seems to love dinosaurs as they, or rather fibreglass full size models, are everywhere! Some of us had a climb on to or into some of the exhibits and then it was off to the Whakatane Sports Fishing Club which was only 30 minutes or so away.

The venue is a lot bigger than I remember from a visit a few years ago and was really busy.

Shirley had the bright idea to order early, before we even went upstairs, so we ordered the usual fish and chips. Guess what? This fishing place ran out of fish! We got the almost last pieces. How does a fish place run out of fish? A bit like the election places running out of voting forms!

Sorry fellow members about the fish, or lack of, not our fault!



Anyway some more members joined us for lunch taking our numbers up to about 40 so a good result for the Club and Natalie who spent a lot of time running about helping deliver the meals up and down the stairs.

The volume did cause some delays but the meals were lovely and we all had a good time before departing for home at about 2.30pm.

By the way the weather was great as well not like the longer range forecast of a week earlier.



*Michael*