

Canterbury Three Gorges Autumn Run

On Sunday 3 May Canterbury Alfisti enjoyed the opportunity to meet and give their cars a run on a sunny and calm autumn day.

After coffee at a Rangiora Café we drove through Loburn, Ashley Gorge joining the Inland Scenic Route at Oxford, then on to the Waimakariri Gorge, Glentunnel, Rakaia Gorge to Methven at the foot of Mt Hutt.

Apart from the sounds of Alfa engines clearing their throats the roads were quiet and we enjoyed the brilliant autumn colours with a background of snow capped mountains.

We lunched at the famous Blue Pub in Methven where one of the locals was celebrating her 100th birthday.

After lunch we returned to Christchurch via Rakaia and Leeston keeping off SH 1. Some of us paused at the tiny village of Barrhill beside the Rakaia River which was built in the 1870s by a Scottish run-holder. He planned the village, where estate workers and their families would live, around a market square with a school, schoolhouse, church and tree-lined avenues. As there was a working-bee on we were able to see inside the church which is still used and has a beautiful interior.

There was a good variety of Alfas and we welcomed new members Tony & Jane Enders with their beautifully restored 105 GTV. It was also great to see John and Kathryn Peebles in their recently acquired 156 GTA – welcome back from the 4WD dark side John! Initially, at the sight of his familiar blue Alfetta GTV roaring by, we thought Past President John Cornelius had joined us but in fact it was daughter Mary sporting her early inheritance. We were relieved to hear that you are still with us John!

All in all a great day out in our Alfas and we will be doing it again.

Lane McPhail