

## **Kawhia Weekend**

**October 2011**

What started to be an over cast weekend ended to be a great weekend enjoyed by all, except one as follows:-

Everyone arrived on time at the Bombay Service Centre, Mike & Anne (Elise), Malcolm & Wendy (MR2) and myself & Janet (Europa) and Maurice (7) and his daughter Emma, and after the normal discussions coffees etc. it was time to discuss the route. Quite simple, Tuakau, back road through Glen Murray, then head to Whatawhata for morning tea, then onto Waitomo for lunch.

Off we set to Tuakau, just over the Tuakau Bridge my phone rings, Jan answers it, Maurice has broken down, the remainder of the group pulled over to wait and see what was happening. After a couple of minutes we sent Malcolm and Wendy back to see what was going on. Malcolm and Wendy reported back that Maurice was not going anywhere, fuel problems, he had organised some mates to pick him up and he was heading back to Auckland. The remaining group set off, wandering through the back country of the Waikato. However, after about 45 minutes of driving one of the group suddenly stops (no names mentioned), so the remainder of us waited for about 5 minutes until they caught up. Evidently it was a case of motion sickness. With one sick person in the group, it was time for a rethink, off to Raglan for Lunch and a decent break, which was greatly appreciated by the girls in the group who went shopping.

On arrival at Raglan the sun was shining, and after lunch and a walk around the town it was time to hit the road again. This time it was off to Pirongia for a break. As we hit the hill half way between Raglan and Whatawhata the heavens opened and it poured down. Once at Pirongia it was decided to take the short way to Kawhia. As we travelled towards Kawhia the weather got better and better, once at the top of the climb half way to Kawhia the clouds lifted and the view down to the Kawhia Harbour was out of a tourist magazine. We eventually arrived at Kawhia about 4,00 pm.

Once checked in to the Motel, which was clean and comfortable, it was off to assess the town, 5 minutes later it was evident everywhere was closed, except the pub and the Boating and Fishing club. The members at the club made us really welcome and the dinners served were extremely filling, a great end to the day.

The next day it was off to explore Ocean Beach, which is a hot water beach then onto Oparau for breakfast. The day was overcast but fine. \$10,00 at Oparau café bought you 2 eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast, which was the most, most of us could eat. The owner of the café was a character and kept us amused throughout breakfast. The owner told us the route to Waitomo via Te Anga was worth doing as it was very scenic, and he was not underestimating as it was just that. Once at Waitomo, we regrouped and decided it was off to Pirongia for a break, as the girls wanted to look at an Antique Shop they didn't have time to look at the day before. BIG MISTAKE, there happened to be a Farmers Market as well, two hours later it was back on the road to Auckland.

The weekend was a great success (perhaps not in terms of numbers) as everyone (except poor Maurice) had a great time, a great drive and a most enjoyable weekend. Following the success we will be doing another one in the New Year up north via the west coast and returning via the east, keep you all informed,

Robin



View of Harbour from the Motel



Kawhia Harbour



Ocean Beach



BIG MISTAKE – Pirongia Farm Market