



SCOTTSDALE TOURS

KAPITI ISLAND AND SOUTH COAST TOUR 2011



Kaka, Kapiti Island



Southwards Car Museum



Eel Farm Nga Manu Reserve



Alexander Turnbull Library WN

A wet, wild and windy day greeted us as we headed south through Te Awamutu to our morning tea break at Lake Maraetai and on around the 'back of the Lake' to our lunch stop in Turangi. On down SH1 we arrived at our destination at Paraparaumu Beach where we were accommodated in two motels. We dined at Cookies that night.

Magically the weather had cleared overnight and we were able to make our way across to Kapiti Island. After a talk by the DOC Ranger we had plenty of time to stroll around the island and watch the bird life. Unfortunately the Takahe did not get the email advising of our arrival and they were off doing bird stuff elsewhere. Heading back across the water to the mainland we had lunch in Paraparaumu then went out to visit the Nga Manu Reserve in Waikanae where, as usual, the eels were the stars of the show. What a great little place this is. Then it was time for some nostalgia at Southwards Car Museum before our last stop at the Lindale Tourist Centre. Another delicious feast at Cookies.

Today we headed into Wellington for a quick tour of the big smoke including the Mt Victoria look-out for a fabulous birds-eye view of the city. After a wander around the bays we headed off to Parliament for a tour of the work place of our illustrious elected representatives. Unfortunately they were busy getting re-elected but it was all very interesting anyway. Our last dinner with the lovely Lyn at Cookies tonight.

The next day we headed up over the Rimutaka's to visit the Fell Engine Museum in Featherston with all it's memorabilia and fabulous, informative old video footage. After heading down past Lake Wairarapa we stopped for lunch at the tiny Ngawi Settlement on the south coast on our way round to Cape Palliser, where some of us hardy folk climbed the 252 steps up to the lighthouse. Quite a spectacular sight on a very windy day. We called into Paua World in Carterton on our way to our destination at Masterton. Dinner tonight Cobb and Co.

Day five and we headed off down Highway 52 for our ramble through back country Wairarapa. We stopped for morning tea at Pongaroa and had lunch in Waipukurau. Later the opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping in the famous Norsewear factory

shop before spending some jaw dropping time in the magical Fantasy Cave at Dannevirke. This place is fantastic and a must see for anyone passing through.

We climbed the hills up to Te Apiti to see up close the mighty windmills that we could see from down in the valley. They are huge and quite an eye-opener if you haven't seen them up close before, and not as noisy as one would think. As the Manawatu Gorge was closed due to a huge slip we continued over the hill to our final stop at the Kingsgate Hotel in Palmerston North.

A special request visit to historic Caccia Birch House before a quick trip over to see the Massey University next morning before starting our homeward journey. An interesting drive down the eastern side of the Rangitikei River through Kimbolton and Rangiwaha with some great views of the surrounding country-side as we made our way to Turangi for lunch. We then travelled around Lake Taupo and headed northwards toward home.

Thank you everyone for your help and support.

Kind regards, Ross

Sadly, due to a camera malfunction, there is no group photo for this trip, our humble apologies.



Cape Palliser Lighthouse



Cape Palliser



Colourful bulldozers at Ngawihi



Paua World Carterton



Fantasy Cave Dannevirke