



SCOTTSDALE TOURS

PERUSING THE PACIFIC COAST TOUR 2011

We started our journey from Hamilton and headed up through Papakura where we picked up our last passengers and on to Clevedon for our first famous Scottsdale morning tea for the tour.



We then made our way over to Kaiaua and meandered down through the Shorebird coast, calling in to the Miranda Shorebird Centre on the way. Lunch was in Thames before we cruised up along the Thames Coast road to Coromandel. The weather was being kind to us which afforded us lovely views up along the coast road to Coromandel.

We enjoyed a ride on the Driving Creek Steam locomotive and once again we had lovely views from high in the hills looking out across the Coromandel. We spent a very comfortable night in Coromandel Town before heading out the next morning bound for Fletcher's Bay right at the tip of the Coromandel Peninsula. Unfortunately a mechanical gremlin attacked us at Coroglen and I had to call in my good friend Jocelyn Strongman from Strongmans Coachlines in Coromandel Town who did an excellent job of completing the day's tour while I headed back to Thames for repairs. Again we struck another pearly of a day so the views were just spectacular. I had arrived in Whitianga with the coach restored to good health by the time the group got there and we enjoyed a very comfortable night overlooking the Marina.



Our tour then took us through the popular beach resorts of Hahei, Hot Water Beach, Cooks Beach and Tairua before arriving in Pauanui for our picnic lunch on the beach. We had our next overnight stop in Whangamata where we had a good look around before dining at the Club.

Unfortunately the weather had turned very wet as we headed over the hills to Waihi where we sloshed around for a look at the very good information centre and museum. Following lunch in Waihi we headed on through Waihi Beach and Katikati and after a very quick visit to the Te Puna Quarry we decided to get out of the weather and headed to our motel for the next two nights in Tauranga.

The next morning the weather was still a little damp as we headed across for our tour around Matakana Island. Fortunately between the showers we were able to complete our usual



program. Lovely sunshine greeted us as we set off the next day through Whakatane and Opotoki and on around the fabulous coastal road to Hicks Bay. The beautiful weather continued the next morning for the rest of our journey through to Gisborne. Trudy treated us royally at the Gisborne Hotel as only Trudy can do and we were privileged to visit her marae and their extraordinary family home. We toured around Gisborne taking in all the local sights, we sampled some wine at a local winery, wandered through the Arboretum and ate and slept well before leaving heading off to Wairoa for our last night. Unfortunately the weather once again turned wet as we wended our way through the Urewera's calling in to Lake Waikaremoana. After our lunch stop on the outskirts of Murupara it was on through Rotorua and homewards..

Many thanks and kind regards, Ross.

