



SCOTTSDALE TOURS

WINTERLESS NORTH 2008

This trip was shaping up to be the *Wintery North* with weather forecasts casting doom and gloom all over the place but as luck would have it, we missed most of the bad weather, a few spits here and there but it was fine when it counted.

We had 30 people all together on this trip including one lady all the way from England who was traveling with her 'Kiwi' sister, another lady all the way up from Dunedin and two of our regulars all the way from Lower Hutt. How lovely to see familiar faces on the trips. We know you enjoy catching up with each other as well. By the time we got to Ngaruawahia we knew we had a wonderful, friendly group on board as the buzz of excited conversation was getting louder by the kilometer. And that pretty much set the atmosphere for the whole trip really.



We cruised the Kaipara Harbour, a pleasant and peaceful trip which gave everyone a chance to get to know each other better and to meet new friends. The bus ride up the west coast beach was lovely as the sun was heading for the horizon creating picturesque scenes along the beach and in the sky.

Ross was a hit with the local constabulary in Dargaville but we have made a pact, the less said about that the better – our lips are sealed.



The Cape Reinga trip was wonderful, it was a lovely warm sunny day and the scenery spectacular. Just as it was when we traveled down the East Coast on the way home. The beaches and blue skies just took our breath away, there seemed to be a pretty bay around every corner.

All but four of us headed out on the King's/Fuller's catamaran to do the Bay of Islands Hole in the Rock trip. Kings and Fullers have now amalgamated so we were able to call in for an hour to Otehei Bay where we had an early lunch before heading back to Russell. We were very lucky to see dolphins around Robertson Island, this was a real bonus. They swam with us for about 5 minutes. The 15 minute trip out to the Cape Brett Hole in the rock was a challenge for those not too keen on traveling by sea. There was quite a swell and we were unfortunately not able to go through the hole in the rock but it was a great trip anyway. Well done those brave souls who ventured out despite the weather.



Tutukaka was a picture both in the evening when we arrived and in the morning when we left. It's quite a view from the accommodation way up on the hill overlooking the ocean. Our dinner venue was the local

Sports Fishing Club where we were made welcome by the patrons. Ross won a bottle of wine in a raffle which was a pleasant surprise.

We made our way homeward in fine weather and only struck rain when we headed back towards Katikati. In all a great trip. Thank you everyone for being with us, another great trip. We hope to see you all again sometime soon.

Kind regards
Ross & Susy & Karen

PS: Some of our trip photos are available for sale – check them out on the main ‘Newsletter’ page.

