

POHANGINA VALLEY OBSERVATION PURSUIT

Sunday August 18th dawned fine, thank goodness, the Saturday was not so good weather wise, we were a little concerned the roads we were going on could have slips.

We met at the Coach House Museum in Feilding for an early start at 9.30am.

Everyone was told to bring a passenger as a navigator. We had a total of 14 cars and we sent everyone off in different directions on paper, coming together at the corner of Taonui Road and Colyton Road. A turn off Taonui road on to Valley Road, then on to Ashhurst Road, then over the river on to Pohangina Valley East road. It is a lovely scenic trip with lots of snow around on the tops of the hills.

We arrived in Apiti for morning tea. We visited Murray's shed and June had made muffins for a shared morning tea. A big thank you to both Murray and June for their hospitality. The weather was fine, but crisp and Murray had thoughtfully lit the pot belly stove in his shed which gave some warmth. After morning tea and a talk from Murray everyone was off to complete the questions around Apiti. How many pickets in the picket fence around the public toilets, how many 'H's" in the billboard poster about the post master/mistress. The answer was 42!! Then a series of photographs capturing the scene that everyone was about to travel on and you had to put down on the question sheet the road the photograph appeared on. We set off on Oroua Valley road which becomes Main South road then on to Te Para Para road, then on to Rangiwahia road. This is where the question at the Rangiwahia War memorial question certainly sorted out our winners. They had to work out the two surnames the same as on the Memorial then make as many 4+ letter words from this. The surname was McKenzie. We continued on Mangamako road before turning on to Otara road to come to the T intersection with SH1. At this point the questions and the photographs stopped. A turn to the right and approx 3km down the road was Flat Hills Cafe, where a welcome lunch was had, the weather was still fine, but cool, the log fire was going in the cafe and many opted for a leisurely lunch catch up. Everyone did reasonably well answering the questions and location of the photographs. The winner of the trophy for the Pohangina Valley Observation Pursuit was Helen and her co passenger Sue, they earned the additional points by the number of words they had made from the surname McKenzie. Thanks to Julian (We Cut Shapes) for making the trophy for this run.