November Otaki Observational Outing

22 November 2025

We were fortunate to have a large turnout for this run with 35 people in 20 cars gathering at the Focal Point Café in Levin for coffee. Steve provided his driver's briefing at 10.15 am, after which we departed at short intervals. There were to be a few choke points on the way, traffic lights, road works near Manukau and a one lane suspension bridge south of Otaki that we were to cross twice.

For this run we had a pleasant drive around the Otaki countryside, along the beach front and through Otaki's shopping center, answering a few questions on things we saw on our journey, before gathering for lunch at Reds Cafe. Food options included items from the cabinet or from their extensive blackboard menu. Because we did not depart all at once but spread out over a period, arrival at the café was in an orderly fashion. This enabled the kitchen team and servers to deliver our food promptly. Comments suggest members thought the food and service were excellent given the size of our group.

The best way to describe the run is to include the route directions, with answers (below).

Robyn and Steve provided a few novelty prizes. One went to Helen and Catherine for being the only team to get all 17 answers exactly right. The other 3 prizes went to those who had their name drawn out of a hat.

This was a relaxed fun run concluding after lunch, which enabled some of us to visit the Outlet Shops before heading home.

MG Anonymous.

Route Directions

TEAM NAME:

Start:		***Answers:***
1	Exit the 'Focal Point' car park by turning left onto Salisbury Street.	
2	Turn Left into Bath Street (New World)	
3	Turn Right at the Traffic Lights (SH 1 South)	
	Note: There are no questions until after we leave SH 1	
4	Stay on SH 1 until you see the Large 80 KPH signs on both sides of the road. (approximately 12km's / 7 miles from Levin) Manukau Store is on your right. Then turn left over the railway line into Mokena Kohere Street	
5	Immediately - take first right into Honi Taipua Street You will see the old Manukau Hotel on your left.	
6	Stay left on Honi Taipua Street, which becomes Manakau Heights Drive	
7	At the T intersection turn left into South Manukau Road This becomes Waitohu Valley Road	
8	Turn left into Ringawhati Road, over narrow one lane bridge **Note:** Questions commence. ***What is at Talisman?***	*Plant Nursery*

9	At the T intersection turn right into Rahui Road	
	The Club on the left is known as 'Otaki Māori' what?	*Racing Club*
10	*The Road is Closed up ahead* - follow detour signs by going right into Freemans Road and following this road around the curve to the T intersection with the old SH 1. Turn left to go into 'Otaki Railway' and past the Outlet Shops. There is also road works at the BP roundabout, follow the road cones to travel straight ahead to pass the outlet shops.	
11	Travel through the newly installed traffic lights, which have not yet been commissioned. Cross over the old SH1 Otaki River bridge and immediately turn right on to the old SH1 to Te Horo – There is a right turning bay If you happen to cross over the expressway, you have gone too far.	
12	Immediately after the two large blue 80 kph signs (one on each side of the road) turn right at the 'Hyde Park Village' corner into Te Horo Beach Road.	
13	Take 1st right into School Road Additional road signs in brown are 'Lavendar Farm' and 'Smisek Kilns' Stay on School Road ***When does Te Horo Hall date from?*** ***How many children up the tree?***	 *1914* *2*
14	Turn left into Hautere Cross Road ***What is the fence at #274 made from?***	 *River Stone*
15	Turn right at the intersection into Otaki Gorge Road. You will be driving towards the Taraua Ranges ***What type of tree are most of the trees that form this tree lined tunnel?***	 *Totara*
16	Turn left into Kaitawa Road and over the Kaitawa Bridge (narrow, single lane) Take Care: once off the bridge you will immediately turn left. see #17	
17	Turn left (coming off the bridge) into Paranga Road ***What type of art is promoted?*** ***Letter box at #67 is in the colours of what provincial rugby team?*** ***What type of tree are the tall slender trees?***	 *Fibre* *Canterbury* *Gum/ Eucalyptus*
18	At road end execute a U turn and drive back over the bridge.	
19	Turn right off the bridge back onto the Otaki Gorge Road – after the tunnel of tree's stay on this road for quite some distance before; ***What number is on the steel sign?***	 *206*

	What type of storage is available?	*Cold*
20	At the roundabout take 2nd exit and cross over the Expressway and (back) over the old Otaki River Bridge	
21	Turn left at the newly installed Traffic Lights, which are yet to be commissioned, into Riverbank Road **NOTE:** the next two questions are found within about 500 meters of entering this road. ***What is at 'Back Yard'?*** ***What might be in the 'Box'?***	 *Kids/Childcare* *Soap*
22	Riverbank Road curves right into Aotaki Street. Do not follow this curve. Go straight ahead still on River Bank Road. ***Riverbank Farm is at what number?***	 *124*
23	Left at T intersection (Rangiuru Road)	
24	Right onto Marine Parade Continue along Marine Parade ***Who sponsors Surf Rescue?*** NOTE: There are toilets here (building to the left)	 *BP*
25	Turn right into Koromiko Street	
26	Take first right into Moana Street	
27	Left at T intersection (Tasman Road) ***What kind of camp is to the right?***	 *Health*
28	Go straight ahead at the first roundabout. Tasman Road eventually becomes Main Street - stay on this road, pass the 'Otaki Town' shops At the next roundabout take 3rd exit (Aotaki Street) Note: The blue 'Fresh Choice' building is on this corner If you find yourself on Mill Road turn around and go back to the roundabout.	
29	Take 3rd left (Waerenga Road) ***What is the other activity at the Otaki Bowling Club?***	 *Pétanque*
30	Take fourth left (Dunstan St) Park in or near Arthur Street Walk into Reds Café – MG have the room on the right booked. Hand in your completed sheets.	