

Awakino Adventure

12-14 April 2019

The adventurers assembled at Kowhai Park in Whanganui on Friday 12th and seven cars set off at 10 o'clock up the Parapara. Not perhaps the normal way to go to Awakino but the Browns are masters of route variety and after lunching in sunny Taumarunui we headed for the metropolis of Aria. All roads were expected to be sealed but at one point the expected white line down the middle became a green line to the astonishment of all including the leadership. Green being grass! However Aria was eventually found for an afternoon tea stop before the next adventure. The Browns who once found their way around Russia became bamboozled finding the main road to Awakino but they eventually 'triumphed' in their TR6. We still arrived as planned at 4.30 at Awakino Hotel where Taranaki member John Jury joined us with his MGF. More adventures followed allocating rooms and beds but with that sorted we enjoyed the evening in the bar and welcomed new members Deb and Shaun who had travelled from Palmy in their lovely blue BGT after work.

On a beautiful fine Saturday morning with a fine breakfast in us and a generous hotel lunch supply on board we set off for Kawhia at 9. The fascinating Waikawau Beach tunnel was the first stop followed by morning tea at Marokopa. We took a little side trip from Te Anga to see the amazing Mangapohue Natural Bridge and got to Kawhia at 1.45 for lunch by the wharf where a charter fishing boat came in with a huge catch. Three cars opted for the main road back to Awakino. MG KIWI led the other cars as goat-sweeper on an awesome return run via Marokopa to an excellent hotel dinner and social evening. A great meal was provided by staff while also catering for a very large fishing competition crowd.

We left at 9 on Sunday after another fine breakfast and the morning cloud cleared.

The Browns sure know Taranaki and led us to the farm and the uniquely entertaining woolshed of their friends Bryan and Helen Hocken at Tarata. Morning tea there was shared with Robin and Claire's daughters and grandchildren.

We moved on to Hawera for lunch in Naumai Park before the final run to Whanganui and our farewell gathering at Caroline's Boatshed.

Superb weather, excellent food as part of the great value stay at Awakino Hotel and a happy bunch of adventurers all contributed to making this a memorable event.

Special thanks to Robin and Claire Brown for their input and imaginative route plan.