

National Rally/AGM Taumarunui 2019

Kay and Tony De Luca



We flew into Auckland on the Thursday afternoon 14th March and while signing up for car rental we were intercepted by the Humpherys family who had just landed from Brisbane. They were being met by Ed Tubman and travelling to Hamilton over-night, whilst Tony and I had booked a Motel in Half Moon Bay on the NE suburbs of Auckland. Half Moon Bay was very pretty with a very large marina and nice restaurants along the promenade adjacent to the water. We enjoyed a wonderful fish dinner while overlooking the last glimpses of the bay before sunset.



Next day we were southbound for the trip to Taumarunui for the weekend get together. We arrived around 3pm to be met by Andrew Larsen and Rob Jones from the NZ P76 Club. They made us very welcome and we settled in to our room, being met by others as they arrived.

Friday Night was Pizza Dinner poolside and we had a chance to meet and chat with the 50+ people in attendance. It was a friendly gathering, with the NZ members very welcoming towards us and Neville Humpherys and his family.

Saturday morning saw the convoy of P76s head off to the north-west for the Medieval Festival at Ohura. An interesting little country haven with lots of home-made goodies and cakes to be had while watching the jousting going on in a nearby paddock!!



The Boot Sale on Sunday morning was successful for us, as we sold quite a few items of merchandise and took orders for our Car Club Jackets. After the Boot Sale we were off on another convoy to visit two car collections in the area – the first was not far from Taumarunui where the owners have an acreage with a very large shed containing some nice American wheels (centre). Rob Jones sent me the photo on the left taken from atop one of the sheds nearby – nice photo of 16 P76s!!

Following this short visit, we drove a bit further out of town to a place that seemed like we were walking back in time to the early part of last century!!! Old car bodies hiding under bushes and broken buildings, rotting away in the long grass with mushrooms and blackberries growing round them. The group gathered here for a photo before heading back to town and lunching at the RSL Club.



After lunch it was time to cruise down the Forgotten World Highway to where we would commence our Rail Cart Trip – a 3.5 hour journey riding modified golf carts, zipping through tunnels, over viaducts and through landscape inaccessible by road. This was a fantastic afternoon, Tony and me being driven along by Ed Tubman, who gained the nickname “Barney Rubble” because that’s who he looked like, zipping along the rail tracks in the Flintstones Car.





Sunday night's dinner was held again at the RSL Club and we enjoyed chatting with everyone – so many stories exchanged about P76s and club stuff. Goodbyes were exchanged and prizes awarded before it was time to hit the sack – most people were driving south to Whangamomona on the Monday morning but we were going our own way southeast to Napier.

Over the next few days we travelled through picturesque countryside to Napier, then north to Rotorua via Lake Taupo. We visited a Maori Village in Rotorua with its bubbling mud pools and geothermal activity. Then back to Auckland for the flight home—a good flight with lots of spare seats – gotta love that eh? A great week away sharing time with lovely people and looking at wonderful scenery along the way.