

**New Zealand**

**February - March 2008**

**Jim Russell**



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# Itinerary

## New Zealand – February – March 2008

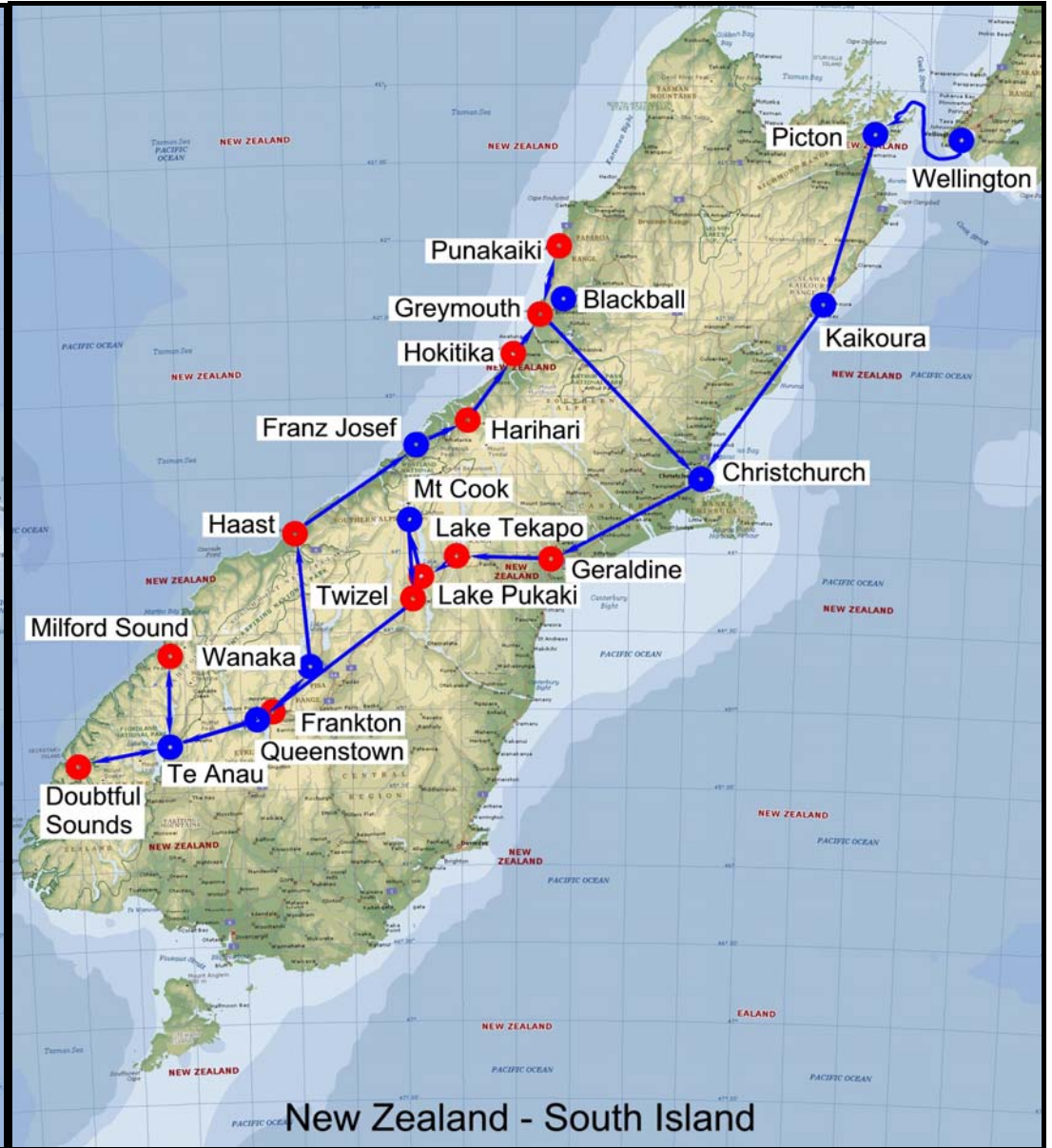
### Land of the Long White Cloud – Code PSZ – Starting 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

Date	Tour Day	Activity	Trip Day
Thur 07 Feb 2008		Depart Melbourne QF39 19:35	Day 01
Fri 08 Feb 2008		Arrive Auckland 01:00	Day 02
Sat 09 Feb 2008		Auckland	Day 03
Sun 10 Feb 2008	Tour Day 01	Auckland	Day 04
Mon 11 Feb 2008	Tour Day 02	Auckland	Day 05
Tue 12 Feb 2008	Tour Day 03	Auckland to Hahei	Day 06
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		Lake Rotoiti, Rotorua to Tongariro	
Thur 14 Feb 2008	Tour Day 05	National Park	Day 08
Fri 15 Feb 2008	Tour Day 06	Tongariro National Park	Day 09
Sat 16 Feb 2008	Tour Day 07	Tongariro National Park to Napier	Day 10
Sun 17 Feb 2008	Tour Day 08	Napier	Day 11
Mon 18 Feb 2008	Tour Day 09	Napier to Wellington	Day 12
Tue 19 Feb 2008	Tour Day 10	Wellington	Day 13
Wed 20 Feb 2008	Tour Day 11	Wellington, Picton to Portage	Day 14
Thur 21 Feb 2008	Tour Day 12	Portage to Kaikoura	Day 15
Fri 22 Feb 2008	Tour Day 13	Kaikoura Christchurch	Day 16
Sat 23 Feb 2008	Tour Day 14	Christchurch	Day 17

Date	Tour Day	Activity	Trip Day
Sun 24 Feb 2008	Tour Day 15	Christchurch to Mt Cook	Day 18
Mon 25 Feb 2008	Tour Day 16	Mt Cook	Day 19
Tue 26 Feb 2008	Tour Day 17	Mt Cook to Queenstown	Day 20
Wed 27 Feb 2008	Tour Day 18	Queenstown	Day 21
Thur 28 Feb 2008	Tour Day 19	Queenstown	Day 22
		Queenstown to Te Anau –	
Fri 29 Feb 2008	Tour Day 20	Doubtful Sound	Day 23
Sat 01 Mar 2008	Tour Day 21	Te Anau – Milford Sound	Day 24
Sun 02 Mar 2008	Tour Day 22	Te Anau to Wanaka	Day 25
Mon 03 Mar 2008	Tour Day 23	Wanaka	Day 26
Tue 04 Mar 2008	Tour Day 24	Wanaka to Franz Josef Glacier	Day 27
Wed 05 Mar 2008	Tour Day 25	Franz Josef Glacier	Day 28
Thur 06 Mar 2008	Tour Day 26	Franz Josef to Blackball	Day 29
Fri 07 Mar 2008	Tour Day 27	Blackball to Christchurch	Day 30
		Depart Christchurch 06:15 QF202	
Sat 08 Mar 2008	Tour Day 28	Arrive Melbourne 08:00	Day 31



# MAPS





# New Zealand – North Island

**Thursday 7 February 2008 - Depart Melbourne QF39 at 19:35**

**Day 01**

**Friday 8 February 2008 - Auckland**

**Day 02**



**Sky tower - Auckland**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auckland>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Auckland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Auckland)

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/new-zealand/auckland/>



**STS - Spirit of New Zealand - Auckland**

It is after 02:00 by the time I am settled in the City Central Hotel on the corner of Albert and Wellesley Streets, Auckland so I don't waste much time getting to bed.

I am awake fairly early and decide that I will spend today on and around the harbour. It is about 15 minutes walk through town to the ferry wharf where there is a choice of harbour tours and excursions to some of the islands. It seems, however, that the

same operators – Fullers – who also operate the commuter ferries conduct several harbour tours. I opt for their tour as it visits Rangitoto Island and includes a ferry ticket across the harbour to the village of Devonport.

I am early for the ferry so there is time to walk along the waterfront passed the cruise ship wharf to the Maritime Museum.



**The Ferry Building - Auckland**



On display outside the Maritime Museum is KZ1, the 90ft yacht with which the Mercury Bay Yacht Club challenged the Americans for the America's Cup in 1988.

<http://www.americascup.com/en/acclpae/dia/circlinggalaxy/bateau.php?idContent=4569&idRubr=74>



**New Zealand Big Boat - KZ 1 -  
Auckland**



**Auckland Museum**



**Auckland Skyline**

The STS Spirit of New Zealand is preparing to sail with a group of young people.

<http://www.spiritofadventure.org.nz/>  
<http://www.spiritofadventure.org.nz/aboard.html>



**Rangitoto Island - Auckland**



**Cheltenham Beach - Devonport**

The bright sunny morning is perfect for photos of the city and the harbour and the top deck of the ferry is an excellent vantage point. The 328m Sky Tower dominates the city skyline. It is the tallest tower in the Southern Hemisphere.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sky\\_Tower](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sky_Tower)

[http://www.skycityauckland.co.nz/skycity/auckland/sky-tower/sky-tower\\_home.cfm](http://www.skycityauckland.co.nz/skycity/auckland/sky-tower/sky-tower_home.cfm)

The 90 minute tour heads east from the ferry wharf past the container wharves, the beaches of Mission Bay, and Bean Rock Lighthouse to Rangitoto Island where passengers disembark to spend the day climbing the 260m volcanic peak.



**America's Cup Yacht NZL 40**

Mission Bay takes its name from the [Melanesian Mission](#), which was based in the bay.



**North Head - Devonport**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission\\_Bay,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_Bay,_New_Zealand)



**Devonport**

[http://www.newzealandlighthouses.com/bean\\_rock.htm](http://www.newzealandlighthouses.com/bean_rock.htm)

One of only two wave washed lighthouses in New Zealand, (the other [Ponui Passage](#) no longer stands), Bean Rock stands on a

group of rocks opposite North Head at the entrance to Waitemata harbour, Auckland.



**Bean Rock Lighthouse**

The Waitemata harbour was surveyed in 1840 by Lt. P. Fisher aboard the *HMS Herald* with assistance from P. C. D. Bean the master of the vessel, after which Bean Rock is named. The local Maori named the rock "Te Toka a Kapetawa" and the legend is that a chief named Tara marooned his brother-in-law there.

During the 1840's a day marker was erected on the rock, but by the 1867 gold rush a more substantial light was needed. Marine Engineer James Balfour recommended a principal harbour light be erected on Bean Rock and a screw pile light be erected on a sand spit in Ponui Passage.

Designed by engineer James Stewart, construction begun on the Bean Rock lighthouse in 1870. The work was completed in 8 months by Auckland builder William Cameron. The design



was an open framework with a cottage on top. First iron foundations were driven deep into the rock then wooden poles in a hexagonal pattern were erected around a central column. Lastly, thirty feet above the water the hexagonal cottage was built. The cottage featured a wrap around verandah and the roof was corrugated iron. A fifth order lens from London was installed which flashed white, red and green to indicate the safe channels.



**New Luxury Yacht - Auckland**

Hugh Brown the first keeper first lit the light in July, 1871. Mr. Brown, a former crew member of a harbour pilot boat was to stay at the lighthouse for nineteen years until his retirement in 1890 due to ill health.

The keepers families lived in Davenport and transportation to the light was by a small rowing boat.

During 1898-99 major repairs were made to the light.

Bean Rock was the first watched light to lose its resident keeper. In 1912 the light was automated.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rangitoto\\_Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rangitoto_Island)

**Rangitoto Island** is a [volcanic island](#) in the [Hauraki Gulf](#) near [Auckland](#), [New Zealand](#). It is separated from the mainland of Auckland's [North Shore](#) by the [Rangitoto Channel](#). Rangitoto is an iconic landmark of Auckland as its distinctive symmetrical 260 metre (850 feet) high [shield volcano](#) cone is visible from much of the city. It is the most recent and the largest (2311 [hectares](#)) of the approximately 48 volcanoes of the [Auckland Volcanic Field](#).

*Rangitoto* is [Mā ori](#) for 'Bloody Sky',<sup>[1]</sup> with the name coming from the full phrase *Nga Rangi-i-totongia-a Tama-te-kapua* ('The days of the bleeding of Tama-te-kapua'). Tama-te-kapua was the captain of the [Arawa waka](#) (canoe) and was badly wounded on the island, at a (lost) battle with the [Tainui iwi](#) at Islington Bay

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/PlaceProfile.aspx?id=34262>

<http://www.rangitoto.org/>



**Westhaven Marina - Auckland**

The disembarking passengers are warned that there are only two ferries back to Auckland and they must catch one of them.

Heading westward the ferry heads towards Cheltenham Beach and North Head the once fortified entrance to Auckland. Originally built to protect against possible Russian attack in the late 19<sup>th</sup> C the fort was strengthened during WW1 and WW2. The gun emplacements have been preserved. We pass the Heritage listed village of Devonport and the New Zealand Naval Base. Former America' s Cup yachts are sailing on the harbour with loads of tourists. The winds are light! Sailing further west we pass under the Auckland Bridge. Suspended in the structure is a pod from which bungee jumpers leap. Some years ago the bridge was enlarged by building two new lanes each side by attaching them to the sides of the existing pylons.





Dinghies - New Zealand National Maritime Museum - Auckland

## Auckland Harbour Bridge

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auckland\\_Harbour\\_Bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auckland_Harbour_Bridge)

### Construction

#### Background

Prior to construction of the bridge, the quickest way of getting from Auckland to the North Shore was via one of the regular passenger or vehicular ferries. By road,

the shortest route was through [West Auckland](#) via [Riverhead](#) and [Albany](#), a distance of over 40 kilometres.

#### Initial structure



'Nippon clip-ons' Auckland Harbour Bridge

The bridge took four years to build and was opened on May 30, 1959 by Prime Minister [Sidney Holland](#), with four lanes of traffic, two in each direction. Four men were killed during construction, and their names are recorded on a memorial plaque underneath the bridge at the Northcote end.

The bridge started out as a [toll bridge](#), with toll booths for both north and south-bound traffic located at the northern end. Tolls were originally 2/6 (25 cents) per car but were reduced to 2/- (20 cents) after 15 months of operation. Later, tolling was made south-bound only before being finally discontinued on March 30, 1984, and the booths were removed. This was in line with political commitments that tolls would only be charged until the bridge's construction costs were paid off.

### 'Nippon clip-ons'

The bridge was originally built with four lanes for traffic. Owing to the rapid expansion of suburbs on the North Shore and increasing traffic levels it was necessary to increase the capacity of the bridge.

In 1969 two-lane box girder clip-on sections were added to each side, doubling the number of lanes from four to eight. The sections were manufactured by Japanese contractors ([Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.](#)), which led to the nickname 'Nippon clip-ons'. They have an expected lifetime of 50 years.

In 2006, it became public that cracks and signs of [material fatigue](#) had been found in the clip-on lanes. Auckland City Council Transport Committee requested Transit New Zealand to investigate the future of the clip-on lanes as part of its 10-year plan. Transit noted in this context that the plan already includes some funding for bridge maintenance.

In May 2007, Transit New Zealand proposed a bylaw change to restrict trucks over 4.5 tonnes from using the outside lane on each clip-on. This is to reduce stress on the aging structure. This was later changed to a less strict bylaw introduced in July 2007 restricting only vehicles of 13 tonnes or more, based on the high level of voluntary compliance during the previous months.

In 2007, it was announced that NZ\$ 45 million in maintenance work on the clip-on sections was being pulled ahead as part of good practice. However, in October 2007, a 2006 report from [Beca Group](#) surfaced in the press, noting that the clip-ons were at risk of catastrophic, immediate failure in certain circumstances (such as a traffic jam trapping a large number of trucks on them). Transit New Zealand has noted that the situation described was extremely unlikely, and measures already implemented would prevent it from occurring.

Soon after passing under the bridge we turn and head to Westhaven Marina home to 1600 boats of all sizes.

<http://www.westhaven.co.nz/files/default.asp>

Viaduct Harbour was modernized to house the America's Cup Challengers and is home to many large sailing and motor yachts. We cruise amongst them for about 15 minutes before returning to the Ferry Wharf.



**Esplanade Hotel - Devonport**



**Devonport Home**

The next ferry to Devonport is at 12:30 and as the trip takes only 15 minutes I am across the harbour in Devonport. Devonport was one of the earliest European settlements and many of the 19<sup>th</sup> C buildings have been retained. Most of the shops in the main street are Victorian and many are tourist shops.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devonport,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devonport,_New_Zealand)



**Auckland from Mt Victoria**



**Sailing Scow - New Zealand National Maritime Museum - Auckland**





**Victoria Park Markets - Auckland**

Mt Victoria towers above the town and atop it is the site of the signal station that communicated with incoming ships.

I walked along the main street and to the top of the Mt Victoria from where there is a 360° view of Auckland. A walking path

circles the peak and provides a pleasant walk through the trees on the slopes of the peak.



**Viaduct Harbour - Auckland**

After a couple of hours I catch the ferry back to Auckland and visit the New Zealand National Maritime Museum.

There are excellent displays portraying the maritime history of New Zealand from the first Maoris to the achievements of New Zealand yachtsmen. These include a photographic exhibition of yachts of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> C, coastal shipping, fishing, immigration and overseas shipping, and the ferries that plied the islands of NZ.

<http://www.nzmaritime.org/home.html>



**St Matthew in the City - Auckland**

The day is nearly over and I make my way back to the hotel via Viaduct Harbour and the Victoria Park Market. The market was mainly souvenir shops and very quiet; hardly the vibrant place portrayed by the advertisements. This morning we had seen a very large, new yacht in the Viaduct Harbour. This afternoon I see it leave the dock manoeuvring in the constricted harbour with bow and stern thrusters.

Today I have planned a walking day to visit galleries, parks, the museum and some historic colonial houses.



**Art Gallery - Auckland**

A short walk along Wellesley Street to the East is the Auckland Art Gallery. Housed in two galleries, the Main Gallery and the New Gallery. They are both quite small galleries and today they both have their upper floor closed. The Main Gallery is

closing for major renovation and extension on 29<sup>th</sup> February and work has started on the upper floor. The upper floor of the New Gallery is closed for the installation of a new exhibition.

<http://www.aucklandartgallery.govt.nz/default.asp>



**Queen Street - Auckland**

Many of the works are by New Zealand artists and many portray Maori people and villages, particularly the main exhibition in the Main Gallery where the featured exhibition contains works by colonial artists.

Nearby is Albert Park! Atop one of Auckland's many volcanic hills it is a pleasant park near the centre of the city and at the peak is a formal garden surrounding a fountain. Views from here are somewhat obstructed by the city buildings. Rangipuke

is the name for the papakainga (village) that flourished here up until the arrival of the Crown in 1840. It included a defended Pā - Te Horotiu, at the northwestern end of the park.

<http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/places/parks/albertpark.asp>



**Civic Theatre - Auckland**

Continuing eastward I enter the campus of the Auckland University. Here there is a mixture of early colonial buildings, the first I notice is the Clock Building, and architecturally striking new buildings. Clocks are everywhere in Auckland and the Clock Building derives its name from its clock tower. One of the most striking modern buildings is the Business School Building with its sweeping curves of glass.





**West along Wellesley Street -  
Auckland**

Leaving the university campus and crossing the motorway I come to the Auckland Domain. Situated on another of the hills this large area is a montage of gardens, playing fields, and open areas. Near the top of the hill is a Fernery and Wintergarden. Here there is a cool glasshouse with many temperate climate plants and a hot house with tropical plants, trees and palms.

<http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/places/parks/domain.asp>



**Khartoum Place - Auckland**



**Clock Building - University of Auckland**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auckland\\_Domain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auckland_Domain)

The **Auckland Domain** is [Auckland](#)'s oldest [park](#), and at 75 hectares one of the largest in the city. Located in the central suburb of [Grafton](#), the park lies mostly within the crater of the Pukekawa [volcano](#).



**Business School - University of Auckland**

The park is home to one of Auckland's main tourist attractions, the [Auckland War Memorial Museum](#), which sits prominently on the crater rim. Several sports fields occupy the floor of the crater, circling to the south of the cone, while the rim opposite the Museum hosts the cricket pavilion and [Auckland City Hospital](#). The Wintergarden, with two beautiful glass houses, as well as the Duck Ponds lie on the north edge of the cone.

The Auckland Domain volcano, Pukekawa, is around 100,000-150,000 years old, making it one of the oldest in the [Auckland Volcanic Field](#), and in time has been formed into a gently sloped crater ring with a small scoria cone (*Pukekaroa*) in the centre. Its [tuff](#) crater rim, created by at least one major explosion, is

made of a mixture of [scoria](#), [lapilli](#) and original basement rock. At least one small lava flow also flowed out of the crater, into the general area of the Auckland City Hospital to the west.



**Albert Park - Auckland**

Originally, the crater floor was a lake, which later turned into a [swamp](#) and slowly filled up with [alluvium](#) and [sediment](#), before being drained by Europeans for use as playing fields and parkland. These origins are still somewhat visible in that the Duck Ponds are

freshwater-fed from the drainage of the crater.



**Sculpture - Promise Boat - Louise Purvis - Auckland Domain**



**Auckland Domain**

Atop the hill is the Auckland Museum. The museum is unusual as it is also a memorial to Aucklanders who died in wars since the foundation of the city. The ground floor has extensive

displays of Maori and Polynesian cultural material. There are also displays of the lives of the European – the Pakeha – particularly that of the life of children in early Auckland.



**Duck Pond - Auckland Domain**

Level One houses the natural history display, from dinosaurs to modern times. A featured display on volcanoes and one graphically illustrates what will happen to Auckland if a volcano erupts in the harbour between Mission Beach and Rangitoto Island. The viewer is seated inside a living room overlooking the bay and at first listen to a TV presenter interviewing about the rumblings taking place while images of the evacuation of Auckland. A report from a helicopter that steam is rising from the bay heralds the start of the eruption. The room is subjected to sudden violent movements, simulating earthquakes and images of the growing eruption are seen through the window. It is too late to flee. There is soon a violent explosion and a pyroclastic cloud races from the volcano towards the city – then everything goes dark.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyroclastic\\_flow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyroclastic_flow)



**Inside the Cool House - Wintergarden  
- Auckland Domain**

Also situated on Level One is a Children's Discovery Centre where there are many displays of insects and small creatures which children can observe at close quarters. There are other interactive displays to help children understand the world around them. It was a busy place.



**Hot House - Wintergarden - Auckland Domain**



**Outrigger Canoe - Auckland Museum**

The third floor houses a museum to the wars that New Zealand has fought in, from the Anglo – Boer War to United Nations Peace Keeping Missions. At the centre of the building is a Sanctuary and Hall of Memories where the names of those from Auckland who died are recorded.

Two aircraft are on display – a late model Spitfire, similar to those flown by New Zealand pilots in WWII and a Japanese Mitsubishi Zero.

<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/302/spitfire>

Built in late 1945, this Spitfire Mark XVI was not commissioned until 1951, when it saw service with the RAF until 1956. Thus this particular plane didn't fly in the war, and has recorded only 638 flying hours. In 1956 New Zealander Sir Keith Park, commander of No 11 Fighter Group (which defended London and the south of England during the Battle of Britain), arranged for it to be given to Auckland War Memorial Museum to remember the important part it had played in the war. Many New Zealanders piloted Spitfires during the war.

Powered by a Packard Merlin 266 engine (unlike other models powered by Rolls Royce engines); its armament consists of two 20mm cannon and two .5 inch machine guns. Drop tanks and bombs were carried under the wings.

<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/?t=301>

The Zero aeroplane is an iconic World War II object which many Museum visitors come to see. It is displayed in its own gallery that has viewing platforms from which visitors can have a birds-eye-view of the plane.

This Japanese warbird, the Mitsubishi A6M3 Zero-sen 22, was damaged and rebuilt during the last few months of World War II, which ended before it could fly its final mission. The kamikaze

pilot's mission was to crash into the target, causing great damage to the enemy and certain death to himself.

*"In April 1945 falling flowers of cherry trees seemed to symbolise the fate of young pilots".*

Nobuya Kinase

World War II Kamikazi instructor

After nearly 2 hours in the museum it is time to move on to Ayr Street, Parnell, where there are two historic houses. The first is the Kinder House Gallery, the home of Rev. John Kinder who was brought from England to found the Church of England Grammar School for the sons of wealthy residents of Parnell. The house was built in 1857 of local basalt from Rangitoto volcano, unusual at the time as most buildings were of timber.

[http://www.viewauckland.co.nz/kinder\\_house\\_auckland\\_historic\\_building\\_parnell\\_index.html](http://www.viewauckland.co.nz/kinder_house_auckland_historic_building_parnell_index.html)

<http://www.art-newzealand.com/Issues21to30/khouse.htm>  
<http://www.art-newzealand.com/Issues1to40/kinder.htm>

Parnell was the first suburb of Auckland.

<http://www.parnell.net.nz/history/index.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parnell,\\_Auckland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parnell,_Auckland)



**Kinder House - Parnell**



**Ewelme Cottage - Parnell**



**Garden - Ewelme Cottage - Parnell**



**Kinder House - Parnell**

John Kinder's claim to fame was that he was a competent photographer and a passable water colourist. He photographed and painted many scenes of Parnell and Auckland in the 1860s thus providing a pictorial record of the new city.





**Headstone - St Stephens Graveyard - Parnell**

Ewelme Cottage was the home of Vicesimus Lush the 20<sup>th</sup> child in his family who arrived in Auckland in 1850 with his wife and four children to become the first resident vicar of Howick. The house was always in the possession of the Lush family until the Auckland City Council bought it in 1969 so it still contains furniture owned by the family. The extensive garden has an enormous oak tree, planted in 1866.

[http://www.historic.org.nz/places2visit/places2visit\\_auckland.html](http://www.historic.org.nz/places2visit/places2visit_auckland.html)  
<http://www.thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz/history.htm>



**Living Room - Ewelme Cottage - Parnell**



**Auckland Cathedral - Parnell**

Nearby in Parnell Road are St Mary' s Church and the Holy Trinity Cathedral. Bishop Selwyn, the first Bishop of Auckland, chose the site.

St Mary' s is a large timber building and although Bishop Selwyn would have liked a stone church the skills to build such a church were not available and given the incidence of earthquakes in the area it may not have been wise.



**St Stephens Chapel - Parnell**

The modern Holy Trinity Cathedral has a brick gothic chancel but the nave is built in a style similar to a traditional Maori building.

Opposite the cathedral is Bishopcourt the residence built by Bishop Selwyn and still the residence of the Bishop of Auckland.

<http://www.auckanglican.org.nz/?sid=15>

<http://www.holy-trinity.org.nz/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy\\_Trinity\\_Cathedral,\\_Auckland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Trinity_Cathedral,_Auckland)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Augustus\\_Selwyn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Augustus_Selwyn)

An early chapel, St Stephen's Chapel is located beside Judges Bay and so I walk down St Stephen's Lane towards the bay through the very pleasant suburb of Parnell. The original chapel built of scoria and rubble in 1844 for Bishop Selwyn's own use fell down in 1847. The present chapel, of timber, was built at St John's College, Meadowbank in early 1857 and was shipped about 8km to the present site.

Situated on the hillside, surrounded by the graves of early settlers, the view from this tiny chapel must once have been quite beautiful. John Pinder's painting shows it

in open fields. Now the chapel overlooks a busy road and a container terminal.

On the hill on other side of the bay is the Dove-Myer Robinson Park and Parnell Rose Garden. This large garden has many varieties of roses and at the right time would be magnificent. Now it is pretty bedraggled as most of the blooms are finished.

<http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/places/parks/dovemyer.asp>



Homes - Parnell

It is now time to make my way back to the city. Although not the shortest route I choose to follow the original shoreline. Not a particularly interesting walk although I do pass the now abandoned Auckland Railway Station. Finally I come to Queen Street, Auckland City's main street and start my final uphill climb to the hotel.

It is nearly 18:00 when I reach the hotel I left at 09:30 and my feet are very weary.



Roses - Parnell Rose Garden

**Sunday 10 February 2008 - Tour Day 01 - Auckland**

**Day 04**

After pounding pavements for the last two days it is time to use the buses to get about. Bus fares are not cheap but a Day

Tripper ticket at \$7.50 is an economical way to get around.

A free bus service circles the inner city and this morning I make use of it to get to the main bus hub, Britomart. Sunday morning

timetables are rather sparse; fortunately I have only 10 minutes to take me along the east coast to Kelly Tarlton's Antarctic Encounter – Underwater World.





**Interior of Scott's Hut - Kelly Tarlton's - Auckland**



**Penguins at Kelly Tarlton's - Auckland**

Opened in 1987, Antarctic Encounter was built in disused tanks and tunnels under the roadway on the seafront at Orakei by Kelly Tarlton who was a diver who made his fortune salvaging ships sunk around the NZ coast. Unfortunately he died at 47 only a few months after the attraction was opened.



**Glass Tunnel under the water - Kelly Tarlton's - Auckland**



**Stingray - Kelly Tarlton's - Auckland**

The feature display is a simulated Antarctic environment populated with King and Gentoo Penguins. Both populations were sourced from captive colonies. Breeding has been successful and there are so many penguins that it looks like the pictures of real Antarctic penguin colonies. A snow cat ride provides a closer view of the penguins.

Large tanks contain many large fish stingrays and sharks. The transparent tunnel with a moving walkway provides an underwater view of fish, sharks and stingrays swimming around and above the viewers.



**Cruising Shark - Kelly Tarlton's - Auckland**



**Lobster - Kelly Tarlton's - Auckland**

An interesting display is the replica of Scott's Antarctic hut, furnished and set up as it was when Scott set out for the South Pole.

<http://www.kellytarltons.co.nz/aquarium-attraction-sharks-penguins/6/Scott's+Hut.aspx>

Finally, before the inevitable gift shop there are tanks containing large lobsters, seahorses, tiger fish and other exotic fish from the NZ seas.



**Gothic Chancel - Auckland Cathedral - Parnell**

On my way I had spotted a better view of St Stephen's Chapel and asked the bus

driver if there was a bus stop near the spot. There was not, but he said he would drop me off at the spot on the way back.



**Sea Horse - Kelly Tarlton's - Auckland**



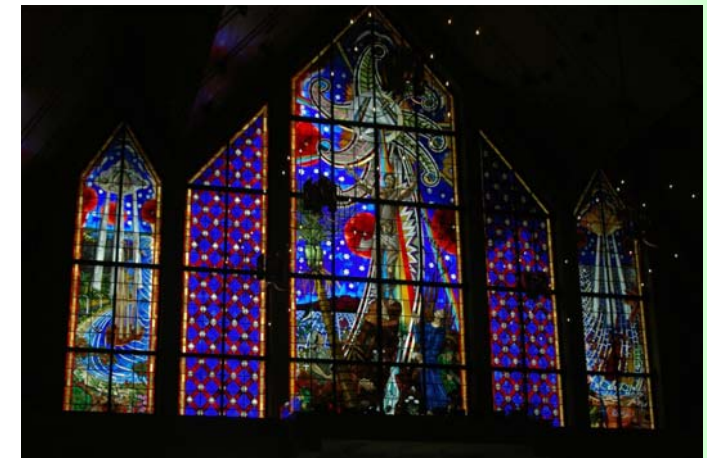
**Stone Fish - Kelly Tarlton's - Auckland**

The spot was near the Parnell baths and a footbridge over the railway line and on my way back to the city I was dropped off there. I got my pictures and then retraced my route of yesterday

along St Stephen's Lane to the Holy Trinity Cathedral to look at the interior of the Cathedral and St Mary's Church.



**St Mary's Church - Parnell**



**Nave Window - Auckland Cathedral - Parnell**

The brick Gothic Chancel was built in the 1950's and the Nave was built in the 1990's. The coupling of the traditional with a modern nave has created a building of great beauty which



seems to bridge European culture and Maori culture. The blending of traditional stained glass windows and the modern windows of the nave contributes to effect. The nave is a bright light space and the altar can be lowered to open the space for concerts and other similar activities.



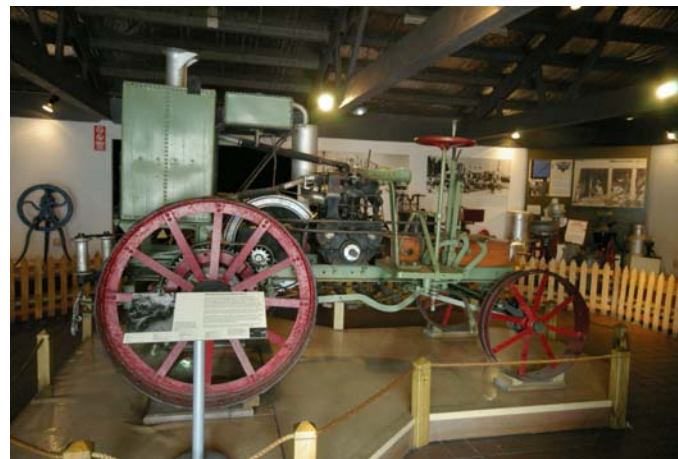
**Windows - St Mary's Church - Parnell**

The first St Mary's Church, which Cathedral replaced as a place of worship, was built in 1860 and enlarged in 1886. The timber gothic building is the largest of its kind and in 1982 was moved

from its original site across the road to its present site alongside the Cathedral. Built of kauri it is a beautiful building with beautiful stained glass building. Having fallen into disuse at its old site it is again used for worship and for wedding as evidenced by the frangipani petals on the floor.



**St Mary's Church - Parnell**



**1910 Saunderson & Gifkins Tractor - MOTAT - Auckland**



**Building a Spitfire - MOTAT - Auckland**



**Pump house Steam Engine - MOTAT - Auckland**

I had had a disaster with exterior photos of the Kinder and Ewelme Cottages so a further short walk took me back to the cottages.

It is now around 13:00 and time to make tracks to MOTAT, the Museum of Transport and Technology, on the other side of town.



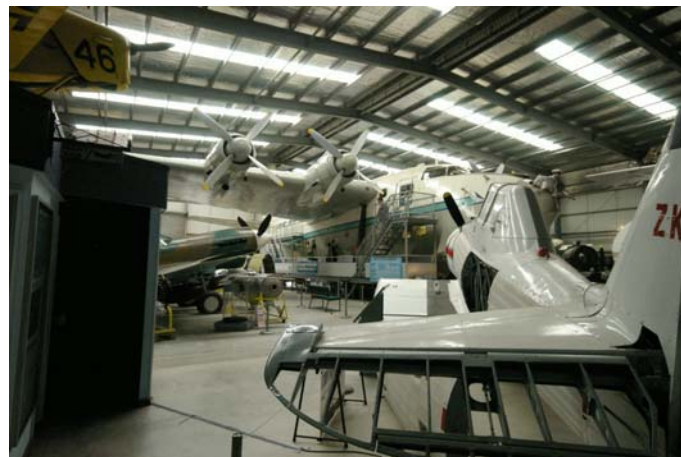
Chancel - St Mary's Church - Parnell

A few minutes wait for the Link bus and I am on my back to Britomart where after another 10 minute wait the bus to MOTAT arrives.

[http://www.motat.org.nz/collections/road\\_transport.htm](http://www.motat.org.nz/collections/road_transport.htm)



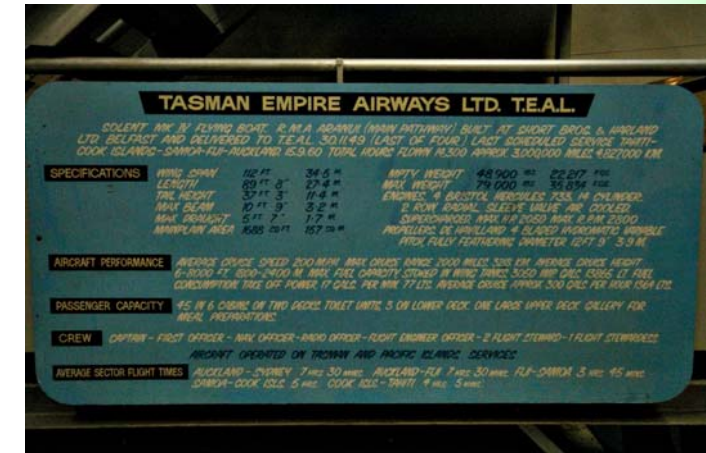
Lancaster Bomber - MOTAT - Auckland



Solent Flying Boat - MOTAT - Auckland

MOTAT is on two sites connected by a tramway. One site is located in the grounds of the old pump house built to pump water from the Western Springs to storages on several of Auckland's volcanic hills to provide reliable water supplies to the city. The original beam engine and pump is being restored and surrounding displays include rail and tram vehicles, early

farming machinery, small school, some early colonial houses and a workshop where an 8/10ths model of a Spitfire is being constructed. The man working on the project plans to build a 9/10ths model powered by a V8 Jaguar engine.



Solent Flying Boat details - MOTAT - Auckland



Sunderland Flying Boat - MOTAT - Auckland





**Beam Pump - Pump house - MOTAT - Auckland**

The other site is about 15 minutes ride on an old tram past the Auckland Zoo. At this site are civil and military aircraft flown New Zealander' s. The main hall is dominated by and Lancaster bomber and a Solent Flying Boat, once flown by Tasman Empire Airlines Limited (TEAL), now New Zealand Airlines.

Outside is a Sunderland Flying Boat and a Hudson bomber awaiting restoration, along with many other historic aircraft.

Although I have not walked so far today it is time to give my feet a break and I return to the bus and a quick ride to a stop next to the hotel.

At 18:00 it is time to meet fellow travellers – 3 men – 10 women. The men will rotate the shares so we will get some nights in a single room.

Our leader after the introductory session takes us off to a nearby restaurant for dinner.



**Historic Tram - MOTAT - Auckland**

## **Monday 11 February 2008 - Tour Day 02 - Auckland**

**Day 05**

This morning is fairly relaxed; in fact the whole day becomes rather relaxed. At 09:30 we head out along Wellesley Street towards the university to catch a bus to Mt Eden. Complete with a deep crater Mt Eden is the highest volcanic cone in Auckland. From the top of the mountain there are 360° panoramic views of Auckland and the Gulf. Although showers

are forecast and it is overcast, it is clear and the views are good.

[http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/places/parks/mteden.a  
sp](http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/places/parks/mteden.asp)

[http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/places/parksonline/det  
ail.asp?pParkId=1355](http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/places/parksonline/detail.asp?pParkId=1355)

It is Richard' s birthday so after we descend from the peak we walk a few blocks to the Mt Eden village for coffee and celebratory cake.

By 12:00 we are ready to return to the city and as most are planning to take ferries to Devonport or Waiheke Island for the afternoon we head straight to the ferry wharf.



**Disappearing Gun - North Head Fort  
- Devonport**

I have decided to visit the Navy Museum in Devonport and walk to North Head to inspect the fortifications there. Terry accompanies me and together we spend about an hour in the small, and very interesting museum where there are displayed photographs and memorabilia of ships and crews that had any association with New Zealand from the time of first settlement to the end of WWII. According to the curator space limits his ability to display many items.

<http://www.navymuseum.mil.nz/history/time/dnb/default.htm>



**Mt Eden Crater - Auckland**



**Auckland from Mt Eden**

After a short walk into town we decide it is time to relax and have a drink before Terry dons his running gear and goes for a run up Mt Victoria and I walk to North Head. Outside the hotel we spot Flavia and Mary and sit down with them and enjoy a

couple of drinks in the balmy atmosphere. After making arrangements for dinner they head back to the ferry and the hotel.



**Victoria Rd - Devonport**



**Waterfront Homes - Devonport**

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/summary.aspx?id=34066>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North\\_Head,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Head,_New_Zealand)





**Cheltenham Beach - Devonport**

The walk to, around and up North Head takes a little longer, about an hour, and by the time I return to the pub Terry has finished his run and changed.

We have time for one drink before heading to catch the 19:45 ferry and heading for the Kermadec Brasserie for

dinner. We arrive only a few minutes before Flavia and Mary.



**North Head Fort - Devonport**

Very nice meal and large serves!

Dinner over, we walk back to the hotel.



**Auckland Harbour Bridge**

## ***Tuesday 12 February 2008 - Tour Day 03 – Auckland to Hahei***

***Day 06***

Departure is scheduled for 09:00 and everybody is ready on time – a good omen for the rest of the trip.

We are soon on our way to the south east of Auckland through heavy morning traffic.

The weather is not looking good and as we skirt the rugged volcanic ranges on our

way to the Coromandel Peninsular on the North East of New Zealand's North Island light rain is falling.

The Coromandel Peninsular was once covered with kauri trees but 60 years of logging from 1870 resulted in most of the trees being cut down. They are very slow growing and now most of the second growth is small.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hahei>

<http://www.hahei.co.nz/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coromandel\\_Peninsula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coromandel_Peninsula)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot\\_Water\\_Beach](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot_Water_Beach)

Sheep and cattle dominate the agriculture of the region.

A barbecue is planned for tonight and our first stop is at a fruit and vegetable stall for supplies. Besides our group there are

several busloads of Asian tourists stocking up on fresh fruit as though they had never seen any before.



**Ferns - Cathedral Cove Track - Hahei**

Next stop is for meat, drink and any thing else people feel they might need for the next few days, and then it is on to the little seaside village of Hahei and our overnight accommodation in cabins at the Hahei Holiday Resort. The resort is beside a long white beach looking out over a host of small limestone islands. The scene is reminiscent of Halong Bay.



**View from Hahei Beach**



**Coast View - Cathedral Cove Track - Hahei**

Although we have had a couple of heavy showers the rain is clearing and we set out for the 2½-hour round trip walk to Cathedral Cove. The walk starts along the beach and then the path climbs up the limestone cliffs and through the rain forest. It

is very humid, nevertheless it a pleasant walk with magnificent views of the bay and huge limestone arch in the headland.



**Rolling Landscape - Cathedral Cove Track - Hahei**



**Beach - Cathedral Cove - Hahei**

On the way back we a caught in a downpour, which soon passes, and it does not take long to dry off.



By the time we walk back there is just enough time for a drink before we head off to catch low tide at Hot Water Beach. Here geothermal activity bubbles hot water through the sand at low tide and it is a popular pastime to dig a pool in the sand and soak in the hot water. Bathers need to be careful, as the water can be very hot and the beach can be unsafe for swimming due to rip currents.

Back to the camp we set about cooking dinner and as the weather has cleared it is a very successful evening.



**Cathedral Cove - Hahei**



**Cathedral Arch - Cathedral Cove - Hahei**



**Limestone Cliff - Cathedral Cove - Hahei**



**Hot Water Beach - Hahei**

**Wednesday 13 February 2008 - Tour Day 04 – Hahei to Lake Rotoiti**

**Day 07**

Today we are heading to Rotoiti near Rotorua, departing at about 09:00 our first stop is Ferry Landing. It was near here

that a major battle between two Maori tribes during which one tribe was defeated and most of the vanquished were taken into slavery.

Our next stop is at Shakespeare's Point overlooking Cooks Bay, Lonely cove and Cooks Beach.



**James Cook Memorial – Shakespeare's Point**

Captain Cook anchored here and named a bluff – Shakespeare's Head. Our driver said he has spent years trying to locate the viewing point and took us to a point on Cook's Beach where he said we could see it. Using your imagination and with a little help a head can be made out.

Tauranga is a fast growing port town on the western Bay of Plenty. It is an export hub for agricultural, coal and forest products. It is also a popular holiday town.



**View from Shakespeare's Point**



**Cooks Beach from Shakespeare's Point**

Nearby is Mt Maunganui towering 232m above the beach and the entrance channel to Tauranga Harbour.

<http://www.mountmaunganui.co.nz/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tauranga>

[http://www.kiwitourism.com/cityoftauranga/area\\_guide.htm](http://www.kiwitourism.com/cityoftauranga/area_guide.htm)



**Mt Maunganui**



**Maunganui Beach**

Our exercise for the day is to climb Mt Maunganui and enjoy the view. It is a steep climb and there is not much shelter from the hot sun. The views from the top are worth the climb – mountains in the distance, endless sea, and the beach and in the harbour the cruise ship, Sapphire Princess.





**Shakespeare's Head**

At 16:45 we take our leave and head to Lake Rotoiti.

On our arrival at Rakeiao Marae on the shores of Lake Rotoiti we are invited into the Marae with a powheri, a formal welcome. Our nominated chief, Richard approaches the entrance to the Marae followed by the women and lastly the men. The formal welcome follows a challenge by the local chief and acceptance by our chief of a token placed on the ground by the local chief. After the challenge (wero)

we are admitted to the Marae and walk to the wharenui where we are formally welcomed.



**Maunganui and Port Tauranga**



**Paraglider - Mt Maunganui**

Entering the wharenui the men sit on the right and the women on the left as the chiefs exchange speeches. On conclusion of

the speeches we enjoy a short cultural presentation, mainly of songs of welcome sung to modern tunes.

<http://www.nzine.co.nz/life/rotoiti.html>

<http://www.worldofmaori.co.nz/maorihouse.htm>



**View from the top - Mt Maunganui**

Rakeiao Marae is a sacred meeting place and home of the Ngati Rongomai people. Although the literal translation of Marae is the flat area in front of the wharenui or meetinghouse, it more often refers to the entire complex of buildings that an extended family group would structure its life around. Meetings, tangi or funerals, weddings, birthdays and other social events all take place in the Marae.

Our host, John, and his family treat us to a 'hangi', a traditional meal cooked in a pit over hot coals.

Although it dark when we finish dinner everyone piles into a couple of cars and heads off to hot soda pools for a dip.



**Lake Rotoiti**



**Welcoming Ceremony - Rakeiao Marae - Lake Rotoiti**



**Our Host - John - Rakeiao Marae - Lake Rotoiti**



**Opening the Hangi Pit - Rakeiao Marae - Lake Rotoiti**



**Dinner - Rakeiao Marae - Lake Rotoiti**



**Mary and Flavia in the Hot Soda Pools - Lake Rotoiti**

We all sleep in together in the wharehau – Maori meetinghouse.





Rakeiao Marae - Lake Rotoiti



Early morning - Lake Rotoiti

This morning after breakfast we are picked up by our transport to Rotorua where later in the day we will catch an InterCity Bus in the afternoon.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotorua>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Rotorua](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Rotorua)  
[http://volcano.und.edu/vwdocs/volc\\_images/australia/new\\_zealand/rotorua.html](http://volcano.und.edu/vwdocs/volc_images/australia/new_zealand/rotorua.html)  
<http://www.newzealand.com/travel/sights-activities/scenic-highlights/lakes/sh-lake-rotorua.cfm>



The Boiling Mud Erupts - Wai-O-Tapu - Rotorua



Champagne Pool - Wai-O-Tapu - Rotorua



Primrose Terrace - Wai-O-Tapu - Rotorua



Falls - Wai-O-Tapu - Rotorua

There are several options for things to do and see and most of us choose the Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland. Our transport to Wai-O-Tapu is the same vehicle and so we stay on the bus.



**Oyster Pool - Wai-O-Tapu - Rotorua**



**Devil's Inkpot - Wai-O-Tapu - Rotorua**



**Sulphur Cave - Wai-O-Tapu - Rotorua**



**Lady Knox Geyser - Wai-O-Tapu - Rotorua**

<http://www.geyserland.co.nz/>  
<http://www.geyserland.co.nz/ladyknox.htm>



**Lake Taupo**

First stop is a thermal mud pool where boiling mud regularly erupts in small geysers.

The Lady Knox geyser erupts everyday at the same time thanks to a little assistance from a ranger who puts 300g of soap into the spout of the geyser to break the surface tension of the hot water. It is a very good to display.



**Mt Tongariro**



The park features hot volcanic pools and craters spewing steam and hot water. The smell of rotten eggs permeates the area. The pools are of many colours due to the minerals dissolved in the very hot water. The park is extensive and the paths between the pools meander through woodlands. On our schedule it was not possible to linger, as we had to get back

into town to catch the 13:15 bus to Taupo for the first stage of our journey to National Park Back Packers in the Tongariro National Park.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/PlaceProfile.aspx?id=38487>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tongariro\\_National\\_Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tongariro_National_Park)

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/421>

<http://www.nationalpark.co.nz/>

As we approach the park the weather is not looking to good for the Tongariro crossing walk. The 8 hour walk climbs to 1800m and we find the forecast for tomorrow threatens low temperatures, high winds, rain and possible snow. There is a general consensus that we should seek alternative activities tomorrow.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/trackandwalk.aspx?id=36028>

<http://nationalpark.co.nz/pages/tongariro-alpine-crossing.php>

## Friday 15 February 2008 - Tour Day 06 - Tongariro National Park

Day 09



**Sun on The Chateau - Whakapapa - Tongariro National Park**

This morning the mountains are shrouded in cloud and there are regular heavy showers. No one has gone to Tongariro crossing this morning and it is fortunate that we have arranged transport to



**Misty Landscape - Tongariro National Park**

Whakapapa so that we can take shorter walks, weather permitting.

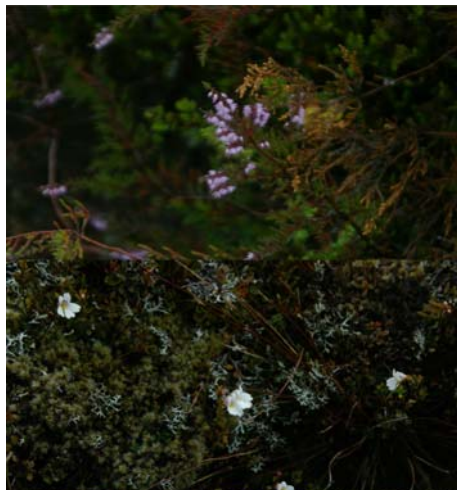
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/trackandwalk.aspx?id=36030>



**Taranaki Falls - Tongariro National Park**

The weather seems to be clearing and five of us start off on the 6km round trip walk to Taranaki Falls. There were a few light showers as we walked through the alpine heath land to the falls. The mist often obscured views but occasionally the clouds cleared and the sun shone on the foothills.

At one point the sun illuminated the Chateau, once a psychiatric hospital, now a luxury hotel.



**Flowers - Taranaki Falls Walk -  
Tongariro National Park**

With the recent heavy rain there is plenty of water over the falls.



**Taranaki Falls - Tongariro National  
Park**

The return trip follows the Wairere Stream and passes through bushland and it is very pleasant walk. We are back at the Department of Conservation centre at about 11:15 so after a quick lunch we have time to make the 2½-hour walk to the Silica Rapids and back.



**Another Cascade - Taranaki Falls  
Walk - Tongariro National Park**

The walk is a steady climb up the valley of a cascading stream through swamp and rain forest emerging eventually onto the sub-alpine tussock country. The Silica Rapids are formed from deposits of alumino-silicate from the volcanic salts dissolved in the hot water.

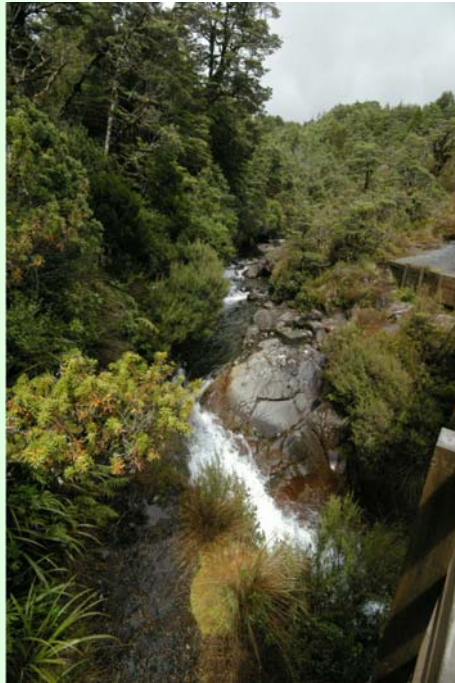


**Forest Path - Taranaki Falls Walk -  
Tongariro National Park**

[http://www.peter-thomson.co.uk/new\\_zealand/silica\\_rapids.html](http://www.peter-thomson.co.uk/new_zealand/silica_rapids.html)

We are back in time to catch our transport back to the hostel at 14:00.





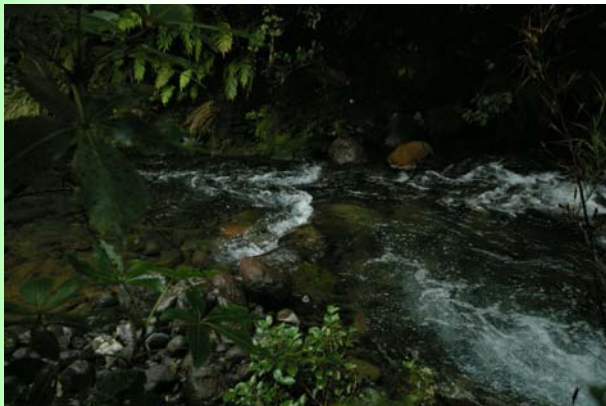
**Cascading Stream - Silica Rapids Walk**



**Crossing the Swamp - Silica Rapids Walk**



**Silica Rapids - Tongariro National Park**



**Cascading Stream - Silica Rapids Walk - Tongariro National Park**



**Tussock Country - Silica Rapids Walk - Tongariro National Park**



**St Johns Anglican Cathedral - Napier**

A fairly early start this morning for the drive back along the shores of Lake Taupo to Taupo and then South East through green valleys and rugged volcanic mountains to Napier and Hastings on the shores of Hawke's Bay.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Taupo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Taupo)  
<http://www.taupomuseum.co.nz/Presentation1.aspx?ID=537>



**Seafront Houses - Napier**



**Older Seafront Houses - Napier**

As it is Napier's annual Art Deco weekend we are unable to stay in Napier and our accommodation at the Omaha Motor Lodge is in Hastings, about 20km from Napier. The

accommodation is very good; its distance from Napier means we are somewhat restricted to shuttle availability and it limits our freedom to explore Napier.



**Former Fire Station, now the home of the Art Deco Trust - Napier**



**Briascos's Bulding - Napier**



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hastings,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hastings,_New_Zealand)

<http://www.napier.govt.nz/>

[http://www.napier.govt.nz/index.php?cid=napier/history/hi\\_gen&mid=308](http://www.napier.govt.nz/index.php?cid=napier/history/hi_gen&mid=308)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napier,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napier,_New_Zealand)

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz/Kids/NZDisasters/Napier.asp>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napier\\_earthquake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napier_earthquake)

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/EarthSeaAndSky/NaturalHazardsAndDisasters/HistoricEarthquakes/7/en>

<http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/Libraries/featureHBearthquake.htm>



**Art Deco Entrance Hall - Napier**

An earthquake and subsequent fires devastated Napier and Hastings in February 1931. Over 200 people died and during the month there were 533 earthquakes.



**Aerobatic display - RNZAF Red Checkers - Napier**

<http://www.airforce.mil.nz/about-us/training-elements/central-flying-school.htm>

A decision was made to rebuild in the then trendy architectural styles of Art Deco and Spanish Mission and Stripped Classical.

[http://www.napier.govt.nz/index.php?cid=napier/art\\_deco/art\\_general&mid=301](http://www.napier.govt.nz/index.php?cid=napier/art_deco/art_general&mid=301)

<http://travel.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=225889>

<http://www.babs.com.au/monlogis/history.htm>



**Criterion Hotel - Napier**



**Art Deco Bank Ceiling with Maori Motifs - Napier**

The design of the new buildings was lead by a small group of architects, who cooperated, and students from the Auckland University School of Architecture. Surprisingly the architects achieved a diversity of designs within the general theme and the city has one of the world' s most extensive collections of Art



Deco buildings featuring the themes common to Art Deco. The architects also included Maori traditional decorations in some buildings.



**Art Deco Interior - Napier**

Once installed in the Motel we are taken into Napier, where the festivities are in full swing. Residents and visitors dressed in the styles of the 1930's parade the streets; over 300 vintage veteran and classic cars and motorbikes are on display.



**Dressed for the Occasion - Napier**



**Dressed for the Occasion - Napier**

In the UK, the official definition is as follows:

Veteran refers to any car built up to and including December 1918.  
Vintage refers to any car built between January 1919 and December 1930.

In the US selected cars built after 1925 are listed as Classic Cars.

<http://www.beaulieu.co.uk/motormuseum/collection.cfm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vintage\\_car](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vintage_car)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classic\\_car](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classic_car)



**Dressed for the Occasion - Napier**

The cruise ship, Queen Victoria, on her maiden voyage, is in port.

Several of us elect to take the guided Art Deco walk conducted by the Art Deco Trust. The walk commences with a short introduction to the earthquake and its aftermath. It takes about 90minutes to stroll through the crowded street viewing the most significant Art Deco building, many of which, have been maintained in almost original condition. All are freshly painted

and the city is bright and fresh with hanging baskets of flowers everywhere.

Meals are somewhat uncertain on this trip and so today I collect food from a supermarket for a barbeque tea tomorrow.

This evening we finally locate an Indian Restaurant where we can dine; finally catching our shuttle back to the Motel at 21:00.

<http://www.artdeconapier.com/>

## Vehicles on Display – Art Deco Weekend – Napier









Before the earthquake on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 1931 Napier and Hastings had been situated on small areas of high ground surrounded by the sea and tidal flats, usually under water. Consequently there was little room to expand the towns except onto the steep hillsides at Napier.



**Our Hostess - Brookfield Winery - Napier**



**Cornfields - Napier**



**Parking Bikes - The Filter Room and Cider Tree Café - Napier**

During the earthquake the earth rose 2m creating large areas of land around and between the two towns. After this land was

drained and salt flushed from the soil the land became prime agricultural land and space for the towns to grow.

Consequently agriculture expanded and there are now many apple, pears and stone fruit orchards, vegetable gardens and vineyards. A flourishing wine industry now exists, producing some of the finest wines in New Zealand.

Today we are going to cycle through the orchards and vineyards and visit some of wineries.

<http://www.hawkesbaywines.com/wineries.asp>



**Tanya - Park Estate Winery - Napier**

The shuttle to take us to the bike hire base arrives about 08:45.



**Brookfield Winery - Napier**



**Dressed for the Art Deco Weekend - Church Road Winery - Napier**

By the time we pick up a couple more people, get ourselves fitted for bikes and helmets it is about 10:00 before we hit the road headed for The Filter Room and Cider Tree Café to sample pear and apple ciders, ginger beer and beers made from fruit. Altogether we sampled about 10 of their wares: about a glass each. Enough to set us up for our next stage: a short ride to Brookfield's Vineyard and Restaurant.

<http://www.thefilterroom.co.nz/home/index.htm>

At Brookfield's we are introduced to their wines by, I think, the owner's wife, Mrs Robertson dressed in her 30's outfit for the Art Deco weekend of which they are sponsors.



**Mission Estate Winery - Napier**

They make some quite nice white wines although I did think them overpriced. Their reds were top-drawer prices and young and seemed again to be overpriced unless they were going to mature into a much smoother wine.

<http://www.tourism.net.nz/new-zealand/attractions/food-and-entertainment/wineries/hawkes-bay/brookfields-vineyards/index.html>

An interesting late picked sauvignon blanc – called Indulgence – was interesting as an after dinner wine. I bought one bottle!



**Mission Estate Winery - Napier**



**Vineyards - Mission Estate Winery - Napier**

The ride to Park Estate Winery is somewhat further; but it is flat country so it is easy riding. I don't bother to taste their wine. They are offering basically the same



thing, mainly whites and I am not that interested. However we do have a pleasant lunch in their garden.

<http://www.parkestate.co.nz/index.php?page=home>

After lunch it is a visit to the Silky Oak Chocolate Factory. Prices were probably what you would expect for quality hand made chocolates and their sample chocolate was very nice.

<http://www.silkyoakchocs.co.nz/>

On to Church Road Winery, more of the same, this time more tourists and others reported the wines to be not as good as those at the earlier wineries.

<http://www.churchroad.co.nz/>

Finally we ride up the steep hill to Mission Estate. The oldest winery in New Zealand it was established by

Marist Brothers in 1851. Although no longer a monastery it appears the Marists still have an interest. It also the site of an annual outdoor concert featuring artists like Shirley Bassey, Rod Stewart and Englebert Humperdink.

<http://www.missionestate.co.nz/>

The ride back to base is all downhill. We have ridden 26km during the day.

## Monday 18 February 2008 - Tour Day 09 – Napier to Wellington

Day 12



**Clock Tower - Hastings**

Our departure this morning was at 07:45 to catch the InterCity bus to Wellington. The bus is scheduled to depart Hastings at 08:15 so we have some time to explore a little of the centre of Hastings before it



**Hastings**

arrives. Art Deco buildings abound and are all well maintained so the centre of town is colourful, clean and bright with hanging baskets of flowers in all the main streets.



**Cable Car - Wellington**

The bus is a few minutes late and it is 08:30 by the time we are ready to depart. This is not an express bus and the 300km trip is scheduled to arrive in Wellington at 13:10. Our route takes us through picturesque valleys flanked by high volcanic mountains.



Towns along the way include Dannevirke and Palmerston North.



**John Plummer - Plummer Steps - Wellington**

Dannevirke has the appearance of having been established by Danes, Norwegians and Swedes in 1872 and is overtly Nordic. It is similar Solvang in Southern California.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dannevirke>  
<http://tararua.net/dannevirke.html>

Palmerston North is the centre of a rich sheep and dairy farming region and the home of Massey University, the largest in New Zealand. Palmerston is in the South Island

<http://www.pncc.govt.nz/City/AboutUs/CityHistory.htm>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palmerston\\_North](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palmerston_North)  
<http://palmerstonnorth.massey.ac.nz/>



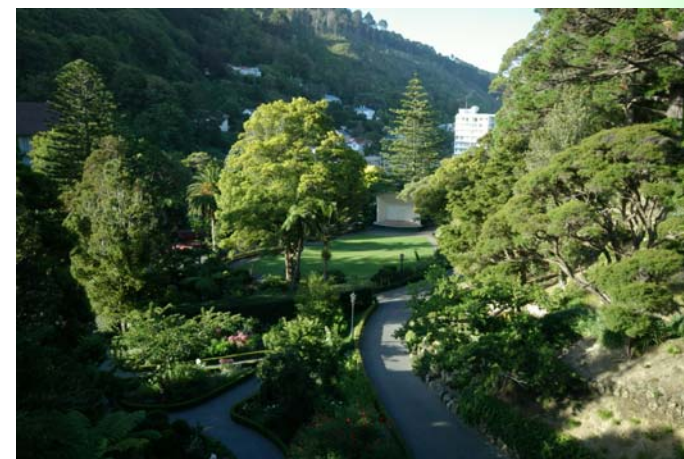
**Wellington**

For some time it has been evident there is a problem with one of the tyres and, finally we have to stop and have it replaced. The delay of nearly 50minutes has several passengers concerned as they have ferry and plane connections to make. Finally we arrive at the Wellington Railway Station. Due to the delay our shuttle to the hotel is not there and we have to wait further. It is not until 15:00 that we reach the hotel to find all the rooms are not ready. Terry and I are sharing and our room is not ready until nearly 16:00. It has been a long day to travel 300km!

It is too late to do much before our city walk at 17:30 so I spend the time preparing the group spreadsheet.

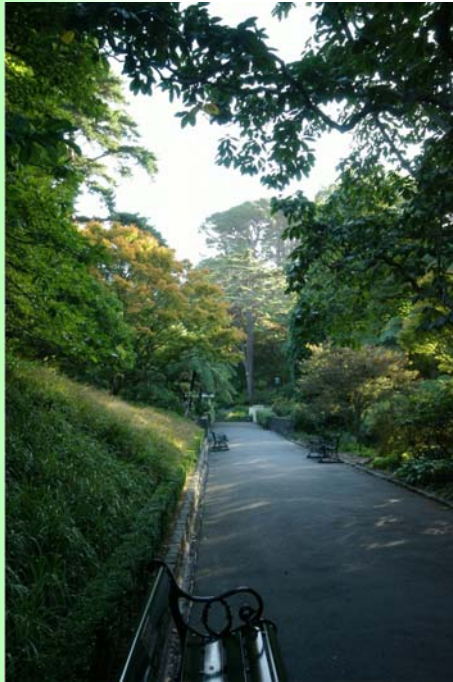


**Walking in the Botanical Gardens - Wellington**



**Botanical Gardens - Wellington**





**Botanical Gardens - Wellington**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellington>

In 1865, Wellington became the capital of New Zealand, replacing [Auckland](#), where [William Hobson](#) had established his capital in 1841. Parliament first sat in Wellington on 7 July 1862, but the city did not become the official capital for some time. In November 1863 the Premier [Alfred Domett](#) moved a resolution before Parliament (in Auckland) that "... it has become necessary that the seat of government.. should be transferred to

some suitable locality in Cook Strait." Apparently there was concern that the southern regions, where the gold fields were located, would form a separate colony. Commissioners from Australia (chosen for their neutral status) pronounced the opinion that Wellington was suitable because of its harbour and central location. Parliament officially sat in Wellington for the first time on 26 July 1865. The population of Wellington was then 4,900.

<http://www.wellingtonnz.com/AboutWellington/>

[http://www.wellingtonnz.com/sights\\_activities/wellington\\_cable\\_car](http://www.wellingtonnz.com/sights_activities/wellington_cable_car)

[http://www.wellingtonnz.com/sights\\_activities/wellington\\_botanic\\_garden](http://www.wellingtonnz.com/sights_activities/wellington_botanic_garden)



**Botanical Gardens - Wellington**



**Rose Garden - Botanical Gardens - Wellington**



**Peace Garden - Botanical Gardens - Wellington**

John Plumber (1812-1905)

John Plummer arrived in Wellington on the ' Gertrude' on 31 October 1841.



During his long residence on these Steps which bear the Plummer name, he was active in many facets of Wellington's commercial and political life.

He developed Plummer's Warehouse, a retailing business built on the base of the salvaged barque 'Inconstant'. Known as 'Noah's Ark', it sat opposite this site, when the waterfront still lapped the edge of Lambton Quay.

A strong promoter of the rail link between Wellington and the Manawatu: Plummerton township on that line was named after him.

In his final years he was honoured as 'Father of Wellington' by the citizens of the city to which he had devoted his life. He was often seen on Lambton Quay walking his dog 'Fritz'.

Unveiled August 1996

Jo has planned a walking tour through her favorite city. From our hotel at the southern end of town we walk along Willis Street and Lambton Quay to the cable car station and catch the cable car to the lookout overlooking Wellington and Mt

Victoria in the distance. From the lookout we wander through the Botanical Gardens historic Bolton Street Cemetery where Wellington's pioneers are buried to The Beehive and Parliament House.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellington\\_Botanic\\_Garden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellington_Botanic_Garden)  
<http://friendswbgo.org.nz/>



**1876 Government Building - Wellington**

Opposite Beehive and Parliament house is the 1876 Government Building, one of the world's largest wooden buildings. The building has been beautifully restored and is the home of the Law Faculty of Victoria University.

[www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/wellington/govt-buildings.pdf](http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/wellington/govt-buildings.pdf)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Zealand\\_Parliament\\_Buildings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand_Parliament_Buildings)  
<http://www.historic.org.nz/Register/ListingDetail.asp?RID=37&sm=advanced>



**Downtown Wellington**



**Queen's Wharf - Wellington**

We now turn southward and walk along Queens Wharf and Frank Kitts Park past Len Lye's Water Whirler to Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand. This museum is renowned for its exhibitions and I plan to visit it tomorrow. The water whirler creates an ever changing fountain that twists and turns.



**The 'Beehive' - Wellington**

[http://www.wellingtonwaterfront.co.nz/development/Frank\\_kitts\\_park/index.htm](http://www.wellingtonwaterfront.co.nz/development/Frank_kitts_park/index.htm)

## Len Lye's Water Whirler

Len Lye was a world renowned New Zealand sculptor and film maker. He died in 1980 leaving behind a raft of design concepts and sketches for kinetic works that there wasn't the technology at the time to build. The Len Lye Foundation was established after his death with the aim of making these designs a reality in the future, as technology allowed.

In March 2006 his Water Whirler design was built and installed on a specially designed pier off Frank Kitts Park by an engineer from the Len Lye Foundation.

The Water Whirler has captivated waterfront visitors as it bends and twirls, in a crazily choreographed dance, creating artistic designs out of millions of droplets of water.

[More about the Water Whirler](#)

It is now only a short walk to Blair Street and an excellent Chinese restaurant for dinner.

By the time we finish dinner and walk back to the hotel it is time for bed.



**Kitchen - Monsoon Poon Restaurant - Wellington**

**Tuesday 19 February 2008 - Tour Day 10 - Wellington**

**Day 13**

Today is a free day and I have planned a day which I hope will allow me to see the major attractions in Wellington.

Te Papa is undoubtedly the must see place. Renowned for both its architecture

and exhibitions it is the first stop on my schedule.

Opened in 1998, the Museum dominates the waterfront. Six floors of displays include New Zealand's natural history, settlement by Maori and Europeans, their art and culture, Agriculture and Industry in New Zealand, and a contemporary

art gallery. Outdoors there is a small area of bushland recreating the original flora of the Wellington area.

After over 3½ hours in Te Papa it was time to think about a bite for lunch and moving on. Unfortunately some original glassware in the Museum Shop distracted me. It is a policy of the museum



shops in NZ to stock and promote local artists and the work on sale is very beautiful.

<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/TePapa/English/>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museum\\_of\\_New\\_Zealand\\_Te\\_Papa\\_Tongarewa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museum_of_New_Zealand_Te_Papa_Tongarewa)



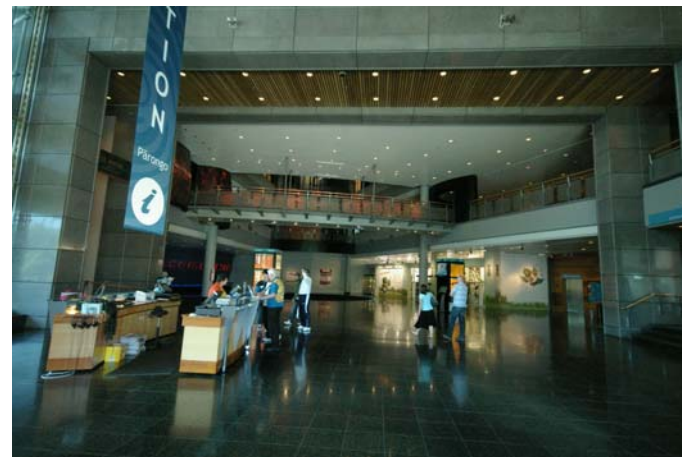
**St John's Presbyterian Church - Wellington**

One piece caught my attention and I decided think about it and set off for the Parliament Building. Arriving there at

about 14:40 I was in time for the introductory talk before the tour. The Beehive and the Parliamentary Library flank parliament House. Each has its unique architectural style.



**The Opera House - Wellington**



**Entrance to Te Papa - Wellington**



**Lambton Harbour - Wellington**



**Maori Meeting House - Te Papa - Wellington**

The Beehive is a modern building properly called the Executive Building, nicknamed The Beehive because of its shape; the Parliament House is a Modern Classical building typical of many public buildings of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> C. The Library is a neogothic building built in 1899. Fire has ravaged the library twice and the Parliament once.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beehive\\_\(building\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beehive_(building))

<http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/HstBldgs/History/>

<http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/HstBldgs/Buildings/>



**Hikitia - The last floating crane of its type working in New Zealand and one of few still operating anywhere in the world - Wellington**

Recent renovations have included innovative earthquake protection by reconstructing the foundations and

supporting the buildings on isolation pads to prevent earthquake shocks from damaging the buildings.



**Corrugated Iron Kingswood - Te Papa - Wellington**



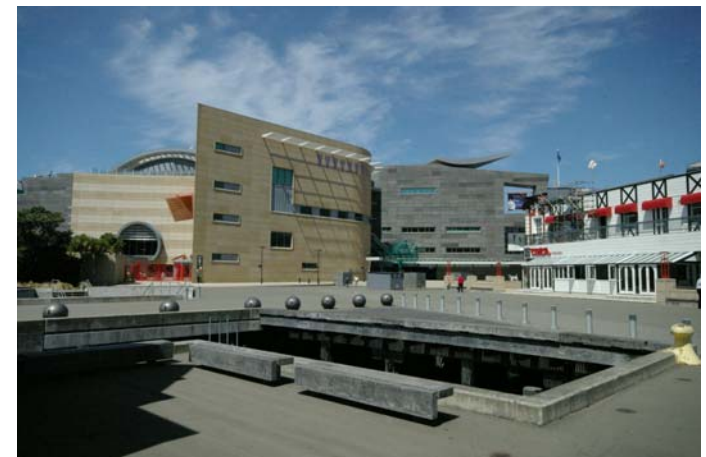
**Harbour Front - Wellington**

<http://www.britten.co.nz/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Britten](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Britten)



**Britten Motorcycle - Te Papa - Wellington**



**Te Papa - Wellington**

[http://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/contexts/earthquakes/nz\\_research/strengthening\\_parliament\\_house](http://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/contexts/earthquakes/nz_research/strengthening_parliament_house)

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/EarthSeaAndSky/NaturalHazardsAndDisasters/Earthquakes/4/en>

<http://www.bioneural.net/2007/01/12/base-isolators-and-earthquake-preparedness/>





**Wellington Cathedral**

Wellington Cathedral is just across the road; a modern gothic building it is rather stark from the outside but inside it is light and airy with many beautiful windows.

By contrast the white wooden exterior of Old St Paul's hides a beautiful warm timber English Gothic Church with beautiful old stained glass window.

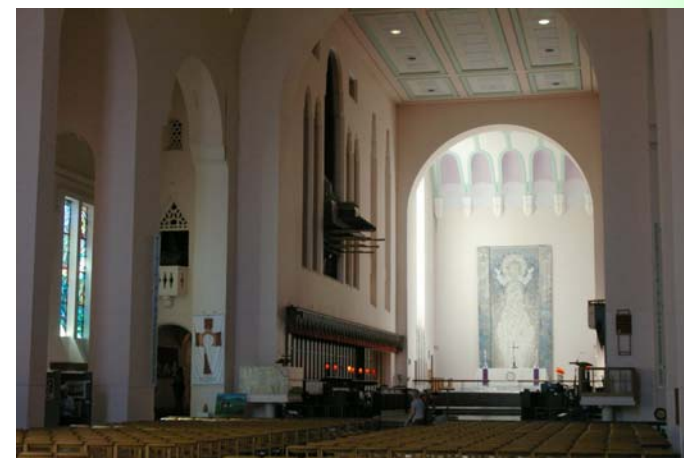


**Parliament House - Wellington**



**Parliamentary Library - Wellington**

<http://cathedral.wellington.net.nz/index.php/Welcome>  
[http://www.wellingtonnz.com/sights\\_activities/old\\_st\\_pauls](http://www.wellingtonnz.com/sights_activities/old_st_pauls)  
[http://www.wellingtonnz.com/sights\\_activities/wellington\\_cathedral\\_saint\\_paul](http://www.wellingtonnz.com/sights_activities/wellington_cathedral_saint_paul)  
<http://www.historic.org.nz/OldStPauls/indexOSP.html>



**Wellington Cathedral**



**Dragon Boats - St Kitts Park - Wellington**

Time is now running out, I want to get back long the harbour to the Museum of Wellington and the Sea.

<http://www.museumofwellington.co.nz/>



**Window - Wellington Cathedral**



**Old St Paul's - Wellington**



**Interior - Old St Paul's - Wellington**



**Len Lye's Water Whirler - St Kitts Park - Wellington**

This small museum, housed in the former Wellington Harbour Trust Building has an intriguing collection of memorabilia from Wellington's past and its connection with the sea. I did not have enough time to take it all in properly. Nevertheless it was worth the effort to get there.

In a lagoon in Frank Kitts Park rowers and Dragon Boat crews are practicing. I watch them for a while before returning to the Te Papa Shop. I have decided to buy the glass platter I had admired earlier. It will be shipped. It is too large and fragile to carry for the rest of the trip.

Returning to the hotel around 18:00 I find a note from Terry indicating he has gone for a run and plans to eat at Molly Malone's Pub and watch some cricket. A good idea! It is about 19:00 when we get there. A pint of stout followed by a steak sandwich and another pint rounds off a good day.





Bar on board the Ferry



Wellington

An early morning start this morning to catch the 08:30 ferry across Cook Strait. The strait is subject to unpredictable tidal flows and bad weather. However today it is a smooth crossing and after about 2 hours we enter the Marlborough Sounds and cruise for another

hour through the rugged and green mountains to the small town of Picton on Queen Charlotte Sound. The little town is the gateway to the South Island.

[http://wikitravel.org/en/Picton\\_\(New\\_Zealand\)](http://wikitravel.org/en/Picton_(New_Zealand))

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen\\_Charlotte\\_Sound,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Charlotte_Sound,_New_Zealand)



Queen Charlotte Sound



Ferry Heading to Wellington



Queen Charlotte Sound



Picton

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlborough\\_Sounds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlborough_Sounds)



**Picton**



**Picton**

We have only about 45 minutes to get some lunch and supplies for our stay at backpacker accommodation at Portage and take a quick look at the town. It is a very pretty town with gardens along the waterfront, yachts and ships in the harbour and high, green hills all around.

We travel by water taxi to Torea Bay, a 10 to 15 minutes ride, where we are picked up by the Portage Resort

shuttle to take us over the ridge to Portage on the shores of Kenepuru Sound.

<http://www.portage.co.nz/Splash>



**Main Street - Picton**



**Interislander Ferry -**

There are some nice walks in the surrounding bush, but, as my feet are still aching from pounding pavement yesterday I decide to settle down in a shady spot in the

cool breeze and work on the diary that has become a little behind.



**Portage - Kenepuru Sound**



**Kenepuru Sound**

It is a relaxing place but we are not going to have much time to enjoy it.

The resort is new and generally very good. Unfortunately the management has decided to squeeze a double bunk



and a bed into a room designed for a double bunk and it is very cramped. The women are better off in rooms with

2 double bunks where they have enough room to put their packs.

# New Zealand – South Island

Thursday 21 February 2008 - Tour Day 12 – Portage to Kaikoura

Day 15



Morning Light - Kenepuru Sound



Jetty - Torea Bay



Portage - Kenepuru Sound



Jellyfish - Jetty - Torea Bay

A very leisurely morning today as our water taxi back to Picton departs at 11:00 and as the train to Kaikoura is scheduled to depart Picton at 13:00 we have a little time

to grab some lunch before our luggage is loaded on the train.

The train leaves on time and we are warned that due to current high temperatures causing track buckling and track work the train will be delayed.



Water Taxi - Torea Bay

The train crawled along through the mountains that have been cleared for grazing, past beaches and the solar evaporation ponds at Lake Grassmere for salt production from seawater. Near the Clarence River there are New Zealand fur seals on the beach.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Grassmere](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Grassmere)





**Holiday Homes - Queen Charlotte Sound**

<http://www.newzealand.com/travel/sights-activities/scenic-highlights/lakes/scenic-highlight-details.cfm/businessid/68711/searchcontext/0.html>

The pink to purple colour of the crystallisation ponds is caused by natural microscopic green algae that change to pink in the high salt concentration. The same phenomena gives the Red Sea its name. There are also small pink shrimps in the water that thrive in this salty environment.

Other salt works in the world are generally much closer to the equator, but Marlborough's abundance of warm north-westerly winds, long hours of sunshine and low summer rainfall provide the evaporation needed to extract salt from the sea at this latitude.

The train finally arrives at about 16:10, 40 minutes late.

<http://www.kaikoura.co.nz/>



**Lake Grassmere**

The shuttle from the Dusky Lodge is waiting for us and after two trips we are all in the Lodge.

There are many activities available in Kaikoura and there is a frantic scramble to confirm bookings for tomorrow morning.

I have booked for Whale Watching and it is confirmed so I go for a walk with the others.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaikoura\\_District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaikoura_District)

<http://www.whalewatch.co.nz/index.asp>



**Beach - Kaikoura**



**Mountain Views - Kaikoura**

Kaikoura was once a whaling town. It is now a tourist town depending for its income on the tourists who come to watch whales, seals, dolphins and albatross.



**Wandering Albatross - Kaikoura**



**Whalewatch Boat - Kaikoura**



**There he blows - Kaikoura**



**Sperm Whale about to dive - Kaikoura**

I am booked on the 07:15 Whale Watching Tour. However as I am early and there is one place left on the 06:45 I am able to join the earlier tour.

A short bus ride takes us to South Bay where Whale Watch Kaikoura have their boats docked, 18m catamarans powered by 2, 750hp engines, they are capable of 30knots.



**South Bay - Kaikoura**



**Shag on a Rock - Kaikoura**



It does not take long to load passengers on the boat and head out to the edge of the continental shelf and the Kaikoura Canyon where the water is up to 1600m deep. It is in these deep waters that the male sperm whales feed on squid and fish at depths of 600m.



**South Bay - Kaikoura**



**Bird rookery - Kaikoura Cliff Top Walk**

[http://www.janesoceania.com/newzealand\\_kaikoura/index.htm](http://www.janesoceania.com/newzealand_kaikoura/index.htm)

<http://www.nzgeographic.co.nz/articles.php?ID=126>

[http://www.kaikourawhalewatching.com/whale\\_watching\\_kaikoura\\_new\\_zealand.php](http://www.kaikourawhalewatching.com/whale_watching_kaikoura_new_zealand.php)



**Coastline - Kaikoura Cliff Top Walk**



**New Zealand Fur Seal - Point Kean - Kaikoura**

The captain uses a hydrophone to listen for whales and soon locates one nearby. We now have to wait till it

surfaces but we are able to follow its movements with the aid of the hydrophone. After about 5 minutes a large sperm whale surfaces fairly close to the boat and the captain positions the boat so everyone can see. It remains on the surface for quite some time reoxygenating its muscles and blood before diving with a spectacular display of its tail.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm\\_whale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperm_whale)

We all resume our seats as the captain heads off at high speed, searching for another whale. We are fortunate to locate two more whales and a Wandering Albatross. The Wandering Albatross has the largest wingspan of any living bird, with the average wingspan being 3.1metres (10.2ft).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wandering\\_Albatross](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wandering_Albatross)

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/finder/display.cfm?id=78>

We fail to locate any of the small rare Hector's dolphins that frequent these waters.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hector's\\_Dolphin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hector's_Dolphin)

<http://www.whale-web.com/dolphins/hector.html>

Having joined the earliest tour I am back at South Bay at 09:30, plenty of time to walk back to town along the cliff top track.

The views of the coast are very good and as it is overcast it is very pleasant walking through the open fields on the cliff tops. At Point Kean there is a New Zealand fur seal colony. There are a few seals and many more tourists on the rocks.



**Fyffe House - Kaikoura**

The New Zealand fur seal, *Arctocephalus forsteri*, like all fur "seals" is actually a sea lion (Family Otariidae), and is considered rare in New Zealand.

<http://marinebio.org/species.asp?id=308>

<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/threatened/seal.html>

I continue my walk to the town along the road passing the site of the old whaling station and Fyffe House, the home of one of the prominent whalers.



**Jetty - Kaikoura**

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/1966/W/WhalingInNewZealandWaters17911963/WhalingInNewZealandWaters17911963/en>  
<http://www.teara.govt.nz/EarthSeaAndSky/HarvestingTheSea/Whaling/en>

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/EarthSeaAndSky/HarvestingTheSea/Whaling/2/ENZ-Resources/Standard/5/en>

It is midday when I reach the town centre.

After a bite to eat I return to the Hostel for a rest before we catch the train to Christchurch.



**On the Beach - Kaikoura**

**Saturday 23 February 2008 - Tour Day 14 - Christchurch**

**Day 17**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christchurch,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christchurch,_New_Zealand)

## Christchurch

Today we have the opportunity to explore some of this most English city of New Zealand cities.

<http://www.christchurch.org.nz/About/>

## History

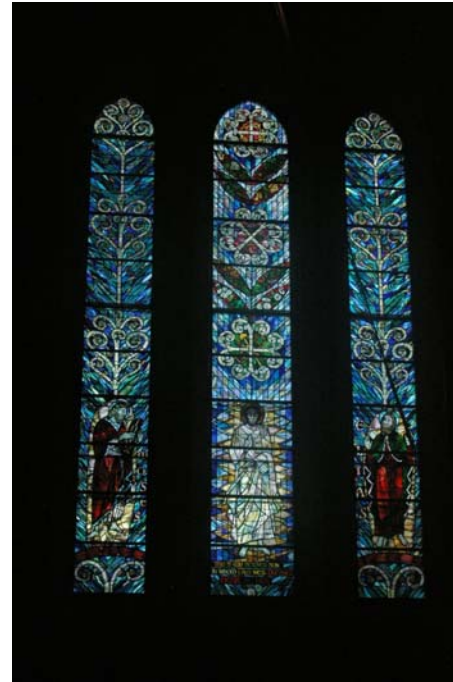




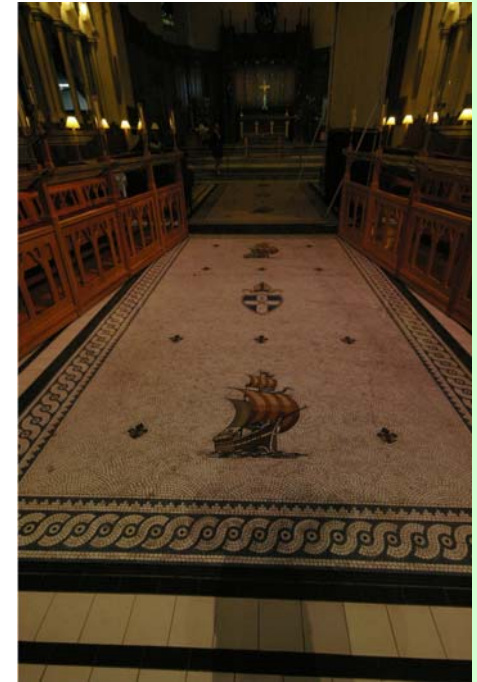
**Carpet of Flowers - Christchurch Cathedral**



**Carpet of Flowers - Christchurch Cathedral**



**Windows - Christchurch Cathedral**



**Mosaic Floor - Christchurch Cathedral**

Maori oral history suggests that people first inhabited the Canterbury area about a thousand years ago.

These first inhabitants were moa-hunting tribes and these were followed by the Waitaha who are thought to have migrated from the east coast of the North Island in the 16th century. This migration was joined by the Ngati Mamoe and Ngai Tahu and continued until about 1830.

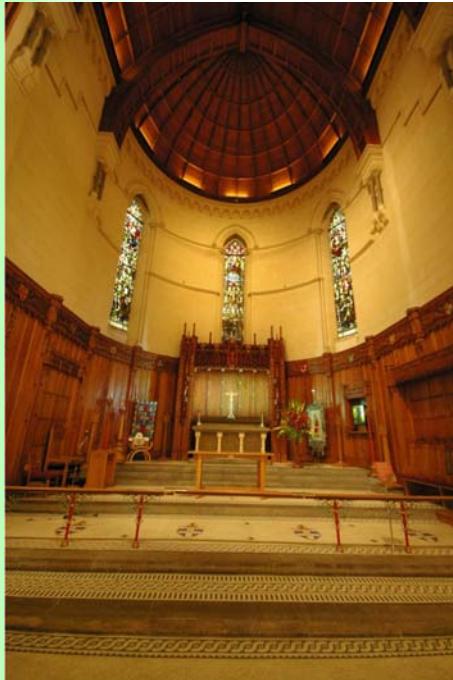


**Christchurch Cathedral**



**Market - Cathedral Square - Christchurch**





**Christchurch Cathedral**

The first European landed in Canterbury in 1815, 45 years after Captain James Cook sighted what he named "Banks Island", later found to be a peninsula.

In 1840 the first Europeans settled on the plains and whaling ships were operating out of Lyttelton by 1850.

During 1850-1851 the first organised groups of English settlers, the founders of Christchurch, arrived on the 'first four ships' into Lyttelton Harbour.

Christchurch became a city by Royal Charter on July 31, 1856, making it officially the oldest established city in New Zealand.

In 1893 New Zealand women achieved a first in the world when they won the right to vote. This significant event was honoured in 1993 when the Kate Sheppard memorial, a commemoration to [Women's Suffrage](#) was unveiled on 19th September 1993.

Canterbury's economy was built on primary products and Canterbury has long been recognised as living "off the sheep's back". Although its economic beginnings were in refrigerated sheep and dairy meats and in other dairy products, Canterbury now has a diversified regional economy with growth across a range of "new economy" sectors



**Art Gallery - Christchurch**

We are fortunate also to be in Christchurch for the Festival of Flowers in Christchurch Cathedral so I make this my first stop.

The aisle of the cathedral is carpeted with a beautiful display of flowers and in the side aisles are displays created by various groups of florists. The cathedral is a beautiful Gothic building with a magnificent wooden ceiling. Tile murals adorn the walls and there are also very impressive stained glass windows.



**Street Performers - Arts Precinct - Christchurch**



**Canterbury College - Arts Precinct - Christchurch**



The tower was closed to visitors. I don't know why.



**Chalice - Cathedral Square - Christchurch**

<http://www.christchurchcathedral.co.nz/>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christchurch\\_Cathedral](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christchurch_Cathedral)  
<http://www.festivalofflowers.co.nz/>  
<http://www.nzlive.com/nzlivecom/morning-has-broken-cathedral-floral-carpet-and-activities>

<http://www.nzlive.com/en/nzlivecom/festival-of-flowers>

The Christchurch Cathedral Floral Carpet and Decoration premier event is presented by Floral Art Canterbury and Floral Art North Canterbury, the carpet designed by Jan Leaper will be titled "Praise for the Sweetness of the Wet Garden".

Suzanne and I were fortunate to have been in Arundel, England, in 2000 when a similar festival was being held in the Catholic Church.

In the centre of Cathedral Square is a sculpture by Neil Dawson called the 'Metal Chalice'. It is decorated with cutouts of New Zealand Motifs.

[www.cs.org.nz/files/cs%20arts%20july%202006.pdf](http://www.cs.org.nz/files/cs%20arts%20july%202006.pdf)



**Canterbury College - Arts Precinct - Christchurch**



**Vintage Tram - Christchurch**

Besides the Festival Flowers there is a market in Cathedral Square.

Worcester Street from Cathedral Square to the Botanic Gardens is the Cultural Centre of Christchurch. The street is also part of the route for the historic tram that circles the city, so, from time to time old trams trundle past.

Strolling along Worcester Street I pass the memorial to Robert Scott, the Antarctic Adventurer, and cross the bridge across the Avon River. The Avon is a narrow shallow stream with people able to punt and canoe on it.

<http://www.south-pole.com/p0000089.htm>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Falcon\\_Scott](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Falcon_Scott)  
<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/scott.htm>





**Robert Falcon Scott - Christchurch**

Saturday in this part of Christchurch is very civilized with locals and tourist wandering in out of the markets and souvenir shops or just sitting in the outdoor cafes.

Christchurch Art Gallery was opened in 2003. It is modern building with sweeping curved glass panel exterior walls. I arrive just as a guided tour is about to start and so I join the hour-long tour of a very interesting collection of early and contemporary New Zealand artists and

international artists. The gallery is spacious and viewing is very easy.

<http://www.christchurchartgallery.org.nz/>

<http://www.christchurchartgallery.org.nz/Building/>



**Peacock Fountain - Botanic Gardens - Christchurch**



**Begonias - Botanic Gardens - Christchurch**



**Poisonous Plants - Botanic Gardens - Christchurch**



**Dahlias - Botanic Gardens - Christchurch**

Next stop is the Cultural and Arts Precinct and the Arts Centre in the Gothic Revival Buildings of the old Canterbury College, later University of Canterbury. The style has been retained throughout the campus and reminds one much older universities in England and Ireland.



<http://www.culturalprecinct.co.nz/>

The buildings house shops selling New Zealand products and arts and crafts. Most seem to be of good quality, unlike some I have seen in souvenir shops.



**Window - Great Hall - Canterbury College - Arts Precinct - Christchurch**

The Canterbury Museum at the end of Worcester Street is also housed in a Gothic Revival building. There is the now familiar display of Maori history and culture. There is an interesting display of

buildings brought back from Cape Hallett base in Antarctica when it was cleaned up and abandoned.

<http://www.canterburymuseum.com/>

<http://www.scottbase50years.co.nz/history/hallett/info.htm>



**Japanese Temple Bell - Botanic Gardens - Christchurch**



**Punting on the Avon - Christchurch**



**Street Artist - Christchurch**

The display of typical shops at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> C are very good as are collections of furniture and fine pottery in use at the time of settlement.

The displays are fairly traditional and lack the vigor of Te Papa.

Next door is the Botanic Gardens. These extensive gardens have many large mature trees, massive dahlia and rose gardens and a display of beautiful begonias in one of the glass houses.

<http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/Features/botgardens/ChristchurchBG/ChristchurchBG.htm>

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Parks/BotanicGardens/infosheets.asp>

A featured display of poisonous plants is set in 'graveyard' with audio descriptions of the toxicity of some common plants such as uncooked potato.

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/Places/Canterbury/CanterburyPlaces/8/ENZ-Resources/Standard/7/en>

<http://www.christchurchartgallery.org.nz/Publications/1997/PublicArtInChristchurch/PeacockFountain/>

## The Peacock fountain

The Peacock fountain is one of the glories of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Dating from 1911, it was the result of a bequest by prominent Christchurch businessman and politician John Peacock. It is a fine example of Edwardian ornamental cast ironwork. By 1949 the internal pipes had deteriorated and

the fountain was removed. In 1996 restoration began, and it was officially reopened in 1997.

Wandering back I have time to spend some time exploring some of the arts and craft shops.

Some of the woodworkers produce some very good pieces.



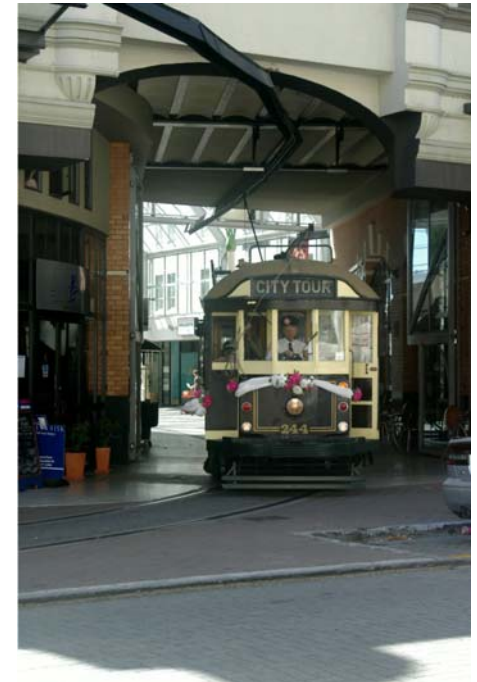
Canterbury Museum - Christchurch



Christchurch Cathedral



War Memorial - Cathedral Square - Christchurch



Vintage Tram emerging from Covered Arcade - Christchurch



An early departure, 06:50, from the Hotel  
So to walk two blocks to the InterCity Bus  
stop!

We leave Christchurch and head south  
across the Canterbury plains, one of the  
driest and flattest areas of the country  
where the landscape is a patchwork of  
farmland, crops, dairy farms and grazing  
sheep.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canterbury,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canterbury,_New_Zealand)

<http://www.ecotours.co.nz/Brian/wildlife/kaikoura/canterbury.htm>

The area is extensively irrigated,  
especially to grow pasture for cows. The  
water for irrigation is obtained from the  
Rakaia River. Recent low rainfall has  
caused concerns and reductions in  
production; one could only wish that 9  
weeks were as long as a drought lasted in  
Australia.

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/1966/R/RakaiaRiver/en>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rakaia\\_River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rakaia_River)



**Carefully Manicured Wind Breaks**

Throughout New Zealand the farm windbreaks are carefully  
pruned to form neat dense hedges. Several varieties of trees  
are used.

A controversial scheme has been proposed to increase  
irrigation in the region,

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central\\_Plains\\_Water](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Plains_Water)

To the west are the ragged Southern Alps, the range of  
mountains that forms the backbone of the South Island of New  
Zealand.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern\\_Alps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Alps)

[http://www.natureandco.com/land\\_and\\_wildlife/landforms/mountainains/sthn-alps.php3](http://www.natureandco.com/land_and_wildlife/landforms/mountainains/sthn-alps.php3)



**Rolling Farmland**



**First view of Southern Alps**

Our first stop is at Geraldine, an attractive rural town, where we stock up on supplies for the next 2 days at Mt Cook.

<http://www.southisland.org.nz/geraldine.asp>

After 40 minutes at Geraldine we continue on into the foothills of the Southern Alps and our next stop at Lake Tekapo. We have crossed into Mackenzie Country, named after the legendary James 'Jock' Mackenzie who's said to have run his stolen sheep around 1843 in this uninhabited region.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Mackenzie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Mackenzie)

Crossing Burkes Pass, 708m, we get our first views of the snow-capped mountains.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkes\\_Pass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkes_Pass)

Before we reach the township at Lake Tekapo we stop at the historic Church of the Good Shepherd on the banks of the lake to take photos of the church, the lake and a bronze statue of kelpie dog. The statue of the dog acknowledges the role of

kelpie sheep dogs in the development of sheep farming in NZ.



**Memorial to Sheep Dogs - Lake Tekapo**



**Church of the Good shepherd - Lake Tekapo**

The diminutive Church of the Good Shepherd is often used as a wedding chapel by Japanese couples. Built in 1935 it was the first church built in the Mackenzie Basin.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackenzie\\_Basin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackenzie_Basin)



**Lake Tekapo**



**Mt Cook from Lake Pukaki**

Lake Tekapo is a very deep volcanic crater filled with water from melting snowfields. The water is transferred to large storage lakes for hydroelectric power generation.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Tekapo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Tekapo)

Tekapo is a regular stop and an opportunity for a pie for lunch.



**View - Governors Walk - Mt Cook Village**

It is about 45 minutes drive to Mt Cook village and we get our first clear views of the mountain as we skirt the shores of Lake Pukaki. We are fortunate the summit is clear of clouds and bright sunshine lights up the snow.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Pukaki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Pukaki)

The lake is an upper part of the [Waitaki hydroelectric scheme](#), and there are several dams and canals near its outflow, linking it with lakes Tekapo and [Ruataniwha](#). The lake has been raised twice to increase storage capacity, submerging Five Pound Note Island, which once appeared on New Zealand's five pound note. The current lake has an operating range of 13.8 m (the level within which it can be artificially raised or lowered), giving it an energy storage capacity of 1,600 GWh. Along with Lake Tekapo's 770 GWh storage, it provides over half New Zealand's hydroelectricity storage capacity



**View - Governors Walk - Mt Cook Village**

There are strong winds and clouds are building to the west and the flight I hoped to take today is cancelled. With a bit of luck tomorrow will be better but current forecasts indicate rain and strong winds tonight.

I can only wait and see.

The spectacular Aoraki or Mt Cook stands at 3754m (Aoraki means 'Cloud Piercer' to the Maori) and today it is living up to its name. This afternoon the weather is closing in and clouds are scudding in front of the mountain occasionally clearing and exposing the sunlit mountaintop.

There are numerous alpine walks in the area.

<http://www.mtcooknz.com/>

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/PlaceProfile.aspx?id=38406>



**View - Governors Walk - Mt Cook Village**

During the afternoon some are taking the boat trip to the Tasman Glacier, the rest of us choose to go walking. Governor's track is a short walk through the forest that climbs quite high on mountainside. It takes about an hour and as it is still quite early three of us set off to Kea Point lookout.



**Mt Cook - Late Afternoon**



**The Hermitage - Mt Cook**

This is a fairly easy walk, except for the very strong headwind, through the glacial fan of the Mueller Glacier to the moraine and a moderate climb to the viewpoint overlooking the lake, the moraines of the rock littered Mueller Glacier. The height of the moraine indicates the glacier was once a mighty one. The return

with the following wind is very easy. The round trip walk is about 2 hours.



**Mueller Glacier**

## **Monday 25 February 2008 - Tour Day 16 - Mt Cook**

**Day 19**

It has been raining heavily overnight and this morning visibility is a few hundred metres as rainsqualls come down the valley.

Flying today is off; maybe 08:30 tomorrow.

As the morning progresses the weather gradually clears and between breaks in

the clouds new snow can be seen on the mountain. By 10:00 it looks as though it will soon be fine enough for a walk and 5 of us plan to leave about 11:00, or whenever the laundry is finished, to walk to Hooker Lake.

On a good day the walk to Hooker Lake takes about 2 hours. Today the strong head winds and stops for photos mean we take almost 2½ to reach the lake.

As we are mostly walking up the valley of the Hooker River it is fairly easy going apart from patches of stony riverbed and occasional climbs up the lateral moraine. There are two swing bridges to cross and both were being buffeted by the strong winds making crossing a little exciting.

As the weather clears a huge cap of cloud develops and remains over the top of Mt Cook. Not quite obscuring the



summit it gives the impression of a huge domed mountain high above us.



**Climbers Memorial - Mt Cook**

Near the first swing bridge is a lookout over looking the Mueller Glacier and Lake and now we can see the ice, covered with rock and the icebergs that have broken away.

After the first swing bridge there are more views of the Mueller Glacier and Lake and now the height of the lateral moraines is clear again.



**Cloud Dome on Mt Cook**



**Valley View - Hooker Lake Walk**

Just before the second swing bridge the path traverses a narrow ledge along a cliff face. A secure safety rail ensures walkers don' t fall off into the raging, near freezing, river below. However signs warn there is a danger of falling rocks and walkers should not stop. I don' t know what you do if a rock

does fall even if you are walking – running was out of the question.



**First Bridge - Hooker Lake Walk**



**Hooker Lake Walk**

Despite the occasional flurries of light rain and gusts of strong winds it is an enjoyable walk with the surrounding mountains towering over us.

Finally three of us reach Hooker Lake, two have turned back as their shoes are unsuitable for the rough and sometimes wet track.



**Bridge Maintenance - First Bridge - Hooker Lake Walk**



**Second Bridge - Hooker Lake Walk**

Here there is a howling, freezing gale, blowing down the glacier and the valley. We shelter behind a huge boulder for a bite to eat.



**First Sight of Hooker Lake**



**Rock Slide - Hooker Lake**

The glaciers are unlike any I have seen elsewhere. The shingly nature of the mountain rock means that in the summer loose stones are falling continuously onto the surface of the moving ice and so, like growth rings in a tree, the alternating cycles of summer and winter can be seen in the alternating layers of clean ice and stony ice in the face of the glacier.

Large icebergs are beached in the lake. A small one is moving rapidly towards the rapids at the end of the lake, but the strong winds drive it ashore and it does not go down the river.



**Discharge from Hooker Lake**



**Icebergs - Hooker Lake**

Photos taken and lunch eaten we turn our backs on the wind and head back to the village. Soon after 16:00 we are back in the warmth at the hostel.



We have been self-catering here and at around 18:30 I prepare my dinner, a piece of steak and vegetables.

After dinner a few retire to the pub for a drink before bed.

The hostel has been very nice and although the men have more room than at Portage, the women are five in a six-bunk dorm and it is very crowded. Bunks might be fine for backpackers, but most of us expect to be sleeping no more than two to a room on beds if it is possible.



**Hooker Glacier**



**Hooker River Valley**

**Tuesday 26 February 2008 - Tour Day 17 – Mt Cook to Queenstown**

**Day 20**



**Ferguson Tractor used on South Pole Expedition -  
Sir Edmund Hillary Museum - Mt Cook**

We have a leisurely departure this morning and so have time to visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Museum and the Hermitage Resort Hotel.



**Early Transport to the Hermitage Resort Hotel -  
Mt Cook**

<http://www.hermitage.co.nz/accommodation/hillary-museum/>

<http://www.hermitage.co.nz/accommodation/>



**Early Sightseeing Plane - Mt Cook**

The small museum has a display of memorabilia from Hillary' s and other Mt Cook climbers and a 3D film of the mountains and snowfields. Photos from Hillary' s expeditions to Mt Everest and a tractor from his

expedition to the South Pole are also on display. One of the early planes to take tourists on flight over the mountains hangs from the ceiling.

It is a very interesting, small museum.



**Morning Sun on the Mountain - Mt Cook**



**Us - Mt Cook in the Background**

Our bus arrives at 10:05 to take us to Twizel where we will catch another bus to Queenstown.

On the way we stop for photos of Mt Cook, free of cloud and bathed in the morning sun.



**Lake Pukaki**



**Morning Sun on Mt Cook**

Twizel was built to house construction workers for nearby hydroelectric projects and was meant to be temporary but as often happens people wanted to

remain and the town remains albeit with a much reduced population, once 6000, now 1000.

<http://www.twizel.com/information.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twizel>



**Lindis River Gorge**



**Shotover Street - Queenstown**

Our connecting bus is late so we have to stand around for a while.



We have connected with a regular service so we make a couple of stops for passengers as we make our way south through valleys of sheep and grapes, the Lindis Pass (971m) and through the deep Lindis River gorge, reaching Queenstown at about 15:30.



**Fountain - Queenstown**

Before we head out to explore the town Jo holds a meeting to confirm the arrangements for the next few days.

<http://www.queenstown-nz.co.nz/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queenstown,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queenstown,_New_Zealand)  
<http://www.zqn.co.nz/history.asp>



**Port - Queenstown**



**The Mall - Queenstown**

Situated on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown was once the centre of gold mining. Now it is the adventure capital of New Zealand surviving almost entirely on the tourists. The town

is pretty, clean and views from the top station of the Skyline Gondola are spectacular.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Wakatipu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Wakatipu)  
<http://www.skyline.co.nz/index.cfm>



**Lake Wakatipu from Gondola Top Station - Queenstown**



**The Remarkables from Gondola Top Station - Queenstown**

If you are not interested in bungy jumping, parachuting, jet boating, canyoning and white water rafting, there are more sedate pastimes such as walking, canoeing and kayaking, cruising on a steamer, and wine tasting.

By the end of our stay in Queenstown someone in the group will have tried one or more of these activities



**The Mall at Night - Queenstown**

**Wednesday 27 February 2008 - Tour Day 18 - Queenstown**

**Day 21**



**Sunrise - Queenstown**

A very leisurely start this morning and Glynn and I are not being picked up for the Dart River Funyak Safari until 09:45.



**Mist Shrouded Mountains - Dart River**

<http://www.dartriver.co.nz/dartriver/>

It is overcast with occasional showers so it does not look like being a brilliant day when we are picked up just before 10:00.



**Jet Boat Wake - Dart River**

After we have picked up some other passengers we head to Glenorchy at the top of Lake Wakatipu, about 50km away.



Overcast sky and light rain produce rainbows spanning the lake and seem to follow us along the road.

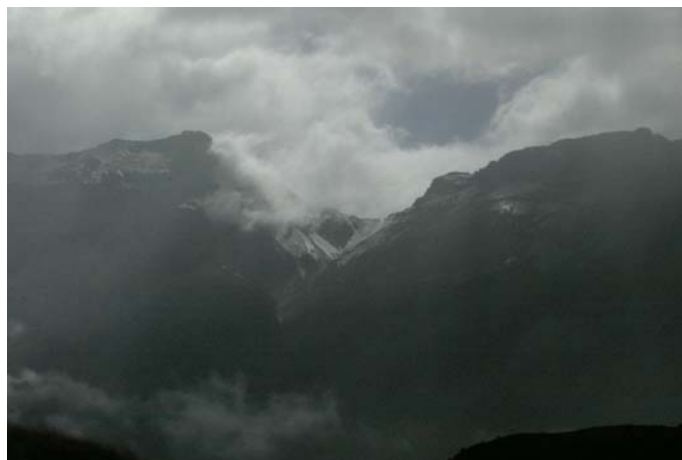


**Waterfall - Dart River**

At Glenorchy we are briefed on the trip and fitted with wetsuits, wet boots, fleece tops, spray jackets and buoyancy vests.

When we are all changed we get back in the bus for a short drive to the jetty to start our trip in a jet boat up the braided and in places very shallow Dart River.

With 12 passengers on board we set off for an hour and a quarter of exciting jet boating at speeds of up to 70kmph on the winding, narrow Dart River channels.



**Dark Snowed Capped Mountains - Dart River**



**Preparing Funyaks - Dart River**

The scenery is awe inspiring as we race past high cloud and sometime snow covered mountains. At this speed raindrops feel

like freezing hail as they strike ones face. From time to time the driver executes a 360° turn and brings the boat to a halt in a flurry of spray. This can only be done where the river is more than a metre deep. At speed and planing the boats only need about 150mm depth of water.



**Lunching - Dart River**

We travel a little beyond where we will stop to prepare our inflatable kayakers, funyaks, and have lunch before we paddle downstream to Paradise where we will pack the funyaks and return by bus to Glenorchy.

The sandwich lunch was very good. After lunch our guides provided basic instruction on handling the funyaks and we set off to paddle and drift along in the moderately fast flowing river. This proves a fairly leisurely activity with a few small rapids to negotiate. We stop at Rockburn Chasm where we first have to pull our funyaks a short way upstream before we can paddle about 100m into the chasm.



**Forest - Lunch Stop - Dart River**

When we have done this and taken a few photos we set off again down river to Paradise, named after the Paradise Ducks that frequent the area. Here we wash out, deflate and pack the funyacks for the return to Glenorchy. The country around here has been used for locations for a

number of films and these are pointed out as we drive back.

<http://www.nzbirds.com/birds/putangi.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradise\\_Shelduck](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paradise_Shelduck)

It is about 18:30 by the time we are back at the motel after an enjoyable and not too strenuous day on the river.



**Dart River**

We have invited everyone to join us for a drink on our balcony at 19:30 so Glynn and I have to cook and eat our dinner quickly if we are to be ready.

Mary and Flavia have gone out to dinner but everyone else joins us for a fun evening overlooking the lake.



**Rockburn Gorge - Dart River**

**Thursday 28 February 2008 - Tour Day 19 - Queenstown**

**Day 22**

This morning at 08:30 I set out with Susanne and Glynn to walk to the observation point on Queenstown hill. We

have no idea how long this will take and as Glynn and I

have a Wine Tour booked for 12:30 we do not intend to get to the summit at 907m above sea level.



The walk takes us through the town and then up through new housing developments on the slopes of the hill. There are some very expensive houses being built on the steep slopes. They have good views of the lake and the Remarkables Range on the other side of the lake.



**Early Sun on The Remarkables**



**Colourful, Poisonous Fungus on Queenstown Hill**

The mountains were allegedly named The Remarkables because they are one of only two mountain ranges in the world which run directly north to south. An alternate explanation for the name given by locals is that early Queenstown settlers, upon seeing the mountain range during sunset one evening, named them the Remarkables to describe the sight.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Remarkables,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Remarkables,_New_Zealand)

Following signs we come to the start of the trail and start climbing. The steepness of the track is misleading as we wend our way up through the trees until we come to the 'Time Trail' where there is a series of signs with brief notes about the history of Queenstown since the Maori first visited the region. The forest is mainly Douglas Fir and Radiata Pine but there is also a sprinkling of the native beech trees and other plants.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/trackandwalk.aspx?id=36531>

[http://www.nzine.co.nz/features/qt\\_s.html](http://www.nzine.co.nz/features/qt_s.html)

## **Time Walk On Queenstown Hill**

*Dorothy - 10/11/00*



**Frankton from Queenstown Hill**



**Colourful Berries - Queenstown Hill**

I walked up Queenstown Hill many years ago and enjoyed the views that opened up when we went beyond the exotic forest into an open tussocky area. This year the walk holds further interest as panels on the uphill side of the loop walk portray what has happened to the Queenstown area over time.

At present you enter the walk near the corner of Kent Street and Edgar Street, but subdivisions for housing are being opened up in this area, so the access point may soon be higher on the hill.



**South Arm - Lake Wakitipu**

## **Panels tell the story of Queenstown**

You pass through a beautifully designed wrought iron gate depicting symbols of the local area.

You soon reach the first panel which depicts some of what early Maori found in the area - the tikumu (daisy), pounamu (greenstone), haramaea (the plant known as wild Spaniard), and the moa (the tall bird which is now extinct). The Waitaha were the first tribe in the Queenstown area, and are thought to have been there from around 1100 AD. In the 1500s they were joined by the Ngati Mamoe, and these tribes integrated with the Ngai Tahu about 1600 AD.

The second panel describes how coastal tribes came on seasonal trips for food, trapping birds and catching eels. The native pigeon is depicted on this panel. Because of its weight and its slow flight it was fairly easily caught. Queenstown Hill was once known as TE TAPU NUI - which means 'very sacred' - a place of great significance to Maori.

Pastoralism and Gold is the heading of the third panel.

First came the owners of large tracts of land, building homes and intending to stay. William Rees's homestead, which he called The Camp, became the site of the town of Queenstown. Then came the discovery of gold in 1862 and a huge increase in population. By 1863 there were twenty six hotels in the area and a hospital had been built at Frankton. In 1866 Queenstown became a municipality and the Queenstown Gardens were established.

Panel four deals with transportation.

In 1878 the railway line from Invercargill to Kingston was opened. Previously the Cobb and Co coaches had taken several days to travel from Dunedin to Queenstown. Now the journey could be taken by rail and took only thirteen hours. Steamers first operated on Lake Wakatipu in 1880. In 1912 the SS *Earnslaw* began to ply the lake and you still can take a trip on this [historic steamer](#). In 1915 motorised transport was allowed into

the town. In 1936 the road from Kingston to Queenstown was opened and the aerodrome was built in Frankton.



**Cave - Gibbston Valley Wines**

Tourism follows naturally as the theme for Panel five.

In 1939 the Coronet Peak skifield began operation. The tourism which was developing rather slowly at first was given a boost when the Government gave free holidays to Returned Servicemen after the war. In 1962 the [road to Glenorchy](#) was opened. The 1970s saw the building of large hotels. 1988 was the date of the first bungy jumping at the Kawarau River Bridge. 1995 brought the first direct international flights to the airport at Frankton.

## **The Time Walk demands only average fitness.**

The panels on the walk uphill offer natural places to pause, read and reflect. The walk is well graded and presents no problems for people of average fitness, but



it climbs steadily and for most people the excuse to pause will be welcome, especially on a hot day.

## Trees on the hill.

The trees on the walk, mainly Douglas fir, provide shade for most of the uphill section of the Time Walk. In addition to the fir trees there are rowan, macrocarpa, eucalyptus and larch, and some native plants such as hard fern, matagouri, tussock, manuka, coprosma, and dracophyllum (the grass tree).



**Entrance - Peregrine Wines**

After nearly two hours walking we reach an observation point over looking the Frankton Arm of Lake Wakatipu. Until now the path has been well groomed and although it has been a steady climb it has been easy walking. Now the path is rougher and after another 10 to 15 minutes climbing we reach the observation point. We are now at about the same elevation as the top station of the

gondola on the opposite hill. Views in all directions are terrific. The TSS Earnslaw, the last of the steamers to ply the lake, looks like a model on the lake below.

<http://www.nzmaritime.co.nz/earnslaw.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TSS\\_Earnslaw](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TSS_Earnslaw)

The TSS Earnslaw was designed and built in Dunedin, NZ, in 1911. She was assembled in the builders yard to see if all the parts fitted together. After this, all parts were railed to Kingston where the *Earnslaw* was erected on the lake shore

We have climbed about 500m from the surface of Lake Wakitipu (elevation 310m).



**'Basket of Dreams' - Queenstown Hill**

'The Basket of Dreams', a metal sculpture by Caroline Robinson commemorates the Millennium. The inscription on the plaque reads;

**The Basket's spiral of steel**

**follows you**

**inward**

**to reflect**

**to draw inspiration from the mountains, lake and from**

**those who are with you,**

**outward**

**to dream**

**for the future.**

**Time flies, eternity waits.**



**Stage - Peregrine Wines**

The summit is not far above us but the map suggests it is still a fair walk to the top and Glynn and I decide we should start down if we are to be sure we will make the tour on time. Susanne decides to continue to the top.

It is only going down that we realize how steep the path has been. On the steep, stony path, we both take it

carefully. When we reach the main path the going is better but I still need to take it carefully.

Soon after we reach the streets we look back to see Susanne coming down behind us and so we wait for her. It has taken her only 12 minutes to reach the top. Later when we examine the map we conclude the summit was further on but not much higher.

Back in town we grab a FergBurger, Queenstown's famous burger, for lunch.

<http://www.fergburger.com/fullscreen.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fergburger>

We are joined by Mary for the Wine Tour departing from 'The Station' at 12:30 to visit four of the local wineries

and taste their wines. The wineries visited were Gibbston Valley Wines, Peregrine Wines, Waitiri Creek Wines and Amisfield Winery.

<http://www.gvwines.co.nz/>

<http://www.peregrinewines.co.nz/>

<http://www.waitiricreek.co.nz/>

<http://www.amisfield.co.nz/>

Lunch was available at Gibbston and as Glynn and I had already had something to eat we chose to share a cheese platter.

Mary and I thought the wines; both red and white were better than those we had tasted at Hawke's Bay.

We ended the day with a beer in Pog Mahones Irish Pub by the wharf.

We again hosted drinks on the balcony outside our room after dinner.



**Café and Tasting Room - Waitiri Creek Wines**

## **Friday 29 February 2008 - Tour Day 20 – Queenstown to Te Anau – Doubtful Sound**

**Day 23**

A change of plan today! Originally we were to leave Queenstown at 10:30 for Te Anau. However we have all decided we want to visit Doubtful Sounds as well as Milford Sound so we are up early to catch the bus to Te Anau at 07:00.

<http://www.fiordland.org.nz/Explore-Fiordland/Places-to-visit/Te-Anau.asp>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Te\\_Anau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Te_Anau)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Te\\_Anau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Te_Anau)

Te Anau is on the eastern shore of [Lake Te Anau](#) in [Fiordland](#). Lake Te Anau is the largest lake in the South Island and second only within New Zealand to [Lake Taupo](#).

Rain is forecast for the whole of South Island for the next four days. Although it is not raining when we leave Queenstown we

soon run into rain as we head west toward the coastal ranges through broad valleys largely populated by sheep and cattle. It is raining steadily by the time we reach Te Anau.

Te Anau is the base for tours to Doubtful and Milford Sounds and after we dump our bags in storage at our motel we head to the 'Realjourneys' office to catch a transfer to Manapouri to catch a boat that will take us across Lake Manapouri to the Manapouri Power Station at the western end of the lake.



<http://www.fiordland.org.nz/Explore-Fiordland/Places-to-visit/Manapouri.asp>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Manapouri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Manapouri)  
<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~bobm/manapouri/Manapouri.html>



**Waterfall Crashing into Lake Manapouri**

Both Sounds lie within the Fiordland National Park

<http://www.doubtful-sound.com/Fiordland/default.asp>  
<http://www.fiordland.org.nz/Explore-Fiordland/Places-to-visit/Fiordland-National-Park.asp>  
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/PlaceProfile.aspx?id=38468>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiordland\\_National\\_Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiordland_National_Park)



**Manapouri Wharf - Lake Manapouri**



**Lake Manapouri**



**Lake Manapouri**



**Water Cascading down Mountainsides - Lake Manapouri**

We have a short visit to the station driving 170m deep into the mountain through a 2km winding tunnel. The station generates power Tiwai Point Aluminium Smelter on the South Coast and produces up to 800MW of power, roughly 15% of New Zealand's power production.

Water from the power station discharges into Doubtful Sounds.

<http://www.travellink.co.nz/media/page.asp?UID=66>

<http://www.meridianenergy.co.nz/AboutUs/PowerStations/Manapouri/>

<http://www.meridianenergy.co.nz/AboutUs/PowerStations/Manapouri/Power+station/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manapouri\\_Power\\_Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manapouri_Power_Station)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Save\\_Manapouri\\_Campaign](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Save_Manapouri_Campaign)

[http://www.chiefengineer.org/content/content\\_display.cfm/seqnumber\\_content/2245.htm](http://www.chiefengineer.org/content/content_display.cfm/seqnumber_content/2245.htm)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiwai\\_Point\\_Aluminium\\_Smelter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiwai_Point_Aluminium_Smelter)

<http://www.comalco.com/localcommunities/295.asp>

It is still raining and water is gushing in huge waterfalls of the mountainsides. Annual rainfall here is about 2m per year.

We continue our journey by bus over the Wilmot Pass through cool temperate rainforest to Deep Cove on Doubtful Sound. Here the annual rainfall is 3-4m per year and it rains on about 250 days of the year. It is certainly raining today and there are waterfalls everywhere.



**Turbine Room - Manapouri Power Station**

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23253930-5014073,00.html>

The Wilmot Pass Road was the most expensive road built in NZ, Gillan tells us, created to take heavy equipment for the Lake Manapouri power station from the wharf at the head of Doubtful Sound. The 22km road cost \$2 a centimetre to build.

Not only did the road builders have to hack a track through thick forest and cross a 670m pass, but there was the problem of rain. The southwest coast is one of the wettest land masses on the planet, with an average annual rainfall of 700cm. Several times along the road we pass waterfalls that explode from the hillside like broken water mains.



**Access Tunnel - Manapouri Power Station**



**Waterfalls - Doubtful Sound**

Doubtful Sound was named 'Doubtful Harbour' by [Captain Cook](#), who did not enter the inlet as he was uncertain whether it was navigable under sail. It was later renamed Doubtful Sound by whalers and sealers.

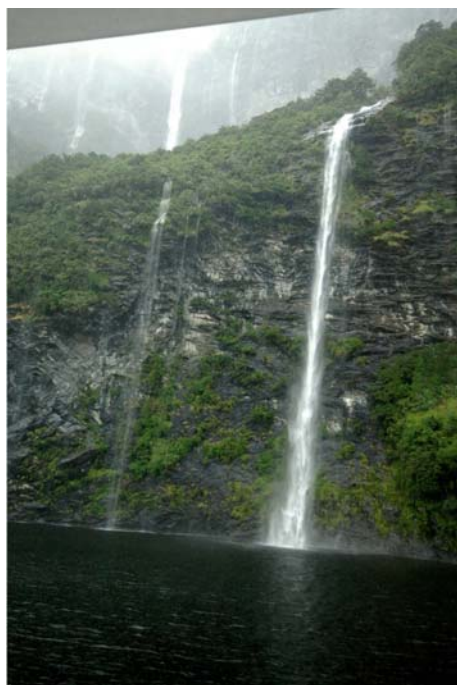
<http://www.travellink.co.nz/media/category.asp?UID=117>



<http://www.fiordland.org.nz/Explore-Fiordland/Places-to-visit/Doubtful-Sound.asp>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doubtful\\_Sound](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doubtful_Sound)

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23253930-5014073,00.html>



**More Waterfalls - Doubtful Sound**

At Deep Cove we board a Catamaran and head out into the sound surrounded by cloud covered mountains and thundering waterfalls. We travel about 40km to the entrance to the sound where there is a

New Zealand fur seal colony and thousands of sooty shearwaters.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sooty\\_Shearwater](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sooty_Shearwater)



**Mist - Doubtful Sound**



**Fur Seals - Doubtful Sound**



**Sooty Shearwaters - Doubtful Sound**



**Bottle Nosed Dolphins - Doubtful Sound**

On our way back to deep cove we encounter a pod of bottle nosed dolphins. This pod resides permanently in the Sound and the dolphins are larger than any others of the species, probably because they live in the coldest location.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/page.aspx?id=33246>

Without the rain the scenery would not have been so spectacular as once the rain stops the waterfalls soon dry up.

We retrace our path, returning to Te Anau about 20:30 for dinner in the pub.



**Water Cascades from the Mountain Top - Doubtful Sound**

**Saturday 01 March 2008 - Tour Day 21 - Te Anau – Milford Sound**

**Day 24**



**Mirror Lakes**



**Moss Everywhere - Mirror Lakes**



**Mirror Lakes**

Today there is an included kayaking trip on Milford Sound but five of us have elected the boat trip so instead of a 06:45

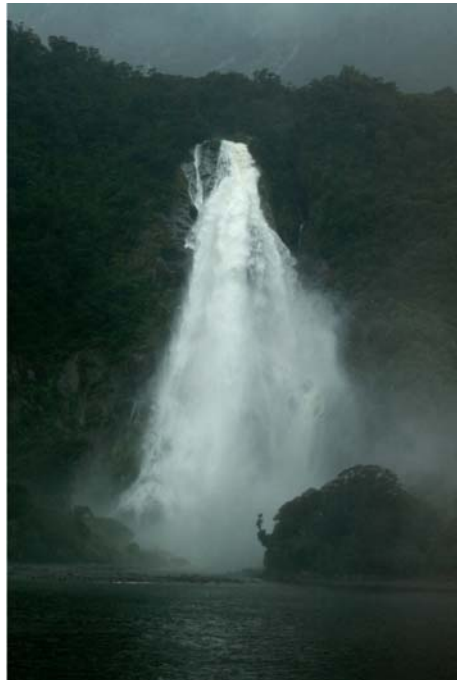
pickup we are picked up at 09:30 for the 2½hour drive to Milford.

It is raining again!

At 10:00 we join a bus carrying passengers who have already travelled about 2½hours from Queenstown. We travel first along the western side of Lake Te Anau through areas of regrowth



forest covered with manuka trees, a close relative of the ti-tree and into the Fiordland National Park. Here we start to travel up the valleys flanked by high cliffs covered with native beech trees and ferns that cling precariously to the little soil. The roots of the trees form a mat over the rock and occasionally one lets go taking the hillside down in a tree avalanche. Seedlings soon take root and the scar is soon covered.



**Lady Bowen Falls - Milford Sound**

Waterfalls cascade down the cliff faces and the low cloud obscures the tops of the mountains.



**Mountains in the Mist**



**Mountains Streaming with Water**

Along the way we stop to view the Mirror Lakes in the Eglington Valley. Formed when the river changed course and now a

haven for birds and aquatic creatures such as eels and surrounded by a diversity of vegetation and tall beech trees.



**The Chasm**



**Bridge - The Chasm**

On a fine day small lakes provide spectacular reflections of the Earl Mountains.

[www.doc.govt.nz/.../parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/easy-access-track-south-island-high-res.pdf](http://www.doc.govt.nz/.../parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/easy-access-track-south-island-high-res.pdf)



**Sheets of Water - Milford Sound**

We have further stops to view the rushing waterfalls and after we cross the pass the rain increases and the waterfalls become more spectacular and whole mountainsides are covered in cascading water.

The Homer Tunnel which took many years of back breaking work to complete now

provides road access to Milford Sound. Only one carriageway wide, access to the 1.2km tunnel is controlled by traffic lights. The tunnel descends about 100m and exits into a high valley surrounded by cliffs streaming with water.



**Milford Port**



**Stirling Falls - Milford Sound**



**Cruise Boat thru the Rain - Milford Sound**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homer\\_Tunnel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homer_Tunnel)

The **Homer Tunnel** is a [road tunnel](#) in the [Fiordland](#) region of the [South Island](#) of [New Zealand](#). It links [Milford Sound](#) to [Te Anau](#) and [Queenstown](#), by piercing the [Main Divide](#) at the [Homer Saddle](#). It connects between the valley of the [Eglinton](#) and [Hollyford Rivers](#) to the east and that of the [Cleddau](#) to the west.

The tunnel is straight, and was originally single-lane and gravel-surfaced. The tunnel walls remain unlined granite. The east portal end is at 945 m elevation; the tunnel runs 1270 m at approximately a 1:10 gradient down to the western portal.

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/1966/H/HomerTunnel/HomerTunnel/en>

<http://www.ipenz.org.nz/heritage/itemdetail.cfm?itemid=128>



A little further on we stop for a 15minute walk to The Chasm where rushing water has formed a deep chasm. Today a torrent is flowing under the bridge and into the chasm.

nature walk than it is a waterfall attraction because there's no safe way of seeing the waterfall satisfactorily. Instead, you get to look down at mostly strangely shaped rocks and potholes resulting from the Cleddau River's forceful flow as it gets channelled into the dark and narrow abyss



**Torrent - Milford Sound**

<http://www.world-of-waterfalls.com/new-zealand-the-chasm.html>

The Chasm is a spot along the Cleddau River where the watercourse disappears between a narrow chasm (as the name suggests). However, it's really more of a



**New Zealand Fur Seal - Milford Sound**



**Milford Sound**



**Hollyford River**

At around 13:10 we arrive at the Milford Port to embark our boat for a 90minute cruise around the Milford Sound. Travelling first along the west side we can view the thundering Bowen Falls, the largest in the sound at 160m, and Mitre Peak its 1692m peak lost in the clouds. Mitre Peak is one of the tallest in the world to rise directly from the sea floor. The other permanent waterfall is Stirling Falls and water is cascading into the sea from 146m, three times the height of Niagara Falls. On our return trip the boat is driven into the cascade.

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/EarthSeaAndSky/MarineEnvironments/Fiords/1/ENZ-Resources/Standard/2/en>

Bowen Falls, Milford Sound

Fiordland is one of the wettest places in the world. When it rains, thousands of temporary waterfalls cascade into the fiords, delivering vast quantities of fresh water that forms a layer on the

surface of the sea water. As the rain water flows down the steep vegetated slopes, it picks up chemicals from rotting leaves and soil, which stain it yellow– brown

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milford\\_Sound](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milford_Sound)  
<http://www.travellink.co.nz/media/page.asp?UID=61>

<http://www.richard-seaman.com/Travel/NewZealand/SouthIsland/MilfordSound/index.html>  
<http://www.world-waterfalls.com/waterfall.php?num=332>

We travel a short distance into the Tasman Sea before turning and heading back along the eastern shore past a small group of fur seals and the Stirling Falls.

The dark cliffs, cascading waterfalls and low clouds hiding the mountains make for an awe-inspiring scene.

Once we are back at the port we are soon in the bus and on our way. We make only one stop to view the Hollyford River far below at the bottom of the valley.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollyford\\_River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollyford_River)

## **Sunday 02 March 2008 - Tour Day 22 – Te Anau to Wanaka**

**Day 25**

It has rained heavily all night and this morning it is still raining.

Departing our motel at Te Anau at 09:30 we drive back towards Frankton near Queenstown to catch our next bus to Wanaka.

We have about an hour at Frankton before our next bus and it is time for lunch. It is pretty bleak in the bus station but the nearby pub provides a refuge from the rain and wind.

Located at the end of the Frankton arm of Lake Wakatipu, Frankton the location of Queenstown International airport.

[http://www.world-airport-codes.com/new-zealand-\(aotearoa\)/frankton-6157.html](http://www.world-airport-codes.com/new-zealand-(aotearoa)/frankton-6157.html)

We leave Frankton across the Kawarua falls dam, built in 1925-26 to shut off water flowing from Lake Wakatipu so that the river bed could be exposed for gold mining. When the gates were closed the river level fell slightly. Today the dam is used to regulate the level of Lake Wakatipu.

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/EarthSeaAndSky/MineralResources/GoldAndGoldMining/7/ENZ-Resources/Standard/4/en>

Our route from Frankton to Wanaka takes us through Cardrona over the 1076m Crown Range Road Summit. This is the highest sealed road in New Zealand.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardrona,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardrona,_New_Zealand)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown\\_Range](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_Range)

Isolated at the foot of the Southern Alps, Lake Wanaka is surrounded by pebble beaches and 2,000 m-high peaks. The lake was forged by glaciers and is over 300m deep.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Wanaka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Wanaka)

We arrive at our motel at about 14:30 to find the new managers are confused about our booking.

<http://www.lakewanaka.co.nz/index.cfm/Home>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wanaka>

When this is sorted out we meet to confirm the bookings we want to make for activities here. There is an opportunity for a flight in a Tiger Moth tomorrow and, weather permitting I will do this. Tonight I plan a quiet evening catching up with the diary, preparing emails for tomorrow and enjoy a home cooked meal.



The kitchen in the motel apartment is excellent so cooking a good meal, T-bone steak, tomato, onion and mushrooms, and corn is pretty straightforward. The steaks in NZ are very good!

Most of the group went to the local movie theatre; Terry returned afterwards saying it was the worst film he had seen.

Remarkably I did not take one photo today

## **Monday 03 March 2008 - Tour Day 23 - Wanaka**

**Day 26**

It is fine and clear this morning although there is still some high cloud about. It looks like a good day ahead.



**Tiger Moth - Wanaka Airport**

Wanaka is a small town with all sorts of activities available. Numerous walking tracks offer the best opportunities to enjoy the scenery. Water sports abound with windsurfing, skiing and kayaking (all seasonal), and sailing.

Buried in one of the many brochures Glynn discovered that 30-minute flights in a Tiger Moth were available at the Wanaka Airport.

<http://www.classicflights.co.nz/>



**Megan Starting the Engine - Wanaka Airport**

Jo booked us both subject to confirmation that flying was possible. At 08:00 she confirms that we are to be picked up by Megan at 11:00.

The later pickup gives me time to deal with emails and a few other domestic matters while we are waiting.



**Glynn is Ready - Wanaka Airport**

Megan duly arrives and we discover she is also our pilot, and a very good one she proves to be.

Wanaka airport is very busy with light plane, helicopter, sky diving and Air New Zealand scheduled flights. It is also the location of a biennial war birds air show to be held this Easter. The town's resident population of 4,000 is expected to grow to 100,000 for the event.

<http://www.warbirdsoverwanaka.com/>



**Skydivers - Wanaka Airport**



**Lake Wanaka and Southern Alps**

Glynn as the discoverer has the first flight. Dressed in flying jacket, helmet and goggles he looks every bit the modern 'Biggles' in the front cockpit.

Megan has some trouble getting the engine to start and has to swing the prop quite a few times before the engine fires and the engine idles sweetly at about 800rpm.



**Braided Clutha River and Farms - Wanaka**



**Lake Wanaka and The Peninsular**

They soon are up and away heading towards the town and Lake Wanaka and soon disappear out of sight.



**Wanaka**



**Mt Aspiring**

While they are away I chat to a fellow who had been flying with the owner of the Tiger Moth and was waiting for his wife to pick him up. There is plenty of skydiving going on and Tanya is among them somewhere.

After about 30 minutes the Tiger Moth is back on the airstrip.





**Glendhu Bay - Lake Wanaka**



**Hawker Hurricane Mk IIA - New Zealand Fighter Pilots Museum - Wanaka Airport**

It is my turn to take to the air! Megan opens the throttle and almost immediately the tail wheel is off the runway and at 45mph we are flying. Circling left and climbing we head for Wanaka township and over the town we are at 2000ft and still climbing we fly on over the lake and execute a left circle over the lake before heading towards mountains on the far side of the lake. Snow capped Mt Aspiring is at about 1 o' clock. We are soon over the far

land again and it is time to turn for home. We are now at 3500ft cruising along at 80mph.



**Polikarpov I-153 (Chaika) - New Zealand Fighter Pilots Museum - Wanaka Airport**



**Lake Wanaka and Mt Aspiring**

<http://www.newzealand.com/travel/destinations/national-parks/mount-aspiring/mount-aspiring.cfm>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount\\_Aspiring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Aspiring)  
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/PlaceProfile.aspx?id=38462>

On the way back we again execute a left circuit whilst we slowly descend.

Soon we are in sight of the airfield and Megan lines up for a landing on the grass beside the main airstrip. The grass is closely mown and smooth and we land very smoothly.



**Wanaka**

After our flight we visit the small war birds museum. It is a museum of the fighter squadrons of NZ airmen. Histories and exploits of squadrons in the RAF and RNZAF manned by New Zealander are displayed.

A small number of planes, including a WWII Russian fighter, a Polikarpov I-153 bi-plane, is on display.

<http://www.nzfpm.co.nz/>

On our return to town Glynn and I spend some time in town buying some nibbles and food for tonight's

barbeque. By the time we return to the motel we are both agreed a quite afternoon is in order.

The weather is perfect for a barbeque.

## **Tuesday 04 March 2008 - Tour Day 24 – Wanaka to Franz Josef Glacier**

**Day 27**

We depart at 08:40 for the 6 hour drive to Franz Josef on the West Coast, passing through Mount Aspiring National Park, which is just a short drive from Wanaka.



**Makarora Airport**

We make a short stop at Makorora for a driver break.

<http://new-zealand-travel-guide.com/westcoast.htm>

A lunch stop at the South Westland Salmon Farm at Paringa is an opportunity to buy a piece of fresh salmon for dinner



**Southern Alps**



**Lunch at South Westland Salmon Farm**



**Fox Glacier**



**Franz Josef Glacier**



Franz Joseph is a small village at the foot of the Franz Joseph glacier and is the base for activities on the glacier.



**Franz Josef Glacier**



**Franz Josef Glacier**

Although the weather has been fine for the last two days it is threatening to break again and Jo has booked me on a helicopter flight over the glaciers for this afternoon.



**Tasman Glacier**



**Mt Cook**

We arrive in plenty of time to find that I am the only one booked and I will have to wait to the 16:20 flight.

Although low cloud is building, the glacier, snowfields, Mt Tasman and Mt Cook are clear and the views are spectacular. The glaciers descend very steeply from the snowfield and are extremely crevassed and broken,

unlike many glaciers I have seen in Canada, Alaska and Norway.



**Mt Tasman**



**Fox Glacier**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz\\_Josef\\_Glacier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_Josef_Glacier)

The **Franz Josef** or **Ka Roimata o Hinehukatere** is a 12 km long<sup>[1]</sup> [glacier](#) located in [Westland National Park](#) on the West Coast of [New Zealand](#)'s [South Island](#). Together

with the [Fox Glacier](#) 20 km to the south, it is unique in the fact that it descends from the [Southern Alps](#) to just 240 metres above sea level amidst the greenery and lushness of a temperate rainforest.



**Fox Glacier**

The glacier was later named after Emperor [Franz Joseph I of Austria](#) by the German explorer, [Julius von Haast](#) in 1865



**On Fox Glacier**

During the trip we landed on the Fox Glacier and were there for about 10 minutes. I feel some of this time could

have been better spent viewing Mt Cook from more angles.



**Fox Glacier**

### **Wednesday 05 March 2008 - Tour Day 25 - Franz Josef Glacier**

**Day 28**

This morning a half day guided walk onto the Franz Josef Glacier is included in the itinerary. Jo, Lenore and I set out to do this at 08:30. Terry is going to do the whole day walk and the others are going to heli-hike on the glacier. This involves a quick flight high on the Franz Josef Glacier where they are dropped off and spend two hours hiking on the ice before they are

flown down again. Their reports later in the day indicate it was a pretty easy trip.

The half and full day walks are far more strenuous.

<http://www.franzjosefglacier.com/>

First we are kitted out with waterproof boots, crampons, raincoat and if we need them gloves, hat and waterproof pants. It is a

bright sunny day with no indication of sudden weather changes on the lower slopes so there is little need for all the gear. Nevertheless we have clothing for cold conditions.

Before we can start climbing the terminal moraine onto the glacier we must first walk for an hour through rainforest, the bed of the river and over some high ground because it is not possible to follow the river all the way.



The first hill we have to climb over is a scramble through the forest involving splashing through shallow streams and scrambling over some slippery. It was this section that first tested a small group of women who were clearly unprepared, and unfit for the climb which was a precursor to more difficult climbs to come.



**Climbing the Toe - Franz Josef Glacier**

The descent from the first hill was quite steep and some agility and care was needed. Continuing on along the riverbed

we crossed and recrossed the river several times.



**Franz Josef Glacier**



**Climbing the Rock Outcrop - Franz Josef Glacier Walk**

The second climb was over a rock outcrop where we needed to climb ladders and use attached ropes and chains to climb up and down. Once down from the rock it was a short walk to the

foot of the glacier where we fitted our crampons to our boots and received some instruction on walking on the ice.



**Toe - Franz Josef Glacier**



**Franz Josef River**

We started as a group of 47 people split into two groups for the walk to the glacier. At the glacier we were further divided into parties of 12 people for the climb.



**Lenore - Franz Josef Glacier**

Each morning Franz Josef Guides repair or cut new steps up the face of the glacier. As we approached we could see guides at the top of the face cutting steps and clearing a path.

When everyone was ready we started the steep climb up the steps, some of which were very high and difficult for short-legged people, particularly the aforementioned women. In places ropes were anchored to the ice to assist climbers to haul themselves up the steps.

We climbed for almost an hour before we reached the clean ice of the top of the glacier. Here we stopped for pictures and a bite to eat.



**Ice Bridge - Franz Josef Glacier**



**Franz Josef Glacier**

Commencing our descent we traversed across the glacier for a short distance to the track taken by the full day hikers and then

headed down the steps we had. In the steeper parts holding on to the ropes was essential as it was a long fall if you stumbled.



**On Franz Josef Glacier**



**Franz Josef Glacier**

The glacier is a warm glacier and water runs off everywhere including down the steps and these had noticeably deteriorated since we climbed them. The melting ice releases the trap rocks



and there are frequent mini avalanches as we make our way down.



**Heading Down - Franz Josef River**

We finally reach the riverbed, legs suffering from prolonged downhill motion. I am sure downhill is harder on the legs than uphill. We have been on the glacier for about 2 hours.

We now face the return walk to the car park and the climbs over the same outcrops. After about four hours and 8km of walking we are back at the bus ready to

return to town and divest ourselves of the gear we have been carrying.



**View from Main Street - Franz Josef**



**Main Street - Franz Josef**

Back at the Rainforest Retreat I am ready for an hour with my feet up to let them return to something like normal before I venture out again.

I have spotted a small wooden bowl, on sale, and similar to ones I had admired at Te Papa in Wellington, that I have decided to buy.

Returning to the Resort pub it is time for a beer to replace some of the liquid lost during the day.

<http://www.rainforestretreat.co.nz/index.html>

Returning to my room some of the others are gathered on their balcony having a quiet drink and eventually most of us are gathered there deciding what to do for dinner.



**Cliffs - Franz Josef River**

Today we are on the road by 08:35 and we have our own small bus with plenty of room for our bags and us.

We are now heading north along the west coast of the South Island. Our driver, Brian, regales us with stories and information as we travel along.

We have a brief stop at Harihari where Australian aviator **Guy Lambton Menzies** ([1909 - November 1, 1940](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Menzies)) landed upside down in La Fontaine swamp at the end of the first [trans-Tasman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harihari) flight, from [Sydney, Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sydney) to the [West Coast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand) of [New Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand), on [7 January 1931](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Smith).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harihari>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy\\_Menzies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Menzies)

On 7 January 2006, celebrations were held in Hari Hari to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Menzies' trans-Tasman voyage, and were marked by a re-enactment of the flight by adventurer [Dick Smith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Smith).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick\\_Smith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Smith)



Oryx - Bushman's Centre - Pukekura



Giant Sand Fly - Bushman's Centre - Pukekura

Our first major stop, at about 11:00, is at the tiny township of Pukekura, population two, Pete and Justine, owners of the town.

The Bushman's Centre is the main business in town and a stop for every tourist bus, including ours.



Red Deer - Bushman's Centre - Pukekura

## Pukekura

<http://www.pukekura.co.nz/>

Pukekura in Maori translates to Blue hill, we have heard other versions but we like this one best. MT Bonar behind Pukekura Township in certain lights gives off that blue appearance.

Pukekura Township was built in a clearing cut out of tall native Rimu forest. It began as a hotel on the stage coach trail south. A saw mill was built in the early 1950's and the mainstay of the region was timber. The mill closed in the mid eighty's and



tourism became the latest industry with the establishment of the Bushman's Centre in 1993.

The purchase of the pub, houses, accommodation, helipad and helicopter hanger followed years later giving us the distinction of owning the town. The land around the town is native forest and classed as scenic reserve giving the town its compact and scenic charm. Views of the snow capped peaks of the Southern Alps can be seen to the south east of Pukekura.

The rustic café houses a museum and in enclosures around there are animals that have been introduced to New Zealand from Australia and Europe that are now considered pests. Possums, Red Deer, Oryx and Chamois are among the animals on display.

Hanging on the front of the café is a huge model of a sand fly. Inside there is a story of its capture.

The café features 'Road Kill Possum Pies'. I was the only one game enough to try one. Not particularly tasty, it was a bit like mutton stew.

<http://www.pukekura.co.nz/possum/index.htm>



**Possum Pie - Bushman's Centre - Pukekura**



**Chamois - Bushman's Centre - Pukekura**

Continuing north we pass through Ross, once an important gold mining centre, on our way to our lunch stop at Hokitika. Hokitika is the centre of pounamu, or greenstone, production. Greenstone has been collected here since the Maori first came

to the South Island about 800 years ago. It is very hard and can be sharpened to make tools and weapons. It is also used for jewellery.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hokitika>

<http://www.hokitika.org/>

<http://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/index.cfm/1,76,html/Westland-History>



**Carnegie Building - Hokitika**

[http://www.printntravel.com/country/newzealand/south/06/hokitika\\_westport\\_eng.html](http://www.printntravel.com/country/newzealand/south/06/hokitika_westport_eng.html)

During the gold rush of the late 1860's over 800kg of gold was shipped to Melbourne each month. The harbour was one of the busiest in New Zealand. Often there anchored 40 ships at one time. It was not an easy thing to navigate a ship to the harbour due to a tricky sand bar. More than 40 ships were wrecked completely. Between 1865 and 1867 one out of 10 ships

beached on the sandbar. The Shipwreck Memorial at Hokitika Spit recalls the busy port and treacherous entrance.



**Clock - Main Street - Hokitika**

The Carnegie Building is home to the Visitor Centre as well as the West Coast Historical Museum.

If you wondered how possums would do for dinner - there is an annual Wildfoods Festival in March where you can try some of these delicacies.



**Former Government Administrative Building - Hokitika**



**Former Customs House - Hokitika**

The Wildfoods Festival is this coming weekend and the town is preparing for thousands of visitors.

There are many shops selling greenstone objects, brooches, pendants, earrings, and Maori tools and weapons. There are also many large carved pieces in traditional Maori motifs.



**Jo Relaxing - Hokitika Beach**

I have been looking out for a nice greenstone piece and so far had not found anything that caught my fancy. After a quick scan of the shops selling greenstone object I found a carving of a Tuatara perched on a rock in the Traditional Jade Company's showroom.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuatara>

This extremely rare reptile is considered a survivor from the days of the dinosaurs. There are two species in New Zealand and their relatives roamed the earth 220 million years. They are unique among reptiles having characteristics of both snakes and lizards.

Besides greenstone carvers there are also wood carvers and turners and glass blowers at work in the town.





#### Roadside Waterhole – Truman Track

Having spent most of my time looking at greenstone I have only a few minutes to grab a pasty before we are on our way again. Passing through Greymouth we continue along the coast road from which there are some spectacular views of the rugged coast and expansive beaches, most of which are stony.

We are heading to Paparoa National Park.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/PlaceProfile.aspx?id=38449>

[http://www.natureandco.com/land\\_and\\_wildlife/national\\_parks/paparoa/idx-paparoa.php3](http://www.natureandco.com/land_and_wildlife/national_parks/paparoa/idx-paparoa.php3)



Coastline – North of Greymouth



Truman Bay

Our first stop is at Truman Track, a short walk through the rainforest to Truman Bay. Brian explains some of the native trees and plants as we amble through the forest. At the bay

some take the opportunity to dip their toes in the Tasman Sea. This is our most northerly point and our trip.

<http://www.punakaiki.co.nz/walks.htm>

<http://www.ipodigital.co.nz/projects/trumantrack/history.html>

We now head south to Punakaiki Pancake Rocks & Blowholes Walk.

## Punakaiki Pancake Rocks & Blowholes

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/templates/trackandwalk.aspx?id=36469>

### Description

The famous Pancake Rocks and Blowholes are just a 20 minute loop walk from where you park your vehicle on the main highway at Punakaiki. Looking like giant pancakes the curious limestone formations are especially spectacular at high tide in a westerly sea.

Take the left-hand branch at the first fork. It passes through a dark canopy of wind-shorn coastal forest where there are fine examples of nikau - New Zealand's only native palm. Tree ferns and kiekie vine feature among the tangle of subtropical species closer to the forest floor. In clear weather Aoraki/Mt Cook and other high peaks of the Southern Alps make a picture in the far south.



**Nikau Palm - Punakaiki**

## Blowholes

At the first fork on the track listen for the sound of activity at the Sudden Sound Blowhole a few metres straight ahead. This blowhole only sprays when the sea is very rough but it does emit a noise like a train in a tunnel as the sea surges through subterranean passages.

To the left of the fork the track descends to the Surge Pool where you look down on a dramatic spectacle as the sea powers in

underneath, sometimes through a huge build-up of foam.



**New Zealand Flax**

Nearby, the Chimney Pot Blowhole emits columns of spray as the sea gushes in through a narrow rock channel.

The track crosses a bridge between pot and pool and climbs to a viewpoint above Putai - the biggest blowhole. Putai is more a fissure than a hole. When the sea thunders through the caverns below, a mixture of compressed water and air escapes upward as a wall of spray, visible for a long distance on stormy days.

## The Archway

A stepped section of track, quite steep in places, leads down and across the arched western entrance to the Surge Pool. You can avoid the steps and turn back here, then turn left at the intersection beyond the bridge to rejoin the track back to the highway.



**Pancake Rocks - Punakaiki**

Various rock stacks are very picturesque in the sea out from the arch.

More steps lead to two viewpoints – Pororari Beach to the north and the Surge pool to the south.

On the return journey the track re-enters the coastal forest, dark and mysterious after the open seascapes.

Sight seeing over we set off for Blackball on the other side of the Paparoa Range. We must first return to Greymouth.

## Blackball

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackball,\\_New\\_Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackball,_New_Zealand)



Blackball was named for the [Black Ball Shipping Line](#), which leased land in the area to mine for [coal](#). It was formerly known as Joliffetown and Moonlight Gully.



**Chasm - Punakaiki**

Blackball is notable as a centre of New Zealand radicalism and workers' militancy. It was the birthplace of the [New Zealand Labour Party](#) which followed the 1908 miners 'cribtime' strike, the longest in New Zealand history (at ten weeks).



**Coastline - Punakaiki**



**'Formerly the Blackball Hilton'**

In the [1913 Great Strike](#), Blackball miners were the last to return to work (in 1914). During the strike they had picketed out miners in nearby [Brunner](#) and had burnt down the secretary of the 'arbitration' (scab) unions home.

In [1925](#) the headquarters of the [Communist Party of New Zealand](#) were moved to Blackball from [Wellington](#).

The pit was closed in 1964.



**Setting Sun - Blackball**

Local hostelry 'Formerly the Blackball Hilton' was founded in 1910, as the Dominion Hotel, renaming itself after the mine manager, after whom the town's main street is also named. It was forced to change its name after objections from the international hotel chain of the same name.

The current population is 370, and the town is due to become the home of the New Zealand Museum of Working Class History.

Here we will stay at The ' Formerly The Blackball Hilton' , so named because Hilton Hotels threatened to sue if the owners continued to use the name Blackball Hilton.

The accommodation is rustic and very much that of an early 20<sup>th</sup> C country pub. It

is the centre of community activities in Blackball and walls are plastered with newspaper clipping of events in the region.

<http://www.blackballhilton.co.nz/>

[http://www.listener.co.nz/issue/3412/features/4779/no\\_daiquiris\\_here\\_folks.html](http://www.listener.co.nz/issue/3412/features/4779/no_daiquiris_here_folks.html)

These days the town is renowned for Glasson' s honey and sausages and salami produced by the Blackball Salami Company.

The day ends with an excellent home cooked dinner of Balckball sausages and fruit salad and pavlova, not to mention pints of Monteith' s Black Beer.

## Friday 07 March 2008 - Tour Day 27 – Blackball to Christchurch

Day 30



**Bar - 'Formerly the Blackball Hilton'**

Last day! Leisurely 10:00 start for the drive back to Greymouth where some of us are going to visit the Monteith' s Brewery before we catch the TranzAlpine train to Christchurch.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greymouth>

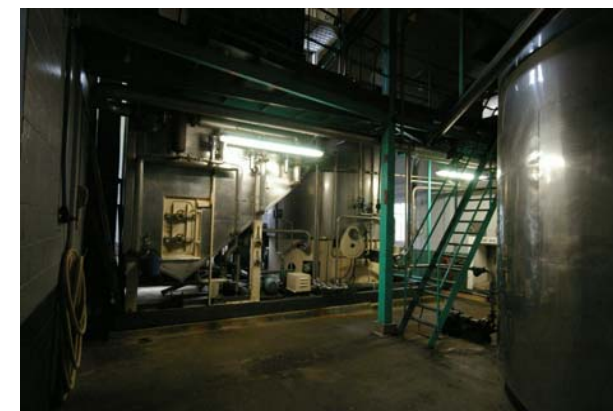


**Blackball General Store**

This is a craft brewery and a batch brewing process is used to produce all varieties and occasional special limited edition beers.

Although the brewery is not highly automated a staff of about 9 people run the whole operation.

<http://www.monteiths.com/nz/siteFiles/index.html>



**Monteith's Brewery - Greymouth**

By the time the tour finishes at 13:00, and after we had tasted 7 beers, it was time to grab a much vaunted whitebait patty. I have to say I was not much impressed by an omelette with a few whitebait through it, between two slices of bread.





**Monteith's Brewery - Greymouth**



**Monteith's Brewery - Greymouth**

As it turns out the train lived up to its reputation and arrived late so we were standing around for about 45 minutes before we were finally on our way.

<http://www.tranzscenic.co.nz/services/tranzalpine.aspx>

<http://www.railnewzealand.com/Tranzalpine.html>

The trip up the mountains, through the Otira Tunnel, over Arthur's Pass and down the valley of the Waimakariri River to the Canterbury Plains and Christchurch is spectacular. The train passes through high mountains and alongside the braided river valleys and over high trestle bridges as it meanders through the countryside. The train manager provides a running commentary.



**Monteith's Brewery - Greymouth**



**Boiler Attendants Corner - Monteith's Brewery - Greymouth**

The Otira Tunnel is part of New Zealand's Engineering Heritage.

<http://www.ipenz.org.nz/heritage/itemdetail.cfm?itemid=63>

This 8,529m tunnel was the longest in the British Empire at the time of its construction.

Driven through wet shale and rotten rock, this 8529 m tunnel was opened in 1923 and was then the longest in the British Empire. It made the first use of electric locomotives in New Zealand. It completed the Christchurch to Greymouth rail link.



**Bar and Tasting Room - Monteith's Brewery - Greymouth**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otira\\_Tunnel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otira_Tunnel)

Due to its length and gradient, gases such as [carbon dioxide](#) and [carbon monoxide](#) could easily build up,

potentially making the tunnel both unhealthy for the train's occupants and unworkable for its engines. Thus, the tunnel was [electrified](#) with a 1500 V DC overhead system. A small [hydroelectric power station](#) was built near Otira to provide electricity. Due to the increasing age of the electrification and the availability of upgraded [DX Class](#) diesel locomotives, the electrification was closed in 1997 and the equipment removed. This marked the end of electrification in the South Island.

To overcome the fumes problem, a combination of a door and fans is used. After a train enters the tunnel from the Otira end the door closes off the entrance, and a large fan extracts the fumes behind the train. Once the fumes have been extracted, the door is reopened. Due to the fumes, the [TranzAlpine's](#) observation cars are closed for the trip through the tunnel.

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**Terry Tries his Hand - Monteith's Brewery -  
Greymouth**

It is after 19:00 by the time we reach the Hotel So in Christchurch. Glynn, Terry and I have just enough time to change and have beer at Sullivan's Irish pub around

the corner before we go out for our farewell dinner at a nearby Chinese restaurant.



**TranzAlpine Scenery thru a dirty window**

**Saturday 08 March 2008 - Tour Day 28 - Depart Christchurch 06:15 QF202 Arrive Melbourne 08:00**

**Day 31**

A very early departure from the hotel to catch the plane!



## Group Members – New Zealand



**Jo Luff - Leader**



**Mary Mallon**



**Jim Russell**



**Kathleen Kennedy**



**Suzanne Oppitz**



**Terry Robson**



**Joan Kennedy**



**Richard Milgate**



**Flavia Canali**



**Lenore Nicholson**



**Susan Pollard**



**Tanja Ruediger**



**Glynn Hook**



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