

Hawkes Bay Branch Central Hawkes Bay bus trip:



Saturday 18 October, a perfect warm sunny day as Hawkes Bay members boarded the coach, from Taradale, Hastings and Havelock North. Everyone was given a “goodie” pack - water bottle, hand wipes and relevant information sheets.

Heading south along State Highway 2, with a brief stop at Waipawa, we headed west inland along Tikokino Road, enjoying the lush green countryside to our next stop – Ongaonga. The rural community were hosting a three day celebration of 150 years since it was established. Just past the original Coles family home is the Ongaonga school. On arrival at the school, Faye had organised a light lunch for all, delicious sandwich packs and a selection of five different slices, in addition to the water bottles, of which all enjoyed while sitting in shady areas on the school grounds. Then to wander the



market that was set up in a paddock behind the school, with an excellent band adding to the entertainment. You could also wander to the Main Street enjoying some of the historic Edwardian buildings, unfortunately the museum was closed. The main museum building was originally the Fletcher’s second house at Pendle Hill.

Leaving Ongaonga we travelled further west inland passing the boiler from the Gardner & Yeoman’s Sawmill, established

in 1926, to Pendle Hill, a privately owned farm at Wakarara at the foothills of the Ruahine Range. Samuel Fletcher purchased 1000 acres in 1862, naming the property after a Lancashire Hill, as it reminded him of his childhood.

A year, to the day, after proposing, Samuel married Harriet, building a clay house and together they raised 13 children. We had a short walk up, the farm track to the family

cemetery, dating from 1867, one of the largest European private cemeteries in New Zealand. The view over the land - rolling hills, river was stunning and so tranquil. On returning to the coach, Faye had organised fruit and chocolates for afternoon tea.

From leaving Pendle Hill, via Tikokino we passed Craigmore Springhill Orchard, converted from pastoral farming to the apple orchard, in 2018. At 180 hectares it is the largest fully netted pit fruit site in New Zealand and delivers 35,000 bins of fruit at peak production.



Arriving back at Waipawa, a visit to the Museum. Originally the historic Bank of NZ building, it was gifted to the people of Central Hawkes Bay by the District Council and opened in 1988. After exploring the museum it was back on the coach, along State Highway 2, via Havelock North, Hastings and finally Taradale.

A huge thank you to Faye for the amazing, informative 7 hour outing.

Suzanne C