

TARGA 2021

Hi all,

Well here we are at Stratford Holiday Park again,
Poko's crew, Jamie's crew and mine
Dale is over in Tauramunui - ready to time SS10 at Ohura
late tomorrow morning

But to start at the beginning. It was only 3 deg C
at Duckcreek when I left on Tues morn, but I
am delighted to confirm that EVERYONE arrived
where they were expected on time. That is
11 am in Hamilton

Dale and his crew, Jamie and his crew and,
of course mine. Meanwhile Poko and her crew
got to New Plymouth to collect the 'gear' for her crew
and Rallysafe gear for all of us!

After checking in to our various accommodation
in Waitomo I drove to Awakina to collect our
Rallysafe gear from Poko, (and then back of course
- about a 3 hr round trip)

After a good night's sleep, Poko and Jamie did SS1,
Dale did SS2 Start and we did SS3
Finish.

Once cleared we headed for our overnight stops

For our part - having an a leisurely out
the out time of 0930 this morning we are back to
reality with an out the gate time of 6.45 a.m, tomorrow.
But at least that gives us an early

finish.

Tomorrow night my crew (and Dales)
are staying at Autolodge New Plymouth an
establishment well known to lots of
my friends and relations !

Till then

Hi all (again),

Here we are at Autolodge New Plymouth
where I used to work some 30 years ago, yes Pete
it MIGHT be only 28
- some people truly are pedantic !!

It is still as good as ever (albeit a bit expensive),
but being realistic it is probably the last time
I will get here, so that has to be worth something!!

I do find it a little strange though that some
younger members of our crews decided they
would prefer Burger King or similar rather than Juliana's
Restaurant here - oh well

As planned Ben arrived at Stratford last night,
bringing our own crew up to full strength -
Thanks Ben

A bit of a shock to the system this morning
- out the gate at Stratford at 6.45 AM, still dark, a
bit foggy etc,etc

But we made it !!

Timed our stage SS 7 - 'Inglewood Jumps',
with Ben on FF, Rachael on Road, Alex on Cards
and myself Log writing.

A total of 58 cars, with no problems.

An advantage of an early start
was, of course, an early finish. So we were here
nice and early!!

Tomorrow we have an out the gate time of 7.30AM,
which although still 'early' is not TOO bad.

We have two stages to time tomorrow, SS 13 (locally)
then SS17 another hour or so away.

Then another 2 hours or so drive to Taihape
where we stay the night!

Till then,

That did not go well!

I have just spent almost an hour on this writeup
and it has disappeared - the chances of my
remembering what I said is pretty much non-existent.

It does seem that my mail list purge has not
worked as it should and for this I do apologise -
I'm still working on this

HOWEVER

As explained last night, we stayed at Autolodge
New Plymouth - somewhere most of you will
be familiar with.

After a good night's sleep in my KING SIZE bed
we made our Out the gate time of 7.45 AM,
went and refuelled the cars and timed
SS13- not too far out of New Plymouth.
It was only after that, that we discovered one of
our crew had left important belongings back
at the motel. Shades of Mr left behind !!!!!!!

This made us a smigeon late for our
next stage "Insane Eltham" a bit ove ran hour away.
Here we had Ben on FF, Alex doing Cards,
Rachael writing the logs and criss-cross, with
myself doing road.
I also took the opportunity to do a Mini Board
for competitors.

Once cleared we set out on the 3 hr trek to
Taihape - our 1st stage tomorrow is at Waioruru
Here we are staying at Gretna
where I used to stay when
I was 'on the road' over 50 years ago.
Yep you could say I am in a nostaglia trip.

What we have found is that 2 stages and
something over 4 hrs driving is not as much fun as
you might think !!!

Anyway another note tomorrow night
by which time we should be in Napier!

Hi all (again)

Here we are at Napier Beach Holiday Park,
More about that in due course.

We stayed in Taihape last night at Gretna hotel
where I used to stay some 50 years ago.

I did manage to catch the Crusaders game whilst
in the bar and had a couple to drinks whilst
there!

Taihape is not quite Waiouru, (where our first
stage of the day was) but it was certainly chilly-
Certainly for those of us from the warmer
climes of Auckland, Coromandel etc.

Fancy having
to warm up all the vehicles in the morning.
The stage finish itself was no problem, but we
Had to 'Do a Zac'
and drive the whole stage to get into position.but
once there and I actually
got good Fleetlink radio coverage too.
Just as well as cellphone reception was virtually
non existent.

Ben on FF, Rachael on Road, Alex again
doing cards and myself writing logs.
By now we are actually becoming quite an accomplished
team - well done that man and woman.

We did know that getting to our next stage
(Gentle Annie 1) was going to be a mission as we
had zero time to get there,
and remember we had to drive though our 1st stage
to even get
there. Sound familiar David or Toby????

We were of course late
(and the stage could not start without us)
well after road closure in fact.

But Rachael had FF set up in less than 5 mins
and the others did FC in less than two !!!

Well done you lot we only delayed the stage
by about 15 mins.

Once cleared we joined the convoy and proceeded
to Napier arriving some 3 hrs later.

As promised, I shouted my crew a meal out
at Restaurant Indonesia as a personal thanks for
all their work. I do have some photos.

We do not have any stages tomorrow (Sunday)
although Dale, Poko and Jamie all do, so my
crew are heading home late morning and
I shall probably follow suite about lunchtime.

Epilogue (including my analysis
of accommodation providers) in a few days.

'Tis me again !!

Targa 2021 is done and dusted.

Once more we fulfilled ALL our obligations,
despite having one crew member going AWOL at
the worst possible moment.

To recap a little, the Northern People,
under Dale, Jamie and Wazza all met at Hamilton at the
due time Tues morning,
Poko and Leiton meanwhile collected
everyone's rallysafe gear from
NewPlymouth and took it to Awakino

where Wazza collected what we needed.

We all did our thing Wed then

Jamie, Poko and Wazza (with their respective crews)
headed for Stratford. Dale's crew went
to Tauramuni to be close to their stage Thurs morn.

Again, we all did our stuff Thurs.
Dale's crew and Wazza's crew stayed at
Autolodge New Plymouth Thurs night,
the others back to Stratford.

More stages on Friday then on to
Taihape. Poko and Jamie's crew at Rusty Nail,
Dale's and Wazza's at Gretna Hotel.

We all timed our stages Sat, in our case
Waiouru, then Gentle Annie (1). Here we managed
to set up our finish in approx 2 mins - well done team!!

A nice meal at Restaurant Indonesia for us that night
then the well documented disaster
which befell us Sunday morning.
It was indeed fortunate that 2 stages
did not have to be
abandoned

Needless to say we coped though.

Now a couple of thoughts.

My crew consisted of

Alex - a well respected and experienced guy

Ben as above
Rachael - Alex's partner - a real cracker
Wazza = our "Senior Advisor" !!!

I cannot comment too much on the other crews
as we did not see all that much of them
,MY TEAM, HOWEVER, WAS REALLY AMAZING
- thank you all again

Now a final comment
Money is always tight (how's that for an understatement)
which is why we always have to
seek out the cheapest accommodation- often at holiday parks,
backpackers etc.

I have done some analysis this time and thought
the following might be of interest

all were booked on the basis of 4 singles,
but sometime only 3 were needed.

1.TUES

Glow Worm Motel Waitomo Cost 180
Quite nice not new but so what - a double bed in lounge,
full sized kitchen, shower , toilet etc
and another 4 singles in the bedroom.

Top 10 Holiday Park Cost 138
Perfectly adequate as I understand it

Awakino Hotel Cost Not sure

2.WED

Stratford Holiday park. Cost 135 (for 4)
3 units each sleeping 4 - communal facilities but quite nice
nevertheless

3 THURS.

Stratford as above.

New Plymouth Autolodge Cost 192
Yes only \$192 for 4

One of the most upmarket establishments
in New Plymouth, each DS room (each crew had
2) boasted a king size bed and a double. With all the
facilities you would expect in a 4 or 5
star hotel.

4.FRI

Rusty Nail Backpackers where we often stay Cost 138
Typical backpackers, dorm rooms, communal facilities etc.

Gretna Hotel - Cost \$50 per double room
an older typical pub bar and restaurant
(with 60" tv) downstairs, rooms upstairs shared
facilities.

5.SAT

Napier Beach Holiday Park Cost \$216 (for 4)
We all stayed here as we have done several times before, but
probably never again.

Not only were they the most expensive
but (unlike all the rest) they demanded payment in full
at least a month in advance!!!

Furthermore as their reception closes at 6 p.m.
sharp they were hounding us (while we were
up on the Gentle Annie road,)
for the rego numbers of all our cars - or we would not be
allowed in. Customer service at its worst.

The crews this time were

WAZZA

Alex
Rachael
Ben

DALE

Bruce
Dione
Steven

POKO

Leiton
Paige
Jahzaiah

JAMIE

Rimu
Mabel
Viv (sort of)

Our next event is Far North Rally July 2nd,
we need between 12 and 15 bods.
I am seeking volunteers !!!!!!!

