

TARGA HAWKES BAY 2020

Here we go.

Just a 2 day event this yeat (but in the
middle of winter!)

Later today (Fri 3rd July) we head
towards Napier where we will stay
tonight ready for our
stages over the next two days.

Ezra and Wazza will leave Duck Creek
by 10 a.m. in Chalkie and Goldie, dropping
Goldie at
Thames for Aidan and Finn to use to get
to Napier once Finn finishes work.

We then proceed to Tirau
where we collect Josh and
all proceed to Napier.

Meanwhile Kevin goes to Bruce
in Thames and they too head for Tirau
before heading to
Napier too.

Dale collects Viv and Steve once
school is finished for the term and
so if all goes well,
weather and road closures permitting
we should all be at Napier early evening.

Tomorrow morning (Sat)
we time SS3
and have the afternoon 'off'

Sunday we do SS7 in the morning
then SS10 (the last stage of the event)
then all head
home ' tired but happy'.

Let's see how we go !!

More tomorrow night.

Hi all.

Well we arrived pretty much as
planned- Bruce and Kevin about 3 p.m.
Josh, Ezra and Wazza about 4 p.m.
Then Dale, Viv and Steve just after dark
We did have SMALL problem
with Aidan and Finn
they were a bit later because surprise,
surprise Goldie decided to blow
most of its water out.
Nevertheless it looks like all was to be
well
THEN
we discovered that there wasn't
enough Rallysafe gear for us
- no tablet or even a silly little
three line display - but we have coped !

Josh, Ezra and Wazza went to dinner
at Hot Chick then got organised for our first stage
today SS3.

Our out the gate time of 7.30 a.m, was
met - gingerly nursing Goldie!

Once cleared we had a Tiki
Tour of Napier (as we did not have another
stage this afternoon)
this included 'doing the steps'.
Lots of previous crew members
will well remember the chore

Tonight we had dinner at
Restaurant Indonesia-
probably my favourite eating place in
Napier!

The boys are out entertaining themselves
at the moment but have been
made well aware of
our 'out the gate time 'of 6.30 a.m.
which will have us all out of bed by 6 a.m.

We time two stages tomorrow
SS7, then the last of the event SS10
tomorrow afternoon.

More then !!

. Hi all.

A reminder that if these emails annoy you
just left me know so I can
remove your name from the mailing lists

Firstly an OOPS.
I notice that my Day 1 email was full of typos,
and spelling mistakes
– these will be fixed before being
– put up on the website.
I am taking steps to see that future

ones are forced through a
special spell checker before being released.

BUT in defense
(no I wasn't drunk)
but typing with one finger and the
laptop perched
precariously on one knee in our
holiday park accommodation is not
really ideal !!

The evening (well late night really) did not bode well

After our meal at Restaurant Indonesia
the youngsters (not teenagers
any more either)
wanted to go tomcatting in Napier.

Once Ezra went and brought them home
in the 'early' hours of the
morning they insisted on continuing to drink,
smoke and generally
yahoo - carrying on
in a completely unacceptable fashion.

This continued even after the 'old fellow
got up, donned his
dressing gown and slippers
and read them the riot act in words of no
more than one syllable
(they could not have understood any longer
words anyway).

It made not one iota of difference.
Needless to say rousing them an
hour or so later at 6 a.m. was a mission in itself.
I can, however

report that we did make our
'out the gate time' of 6.45 a.m. heading
for SS7 a bit over an hour away!

But here is where it gets VERY interesting.
I was driving Goldie,
but had no GPS, or official maps but 'no
problem' , yeah right ,
I had had a look at the enlarged official map
the night before, worked out exactly
where to go and noted that it
was indeed a stage we had timed a few years back.
So what could
possibly go wrong!!!! Year right again.

Down SH2 towards Waipawa, but left through
Otane (yes Trish I remembered you)
then meet at Patengata pub - no problem - yeah right
again.

We got to an intersection
(turns out to be less than 5 mins from our
regroup point) rang Ezra but 2 degrees
has no coverage so somewhat
cast we took the decision to turn right,
not left - bad choice!

So once more heading for Waipawa
we get a 'where are you' on Aidan's
Spark mobile we explained in detail but
the crew in Chalkie our
'mother ship' were not really able to help AT ALL.

So we eventually got into Waipawa,
'mother ship' staff still no help
so we went and fuelled Goldie

(It was getting VERY low on fuel with
all this peregrinating
- a car triallist's term for wandering around
aimlessly)
and I spoke to a very helpful young lady
behind the counter
who after expressing some surprise that
we were lost already,
explained that we should drive back
for two minutes, turn right,
drive for another 15 then turn left
that would take us straight to
where you need to be.
"Shall I write it down for you?" Yes please.

She would make a wonderful triallist!!!
This we did, but of course
VERY late by now - phone calls (Spark)
from several Targa Officials - most embarrassing.

We passed the infamous intersection
and realised that a left turn not
a right turn would have had us on site early,
not nearly an hour late.
I guess one could say it was 'entirely' 2 degrees fault.

BUT I am delighted to say that the stage
was able to be started
ALMOST on time despite our extra 45 mins driving.

Once cleared we returned to thank the lady (again)
for her assistance

pies for 5 etc,etc.
Also topped up Goldie water.

We were determined not to repeat this
performance for the final SS10
so we went in convoy arriving over an hour early -
from the sublime
to the ridiculous!

Our only problem here was that the competitors
road book had FF at house 421
but the FF mark on the road was at 467 -
having time up our
sleeve as it were we were happy to try the beam
at both places and
take our instructions from base - thanks Barney..

Once cleared we once more checked Goldie
water level dropped gear
back at hotel then headed home.

Hastings to Napier, Napier to Taupo,
Taupo to Tirau (fuel for cars
and bodies at Tokoroa)
Dropped Josh at Tirau, then Finn and Aidan to
Thames and Ezra and Wazza back
to Duck Creek - in the rain.
We arrived a bit before midnight
- a warm milky drink then off to
bed.

I'll check Goldie water later but it got me
home safe and well.

EPILOGUE in a couple of days!

Well we did it (again)

Fulfilled all our obligations,
met pretty much all our 'out the gate' times.

Arrived home 'tired but happy' just before
midnight on Sunday night.

Timeline:

1, Wed 1st July

Collected both sets of gear from Targa,
dropped Dale's start stuff with Bruce in Thames

3. Fri 3rd July

Kevin and Bruce proceeded to Tirau then
headed to Havelock North for Rallysafe gear.
Dale collected Viv and Steve from Hamilton.
Wazza and Ezra left Duck Creek at 10 a.m.
in Chalkie and Goldie, leaving Goldie at
Thames for Aidan and Finn to use once Finn
finished work.

Ezra and Wazza met Josh and
Tirau and headed for Napier.

All arriving pretty much as planned.
Not having Rallysafe display at Finish Control
was a pain but not disastrous.

The Flying Finish beam was fine
(master and slave now rather than a reflector).

A meal at Hot Chick

4. Sat 4th July

A reasonable out the gate time and
the afternoon 'off'. Tiki Tour of Napier, including Bluff
Hill Lookout and Middle Hill steps !!

Dinner that night at Restaurant Indonesia
- photo attached!
Some exceptionally bad behaviour from our
younger members.

5. Sun 5th July
An early start, getting lost, much peregrination,
but late arrival at SS7 did not have really
bad consequences!
Early (very) at SS10, repositioned FF beam
as instructed.
Dropped gear at Havelock North - then drove home.

Teams this time

START

Dale
Bruce
Kevin
Viv
Steve

FINISH

Warwick
Ezra
Josh
Aidan
Finn

Our next Targa event is Main Targa in October, then Silver Fern in
November.

Regards