

WHANGANUI AREA TOUR - BLOG

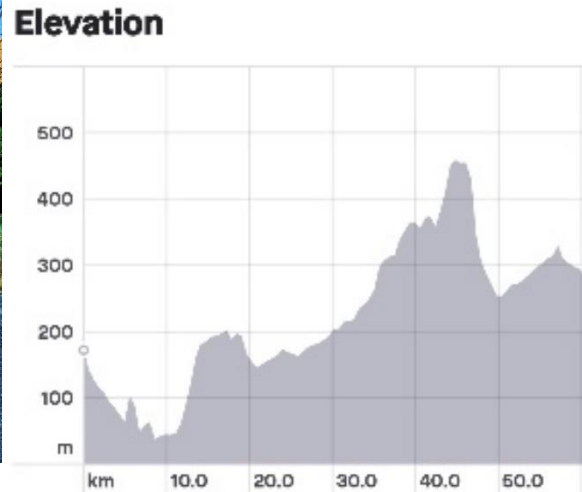
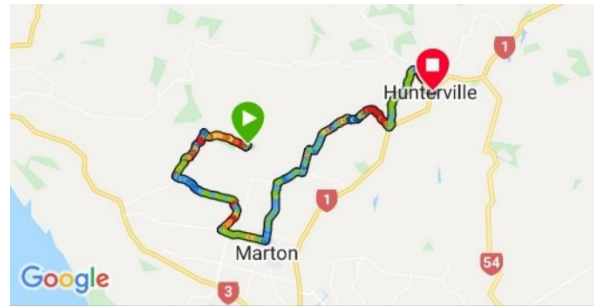
Friday 13th May

From: Rangitikei Farm Stay

To: The Railway Hotel, Hunterville

Distance travelled = 61km

Elevation climbed = 880m



It was a frosty 3°C start at the Rangitikei Farm Stay particularly for the couples who stayed in the cottage down in the valley, while those in the bunkhouse up on the hill enjoyed some early morning sun. We all took full advantage of the breakfast provided before setting off.



After 5km we reached the first 150m climb of the day which warmed us all up a bit. We meandered through some beautiful farming countryside and spectacular old farmhouses on the way into Marton for morning tea.



Marton is the largest town in Rangitūkei. The settlement was founded in the mid-1860s and in 1885 Marton became the junction of the main trunk and New Plymouth rail lines. Through most of the 20th century it serviced both the railway and a rich farming district. The town has a gracious feel, with large houses in spacious gardens, and several private schools.



Margaret had been recommended to try the **Four Doors Down Cafe** in Marton and it didn't disappoint.





After 35km we hit the biggest climb of the day, to 450m up over Mount Curl which was mostly newly graded marbly gravel which made the steep climbing difficult for those with skinnier tyres.



We had lunch near the summit where we enjoyed fantastic views of Ruapehu and Mt Taranaki.

Then we launched down into the 5kms of fast decent which thankfully was once again all sealed



and well cambered. We



arrived in Hunterville around 2.30pm and browsed through the numerous antique stores in town or sipped coffee until the hotel opened at 3pm.

Margaret had organised for us Railway Hotel, built in 1885, the outside was recently the inside. It also catered well



to stay at the marvellous which while rather plain from refurbished and immaculate on to cyclist being on the Tour



Aotearoa route with secure undercover area available for our bikes.

After a few drinks at the bar, we adjourned to a private room for a hearty meal that for once exceeded our appetites!

