

## Day 2 – “Solstice” Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June (50km)

The weather thankfully an improvement on yesterday. Eighteen of us met at Waitangi Holiday Park for an 8.30am start. Simon our leader gave us a brief outline of the day's ride before we set off.

We headed north over the Waitangi Bridge past the golf course with a slight detour up Bledisloe Road to a lookout, with amazing views over the bay and an opportunity for some great photos.



From here we made our way down to Haruru Falls, which was spectacular with a rainbow in the background. The next welcome stop was the Junction Cafe for morning coffee.



On the road into Mahoe Cheese factory/shop, we stopped to admire the animals in the paddock, pigs and piglets, goat and her kid which was so cute & noisy. We could smell the cheese from here and most took the opportunity to purchase their favourite cheese to take home. Oops now many had a heavier load to carry up the remaining hills!





On the road again to continue our journey we passed highland cattle, horses, cows, fantails, rosellas and to my delight I spotted several Kingfishers.



We met as a group at the top of the hill, McIntyres Rd (known as Horse Corner) before tackling Whangae Road, a lot of gravel and hills which made for a challenging ride. Turning right onto Oromahoe Road with 8.5km to ride to Opua where we had a welcome lunch break.



Nearly at the top of the hill



McIntyres Rd



Whangae Rd



Oromahoe Rd to Opuia



It was an amazing day with sunshine and so many interesting stops.

To finish off a great days' ride we were warmly hosted by John and Jackie at their home that evening for a pizza and salad dinner followed by a fun quiz. Thanks from all the group John for the jokes and all the effort you put into making the quiz night so enjoyable.

Simon was presented with a gift from the group as a thank you for all his time and effort in organising another successful tour.



*Author for the day: Christine Lawson*