

Rotorua Hub Tour – Sunday 17th to 22nd September 2023

Day 2 – Tour 1, Monday 18th – Waimangu Loop (By: Christine Lawson)

I was part of 10 people in group 1, led by John McLean and Bill Pepler.

We set off at 8.30am and rode along to the Whakarewarewa underpass, passing a sculpture and further on past Hemo Gorge Mt Bike track with an amazing statue. We rode onto Te Ara Ahi cycleway a lovely smooth concrete path into Waimangu Valley where we had morning tea at the café. After morning tea, we took a slight detour off the main track to view the Waiotapu Geothermal area. This was worth seeing, the bubbling mud pools and lots of steam. After approximately 30km we arrived at Waikite Hot Pools where we sat at an outdoor table and chairs for lunch. We took a short walk there to Te Manaroa Springs, which has the largest discharge of boiling water in New Zealand.

After lunch we cycled onto Corbett Rd, Tumunui Rd and along SH5 to complete a loop and finally got back onto the same pathway at Hemo Gorge back to the Thermal Holiday Park. We cycled approximately 88km today. Great weather, with very strong winds, which made it challenging at times. An enjoyable day with many scenic spots along the way. Nice to have a soak in the hot pool at the end of the day. A great team and thanks to the leaders for navigating.



8.30 am briefing before start of ride



Whakarewarewa monument



Hemo Gorge Mt Bike track



Group photo



Waimangu Valley – Café



Morning Tea



Waiotapu Geothermal area



Lunch at Waikite Hotpools



Te Manaroa Springs – largest discharge of boiling water in NZ (40-50 Litres per second)