

Day 8: Saturday 9th June 2012 Drive from Dunedin to Invercargill

We were both awake before the alarm sounded at 7:30am, no time to dilly dally, showers, breakfast, wash up, pack up and away before 9am. On our way out we went down to the windswept freezing cold St Kilda Beach that provided a great view back over the golf club, Holiday Park where we stayed and the city of Dunedin.



Before heading out of town we stopped into the Z petrol station that accepts discount fuel vouchers from shopping at Countdown (same symbol as Woolworths).

Reminding myself the Ford Transit motorhome runs on diesel we filled up, paid only to find we should have brought our Woolworths everyday rewards card and have the purchase credited, never mind you live and learn.



Although we Kea provided with an excellent street directory that covered the whole South Island, the good old Tom Tom helped us navigate (can't beat in 200m go around the roundabout second exit) while the tourism satellite radio receiver provided by Kea that plugs into the cigarette lighter and works through the radio tuned to 102.9 FM works on the vehicle GPS location. As you drive along the road the unit senses your GPS location and points out historical information about the location.

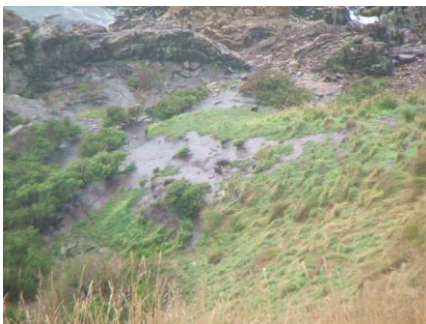
Unfortunately something went wrong with the tourism radio unit itself and the DC lighter point in the dashboard must have blown a fuse and will need fixing. I read the electrical manual for the vehicle and it said fuse 47 in the fuse box under the dashboard. Now I thought I was nimble and flexible enough but in this Ford you have to be a contortionist to turn yourself upside down, then a 90 degree turn in the pike position, stretch your neck 300mm and try to read the print that would require a magnifying glass. Well maybe I am stretching it a little, but not by much so guess what? I left it alone and used the DC outlet in the motorhome itself and so we used that outlet for both the tourism radio and charging the Tom Tom.

There was another 12 volt outlet in the top glove box compartment but I couldn't get the plug out. When we got back I was also told there was another outlet under the dashboard. Never mind, we survived.

South of Dunedin the Southern Scenic Route starts 7km past Balclutha and heads to Kaka Point, a holiday location on the Pacific Ocean. By the time we reached Port Molyneux heading toward Kaka Point and Nugget Point the rain had started but at least it settled the dust along the dirt and gravel road that heads out to the lighthouse. We decided to go out to the lighthouse because this is where you are supposed to see penguins, sea lions, elephant seals and fur seals.



By the time we got to Nugget Point car park the temperature with the drizzle was freezing and required us to put on our thermals, jumpers, and wet weather jackets with hoods to keep us warm and protected from the weather. The 900 metre walk out along the narrow track to the lighthouse was pleasant enough regardless of the weather with spectacular views of the rugged coast line. As we neared the lighthouse there way below us were a colony of fur seals (so the plaque told us) but from that distance it was hard to discern. The wind and rain spoiled what would have been great photos of the lighthouse and the coast line, luck not being on our side this time.



As you can see from the photo, Robyn is enjoying the cool breeze, light winds and gentle drizzle.



Back at the car park time to turn on the gas bottles, boil some water for a cuppa and thaw out in the warmth of the motorhome. As we were having our cuppa and packing up the sun came out, oh well you can't win the all. As we headed back to Maranuka SR to head back on to the Southern Scenic Route at Ahuriri Flat. We passed through gorges, pristine rain forests and open sheep country before heading to Owaka or place of boats. If you wanted to stop at all the waterfalls, blowholes, wildlife refuges, caves, inlets, bays, lookouts, art galleries and souvenir shops it would take a week just in this short distance.



As the time was getting on we headed to Florence Lookout for lunch, a beautiful spot looking out to a point with a long sandy beach.



Even though the country side has rolling grassy hills and paddocks that look like carpet, you start to get too accustomed to the point that the drive to Fortrose and on to Invercargill was really uneventful except for the wetlands and rivers that had these tiny little fishing huts alongside the river. You would either have to be a fishing freak or not have a friend in the world to spend your time cramped up inside these little 3m by 3 m huts, guess some people must love it.

Finally we drove into Invercargill which Robyn likens to Tamworth before heading out to the Invercargill Top 10 Holiday Park located 6 km out of the city. Once again we are enclosed by trees so the satellite television would not lock in. Oh well, no television tonight but then again as we have already said, the programs are crep (crap in oz talk) except for the news. Radio station 91.6 FM 'The Breeze' an oldies style playing all the songs we like so it's not too bad, less talk and more music.

Setting up the motorhome and looking around the facilities in the daylight certainly is an advantage especially when you see other motorhomes pull in when it's dark, drizzling rain and trying to park

in the bay straight, plug in the power and turn on the gas bottles. This park is small compared to Christchurch and Dunedin and there are only a few motorhomes and next to us is another Kea.

Tea is cooked, washing up done; planning for tomorrow is complete, time to hit the sack for another 7:30am rise.