

# A GERMAN VISITOR'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE AUCKLAND REGION FUN RUNS

BY HEIKO BARDELI



**April:** Every month, first or second Sunday, the Ferrari Owners' Club Auckland Region meets up for a fun run with about 15 to 20 participating cars - regardless of the weather conditions. For this reason, this 1986-formed club is probably more active than some European clubs. It is interesting as well, that New Zealand has got the world's second highest number of Ferrari cars relative to the population.

In New Zealand you may be far away from the big Ferrari events, like for example in Germany, but it is so beautiful to drive in a Ferrari through this wonderful landscape. You have to take care driving the rough side roads with chuckholes and bumps, but the panorama is worth it. There are several good roads for fun runs as well as good restaurants. Because of the high distance compared to Europe, some of the imported older cars have done more kilometres than one sees on European roads.

There are some very interesting cars in New Zealand, for example a 212 Export, 750 Monza or even the oldest road-going Ferrari in the world, a 166 Inter. This 166 was brought to Europe for the 50th anniversary of Ferrari.

Even one of the two existing Ferrari F40s in New Zealand participated in this April fun run. It came to New Zealand from the hands of Mario Bernardi in Germany. So this is a little world in New Zealand as well. The long row of low Ferrari cars creates a blazing contrast on the rather 4WD-dominated roads. The fun run started from Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city, heading in the direction of the Coromandel peninsula. In nice weather conditions and with a wonderful panorama the group reached the first stop at Maramarua. Then it went in unfortunately heavy rain to the end of the stage in Cambridge.

Many thanks to the Ferrari Owners' Club of New Zealand for the hospitality and heartiness!

**May:** This Fun Run started up on Sunday, 07.05.06 at 8:30am with beautiful weather. Before starting the engines, every participant had a look at the newly acquired rare super car of South Island member Barry O'Brien. It is the second Superamerica in New Zealand. The 12 cylinder engine coming from the 612 Scaglietti has 540 hp and a top speed of 320 km/h. It is well recognizable that the car is based on the 575 Maranello. But it's not the technical data that make this car special. It has an electrical glass roof that can be closed within 30 seconds. It has a carbon-fibre structure and the boot capacity remains unchanged whether the roof is open or closed. The glass rear window also acts as a highly effective wind deflector when the roof is open. There are five tint levels available to change the glass from dark to light in under a minute, at the touch of a button. This special glass technology is called electrochromic.

The Fun Run started up with 21 participants, including a rare 288 GTO of Paul Halford's and of course the Superamerica. Over winding roads with nearly no oncoming traffic and with good speed the group drove via Bombay to the first stop for morning tea at Cook's Landing cafe near Te Kauwhata. Along Lake Waikare the Fun Run headed north, via Clevedon, to the beautiful coastline with a wonderful view of the Coromandel Peninsula. After cruising the esplanade at the beach it went to the finish at Whitford. Organizer Russell Hall offered a marvellous menu to the participants in his beautiful house including a view over the sea. Again many thanks to all participants for taking us with you!



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