

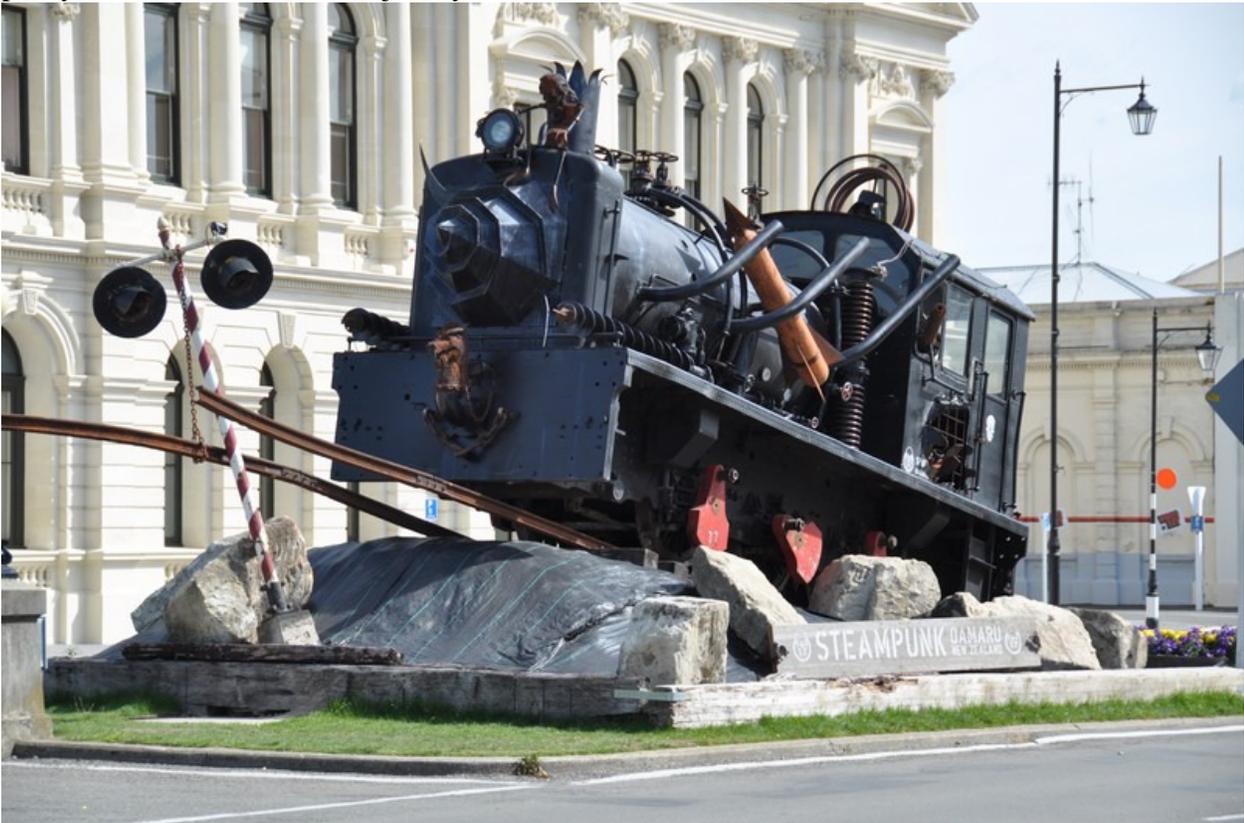
## **Day 16 – Waitangi Day – Sightseeing the area [Sunday 06-Feb-2011]**

I got up fairly early and started working on yesterday's diary. Today is New Zealand's national day. As I sat in John and Lanie's living room, the sun rose right in front of my eyes.

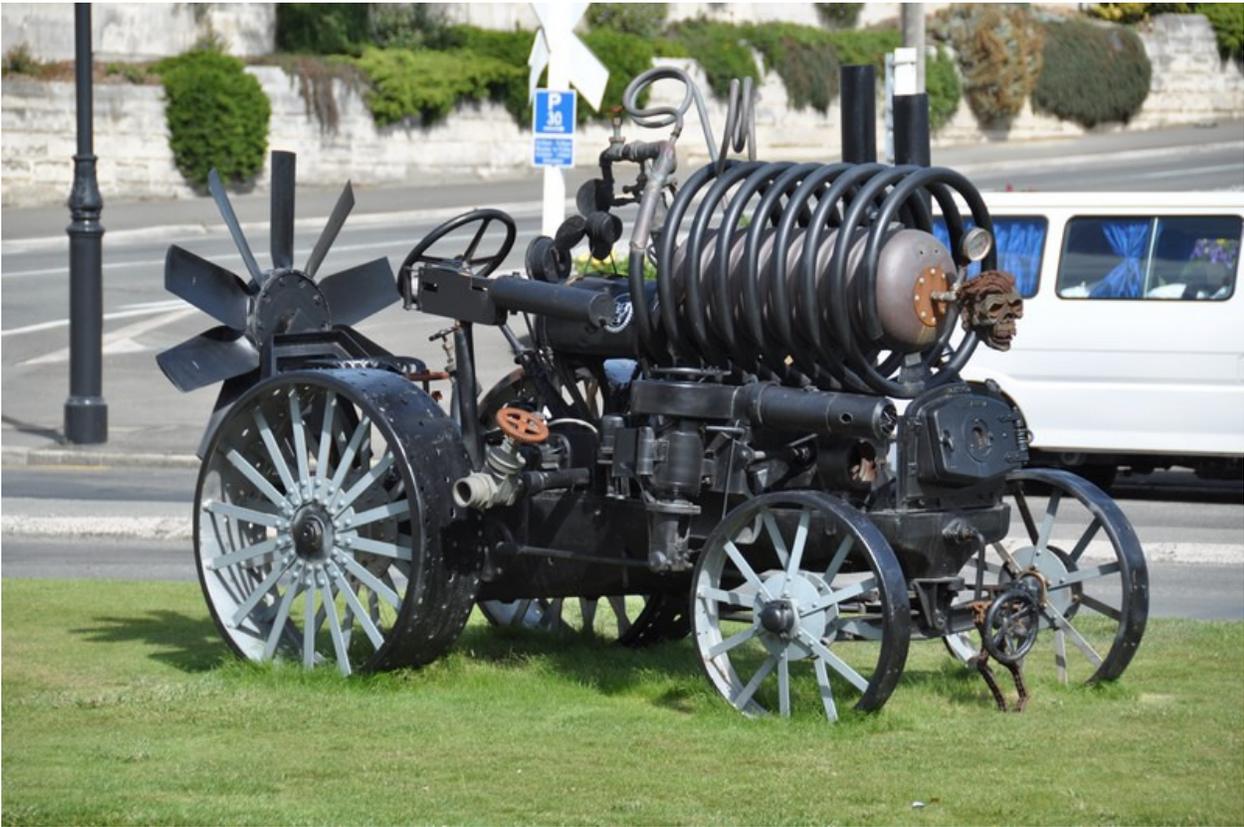


**Sunrise over Oamaru seen through John's panorama window**

When we got down into town I walked around and took some pictures of Steampunk art. Its pretty cool stuff. It's a sort of junk-yard semi futuristic art.



**A Steampunk locomotive is right in the center of town.**



**Another Steampunk mobile. Notice the head in the front of it.**



**A Steampunk crane in their yard**



**The crane's operator**

After walking around in town for a while we headed down to Campbell's Bay, south of Oamaru. The sun was shining.



**Lanie and Lilli are walking on the beach by Campbell's Bay. Water was in the 60s.**

After a bit of walking we headed over to Moeraki, where John had setup a reservation at a good seafood place called Fleur's Place. By the time we got there it was low 90s outside and the sun was shining.



**Ordering lunch at Fleur's Place in Moeraki**



**Lanie had Sole, Lilli had smoked Eel while John and I had bacon wrapped Blue Cod**

As we wrapped up our meal and got ready to head back out, I could hear the door slam as someone was walking outside. I thought it might have been the wind, but when I went outside myself I was sure it was the wind. The temperature had dropped 20F while we ate and a pretty hard wind was blowing. The seagulls in the port had some issues flying and our hats nearly blew away.



**One of many sea gulls outside of Fleur's Place in Moeraki is fighting the strong wind**

After we had wrapped up our lunch, we headed down to Moeraki Beach to look at the giant geodes that nature has created over a long period of time. They have been unearthed by waves in recent time. What is so special about these is that they are almost round.



**The unusually round geode "rocks" at Moeraki Beach, NZ**



**The stone egg opens and the alien steps out. No, wait! He is not an alien anymore.**



**The geode rocks have been unearthed by waves along the beach in Moeraki**

Just at the entrance to the beach were a number of flag poles. Some of the flags had been severely frazzled by the wind.



**And on this windy day we welcome people from the UK and from Israel**

We then continued to Shag Point to see if could catch a glimpse of both seals and Shags. We were not that lucky, although I spotted a few seals.



**Red Hot Pokers with unspecified (but common) blue flowers in the foreground**



**A seal is relaxing near Shag Point**

As we started our return back to Oamaru, John wanted to check out one of his favorite shops with old junk in it. John probably does not call it that. He was clearly humming in there, as was Lanie. They bought a couple of relics for pennies to the dollar and left with big smiles.



**John is at home in a second hand store. It has a very NZ feel to it, since they do recycle a lot**

Following our visit to the junk store, we continued to the Oamaru Public Gardens where we caught a glimpse of a few nice flowers in bloom. They had quite a collection of roses. They smelled good.



**A yellow rose in the Oamaru Public Garden**



**A very animated rooster was parading the parking lot when we were ready to leave**



**The gate at the transfer station in Oamaru is made from recycled material. Quite cute.**

It is really interesting to note how New Zealanders are keen to recycle things in general. This includes cars and houses. So rather than tearing things down or throwing things away, they get mended and repainted.

After we had eaten Japanese takeaway (take out) food back at home, John took me and Lilli back out to see if we could not spot some Yellow Eyed Penguins returning from their daily fish hunt in the ocean. We saw several of them, but we were at such a distance that it was not practical to get high resolution pictures with only a 200mm lens.



**Penguin crossing sign in Oamaru**



**A bit dark: a yellow eyed penguin waddles up on the Bushy Beach outside of Oamaru, NZ**