

Day 17 – Superbowl, Queenstown and more [Monday 07-Feb-2011]

The rain picked up over night and was really going full force by the morning. There was no view to speak of from John's house. At about 8:30AM we were all ready and we hit the road for a three day excursion. The rain was pouring and the roads were wet. In some places we had to slow down to a crawl as we drove through puddles of water. This is supposedly a fast moving weather system that should clear out by this afternoon. Meanwhile, a new cyclone has appeared on the north island that could impact us down here. It has already reached full force.



Lilli is topping off a bottle of water in the rain – Hey don't spill any water in the driveway!!



Lake Aviemore looks like a milky mint color. Sort of glacial melt with sediment in it

An hour or so after Lake Aviemore the rain stopped and it turned into overcast.



At a store in Cromwell they sold different “mixed” fruit baskets.



Snaking our way into Queenstown, home of jet setters

When we arrived in Queenstown we started looking for a sports bar where we could have lunch. According to our watches it was about kick-off time for Superbowl back home. We found a place called Monty's where the TV monitors were all blasting the game.



Ready for live Superbowl lunch on Monday! This is the benefit of being 18 hours ahead.

Those were huge NZ Angus burgers and they tasted just great. With it we drank Montieth's Summer Ale. It had a gingery flavor and tasted a bit like Shandy in the UK.



Tourists get a kick out of taking the roaring Jet Boat on the lake by Queenstown



The sky cleared up as we headed towards the NZ Fiordland

We stopped briefly in the town of Kingston to look at a man's strange collection of old tractor wheels that he had turned into a fence. After that we headed for Milford which is on the west coast of the South Island and in the Fiordland region.



The “fence” around the King of Wheel cottage in Kingston, NZ



More wheels



Fuchsia flowers outside of our motel room in Milford, NZ

When we arrived at Milford we first dumped our things in our motel room at Top 10. John then took us on a small detour to look at some native birds of NZ that were kept in cages. That was interesting even though we did not get to see the main attraction, the Takahe bird. Once we returned back to our motel we opened a bottle of wine and enjoyed the view.



Enjoying a bottle of chilled NZ Kaikoura Reisling on the deck.



A little snack to go with the wine



The NZ “campervans” often look like delivery vans with different interior to me



Where the heck are we?

The crude map above should give you an idea of where we are at this point. We flew into Auckland and then drove down to John's place in Oamaru. That is a 1,000 mile journey and we took three stops along the way as well as a ferry from the North Island to the South Island. Today we've travelled from Oamaru on the east coast to Milford Sound on the west coast. That took us the better part of the day over somewhat windy roads.