

JULY 2026:

Sunday 12th saw a handful of our Waikato group travel to Paeroa, where we met up with some of the BOP MX5 people for lunch at the “Refinery”. Organised by Marlene, company was convivial, café comfortable, the meal pleasant and we enjoyed the signery!



Was the gentleman in this picture studying the form guide for a Paeroa race meeting advertised for Sunday 28 March, 1999 ? I’m sure that the promise of FREE ADMISSION was an attraction.

Meanwhile the lady seemed to be a little confused about the parking arrangements.



A couple of days later, another meeting of some club members at an establishment in Hamilton East, for our monthly dinner gathering, as arranged by Shane and Anne. No Shane was not the sixth cook. And there were more than six at the table.

Hmm. What was the name of that restaurant again?



“Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning” Is a two-thousand-year-old saying of Biblical origins, often applied to shepherds as well. Yesterday, Sunday 26 July, it applied to members of the Waikato MX5 Club.

The forecast was for rain, perhaps heavy, so suitably attired, we made our way to the Eel Lake (Rototuna) shopping centre. There was a slight but annoying rattle coming from somewhere in our 28-year-old MX5. However I cured that without stopping, and it took all of three seconds.

If I remember I will share the methodology at the end of this document!

At Rototuna we meet the other hardy souls, jacketed warmly and mostly hatted to prepare for our tour to Flat White Café, Waihi Beach. Not only flat white but also flat battery, for Raewyn and Donee, whose MX5's battery had winter reluctance, so they resorted to the old-style motorsport adage of "run what ya brung". They brung their KIA SUV, and it must be said they kept up with the pace reasonably well.



Despite travelling via Lake Road and River Road we did not get too wet. Fortunately, the rain was nowhere near as severe as promised by the weather forecast. The well-named Driver Road was an interesting exercise, then on to the Tahuna-Paeroa straights where we saw two police cars heading in the opposite direction. Fortunately, our lead car was doing exactly 100 on both occasions. (I hesitate to say that this had not been the case at all stages of our journey.)

Before long we arrived at our toilet stop. This was at the very familiar Paeroa Domain, where Anne and Shane reminisced about their experiences as athletes on the domain's running track. (Quite a few yesterdays ago!) At the Paeroa stop, one member of our contingent chose to select a parking spot based on colour matching. Blue and yellow being the theme. (Or perhaps he had a bee sting on his toe and was therefore suitably disabled and entitled.)

When comfortably relieved we headed off on HWY 2 through the Karangahake gorge, before detouring into Waitawheta, past the Waihi golf course, and then back on to HWY 2, south of the Waihi Beach turn off.

Booked for a 1pm lunch, we arrived at Flat White Café at 12:30. However, the tables were reserved and service was prompt and efficient. (Had Donee skipped breakfast?)

Oh! The cure for the annoying rattle? Simply remove one's hearing aids

