Our Final Day Down Under!

By John-Paul Milton

All good things must come to end! Our last full day in New Zealand was filled with reflection, relaxation and a lot of traveling. After a tumultuous travel day when the New Zealand sky seemed to lament our departure with a downpour, today resembled our day of arrival: clear skies. In a collected effort, we scanned several maps and asked the National Park Hostel employees for a nearby geothermal spa. How could we leave New Zealand without experiencing its geothermal treatment? We were resolved! The catch revolved around travel; we could not travel too far away from our original path Auckland.

After committing to a reasonable route, we added an extra excursion: Tawhai Falls Walk from Lord of the Rings (Scene 42, "The Forbidden Pool"). Here is a walkthrough of the site. We all enjoyed the river, some more than others!

The Tawhai Falls is captivating, literally drawing in spectators!

In our continued trek, we found our geothermal hot spot! During our 20-minute spa session which only lasted 10 minutes, we discussed the potential for a hydrogen economy in

New Zealand. The discussion was fruitful until we began to feel faint from the ***intensity*** of New Zealand's geothermal potential!

The rest of our travel resembled our first day in New Zealand in more ways than simply weather. While traveling northbound on State Highway 1, we could reminisce about our journey. The [Huntly Power Station](), Waikato River, Lake Taupo and Mount Ruapehu served as reminders of what we experienced in these incredible two weeks. We sat in traffic near Auckland for about an seemingly a long time. However, even in that stalling moment, we witnessed one of the greatest sunsets during our trip.

With a full night in Auckland, we plan to celebrate a number of May birthdays in our company. As this will be our last night in New Zealand and our first night in Auckland, I believe I speak for the group when I say, "Thank you, NZ and CAUSE!"