

## Taupo to New Plymouth-Thursday Morning, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

*By: Connor Higgins*

Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, of our adventure in New Zealand, started with an early departure from Finlay Jacks Hostel in Taupo. After a quick breakfast at one of the local bakeries we drove to Huka Falls. This was a great overlook of the of the 15 foot wide cataract of the Waikato river as it flows North from Taupo. This hydrological feature typically has a flow rate of 160-220 cubic meters, which is controlled by flood gates. The sheer magnitude of this flow rate was hard to fathom. It was interesting to learn that experienced actually kayakers actually navigate this powerful hydrological feature.



*Huka Falls as Viewed from the Tourist Platform.*

We viewed Huka falls for some time, we then went to Wairakei Terraces and Thermal Health Spa for two or three hours. We then continued on our way to New Plymouth. One of the roads called the Hidden Highway was closed on our intended route unfortunately however, the route we took was just as stunning. We saw how land owners selectively cut their forest reserves to allow regions to mature while different areas would be cut at maturity and replanted. This type of forestry management allows land owners to have a secure retirement payoff and take advantage of New Zealand's incentive for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration.



*Selective Cutting of Forest Resource*

Along our way we saw several examples of how land owners selectively cut their forest reserves to allow regions to mature while different areas would be cut at maturity and replanted. This type of forestry management allows land owners to have a secure retirement payoff and take advantage of New Zealand's incentive for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration. We continued on our way to New Plymouth and had two CD's to listen to that I got at a CD shop in Taupo.