

Dispatch for Thursday, March 7, 2019

## Taranaki and Stratford Oil Fields

By Joel Luckenbaugh

This morning, we set out around 8:15. Before hitting the road, we stopped at a grocery store called the New World. Through the windy mountains, Mt. Ngaruhoe was spotted, where we snapped some pictures. Stopping at a bridge, a few classmates ran down to the water and Alli slipped in the mud a bit. While driving, there were plenty of sheep, goats, and cows, some of which were attempting to block the roadway. Later, Curtis and Sal took Dramamine for motion sickness. I was feeling a bit queezy myself. Additionally, I prepared for my dispatch in Stratford, while traversing the Forgotten World on Route 43.

In Stratford, we stopped at the grocery store to grab food. Pat informed us of his cow knowledge, which was much appreciated since his family has raised various cattle over the years. On the way to Maui, we stopped to get pictures of Mt. Taranaki, and arriving at the fields, I gave the dispatch on the region of Taranaki and Stratford's Oil Fields.

Taranaki is a region on the North Island. Named after Mount Taranaki, the region has a population of around 120K. Stratford is around 9.5K. Waihapa-Ngaere oil field is 7 km east of Stratford. The WN field was discovered in 1988. There are several producing wells with one producing 11% of New Zealand's daily local need. Total estimated recovery being around 13.5 million barrels. The fuel in Taranaki is recovered from sandstone rocks while the Waihapa-Ngaere oil comes from the limestone. The processing is done at the Marsden Point Oil refinery, New Zealand's only oil refinery, which is above Auckland.

Jumping in the van, we headed to New Plymouth to drop our bags at the Sunflower Lodge. In the evening, we headed to the shore to swim for a bit. Apparently, Alli, Pat, Nate, and Bimal met some guy who introduced them to eating sea urchin. Risky on their part, yet they made it out alive! On a side note, the water was pretty chilly, but the waves made up for it. To finish the evening, we got steaks at a restaurant downtown, and hung out at the hostel for the rest of the night before heading to sleep. Overall, the day was quite eventful and being so close to Mt. Taranaki was one of the best sights, in my opinion.



Above: Mt. Ngaruhoe on the left and Mt. Taranaki on the right