



BR Brake Van World Tour 4

Coromandel West Coast March 2025

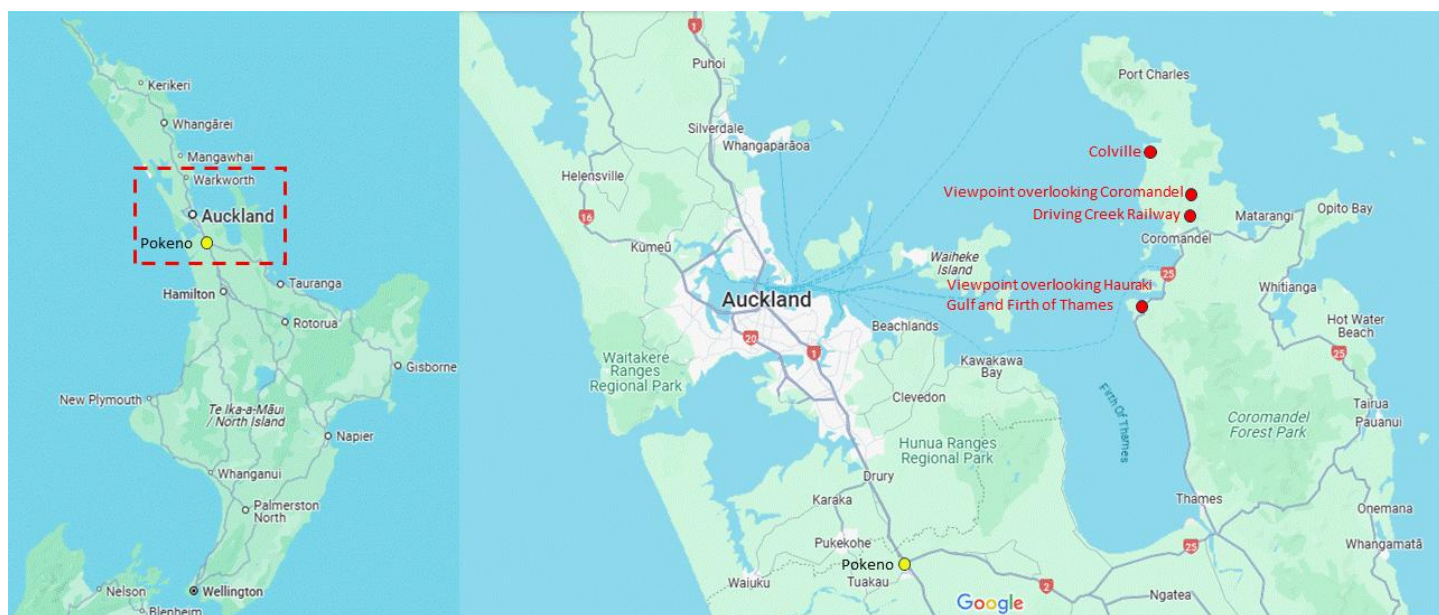


Author: John Boyson



The view overlooking Coromandel township and back south west over the Firth of Thames to the Hunua Hills beyond which lies Pokeno and home. Over to the right, is the Hauraki Gulf and on the far side, Auckland.

This week's newsletter shows some photos of a one day outing to the nearby Coromandel Peninsular. It's a particularly scenic area of the North Island and an easy drive from home.



A map of the North Island on the left, with a detail map of the area in question on the right. As before, our home town of Pokeno is marked in yellow whilst the places visited and photographed are highlighted in red.



Looking north along the west coast of the Peninsular towards its far tip at Cape Colville.



Just north of Coromandel township lies the Driving Creek Railway which we visited but weren't able to travel on. It had been block booked by a car touring club which seriously limited available seats for speculative visitors such as ourselves. Nonetheless, the opportunity was taken for a few photos. One of the railcars that operate on the railway (10.25-inch gauge) is being shunted.



My activities were noticed and as a result, once I had explained the brake van's history, gained an invitation into the workshops for a look around. A lot of amazing stuff was present including a significant number of machine tools such as the lathe in the background. These had been rescued from A & G Price in Thames at the base of the Peninsular for a second life following the factory's closure. A & G Price were the principal NZ based private supplier of railway stock for NZR for many years back in the day.



Plan B, having failed to get a trip on the railway, was to head north from Coromandel town over the divide to the east side of the Peninsular.



A drive around a gravel loop road saw us back on the west side still north of Coromandel township where we followed the coastline south.



Further south, having passed through the township once again, the road climbs up around a bluff area to regain the coastline along the Firth of Thames once again. This is the view west into the setting sun looking across to Auckland.



An enlarged part of the previous photo showing the tower blocks of the Auckland CBD in the distance about 90km away through a low point in the islands directly below the prominent cloud. Driving around from this location would take about 200km and about 2-3 hours depending on traffic.



Looking south along the road close by the above view point