



# BR Brake Van World Tour 5

## Forgotten World March 2025

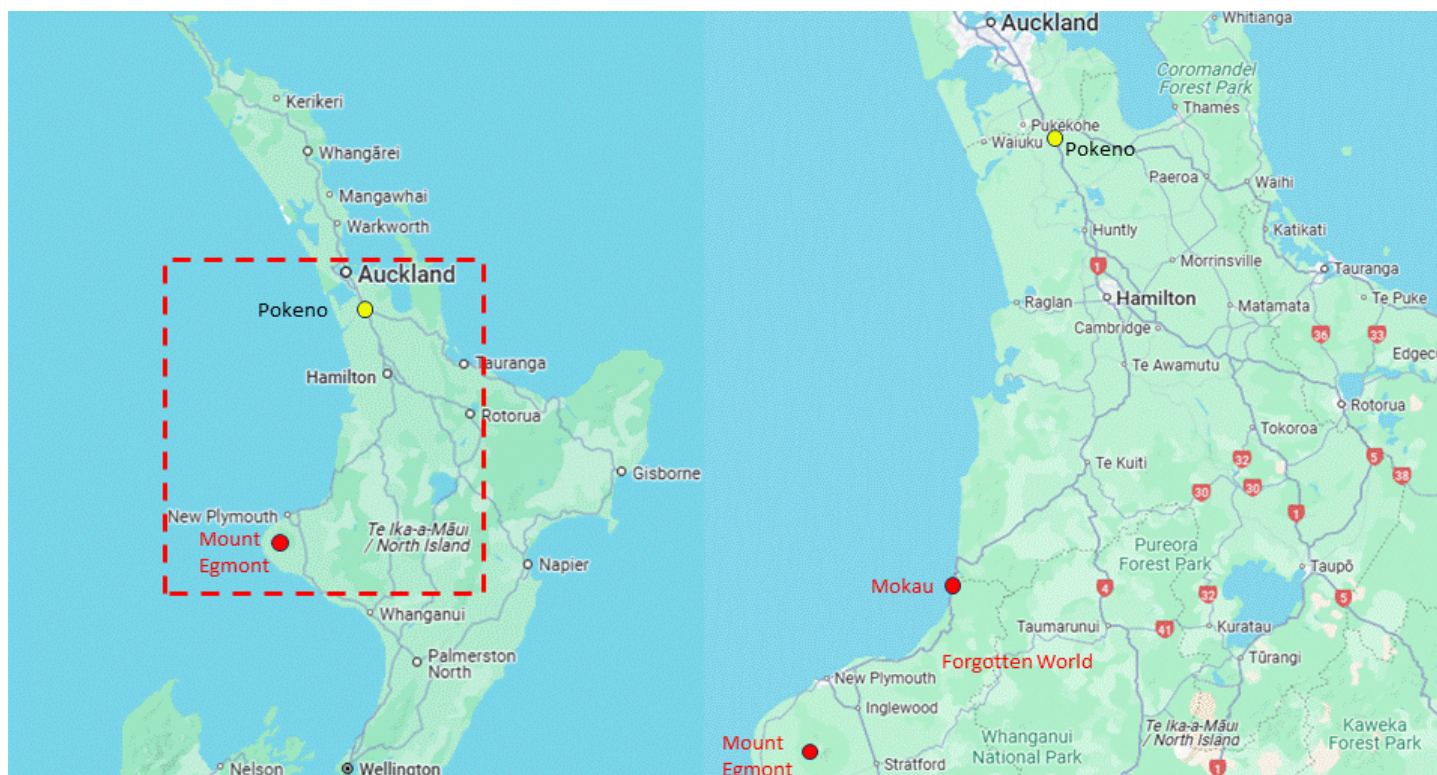


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*Having reached the West Coast and State Highway 3 slightly north of Mokau (see map below) just on sunset after touring through the above area, we stopped at a strategically placed rest area to look south west to a distant Mount Egmont (or Taranaki for its Māori name). At 2508 metres above sea level, this is the second highest peak on the North Island.*

This trip ventured into another of the remoter parts of the North Island, between Taumarunui and New Plymouth. We followed a part of the abandoned Ohurakura to Stratford Railway which passed through this area. It was built to provide a connection from Auckland to New Plymouth on the West Coast.



*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.*





*One of the many bridges on the railway which is now used for tourist rides on buggies. It's on our bucket list to do one day.*



*The terrain is rugged with a lot of bush cover. There are a number of tunnels needed for the roads to break through the countryside. the railway needed even more!*





*A closer view of the tunnel's unusual profile. The pointed invert is due to the shaly material it has been bored through which would not otherwise hold up if a normal arched profile was used. This follows a similar technique used for the railway tunnels through the chalk cliffs at Dover for precisely the same reasons.*



*The other side of the tunnel bathed in the evening sunlight.*