

Gauge One 3D Printing Circle

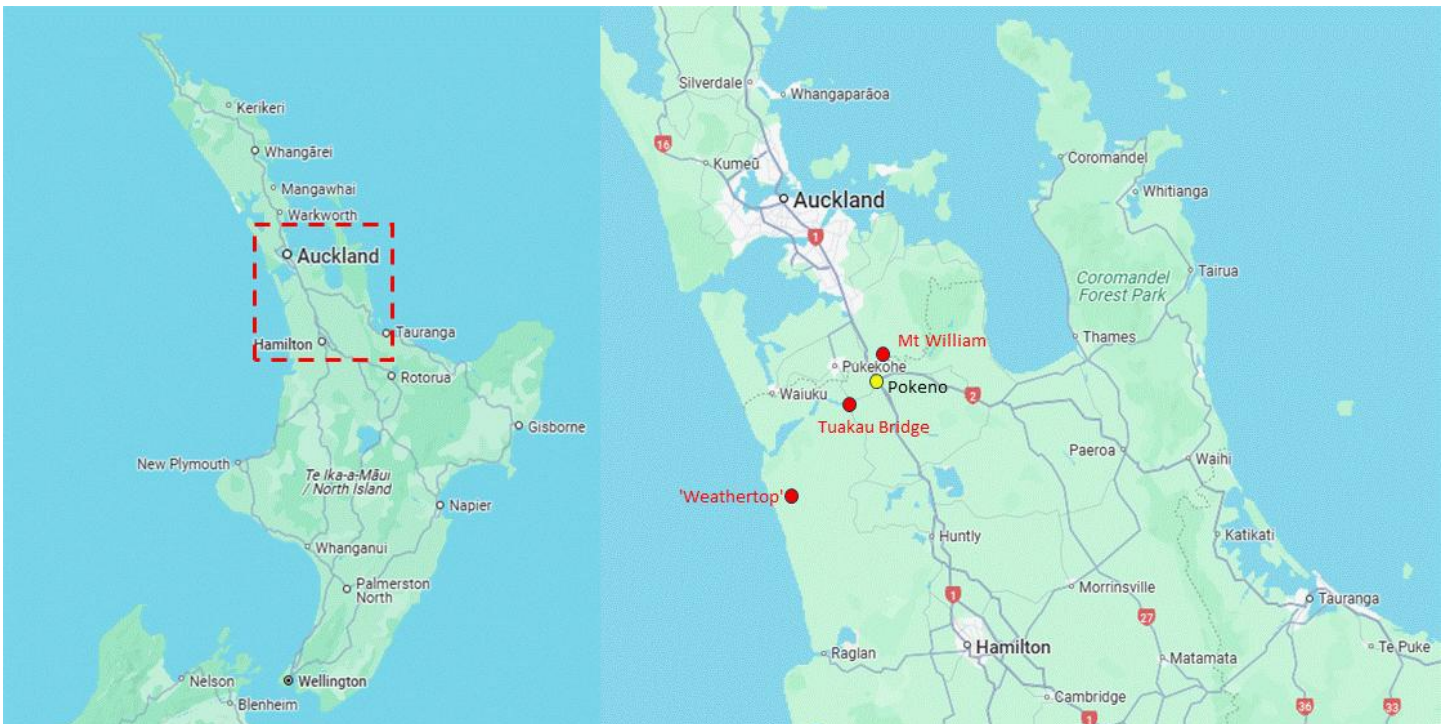
BR Brake Van World Tour 2 Waikato Trips January and February 2025

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At Tuakau Bridge over the River Waikato, the last crossing before it reaches the sea. Tuakau's main claim to fame is as the town where Sir Edmund Hillary grew up. The river's source is Lake Taupo visible in the centre of the North Island on the map on the left below.

This, the second newsletter covering the Brake Van's travels, focuses on its initial explorations in January and early February locally around the North Waikato Region where we reside between Auckland and Hamilton.



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



South west from the Tuakau Bridge takes us into some fairly remote countryside not often visited. It's limestone country with numerous outcrops, one of which is quite well known.



This is 'Weathertop'. For Lord of the Rings fans, it is the scene where Frodo was stabbed by the 'Black Riders' in the 'Fellowship of the Ring'. For those not sure, it's the mushroom topped outcrop directly above the brake van.



A little further south, the road reaches an impasse where it has to zig zag down to get around a line of cliffs. The continuation of the road is visible below the cliffs.



Reaching the base where the road does a hair pin turn to follow the valley back inland again. The Tasman Sea is just visible in the gap above the brake van.



I also took the brake van on one of my local walks up Mount William. Its only five minutes' drive from home and has a terrific outlook over both the Waikato Plains and north to Auckland. This is looking up from the south up the final slopes to the summit.



At the summit just on sunset.



The view north from the summit. These hills present a barrier between Auckland and the Waikato Region to the south. The summit is right on the boundary between the Regions.