

# Muscle Cars and Hamilton Gardens

*By Ted Handley - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of March.*

We all met at the Western Bay of Plenty Council Car Park at 8 :45. We then left in convoy to Cambridge Rugby Club Grounds to meet up with the members from the Waikato area.

We travelled from there to Hautapu where we visited Ross Bros private Muscle Cars & Earth Moving Machinery collection. This was arranged by Gary & Estelle Bexley (With Estelle providing a lovely home cooked morning tea.)

The First thing that we saw on arrival at C & R Developments was a huge Peterbilt truck coming through the front wall the same model featured in the movie "Duel".



*The ultimate Pool table*



Inside there was a collection of 1960s and 70s era of muscle cars - Fords, Chevys, Dodges, Chryslers, Aston Martin, Bentley convertible, AC Cobra, Z28 Camaro, & including a Z28 Camaro pool table.

Walking through to the next room you realise you are standing inside a gigantic bulldozer bucket acquired from the Rotowaro open cast mine in Huntley.



*Super Dozer*

In the centre of the building is a Komatsu D575A Super Dozer - one of the largest dozers you can buy, there were only 42 ever made.

This was one of two used by Kaipara Group in the Stockton mine and both were remote controlled.

Standing alongside is a 1958 Euclid TC-12 which is effectively two C-6

bulldozers that have been split down the middle and joined into one with each engine driving the track on its side.

Parked outside is nothing less than the world's largest 21 metre motor scraper - a Cat 660 brought from North Queensland after the contractor had finished with it in the early 70s, which fitted perfectly with the Ross Bros time frame of interest.

From there we travelled to Hamilton Gardens for a picnic lunch and a chat.

Thanks to Gary & Estelle. Well done (especially the home cooked morning tea)



*Maralyn driving the Super Dozer?*

*Ted*

