

## New Zealand - The Goulds

It was on the February 11 that Sue and I departed Sydney on the Ruby Princess cruise ship bound for New Zealand. The cruise we were on was two prior to the ill-fated one that returned to Sydney with such devastating affect relating to the Covid-19 outbreak. We were extremely fortunate as this was at the time when Covid-19 was just being reported overseas.

During the time in New Zealand we had the pleasure of experiencing some wonderful sights, both cultural and the natural beauty of both North and South Islands.

I shall not bore you with all of the details of our cruise, but just the couple of occasions that relate to the sightings of classic motor vehicles.

One of the ports of call was Akaroa, a quaint British and French-influenced township on the south island where we boarded a coach for a trip to Christchurch, about 80km away.

Christchurch is the city to explore, where the best unique means of getting around the city is by the vintage tram network. The city has been through some massive changes after the earthquakes and whilst exploring, to our surprise, we came across a Morris Minor Series 5 panel van outside a market place.

That was enough excitement for the day, so on the tram again and back to where the coach was waiting to return us to our cruise ship.

The next port after windy Wellington was Napier, in the Hawke's Bay region on the North Island. Napier is a popular tourist city, with a distinctive concentration of 1930s Art Deco architecture.

The city was rebuilt after much of it was destroyed in the 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake. It is recognised as one of the most photographed tourist attractions in the country because of its buildings. If you want to be driven around in style you can hire one of the many classic vehicles to



view the city sites. This 1937 Austin 10 Cambridge and 1938 Buick, pictured below, were amongst a number of vehicles lined up on the dock to bid us goodbye.

What a wonderful holiday we had!

Graeme Gould

