



The Sturrock family and the Loop Bus – pictured with the backdrop of Mt Manaia, near Whangarei, which features on their bus artwork.

STURROCK FAMILY REFLECT ON THEIR LIFE ON THE ROAD

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY NIKKI & CAMPBELL STURROCK

We can't believe it's been two years since we were living that comfortable, normal life in a comfortable, normal house in the comfortable suburbs of Auckland...going to work, Scouts, Cubs, hockey, art class, sports, an assortment of comfortable normality.

Looking back at the moment of clarity that tipped our world on its head and started this adventure, armed with youthful righteousness and the word of sustainability to spread to the point of almost knowing it all...man we must have been annoying!

In spite of that, I believe businesses like Inzide Commercial and their carpet made from fishing nets and organizations like the Auckland Zoo supported us because they believed in us and the vision we all share. Looking back, that is most humbling.

That vision was summed up in those powerful words 'Leave it better than you find it' which were gifted to us by the NZMCA as a banner to

wear upon our bus and remind us of our true path while we travel.

Lesson one; we aren't the only ones and we are not the first. Gaping at a sea of rally campervans helped us realize we are not alone and happy hour doesn't just last for an hour!

We found NZMCA members extremely happy to talk about all manner of intricacies and gremlins that make up a mobile home. Not only talk but help each other out with advice, spare parts, tools and even POPs to stay at, teaching us the NZMCA is less like an association and more like a family.

After a grueling day on the trail of 1080 opinion, a powerfully-charged subject on the West Coast, I can't tell you how grateful we were to find ourselves at POP Base Camp Inangahua with John Ormsby and Chris Vooght #37146.

We felt like we were turning up at Mum and Dad's the moment their beaming smiles welcomed us into their peaceful, safe compound. It's easy to get caught up at the

coal face of scary stuff going on in the world and overlook the lovely humans out there doing their bit.

To us, those NZMCA members who offer POPs to strangers are very brave; putting love of their fellow humans before fear, being willing to share their lives with others with the intention of leaving each other better after having met.

Then, there are the times when you are truly on your own...like when you find yourselves broken down in some remote and granted stunningly beautiful but mobile service-free part of the country.

You too may get a crash course in 'one of you has to fix it' and arguing about the 'which' one is just wasting time before the food runs out and your three delightful and seemingly civilized children turn savage.

My most uplifting moment, when asked by the driver of the fully-laden stock truck and trailer stuck behind us, if we were going to be long, was when my husband shrugged and turned to

me. I looked at them both steely eyed and said: "Get in and turn her over babe, I have bled the system, refilled the primer and secondary fuel filters".

The look on the truckie's face as the Loop Bus burst into life and Cam drove her out of his way still makes me smile and I give myself and God an A+ for that one.

These nerve-wrenching parts of the adventure make the adventure. Those things we learn about ourselves when put to the test, how are we supposed to learn them anywhere else?

How would we have grown and been shaped without meeting the people who would impact not only us but our children. We have discovered a large and growing number of families living and schooling on the road who respect the 'leave it better than you find it' idea.

The kids are interesting and interested especially in our Natures Head toilet, it seems, where they can be an active part in the production of humanure.

Unafraid to speak their minds to adults and children alike, they are fast to make friends and value the time they have together because shortly we will be moving on. These kids pick up trash, are conscious in their consumption and value material things more it seems as they have less.

NZMCA members the Etheringtons #68761 and their three amazing road-schooled kids took on Plastic Free July. Supporting a community initiative to make Boomerang Bags in the soft technology room of a local school, Ana (14), Katja (12) and Charlie (9) learned how a sewing machine works, to make and cut patterns and fabric, to iron and incorporate handles and to be a functioning part of a co-ordinated team effort with strangers to produce bags to give to people they may never meet.

Their mum Saskia says: "For us as a family we want to contribute to others and the environment. We have the time and the space to 'leave it better than we find it' and are as inspired by this as the Loop Crew.

Dad Dave says it's about: "Showing the kids that sometimes just making the tea is a huge help".

All our kids have discovered there is not only joy in receiving but giving as well. Learning that it is the thought that counts and remembering others can grow their community. Roll on another Christmas in the bus!

We are so grateful for the time we have had on the road, the people we have met who have taught us and inspired us. So grateful to know we are more than what we thought and more than the sum of what we have bought.

We have changed so much and realize there is so much more to our life now. We are blessed

to have met people who are doing good for others and the planet.

We are honoured to have been so welcomed by the NZMCA family and to see the trees they are putting in the ground and the rubbish they are removing from the sea and know we are not alone.

We will continue to travel, as we are well and truly bitten by the 'bug' and can't wait to meet who we are going to meet next.

Feel free to contact us at www.theloopcrew.kiwi. Merry Christmas everyone, see you all on the road. 🇳🇿

Our Carbon Footprint

Biodiesel-BioGold Greenfuels (litres)	2768
Lead to carbon avoided (tonnes)	7.53
Mineral diesel used (litres)	3659
Lead to carbon emitted (tonnes)	9.95
% biodiesel used	43%

Our Carbon Credits

Trees required to offset 10 tonnes @ 7 trees/tonne	70
Trees planted so far	1050
Carbon sequestered by trees (tonnes)	150
Carbon we have in credit (tonnes)	140

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Waimate, turn at the yellow barn!

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