

BR Brake Van World Tour 1 Heading to New Zealand December 2024

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On show at Penkrigde and then, on the right, for the last time in the UK before heading away, at the NEC show on the 24th November 2024.

The brake van came into being as a result of the 75th Anniversary of G1MRA. It was constructed by Trefor Willingham using 3D printing to build it as a means of contributing to and celebrating the above event by the 3 D Printing Circle. Since then, it has become the mascot for the Circle and is a demonstration of what can be achieved in this medium.

As its builder and consequent custodian, Trefor was keen for it to be seen and also for it to travel, if possible, around the world. These ambitions were chatted about at various times over the last year or so.



This is where I came into the picture. Residing in New Zealand, as my wife and I do, we do travel fairly regularly to the northern hemisphere and last year we came to the UK. Thus, a plot was hatched whereby, during our stay, the van was passed to me via Keith Bucklitch. I also managed to catch up with Trefor as well when we met in person at the NEC just before I left for the south.

As part of the brief, in assuming temporary custody of the van, I was asked to take photos of its travels whilst the van is with me and pass them to the Group for them to enjoy and use. Thus, this will be the start of an occasional series for the Circle outlining its travels. To begin with, there is a bit of catching up to do since the van travelled to NZ in December and since then it has seen a bit of the North Island where we live. In May, it is planned to take it to Melbourne and later in the year, possibly the South Island.

The longer-term plan is to hand it over to somebody else to take it on and get it across to more of Australia and then North America before heading back to the UK. We shall see. In the meantime, here is the story of its travels out to NZ as the first part of the story.



Arriving in Singapore from Manchester after a 13-hour day-night long haul, courtesy of Singapore Airlines; and at Boat Quay on the Singapore River outside the Fullerton Hotel. The Singapore Parliament Buildings are on the opposite shore.



Around the corner after nightfall, the view across the recently encircled harbour looking past the Merlion across to the Marina Sands Hotel. The infrastructure including the hotel on the far side have all been built on land created since 2003 in what was open sea. This includes an underground rapid transit railway to form part of the country's ever expanding MRT system.



The Christmas lights illuminating Orchard Road, Singapore's equivalent of Oxford Street. This is about 10pm and it's all still going strong with everything still open and trading.



Having spent a week in Singapore, it was time to continue the journey south east. This time, a slightly shorter leg of 10 hours albeit starting at the unhelpful time of 1am local time! This brought us into Auckland at 3pm NZ time, dazed and confused! On the left, the transit hall of T3 in Singapore awaiting our departure. The view on the right is the entrance into the arrivals hall in Auckland the following afternoon, complete with soothing birdsong.



Safely ensconced at Mallaig with the total collection of 1:32 freight stock I have accumulated so far. N.B. the 3D Circle van is the one on the left!