



Red Remembrance Day in Dargaville 2025

Dargaville, a town of approximately 5000 people near the West Coast of the Kaipara region of Northland, has hosted Red Remembrance Day gatherings since 2023.

Even before Red Remembrance Day was inaugurated, Dargaville has a proud local tradition of opposition to the government overreach in the Covid years. Back in 2021, concerned residents in the town organised several events in opposition to the mandates - and the discrimination against those who did not have a "Vaccine Pass", including a protest walk around the town centre in December 2021 and a "Vigil for Democracy" outside the town hall in February 2022.

This year's Red Remembrance Day was held on the corner of Victoria Street (the main shopping street in town) and Hokianga Road.

The weather of the morning of Saturday November 15th, 2025 was not auspicious for an outdoor event; it had rained heavily the night before and the sky was threatening more of the same.

Over the past three years, we have established a local tradition of bringing freshly picked roses to hold at Red Remembrance Day events. A friend who picked roses from her garden apologised because the edges of some of the petals had been burned by the rain. (The vibrant red blooms were beautiful regardless - and it seemed fitting that they were imperfect because we have all been battered by life the past few years.)

Another friend had thought to bring along some red fabric roses, so as people were beginning to gather on Victoria Street, we affixed these to the pohutukawa tree on the street corner. Then, while we waited for people who had not yet arrived, we spoke among ourselves, remembering a well-liked local man who used to volunteer for charity who was found dead the day after his Covid shot.

Most of us were from Dargaville (or the surrounding area) but two people had travelled all the way from Northland's East Coast to join us so we all introduced ourselves before the reading of the NZDSOS address.

Rain began to fall during the reading of the address, softly at first, then more determinedly, assisted by a brisk breeze, necessitating that we shuffle under the verandah of the local ANZ bank.

By the conclusion of the reading NZDSOS address it was obvious that the only thing we would achieve from continuing with the planned programme would be to get wet and cold. We hastily assembled for a photo op but unfortunately the photo did not come out well.

Considering the event was truncated, many of us spontaneously decided to go to a local café where we had an enjoyable time continuing discussions in warmth and comfort.

While it was disappointing that the weather was (again!) unfavourable I am pleased I took the time to help organise and attend this year's Red Remembrance Day event. (Thanks to the support offered by NZDSOS.com, who supplied print ready PDFs for a poster as well as social media graphics, helping to organise the event was not an onerous task.)

For me, it's a way of honouring the good friends and neighbours we have lost too soon as a consequence of the Covid era lies and those who were injured – as well as the people in so many diverse occupations in NZ who faced the invidious "choice" of No Jab, No Job imposed by the tyrannical Ardern regime (with the complicity of all other political parties represented in Parliament at that time).