

International Caravanning Fellowship of Rotarians (NZ) Inc



Motutara Farm and Bay of Islands Holiday Park Rallies

11/18 Feb and 18/20 Feb 2011

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Thursday 10th Feb saw Bennie and Ces, Max and Denise and Charles and Marjorie welcoming the early birds to the camp site at Motutara Farm Park. They were parked on the flat [the Bayou] but we and some others went up the top where we had a view of the bay and the ocean [Nob Hill].



At five's under the trees there were 18 of us enjoying smoked marlin, compliments of Ernie and Mavis. The weather was nice although it was obvious that not so long ago there had been flooding on the flat site.

Friday was arrivals day for most and the rest walked here and there, swam both at the ocean



beach and over in the estuary when the tide was high. By 5's that night we had about 20 vans in and a good crowd gathered. We were given the few rules and told about the ablutions etc and advised of the programme for Saturday – a short walk up the hill to the trig and out to the point for the more energetic ones. Graeme and I had to go to a meeting in Auckland so missed all of that including the excitement of clambering over the large slip which came down in the floods and partially blocked the road. After lunch it rained so most spent the time snoozing, reading or

socializing with friends in their vans. The rain passed in time for 5's and dinner with Roger's wonderful potatoes. Max noticed he had collected a large puddle of water in his awning and lifted it to empty, managing to have Denise right underneath – she did need to have a shower didn't she Max? Unfortunately Lloyd slipped and fell in his trailer and hurt his leg needing Dr Andy, Nurse Joyce, Matron Jan and Nurse Aid Margaret to administer first aid.

Sunday was a lovely morning with hot sun again with the usual bustle of camp chores. At 10.30 the hardy folk went down to the beach to play cricket and others stayed in the Bayou to play petonque.



The cricket was good fun although some seemed not to understand the rules too well – ball deflections with umbrellas and hiding the ball in the sand etc seemed to be in their rules! It was a very important game as the selectors were scouting for new talent for the Black Caps. Some great bowling by Laurie Young, Andy Duncan and Campbell de Forge, great 6's by Graeme [into the sea] and Bennie [into a pohutukawa tree where it stuck for some time], and a great catch by Bennie with a dive into the sand and all.

The general consensus was that it was great fun but VERY HOT AND VERY HARD WORK RUNNING IN THE SAND.

The gentle game of petonque also went well with a good deal of discussion on how to measure the distances for each team's ball. At 5's that night they gave out prizes. Cricket: best batter Graeme Matheson, best bowler Andy Duncan, and Laurie Young player of the match. Petonque: Margaret de Forge, Colleen Bartlett won with Don Challis and Charlie Innes being runners up. We all had dinner at Party Central. [Gunns, McFalls and Clotworthys joined their awnings with a large canvas in the centre to protect from the sun and any light rain.]

Sadly today we learnt of Reg Parker's death from pancreatic cancer and were told the funeral will be on Wednesday. Several of us decided to travel down for it. Also Lola Taylor is in hospital with her cancer progressing to its inevitable end which is difficult for Ron and sad for us all.



Monday which was a free day dawned sunny and calm although wind came up later. A group of 6 walked from the camp round the rocks and beach to the shop for ice-cream and crossed the estuary by the bridge to South Whananaki, then back along the road to camp. Another group of 6 went down to Barron's Beach and walked along to the end and up to the road to home. Some lazed the day away and others swam in ocean or at the estuary. More people arrived today including Bates, Morgans and visitors to this camp, Rob and Maureen Higham. Camp is really full now.



Tuesday saw a windy fine day and all the men clustered around Lloyd's 4-wheeler, trying to get it going. The ladies were doing their chores and a number of energetic folk went off walking round the rocks or over the hills and far away. Some went to the store to replenish milk and bread. Later it



was sand sculpture day and 6 groups of 6 plus 3 judges and a couple of organisers went down to the beach. There was a hedgehog, Felix the cat, Eve and the serpent in Garden of Eden, Beach bums, the Bafta award and a



champagne bottle and glasses. About 3.30pm 3

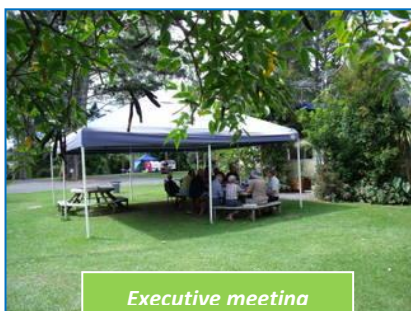
carloads of folk left for Auckland on way to Reg's funeral tomorrow At 5s's the winners of sandcastles were announced - Eve and Serpent winners, with Felix and the Beach Bums runners up. Congratulations to Nannette, Ian, Joyce, Rosemary and Shirley.

Wednesday at 1 pm saw Edmonds, Colleen and Nola, Bentons, Mathesons, Hollaways, Duncans, Jean and Neil Davey, Tom and Marj Ryan, Brian and Maureen Tuetenberg, Peter and Susan Blackman, and Dave and Nancy Campbell gathered at the lovely old United church in Thames for Reg Parker's funeral which was a great occasion.

John Edmonds gave a nice tribute to the Rotary speaker, who read it out and with the large contingent there from ICFR, Vi was so pleased. Rotary and Masonic Lodge played a large part in the service and Reg's grand-daughter gave a wonderful picture of Reg. Those who stayed in camp went for a picnic on Barron's Beach where they had a memorial service for Reg. Bennie played 'How Great Thou Art' and several spoke about Reg. The usual 5s's and potatoes for dinner, but in the evening Roger had to take Isabel to Whangarei Hospital as she was very ill.

Thursday was our last full day in camp and seemed to come round very quickly. The morning was free for walking, reading and chatting and after lunch there was beach rounders for the energetic. Team A got 11 runs and 4 out and team B got 10 runs and 4 out which according to Barry meant his team won by miles!!! A couple of folk went fishing and many had a swim in the estuary as the ocean far too rough today for ocean side swim. We visited cousins and friends in Whananaki and caught up on what is happening with the walkway going through the district and what DOC is doing locally. Tonight we had to go without Roger's potatoes as he was visiting Isabel who is recovering – they think maybe a kidney stone was to blame for her pain. But to compensate Ces and her helpers had made fruit salad and meringues and ice-cream for dessert which was yummy.

Friday we woke to grey day with a couple of light showers of rain but it improved later. Everyone



was busy packing up to move on to Paihia which was a short run after we did the windy road from Whananaki. Max and Denise and Charles and Marjorie welcomed us all to the Bay of Islands Holiday camp, along with Parrs, Teutenbergs, Campbells, Palmers, Coopers and Roffeys who have joined us. They had us all arranged in orderly fashion and ready for action by lunch time. The Executive gathered at 3 pm and held their meeting which was fairly lengthy. Then it was 5s's up at the

camp's gazebo which couldn't hold us all but it didn't matter as it was a gorgeous evening. The usual Friday night supper gatherings in each others vans was the usual success with us all getting to know each other a lot better. Isabel and Roger rejoined us tonight after a day in a Whangarei camp.

On Saturday there was no official trip or tour. Mathesons and Blackmans went on the Hole in the Rock Tour, and Bursons, de Forges, Lloyd Saunders and Bates went on the Cream Trip. We saw large numbers of very healthy and playful Bottle Nosed dolphins and plenty of sea birds. We called into Otehei Bay and had coffee and a wander on the lovely beach. The Cream Trip ones got through the



“Hole in the Rock” as they were there later in the day but it was too rough for us to go through. Had a very good look through though and heard the legend of the Maori rite of passage by young men who had to climb up the rock. How they even got on to the rock I wouldn't know! Others went to Waimate, Waitangi and Kerikeri to explore and still others lazed in camp and had swims in the pool and walks by the river which has been swept clean by the

enormous flood they had 2 weeks ago. Cooks Beach Rally marshalls had a meeting and gave out the application forms. Everyone got ready for the night out and went to 5s's where Dave and Nancy Campbell shouted us all drinks and nibbles to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. At great expense, the original officiating minister, Rev. Jack Wilson had been specially flown in from Timaru



to reminisce on the occasion. Congratulations to you both on a wonderful marriage. Then the buses came and drove us to Kerikeri RSA where we had a very nice meal and some wonderful entertainment by John and Margo Roberts.

He is a Welsh tenor and she accompanied him beautifully on a keyboard. He sang a Welsh folk song, an Italian operatic one, then several songs from shows, as he used to do on cruise ships. It was a very happy group of people the buses bought back to camp on a beautiful night.



Sunday morning was meeting time as always and began with a few moments of silence in memory of *late members* David Bengel and Reg Parker. It was agreed that proceeds (\$500) from the Sergeants' session would be donated to Polio Plus in memory of Reg who was always an enthusiastic volunteer for this very worthy project. Reg had recently been awarded a Sapphire pin to his PHF as has also Graeme Matheson.

Stewart and Jane Wright, on the occasion of their second rally attendance, were inducted into the Fellowship.

Pres. Barry mentioned that Peter & Jeannie Parr [who were present] are the oldest [in terms of membership years] still active members, having been foundation members at the formation meeting held 16 April 1978.

Our grateful thanks go to Bennie and Ces, Max and Denise and Charles and Marjorie who put so much time and effort into making our bush camp and following rally such a success. Also to Ces and her team of helpers for the delicious desert on the last night in Bush Camp and of course a big thanks to Roger for the yummy potatoes we all enjoyed for our dinners.



What a contrast! This photo was taken at our November rally at Thornton Beach.



Many of you will remember Derrick and Sheila Sanders who led the Brits' tour party in 2004. Below is a photo from Derrick taken at their November rally.



Brrr! Yes, that's snow and it lasted for five days!

FUTURE RALLIES	
8-10 Apr 2011	COOKS BEACH HOLIDAY PARK Coromandel Peninsular
10-12 Jun?	MIRANDA HOT SPRINGS, Informal
12-14 Aug	TAUPO TOP 10 HOLIDAY PARK
7-9 Oct ?	OMOKOROA THERMAL HOLIDAY PARK Tauranga, Informal
11-13 Nov AGM	ARATAKI HOLIDAY PARK, Havelock Nth
February 2012	Starting 10 th or 17 th T.B.A. 3 venues being investigated, following rally will depend on venue chosen.
April	Far, Far North [3 Kings Islands maybe?]

The plaque on the "Big Wigs" table makes interesting reading. It lists names of Secretaries and Presidents since we were first formed. . . .

SECRETARIES	
Frank Forster	1978/84
Brenda Milne	1985/91
Henry Fisher	1991/96
Doris Hextall	1996/98
Gil Cooper	1998/2000
Peter Blackman	2000/04
Andy Duncan	2004/

PRESIDENTS			
Les Wrightson	1978/83	John Murphy	1995/97
John Lovegrove	1983/85	Ron Taylor	1997/99
Bob Darlow	1985/87	Henry Fisher	1999/01
Peter Parr	1987/89	Gil Cooper	2001/03
Keith Hextall	1989/91	Neil Davey	2003/05
Roger Clotworthy	1991/93	Bennie Gunn	2005/07
Charlie Innes	1993/95	John Edmonds	2007/09
	Barry Benton		2009/