

Heartland Hawke's Bay



Te Mata Peak



Arataki Holiday Park



Cape Kidnappers

International Caravanning Fellowship of Rotarians (NZ) Inc



DIRECTORY

President:
Robin Matheson
grarobin@farmside.co.nz
Vice President:
Peter Blackman
pblackman@orcon.net.nz
Secretary:
Andy Duncan
anjo.duncan@xtra.co.nz

*11-13 November 2011
Arataki Holiday Park
Havelock North
Annual General Meeting*

Websites to view

www.icfr.rotarysouthpacific.org
www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk
www.rvfr-aus.org.au

Reporter, photos, graphics etc:
Gil Cooper

First on the scene were Laurie & Gaynor Young on Sunday 6th, all the way from Whangarei to enjoy the promised Hawke Bay sunshine?? Unfortunately the weather dropped a notch or two overnight on Wednesday with the odd light shower sent across to help cool things down. By Thursday night there was only a dozen still to arrive to complete the picture. Naturally there was an impromptu 5's session – just a practice. The first 'real' 5's was on Friday night and from there on it was a departure from normal Friday night routine. Instead of the usual mix & match supper in vans, we assembled in the conference room at 7.30pm where we welcomed **Grant Spackman** accompanied by **Wendy Grant** (Andy's other boss) who is President of the Rotary Club of Havelock North [est. 1961] and he came to welcome us to the area and formally open the rally.



Malcolm Walker then introduced **Derek Brownrigg** an Executive Member of NZMCA who spoke on **Freedom Camping** relative to **CSC** [Certified Self Containment] caravans and motor-

homes as opposed to the low-cost rental vans of **Wicked, Jucy** etc. although Jucy are now working towards **CSC** for its fleet. **Kea, Maui** and **United** are already **CSC**.



Many of the submissions put forward by NZMCA have been incorporated in the new Freedom Camping Act which came into force 29 Aug 2011. Campgrounds were strongly opposed – what a surprise! District Councils and other governing bodies can no longer impose ‘blanket exclusions’ as did Coromandel, Wairoa, Queenstown and Kaikoura but have until August 2012 to have by-laws up and running which ‘itemise’ any banned areas. Coromandel is to be first off the starting block and will be closely watched by the others. **DOC** which seems to be a law unto itself is not bound by by-laws but **must** erect a sign prohibiting camping but each sign only covers a 200m radius. Infringement will cost a \$200 instant fine. Pres. Barry expressed our thanks and a delicious supper followed.

Our “Gold Coaches” awaited us at 9.15am on Saturday to convey us on our Mystery Tour(s). Whilst



Lloyd Saunders doing a **CSC** inspection.

both coaches visited the same destinations, they counter-rotated. Coach A drove off through the delightful spring countryside, orchards, horticulture etc. and eventually travelled along the foreshore arriving at the Port of Napier where our guide Andrew Locke came on board and proceeded with great enthusiasm to elaborate on the highlights of the port and its operations. It is the second port, having been

built following the 1931 earthquake when the land rose just over 2m and made the earlier port unusable for anything other than pleasure craft and the fishing fleets..

There are two tugs, ‘Te Mata’ [3 months old – cost \$12 million] and ‘Ahuriri’ [6 years old], the latter being the most powerful tug in NZ which has just returned from stand-by duty at the stranded ‘Rena’. A 3rd and older tug is currently on the market for sale. We were treated to a spectacular display of the heavy surf rolling against the breakwater and sending up a shower of spray as we drove along past the fertiliser stores to the wood-chip compound [250,000 tonnes p.a.] and one of the two log stockpiles [1 million tonnes p.a.].



L to R: Tugs “Ahuriri”, “Te Mata”



Wood chips compound & loader

It was interesting to learn that each and every log to be exported has a bar code on its end which can surrender information as to whose axe felled it, which forest it came from, who transported it, dates, time and any other relevant information – **big brother is watching!**

This base of this wharf is also used for berthing cruise ships of which 75 are expected this current cruise season which is now underway. To the immense satisfaction of the port authority, cruise ships

book their requirements 2 years ahead and nominate the actual time and date of arrival which are always adhered to.



We then moved across to the second log stock-pile area which is opposite one of the container ship berths. There was much discussion on 'Rena' and liabilities as we

watched containers being loaded and discharged from a vessel about 20m shorter than 'Rena'.



The taller crane masts are two of the four versatile mobile container cranes the port has and can be moved to other wharves as the need arises. *[And you can see, it was a fine sunny day as promised.]* Having exceeded our scheduled 30 minute tour by 40 very absorbing minutes, we thanked our guide Andrew, drove the foreshore through Ahuriri and passed the "idle rich" coffeering or imbibing outdoors along the West Quay establishments and made off 'post haste' to Birdwood Gallery at Havelock North.



Birdwood Story

Birdwoods Gallery was established by Bruce and Louise Stobart in January 2005 following their move to New Zealand from Zimbabwe in 2004.

The Havelock North gallery's name originated in Zimbabwe where Birdwoods Metal Sculpture was established by Louise in 1991, using her designs to create a wide

range of unique metal sculptures made from recycled 40 gallon oil drums. The sculpture was a companion enterprise to their farm which Bruce had established as a highly successful mixed cropping and livestock operation employing 60 families. As the metal sculpture business grew, it



provided employment for an additional 30 families. All these families were part of a farm village where primary health care and community facilities were provided by Bruce and Louise.

In July 2003 Bruce, Louise and their three children were forcibly evicted from their farm without compensation. In the years since, the farm has produced no crops and lies derelict and while Bruce and Louise did provide for their workers when they left, the farm labourers remain jobless and their future is incredibly bleak.

Fortunately, the metal sculpture enterprise has managed to continue in Zimbabwe with the Birdwoods craftsmen and their families relocated to Harare where they continue to produce Louise's designs in limited numbers.

Arriving in New Zealand to start again and create a new life for their family, Bruce and Louise decided to develop Birdwoods Gallery. They are delighted to be part of the Hawke's Bay community and are extremely grateful for the warm welcome and support they have received from so many New Zealanders.



The Birdwoods Philosophy

... everything has a story

It can be hard to explain what you will find at Birdwoods, because there is such a varied, eclectic and unconventional range of art and objects and a genuine desire to make your visit an unique and a very surprising experience. But there is one unifying feature – everything at Birdwoods has a story.

For almost everything that is here, they have met or know the person who created it – whether that was in Africa, or here in New Zealand. They are not interested in mass produced and manufactured or replicated work – they love things that are authentic, individual, quirky and honest. Things that have their own character and history.



Sweet, SWEET Heaven!

They love the 'waste not, want not' nature of so much of the craftwork and art that comes out of Africa. After all, waste is not a luxury they can afford, and products that make use of old things in new ways more often than not have greater charm and intrinsic value.

And they also love bringing some of our local under-discovered creative talents to your attention.

Our next stop was at the **Living Image Vintage Camera Millennium Museum** which has very recently been relocated. This was to be our picnic lunch stop-over together with Bus B but because of our

extended visit to the port, the “other half” had already eaten and were about to depart on their visit to the port.



When the “inner man/woman” had been satisfied, we were divided into two groups, one going to the “movies” whilst the other went on a guided tour of the camera exhibits, an amazing collection. There was even a proto-type from which the digital camera evolved – **Yeah, right!**



No words can adequately describe the exhibits, one cannot say, “You see one camera, you’ve seen all cameras!” This is possibly the world’s third largest camera collection.

The movie which followed in the mini theatre was a National Film Unit 16mm – “Amazing New Zealand” – circa 1963 and the composition, camera shots and voice over were astonishingly up to date. The only thing that has changed is technology.

Still to be transferred to the new location is the vintage car collection of which one was on display outside – a 1907 DEMEESTER (France).



And so it was back to camp to build up strength for the evening event.



Just to illustrate what wonderful weather we were experiencing, most brought their 'sun-shades' to the evening fixture in case the moonlight became too strong.



Conviviality was "order of the day" prior to tables being called up to the smorgasbord prepared by Janet and her team of one. Our own Brin & Mandy had been co-opted

to dismember and dispense the meat. The rest was 'self help'. Following on from the meal, Andy & Joyce announced the winners of the "Legs" contest; Max & Denise Bulluss with 7 correct out of the 8, Irene & Gary Bates were second with 6 correct. (Judith & Bill got 1 correct and that was not Bill's legs).



Nanette then introduced David Gore as our after-dinner speaker, whose 'gripping' subject was ***"The smallest little factory producing the largest plastic bags"***. He stressed how important it was to optimise possibilities and never, never forget Rule 6! Your scribe has no recollection of him actually saying anything about plastic bags, but there was an hilarious tale of a new-born boy baby, born without bottom eyelids and how the shortage was remedied. Then a couple of travelogues in a VW campervan through the USA which went past Victoria Falls three times, and a 'round the block' of West Island [Australia]. He was joined by his wife who read some fascinating diary notes of her nursing career, far from normal civilisation. When the laughter finally subsided, Robin Matheson expressed our appreciation and thanks for such fabulous entertainment. Supper followed.



Serious stuff!

At the Sunday meeting, Pres. Barry inducted new members Neville and Raewyn Bell, who were introduced by Morris McFall. Please make them feel welcome to the Fellowship.



An embarrassed Ron Taylor, who should have brought the wooden spoon to the previous rally, finally fronted up, admitting he had become so

attached to the award, he was reluctant to give it up, to the extent that he had organised for his car transmission to blow up on the Auckland Harbour Bridge back in August on his way to the Taupo rally. He could no longer hold out and decided to confer it on a surprised Jean Dillon – or words to that effect.



He made a further 'on stage' entrance to receive an Oscar for his 'stunting' performance as a 90 year old, falling out of an aircraft at 14,000 ft over Muriwai Beach. He swears that his family pushed him out the door.



Muttered something about changing his will anyway. Well done Ron and congratulations – 90 years young!

Pres. Barry's last duty was to pass the chain of office to Pres. Robin Matheson – don't they both look pleased! Thank you Barry for a wonderful and innovative two years.

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... and from overstayer, Andy Duncan.

Sunday afternoon and all quiet in the camp after those who had more pressing engagements had said their farewells and trundled away.

At 5 o'clock a new lease of life and 60 souls presented for a further round of socialising awaiting the arrival of Malcolm & Rosemary with the fish and chips. In the upper level of the conference room tables had been placed end on end – 17 metres of tables and that still wasn't enough as a further two were required to form an appendix on the side. The 30 packets of Fish and Chips from the 'Frying Dutchman' in Clive proved a winner. But wait there was more – the fruit salad, cheesecake and ice-cream left over from the dinner on the previous evening had to be consumed. Fish & Chips followed by Fruit salad, that's real decadence.

To finish the evening, members retired to the lower level to be entertained by fellow member Ian Holyoake who had spent the afternoon creating a power point presentation. He took us on a quick trip through parts of the USA taking in the 2011 Rotary World Convention, a Friendship Exchange experience, a tour of an RV manufacturing plant and a museum dedicated to the history of caravanning. Ian must be congratulated for giving in 15 minutes such an interesting (and

entertaining) presentation. This was a real bonus and brought the evening and the rally to an enjoyable conclusion.

FUTURE RALLIES

2012

3 – 10 Feb	PIRONGIA FOREST PARK LODGE – “Bush camp”
10 – 13 Feb	RAGLAN KOPUA HOL PARK
13 - 20 Apl	NORTHLAND RAMBLE –>-> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 13/15 Caledonian grounds, Waipu <i>[not Waipu Cove!]; \$10 van</i>▪ 16/17 Matauri Bay Hol Park; <i>\$20 van</i>▪ 18/19 Whatuwhiwhi Top 10 Hol Park; <i>\$24 van</i>▪ 20 Apl – end of ramble – members make their own decisions from hereon.
June	MIRANDA HOT SPRINGS Hol Park
11 – 13 Aug	Mt MAUNGANUI BEACHSIDE HOL PARK <i>[Pilot Bay side]</i>
3 – 5 Oct	OMOKOROA CARAVAN PARK
November AGM	KARAPIRO ROWING CENTRE – Booking pencilled in