

International Caravanning Fellowship of Rotarians (NZ) Inc.

MOUNT MAUNGANUI RALLY - 10-12 AUGUST 2012

Organisers:

Robin & Faye Bly, Stewart & Jane Wright

Reporters:

Rally - Morris McFall

Tractor Museum – Andy Duncan

Photos:

Gil Cooper, Andy Duncan

DIRECTORY

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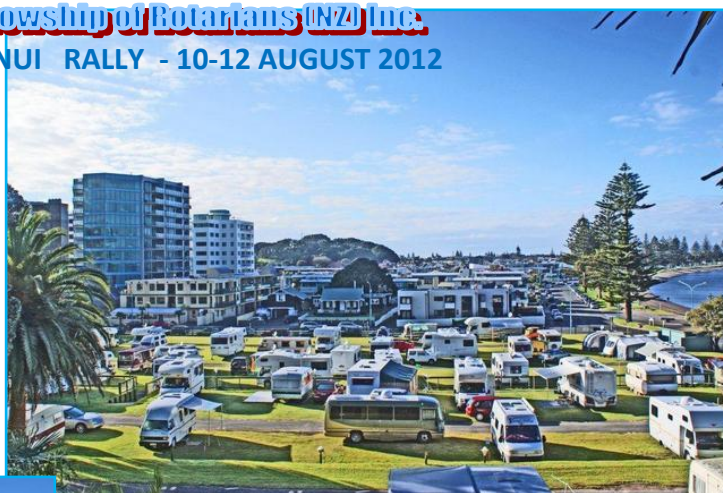
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There were 105 attendees with 50 caravans and motor homes to share a wet weekend at the Mt. Motor Camp. There were five new members who joined us [Terry Daniell, Allan & Barbara Lupton, and Jim & Gillian Deeley who were inducted into the club at the Sunday meeting].

There were also three couples as visitors, Sam & Faten Mukhtar, Brian & Annette Costar, and Robert & Barbara Collins.

The official events started on Friday with the fives's, which were held in the Conference room at the Twin Towers, a very good venue that was chosen, as there was no suitable facility at the camp.

The group was divided into two for the bus trips on Saturday with one leaving at 9am, the other following



one hour later.



First stop was at the Kiwi Bus Manufacturing Plant at Tauriko. The operations Manager gave us a guided tour of the plant and told us that when the plant is in full production it

produces four buses per week fully finished, painted, in the new owner fleet colours, and ready for service.



The units come into the plant as bare chassis, engines, and drivelines and everything else is done on site. They are manufacturing for the Australian market also and build everything from commuter buses to full tourist coaches.

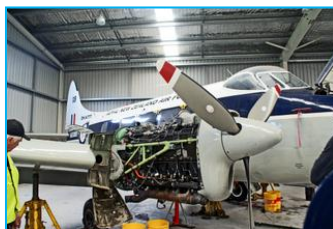
The two groups met and shared time together over a picnic lunch at the Tauranga Vintage Car Club rooms in Tauranga as rain threatened.

The second stop was at "The Elms" Historic Village. In north Tauranga. The village was first established in the early 1800's as a Maori Palisade and then to a full fortification to defend their "patch" against invading tribes travelling along the east coast looking for



new territory to settle.

In the 1840's it was taken over by British Troops after some altercations with the Maoris and was finally made a Mission Station for the early European settlers. It was the founding site for the development of the Tauranga City and has been preserved by DOC, The BOP Regional Council, and the local Charitable Trust who also man the site for visitors. For us they were dressed in full period costumes. The whole site is covered in very mature native and exotic trees and most of the buildings are authentic and original, including their contents.



The third visit was to the Classic Flyers Museum at the Tauranga airport where we saw a very good range of military and civil aircraft, some of which are vintage. The most recent addition is the Strikemaster jet fighter/bomber donated by the RNZAF.

We were given guided tours through many of the hangars.



Saturday night was the highlight of the weekend.

We were bussed to the excellent facilities at the Tauranga Yacht and Boating Club clubrooms at Sulphur Point for a delicious meal and a royal evening. After the meal we had a visit from Queen Elizabeth as part of her 60th anniversary celebrations.



She gave a dignified and hilarious speech and congratulated the ICFR for their achievements and then proceeded to present some "gongs" to four of our members.

She presented a Knighthood to **Peter Parr** for being a senior founding member of

the organisation.



Ron Taylor was also given a Knighthood for inventing air conditioning for older caravans.

Jack Wilkinson was given an MBE for his diligent work in maintaining all

electrical services for members.

The Queen mentioned in passing that Her Majesty had 40,000 light bulbs at Buckingham Palace and she could do with someone like him at her place.

Roger Clotworthy was also presented with an MBE for his unstinting service in providing roasted spuds at Rallies for many years.

All recipients received their Honours graciously and one was seen eating his decoration on the way back to his seat.

All of the dinner tables were named after Royal Palaces and establishments and carried carefully crafted mementos with the Union Jack adorning them.

They were gathered up and auctioned by one, Gary Bates, who excelled in an untapped talent.

The auction produced \$250, which was to be donated to the "Elms Trust" together with another \$250 from the proceeds from the fines session at the Sunday meeting.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and the **Blys** and the **Wrights** deserve special congratulations for such an outstanding evening and rally.



Miller.

The meeting on Sunday morning was again at Twin Towers and we were welcomed to Tauranga by D9930 District Governor Roger





Peter Blackman settled on Laurie Young as being a worthy “Stirrer’s Spoon” recipient.



Morris McFall’s Tractor & Classic Car Museum Visit

The rally might have officially finished but the excitement continued. On the Monday morning a group of around 35 members, including several of the ladies, visited Morris McFall’s tractor and classic car museum. Morris had made an early start setting out the vehicles so they could be inspected from all angles and we have since learnt that Hilary had spent some considerable time dusting them down.

What a fascinating selection of farming horse power, all fully restored and as we were to find out, all ready to start – we did let Morris off attempting to start the single cylinder Lanz Bulldog, an exercise so dangerous the practice had been prohibited by the authorities. First time many of us had seen how a steering wheel and its shaft could be removed and used to turn the motor over.

Morris gave a brief description of each exhibit and captivated his audience with information on their unique features. He has spent many hours bringing these tractors back to their original factory condition.



Also on display were several stationery engines including one in the process of being restored to its original glory. We understand this particular engine had for many years belonged to Roger Clotworthy who had brought it down from the Far North.

Over the years we have heard about Morris’s fascination with tractors and now we can appreciate why this is. We can also see why Hilary does not have to put up with Morris under her feet at home all day long.

Hilary very kindly provided morning tea for the visitors and this was very much appreciated.

A most interesting visit and a memorable ending to a most enjoyable rally.

Websites to view
www.icfr.rotarysouthpacific.org
www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk
www.rvfr-aus.org.au