



Laurie Young writes . . .

One of the good things about rallies is that having booked (paid) one feels obliged to get there one way or another. As it happened rubbish weather was forecast, but we arrived full of expectation.

44 enthusiasts 'beat the gun' and arrived on Thursday afternoon and at the "4.30ies" just 'fell on each other' to share their news of the past several weeks. The animated conversation continued well past the happy

hour, which was lovely to behold. As expected the wind blew somewhat overnight, but without great danger and the forecast rain hadn't arrived by then. This lulled us into the belief that the Kawau Island Boat Trip would proceed as planned.

That night, however, our sleep was disturbed with the vans a rockin' and a rollin' in time with the wind gusts and come the dawn it was learned we had had gusts of 100kph and the fierce rain squalls that pelted us nonstop were going to continue. Mercifully the Kawau Island Trip was cancelled by 8.00 a.m. so we had the rest of Friday to ourselves. We remembered the old song "What do you do on a rainy night in Rio"? Well there was a bit of 'van hopping' going on!

Actually it's a bit like when the guest speaker doesn't turn up at the Rotary meeting. The members end up taking the opportunity to have a jolly good chin wag to so many people they hadn't spoken to for quite a while. There was, of course, time for a wee lie in, a chat to one's companion, reading that book one is enjoying and just quietly going about one's business. The writer noticed a lot of sharing - morning tea/coffee, lunches, afternoon tea and generally engaging in a lot of social intercourse, which, when you think about it, is what the ICFR is all about. Some adventurous souls ventured further afield discovering the scenic beauty of the Mahurangi. Not one disgruntled voice was heard.

Fivesies that night was a rip-roaring affair with the full muster now in camp, (actually it wasn't a full muster as Isobel and Roger Clotworthy had to cancel at the last minute), of 81 members



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Future rallies

2013

24-26 Sep Omokoroa

15-17 Nov Opunake

2014

7-14 Feb Pohangina Valley

14-16 Feb Himitangi

4 - 6 Apr Coromandel >> Rollin'

Aug Rotorua [? TBC]

Nov Karapiro [? TBC]

Websites to view

www.icfr.rotarysouthpacific.org

www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk

www.rvfr-aus.org.au

gently compressed into the Village Hall where plans were reviewed for the Saturday excursions. The noise was quite deafening but thoroughly satisfying - which again led to shared meals all over the camp, followed by the time honoured tradition of "Guess Who's Coming to Supper".



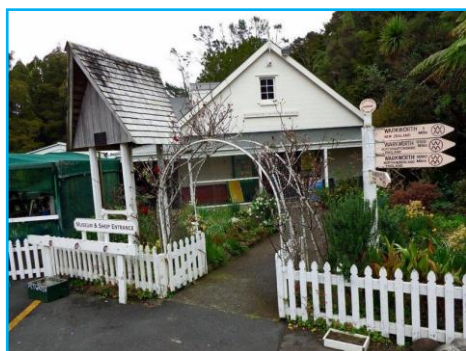
Hop On – Hop Off Bus



Matakana Market

Saturday's excursions were well organized with a 'fleet' (well it seemed like a fleet) of buses travelling a predetermined route around the district letting us off at any of the very appealing attractions in the area.

Among these were the outstanding Matakana “Farmers” Market (rather more products of added-value on offer than you would expect from farmers) where an exotic array of items of food and drink were everywhere to be found, in addition there were exotic items not found in your everyday shopping precincts. The bus also stopped on its itinerary at Morris and James earthenware factory where a tour was available to see the manufacture of their brilliant range of pottery/art ware which was all available for purchase. More than one heavily wrapped and overly large items were seen to be carefully loaded for return to the camp. The bus also stopped at Warkworth town centre and at the Parry Kauri

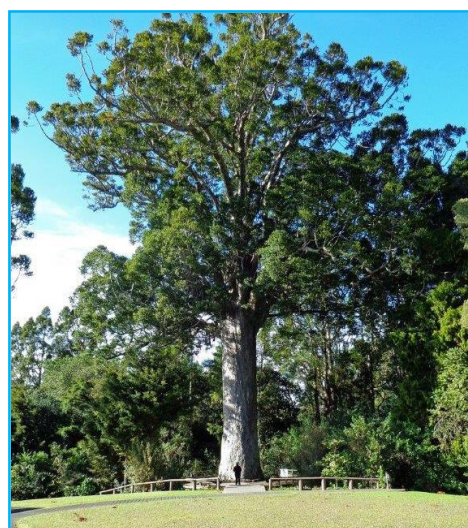


Museum and Park with its most interesting displays and impressive forest walks.

Throughout the day the buses completed eight circuits of the route enabling our special

passengers to hop on hop off as they wished visiting all the attractions of their choice.

Your investigative reporter made every effort to seek out any murmurings of discontent - without success, everyone being full of praise for our organizers - and sympathy that their efforts in planning for the Kawau Island Trip had been for naught. Never mind, we were having a good time.



By now the big event of DINNER was looming across the football field and there was hardly time to get cleaned up and present ourselves for another joyous occasion. With the seating well planned there was no anxiety as to where one was to sit, so the slight congestion on arrival presented no

problem at all. The dinner was excellent after which we were entertained by TV personality, Derek (the Chef) Robertson, outdoor chef extraordinaire who entertained us with an outline of his colourful, non-traditional, happenstance, opportunistic career. The offer of his recently published book on MOTORHOME COOKERY was well received, as was the club donation for his services which, together with a share of book profits, were directed to his charity of choice the Breast Cancer Research Trust.



The executive had met in preparation of the MEETING on Sunday morning. The apologies were many – all sad, from members unable to be with us. (Had they all attended we wouldn't have fitted in, by the way!)



Resignation from Jim and Gillian Deely was noted with regret. (See the Minutes for a full record). On the introduction of Robin and Faye Bly the meeting was pleased to witness the induction of Murray & Joan Baily and Kevin & Gail Upton both from the Bay of Plenty. All were warmly welcomed.



Ian Burson's Financial Report was, as usual, very exciting and indicated we have plenty of money and should remain solvent for a bit longer yet.

Members were urged to consult the website. 'It's all good'. (www.icfr.rotarysouthpacific.org) where you will see reference to the Australian IFCR muster to coincide with the Sydney Convention.

Area reports were full and extensive. During the Hawkes Bay report, Joyce Duncan mentioned that Gil & Pat Cooper had moved into their new home in Kensington Village. In the week prior to the

Rally, Joyce presented Gil & Pat with their certificate for Life Membership of ICFR NZ which was granted to them at the last AGM which they had been unable to attend.



Awareness of each other, present or not, is a special feature of the ICFR. Being of the Rotary stable our members do care about a lot more than themselves. This makes for a great atmosphere.

Robin, on behalf of Isabel Clotworthy, promoted the forthcoming informal rally at Omokoroa (24th – 26th September) There are only 20 sites left so book and let Isobel know soon as they are off to Oz presently. Bill Shannon alerted us to the exciting rally

planned for Opunake. Check details as early as you can. Registrations are to be sent to Ian Burson on this occasion. Ian is to bring us all up-to-date on his new address details.

Bush Camp. Pohangina Rally (near Ashhurst) 7th-14th February 2014 Not really a bush rally but 'A Rally in the Bush' (Sounds a bit up market actually). Himatangi - the bit after the Bush Rally - at the beach. A most entertaining promotion from Bill - take note of the details.

Early warning of a Rolling Rally. - Coromandel - Early April 2014. John and Jan Edmonds with Vi. Parker and Jean Dillon most kindly stepped up to run this for us..

The Sergeant Session with Irene Bates and Jean Dillon in charge was brilliantly entertaining - poetic and literary and wonderfully profitable. Amongst so many finely worded charges Peter Blackman lost his hat to the tune of "Little Bo Peep".

ICFR 1 vehicle number plate has again come available and the executive is considering how to decide who its new owner should be.

Bev Mouat had a little difficulty gently explaining how she was passing on the award, however, in the end it was evident that Peter Roffey's heavy involvement with wheels, both stationary and turning, qualified him for the award.

The meeting was delighted to support the thanks expressed by Peter Roffey for the excellent organization of the Rally. All functions, not cancelled on account of weather, were well planned to the delight of all who attended. Thanks to Gary and Irene Bates and Charles and Marjorie Spain.

(In the course of his research, your investigative reporter had a fascinating introduction to "Geocaching."

Google it, research it, and we'll talk about it at the next Rally.)

[Geocaching - The Official Global GPS Cache Hunt Site](http://www.geocaching.com/)

www.geocaching.com/ ▼

Geocaching is a treasure hunting game where you use a GPS to hide and seek containers with other participants in the activity. **Geocaching.com** is the listing ...