



INTERNATIONAL CARAVANNING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS [NZ] INC

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& Judith Gallocher**

Editor, Graphics etc:

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Jean Dillon

Photos:

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Websites to view

www.icfr.rotarysouthpacific.org

www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk

www.rvfr-aus.org.au

Organisers: Judith Gallocher & Bill Shannon, with help from Ian B, Andy, Malcolm & partners. Manager of Reserve: Kelly

The Bush Rally commenced on Wednesday as opposed to the usual Friday, as Judith & Bill were keen that we established camp before Waitangi Day (sites could not be prior booked). It proved to be a sound decision as many campers appeared to make a long weekend out of the public holiday. 21 sites were taken up the first day, with 8 more vans coming in over the next two days.



Totara Reserve Camping Ground



In true I.C.F.R. fashion, we were soon in a laid-back routine of late breakfasts, walking, biking, reading & socialising. The weather could have been better – nobody was seen swimming in the Pohangina River!

- but despite squally showers most days, it did not prevent us from getting outside at some stage.

Two new couples were welcomed by President Peter at Happy Hour. Margaret & Colin Wrack, from Whangarei, and RaeAnne & David Smith from Havelock North.

One evening, Bill introduced us to the Environmental Officer from Horizon District Council who spoke to us of the dangers of Didymo.

Didymo has not reached the North Island yet and he stressed how we all need to be very vigilant when transporting boats and other water craft.



Scene seen by a passing bird!

By Friday, some members (they shall be nameless) were suffering from Café Withdrawal Syndrome. However a visit to the Waterford Café on the outskirts of Ashhurst seemed to alleviate symptoms.

On Saturday Judith & Bill did a 'goody trip' to the shops, & milk, newspapers, bananas etc were replenished. This service, which was repeated later in the week, was much appreciated. Today the 'Power People' were able to watch the 1st cricket test at Eden Park. Updates were given to those lesser individuals at no cost.



On Sunday Diane Holloway made scones for Morning Tea, we had a choice of plain (with jam) or date and both were judged superb. Elizabeth & Rosemary assisted by making their ovens available. Well done ladies!

Reading was once again the major pastime of the day (some of it done with eyes shut), and popping out for a quick walk or bike ride when the weather cleared. Exiting our vans was very necessary in order to prevent serious cases of Cabin Fever developing.



Entertaining visitors



Away walking



Too many cooks spoil the . . .

Happy Hour was at 4p.m. today. We had been fore-warned at a.m. tea to come an hour earlier than normal and to bring empty glasses. The reason?

Barry Benton was having a very big birthday!! (70) and he and Kay made sure the champagne flowed. It was a delightful way to help a fellow I.C.F.R. member celebrate a significant birthday. Thank you Barry.



Tuesday 11th - cause for happy faces today, no rain! It was great to see small groups walking, talking outside and generally enjoying themselves. Another birthday to celebrate (NOT a big O) but at morning tea Bev Brennan cut a choccy cake provided by Bev Mouat.

On Wednesday night we 'Dined at the Dorchester', this was in answer to last year's 'Breakfast at Tiffany's'.

The table settings were professionally judged by Isabel & Jan who announced the winners were Judith & Bill. This win had nothing to do with any bribe or correspondence entered into. The prize of a bottle of champagne was kindly donated by the Coleman's. Marjorie & Charles Spain also received a prize, the judges were impressed by their printed menu.



There was some doubt however, as to whether they actually ate what they were advertising. Dinner was followed by the traditional fruit salad & ice cream organised by Isabel.



Too many cooks spoil

The finer weather meant Irene was able to bring out the giant jigsaw again and set it up in the 'shelter shed'. There was some coming and going of vans as is usual at this stage of Bush Camp, with promises of reuniting at Himatangi Beach on Friday. Thursday saw a big exodus of vans from Totara Reserve and it was just a hardy few left to enjoy the last day of R & R.



Board Meeting



All in all, a very well organised Bush Camp in a delightful setting. The large totara trees surrounding the camp site, the many pigeons darting from tree to tree, and moreporks breaking the silence at night are all memories we shall have of Pohangina Valley. President Peter even saw a deer one evening!

Special thanks must go to our Camp Parents, Judith & Bill, who really did go the 'extra mile' to ensure that we all enjoyed ourselves.

Also, a big thank you to Kelly, Camp Manager, for her "CanDo" attitude and cheery disposition. Horizon District Council can be justifiably proud of their facility and their staff at Totara Reserve.

Jean Dillon



Himatangi Beach Holiday Park



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President Peter Blackman welcomed a large group of I.C.F.R. members at Happy Hour on Friday evening. A special welcome was made to Anthony & Joanna Johnson from Derby, England, also to



newcomers Margaret & Colin Wrack (Whangarei), and to Greet van der Helm's friend Rita Spaargaren, from Holland.

The usual Supper-in-Vans took place at 7.30 on Friday evening. This is a particularly valuable ritual of the I.C.F.R. weekend. It enables folk to get to know one another better and it is amazing what topics are covered in a couple of hours!



Saturday dawned bright and sunny although a cool wind was blowing.

At 2p.m. we strolled to the local Surf Club where Alec Mackay, the President, spoke



to us about their new building and the part the Club plays in the community. The building is new, only opened in December, and we were given a tour of inspection.



This was followed by 'rescue' demonstrations on the beach. The average age of their life-savers is between 14 & 17. They do have a few 'old' members in their early twenties!



We were back in the Surf Club at 5.30 for dinner – we were the first outsiders to use the new facility. The caterers did very well and the meal was enjoyed by all. After coffee Judith subjected us to a quiz which had us scratching our heads, we needed to think outside the square for the answers. All in all a very successful evening.

Sunday morning saw many of us disappear to the corner shop to collect pre-ordered goodies for morning tea & lunch. The rally meeting commenced at 10a.m. in the Camp Hall and the afternoon was spent at our leisure.

Tea was the customary Fish & Chips once again in the Camp Hall. The numbers staying on were greater than usual due to the organised bus trip to Ohakea Airbase on Monday.



Monday 17/2/14 – visit to Ohakea RNZAF Airbase

by *Gary Bates*

What an amazing day we had ! From a collection of old hangars and mothballed aircraft, the Phoenix has risen from the ashes !



As we passed the “Vampire Gate Warden” in our bus, at the entrance to Ohakea, the changes to the Base became apparent. We drove past a new modern terminal building being constructed



then on to a new hangar containing the Flying Training Wing, with a historic collection of training aircraft, a North American MK3 AT- 6 Harvard, a de Havilland Tiger Moth and a Bell Sioux helicopter,



As well as the current training aircraft, CT-4B Airtrainer – soon to be replaced. We then spent an interesting session with two young trainee pilots explaining the current aircraft and pilot training.

We moved to the Air Force Chapel where the Chaplain gave an interesting talk on the construction of the building and beautiful stained glass windows, depicting the different RNZAF squadrons and their history.



Ohakea Air Force Chapel

After a pleasant lunch stop we moved on to the Maintenance Wing where we saw the parachute cleaning (the big orange tower seen from SH1) and repair and packing room.



Ohakea mainly repairs parachutes used for air-dropping heavy loads from Hercules aircraft. When the parachutes are recovered, they are checked for damage, repaired, washed, and dried in the tower, then repacked for use in the next exercise.

In this new 13000 square metre building there are purpose built workshops.

It has fourteen adjoining workbays, such as the aircraft finishing bay, hydraulic bay, the rotary bay, testing facilities and the parachute bay. The building has a New Zealand 5 green star industrial design rating.



We then moved over to the modern helicopter transition unit building and hangars, where we were taken to see the new A109 and NH90 helicopters.



The NH90 is a larger helicopter and is to replace the ageing Iroquois. The smaller A 109 LUH helicopters will be used for aircrew training, and to complement the larger NH 90 in the roles previously undertaken by the Iroquois. It was great to see the Air Force in modern buildings, and being supplied with modern aircraft.

Many thanks to Bill & Judith for organising a very informative and enjoyable tour.

FUTURE RALLIES:

2014	4 – 6 April	Shelley Beach Top 10 then rolling Coromandel Pen;	9 – 11 June	Miranda Hot Springs
	August	Rotorua Thermal Hol Park	October	Omokoroa
2015	February	Matai Bay, Karikari Pen	November	AGM Karapiro/Nporthcote ??