

Raglan, 14 – 16 Aug 2015 : Newsletter



INTERNATIONAL CARAVANNING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS [NZ] INC

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Robin Mathieson writes , , ,

What a super weekend we all had at Raglan and such a lot of us with 96 attending part or all of the weekend. Our organisers Charles and Marjorie Spain, Terry Daniell and Denise and Max Bulluss arrived on Wednesday and had everything in place when the enthusiastic ones arrived on Thursday. That night at 5s there were about twenty five of us there in the camp lounge over by the kitchens. The weather was lovely for the drive over, However Friday

Rally Organisers: **Marjorie & Charles Spain, Denise & Max Bulluss, Terry Daniel**

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Websites to view

www.icfr.rotarysouthpacific.org

www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk

www.rvfr-aus.org.au

morning dawned grey and by noon, just as the main rush of arrivals started it began to rain with some very heavy showers. Being cheerful ICFR campers nobody had too much trouble getting set up although I think some folk got pretty wet. I for one was glad I'd come on Thursday! At 4.30pm, between showers, we all made our way to the Papahua Hall on the back of the camp ground for 5s - when I arrived slightly late the noise inside was pretty incredible.

With about 90 of us catching up with our news and greeting the seventeen new folk and helping to welcome them along, it was very impressive if not so good for the eardrums inside the hall.

Our usual Friday night supper in each other's vans worked well and the showers eased so we could get there and back without getting wet. Not so during the night when it literally poured down and next morning one or two lots of people stepped out into ankle deep water and the ground was sodden.



This all added to the experience as we made our way over to Raglan Club either walking in the lovely sunshine or catching the shuttle bus organised for us. Charles had been very firm about everyone going to the games morning organised for us by Josie and her helpers at the club. And what fun we had! The majority of the men and some ladies joined in the random teams organised to play darts, eight ball and indoor bowls in a round-robin. This was a lot of organising which "Josie & Co" did superbly and with such great good



humour. There were prizes for the winners and losers, but I've forgotten who was who. The rest played quieter games of Mah Jong, Monopoly, cards, Upwords, Blokus, Rummikub, and Phase 10 also with lots of laughter and jostling for wins.



Saturday afternoon was free and was lovely weather. Most had lunch at one of the many cafes and bakeries in the town and very good they are too. Some did some shopping therapy, some went bike riding, some walked on the beach or lazed and socialised with friends. I had a nice lunch with two of my sisters and other relatives up on the side of Mt Karioi.



Saturday drinks were at the Raglan Club again followed by a lovely dinner, which was served at the tables and was quite an achievement with about 96 of us there. The Bledisloe Cup match came on before we received our dessert,



so the waitresses told us to go through and watch in the other room and they brought our desserts for us to eat on our laps as we watched the very exciting match between the two great rivals. It was even better that we won by such a good margin!! Many of us walked back to camp on a lovely calm moonlit night over the "new" Raglan Bridge which is lit at night, while those who wished went by shuttle bus.



Sunday was the usual meeting in the Parahua Hall where new members Frank Cooper and Julie and Rob Brangwin were inducted into the club.



"Spooning?"



Seven other couples were welcomed to the meeting and some of them have decided to join us which will be lovely. President Peter also informed us that a group of Australians from their RVFR are coming to visit NZ in late April next year and as this does not coincide with any of our rallies we think we will organise a casual rally to join with them for fellowship and a meal in Rotorua.

Another free afternoon followed and some left for home. The rest of us enjoyed 5s followed by fish and chips in the Hall. Most left on Monday morning on a beautiful day for a drive through the picturesque countryside, back to more populous places.

Many thanks to the organisers for a happy weekend.

Robin Matheson



FUTURE RALLIES

2015

Sep 22/24 Omokoroa Thermal – Informal
Nov 20/22 Ohiwa Beach Hol Park

2016

Feb 5/12 Mangaweka
Feb 12/14 Taupo All Seasons Hol Park
Apr 15/17 Mowhanau HP, Kai Iwi Bch
Aug 5/7 Northland – site to be selected

