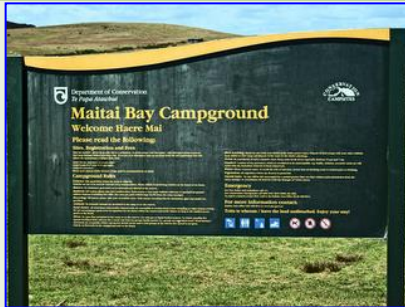


# Maitai Beach Rally, 13 - 20 Feb 2015



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Websites to view  
[www.icfr.rotarysouthpacific.org](http://www.icfr.rotarysouthpacific.org)  
[www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk](http://www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk)  
[www.rvfr-aus.org.au](http://www.rvfr-aus.org.au)

The 2015 Beach rally was held at Maitai Bay situated near the end of the Karikari Peninsula, Northland. The organisers were George and Bev. Brennan, with Andy and Mandy Bax. who had obviously put in a lot of time and effort into the planning and organising as the whole week went so smoothly.

Maitai Bay is a wonderful venue to hold a rally. A very spacious and well maintained DOC camp located adjacent to two beautiful bays with more than adequate toilets, tap water and rubbish disposal facilities. The camping ground consists of a number of separate sheltered areas and we were able to have almost exclusive use of a number of them which made for great conviviality. Hina, the camp manager and her assistants could not have been more pleasant and helpful.

Adding to our creature comforts was a large gazebo generously supplied by Andy and Mandy and which provided very welcome shade for the various gatherings on the "village green". Thanks also to George's Mum whom we have on very good authority, arranged for the absolutely brilliant weather for both rallies.



Bugger! It's hot!

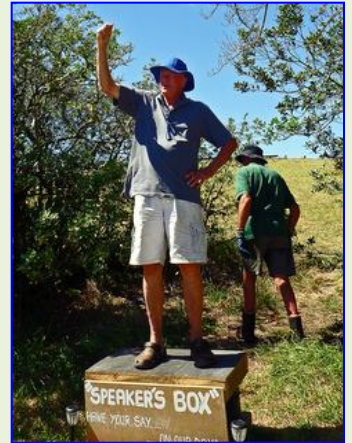


By Friday afternoon most of the attendees had arrived, most having spent at least a couple of days getting there. Each van was welcomed with a bag of "dunny powder" which enabled everyone to utilise the on-site dump station especially provided for us by DOC.

Happy hour on Friday saw the official start to the rally with George advising the very few rules applying. Everyone including our visitors (Stan & Rosemary Roberts, Murray & Christine Townsend, Rob & Robbie Insull) were welcomed by Pres. Peter and from then on the fun and frolics were underway.



For most, the following days consisted of walking or sun bathing on the beach, swimming in the lovely clear and warm sea, eating, socialising and all the other activities associated with a gathering of ICFR. And as Pres. Peter reminded us, "a time to rest and unwind".



However just in case we got too rested, most days some activity was arranged for those wishing to participate. One day it was petanque with many local rules applying. Won by Andy Duncan and Ces Gunn.

Mandy Bax introduced us to geocaching with many keen treasure hunters heading off to find the "treasure". I.P Jean also organised a couple of hikes for the fit and adventurous.

A number kept heading off down the beach with their rods, all the gears and the usual expectant look on their faces. Unfortunately most returned with just long faces.



Apparently there was a fishing contest running for the duration of the rally but the only participants seemed to be George and Andy Bax with Andy deemed to be the winner.



As everyone knows the "raison d'être" of a beach rally is to rough it and make do without the usual creature comforts. So it was somewhat surprising to see the large number who turned up for lunch one day at the local winery. However steaks all round, a few wines, and a lovely view made for a very enjoyable outing. Thanks Laurie.



Another special treat enjoyed by all was the pancake breakfast arranged to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. An early morning start by the Northland team with their pans, saw us eating very tasty pancakes with all the trimmings on the village green. And course lots of declarations of giving up something for Lent followed !!





On Thursday morning we were joined by Alan, a local resident and apparently self-appointed guardian of Maitai Bay who addressed us on his version of local history and governance. This was followed by everyone joining in an intensive clean up around the camp with general surprise at the amount of rubbish we collected.

Then before we knew, it was another Friday and

time to pack up and move on to Waipapakauri for the weekend rally. A wonderful week enjoyed by all. Our many thanks to everyone involved in making the rally such a success.



## Waipapakauri Rally, 20-22 Feb 2015

<u>Rally Organisers:</u>	<b>Ian &amp; Bev Mouat</b> with Rodger & Barbara Palmer
<u>Editor, Graphics etc:</u>	<b>Gil Cooper</b>
<u>Reporter:</u>	<b>Malcolm Walker</b>
<u>Photos:</u>	<b>Andy Duncan</b>

Held at the Ninety Mile Beach Holiday Camp, Waipapakauri and organised by Ian and Bev Mouat with Rodger and Barbara Palmer. Again a lot of prior planning and effort to ensure another very enjoyable weekend rally. A very pleasant camping ground with very helpful managers. Of special note is the recreation facility. Quite a surprise to find such a well setup facility in a remote area.



There were a few additions to those from the beach rally and everyone was pleased to see Charles and Marjorie arrive back after sorting out their bit of a saga at home. Formalities commenced at the Friday happy hour followed by the usual supper outings.

Saturday morning again dawned bright and sunny and by 9.30 we were off in two buses up SH.1 to Cape



Reinga with a number of stops on the way including one for a very interesting lunch and an ice-cream for Bennie. At the Cape the fit, and some not so fit, walked out to the lighthouse. A very notable effort considering how hot it was. The return trip was via the 90 mile beach with the first stop to watch the sand boarders slide at some speed down the dunes. Driving along the beach was a very interesting experience with the skill of the bus drivers very evident. After leaving the beach we visited the Gum-diggers Museum where we saw the size of some of the holes dug to extract the gum. It was just on 5.00pm when we arrived back at the Camp to get ready for the evenings activities.



The venue for the Saturday night festivities was the camp recreation centre with a very delicious meal provided by local caterers.



The meal included spit roasted lamb and pork cooked all afternoon on the premises. This was followed by a quiz on general knowledge, run by Andy and Mandy. We were divided into teams of six with lots of laughter and much testing of the little grey cells. The winning team were so modest they chose to remain anonymous.



The formal rally meeting was held on the Sunday morning with many getting together outside afterwards for lunch and chatter.

The final organised event for the weekend was the traditional meal of fish and chips on



Sunday evening. This year it seemed more than normal stayed for the extra night. However instead of the usual bundle in newspaper, large helpings of snapper and chips arrived on a plate complete with cutlery and tartare sauce. Cooked by the camp staff in a very small kitchen, they were delicious. Delivered alphabetically just meant they tasted even better for the "double ewes". Thanks to Robert and Barbara Collins for their assistance.

Well done to all those involved in making the weekend so enjoyable.

#### FUTURE RALLIES

##### 2015

- 1-3 May Kennedy Park Top 10, Napier
- 14-16 Aug Raglan Kopua Hol Park
- 20-22 Nov Ohiwa Beach Hol Park

##### 2016

- 5-12 Feb Mangaweka
- 12-14 Feb Taupo\*
- \*possible on-travel to Napier Art Deco celebrations 18-21 Feb
- 15-17 Apl Mowhanau, Kai Iwi Beach

#### Special notice re: May Rally, Kennedy Park, Napier

*When we visit Wallingford Homestead at the May rally, is there one of our members who might like/be prepared to play their newly overhauled and tuned full size grand piano please? It would just be 15-20 minutes with your own supplied music. Nanette Roberts is going to do one session. Jenny Ormond at Walligford is very keen for this to happen and it would just add to the general atmosphere. Please e-mail Peter Tucker, [peter@valuit.co.nz](mailto:peter@valuit.co.nz) or call him on 06 877 5541*