

# Ohiwa Beach, 20 – 23 Nov 2015 : Newsletter



INTERNATIONAL CARAVANNING FELLOWSHIP  
OF ROTARIANS [NZ] Inc.

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[www.icfrnz.rotarysouthpacific.org](http://www.icfrnz.rotarysouthpacific.org)

[www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk](http://www.rotarianscaravanning.org.uk)

[www.rvfr-aus.org.au](http://www.rvfr-aus.org.au)

*Susan Blackman writes . . . .*

## Friday 20th November

Again this promised to be a fun filled weekend with 80+ hardy souls gathered in this beautiful part of New Zealand.

The Ohiwa Holiday Park is situated on the banks of the beautiful Harbour and is home to many migratory birds including the bar-tailed godwits who summer over here. Also entrenched are NZ Dotterels, Fernbirds, Oyster Catchers and what appear to be resident Wekas wandering around the campsite. The bush behind the campground is full of birdsong. All credit to the various ecological societies in the area that have worked hard to eradicate pests.



The camp grounds are a credit to Nola and Todd Morgan, with beautifully manicured lawns and, all facilities well cared for. They have made our group very welcome.

So due to the inclement weather happy hour was held in the recreational hall, there was sufficient seating for all. We won't talk about the noise levels!



We were welcomed by Robyn Blyth who gave a run down on the weekends activities. President Peter then gave his welcome, particularly welcoming all new and prospective members. He reminded all 'old members' (interjection by Bev Brennan ' **long standing members**'), to please make them welcome. Lastly the camp had donated goodies which were drawn for, with Margaret Saunders winning a bottle of wine, Fiona Tait a Tee-shirt, Ron Taylor a book on feathered birds and Margaret Wrack a voucher for two nights free accommodation at the camp.

As tradition dictates after dinner it was shared suppers, always worthwhile, where we all try to set the world to rights and fail miserably! More importantly it is a chance to get to know our newer members and them us.



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## Saturday 21 November

After yesterday's stormy weather the day dawned to sunshine and relatively calm.

As the camp is in such a remote area, no excursion had been planned. However, after morning tea on the green the rally organisers provided numerous games for members to participate in. Including Klub which tested member's throwing skills, Petanque, Quoits and Badminton. The resident Weka patrolled the area keeping a beady eye on events. Members picked up the challenge and had much fun and laughter. It was a great morning for these activities. But come lunchtime the rain set in once more and sent folks scurrying back to their vans.



A relaxing afternoon with those inclined, bike riding around the harbour and others fishing. The latter, I have on good authority, was abysmal, lots of fresh air was caught.

For the evenings procedures we were welcomed by MC Barry who firstly drew our attention to health and safety issues having 88 members squeezed into a relatively tight space. Several members sprouted 'Warden' badges in the unlikely emergency event!

All credit to the organisers who had given the tables a real nautical theme, shells, driftwood and the piece d'resistance, the sandcastles, how were they made so perfectly without a hint of disintegration?

We were served a splendid roast meal followed by homemade Pavlova and fruit salad. Judging by the empty plates, it was enjoyed by all. Roger and Isabel had put wine on each table to celebrate their 160th combined birthdays. What a milestone, thank you Roger & Isabel.



The after dinner entertainment was a very dapper Selwyn Toogood and his luscious blonde assistant Tinaka who



enthralled members with an 'It's in the bag' session.

20 Handpicked participants were scooped from the audience and had to answer a variety of questions with much help from the quiz master and the audience. Members walked away with a variety of prizes, coffee mugs, car wash, Minties, tea towels, clothes pegs and jig saw puzzle to name a few. Laughter was the main ingredient with both Selwyn and Tinaka strutting their stuff. The audience loved it. A great and novel evening's entertainment

### ***Sunday 22 November***

Dawned bright and sunny. President Peter ran his last Business and AGM meeting, first inducting to the Fellowship four new couples who had now qualified by their attendance at 2 rallies. In no particular order they are: Rob & Robbie Insull, Richard & Lucie Kilfoil, Raymond & Shirley Scott, Arnold & Glenn Snodgrass



Jean Dillion "Wooden Spooned" Peter Blackman, Jack Wilkinson received "The Golden Oscar" from Peter



and finally, the Chain of Office was handed to President Jean Dillom



The meeting concluded, followed by a communal lunch where fellowship continued.

Sunday evening saw those remaining from the rally, gathering for 5's followed by a Pea, Pie and Pud dinner undertaken by celebrity Robin and his trusty assistants. The powdered Mash Potato was extremely tasty, unlike school dinners of yesteryear.



*Scribe: Susan Blackman, Photos: Andy Duncan*

#### FUTURE RALLIES

##### 2016

**Feb 5/12 Mangaweka** [Gary & Irene Bates]

**Feb 12/14 Taupo All Seasons Camp** [Malcolm & Rosemary Walker, John & Jan Edmonds; also assisting at Mangaweka]

**Apr 15/17 Mohwanau Camp, Kai Iwi Beach** [Judith Gallocher & Bill Shannon, Trevor & Audrey Coleman]

**Jun ?? [Interim] Miranda** [Greet van der Helm to organise.] Neville Bell opened a discussion on the prospect of "a rolling rally" to follow through Upper King Country and Lower Waikato and after a show of hands indicated considerable interest, the suggestion will be looked at further.

**Aug 5/7 Waitangi Holiday Park, Northland** [George Brennan & Northland Team]

**Nov ?? B.o.P.** [Robin Bly to arrange]

##### 2017

**Feb ?? Suggestion** – a "rolling rally" to the top of the South Island following a weekend in the Wellington area

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS ~~~ 2015 – 2016

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**Sgt at Arms:** Robin Bly

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**Waikato:**

**Lower North Is.** Judith Gallocher

**Greet van der Helm**