

ICFR (NZ)

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016



Mangaweka Bush Camp

5-12 Feb

Organisers: Gary & Irene Bates,
Malcolm & Rosemary Walker, John &
Jan Edmonds



Taupo Rally

12-14 Feb

Organisers: Gary & Irene Bates,
Malcolm & Rosemary Walker

WEBSITES TO VIEW

www.icfr.rotarysouthpacific.org

www.rotariancaravanning.org.uk

www.rvfr-aus.org.au

INTERNATIONAL CARAVANNING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS (NZ) INC

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Taupo—Bev Brennan

Photos: Andy Bax, Andy Duncan

MANGAWEKA BUSH CAMP

Reporter—Robin Matheson



Camp site view from the top of the cliff

The bush camp was held in a field beside the Rangitikei River which flows through magnificent white and grey cliffs with lovely bush in places. By Friday

night 30 vans in two rows either side of the field were all settled in. The paddock had once been a cricket ground and the local show grounds, but these activities are no longer. It made a great place for our activities, and there was plenty of peace and quiet and cicada music on the sunny days. 5s the first night were under the two gazebos near the “Pavilion” which we had the use of. This proved very handy as it had power for charging phones, ipads, etc , a fridge for those who had trouble with their own or ran out of gas etc and also for our wonderful organisers to store icecream, fruit salad and the likes.

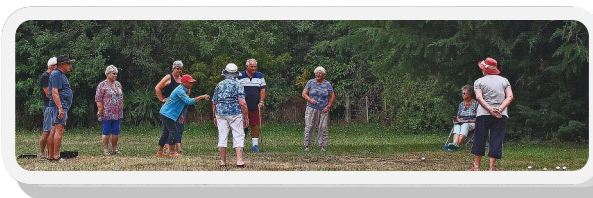


Happy hour

Gary informed us of some housekeeping matters and

Jean Dillon welcomed us all and especially our visitors Colin and Irene Smith and some who had not been to an event for a while.

Also greeted by Tricia who with her husband Paul run the camp and also own the more luxurious one complete with café/bar over the bridge on the river. She explained where all the walks were and which ones needed owner permission and also told us about the River Rafting which she and Paul run. For \$50 PP we could have a short raft down-stream from the camp and for \$100pp we could do a longer two and a half hour trip from further up the river to our campsite. She also explained where the best place to swim is and we surely made use of that knowledge in the coming days as the weather was very sunny and hot.



Petanque

Saturday dawned fine and warm after a shower or two in the night and games organiser Jan had us playing a Swedish game called Klub which requires skill at throwing and also some strategy and luck. Laurie Hollaway was the winner today. The rest of the day was free to walk, read, socialise, sleep, and a few keen ones started a very difficult jigsaw in the “Pavilion”, which kept us going until we finished it on Thursday about 4.30pm – just in time for leaving on Friday! By 5s we had 11 caravans, 4 buses, and 18 campervans on site.

Sunday was another fine if breezy day. Diane Hollaway with her helpers once again produced lovely scones with jam and cream for morning tea – YUMMIE!



Diane's Scones

A group of keen walkers went up the road to Rangiwahia for a lovely bush walk on which they saw some magnificent large trees, especially Rimu and Totara. The rest went to Taihape for supplies or read slept and swam. At 3.30 our chairs were collected by a trailer and taken across the bridge to Awastone camp where Paul, Tricia and helpers put on a BBQ for us and we then had music. Locally they do this every second Sunday and this time it was a local lady with a keyboard and a nice singing voice backed by drums and guitar and also a fabulous young musician from Argentina who is holidaying here and working on a local asparagus farm. He was a very talented guitarist and had a lovely singing voice to present folk songs from his country and many modern hit tunes. Later Bennie Gunn was persuaded to borrow the keyboard and he and Pablo had a marvellous lot of fun for the rest of us to enjoy – such wonderful

music and to think they had never met before and Bennie's grin was ear to ear!



Awastone Concert



“Mangaweka Magic” as they call these evenings. Certainly was.

Monday we had an informal meeting to discuss bush camp 2017 and the prospect of a rolling rally in the top of the South Island. It seemed that most would like the ‘formal weekend’ first followed by a bush camp and then

on to South Island, although the ones going south thought it unnecessary to hold a bush camp. More discussion with executive to take place.

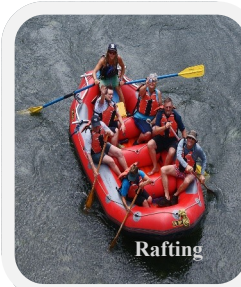
The game this morning was throwing the gumboot, a famous Taihape tradition. This was won by Mandy and Andy Bax. Do they practise at home? The



Gumboot Throwing Winners

day's activities were as usual followed by a ‘Mix Up’ supper in vans. Every member was given a piece of paper with half a line of a nursery rhyme – men first half and women second half. We then had to match up with our partners for the night. The men had a number on the back of their slip of paper and all the number one's went to one van, two's to another etc where the men had to produce the drinks and supper although we all took our plates. A fun night getting to know each other better.

Tuesday was rafting day. The ones doing the long raft left at 11 and were taken several miles up the river to raft down to us. Then the ones doing the short trip left from our camp and went down river and were returned by bus. The Taihape Rotary Club, invited by President Jean, joined us for a communal dinner tonight on their usual Rotary night. They came back to some of our vans for tea/coffee later.



On Wed Andy Bax organised for the intrepid trampers to go to ‘the top of the world’. Andy Bax, Jean Dillon,



Intrepid Trampers at the top

Gary and Irene Bates, Stewart Wright, Terry Daniell, Laurie Young, Peter Tucker, Ray Scott, Colin Wrack and Kevin and Anne Longman made it to the top of the cliffs as the rest of us finished our breakfast and waved to them up there like tiny skittles lined up. There was petanque this morning and at midday the last lot of rafters went off down the river with Joy Baker doing her second ride down in a kayak. Our dinner's tonight were followed by

TAUPO RALLY

Reporter—Bev Brennan

fruit salad and icecream, after most had decorated their tables for judging. It was amazing what came out of



Table Setting

those vans for decoration!!

Thursday we had a competition to make a pet rock, some of which were very imaginative. Irene Smith won and Barbara Collins second with Robert Collin's naughty one third. Mandy Bax also took us geo-caching which was fun. One cache was in the old pump house up the road so we visited the dam built in 1909 as well and learnt how they built a system to get water up to the town of Mangaweka and also to provide power and sewerage. The pictures gave us some idea of what the town was like in its heyday when there were several mills as well as farming. The building of the first bridge and it washing away, plus building the one

that remains today were pictured. We had a lovely celebration of Bev Brennan's 70th at 5s with champagne provided by George. The Northlanders had a party dinner for her and Bev Bersma cooked a lovely roast dinner for 6 more of us. What a nice way to finish our camp although I was reluctant to leave. Magnificent Mangaweka was a magic camp and thanks go to Gary and Irene Bates, Jan and John Edmonds and Rosemary and Malcolm Walker. A great job folks.

Friday was a little foggy for an hour or so but all arrived safely at Taupo, after a very scenic trip over the Desert Road.



Birthday Girl Bev



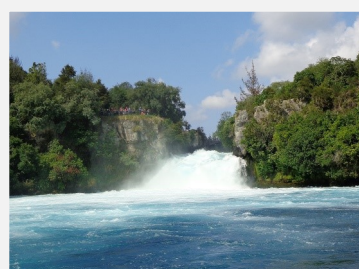
Communal Dinner

The organisers Rosemary and Malcolm Walker and Irene and Gary Bates are to be congratulated for their preparation and running of an extremely enjoyable rally at All Seasons Holiday Park in Taupo. Happy Hour set a happy tone as people met on the camp green. It was very hot so every metre of shade was used. There were 69 rally participants some using the well set up self contained units on site. Some had come from the bush rally at Mangaweka while others were meeting for the first time this year. Visitors - Val and Ian Anthony, Sharon and Trevor Thorne, Christine and John Pilcher, Bryce McFall and his assistant Irene were introduced and welcomed. Intervanning - supper in allocated vans was an opportunity to meet old friends and new in smaller groups. It is always fun to see who has been drawn to share supper with you and a chance to really get to know each other. Saturday morning was the bus and boat trip. We were divided into 2 groups. The bus driver, Colin, with his name badge on his hat, was a bus driver not to be forgotten in a hurry. The first bus started the journey with a high pitched squealing noise.



River Cruising

He stopped the bus walked down the length of the bus and declared he couldn't hear anything. Our members discovered it was the emergency alarm and to everyone's relief were able to stop it. The second bus he managed to get lost on the way to the boat.



Huka Falls

The trips were timed to see the water spill over the rapids but unfortunately there was a fault in a dam further down the river so the water was constantly flowing at a reduced rate. The boat trip was superb. A very professional driver kept us entertained and informed. We went close to Huka falls.

The water plunged into the river below making blue champagne bubbles. We saw birds, trout and jet boats as we quietly tootled up the river.

In the evening we were bussed to Rotary House for an excellent meal provided by Caroline from Dessert Delights of Taupo.



Saturday Evening Dinner

Our entertainment organiser was Rosemary and Malcolm's daughter Robyn Walker, and she delighted us with a jazz piano player - Ben Wilcock and drummer Darren Mathiassen (know as D).



Entertainers Darren Mathiassen and Ben Wilcock with Organisers, Rosemary & Malcolm Walker and daughter Robyn

An additional delight was a vocal soloist - Bill Wilson. Some of the members danced to the music. Sunday's meeting will be fully reported in the minutes. The Sergeants session proceeds will go towards a Taupo Rotary Shelter box. We welcomed Sharon and Trevor Thorne as new members. Delicious Hell pizzas were available to order and a large group enjoyed good food and good company on Sunday evening to finish a very enjoyable time in Taupo.



Trevor & Sharon Thorne, Pres. Jean Dillon, Robin & Faye Bly



George Brennan receives the wooden spoon from Pres. Jean

FUTURE RALLIES:

April 15-17 : Mowhanau, Kai Iwi Beach

June 20 -22: Miranda, (informal Rally)

August: 5 -7: Waitangi Holiday Park

October 6 -8: Omokoroa Thermal Park(Informal Rally)

November 4-6: Ohope Top 10 Holiday Park(AGM)

2017

February 3-10: Tauherenikau Race Course,
Wairarapa ('Bush Camp')

February 10-12: Carterton (to be confirmed)

February 14 - March 1: South Island Rolling Rally
(starting from Blenheim)



EIGHT PAST & PRESENT PRESIDENTS

Charlie Innes	1994/95
Ron Taylor	1998/99
Roger Clotworthy	1992/93
Barry Benton	2010/11
Robin Matheson	2011/12/13
John Edmonds	2008/09
Jean Dillon	2016
John Murphy	1996/97