


# Muriwai Beach Motor Camp : 3rd - 5th November 2017

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This weekend started early for quite a few as I believe there were nearly 40 at 5s on Wednesday night. They spent the next two days exploring the area and the beach and relaxing.

I arrived at the rather scattered and spread out camp for lunch on Friday. The usual Executive meeting was held Friday afternoon in the kitchen and we had our traditional supper in vans that night. By the laughter emitting from the vans, most had an enjoyable time. I certainly did.



The camp is in a lovely spot, but all the promised rebuild was not finished. The showers were great, but the toilet/shower block was a good distance from some of us. The promised deck was not done, but by Saturday morning the floor was down and we set ourselves up with our chairs and coffees ready for a talk on the Surf Club, when the rain started and we had to retreat to the kitchen. We had the Surf Club talk by Kerry Tyack as we enjoyed a finger food morning tea provided by the

Auckland area ladies. He told us of the costs and training for the Life Savers and for running all the gear they need to patrol the long beach and its environs – not all on the water. Also a lot about teaching the ‘nippers’ to swim for later life saving. This started quite a discussion on school pools and teaching swimming to the wider public as our drowning statistics are horrendous compared with others. Later he took us all for a walk over to their very new several million dollar priced club facilities, including bunks and kitchen for training weekends, a committee room, a lecture hall, (where we had our meeting) , a fully set up 2 bed hospital with all the gear they need to resuscitate, and two or more sheds to house boats on trailers, 4 wheel vehicles , and much paraphernalia. It was very impressive and all done with donations and sponsorships.



Gannet Colony

Our afternoon was free but many walked up to the cliff top to see the gannet colony where the birds were nesting. There were many more birds in a much bigger area than when we were here years ago. Those who couldn't make it up the hill were taken by car and walked back down. There were large chicks, tiny ones and some pairs were still constructing their nests ready to lay eggs. Some also went to see the unusual volcanic rock formations near Maori Bay. The cyclists went off to

try the trails but were soon back as they found them wet and muddy and very rough with lots of vegetation overgrowing. Not very successful. Others walked on the beach, relaxed or went to the café next door for coffee or icecreams.



Dinner

Saturday evening buses took us up the road to the Muriwai Golf Club which had a lovely outlook which improved as the weather did around sunset. We had a very tasty dinner on placemats

made by Peter Blackman with all our names on. Then Peter and Susan tested our brain power with a quiz where the inter-table rivalry reached fever pitch!! Lots of chocolate prizes until the buses took us home.



On The Bus



Meeting

On Sunday we made our way over the fence to the Surf Club for our meeting and the AGM where Kevin Longman became our President. The sergeants were in

fine form and extracted a lot of money with much hilarity, which was to be donated to the Surf Club. We lunched back at camp in groups outside as the weather had improved. As it was a free afternoon some went



Out With The Old and In With The New

off exploring while others read and relaxed with friends. We had 5s under the big tree in the centre of the camp where Colin and Margaret Wrack shouted us champagne and dessert after our fish and chips to celebrate Colin's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. The evening ended when the cool evening air sent us back to our vans for another peaceful night. Most including myself left Monday morning for home or other camps.



Happy Birthday