

# Stratford Rally and Whangamomona Rail Trail 27 October to 4 November 2018

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At the bottom of our Stratford programme notes it said *The general idea is for you to enjoy a relaxed sociable week* and I think everybody did.



The fun began before Stratford. Diane and Laurie Holloway organised a pre-rally get together at Whangamomona for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>. It was quite a drive along the Forgotten Highway. The weather was damp, there was a tight tunnel, some gravel and fantastic views. We assembled at the motor camp and then went to the pub



for dinner. With 37 of us, house guests and locals it was crowded and buzzing.

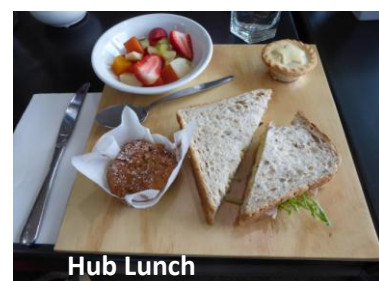
Some stayed on afterwards to watch the football. Next morning 32 of us assembled again at the pub and we walked to the beginning of the railway. Here modified golf carts awaited. They were assorted sizes from 2 seaters to 6 seaters. It was a spectacular ride to Taumarunui. We were all dressed warmly as day showery and chilly and there were lots of tunnels. We were extremely well fed. I will include the recipe for our morning tea mumbles at the end of the newsletter. When we arrived at the end of the trail we were bussed back to Whangamomona.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> saw us all assembling at the A & P grounds in Stratford. The hall was a great meeting place and 5ss saw everyone happily catching up and socialising.

The inclement weather continued on Tuesday but there was plenty of interaction. Drives, shopping, napping and chatting filled the day before the time for 5ss.



Wednesday was magnificent. Half the mountain was on show with a cloud topknot. A bus took us to 5 beautiful gardens. Each garden quite different. We began with the huge Regional council Hollard Gardens. Next, the well established rural Dunlop Garden. Lunch at the Hub in Hawera ( superb ) was followed by a walk in the King Edward gardens and a



talk by David Bruce. Gravetye was a very formal garden with lots of hedges and we finished at the small residential Gabot's garden. Lots to discuss at the usual 5ss.

Thursday saw another rainy day. Everybody made their own entertainment till as usual the 5ss in the hall.



**Mountain**

Friday saw the mountain in all its glory. The forecast for Saturday was for a return to rain so the Quarter Horse display was moved to Friday and we sat in the sun watching Catherine Ladd, an ex NZ representative, give a western riding demonstration. Her father, Barry Ladd gave us a commentary. We all loved it when toddler Charlie joined his Mum on the horse. Anderson's Catering provided us with a very delicious meal that evening in the very well used hall.



**Grandstand View**



**Catherine & Charlie**

Rain again interfered with plans on Saturday. The Stock cars and fireworks were cancelled. We had a very enjoyable meal of leftovers from Friday night.

Sunday was fine but extremely windy. Members met for the meeting and AGM. We welcomed visitors – Richard and Barbara Ward, Sheila Smith and Mike and Sandy Konig. Alf and Carol Harwood were inducted and welcomed to ICFR.

The minutes will contain a full report of these meetings, the officers elected and include the constitutional matters discussed and changed.

We have 132 members. The subs will remain the same at \$10 for 2018/2019. The sergeants session raised \$245.60 and was to be made up to \$250 before donating to the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter.

Ron Taylor has been interviewed for the Hawkes Bay Knowledge bank by Frank Cooper. This will be available on the website.

The final evening in the hall saw us enjoy good fellowship and delicious Andersons pies.

Despite the weather a great time was had by all. We were all grateful that the risk of Mt Taranaki / Egmont blowing up remained unfulfilled. Many thanks to the organisers Bill & Judith and Trevor & Audrey and also to Laurie & Diane for the Whangamomona trip.



**5'ss In Hall**



**Welcome Carol & Alf**



**Socialising**



## Fay's Mumbles

"This recipe can be prepared, baked & eaten in ½ hour, it is a staple of our family's baking folklore." It is a great way to use up the end of a box of weet bix (or similar).



### Prep Time

5 mins

### Cook Time

20 mins

### Makes

20 pieces

### Ingredients

125g butter  
1 cup sugar  
2 tbsp golden syrup  
1 cup flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 cup coconut  
1 egg  
1 cup mixed dried fruit (raisins, currants etc)  
5 weetbix or similar, crushed

### Method

Preheat the oven to 180 degrees C.

Line a 20 x 30 cm slice tin with baking paper.

Melt the butter, sugar and golden syrup in a large saucepan over a medium heat.

Add in all other ingredients & mix thoroughly.

Press into the prepared slice tin.

Bake for 15-20 minutes.

Cut into bars while still warm.

Store in an airtight container for about 10-14 days.

This slice can be frozen.