

# NATIONAL AGM/CONFERENCE

18-20<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Hamilton Hotel Conference Centre

The AGM is now behind us & once again '*well run*' & '*friendly*' springs to mind.

7 members from Hastings Branch travelled by Intercity to Hamilton & '*shuttled*' out to the Hamilton Airport Hotel, which as the name depicts is near the Hamilton Domestic Airport (across the carpark actually) There was a time delay getting into our rooms but we amused ourselves meeting new arrivals like old friends.

*Sunday*: 4pm Registration & Mix & Mingle was well attended & the scones, jam & cream much appreciated with our tea/coffee. Coral Atkins & Molly Ballantyne gave a short talk on their recent *Top of the South Tour* which appeared to be well received & as there were a number of members present who had also been on the Tour they were able to add their memory as well.

*Monday*: by 10am we were all seated for the AGM, which sadly our National President (Neil Todd) was unable to attend due to being admitted to hospital the day before, but we were welcomed by the deputy President Alison Waugh before the deputy Mayor of Waipa District Council Mr Grahame Webber gave us a very interesting talk on the history surrounding Waipa before he declared the meeting open.

Election of Officers was very straight forward with the '*top table*' all re-elected unopposed. The one remit which was required by the Charities Services regarding '*Cessation of Membership*' was passed by 19 of the 20 branches present. There were one or two matters discussed in General Business (*Hastings Branch suggested all branches keep their webpages up to date*) Soup & rolls were served in the dining room at the conclusion of the meeting & RUMMIKUB was offered in the afternoon to anyone who would like to play or learn to play. Most entertained themselves in some way or another. Several we met at the *Hamilton Gardens* where we went for coffee.

4pm began the great C&W dress up ready for the evening. Several glasses of wine & lots of photos & laughs later we gathered in the conference room, now set up for dining. A lovely meal followed before Joy Adams entertained us for the rest of the evening – a country & western singer with her own brand of humour/comedy. The evening finished around 930pm.

*Tuesday*: Mystery Trip – many places were bandied about as to where we might be going but most were happy to sit back & watch the Waikato countryside slip by on a beautiful sunny day. A bonus was our coach driver with local knowledge making the trip so much more

interesting. Our first stop was Morrinsville – ‘*Herd of Cows*’ home of 42 ‘cow sculptures’ as well as ***Mega Moo*** at the entrance to the city. We seen but a few of these brightly painted moos as we drove through town onto Matamata & The Firth Tower Museum for tea/coffee & a trip down memory lane with all the little buildings housing past memorabilia (Stable, Cowshed/Dairy, Workshop, Church, School, Post office etc) before moving onto Okoroire Hot Springs Hotel for a substantial roast beef & trimmings, followed by apple pie meal. If we thought we should all be going for a long walk after that meal it may be why we next went to the Avantidrome, the multimillion dollar complex in the St Peters School grounds. We had a delightful young lady to tell us all about the day to day activities our elite athletes & learners can enjoy in the velodrome & were lucky to be able to see several children from the nearby school circling the drome as well as an instructor showing us the circuit higher up the drome. We ended the visit with a short video showing us all the aspects of the complex (medical, weights, offices etc). From there it was back to the Hotel for a light meal & pack up for our trip back home.

Wednesday was another glorious day & we were even lucky enough to have the double decker bus back to Taupo. An uneventful trip back to Hastings arriving around 4pm.

*Report by Molly Ballantyne, President 60sUp Hastings Branch, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017*

Next AGM/Conference Masterton June 2018.

Check out the Photos