
*Welcome to the May 2011 Community Communiqué;
your update of Camp Quality NZ happenings.*

Auckland/Northland

Our 2011 Summer Camp started with a Family Day at Hampton Downs race track where “Kids in Cars” once again offered rides in all manner of vehicles. Our Black Tie Dinner on Tuesday evening saw everyone dressing up for the occasion and being officially announced as campers and companions arrived for dinner. On Wednesday it was off to Rainbow’s End for our annual visit; always a great day enjoyed by one and all. For dinner that night we had a real “Kiwiana” one – fish and chips wrapped in newspaper. We had a great team, cooking and wrapping and it took some doing for 240 people! We were also privileged to have Prime Minister John Key visit the camp on Thursday morning, he spent two hours talking with the campers and companions, posing for photographs and engaging with the campers.



The Prime Minister also presented Life Membership Awards to Bruce Bell our photographer and Ray Laurance from the Freemasons – *congratulations to you both.*

Kiwiana was the theme for the Thursday night Disco with all dressing for the occasion. On a grassed area outside the dining room, marquees were set up, along with an old caravan and other regalia. Strings of coloured lights set the scene. We were fortunate to have the Police DJ Lenny in charge of the music once again.

In a NZ first two Tongan children and their chaperone attended our camp. This took a bit of arranging, but it was worth the effort just seeing the smiles on their faces and the way the camp embraced them. Thanks to Jane Skeen for her help and support in arranging this.

Other highlights were the Re/Max's Hot Air Balloon tethered rides for Campers and a Top Town Games activity run by two seventh form students, with Stacey Jones joining in.

Wesley College management once again went out of their way to ensure we had everything we required.

The supporting 19 Lions Clubs and the 202K Cabinet, the Freemasons of Auckland, the English, Irish and Scottish Lodges of Auckland all did a wonderful job in the kitchen and dining room. They are all very protective of their rostered duties coming back year after year.

John Green, Regional Manager

Waikato/Bay of Plenty

Our Summer Camp in the second week of January had the hottest weather that we have experienced for quite some time and saw many bottles and cups of fluid refilled. Sunday morning and off on buses to meet with families and take charge of their gifts to us... their children.

The programme committee had decided for a HIGH OCTANE camp and this was certainly delivered with a mixture of tried and true together with new and challenging. The range of activities started with the Stu Robertson from Corporate Challenge joining us at Lake Rotoma and running some great fun filled team games, truly enjoyed by one and all.

From there the activities included, jet boat, jet ski and hovercraft rides, plus the added attraction of having the NZ wake boarding champion give us an unexpected display. The rest of the week included, African Drummers, surfing lessons, high rope adventure courses, a Burma trail in the bush (loved the glow worms), inflatable games (giant foosball, bull riding, jousting and boxing with giant gloves).

Twilight luge was a huge success and hearing the "we are Camp Quality" chant coming up the chairlift was VERY inspirational.

Agro ventures and the Agro dome show, Off Road NZ, with 4 wheel safari tours, monster truck rides and clay bird shooting and



archery all provided loads of thrills and laughter.

Having a hangi dinner followed by a performance from one of Rotorua's leading Maori Cultural groups was truly fabulous for our Kiwiana camp theme. The culture group held all of us spellbound from the moment they entered, their interaction with the campers and companions was just fabulous.

Our electives for a more sedate side of camp were tried and true to please everyone. They ranged from arts and crafts to model making, archery, pistol shooting, abseiling, kayaking and horse riding. Again all of these were enjoyed by campers and companions.

Concert night: With a theme like Kiwiana I knew it was going to be interesting to view the costumes. I was amazed at how many Fred Dagg's we have in NZ now. The range of costumes proved that a lot of thought and effort had taken place as what was shown encompasses all the great Kiwi icons; marmite, jandals, buzzy bees, All Blacks, an Ohakune carrot and last but by no means least a PAVLOVA!

It was a pleasure to have our Regional Trustee John Wyatt and some of the Region's Freemasons along to experience the fun of concert night. After much hilarity from the skits, everyone boogied the evening away with a local band until it was time for camp curfew at 11pm.

Friday morning and all too quickly, time to take our charges and deliver them back to their families with the promise to meet again at Reunion day.

Fiona Hammond, Regional Manager

Wellington/Central Districts

In January 2011, fifty-eight children went to St Mary's College in Stratford, to enjoy all the fun, laughter and friendships that Camp Quality is famous for.

After a windy first night away from home, the real fun began when campers and their companions spent their first full day 'down on the farm' in Toko, the home of John and Roslyn Weir. After watching sheep dog trials, local Lions Clubs helped to provide the children with lots of great entertainment including a giant waterslide, 4x4 rides, a rifle shooting range, petting zoo, trolley carts, horse-riding, and some great



tucker! Fonterra finished off a great day out, arriving with ice creams, milk and sticker packs for every camper, and children of all ages checked out the newly

painted tanker.

Later that evening, after a rest, Heliview treated campers to a helicopter flight high above Stratford – an awesome end to a fun-filled first day!

A “top town” style sports day is a well-loved tradition, and campers and companions, wearing the appropriate team colours, battled it out for first place. There was great rivalry but the Blue crew were the clear winners in the end.

Another highlight is theme day, and 150 “Pirates” spent an afternoon with treasure maps in hand looking for lost treasure. Their pirate adventure was complete with coconut palm islands, an oversized Polly Parrot, and even a pirate ship - custom built by Scott Gardner, with materials donated by the Johnson Family Farm (a very special "thankyou" to them!) The crew of the “Fighting Five” were victorious, banking the most loot and reaping bags of “pirate booty” as reward.

The fun continued in New Plymouth with a visit to Brooklyn Zoo, a special tour through Puke Ariki museum and library, and time to play and climb at New Plymouth YMCA. An evening at the “Pirate” themed light festival at Pukekura Park was spectacular, and many campers believed it had all been created especially for Camp!

Electives are an opportunity for the campers to choose between dam dropping, plaster crafts, art, or a trip to the local salon for hair and nails. Wheels of most any kind are always a favourite, and the Mustang Club members shared their beautiful cars with lots of smiling kids, big and small. Finally, on the last evening, no camp would be complete without dressing up for a night at the disco!

On the final morning, it was a soggy finish to a great week. A very special balloon release, and the lowering of the camp flag marked the end of another amazing year at camp, with plenty of hugs before tired happy campers and their faithful companions boarded the buses for home.

Tony Clifford, Regional Manager

Christchurch

Sunday morning dawned windy and warm and we headed off early to the Antarctic Centre the pick-up place for campers. Eight campers and one companion flew in from Nelson in time to see the penguins being fed and ride the Haglunds. After lunch it was off to Living Springs and the pool - a welcome relief from the 34° temperatures! Monday morning arts and crafts included stone carving,



wood kits, chocolate making, masks and beadwork. Then there was a trip to town for flights on the DC3 - four flights later all campers and companions had viewed Christchurch from on high. Monday evening was camp concert with each bunkroom doing an item and the "talent" on show was amazing.

Tuesday morning we travelled to Springfield to do jet boating, 4WD driving and helicopter rides. An action packed morning careering over the Waimak riverbed in 4WD's and skimming across the braided shallows of the gorge in jet boats (360° spins!) ensured most people were drenched and when heavy rain set in at lunchtime no one seemed to mind. After lunch two Garden City Helicopters provided everyone the opportunity to see the gorge and surrounding countryside from above – while those waiting were treated to demonstrations of sheep shearing and sheep dogs at work. Everyone was ready for a quiet night at the movies once we got back to Springs!

Wednesday morning dawned fine and clear and staff were up early preparing for our very own Amazing Race. Eleven teams of mixed ages and abilities had all sorts of challenges to complete (gumboot throwing, face painting companions, finding a needle in the haystack to name a few), utilising the facilities of Living Springs, the agility of staff and some creative accounting on the part of scorers! Wednesday evening saw everyone dress up for a formal dinner and eleven campers who were attending their last camp were acknowledged – a seat at the 'top table' and a standing ovation! Dallas Seymour (CQ Ambassador) joined us to present the awards for the Amazing Race – everyone received a certificate though the girls would have you believe that the best part was getting a hug from Dallas! An evening swim followed ensuring everyone went to bed tired.

On Thursday morning we were jolted awake by a 5.1 aftershock at 6.03am! Arts and crafts morning was punctuated by further shakes but most were too busy to notice. Everyone dressed up for party night, including nurses from CHOC – a 25th cake cut by Frank Mitchell and our youngest camper was followed by the very popular disco - everyone was having such a great time that it was 10pm before time was called. The tradition of a late night swim saw most campers, companions and staff (fully-clothed of course) in the pool!

Friday began with companions doing the big pack while campers were entertained by a couple of clowns and then it was off to the Commodore Hotel for lunch before "getting up close and personal" with the wildlife at Orana Park.

Lots of memories to share, to be proud of, to inspire ... thanks to the generous support of Lions Clubs, local businesses and craftspeople from our community.

Robyn Burke, Regional Manager

South

Our 2011 Camp was held at the Lakeside Christian Campsite, Kelvin Heights Queenstown. Sunday dawned bright and clear and after breakfast we were into Arts and Crafts. The afternoon saw us outdoors taking part in egg and spoon races, catch the egg competition, (some eggs were left uncooked but no-one knew which) 3 legged races, wheelbarrow races, sack races and blindfold challenges. To see a determined 5 year old trying to “wheelbarrow” a 16 stone student (and managing to) defied belief. We finished with a swim at the local swimming pool; a brilliant facility. The evening programme was a “movie night” with ice creams and pop corn provided.

After breakfast on Monday it was onto the buses and off to Arrowtown, where we started with a walk through the historic gold mining area of this iconic and beautiful small town and then a visit to the Remarkable Lollyshop where the whole team were shown the shop wares and each camper was given a bag of their favourite sweets. We then proceeded to the Arrowtown Museum where we were given a taste of what it was like to be a school pupil back at the turn of the 19th /20th Century. Later to great excitement and anticipation, each camper was given instruction on the skill of gold-panning. Some of the gold prospectors were more successful than others with a few finding small amounts of gold “colour”. A BBQ style lunch was provided by the local Lions club and was gratefully enjoyed in the shade of Arrowtown’s ancient trees. On returning to camp it was time for a visit to Lake Wakatipu for a swim. After the evening meal we met Julie and Dallas Seymour, our CQ ambassadors and we were entertained by Jonathan Usher, the magician. He successfully pulled rabbits from hats, eggs from ears, and water from goodness knows where. The campers were well and truly entertained.

Tuesday after an early lunch we went down to the lakeside for a camp photo shoot (or so the campers thought) but they were met by the boats and people from Kawarau River Jet boats, who got everyone into life jackets and took the whole group about 9 kilometres down the Kawarau gorge river. This was great fun and the campers were sorry when we headed back towards Queenstown, but again what they did not



know was that we were going to unload from the jet boats straight into the

SS Earnslaw for a trip across the lake for an afternoon at Walter Peak station. The people at this iconic old sheep station and homestead pulled out all the stops and laid on a walk round the deer pens, sheep pens,

the cattle pens with the highland cattle and a sheep dog working a mob of sheep for shearing. Next there was a beautiful afternoon tea with sandwiches, scones and jam, cake and drinks before a sheep shearing demonstration.

Wednesday was more of an in-camp day, and after breakfast we started our skit practices. Lunch was a lakeside picnic organised by the Balfour Lions Club. Most of the bread involved went to the ducks on the lake, but the campers enjoyed this. Unfortunately we had to farewell our ambassadors, Dallas, Julie and their children. They had all got on extremely well with everyone involved over the two days that we were lucky enough to have them with us. In the afternoon the campers were given the chance to ride in a double decker bus and then with their companions were taken up on the Gondola for several Luge rides.

Thursday was our penultimate day and of course preparation time for concert night. We had a visit from our local National MP, Jacqui Dean who spent some time amongst the campers and companions. The concert was a huge success, with an abundance of well thought out acts and skits being performed.

We were delighted to welcome 202F Lions District DG Donald Boyd and his wife Mary, VDG Lynette Batt, 202J Lions District VDG Robert Naismith and his wife Beryl.

Friday was the unhappiest day of the week. Most of the morning was spent taking down bunk decorations and packing up. By 11 o'clock the buses were lined up ready to depart, but as usual, campers were making every excuse under the sun, not to be ready to go! At 11:20 am the buses finally pulled out with the staff all in attendance, waving them goodbye.

Tom MacDonald, Regional Manager

Camp Quality welcomes two new Ambassadors

Two of New Zealand's top sporting achievers, Dallas and Julie Seymour, have taken up a new role as South Island Ambassadors for Camp Quality NZ. With four children of their own, the campers were the inspiration behind getting involved with the charity. *"Just knowing how precious our kids are and how lucky we are to have them, we thought we would love to do something to help out other kids,"* says Julie.



"We were already aware of Camp Quality and what they did, so the connection could not have been more perfect."

They recently visited the Camp Quality South and Christchurch camps and loved the experience. *"It was great to not just visit but, in the case of South, to stay the night and meet all the campers, companions and everyone involved with the camp. We thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it and it just reinforced the fantastic idea of camp."*

Black Tie Dinner Raises \$60,000 for Camp Quality Auckland/Northland

The John Andrew Ford and Mazda Charity Black Tie Dinner and Auction, attended by 200 guests, raised \$60,000 for Camp Quality Auckland/Northland. Camp Quality Auckland/Northland Regional Manager John Green says the dinner was a huge success. "We are very grateful to John Andrew Ford and Mazda for hosting the Black Tie Dinner and Auction, helping to raise an incredible amount for Camp Quality Auckland/Northland. It was a remarkable evening thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended."

This is the second year that John Andrew Ford and Mazda have supported the work of Camp Quality Auckland/Northland with an annual Gala Dinner and Charity Auction at their dealership.



Sovereign Sunshine –

Please vote for Camp Quality in May 2011

Sovereign Sunshine is a charity website devoted to helping build a brighter future for Kiwi kids. Each month, six different children's charities are shortlisted by Sovereign staff and in May 2011 Camp Quality NZ has made the short list.

Sovereign's \$10,000 monthly donation will be divided between all six shortlisted charities. The charity with the winning votes overall for the month will receive an additional donation (up to \$5,000) from staff fundraising the following month.

What happens now...

Camp Quality will be featured on the Sovereign Sunshine homepage and anyone from across NZ can register on the site and vote for us during May 2011. The number of votes will tally on the screen, and voting will close on Tuesday 31 May 2011 at midday. Sovereign will announce the overall winner on the website on Tuesday 31 May 2011.

We are asking all Camp Quality NZ supporters to go to:

<http://www.sovereignsunshine.co.nz/>

to register and vote for us before 31st May 2011



Final Word from the Chairman

Over the past three years I have had the opportunity of visiting all but one of our five Regional Camps and the amazing impression I have been left with has been the similarity of the Campers, Companions, Committees and helpers.

The Campers all seemed to be the same, full of energy and guile, the Companions, caring and dedicated to their really important roles, the Committees very much on top of everything and the helpers just so keen to assist in any way.

This common theme flows through from each Regional report and it makes me proud [and humble] to be part of this wonderful organisation as should all of those who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of **our children** and their families.

I sincerely trust that you all enjoy reading the comprehensive camp reports from the Regional Managers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ivan Lawson

Chairman

Camp Quality NZ Inc