

Annual Report 2010

International Relations

I am delighted to be here reading my 5th annual report, I guess it does get easier with time. Experience and having got to know and respect all the dedicated people throughout New Zealand and around the world who make this such a wonderful organisation to belong to, certainly helps.

As per usual the National Executive and I spent quite some time deliberating the resolutions to be passed at the International AGM held in Jyvaskyla, Finland however the eruptions and ash from the volcano in Iceland meant that there were very few who could attend and only 2 members of the International Board were present. Neither of our Consuls was able to attend so our report and voting rights were not used, by the way both have agreed to continue as Consuls for next 3 years. The change of officers went ahead as normal with Matti Hinttala (Finland) taking over from John Bellwood as President, Vice- President is Jean-Louis Boileau (France), Bob Parton has resigned as Secretary and as there were no additional nominations, Denis Beck from France took over. Most of the further business has been held over till the HYM in Cyprus. What a disappointment for the Finns who had done all that planning, I sent an e-mail of sympathy to Matti and his team.

At the end of September Bill and Shona Weir along with 2 Canadian Kinsmen couples stayed as they passed through on their way North. Good to see Carry and Joanne Larose again. Mid December we had the pleasure of meeting Wolfgang and Monika Siefried from Esslingen, Germany, they had been touring around NZ with a small tour company and we were able to show them around Christchurch for the afternoon and evening. A lovely couple who we would like to meet again, unfortunately we were unable to organise a 41 club meeting for them. Then a most delightful couple Brian & Elaine Frazer from Inverness, Scotland came to stay for 3 days in mid Feb after a month's tour around NZ. We showed them around "our patch" and Christchurch 41 Club had a dinner meeting with them. David and Vanda Messer from Guildford, England were next early March and we were hoping that they wouldn't clash with an Israeli couple who had said they would be here around the same time. They didn't turn up and I haven't heard from them again, maybe next year. We are quite fortunate to be handy to the main highway and it's always good to have any of you call on your travels, there's usually a bed, cuppa, meal or drink available

Throughout the year I have had a steady stream of e-mails and letters from just about every association and country where 41 exists, most from Clubs holding AGM's and telling of their Pre or Post Tours. Many contacts are made by folks wanting to travel here and I always try to help. When any of you are heading off overseas give me a call or send an e-mail and I'll see if I can find you a contact or 2, maybe some hosting wherever you are going.

Barely a day goes by when there is not something that needs attending to in the world of 41 but on the whole it is a great way to maintain and build friendships as our aims and objects say.

Yours in 41 Friendships

Derek Johns