



# ULYSSES MEMBERS RV GROUP



## The Kermit Kronicle

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Hello Everyone.

Well the Ulysses Club AGM has come and gone. There was a great roll up of vans and motorhomes at the event, with 176 RV's accommodated on-site at

the showground, thanks to the foresight of the AGM Host Committee, and the cooperation of the Nat-com and National Office. Sherol and I tried to get around to speak to as many people as we could there at the showground RV site, we joined up a few new members whilst we did, and caught up with a lot of



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old friends.

It was pleasing after my address to the members gathered at the actual Annual General Meeting of the Ulysses Club, that the host committee members for the Ulysses AGM in Alice Springs sent a note up to the stage saying that all RV members were welcome in the Alice, and that they would be able to accommodate us all onsite. How great is that?

Before the meeting I was approached by the members of the Albury/Wodonga AGM in 2015 to advise that although they would not have the same facilities as Maryborough and Alice Springs, they would be bending over backwards to ensure that they could deliver the best package for RV members as they could. My how times have changed.

Of course, even after my address to the members there on what the RV Group was about, and how it was for Ulysses Club members, and that we were fulfilling the very first principal of the Ulysses Club, which is entrenched in that club's constitution, ie:- to provide a means for older motorcyclists to get together for companionship and mutual support, I was button-holed by a vocal Ulysses member who wanted to tell me how RV's should not be welcome in the Ulysses Motorcycle Club, blah blah blah. I had pointed out in my address that nowhere in that 1st principal of the club was it stated that to get together for companionship and support was it necessary for those older motorcyclists to actually ride their bikes, but this loudmouth didn't want to know that. I also pointed out to him that he was obviously talking about some other club, as neither he nor I were members of the Ulysses Motorcycle Club. I don't even know if a Ulysses Motorcycle Club exists. Anyway he went away happy, having shoved his biased opinions down my throat and could go back to his neanderthal mates and tell them how he put the upstart Rick Bedford in his place.

Whilst we were at Maryborough, the directors of the RV Homebase shouted us to a Happy Hour at their facility. They arranged a courtesy bus to pick up those of us going from the showground, and in all 74 members attended there, where they provided inspections of their homes, facilities and lots of information, followed up by a gourmet sausage sizzle and an open bar. Speaking to the sales manager at the end of the night, just before the bus whipped us back to the showground, she was positively enthused with the results of their promotion, believing that she had sold three homes to our members, with another three or four positive expressions of interest. Of course, in my address to the AG Meeting, I did happen to mention that the RV Group had supported one of the event sponsors to the tune of over \$1 million worth of sales, and wondered aloud if any of the branches of the club could make that sort of boast.



Now to our upcoming RV Group AGM . Fay and Phil have been staying at the event venue and liaising with the proprietors. Things are shaping up well and I should have a registration form up for the event in the near future, once Phil has had some time to recover from the Ulysses AGM, for which he was event treasurer, and let me know what details he wants. Fay has been busy getting info and making tentative arrangements for cruises and entertainment, and when final arrangements are in place, we will let you all know what is planned. Don't forget to book your powered/unpowered site direct with the cara-



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van park. Details are on the front page of our website.

We now have stubbie coolers in stock in our shop, green with the club logo on the front and back, stitched and glued seams and for a measly \$\$4.00 each plus postage. I have sent some with Hoppy back to S.A., posted some over the Judi in the west, so you will be able to purchase them from those guys as well, along with stickers, and patches.

On the good news front, George Schmidt, husband of our NSW Coordinator Wendy, has been getting treatment for cancer, and the news is all positive. They are looking forward to lots more travel in their van, and especially seeing a heap of RV'ers at the Lightning Ridge Rally in August.

Last newsletter, we had a proposal about having our RV Group AGM close to the Ulysses AGM, and ran an online vote regarding the issue. The vote is in and the members overwhelmingly voted to keep the two events separate as they have been for the time we have been running, so look forward to RV Group AGM's around late October each year.

Reports later in this newsletter regarding various rallies our members have been to, including brief reports about Brooms Head, the Celtic Festival, Drovers Rally and the S.A. roundup.

Not much input from Ken this newsletter, as he and Doreen have been gadding about the countryside in the new van and tug, enjoying the lifestyle and occasionally ringing me with suggestions and news, and also to rub it in that I still have to go to work. Anyway, I did manage to extract some stuff out of him about the Celtic Festival.

Until next time,  
Travel safe,

Rick.



Well, Doreen and I have just returned from the Celtic Festival, staying at the showground at Glen Innes. I was a bit disappointed that the showground society saw the need to put the fees up by \$5.00 a night just for the weekend of the festival, plus a booking fee on top, but that did not deter about 250 van and rigs moving into the showgrounds for the weekend.

Before the weekend, we stayed at the free camping area just north of the Beardies Picnic and camping site, north of Glenn Innes for about 3 nights, in company with Ron and Louise Deeben from Mudgee. That site is terrific, quiet and of course free, and we made the most of it, before moving to the showgrounds for the weekend.

There was the Mudgee contingent present, Wal and Leonie, Terry and Jan, Ken and Lynne and a few others whose names escape me now, as well as Ron and Louise, Barry Crank and us. Ron had his portable bonfire set up as in previous visits, and each night it became the centre of attraction for us all.

The events this year at the festival had a Scottish flavour, Scotland being the chosen Celtic culture this time around. This is a great weekend, lots of people enjoying a taste of Celtic culture, lots of bagpipes, and of course great mates and plenty of laughter.

You will definitely see us there again in a couple of years.

Cheers,

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**Celtic Festival - Glen Innes, May 2013.**



## NSW RV EVENTS.

### LIGHTNING RIDGE

30th-31st August, 2013

Opal Caravan Park, Lightning Ride, Phone:

0268294884. Facilities: Camp Kitchen with everything that would need, including Satellite TV as well.

Heated Pool, Free Courtesy Bus into the shopping centre each day.

It is opposite the Artesian Bore Baths, which is open 24/7. In August it would be just wonderful, so tell everyone to bring their swimmers and towels. If you can't sleep, then you can hop across the road for a relaxing soak in Artesian warmth.

There are 3 shows in town. The Black Queen \$35.00 for seniors, - a great show

Chambers of the Black Hand – \$30.00 for seniors, another great show.

A 3-1/2 hour Tour of the town and surround for \$25.00 for seniors. Well worth the money.

All three have their own Courtesy bus.

Price of Powered sites \$32.00 less 10% for ulyssians, Unpowered \$26.00 less 10% as well.

## QUEENSLAND EVENTS

### KILKIVAN BUSH CAMP AND GOOMERI PUMPKIN FESTIVAL WEEKENDER 24-27 MAY 2013

Rossmore Road KILKIVAN QUEENSLAND 4600 Ph:

07) 5484 1340

email [kilkivan@bushcamping.com.au](mailto:kilkivan@bushcamping.com.au)

HOSTS: Ralph and Antonia

Registrations and Park Bookings close: Thursday 09 May 2013 - [Registration form on RV website on Weekenders Page.](#)

Powered Site: \$25 Unpowered: \$20  
Cabin: \$30 ( basic bunk cabin style: 6berth)

Open Fires Permitted: Wood on sale in Park (\$15/wheelbarrow)

4x4 Forest Trails (1.5hr and 4hr)  
Prophet Gold Mine –Gold Panning nearby

Saturday Morning Free Pancake Breakfast: (bring own plates and cutlery)

Saturday 9-12 noon - "Stitch and Chatter Session": Bring crafts, sewing, quilting etc

Saturday Night Camp Oven Pork and Beef Roast/6 veges Dinner: Apple slice & Cream Dessert : \$20 (Bring own plates and cutlery)

Sunday Morning Cooked Breakfast: BYO/DIY  
Goomeri Pumpkin Festival: Sunday 26 May 2013 (Vehicle convoy departing 8.30am)

**XMAS in JULY - 12th - 14th July, 2013.**

Crows Nest Tourist Park, Crows Nest, Qld.

More details to follow next issue.

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## SA RV events for 2013

RV events are open to any Ulysses member or partner. Any type of vehicle can be used to get you there, what is important is that you are there.

Any further enquiries contact Hobbit or Hoppy on [hoho@ulyssesrv.org](mailto:hoho@ulyssesrv.org)

July 20th – 21st Mannum  
Camping Fees

Sept 14th – 15th Saunders Gorge  
Sanctuary Camping Fees

Nov 2nd – 3rd Potts Res  
Langhorne Creek Free  
Christmas show

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### W A. Christmas in July

Friday 5th July to Sunday 7th July, at Dellingup Caravan Park, 23 Del Park Rd Dwellingup WA 6213 (08) 9538 1157.

[Registration form on front page of website](#)



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Ulysses Members  
RV Group

**Merchandise Shop**



## Gear shop goodies.

All of our gear shop items are available to order via our online regalia shop.

*Club shirts for \$35.00 plus postage.*

*Club shirt with embroidered name for \$39.50, plus postage.*

*New logo patches for \$5.00 plus postage*

*New logo 200mm stickers for \$12.00 plus postage*

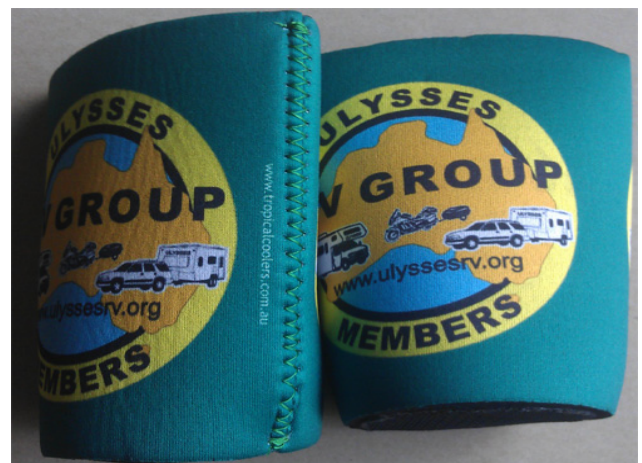
*Old logo 200mm stickers for \$8.00 plus postage*

*New logo 100 mm stickers for \$1.00 plus postage*

*Old logo 100mm stickers for \$0.75 plus postage.*

*Name badges with magnetic clasp for \$9.80 plus postage.*

*Stubbie Coolers - stitched and glued seams, with club logo on front and back. \$4.00 each plus postage.*





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### Back to the Broom - Five years on.

When Fay was coming up with ideas about weekend rallies to hold in NSW, Sherol came up with the idea of going back to Brooms Head in March this year to celebrate our fifth birthday. It was at Brooms Head in March 2008 that the RV Group had it's very first WGT ( as we called them then), 34 people gathering to lay down the ground rules for the fledgling RV Group. Pretty simple rules they were too.

1. We remain separate from the Ulysses Club, no constitutions, rules and that sort of thing.
2. A member of the family had to be a financial member of the Ulysses Club to join the RV Group.
3. No bad attitudes, no crap, just lots of great people getting together to have a great time.



Seems to have worked pretty well for the past five years.

And so it was that in mid March 47 members gathered at the Brooms Head Caravan Park for our fifth birthday rally. We had members travel from as far south as Camden and Gulgong in NSW, and as far north as Maryborough in Qld and many points in between to join in and celebrate our birthday.

Ken organised lunch at the Bowls Club for Saturday, as they had a large booking already for dinner that evening. Happy hours happened each night, with most of the members coming in to join in the big circle, share some nibbles and have a drink with plenty of talking a laughter.

Saturday night saw us move onto Ken's prize

bottle of port, which quickly diminished in content. Ken had so much, that he didn't even remember Rick running up to the fish and chip



shop way up the other end of the park to buy

hamburgers for him, Doreen and Ken. Fortunately, when Ken's bottle ran out, Blip had another one, so the night was not lost.

The weather gods were kind to us, with beautiful clear skies and warm



temperatures, which were enough to tempt Barry and John to head out to sea in the kayaks, whilst Blip and Di chose the more sedate inland lake waters to explore.

It was great to welcome some new members along to join in the weekend, and hopefully we



will see them back at many more rallies.

Unfortunately, after organising the weekend, Fay and Phil had to cancel attending due to an inconsiderate family member organising her wedding on the same weekend. Then Sherol had to miss out as well, working and being on call didn't allow her to join us. When



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I suggested that she could have driven down from home on Saturday morning after she finished work at 10.00am, stayed the night and then risen early Sunday and driven back to start work by 9.45, I got that look that all married men know and fear, so I said no more on the matter.

All in all, a great birthday weekend. The general consensus of opinion was that we should not wait another five years, but should go back each year or two for our birthday, so we will look again at the calendar for next year. That can be a job for you Ken.

Travel safe,

Rick.

### SA RV Roundup – Rapid Bay

What a fabulous coastline we have along the Fleurieu Peninsula! The drive down to Myponga Reservoir, Carrickalinga and onto Rapid Bay was just stunning. The





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campground is a well kept grassed area with good clean toilets, BBQ's, picnic area and is set back from the beach itself. For \$6 per night per person it is great value.

We arrived Friday evening to be greeted by a very festive mob of Ulysses members that clearly hadn't waited to start enjoying themselves. Two gazebos had been joined together and it made for a top communal gathering spot. We grabbed our chairs and a cold drink, yes we have a fridge now, and settled right in. It was a very mild night and was the perfect atmosphere for the telling of

Saturday morning was a little cooler but it was still very pleasant. After breakfast some of the folk produced their fishing rods and set off to do the hunter gatherer thing. From the look of their catch bag I think the fish were pretty safe. It is such a lovely beach to go for a walk. Some went to the jetty and walked out to the end while others walked along the beach to the large cave at the far end. Some other slack tarts just sat at the camp chatting. People just kept on arriving and the numbers swelled to well over 30 members there. It was a very cosy mob under the gazebos.



true and tall stories. The net result was much fun and laughter. Eventually we all drifted off to bed for a well earned rest.

The sun started going down on the sea and soon the aroma of tea been prepared filled the air. Nothing beats a barbie at the beach!



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Then it was back to the socialising, fun and laughter again. The ukuleles were produced and the singing began. The tales got greater and the laughter louder, what a great night. There were a few members seen stumbling back to their beds, I think it was because the night was so dark. By midnight peace came to the camp with just the sounds of contented snoring rolling across the beach.

Blue skies and seas greeted us on Sunday morning. The sea looked so beautiful I nearly went for a swim, fortunately I managed to resist. Bacon and eggs were the go for breakfast and this brought all the dogs to the BBQ. A slow relaxed pack up began and people prepared to go home. It was hard to leave as there were some happy campers staying on to enjoy themselves some more. It had been another fabulous weekend doing what Ulysses folk do best and that is

enjoying one another's company.

Thanks to all that came and made it such a great time. We will be looking forward to doing it all over again at Yacka in May.

Remember; some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

Happy wanderings

## Hoppy & Hobbit

Weekenders are open to all Ulysses members and partners.

Any type of vehicle can be used to get you there,

What is important is that you are there!



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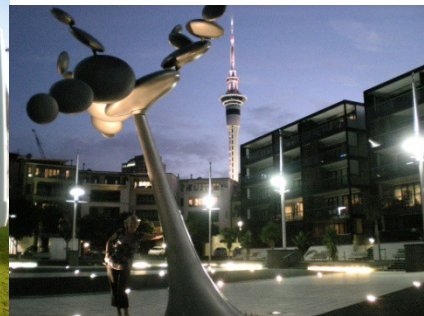
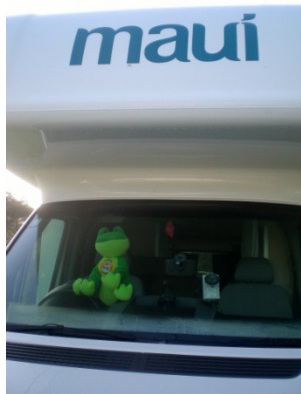
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## ARVEE'S KIWI ADVENTURE

It was with excitement plus that I looked to accompanying my brand new friends, Keith and Di, to a different country, New Zealand. I don't weigh much and I need no luggage, so it was a surprise when, with suitcases open and half packed, Keith looked at me and exclaimed "No way, it won't fit. The frog stays." He even mentioned photoshopping me, but that sounded painful and I wasn't too keen on the idea. In the end however, at the last minute Di smuggled me into her on-board bag, though the quarters were a bit cramped.

With the zipper on the bag finally unfastened I sprang out onto a large bed in a very posh hotel room. Keith was surprised and I thought he looked a little angry, but then he held me up and suggested I might like to step outside the room to admire the view. It was then that I learned what a jolly joker he is – there was no balcony! Di didn't enjoy the joke and placed me firmly on her side of the room. I was left to enjoy the room facilities and chat up the cleaning girls while the others made their feet sore tramping around Auckland.

Two days later we picked up our big Maui motorhome for 6 weeks of touring around the country. I jumped behind the steering wheel but Keith grabbed me around the neck and tossed me with delight onto the back seat – what fun! I suppose my legs are a little short for driving such a big rig.



So the journey began, starting with Northland, and a routine developed – I watched the changing landscape out the window in the back seat, sharing the seat at mealtimes with Di. Occasionally, when the roads became very twisty, narrow and steep, I'd fall off and roll around a little until Di put me on the back top shelf, where I lauded it over all. We were joined by a strange disembodied lady's voice telling us where to go all the time. At the end of the day's driving the awning would be rolled out and the three of us would enjoy the ambiance together, usually with dwinkies and nibbles. We quickly found that our motorhome was one of thousands of motorhomes, campervans and cars equipped with tents, on the roads looking for freecamping spots. Freecamping is barred from many provinces in NZ. This has come about due to the many, what Keith and Di call, "whoosh-bangers" (campervans) and cars with tents, which are not completely self-sufficient (no loo, shower, water tanks), taking up the freecamping areas, making a mess and leaving rubbish and icky things behind, so many have spoiled it for the people who do the right thing.

Northland was warm, with many bays, a 90 mile beach, lighthouse and rugged coastline at the extreme tip, giant kauri forests in the west and the Bay of Islands. Staying at Russell's Family Parks motorhome park, we discovered that the standards of NZ parks was far different to our Aussie parks – a \*\*\*\* park in NZ could be compared to a \*\*\* park back home. Water is usually shared between



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sites and this, like many others, had coin-operated, timed showers. But the town, sandwiched between high peaks and the beautiful bay, is quaint, with a lovely long jetty.



Keith and Di opted for many adventures that would not, as Keith pointed out, be suitable for a frog as stuffed as I am! But I am a frog of simple needs and I was quite content to look out the window for most of the time. From Northland we headed back through Auckland and onto the Coromandel Peninsular which, we all agreed, surpassed the Bay of Islands for beauty and the Great Ocean Road for a scenic (albeit somewhat twisty and narrow) road. Many little villages here boast a Maori meeting house and church, usually with the customary totem decorations. Keith assured me I'd only be posed with the most meaningful attractions. I trust he is right (I can't read, myself).



In the Bay of Plenty Keith and Di took a chopper flight out to an active volcanic island, White Island, and stated this was one of the highlights of their trip – but I was pleased to have minded the van for this time! Around the north east tip we went, with Keith a-cussing that the “heap of s#!t” handled like an old tub and when the wind caught under the top it was “like an elephant balancing on a beach ball”! But we still reached Gisbourne (where we all eventually worked out how to work an unmanned service station with a credit-card only machine) and eventually the lovely, art-deco city of Napier without incident. Was becoming a little cooler but I was still able to sunbake on the black sand beach and admired the limestone cliffs of Cape Kidnappers at our freecamp.



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Inland we travelled to Lake Taupo, stopping at the thermal park of Orakei Korako. Keith suggested I may like to bathe in the bubbling waters there or perhaps improve my complexion with a hot mud pack, but Di didn't think that was such a good idea. Then it was over the range to Tongariro National Park, where Keith and Di became footsore doing the Tongariro Great Alpine Crossing.



Keith suggested at Waitomo that I might like to experience blackwater rafting in the caves, but Di pointed out that it would be too difficult to find a wetsuit to fit me, so they had that adventure all to themselves as well. Near New Plymouth we freecamped at Mt. Taranaki, a perfectly conical and snow-capped volcano. Around to Shannon for a free night at Owlcatraz, where we all took a tour to see NZ's native owls. Then on to Wellington for the ferry crossing to the South Island. It was as we queued here to board that I met some hot rod enthusiasts who would have liked to adopt me as their mascot, particularly for a zippy little frog-green car with which I was particularly taken.



Keith was all for my opportunity for a life in NZ with my new friends, but Di once again hustled me back into the motorhome for further adventures with them. A smooth crossing, then on the road again westwards from Picton, stopping for Di & Keith to do a half day walk for part of the Queen Charlotte Walk winding around some beautiful parts of the Sound. From there we hung a left at



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Nelson for the crossing to Westport, down the rugged cliffs of the west coast, stopping at Greymouth to pay our respects at the memorial for miners, but particularly the recent Pine Creek tragedy. Turning inland again we stopped briefly for lunch and a declined invitation by Keith for me to have a dip, at the first of many beautiful lakes, Lake Brunner, at the foot of humungous snow-capped mountains and onwards and upwards to Arthur's Pass, where I tried to befriend a cheeky but uninterested kea (parrot). Once again Keith and Di hot-footed it on trails here while I waited for them patiently, watching the goods trains heave their loads to the top of the pass and down the other side. The scenery east of the pass on our descent was stunning.



Once down near Christchurch we passed Mt. Hutt and explored the district, ending up freecamping at the beautiful Lake Clearwater after 10 kms of very rough dirt road. Was worth it to get away from the tourist trail, but they seem to have a problem with a creature called a didymo. Keith generously offered to allow me to trial the lake which was free of this pest with a swim, but Di once again intervened. Then it was down to the south east coast to Oamaru, famous for blue penguins and grand buildings built from their local limestone. Nearby was our best freecamp, with 270 degree ocean views. Then on into Dunedin, where Keith and Di had to trudge to the top of the world's steepest street, photograph baby blue penguins (not as cute as me!) and explore Lanarch Castle.



Toured around the Catlin Coast, into Invercargill, along the south coast, then up to the many-islanded Lake Manapouri, in a return to the Southern Alps. Di and Keith cruised through Doubtful Sound before we hit the road again, up to the clear Lake Wakatipu, sandwiched between two majestic granite ranges and home to Queenstown (or "Cringetown" as some locals call it). We did watch some bungy jumpers and Keith offered to throw me off the bridge as well - what a joker!



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From Queenstown, with its picturesque surrounds, we headed through vineyard and stone fruit country to Cromwell, Wanaka, then up to Mt. Cook, where Keith and Di again made tracks among some towering, snow-clad giants. Along the way Keith suggested I make friends with a giant sheep, but he was not very lively. Freecamp one night was on the banks of the emerald Lake Pukaki.



Another lake, Tekapo, then through Fairlie and to the local's favourite freecamp, Lake Opuha (I kid you not!!). A stop-off in Geraldine for cheeses, gourmet preserves and local produce, before detouring once again around Christchurch to head to the Alpine Triangle, firstly at Hanmer Springs, then east into Kaikoura, north to Blenheim, then back down to Akaroa. Lots of sunbaking fur seals, somersaulting dusky dolphins and a very rugged coastal road, winding around the coast through narrow tunnels on occasions - yet another challenger to Great Ocean Road for the roadside scenery.



Akaroa is a little gem on the Banks Peninsular, south east of Christchurch. Beautiful views from on top of the range, but the little French Provincial village was spoilt with two cruise ships' worth of Yankee passengers flooding through the streets. However, we did find a lovely harbourside freecamp and was even visited by a flock of sheep! In to Christchurch, where they are still grieving but doing a sterling job of rebuilding and recreating this beautiful city. Yes, the earth did move for us (rumbling like thunder in the night) with one of thousands of aftershocks. It was here we said good bye to our motorhome with mixed feelings of loss of independence, yet relief the "old tub" was gone. This meant I had to be packed up again into Di's hand luggage, where I stayed while Di and Keith tackled



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the Milford Track, resulting in blisters, black toenails, exhaustion and exhilaration – they tell me it was well worth the pain and expense, but I've yet to be convinced.



A smooth flight home, then release (and relief). My time with Keith and Di has been great.

I noticed many differences in the two countries, not just accent. Caravans were a different style – first up I thought they were old, but new ones seemed the same – wide, with big windows and most were “see through”, with the interior consisting of bed and small kitchenette only. Most motorhomes are rentals, although we did meet some local owners who explained that if you belong to the Australian or New Zealand Motorhome Association you were entitled to receive information on freecamps (often on properties of their members) through their association, who are lobbying for the removal of freecamping bans, in favour of regulation and enforcement of areas set aside strictly for verified (with an approved sticker) self-contained vehicles. We did understand the reluctance in some instances for this as we saw to our disgust one area (reserved for self-contained vehicles) which was completely “overrun” with “whoosh-bangers” and cars, strewn with washing, rubbish and with young people lying around everywhere. There was no water or toilets, so you can imagine what the area was like. There was sometimes also a perception/attitude that if you were in a rented motorhome you didn't spend any money in the town! We did find it extremely difficult in some areas to find potable water to refill our tank, making it impossible to freecamp more than one or two nights. Generally no garages have taps and public dump points quite often displayed signs indicating the tap water there was not potable. This forces you into caravan parks where quite often you need to share one tap between a few sites. We did buy a small inverter so that we could freecamp more often and still charge the computer, phones and camera.