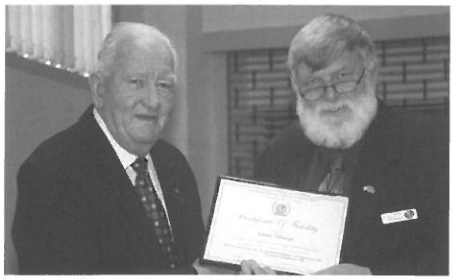
International Police Association
ipa
New Zealand Section

# AGM

Editor: Jillian Reid
May 2008 Volume 1

*Rotorua (Region 2) was the location chosen for the Annual General Meeting on Friday the 4th April 2008 in the RSA Club. It was opened by the Mayor of Rotorua Mr Kevin Winters, followed by a brief address by the District Commander Superintendent Garry Smith.*

A moment of silence was observed for members Christina Waumsley (the wife of the International Secretary General John Waumsley), Sam Harris (Region 2), Edwina Parsons (Region 2) and John Gough (Region 1), who passed away since our last meeting.



*Ron Pilbrough receiving a loyalty certificate for services to IPA. Photo: Bruce Hutton*

Greg McManus did not stand again for the position of National Treasurer after 21 years service. Of great interest is the fact that he is only our second Treasurer, having taken over from the late Nora Crawford who also completed 21 years.



*Outgoing President Bruce Hutton and Incoming President Stan Keith Photo: Bruce Hutton*

As a result of the elections the following positions were filled.

Stan Keith (Region 1)
National President,

Paul Visser (Region 5)
Vice President,

John Coomber (Region 5)
Treasurer,

Coleen Meyers (Region 1)
Secretary General,

Michael Lucas (Region 2)
Assistant Secretary General

Marlene Merriman (Region 3)
National Travel Secretary.



*Jill Craig receiving a loyalty certificate for services to IPA Photo: Bruce Hutton*

Presentations were made to Bruce Hutton and Greg McManus for their work for IPA New Zealand; to Ron Pilbrough for over 25 years of loyal service to IPA in New Zealand, and overseas, and to Lorraine Harris for the work that her late husband Sam Harris had put in by revitalising Region 2 in Rotorua.

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It was a positive meeting, which concluded with an evening meal in the RSA which turned out to be the largest number of meals they had ever served at the Club. The next AGM is to be held in New Plymouth on Friday March 27th, 2009.



*Mixing it with the locals portrayed on the wall of the Rotorua Police Station. Photo: Bruce Hutton*

*Back Row: Phil Rowe (Region 3), Michael Lucas (Asst. Secretary General & Region 2), Ron Pilbrough (Region 5), Greg McManus (Retiring National Treasurer), Bruce Hutton QSM (Immediate Past President).*

*Front Row: Marlene Merriman (Travel Secretary), John Coomber (Treasurer), Stan Keith (President), Paul Visser (Vice President), Ross Pinkham QPM (Region 6), Coleen Meyers (Secretary General), Jill Craig (Region 4).*

# VIVA LAS VEGAS!

*In 2007, IPA Region 52 Las Vegas, offered assistance to 133 IPA members and their families.*



*Tom Savage* *Photo: Jillian Reid*

When visitors had time Tom Savage would take them to some places that most visitors never see, such as The Largest Mormon Temple in Nevada, The Valley of Fire State Park, Red Rock National Park, Nellis AFB, the Home of the USAF Thunderbirds and multi million dollar homes near his home and his own personal police museum (see above).

Tom has always tried to give each visitor a gift as a momento of their visit to the area. Visitors have come from many different countries such as, Great Britain, Germany, New Zealand, Australia, France, Austria and many others.




*The night life – Las Vegas* *Photo: Jillian Reid*

Tom already has 17 IPA members and their families scheduled to arrive in April 2008. If you are driving around Las Vegas and you see the 'Officer Down' flag then you have arrived at the resident IPA President's house.

Tom welcomes IPA members from all over the world, and he can be contacted by Region 52 IPA USA.

By Tom Savage

Region 52

IPA USA


International Police Association
ipa
New Zealand Section

Editor
Jillian Reid - Region 4

Sub-Editor
Ron Pilbrough - Region 5

Copy-Editor
Nikki J Trask
Horowhenua

Layout/Design
JAS Design
Wellington

Contributors
Steve Anderton - Region 1
Ivan Belacic - IPA Australia
Colin Lind - Region 6
Bruce Hutton - Region 4
Ron Pilbrough - Region 5
Ross Pinkham - Region 6
Jillian Reid - Region 4
David Ross - Region 5
Tom Savage - Region 52 IPA USA
Pete Spencer - IPA Great Britain
Bob Walker - Region 1

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www.ipa.org.nz




# Our Big Fat Greek Island Adventure

*Enjoying a holiday in the Greek Islands is one thing, but getting there is an entirely different matter.*

Flying to Greece (Easy Jet NZ$435 for two) on the second leg of our journey was uneventful except for the fires (arsons) that were already raging in the hills around Athens. A fast, 160kph (at times) clip by taxi on the new motorway from the new airport had us in Omonia Square (central Athens) and our police holiday unit in no time.



*Hotel Paliomylos éntre-voû* *Photo: Steve Anderton*

In Athens we did the touristy 'thing'...as you do, by visiting the Plaka (off Syntagma Square), the Acropolis and taking the new coastal tram from the Square out to the many beaches south and east of Athens. We also had to try out the relatively new Metro fast and cheap train which takes you from Pireaus to Syntagma in under 30 minutes (2 Euros or NZ$4) and then out to the airport in the same time, or through to Monastiráki (Plaka].

A tourist tram is also available from the 'Square' to give you a whirlwind trip for an hour around Athens' main spots and out to the Plaka and the Acropolis for about 8 Euro.

While the 'police holiday unit' (15 minutes walk from Omonia Square) was nothing to write home about, it was clean and cheap, at about NZ$60 per day. There are only two in Athens both in the same semi-commercial block on the second floor of a not too salubrious back street. Linen is provided. However one can expect to pay from NZ$200 to $500 for a twin-share hotel room in central Athens.

We mostly used the fast ferries, which got us there in less than half the time of conventional ones and with more comfort along the way. These ferries sail from Northern Europe just for the summer season.

The village of Oia is a very beautiful and up-market and expensive tourist resort. The photo (next page) shows the veritable conclave of hillside cafes and restaurants that abound in Santorini's west coast and Oia in particular, which hides the hundreds of steps down to two small harbours below.

Santorini being the third largest island in the Cyclades is about 16kms long and 3kms wide not taking into consideration the 5kms wide caldera...an undersea volcanic depression is said to be created about 1630 BC. This left the main part, Thira and three other islands, Nea Kameni, Palea Kameni and Thirassia above the sea.... Thirassia while walkable is said to be still "active".

Arrival is by ferry or the classic cruise ship on the western side of Thira or by domestic and international airline on the eastern side. The road up from the ferry terminal via nine twisting levels by 32-seater coaches is a stomach churning experience not to be missed and one never to be forgotten. The local donkeys 3 Euros and a cable car 5 Euros do the same but safer trick further along the coast.

"Fira" half built after the 1956 earthquake is at the peak of the west side of the island, and is the capital and the main shopping and restaurant centre of Santorini. Cheaper options are the "mini markets" for liquor, small goods and essentials. Ouzo and Raki are the liquors most favoured by the Greeks and relatively cheap at about 7 Euros a bottle.



*View from our bedroom window* *Photo: Steve Anderton*

Most hotels have outdoor swimming pools and while there are some beaches, they consist of black volcanic rock and shingle and are hard to get to without a rental car (30-50 Euros) a day or bus (2-8 Euros)

It is best to visit the islands either in April-May or September, as this ensures a more pleasant temperature (mid to late thirties) less tourists and cheaper prices all round. One should bear in mind that everything shuts down during the first week of October and business people and vehicles return to the mainland, together with rental cars/bikes/buses and taxis leaving only the minimum number behind.



*"Changing of the Guard" - Greek style* *Photo: Steve Anderton*

Being the main harbour, Parikía is also the major hub for inter-island ferry services and therefore one of the easiest to travel from to other islands in the Cyclades. The island is about 15kms wide and 18kms in length with its smaller sister island 'Andiparos' to the west.

Our four day stay at the Paliomylos Hotel in Naoussa a beach resort on the northern end of the island cost NZ$525 which includes breakfast for two).

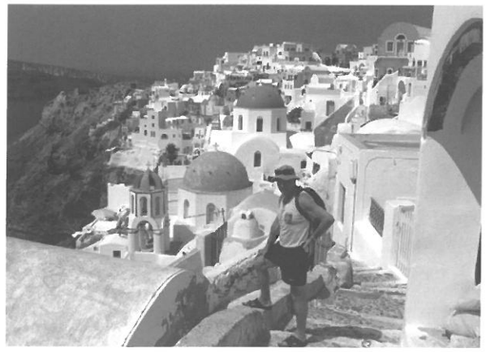
Continued on Page 4

Our Big Fat Greek Island Adventure

Continued from Page 2.

Space in an article of this kind precludes a fuller description of the activities we involved ourselves in while travelling throughout the islands but it is safe to say that we thoroughly enjoyed the traditional Greek buildings, the scenery, including the sun and swimming with loads of walks leading up or down rocky paths to almost hidden villages and scenery. The typical Greek food such as stuffed squid, traditional savoury omelettes, mousaka, kebabs and meat gyros in pita bread was superb as was the Greek wine and Ouzo. While modern pop music for the younger set has more or less taken over we did hear some Greek music in the less populated islands and tavernas.

By Steve Anderton - Region 1



*The village of Oia (pronounced "ear")* *Photo: Steve Anderton*

# Pete and Marion's Visit Down-Under.

*Pete and Marion Spencer from the U.K spent a "wonderful holiday" in New Zealand thanks to the help of Coleen Meyers, Marlene and Alan Merriman, John and Judy Pegler and other IPA hosts, who uplifted, fed and offered assistance to them with the usual kiwi hospitality. They are most grateful and highly recommend their visit to our slice of heaven. Here are their highlights:*

"The Waitomo Caves were well worth a visit and very impressive. The trip on the ferry to Picton went very smoothly and the breakfast on board was first class. Malcolm and Carol were excellent hosts while we were in Christchurch and Marion's planned swim with the dolphins at Akaroa was cancelled due to the dolphins being too far out to sea, which was very rough.



*Marlborough Sounds from the Picton Ferry* *Photo: Jillian Reid*

The holiday home at Lake Tekapo was excellent and we both agreed that it took first prize. The local church is described as being an historic building, I pointed out to Marion that the building was three years younger than her mother!

During our second stay with our friends in Feilding we had a hangi at one of their daughter's homes, which was a real kiwi experience. Then in Napier at Marineland Marion finally managed to get a swim with a dolphin on a one to one basis.



*Dolphins in Kaikoura* *Photo: Jillian Reid*

Michael and Anne were excellent hosts in Rotorua. They took us to see some active geysers and to a Maori display which included singing and a display of the haka. We also went to the Kiwi Experience were we witnessed a kiwi hatching!

On our last day John and Judy took us to visit to the Bohemian village of Puhoi – great fun. The journey from Auckland airport to our home back in England took 30 hours - too long at our age, we should have arranged a stopover in Singapore.

If you are ever planning a visit to our part of England please let me know and I will do what I can to make your stay enjoyable."

Yours in friendship,

Pete & Marion

By Pete Spencer

UK IPA



# WINTER IN EUROPE

*Bob Walker last month just returned from Europe where the temperatures dropped to -12°C, he talks fondly of his trip.*

I did not realise how hot it was in New Zealand and Wanganui in particular during the last month until I returned home. I have always been a total advocate for travelling in the European winter, no long lines of people, clear sharp skies, no leaves on trees so you can see further and best of all snow and a real Christmas spirit in the towns and villages. Other attractions are; the atmosphere while walking on ancient cobble stones that perhaps Roman soldiers or early knights once walked on. The smell of food cooking in the open market, German and French sausages; drinking hot mulled wine, the lights and decorations. Merry-go-rounds for the kids (even at 11pm at night) and many more sights.



*Florence – Metro Police on the beat* *Photo: Bob Walker*

The coldest temperature was -12°C and that was in a little French village called Colmar just over the Rhine River. We stopped in the world-famous Schwarzwald, Black Forrest Region. The good thing about travelling in Europe during their winter is that you dress up to cater for the cold - this means thermal underwear, chill proof clothing from your shirt to the outer jacket and good footwear with thermal socks. The only down side is the suitcase weight when flying, so you look a bit weird leaving Auckland heading to Singapore wearing heavy coats and boots. But that's how you reduce your suitcase weight - you wear the stuff!

I would strongly urge people to try a winter trip just prior to Christmas and to check out the following places:

Germany (Black forest Region) Freiburg a city of 250,000 people, fabulous town market with a famous Munster or Gothic cathedral that was built between 1200 and 1513AD. It really is the only "original" building left as the Americans razed the Old Quarter to the ground in late 1944.



*Florence* *Photo: Bob Walker*

Vienna - (in Austria). I went there to see a childhood dream, and that was the famous Lipizzaner stallions, of Vienna's Spanish Riding School. The surrounds of the Emperors Palace, the music and the sheer magic of seeing these special horses and their riders will stay with me forever. Just a word of warning if you are catching a night train to Vienna make sure it's a Swiss or German train not an Austrian one, they have square wheels and sleep is impossible.

Nice in France (on the Mediterranean), where we heard a French Foreign Legion choir in a special church service. We went through Cannes; Saint Tropez (no topless bathers there in the winter) where the day temperature was a warmer 14°C. We visited the City of Arles, knowing that it would be impossible to see the whole area of Provence unless we had at least a month in which to do so. I was not disappointed in the place and it was great to see the Roman Amphitheatre of Arles, which was built in 90AD, holds 24,000 spectators and is 136 metres long by 107 metres high. It is currently used for Bullfights. Arles is full of Roman ruins and is well worth a visit, as one does not have to worry about pick-pockets and tourist pests from third world countries who can be found in Rome and other sites in Italy.

We headed off to Florence via Monte Carlo and Genova; Florence got its second and final visit.

Back to Germany and then off to Cork in Ireland (Eire). We visited sites like Muckross House, a stately home in Killarney's Lake District and Bunratty Castle plus Folk Park, in County Clare near Shannon Airport. Yes Eire was impressive even when we had rain now and again.

We left Eire via Shannon Airport and landed in Paris - clearly the best was left for last. This was to be my last visit to Paris, but like General McArthur I will return. The more you see the more the place grows on you.

My son Karl was in the French Foreign Legion as a Paratrooper based in Calvi in Corsica for over 5 years. He spent most of his leave in Paris. The people, food, history and buildings and the way of life really will drag me back again and again. Vienna and Paris entered my blood stream and I'm sure I will return, yes again in winter. I will just have to remember to pack my thermals again.

By Bob Walker - Region 1

# Aussies Won Over In New Zealand

*On Friday February 1st 2008 my wife Vesna and I flew into Auckland from Sydney to be met by John and Judy Pegler. We spent the afternoon with the Peglers being given a guided tour of Auckland and its surroundings. We were taken to Mt Eden and to One Tree Hill for all-round views of Auckland, its harbours and volcanos – something stunning.*



*Sky Tower Auckland* *Photo: Jillian Reid.*

On Saturday morning we received our prearranged hire car and we were ready to take off on our adventure. Our first port of call was the Pegler's residence at Manly, Whangaparaoa to try John's specialty - green mussels - for lunch. The detour was worth it as it proved to us that the Peglers aren't just good hosts but John is a good chef also.

After travelling north to The Bay of Island, we had a closer look at Motukokako Island (hole-in-the-rock) whilst on a boat cruise.

We were lucky enough to visit the following amazing North Island sites: The historic Kerikeri Basin, home of NZ's oldest European buildings, The Stone Store and Kemp House. A highlight of our day tour was the spectacular 27 metre high waterfall at Rainbow Falls and a boardwalk amongst 1000-year old Kauri trees at Puketi Forest.

Next was Waipoua Forest, to have a closer look at the mighty "Tane Mahuta" (the Lord of the Forest) which is estimated to be 2,000 years old with a girth over 4 meters and an impressive 51 meters tall kauri tree. Then to Matakohe to visit The Kauri Museum.

We later saw the Waitomo Glow-worm Caves. The colonies are impressive as are the extraordinary limestone formations of stalactites and stalagmites. The columns are awe-inspiring – the caves are also famous for their acoustic qualities. Many famous singers and choirs have performed in the aptly named "Cathedral Cave" renowned for its purity of sound.

"Te Puia" - The mud pools and geysers of Rotorua are great. We started our tour by experiencing a traditional Maori welcome on the authentic setting of Rotowhio Marae. This was followed by an introduction to the Maori language "Te Whakarewarewatanga o te ope taua a Wahiao" meaning "The Gathering Place of the war parties of Wahiao".



*Glendu Bay, Wanaka* *Photo: Jillian Reid.*

Then to the South Island where we were blessed with experiences of Murchison village, the Buller Gorge and New Zealand's longest swing bridge. The Punakaiki settlement on the West Coast, was spectacular and then so were the awesome blowholes and the Pancake Rocks.

Hokitika and the village of Franz Josef and later Haast on the West Coast, were sights not too be missed, neither was Lake Wanaka.

From here we travelled south via the Crown Range mountain pass to Queenstown. After collecting the key from the local police station we were dazzled by the spectacular view of the town and Lake Wakatipu from the Police Welfare Fund house.

Te Anau and then the spectacular sightseeing of Milford Sound and its attractions were next. The Milford road experience is a stunning scenic journey through one of the great wilderness areas of the Southern Hemisphere. The Homer Tunnel, Pops View over the Hollyford Valley and the Mirror Lakes are some attractions on the way. We took a three-hour scenic cruise and were immersed in the majesty of the Sound. We saw the wonders of Mitre Peak, a glacier scarred rock wall that rises 1,200m vertically from the sea, and waterfalls that tumble from hanging valleys and crash into the Sound far below.

Then we headed to Dunedin where Vesna and I walked up Baldwin Street the "steepest street in the world". From here we drove to the village of "Palmerston" (the namesake of our suburb in Canberra) for lunch. In the early afternoon we checked out "The Boulders" of Moeraki before proceeding to the town of Oamaru to join in with the locals to celebrate their "Wine and Food Festival".

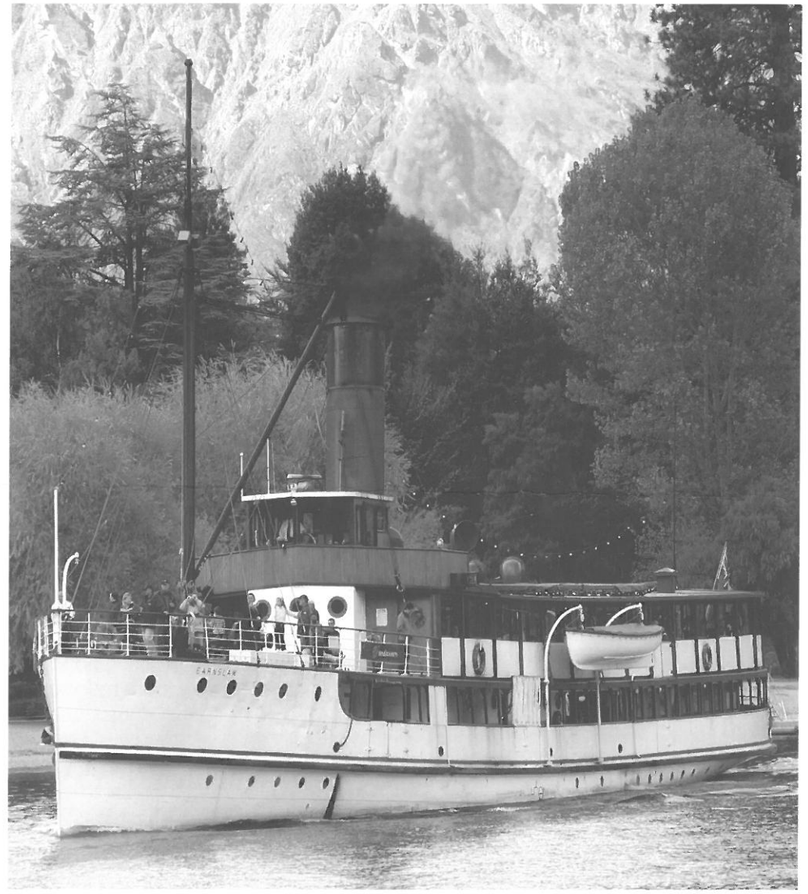
Then we visited Mount Cook, the highest mountain in New Zealand – an amazing view. We also sampled the little French village of Akaroa and a train trip to Arthur's Pass.

We had a hectic but rewarding tour in "The Land of the Long White Cloud" with lots of sightseeing, walks, shopping and enjoyed the local hospitality. We travelled close to 4,500km through both the North and South Islands of New Zealand.

We would truly recommend New Zealand as a fantastic holiday destination. We would like to thank Paul Visser, John and Judy Pegler, Marlene and Alan Merriman and Sally and Allan Monk – your hospitality was truly special.

Thank you

By Ivan Belacic - IPA Australia



*The TSS Earnslaw on Lake Wakatipu Queenstown.* *Photo: Jillian Reid.*

# WALES CALLING NEW ZEALAND

*My wife, Sue and I had the pleasure of welcoming a fellow retired police officer and his wife to our home in Manly, Whangaparaoa Peninsula between in February this year.*

Meurig (Welsh for Mike) a retired policeman from Denbeigh and Julie his wife of 44 years arrived at Auckland International Airport from Dubai and Brisbane

Meurig joined in 1963 as a cadet and was subsequently posted to Wrexham, then to Rhos and then back to Wrexham where he remained in the Administration Branch for six years (they had no civilian staff in those days). He was eventually posted to Traffic in Denbeigh where he remained until retirement in 1998. Then followed employment as the civilian manager in charge of the Control Room Computer systems, retiring again last year. Meurig and Julie have three grown up children



*Meurig & Julie at Manly* *Photo: Steve Anderton*

We hosted Meurig and Julie at Manly where John and Judy Pegler, as well as Tim and Joan Lynch-Blosse, (other retired officers) and their wives met and greeted them.

By Steve Anderton

Region 1

# OBITUARY

## GENTLE KEN

*Ken McLeod*

When people said to Ken Mcleod "God bless you," he said, "I already have been." Ken, former Wellington police senior sergeant and IPA member had been waiting on dialysis for a kidney for some eight years. When I last spoke to Ken he told me that many of the fellow dialysers who he met at Margaret Stewart House back in 2005 were all gone but he was lucky enough to be alive and had been offered a new kidney.

Mr McLeod's kidneys were permanently damaged when he was stabbed in the back, in the line of duty, in 1977. He lost a lung in the attack. Doctors treated the stab wound with sulphur powder, to which Mr McLeod had a serious reaction. His kidneys slowly deteriorated over the next 31 years till he needed eight hours of dialysis every two days.

Ken was very pleased to still be around and seemed happier than ever after finding a kidney donor. Dutch friend, an ex police officer now living in the Wairarapa, answered his prayers by offering to donate one of his.

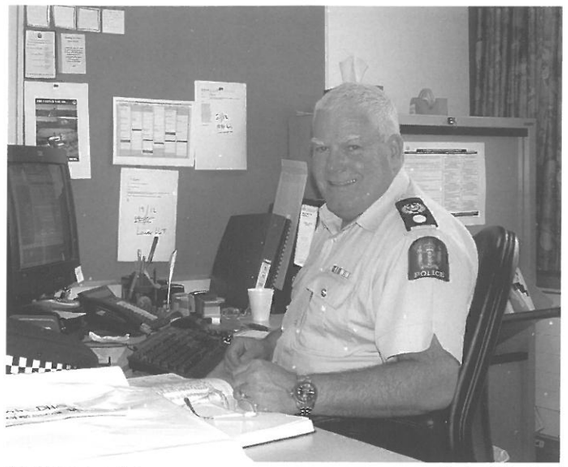
Ken was excited with the prospects of a new life - he told me "I just about fell over when I found out that he (the friend and donor) was able to give me his kidney."

"Hilary and I have bought a new motorbike, and I have a new job lined up and we are heading off overseas soon too." But sadly the dream came to a sudden end.

Ken's operation was on 28th of April and he responded well to his new kidney. He was recuperating at home when problems arose. On Tuesay 20th May Ken, 60 died of complications. He was farewelled in Wellington by hundreds - friends, adversaries and the family of police who knew him well and loved and respected him. He is survived by his wife Hilary, and his children James, Paul and Rachel.

He will be sadly missed by all.

By Jillian Reid - Region 4



*Ken McLeod on duty* *Photo: Jillian Reid*

# OUT AND ABOUT:

On 26th January 2008 Region 5 held their annual Christmas / New Year function in the form of a spit roast meal at the house of John Coomber, a Committee member.

Thirty-two people attended on this fine evening.





*Guests about to collect their meals.* *Photos : Carol Pilbrough*

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This is the final magazine from me. I have had immense fun and satisfaction working with all my writers - the students from Massey University School of Journalism - from 2004 till today. I would like to thank the tutors from Massey, because without their help the magazine as you know it would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank the keen and reliable IPA members who supplied stories, reports and photos whenever called upon. We had some fabulous editions thanks to you all. A special thanks goes to Ron Pilbrough my sub-editor for all his hard work.

Your new Manager of the Media Team is Paul Visser. Although there is no Magazine Editor at this stage, please send all stories and photos to Paul (Paul Visser: walnuts@clear.net.nz) in the interim and remember when sending digital photos, we need them as large as you can get and at the highest resolution possible.

Jillian Reid - Region 4



# PHOTO COMPETITION

## WINNERS ARE TIED:

**1st**

**"Awwwww...go on.....tell me (as if I didn't know)"**
(Joint winner - A.D. (Axel) Alexander - Region 4)

**1st**

**"No Trevor we knows its you"! .....(Trevor Mallard).**
(Joint winner - Bob Walker - Region 1)




*Protestors at American Embassy* *Photo: Wellington Forensic Photography Unit*

# NUDE DUDE

## Unclad IPA member gets his man.

Being nude wasn't going to stop Constable Tom Taylor getting a lock-up. The off-duty Region 6 IPA member and local policeman was sleeping naked when he was woken by his wife, who had heard someone outside trying to steal her car.

Mr Taylor, who was in a hurry, only managed to grab a torch before running outside to catch the thief.

Mr Taylor, wearing only a grumpy look, ordered the man to the ground, but when the offender saw the nude officer, he ran off.




*Undercover work in Southland*
*Cartoon by J & H Reid*

The next morning, Constable Taylor's wife spotted the wanted man hitch-hiking just north of Balclutha and police arrested him.

Later the fully clothed Constable said it was the first time in his 11-year police career he had been on duty "uncovered" and he hoped he would not be called upon to repeat the antics in the future.

By Ross Pinkham Region 6

# Arthur Troop

## 2009 - Winner from R.N.Z.P.C

Congratulations to the next New Zealand winner of the Arthur Troop Scholarship, Detective Senior Sergeant Ian Dickie.

Ian is hoping to go to the UK rather than Gimborn Castle and will look more towards Training Development concerning the broadening of Detective skills within New Zealand.

IPA New Zealand Section wishes you all the very best in your endeavours.

# House For Rent To Ipa Members

## South Island New Zealand

As an IPA member, I am happy to make my home available to visiting international members for short term rent with prior notice.

To view photos of my home see www.bluelamptravel.com It is the only one listed for New Zealand on that site for emergency services staff world wide.

Note also our campervan is available to members for additional rent.

David Ross Constable G831

Timaru Police, New Zealand

Home contact details
47 Tawa Street, Timaru, New Zealnd.
Phone: (03) 6862227
Email: djmaross@actrix.co.nz

# Malaysia By Mad Dog Motorbike

*It was 6:15am on Friday morning when we fired up the Harley Davidson 'Sportster 883' and 'Night Train'. Sound from the 'Screaming Eagle' aftermarket exhausts woke all the dogs along Holland Road as we rode towards the Singapore-Malaysia border at Tuas.*

It was 35 years since I had ridden a large motorcycle but confidence returned with every kilometre and the weather even this early in the day was warmer than summer in Central Otago.

The speed limit was 70 then 90kmh, traffic was light and we only slowed to these limits for the marked Speed Camera Sites. We were still overtaken by locals travelling flat out on their screaming little two-stroke motorcycles swerving in and out of the traffic and changing lanes without any signals. Little wonder that they have almost 50 fatal crashes every year.

At the border post we checked out of Singapore, and I put my Passport back into the plastic bag, used to keep it dry if it rained, then put it my front trouser pocket. I saw no speed limit signs and at 140+kmh it didn't take long to blow the remaining cobwebs away. That was not all that was blown away. At the Malaysian border post I went to pull the passport out of my pocket ... it was gone … what a feeling.

I was one of an informal group of HoG (Harley Owners Group) and Singapore Chapter of the "Mad Dog" riders who were heading off to Kuantan on the East Coast of Malaysia, on the first leg of a weekend excursion. After an hour in the control booth I was refused entry to Malaysia and my son Brett and I returned towards Singapore.

Without a passport I had to park up at the Singapore border post and was escorted to the Police Office. I had plenty of identification but no passport. Although the staff were cooperative and pleasant they did not smile. After almost two hours I was given a letter permitting me to remain in Singapore for seven days. Five days and NZ$320 later a new passport duly arrived back by courier. That was one very expensive lesson in keeping important documents secure.

On the following Sunday we left Singapore at 9:00am to return to Malaysia, this time only for lunch. We passed the Singapore




*Brett at Ruffles Marina, wearing the patch* *Photo: Colin Lind*




*Colin Lind on a Harley – Singapore.* *Photo: Colin Lind*

Harley Davidson 'Sunday Breakfast Club' members as they were returning home from their early morning excursion into Malaysia for breakfast.

By travelling on secondary sealed roads we were not held up very much by local traffic but the road surface was not smooth and potholes near the centre line as you overtook slower vehicles were a real pain in the backside. With forward control foot pegs it is not possible to use legs as shock absorbers. What a relief to dismount at Mersing, a small east coast fishing town and ferry terminal.

We had a substantial meal and drink for less than NZ$15 each while watching the local Customs Officers searching passengers disembarking from a ferry. Then it was almost reluctantly back in the saddle for the return journey. With very few high hills and almost continuous palm oil plantations there was not much scenery to view. In one jungle area I did spot small monkeys and large elephant 'deposits'. I knew what they were because the last time I had seen 'big ones' like that was at a circus on the Market reserve back in Dunedin.

That time they were collected, wrapped up, and placed carefully in the boss's locker!

Our return south to Singapore was to be a more scenic route down the coast to Port Dickson and Melaka. First we detoured to Putrajaya a new city capital for Malaysia and home for government departments. Although still under construction it is massive. It is about the same distance out from KL as KLIA the International Airport, and has a network of four and six lane highways, paved main thoroughfares, man-made lakes, equestrian stadiums and conference centres.

It should have been a short drive to Melaka, the next port down the coast, but there is no Automobile Association or Transit to ensure that there are sufficient signposts to keep strangers on track.

There were red traffic lights at intersections with no traffic, and we shared the roadway with drain layers, school children, goats, chickens and cattle. Melaka is a Tourist Destination; it is old and generally well preserved with a Galleon and a wartime Patrol Boat displayed on dry land. The old fort is also well worth a look.



It was no trouble leaving Malaysia but after clearing Immigration at Singapore we were directed to the Customs lane. The car was searched inside and out, even underneath, and our overnight bags were searched.

Crime in Singapore is not a real problem. We could leave the Harley Davidsons parked in the front yard behind a gate at home or in public car parks anywhere in Singapore. Perhaps it is the possibility of being caned that reduces minor crime, and the monthly Friday hanging of drug dealers, rapists and murderers that keeps more serious offending at bay.

HoG supper rides with 'Mad Dogs' who, despite appearances, are actually company managers, merchant bankers, barristers, restaurant owners and businessmen took us to places like Jaggis Restaurants or the Prince Of Wales Hotel in Little India (a backpackers haven) the 'HandleBar' where you can ride your motorcycle right up to the bar, to the Singapore Flying Club, or numerous other eating houses on the outskirts of Singapore.

A 'Belly Dancing' demonstration, a Cuba night when the cigar man did not appear, and a picnic and swim at Sentosa, ended my holiday. Little wonder it is taking me some time to recover.

By Colin Lind - Region 6

# OBITUARY

## THE QUIET MAN

*Sam Harris*

Every now and again in life you come across a person who you regard as a thoroughly good bastard. This was the case when I was first introduced to Sam Harris at the Royal New Zealand Police College during the Police Centennial Celebrations. He was a slow talking old cop from Fairlie in the South Island who came dressed in the old style uniform which, for the longer serving members, we all knew to be size "portly tall". Sam was not all together into the latest methods of physical fitness. He was given the opportunity to ride the 1952 Vilocette motorcycle on the Centennial Tour Road show as it moved through New Zealand. After spending several sessions of pushing the "whispering death" motorcycle and trying to jump-start it, he finally gave in and agreed that I needed another person to help me with the 1919 Model T Ford Police van.

On one occasion we stopped at the traffic lights in the main Street of Rotorua and a loud-mouthed Australian tourist yelled out that he now realised how behind times the New Zealand Police were. Sam leaned our out of the police wagon and asked the chap where he came from. On being told it was Melbourne, Australia, Sam, much to the amusement of this chap's five lady friends, asked him with great seriousness; "Who's got the pub there now?"

It was with great sadness that I learnt that Sam had passed away with cancer on the eve of the 31st December 2007. Being the eldest of six children he left school as soon as he could to find work. He worked in local garages, the army and then spent time working for a local contractor before he joined the Police on the 12th January 1960. On graduation he went to Wellington, then later Invercargill, Whataroa and to Fairlie and finally moving to Matamata where he retired from Putaruru Youth Aid Section on May 4th 1988.

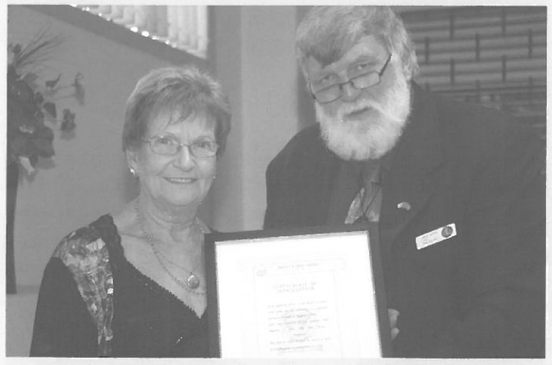
It was interesting to read some of the comments on his police reports - from items like, "a mature member, dry humour, gets on well with the public, quick on the uptake, neat and tidy dresser, has a good physique and looks nice in uniform" as well as the classic - "speaks reasonably well - just above average."

Sam was involved in Search and Rescue, police shooting and indoor bowls. He was on the Fairlie Community Council from 1977 - 1983 and was District Commissioner for Opihi Scout District while at Fairlie.

The International Police Association was something that Sam believed in. He joined on March 11th 1989 and was the serving chairman for Region 2 at the time of his death.

It was a moving moment to see Sam dressed with his IPA name badge and badges and then see his casket adorned with the International Police Association flag for the actual funeral service. He will be greatly missed.

By Bruce Hutton - Region 4



*Bruce Hutton presents Sam's wife, Lorraine Harris with an acknowledgment of appreciation for Sam's dedication to IPA* *Photo: Bruce Hutton*

International Police Association

ipa

New Zealand Section

# NATIONAL OFFICE HOLDERS

as at 4th April 2008

PRESIDENT
Stan Keith
P O Box 225
Helensville 0840
Phone: 64 9 4207569 [evenings]
Email: ipa-nz@ihug.co.nz

VICE PRESIDENT
Paul Visser
Newtons Road
Sandy Knolls R.D.5
Christchurch 7675
Phone: 64 3 347 8568
Email: walnuts@clear.net.nz

ICC LIAISON OFFICER PAST PRESIDENT
Bruce Hutton
29 Tirowhanga Road
Paremata
Porirua
Phone: 64 4 2331596 [evenings]
Email: bruce.hutton@police.govt.nz

SECRETARY GENERAL
Coleen Meyers
P O Box 21061
Henderson 0605
Waitakere City
Phone: 64 9 8380338
Email: ipa_nz@xtra.co.nz

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL
Michael Lucas
10 Vista Place
Kawaha Point
Rotorua 3010
Phone: 64 7 3468353
Email: michael.lucas@xtra.co.nz

TREASURER
John Coomber
52 Totara Street
Fendalton
Christchurch
Phone: 64 3 3480062
Mobile: 027 2925206
Email: coomber@clear.net.nz

TRAVEL SECRETARY
Marlene Merriman
15 Te Mete Terrace
New Plymouth
Phone:/Fax 64 6 758 4639 (evenings)
Phone: 64 6 759 6842 (business hrs)
Email: m.merriman@clear.net.nz

# REGIONS
as at 4th April 2008

**REGION 1** Auckland & Northland
Chairman
National Council Delegate
Bruce Revell
Phone: 64 9 277 9826
Mobile: 021 776 151
Email: nzlatru1@xtra.co.nz

**REGION 2** Waikato & Bay of Plenty
Chairman
John Turner
Phone: 64 7 308 5036
Email: j.turner@xtra.co.nz

**REGION 3** Central & Eastern Districts
Chairman
Phil Rowe
Phone: 64 6 756 8055
Phone: (work) 64 6 756 0900
Email: phillip.rowe@police.govt.nz
Email: pjandjdrowe@actrix.co.nz

**REGION 4** Wellington Police District
Chairman
Clint Libby
Phone: 64 4 476 8576
Email: cjlibby@xtra.co.nz

**REGION 5** Canterbury & Tasman
Chairman
Paul Visser
Phone: 64 3 347 8568
Fax: 64 3 347 9568
Email: walnuts@clear.net.nz

**REGION 6** Southern District
Chairman
Ross Pinkham
Phone: 64 3 454 5777
Email: vivandross@xtra.co.nz

**REGION 1** Auckland & Northland
Secretary
Stan Keith
PO Box 225
Helensville 0840
Phone: 64 9 420 7569 (evenings)
Email: ipa-nz@ihug.co.nz

**REGION 2** Waikato & Bay of Plenty
Secretary
Michael Lucas
Phone: 64 7 346 8353
Email: michael.lucas@xtra.co.nz

**REGION 3** Central & Eastern Districts
Secretary
Karen Drysdale
Phone: (work) 64 6 759 9486
Email: karen.Drysdale@police.govt.nz

**REGION 4** Wellington Police District
Secretary
Val Redshaw
Phone: 64 4 233 8581
Email: vpredshaw@xtra.co.nz

**REGION 5** Canterbury & Tasman
Secretary
Tony Cooper
Phone: 64 3 382 5564
Email: coops2@xtra.co.nz

**REGION 6** Southern District
Secretary
Brian Benn
Phone: 64 3 488 1009
Email: brian.benn@police.govt.nz

# ASSOCIATE TRAVEL SECRETARIES

**CYPRUS, MALTA, GREECE, ISRAEL**
Steve Anderton
Ph: 64 9 428 2438
Mb: 021 051 0746
s.anderton@xtra.co.nz

**UNITED KINGDOM**
William Lawrence
64 9 820 5700
william.lawrence@police.govt.nz

**SAN MARINO, ITALY**
Georgina McDonald
Ph: 64 7 838 1946, Mb: 0275 335 543
georgina.mcdonald@police.govt.nz

**USA, CANADA, NETHERLANDS**
Paul Visser
Ph: 64 3 347 8568
walnuts@clear.net.nz

**AUSTRALIA**
Brett Leask
Ph: 64 3 385 0012
brett.leask@xtra.co.nz

**AFRICA**
Ron Pilbrough
Ph: 64 3 377 0106
pilbrough@xtra.co.nz

**ASIA**
Ross Pinkham
Ph: 64 3 454 5777
vivandross@xtra.co.nz

**SCANDANAVIA**
John & Judy Pegler
Ph: 64 9 428 1559
j.peglar@xtra.co.nz

**EASTERN EUROPE, GERMANY, AUSTRIA**
Bruce Revell
Ph: 64 9 277 9826, Mb: 021 776 151
nzlatru1@xtra.co.nz

**IRELAND**
Dave Allen
Ph: 64 3 548 0592
dave.pauline@xtra.co.nz

**BELGIUM, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG,SWITZERLAND, ALL OTHER FRENCH SPEAKING COUNTRIES**
Jacques Legros
jacqueslegros@hotmail.com

# MISCELLANEOUS POSTS

**WEBMASTER**
Peter Theobald
Mobile: 021 872 855
Email: webmaster@ipa.org.nz
Email: peter.theobald@police.govt.nz

**HOBBIES & PENPALS**
Graeme Newbery
Phone: 64 6 353 7060
Mobile: 0274 372266
Email: ganewb@clear.net.nz

**AMATEUR RADIO GROUP**
Ron Bonnington
Phone: 64 3 545 0158
Call Sign: ZL2AW