

## NUDE ORLEANS WITH A COOL BREEZE

NZNF RALLY HELD AT AUCKLAND OUTDOOR NATURIST CLUB  
- by Jeff Norman

28 December 2016 to 3 January 2017

Planning for this rally started over a year beforehand with a Rally Committee chaired by Brad Trichon and registrations and accommodation organised by Gaynor Morrissey and her team.



Visitors were arriving for some time before the official start of the Rally but the majority arrived on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>.



The NZNF AGM was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> and was followed by the opening ceremony. The Rally Committee paraded to a New Orleans Funeral March. MC Andrew Miller co-ordinated the proceedings with speeches by AONC President, Ivan Grace, AONC Patron, Les Olsen and newly-elected NZNF President, Donna Miller, during which the flags were raised to officially open the Rally

Later in the afternoon there were Meet and Greet sessions organised around the club grounds to give people the chance to make some new friends. In the evening, Jeff Norman ran a fun Karaoke Session in the Marquee.

On Thursday morning, there was a catered breakfast provided by AONC. Following this, the sports started under the watchful eye of Errol Flynn, various schedulers and helpers and continued every day. There were traditional and new events with the Petanque and Kubb being particularly popular and drawing large numbers of entries. Although there was a fair amount of cloud, most days were dry and

everything was finished on schedule.

Every day the shop was open for Morning Tea and Lunch with my favourite being the toasted sandwiches. Afternoon Tea and Biscuits were served every day and the bar was open from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. This involved a lot of work by Donna and Robyn and their teams of volunteers.

On Thursday afternoon, we were privileged to have the Mike Walker Trio playing in the Bar Area for listeners and dancers. Mike is one of the top jazz musicians in NZ and I was surprised to find that the trio had been part of a bigger band that played at AONC a few years ago on New Year's Eve.

During the evening, Dianne Robins and Dave Clarke ran a very successful Bingo Evening with many players winning cash prizes.



On Friday afternoon, Chris Bligh provided the music in the Bar Area with the dance area crowded for much of the time. In the evening, Andrew and Donna conducted a challenging but fun Quiz as Master Bates and Miss Information.

Saturday afternoon was left relatively free for people to complete their costumes for the New Year's Eve Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball. The marquee was full of colourfully-dressed people who danced the end of 2016 to Ian and Kat, Chaste Embrace. The Best Dressed Couple were Pam and Dick Salter with their array of colours.

After welcoming the New Year in, we all went outside for a spectacular Fireworks Display organised by Darryl Richards and his team who worked all day setting up the display. Darryl has provided us with some amazing displays before but this was the best ever.



On New Year's Day we had an afternoon of Life Drawing which moved into the Clubhouse because of the cool breeze. At any time, there were four or five models and seven or eight artists. Many were new to modelling or Life Drawing but it was a fulfilling exercise for most of us.



In the evening, Andrew and Donna Miller and Errol conducted the semis and finals of the Darts with Andrew Bennett dethroning the previous Men's Champion, Andrew Miller, despite Andrew M getting a 180. Donna Miller won the Ladies' title.

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, we had some persistent rain which forced us to move the afternoon jazz into the clubhouse where we were entertained by Paul TT on violin and vocals, Fred Baker on saxes and Pete Wood on vibraphone.

In the evening, we were given a sumptuous dinner by A1 Caterers which was followed by a Dutch Auction in aid of the Percy Cousins Trust. This was conducted by Andrew Miller and June Campbell-Tong. Many thanks to the generous bidders.

On Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, there was a gentle wind-down of the sports which concluded with Volleyball, Mini-Marathon, Marathon Walk and the Swimming. The highlight of the Swimming was the comprehensive relay victory of the under 18s over the adults.



We then had the awarding of the medals and prizes, speeches by Ivan and Donna and the handing of the flag to Wellington Nudist Club who will be hosting the next rally. It sounds like they are already well into the preparation of what promises to be another fun week.

All in all it was great fun with many, varied activities which included some children's activities organised by Audrey Barrett-Wims, a bouncy castle, a water slide, Merv's Mudbath and Damian's Colour Run.



We enjoyed putting on the Rally and hope that the attendees enjoyed it. Many thanks to everyone who helped to put it together and to our attendees for participating. I apologise if I have left anyone or any activities out.

Finally, my personal highlight was seeing and hearing the children and teenagers participating and obviously having great fun.