



Boomer Raumati Rumble

After taking a run from Palmerston North to Paraparaumu via SH57 we gathered at Marine Parade Paraparaumu for the day's events.

The first being the Das Bunker at Andy Wickens place in Raumati Beach. Andy's name is seen on the credits for many Movies made with the aid of special effects generated from New Zealand. He has much memorabilia around his home for these movies and others he admires. But the big drawcard at Andy's place is his bunker of many items of actual military items including weapons. This collection is the biggest I have seen in a private collection and the helmets and hats alone are the most varied and comprehensive collection I have seen including a number of Russian military hats which I had not seen before.

After finishing our cuppa and treats for morning tea we carried on to part two of our day.

A short drive took us to Taylorville Stars & Stripes Ranch. Clive Taylor told us of a bit of the history of the place and having lived there all his life and being passed onto him from his father and being using as a transport/contracting business was converted to house the American vehicles and memorabilia on the property. This made even more interesting with buildings built or converted to be an American garage, Diner, Saloon, Jail and much more.

After having our lunch in one's choice of the Saloon next to the warmth of the roaring fire or Diner we could wander around the buildings viewing the vehicles and many items of interest about the property.

Some of us were glad we bought our own lunch as the menu in the Saloon started with the statement 'Eating food is more fun when you know it was hit on the run'. One of the menu items that drew a laugh from me, 'Flat cat' is what I used to call one of our departed cats as she was of quite a size and very reluctant to move off her comfortable spot on the drive when we drove in or out from home. So, her regular nick name of fat cat was altered to flat cat. And in case you are wondering she died of natural causes, not from being impressed with the tread of a tire.

On our way home a good many of us called into Auto Classics at Paraparaumu Beach to see the classic offering of cars available to buy there. Some great cars are available for sale there but unfortunately Ross Church was not able to convince John Eames that he needed to add a pre-56 item to his collection of cars. Surprisingly after years of roughing it in wool sheds John rather enjoys a little more space and refinement.

Of course, a big thank you was given to Helen Gilbanks and helpers for their efforts with the great day had by all.



Rob Illingworth