

IRO Annual Report to Hawera AGM 2003

41 International has been through turbulent times this last year, entirely due to the “friend” member issue.

It is heartening to note all countries have used very diplomatic language even though some were very bitterly disappointed their view did not prevail.

Those countries that “walked out” have now rejoined following a rewording of the rules which gave them the leeway to still accommodate their principals, and without offending other countries. It is clear some countries will vote to allow “friend” members and some will not. It is to be hoped 41 International can now get on with things sidelined by the above.

The Young Ambassadors Programme is gaining strength. This programme involves European 41ers children age 16-25 years hosted in India by 41 club families for a month and visa versa. We were invited to send 2 YAPs to India so advertised in a newsletter to all NZ 41ers and I was astonished to only receive 3 replies. They arrive in Delhi 20th July and leave 18 August from Bombay.

President John and Monica travelled to India for the International half yearly meeting, raising our profile and putting a name and a face to that little country at the bottom of the world that never shows up at international meetings.

Peter Butchart has led another tour of Great Britain, the participants are straggling, struggling, or is it staggering home about now, some are stopping off in the islands for a few days to recover! The tour was to go via Hong Kong for a few days en-route to Great Britain, but owing to the Sars virus scare it was thought best to avoid Hong Kong. Peter was able to hastily re-arrange flights straight to Great Britain and spend extra time there.

Coming up- Peter is working on an Australian trip, June 2004, to the Apex 40 Rort in Norfolk Island, then to Sydney and NSW, 3 weeks in total. Also, 2005 a tour to Northern Europe, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and a quick flick into Russia, 6-7 weeks total. All members have been sent a mailer on these trips and the response has been good, but if you are at all interested, give Peter a call on 03 540 2686, or email Butchart@ts.co.nz.

The arrangements for trips such as this are detailed and very time consuming, we are very fortunate to have some one of Peter’s ability, willing and able to do this.

It has been my pleasure to be your IRO for another year. It always helps to have a board which works well together and John, Wim, Hugh and myself have steered a steady course and in my view now have the association stronger and more resilient than 12 months ago.

I have pleasure in presenting this my 3rd IRO annual report.

Peter Phillips