

SO THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS – AND WHAT A WEEK!

The Rendezvous team is absolutely thrilled that after more than two years of hard work and planning, everything went along so smoothly for the Christchurch Rendezvous. Registrations, craft and sponsor booths and the Opening Ceremony were hosted in Christchurch Town Hall. Even the weather behaved itself, well other than one day, but that didn't put a damper on things, even though it was the one that we had chosen for our garden day!

With the backing of Focus New Zealand and their support throughout the event with coaches on time, pleasant drivers who put themselves out to make the day trips interesting, always on time with smiles all the way, it seemed we couldn't fail.

We are, of course most grateful to our sponsors, without such backing we couldn't have run such a successful week. Also our local Clubs, who gave so much, making our visits to them, or helped with lunches, hosting and generally just being on call, a big *thank you*.

Lots of smiling faces told us that the fellowship and friendship of Probus was working well. From the Opening Ceremony on the Monday with our colorful 'Town Crier' MC who got things off to a flying start - with great entertainment. Starting of course, with our great Maori Welcome, the Kapa Haka group from a local school, the local Woolston Brass Band and our little eleven year old pianist from Dame Malvina Foundation who stole the show.

Lots of daily and evening outings in and around the beautiful City of Christchurch told us that Probus Retirees are an Active Bunch of people who are out to enjoy all that was offered while we showcased our city.

The Gala Dinner was something else. Held in the Famous Air Force Museum, once an Air Force Base, surrounded by planes of all dates and types, pipe bands, sirens sounding, search lights and the hum of aircraft overhead, to herald the arrival of our own *Andrew Sisters*, who entertained expertly. Wow! What a night to finish off the week.

Friday morning started with delegates attending the Ecumenical Service at Christchurch Cathedral where they enjoyed a recital by the Liedertafel Choir. The PCSP Discussion Forum was very informative followed by the Closing Ceremony with our stuttering MC Dick Tayler who had us all laughing until we sung our final song 'Now is the hour' and 'Áuld Lang Syne'.

The week excelled all expectations and I'm sure the general feeling of Probus Rendezvous and friendships made, will last for many years to come.

What a great foresight of PCSP to hold a Probus Rendezvous, a lot of hard work but well worth it !!

Now we look forward to meeting up next year, with new friends to be made in Perth. See you there Friends.

Yours in Probus Service, Jean Burford