



WIMA News

November 2018



WIMA Australia in Finland 2018

Kathy O'Donnell, Sue Borg, Barb McEvoy, Lee Skinner and Liz Loke

The 2018 Finland International Rally by Liz Loke

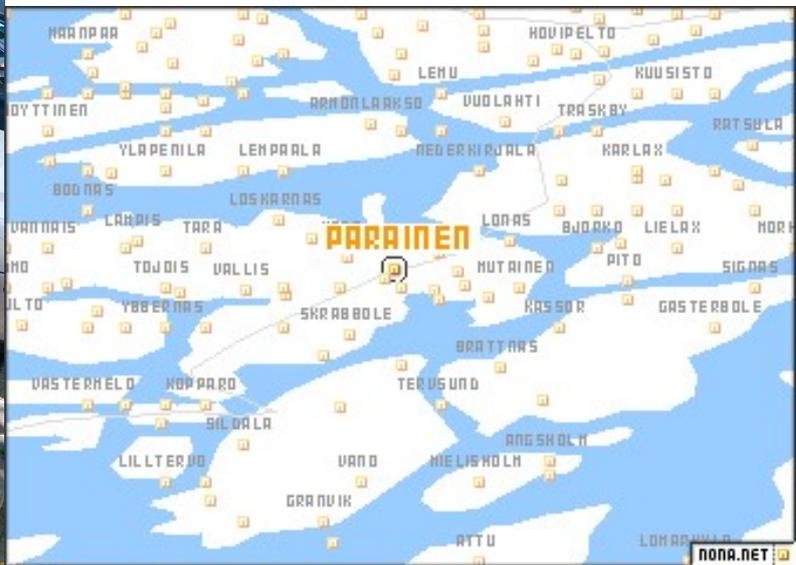
Kathy, Sue, Lee, Barb and I met up in Helsinki before the pre rally. Barb and I had a little wander around in the morning while the others picked up the hire car. With the sat nav in charge we had an interesting trip to Turku. It took us straight through the middle of a park which caused some funny looks from the locals. After a few false starts we finally got access to our apartment for the night. Despite being located right above a strip joint it was a rather quiet night.

I had been hoping to find a hire bike to ride but after much searching there wasn't a suitable bike available. Peak hire season, limited availability and an arse too low to the ground left me with no two wheel options. Luckily Lee and Barb came to the rescue with the offer of a seat in their car.

I did find one possible bike...



Rally site at Parainen: in a sea of island.



Below: At the port where we met Jedi and some of our fellow pre-rally goers. On the ferry to Åland we were treated to a buffet lunch. It was a great chance to try just a little bit of lots of different local dishes.



Waiting at the port in Turku to board the ferry

We disembarked and had a short trip to the cabins for that night where we met Claudia and the rest of the pre-rally crew. It was lovely to see some familiar faces from our 2015 Australian Rally and catch up with them again. We had a bus trip to a Viking market where we saw people demonstrating traditional trades and selling their

handmade wares. There were historical reenactments of Viking village life and *the musicians played an array of different instruments*. The music provided a theatrical atmosphere as I enjoyed my beast from the spit and a long drink or two. If only the wasps hadn't been so friendly.



The next day we took a quick trip to a castle on the way to the next ferry. While we waited to board we were treated to a sing along when Elspeth whipped out her ukulele. Once on board were still more views of the stunning archipelago.! We arrived at our little island retreat for the night.

The next day it was on to the rally site at Parainen.

The cabins and camp ground were nestled in a lovely forest setting. Only a few minutes' walk down the hill there was a little beach area where many took the opportunity for a dip or a paddle several times a day. We adorned our cabin with our mascots and Aussie WIMA flag and promptly dubbed it The Australian Embassy.



Our boxing kangaroos were a big hit at the welcome dinner and kept going walkabout. When Kathy saw the grinning face of Rita from Curacao making off with one of them I was sent on rescue mission. I had to give chase and koala-tackle her to get it back. Those of you who know the difference in stature between Rita and myself will understand what I did in the name of Aussie pride.

As the bar at the opening night party closed, I found myself at the United Nations up on the hill. The first of a

series of long laughter filled nights (sorry neighbours) with my new WIMA friends from around the globe. Bulgaria, Romania, Sweden, Curacao, Germany, Finland and Estonia to name a few. We shared the traditional drinks of many countries and toasted each others' health in many languages. Often not heading back down the hill until the sun was starting to come up. To be fair, the sun started to come up at three in the morning so it was still technically the middle of the night.

With the arrival of Mac our Aussie contingent was complete. Kathy had to abandon us to go to the presidents meeting so we had our own party at the Australian Embassy . It wouldn't have been *an Aussie party* without fairy bread and curly whistles. We even had *prawn cocktails in coffee mugs*. Extra classy – what can I say?



One of the national newspapers came to interview Barb as the oldest rally attendee. The more observant of you may have noticed that it looks like our fearless leader is talking to the press with no pants on – that's because she had no pants on. Fear not, she had just come back from a swim with her togs on and threw a T-shirt over them.

The Fins put on a great rally. There was plenty of entertainment and things to do. We went on a boat trip to Nantali where we all split up to have a look around. I went to Moominland and then had a walk around the cemetery and port. On the poker run we went to a planetarium and saw where they made the enormous lenses for the telescopes. Mac had a test ride on the electric bikes at one of the stops that had been organized by Trui from Belgium.

The absolute highlight for me was riding in the parade. Even though I had not been able to hire a bike I brought a helmet with me in the hope that someone would give me a pillion ride. To the rescue came the lovely Uli from WIMA Switzerland. Riding in such a big group and seeing all those flags from around the world flying in the breeze gave me a high that lasted weeks. There were many sad good byes at the end of the rally but I am looking forward to next time already.



WIMA Member Barb McEvoy has also written a Rally report. It's on the WIMA webpage <http://www.wima.org.au/wima-rallies/finland-2018/>

WIMA International Rallies



2019 Southern Hemisphere Rally
 Curaçao - an island off the north of South America.
 April 21-27, 2019. **Bookings and payments** required by **December 2018** through the National President Kathy O'Donnell. [Documents attached to August newsletter email](#)

2019 Northern Hemisphere Rally
 Great Britain, Castleton, Derbyshire. 11-17 August. www.yha.org.uk/hostel/castleton-losehillhall for a virtual tour. Info on the UK WIMA site. <https://www.wimagb.co.uk/>

2019 Northern Rally 2019

Great Britain, Castleton, Derbyshire. 11-17 August. www.yha.org.uk/hostel/castleton-losehillhall - virtual tour.

UK WIMA website <https://www.wimagb.co.uk/> **Watch the new 2019 International Rally promotion video**

To book, read the attached invitation and then complete the attached excel spreadsheet and email it to the National President Kathy O'Donnell auntyratbag5@gmail.com

International Rally Calendar

<p>2019: (1) The Island of Curaçao. 21-27 April; and (2) The UK, Casterton, Derbyshire. 11-17 August. www.yha.org.uk/hostel/castleton-losehillhall - virtual tour.</p>	<p>2022: Switzerland</p>
<p>2020: Germany and Malaysia</p>	<p>2023: France</p>
<p>2021: Netherlands (40th Anniversary Rally)</p>	<p>2024: Australia and Poland 2025: Sweden</p>

Membership Renewals \$15.00

Bank transfer to BSB 814282 Account 50651515.