

Jill Worrall Tours January 2021 Newsletter

Hi Everyone

Have new suitcase...will travel!!!



Who buys a suitcase in the middle of a pandemic and an almost complete shutdown in international leisure travel? I do, that's who! My last suitcase fell to pieces in Colombia last year and had to come home enveloped in plastic wrap. Unsurprisingly there are a lot of good luggage deals out there at present, so I decided to take advantage of all the specials partly as a way to boost my sometime flagging spirits. It's light, bright (yes, I know it will get marked but I don't care!) and it's going to be my 2021 good luck charm!

When I wrote my January newsletter last year about this time none of us could have known what lay in store for 2020! It's amazing to think now that my Colombia tour ran without a hitch and probably even more incredible that we managed to run two Chatham Island tours and one Deep South adventure late last year as well.

I'm sure some people might regard me not waving a white flag at this point as daft, but James (my Tours business partner at House of Travel Riccarton) and I are determined to hang on in there so that, eventually, we can get right back into overseas touring, somehow, sometime, somewhere in the not-too-distant future.

In the meantime, **I'm delighted to say that my Central Otago and West Coast tour from March 5 to March 18) is now a confirmed departure.** This tour, which takes in those quintessential Central Otago landscapes, the Dart River jetboat from Glenorchy and the entire length of the West Coast AND Hokitika's Wild Food Festival is going to be wonderful and there is still room for a single or a couple to join me.

BUT, we can only hold this last room for a couple more days so if you are interested in coming along, please contact Moray or me as soon as you can.

And the rest of the year....

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You can probably imagine how disappointed I am that there's been a delay in the opening of the NZ-Australia quarantine-free travel 'bubble'. However, it will eventuate sometime, so in the meantime my five Australia tours are still very much in the system, but some rescheduling is going to be necessary.

My Grand Circuit of Tasmania that was scheduled for April is currently in the process of being rescheduled for spring. We will have confirmed dates for this shortly and if you're already on the list as interested in this tour, we'll be letting you know as soon as possible.

We are trying to make logical, careful decisions about all the planned 2021 tours, so any announcements about tours scheduled for May onwards will be made systematically during the year.

BUT, it's always great to know you're still interested in the tours so please do still request itineraries - it's fantastic for us to be able to gauge interest in the tours and a great motivator for us in what are extremely challenging circumstances!

On the home front



Natey is an enthusiastic naked gardener!

Natey turned two this week so there's a family party planned. We've given him a ship's wheel and a telescope for his tree hut – it's never too early to introduce travel concepts! I'm still managing not to drive Derek totally nuts being home almost all the time. He's currently working on a project to publish some of his columns in a book form so that's keeping him busy.

Ats and Rachel and Natey are well settled into their new home and Em and Jono will be leaving ours in a couple of months as their new house is due to be ready in mid-March. They are now accumulating furniture and other bits and pieces for the move so our house is pretty much full now – any more purchases and Derek's worried he will be sleeping in the woodshed. Actually, that's got stuff in it as well....

The garden is helping keep me sane but the days when I wake up and decide to clean the fridge and sort my sewing box are not so great. It's not quite the same as thinking about the logistics of a camp in Mongolia or allocating berths on an Amazon cruise!

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But now there's taking a group through Central Otago and the West Coast to look forward to. I was going to keep the new suitcase for the first Australian tour, but it might get an outing sooner than that!

Best wishes and do stay in touch!

Jill

P.S. For those of you who travelled with me for Winter in Europe in 2017-2018 - here's my nephew Oliver, pictured at Christmas (inflatable antler quoits are now an essential part of a Worrall Christmas....)

