

Jill Worrall Tours June 2021 Newsletter

Hi Everyone

A flurry of hail and sleet has just blown through Leeston. It's still a bit of a shock to my system as, along with last year, these two years have been the first in a long time that I've been home in NZ for most of winter.

Consequently, I can't wait to travel to Australia at the end of July, all going well, and being somewhere warm for a couple of weeks! I hope to be able to report back on how my Northern Territory tour goes in the August newsletter.

July's get-togethers

In the meantime, before I get my passport out of storage, I'm really looking forward to two get-togethers with tour members, past, present and future, in Nelson and Wellington. There's been such a great response to the two evenings in Nelson and Wellington – close to 30 people over the two venues. I think we're all keen to catch up, reminisce about past travels, commiserate about having our wings temporarily clipped and even thinking about our travel bucket list for the future.

Christchurch Tour Information Day

If you're in the Canterbury region, or visiting Christchurch on **Tuesday, July 6**, we are hosting two get-togethers at the House of Travel Riccarton office. There'll be a chance for a chat, some refreshments and I'll be talking about my two Australian destinations for later this year, the October tour to Western Australia and the late October-early November tour of Tasmania. If you'd like more details on the day's programme for this day, do contact Moray at morayj@hot.co.nz or give her a call on 03 341 3908.

This month's feature tours



The Great South-Western Edge - Western Australia

Oct 2 – Oct 15, 2021

Watch the Great South Western road trip - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miET7mOXUsI>

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This tour features some of Australia's least well-known regions, taking in a vast loop south of Perth along the continent's south-western edge as far as Esperance and then returning to Fremantle/Perth via the outback.

It has also been very carefully timed to give us excellent chances of seeing some of WA's spectacular wildflowers in full bloom and, offshore, to cruise Geographe Bay, which during October is visited by increasing numbers of humpback and southern right whales (often with their calves).

There's time in the state capital Perth and historic Fremantle but there is also a real emphasis on WA's spectacular coastal, forest and outback regions, including visits to four national parks, the Unesco-listed Fitzgerald River National Park, along with Stirling Range, Porongurup Leeuwin-Naturaliste and Tornidirrup parks. Caves, towering karri (eucalyptus) forests in the Valley of the Giants, the incredible Wave Rock are all included in the itinerary.



We'll do some wine-tasting in one of Australia's great wine-growing areas, Margaret River, visit the little known but award-winning National Anzac Centre, take the Busselton Jetty train out to experience the underwater observatory highlighting life on Australia's largest artificial reef and cruise (with a chance to swim) in the stunning beauty of Recherche Bay near Esperance. There are lighthouses, historic trams – truly, this is a tour packed with great highlights!

View the Brusselton Jetty - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xz9uffdbW88>



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Despite it being such a feature-packed itinerary there are five two-night stays which means a relaxed touring style and 12 either lunches or dinners included in the tour. The weather should be sunny, warm (but not too hot) – so that covers just about all bases.

Oh, and we're flying direct to Perth from Auckland!

Tasmania – The Grand Circuit

Oct 24 – Nov 7, 2021

There is lots of interest in this tour already and places are limited so, if after reading this you feel inspired to join me, do get in touch with Moray soon!

I've designed this tour to encompass the very best that Tasmania has to offer, while at the same doing so at a relatively leisurely pace. There are three multi-night stays included in the 15-day tour, four nights in Hobart, three in Queenstown and three in Launceston.

See Tasmania -<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viaupwLSgTQ>

I know that, since our travel has been so severely limited, many of you have missed that little bit of luxury that is often a tour highlight and this itinerary will definitely provide this as we have one night at the iconic, luxurious Cradle Mountain Lodge (where easy walks take in incredible scenery and the chance to see wombats, wallabies and even platypus in the wild) and one night in the Freycinet Lodge, see the Lodge on this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cb32J_EJAxI the only accommodation inside one of Australia's most beautiful national parks.



What else are we doing other than including in a couple of nights of luxury?

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Well, there's Hobart's legendary Salamanca Markets, a cruise to Bruny island with tastings of cheese and various tipples, historic estates including the Unesco-listed Brickenden Estate (where our tour is conducted by a 7th generation family member), a cruise along the Gordon River, see the Gordon River on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrcjKYnKOGc>, a trip on the East Coast Wilderness Railway, a chance to see the endangered Tasmanian devil, a delve into Tasmania's convict history in Port Arthur, heritage centres and an art, craft and gourmet food tour around Launceston.



I've included 14 lunches or dinners in the tour. One of our more unusual meal venues will be lunch at one of Australia's oldest pubs, the Pub in the Paddock, which is also home to Priscilla, the beer-drinking pig.

The tour price ex-Auckland and Christchurch includes a direct flight from Auckland to Hobart.

Bookings are already coming in for this tour so if you'd like a copy of the

full itinerary or you already have this and are ready to book do

get in touch with Moray

The Australia E-Book

The Jill Worrall Tours-House of Travel Riccarton eBook on Australia is now available to download for free. <https://jillworrall.com/awesome-australia-ebook/>

The eBook includes a guide and tips to planning your travels in Australia, based on my dozen or more visits to Australia as a guest of state and regional tourism authorities. There are also links to articles by me that have been published over the years. So, even if you're not planning to visit Australia in the near future there should be some entertaining reading for a cold winter's day!

"I hope that this eBook will ignite your enthusiasm about travel to Australia, whether you're thinking about a first visit or a repeat journey to savour the multitude of landscapes, experiences and adventure it has to offer." – Jill Worrall

On the Home Front

The back garden in Leeston became a building site recently as my two brothers Hugh and Richard, aided by son-in-law Atkins, (with me, Derek and even Natey acting as unskilled labour), built a playhouse. Funded by a lucky find in the china cabinet (thank you to my dear late Mum and Crown Lynn!), the playhouse is almost ready for use. After inspecting my painting work Derek has now taken over both interior and exterior painting. It seems I'm too messy (he found traces of primer on the sofa, door handles, his clothes, let alone in the playhouse itself, and apparently painting the bolts on the door was not my best idea.

The working bee had a typical farcical Worrall-extended family feel to it as both Atkins and Richard were recovering from minor knee surgeries. This meant some interesting manoeuvres from them in order not to end up back in hospital, and me driving everyone nuts calling out "Mind his knee" at regular intervals.



Jill helping Natey with the playhouse veranda



From left, Hugh, Natey and Richard taking a break from playhouse construction

That's all for this month. I'm so looking forward very much to seeing some of you soon either in NZ or further afield.

Very best wishes

Jill