



Jill Worrall Tours August 2021 Newsletter

Hi Everyone

There's a feeling of déjà vu writing this newsletter! Here we are all in lockdown again but at least now our vaccination programme is in full swing I feel there is at least an inkling of some light at the end of the tunnel!

And with that in mind here are a number of items of positive travel news!

Australia Tour Dates Are Rescheduled

As many of you know, I had to postpone all my proposed Australia tours for 2021. That was a huge disappointment to us here and to those of you who were looking forward to a trip away. But the good news is that we have managed to reschedule these tours – not only that – they are rescheduled to the very best times to visit each destination.

So, here are the dates:

Lord Howe Island, the Snowy Mountains and Canberra: February 18 – March 01, 2022 (these dates are unchanged)

The Grand Circuit of Tasmania: March 13- March 27, 2022

The Top End (Northern Territory): April 23 – May 03, 2022

The Great South-Western Edge (Western Australia): Oct 01 – Oct 14, 2022

If you have already either paid in full for your tour (this applies to the NT tour), paid a deposit or simply expressed an interest in any of the above tours, you will shortly receive a revised itinerary with the new dates and other information.

If you haven't already asked for information on these tours do also get in touch with Moray and you will be sent a copy of the newly revised itinerary as soon as it is ready.

So, what are we going to do this year instead?

As I've told you about earlier in the year, I have a tour to **Golden Bay and the Marlborough Sounds** planned for Nov 16- Nov 26. This tour, featuring two beautiful lodges (one in the Abel Tasman National Park and the other on Queen Charlotte Sound), includes a journey along Farewell Spit and a boat cruise to Ship Cove and a Sounds nature reserve. If you'd like to receive the full tour itinerary do get in touch with Moray soon. We won't be able to hold our allocation of rooms, especially in the two exclusive and very popular lodges, for too much longer.

And now there are two more New Zealand tours I've planned for this year, fully escorted by me:

The Taranaki Garden Festival Tour

Oct 29- Nov 03, 2021 – A brilliant short tour to maximise the coming of spring!

The Taranaki Garden Festival (formerly the Taranaki Rhododendron Festival) is one of NZ's premier garden events. It can be a bit of a mission though to try to book into all the gardens you want to see and, if you don't have your own transport, it can be difficult to get around them all.

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However, all the organisation has been done for you on this tour. We have an excellent waterfront hotel in New Plymouth as our base for all five nights of this tour and all transport to a total of 15 gardens, both in New Plymouth but also as far south as Hawera. There are famed gardens, such as Tupare and Pukeiti, in my itinerary but also some gems of private gardens that are open only for the festival week. There is even an evening visit to an illuminated garden featuring live music. There is a good mix of included and independent lunches and dinners in the programme and some free time as well. As some of you know, for many years, I was a regular contributor to the New Zealand Gardener so that background, along with a lifelong passion for my own gardens, means you are in reasonably knowledgeable horticultural hands for this tour! Tour cost ex New Plymouth, \$2,595 per person on a share twin basis with limited availability for a single supplement at \$750.



A Taste of the Bays

Food, wine and other treats of Hawke's and Poverty bays - 04 to 09 November 2021

This eight-night tour begins in Napier and includes a classic car tour of Napier's Art Deco treasures, an excursion to the Cape Kidnappers gannet colony, a full day wine tour plus a special lunch at the home of a well-known food writer and chef. We will visit the National Aquarium and have a leisurely walking tour around Napier's Art Deco buildings with an expert local guide.

Once in Gisborne, a fun ride on a tandem rail bike trail (no cycling skills of any kind needed and there are even e-bikes available as well!), a tour to the Eastwood Hills arboretum, special cultural tour visit to Tolaga Bay, including a marae visit, and a day around Gisborne's wineries.

We have four nights based in quality accommodation in each of Napier and Gisborne. There are included meals, free time in each city, plus entertaining local guides. Tour cost, starting Napier and finishing in Gisborne, \$3,995 per person on a share twin basis with limited availability for a single supplement at \$1,350.





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If you'd like more information on any of these tours, please get in contact with Moray soon, as we will have to confirm these tours, especially the Garden Festival one, very soon. Accommodation and vacancies for garden visits are in hot demand!

A note on Covid vaccinations

Our Australian operator has informed us that they are introducing a policy of requiring all travellers through their company to be able to show proof of having Covid vaccinations. We anticipate that airlines and other overseas operators and probably many nations' own immigration regulations will also require this soon. We do respect the right of everyone to make their own informed decision about vaccinations, but we do need to inform you that proof of vaccination is almost certainly going to be a prerequisite of overseas travel in the future. We don't know yet what provision is going to be made for people who, for health reasons, are unable to have vaccinations but we will keep you informed about this as more policies are released.

On the home front

Derek and I are in lockdown with Rachel and Natey (just like old times really!). We're all doing well although Natey's had a chest infection (NOT Covid) and Rachel is still battling morning sickness so it's been reasonably busy! Natey is still loving spending time in the playhouse and cooks up a storm each time we all get invited in for a 'meal'. I'm about to start shovelling a truck load of compost on to the garden so that will keep me out of mischief for a while.

I am now a fully certified Covid vaccine administrator and working a variety of days each week both here in Leeston and in Christchurch. It was time to try to replenish the diminishing bank account! However, I also felt rather strongly that as Covid had rather efficiently decimated my tour business for the best part of two years it was time I struck back. So, every time I check a new person in for their vaccination, I send a 'gotcha' message into the universe.

This job is in no way even slightly weakening on my commitment to my tours. It's just making it even more possible to hang on that little bit longer as the world of travel reopens again (Flynn our cat still has to eat....) I'm still absolutely in daily contact with everything going on and will be replying to your emails or phone calls as promptly as usual, or if it's a vaccination day - as soon as I get home and have had a restorative G and T!

I do hope to see you on one of my New Zealand tours this year. I know it's not as exotic as Brazil or Mongolia or the Adriatic, but I think everyone who has been on one of my NZ tours last year and earlier this year would agree we've had a great time and a fantastic holiday. It's just so refreshing to have a change of scene (and beautiful ones at that), some convivial company and no cooking or housework to do!

Best wishes

Jill