

Tour Leader Report 2015

2014-what a busy year!

The HYM Tours all came together with last minute details keeping me glued to the desk every day for so long.

23 International travellers on the Pre Tour and what a time they had starting with a welcome dinner with the Christchurch 41 Club then meals with Alexandra, Gore Clubs, afternoon tea and sheep experiences with Tapawera, dinner with Nelson plus all the great scenery and things that we organised for them finishing with the amazing HYM in Blenheim.

The only sad thing about this trip was the horrible bug that someone brought onto the coach and then spread to everyone on that tour and the next.

We had 45 Travellers plus 2 following in a campervan for the Post Tour, rather a large family to try to control and have ready to go anywhere. There were a few with their own agendas but the rest were such a great crew that made up for them.

Everyone had a ball and enjoyed everything on offer, a dinner with Nelson Club, the stalwarts remaining in Dunedin, lunch with Oamaru Club and a farewell dinner with Timaru Club.

The Finnish Group with a lone German had an enjoyable albeit short tour up through the North Island, many thanks indeed to Allan and Dawn Shucker and Peter Butchart who drove and showed them what they could in the time allowed.

13 of us flew over to Cairns and had a fabulous trip through to Darwin thanks to OzTours and I didn't have to drive so could enjoy it all the more. What amazing places, wildlife, culture, waterfalls, swimming holes, scenery and vastness. Our guides/driver/cook John & Chris had so much knowledge of the whole region. I'd recommend them to anyone. Yes we were all experts at tent erection and camping by the time we arrived in Darwin and believe me that Truck bus was like a magician's hat with so many places for stuff to appear from.

No trips on the calendar this year but I already have 16 names wanting to do the advertised Kimberley's and Tanami Desert trip with OzTours next July so if you are keen let me know ASAP.

I'm working on a tour of Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand for 2017 and perhaps a river Cruise through Europe from Amsterdam down to the Mediterranean in 2018. Your feedback on these or other ideas would be most helpful.

Once again I'll put my name forward for this position if you want me.

YI41

Derek Johns