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The Probus Community

Probus South Pacific's Chairman, **Michael Ransom**, reflects on why Probus remains so relevant today.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending a reception hosted by the Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, to celebrate 50 years of Probus in Australia.

It was a wonderful occasion and a fitting recognition of the contribution Probus has made to the lives of retired and semi-retired people over many decades.

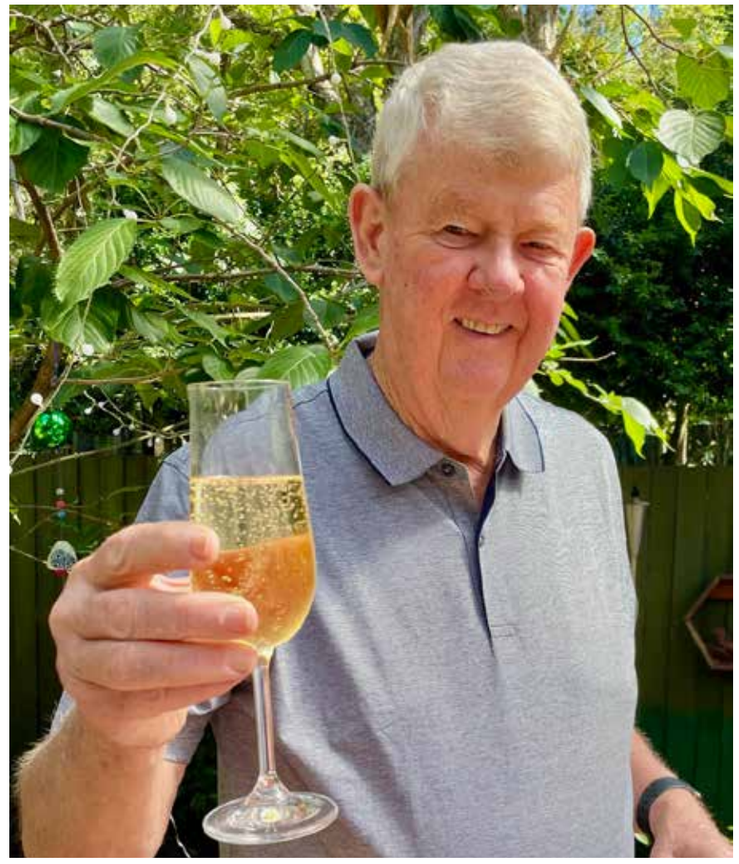
For our New Zealand members, the occasion also brought back fond memories of our own 50th anniversary celebrations in 2024, including the very special reception held at Government House in Wellington. New Zealand holds a particularly important place in our history, with the first Probus Club in the Southern Hemisphere established here in 1974.

These milestone celebrations provide an opportunity to reflect not only on our history, but on why Probus remains so relevant today.

At its heart, Probus meets a simple but incredibly important need – the opportunity to stay connected, build friendships, enjoy new experiences and remain actively involved in our communities after leaving full-time work. Retirement does not diminish our capacity to contribute, learn or grow. In many ways, it gives us greater opportunity to do so.

While our Clubs have evolved over the years and embraced new ways of communicating and connecting, the values of Probus remain unchanged: friendship, respect, inclusiveness and community.

As Chairman, I am continually reminded that the strength of Probus comes from its people. Across New Zealand, dedicated volunteers give their time to lead Clubs, welcome new members, organise activities and outings, and create the many opportunities for friendship that make Probus so special.



As we look to the future, attracting new members and encouraging the next generation of retirees to experience Probus will be essential. Our Clubs have so much to offer, and each of us can play a part by sharing our Probus experience and encouraging others to discover what membership can bring to their retirement.

As we welcome spring and the opportunities that come with a new season, I encourage Clubs to continue looking for new ways to connect, grow and engage with their local communities.

To all our New Zealand members, thank you for the part you play in keeping the spirit of Probus strong. I look forward with great confidence and optimism to what lies ahead for our Probus community. ■

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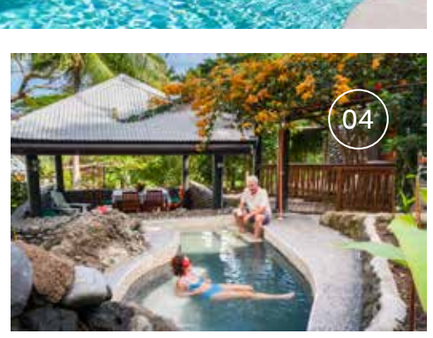
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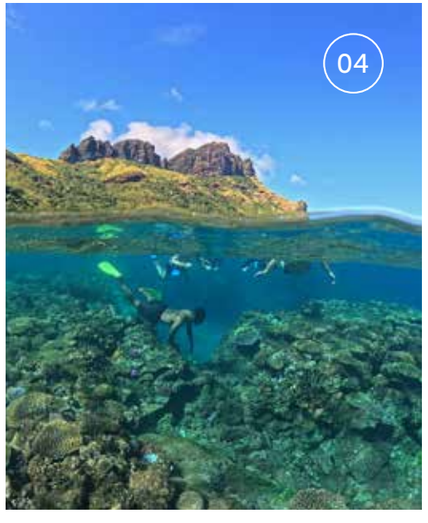


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Waya Island Resort

Joan Gestro introduces this stunning Fijian resort destination.

LOCATED IN THE YASAWA ISLANDS, north-west of Nadi, you'll find Waya Island Resort. Showcasing pristine quiet bays, long stretches of white sand beaches, a tropical reef and remarkable volcanic peaks, you will find this magic island in the southern end of the Yasawas.

After cruising the Yasawas on board the *Yasawa Princess II*, with great eagerness we boarded Waya's small tender boat and sped our way to our next adventure.

What a beautiful resort and what a location. This 17-year project, built in partnership with the traditional owners of Yalobi village, opened



officially on the 8 February 2024.

With a focus on an adults-only resort, it offers luxurious and intimate accommodation to 50 guests. It features 25 beautiful villas set amongst serene tropical gardens, with manicured vines covering the villa walls, an added coolness in the heat of the day. Each villa has a private, covered deck where you can share a drink with newly made friends, or just enjoy a quiet refreshment before heading off for daily activities.

The resort managers, Lauren, from New Zealand, and Jon, from Australia, have been living and managing this resort since its opening. They and all the staff regard each other as family or vuvale (Fijian for family).

Our beautiful villa was air-conditioned and spacious, offering a tea and coffee facility as well as an iron and ironing board. Our super king-size bed was made up each day by the housekeeping team, and topped with flowers! The spacious bathroom offered indoor and very private outdoor showers.

We loved everything that was on offer here. The amazing friendly staff call you by name and display a wonderful example of warm Fijian hospitality. The activities team, including Api and Sam, were so knowledgeable and entertaining. Sam demonstrated a call on a large nautilus shell and showed us how to weave a bracelet from dry reeds in the Fijian style.

The cuisine on offer consistently showed a lot of thought given in the preparation of our meals: the flavours, the sauces, the presentation and imaginative combinations made for delicious breakfasts, lunches and dinners. They also cater for various dietary requirements. All meals were inclusive, with tea, coffee and also a juice dispenser in the restaurant, so you can help yourself at any time.

The reception team were always there to answer our questions. The water on the island is desalinated, and bottled water is available at the reception desk for all guests to take back to their villas, as well as replenished in villas daily.

Next to the reception desk, I browsed through a shop stocked with clothing, including the essential sun hats and sunglasses, and some toys and children's clothing for those special gifts for your grandies.



Each day, heading to the dining room for breakfast, we passed the dedicated team of gardeners working at manicuring the large stunning gardens, a work of love and pride. The sparkling pool sits adjacent to the large dining complex; very inviting indeed to relax in the comfortable deck chairs by the water's edge, reading my book, sipping on a pina colada. Bliss!

Beautiful Fijian music played each evening. One evening we were entertained by a very talented ensemble, with beautiful harmonious singing, showcasing wonderful voices … very impressive!

A daily activities board included sunrise, high tide, and sunset times, and the activities on offer were extensive and varied. Snorkelling







was a popular, independent activity, taken up each day by many guests to enjoy the kaleidoscope of marine life around the reef situated so close to the island.

Other activities offered were a swim with reef sharks, a manta ray encounter (this activity is available from May to October only), fish feeding, crab racing, guided island tours, a 7am hill hike and a local church visit.

For the foodies, there was a lesson in preparing kokoda (fresh, raw marinated fish) given by a local chef. We were also treated to a lovo – a feast cooked underground. This was interesting as it resembled the New Zealand hangi. Our lovo dinner was delicious; tender marinated meats including pork, chicken, beef and fish, along with root vegetables, and island greens. These were all wrapped in banana leaves and cooked on sand, covered with special cloths. This is a feast shared in a traditional community setting.

Further, there was basket weaving, aerobics in the pool, volleyball and happy-hour drinks to watch the sun set.

Waya Island Resort provided a relaxing but also interesting retreat from normality. As a guest, you could do as much or as little as you wish.

The spa is something I particularly enjoyed. It focusses on wellness and offers an authentic experience into natural, local rejuvenation. The use of pure Fijian locally sourced, botanical extracts makes a deeply relaxing and authentic experience.

The treatments are designed to take advantage of the island's natural surroundings and are provided in the open air so that guests can listen to bird song and the gentle murmur of the Pacific.

We did enjoy our daily walks in the low tide, reef shoes on, along the quiet beach, feeling at peace with the universe! The sunset beach view was also amazing to witness, as we waited for the right moment for the sun to set and treated to a traditional kava ceremony.

During the traditional kava ceremony, yaqona (kava) is carefully prepared by mixing the powdered root with water before being served to guests, one by one, in a coconut-shell cup known as a bilo. Taking part is entirely optional and, on this occasion, I decided to leave the kava to the others and enjoy another piña colada instead!

Thank you to all at Waya, that helped make our four-day experience one that we will never forget.

And it's noteworthy to add; Lauren and Jon are delightful hosts! Always available to mingle with guests, partake in some activities, both dedicated people, looking after their staff like family members.

Bula Vinaka, Lauren and Jon. We'll be back! ■



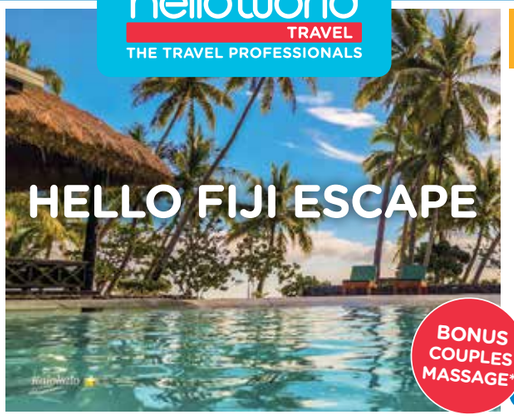
GETTING THERE...

COACH TRANSFERS are available from/to Nadi International Airport or selected hotels and resorts in Nadi, Wailoaloa and Denarau regions. Bookings are mandatory.

HELICOPTER. If you choose to use a helicopter, you'll be greeted at the airport on arrival by a representative from one of our preferred heli partners, who will show you to your helicopter. Upon your return, ground crew will meet your helicopter and show you to the departures area at Nadi International/Domestic Airport.

PRIVATE SPEEDBOAT CHARTER. Journey to Waya Island by a private speedboat charter, a 1.5-hour trip from the mainland. Your private charter will collect you from Vuda Marina or Port Denarau, both a 25-minute drive from Nadi Airport via shuttle, private speed boats are available to charter at any time during daylight hours, with the last boat to Waya Island leaving at 4pm. These boats are the perfect way to maximise your time on the island.

SOUTH SEAS CRUISES HIGH-SPEED CATAMARAN will transport you to Waya Island in two hours. The *Yasawa Flyer III* departs Port Denarau (25 minutes from Nadi Airport) at 8.45am daily. Upgrade to the Captain's Lounge, with air conditioning, snacks, beer, wine and soft drinks. **Email reservations@wayaisland.com to book your preferred transfer.**



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2 Nights at Fiji Gateway Hotel:
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- Return Nadi Airport/Hotel & Catamaran transfers

International flights are not included, please enquire for best available pricing.

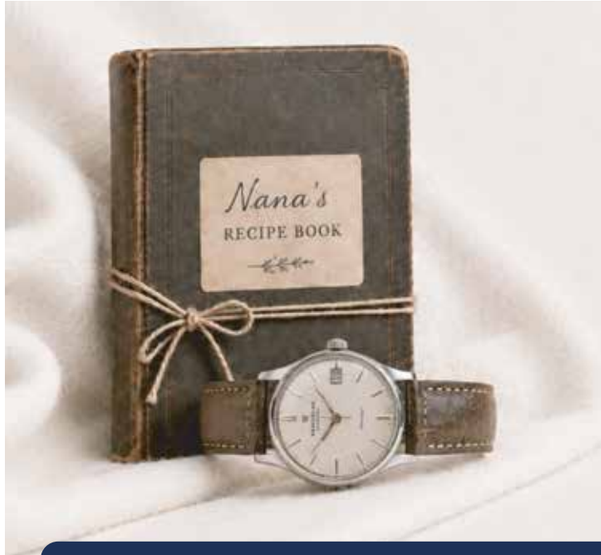
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- Visit an authentic Fijian village.
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Tasmanian delight

By **Greg Fleming**

TASMANIA IS THE PERFECT DESTINATION for Kiwis who want an Australian getaway that's a little bit different from the go-to big city hot spots – whether it's wildlife, incredible landscapes, food, wine or art you're after, Australia's smallest state has it all.

Here you can spend a morning trekking through ancient rainforests, your afternoon exploring an avant-garde gallery and your evening tasting whiskey at a local distillery.

Tasmania has a raw, hard earned authenticity about it. I remember sailing into Hobart on a cruise ship some years ago and immediately felt attuned to the place.



HOBART

Like me many begin their Tasmanian adventure in Hobart, which is Australia's second oldest city and one with a fascinating convict history. Between 1803 and 1853, more than 70,000 convicts were transported to Tasmania (then called Van Diemen's Land) and forced to build the roads, wharves, and the classic Georgian architecture that defines the city today.

Make sure to carve out at least a day to visit MONA, Hobart's most provocative icon just thirty minutes away by ferry up the River Derwent. It's Australia's largest private museum. It challenges every traditional gallery concept and attracts art lovers from across the globe. Expect the unexpected.

Other must-dos in the capital involve exploring Battery Point (just a short walk from the waterfront) which has beautifully preserved 19th-century cottages, boutique accommodation, cafés, and pubs; and walking – or driving – up to the summit of Mount Wellington which has astounding views across the city, Bruny Island and the Tasman Peninsula.

Hobart on a Saturday revolves around the bustling Salamanca Market which transforms the waterfront into a celebration of local artisans and fresh produce and is the perfect spot to score some handmade souvenirs.

If you're after something more active within 20km of the city you'll find great hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing and kayaking.

WILDLIFE

But it's once you get out of Hobart that much of the magic happens.

Nearly half the state is protected within national parks and reserves, including the vast Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and offers unforgettable encounters with animals in their natural environment. The island is the last natural stronghold of the endangered Tasmanian Devil, Australia's largest surviving carnivorous marsupial, famous for its powerful jaws, distinctive









screech and feisty nature, while in Narawntapu National Park's coastal wetlands you may see Tasmanian forester kangaroos and wombats wandering freely near picnic grounds.

Bruny Island – about 50km south of Hobart – has penguin tours where you can watch fairy penguins at dusk waddle ashore, while seal colonies bask on rocky outcrops along the coastline. The island is also celebrated for its fresh oysters, artisan cheeses, berries and honey, making it one of Tasmania's most rewarding day trips or overnight escapes.

Meanwhile Cradle Mountain, in the north-west of the island, offers hikers an array of trails which take in glacial lakes and rugged mountain peaks. The famous Dove Lake circuit offers breathtaking views, while longer trails reveal waterfalls, alpine scenery and more wildlife.

FOOD

Tasmania's culinary scene continues to punch well above its weight, with Tasmania recently named one of *National Geographic*'s 15 Best Food Destinations in the World. The region's exceptional seafood and farm-to-table philosophy make the region a foodie's paradise.

The restaurant culture is best seen in award winning restaurants like





The Agrarian Kitchen in New Norfolk and Launceston's Stillwater, which is housed in a beautifully restored riverside flour mill.

Both celebrate farm-to-table dining, where daily harvests dictate what's on the menu. And don't leave without trying a scallop pie from Hobart's Jackman & Ross bakery – considered by many to be the best in Australia.

Tasmania's pristine waters supply some of the world's finest seafood. Fresh Pacific oysters, Atlantic salmon, rock lobster, abalone, scallops and mussels feature prominently on menus across the island and often served within hours of being caught. From waterfront restaurants in Hobart to oyster farms and fishing villages along the coast, seafood lovers are spoilt for choice.

WINE

Tasmania's cool-climate conditions also produce exceptional wines, particularly pinot noir and sparkling varieties.

The island's slow ripening season is ideal for varieties such as pinot noir, chardonnay and sparkling wine. The Tamar Valley near Launceston, Coal River Valley outside Hobart and the Huon Valley are among the key wine areas, each offering cellar doors with stunning landscapes and relaxed hospitality. ■

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING AROUND: Best to look into a coach tour. That way your tour will be a selection of Tassie's best sites. Your tour company will have the best options. Seven to 10 days is the ideal to explore all the highlights of Tasmania.

WHERE TO STAY: Tasmania offers diverse accommodation options, from historic urban boutique hotels in Hobart and Launceston to luxury wilderness lodges.

Seniors group tours in Tasmania

TRAFALGAR IS A HIGHLY ESTABLISHED and credible international escorted-tour company, with more than 70 years experience in guided holidays. Its Tasmania programmes have received very strong positive customer ratings.

Independent ratings of 4.8/5 speak highly of Trafalgar. Knowledgeable travel directors, professional drivers, and carefully planned itineraries say it all.



WHY SENIORS SHOULD CONSIDER TASMANIA

- The Australian state offers an unforgettable mix of spectacular scenery, fascinating history, wildlife, food, and welcoming hospitality.
- From Hobart and historic Port Arthur, to Cradle Mountain and Wineglass Bay, Tassie offers diverse experiences without huge travel distances.
- Tasmania offers so much and is the ideal seniors-friendly holiday destination.



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Two extraordinary worlds at sea

FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS seeking experiences beyond the ordinary, few cruise journeys are as compelling as Ponant's Sub-Antarctic expeditions and Paul Gauguin Cruises' voyages through Tahiti and French Polynesia. While one explores some of the most remote wilderness on Earth and the other reveals the idyllic beauty of the South Pacific, both offer immersive, destination-focused travel that leaves a lasting impression.

Aboard Ponant's elegant expedition vessel *Le Soléal*, guests venture deep into New Zealand's remarkable Sub-Antarctic Islands, a region often described as one of the world's last true wildernesses. These isolated archipelagos, south of New Zealand in the Southern Ocean, are largely untouched by human activity and are home to an extraordinary concentration of wildlife found nowhere else on the planet. Visitors can encounter vast colonies of penguins, soaring albatross, sea lions, elephant seals, and rare endemic birdlife while exploring protected nature reserves and UNESCO-recognised landscapes. Guided by expert naturalists, each Zodiac





landing and shore excursion provides unique insights into the region's ecology, history and conservation significance.

The journey itself is as rewarding as the destination. Guests enjoy Ponant's signature blend of French sophistication and expedition expertise, combining luxury accommodation, fine dining, and personalised service with genuine adventure. Sailing through Fiordland's dramatic scenery and among some of the most isolated islands on Earth, travellers gain access to places rarely visited and impossible to experience independently.

In contrast, and close to home, Paul Gauguin Cruises offers a warm and immersive exploration of Tahiti, Bora Bora, Moorea, and the enchanting islands of French Polynesia. Purpose-built for the shallow waters of the





South Pacific, the award-winning *Paul Gauguin* provides access to secluded lagoons, pristine beaches, and intimate harbours that larger ships cannot reach. Days are filled with opportunities to snorkel among colourful coral reefs, discover Polynesian culture through authentic local encounters, and relax amid some of the world's most breathtaking tropical scenery.

Life onboard reflects the relaxed rhythm of the islands. Spacious accommodations, exceptional cuisine inspired by French and Polynesian traditions, attentive service and enriching cultural programmes create an atmosphere that is both luxurious and welcoming. Whether watching a sunset over Bora Bora, swimming in crystal-clear lagoons or experiencing traditional music and dance, guests enjoy a deep connection to the destination.

Together, Ponant and Paul Gauguin Cruises showcase two vastly different yet equally unforgettable worlds. One offers rare access to the untamed edge of the Southern Ocean; the other invites travellers to embrace the beauty and culture of paradise. Both deliver extraordinary journeys for those who believe travel should inspire, enrich, and transform. ■

PONANT EXPLORATIONS

Discover NZ's Subantarctic Islands.

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Australia's great rail journeys – Indian Pacific, The Ghan & Spirit of Queensland all in comfort and style in "Gold Service Cabins." Explore our tour highlights between and after the rail journeys, it all awaits.



The Five Stans

Departs 30 March, 2027 | 24 Days | From $17,500.00pp

Step back in time and journey through the Five Stans of Central Asia, where the ancient Silk Road comes to life. Discover grand cities, vibrant bazaars, history and remote mountain landscapes.

Call us on 0800 500 518 | View more of our 2026 & 2027 tours online at www.mahertours.co.nz

FULLY ESCORTED TOURS *Proudly New Zealand owned and operated*

Toowoomba Floral Festival
7 Days – Departs 16 Sept 2026
$5195pp twin share

Fly to Brisbane where we overnight before joining our coach for the scenic drive to Toowoomba. We stay 4 nights here at our centrally located hotel. We include breakfasts and dinners (including dinners at local restaurants and Tourist Railway and Museum) as well as some lunches. Enjoy sights of Scenic Rim and maybe try a Violet ice cream – only available over Carnival. Visit Summerland Camels, Japanese Garden, Cobb and Co Museum, and a variety of exhibition gardens. Watch the fabulous floral floats from 'Reserved' seats at the Grand Central Floral Parade as it winds its way through the city centre. We visit the Highland village of Highfields. A visit to Glengallian Homestead and Allora, home of the Mary Poppins House. We spend our last night in Brisbane before our flight back to New Zealand. If you love gardens and flowers this tour will enthrall you!

Melbourne Stayput
Featuring Tesselaar Tulip Festival
5 days – Departs 8 October 2026
$4299 pp share twin from Auckland

Join your Tour Manager as we fly to Melbourne (4 nights) at our centrally located hotel. All breakfasts and most dinners included. We spend a fabulous day at the Tesselaar Tulip Festival with hundreds of different coloured Tulips on display, the largest Clog in the Southern hemisphere, cheese demonstrations, scones and tea and much more. We also enjoy a visit to Melbourne's Botanic Gardens for some beautiful Spring flower on display, take high tea at the historic Windsor Hotel, enjoy a dinner Cruise on the Yarra River taking in the sights from a different angle. Including airfares from Auckland/Wellington or Christchurch (ask about other areas), accommodation in twin/double rooms (Single room supplement applies), all breakfasts, complimentary chocolate hour each afternoon at the hotel, entrance to Tesselaar Tulip Festival, Yarra River Dinner Cruise, High Tea at the Windsor. (optional: Ticket to Neil Diamond Musical "A beautiful noise")

Scenic Southern Splendour
9 Days – Departs 11 October, 16 November 2026
$4999pp share twin

Fly to Dunedin, full of Scottish Heritage (3 nights). Visit the Albatross Colony, Botanic Gardens. Visit Larnach Castle with a guided tour and a high tea. Coach through the Southern Scenic Route – the Catlins. Through rural heartland and rugged coastlines. Views from Nugget Point and the Petrified Forest at Curio Bay. Overnight Invercargill. Fly to Stewart Island (2 nights) Explore Oban, enjoy a leisurely cruise of Paterson Inlet and visit Ulva Island, a renowned birdlife sanctuary. Try the local Blue Cod as we dine at the South Sea Hotel. Fly back to Invercargill and coach to Queenstown (2 nights) Novotel Lakeside Hotel. Visit Arrowtown, Step aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw for a farewell dinner cruise to Walter Peak. Return airfares from Auckland/Tauranga, Wellington or Christchurch, quality accommodation, sightseeing & full size touring coach. ALL breakfasts, most dinners, and some lunches.

Scenic Southern Circle
Featuring Tranz Alpine & Coastal Pacific Trains Abel Tasman National Park
9 Days – 14th to 22nd Nov 2026
$5195.00 per person twin share

Fly to Christchurch (2 nights) including dinner onboard the Tramcar Restaurant. Sightseeing of this newly built city including the Cardboard Cathedral. We join the famous Tranz Alpine train to Greymouth then coach to Punakaiki for overnight accommodation overlooking the beach. Visit Pancake Rocks and then travel to Charleston and the Nile River Rainforest Railway. Journey via Westport to Nelson (2 nights). Cruise the scenic Abel Tasman National Park with lunch, then it's off to Blenheim (2 nights). Visit Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre. Lunch on the Urenui. We cruise on the Sounds to Lochmara Lodge where we enjoy morning tea in beautiful surrounds. Join the scenic Coastal Pacific train in Picton and travel along the stunning coastline via Kaikoura to Christchurch for overnight before flying home.Includes return airfares from Auckland/Wellington/Tauranga (ask about flights from other centres). All breakfast and dinners, quality touring coach with experienced coach driver, all sightseeing and cruises, Tour Manager from Auckland back to Auckland.

Taranaki Garden Festival
5 Days – Departs 30 October 2026
$2999 per person twin share from Auckland
Single room supplement only $299 per person

Travel by coach to New Plymouth. Stay 3 nights at the centrall NOVOTEL Hobson. We enjoy two full days of garden visits, some only open to the general public during the festival. We choose a variety of different types of gardens which feature fabulous displays of colourful perennials, herbaceous borders and of course the Rhododendrons that the area is famous for. Time to visit Len Lye Gallery, the incredible Tawhiti Museum and travel home via the Forgotten Highway with lunch at the Whangamomona Hotel before overnight in Taumarunui and return to the Lake. Visit the renowned Hamilton Gardens before returning to Auckland. Including all breakfasts and dinners, quality coach.

Tasmanian Tempter
13 Days – Departs 10 March 2027
From $8999pp share twin

Fly direct from Auckland to Hobart (3 nights). Sights Tasman Bridge, Battery Point, Salamanca Place, Port Arthur Convict Settlement. Visit Mount Nelson Signal Station, historic village of Richmond, Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary where we see wombats and Tasmanian Devils. Travel to picturesque Coles Bay & Freycinet National Park with its jagged pink granite peaks and crystal clear waters to Scamader. Legerwood War Memorial tree carvings. Launceston (2 nights) including a cruise Cataract Gorge & Beaconsfield Gold Mine. Cheese tasting, chocolate tasting & guided tour & tasting at Heliyers Road Distillery. Stanley (2 nights). Visit Woolnorth Farm on the far northwest tip of Tasmania, Stanley Nut, the little penguins of Stanley. Visit Cradle Mountain National Park then to the historic mining town of Queenstown (2 nights). Cruise Gordon River into the heart of Tasmania's wilderness, Hell's Gate, Strahan. Iconic Russell Falls and back to Hobart for overnight. Including return airfares from Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch, quality accommodation and touring coach. All breakfasts and dinners with several lunches, all entrances and sights mentioned. Experienced tour manager from New Zealand.

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Twilight Travel & Tours

Taranaki Garden Festival
Experience Taranaki's spring garden festival on a relaxed coach tour. Discover stunning private gardens and enjoy the beauty of the region in full bloom.

Host Tour includes Pukeiti, Pukekura Park and Hamilton Gardens.

5 days - 2 November 2026
From $2775pp

Wild West Coast
Discover the moody, rugged West Coast—wild, dramatic and endlessly beautiful. Southern Alps, rainforests, glaciers, Hokitika Gorge, and the rare kōtuku (white heron).

Join us on an unforgettable journey of the spectacular West Coast.

11 days - 4 December 2026
From $6370pp

Taranaki Festival of Lights
Welcome the New Year at the Taranaki Festival of Lights. Enjoy a relaxed coach tour with gardens, coastal scenery, and a magical evening in Pukekura Park.

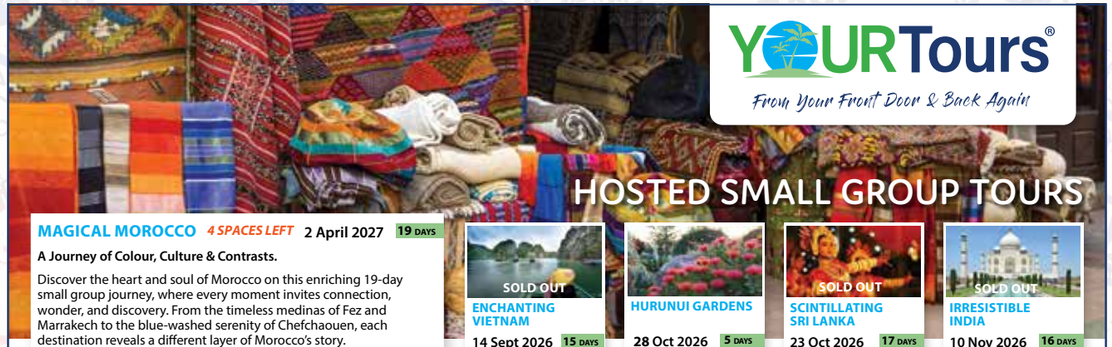
Join us on a hosted festive escape to welcome the year ahead.

5 days - 30 December 2026
From $2775pp

Let the Scenery Unravel with Twilight Travel

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HOSTED SMALL GROUP TOURS

MAGICAL MOROCCO *4 SPACES LEFT* 2 April 2027 19 DAYS

A Journey of Colour, Culture & Contrasts.

Discover the heart and soul of Morocco on this enriching 19-day small group journey, where every moment invites connection, wonder, and discovery. From the timeless medinas of Fez and Marrakech to the blue-washed serenity of Chefchaouen, each destination reveals a different layer of Morocco's story.

Travel comfortably by high-speed train and stay in beautiful boutique accommodation, while immersing yourself in authentic local experiences, from hands-on cooking classes to guided walks through bustling souks. Venture into the Sahara for a sunset camel ride across golden dunes, before spending a magical night under the stars in a luxury desert camp, surrounded by music, warmth, and tradition.

Wander the coastal charm of Essaouira, take in the grandeur of Casablanca's Hassan II Mosque, and enjoy the ease of a fully hosted journey designed with care and thoughtful pacing throughout.

More than a holiday, it's a journey into the spirit of Morocco, where every encounter, flavour, and landscape leaves a lasting impression.

Our guests join us for our tours from all corners of New Zealand and you can be rest assured your tour host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours team members, ensuring everything is looked after from start to finish, allowing you to relax and just enjoy your holiday.

ENCHANTING VIETNAM
14 Sept 2026 15 DAYS

HURUNUI GARDENS
28 Oct 2026 5 DAYS

SCINTILLATING SRI LANKA
23 Oct 2026 17 DAYS

IRRESISTIBLE INDIA
10 Nov 2026 16 DAYS



FLY-IN: KAPITI TO MOLESWORTH
26 Nov 2026 4 DAYS



JAPAN IN BLOOM HOSTED CRUISE
18 Apr 2026 12 DAYS



THE THREE STANS
14 May 2027 14 DAYS



TASTE OF CAMBODIA & VIETNAM
14 Aug 2027 18 DAYS



GRAND SOUTH AMERICA TOUR
19 Aug 2027 36 DAYS



SAUDI ARABIA DISCOVERY
20 Oct 2027 18 DAYS



EXOTIC MARIGOLD INDIA
04 Nov 2027 16 DAYS



NORTHERN LIGHTS CRUISE & TOUR
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‘History through the Heartland’

THERE IS SOMETHING uniquely special about seeing New Zealand by rail. Away from the rush of the highway, the journey becomes just as memorable as the destination, offering a chance to slow down, take in the landscape and experience places from an entirely different perspective.

In February 2027, Steam Incorporated’s **History Through the Heartland** returns for a second year, offering a carefully curated 12-day journey through some of the North Island’s most fascinating regions.

Departing Wellington, the tour combines **five days of heritage train travel** with premium accommodation, selected dining experiences and coach transfers, creating an easy and comfortable way to explore.

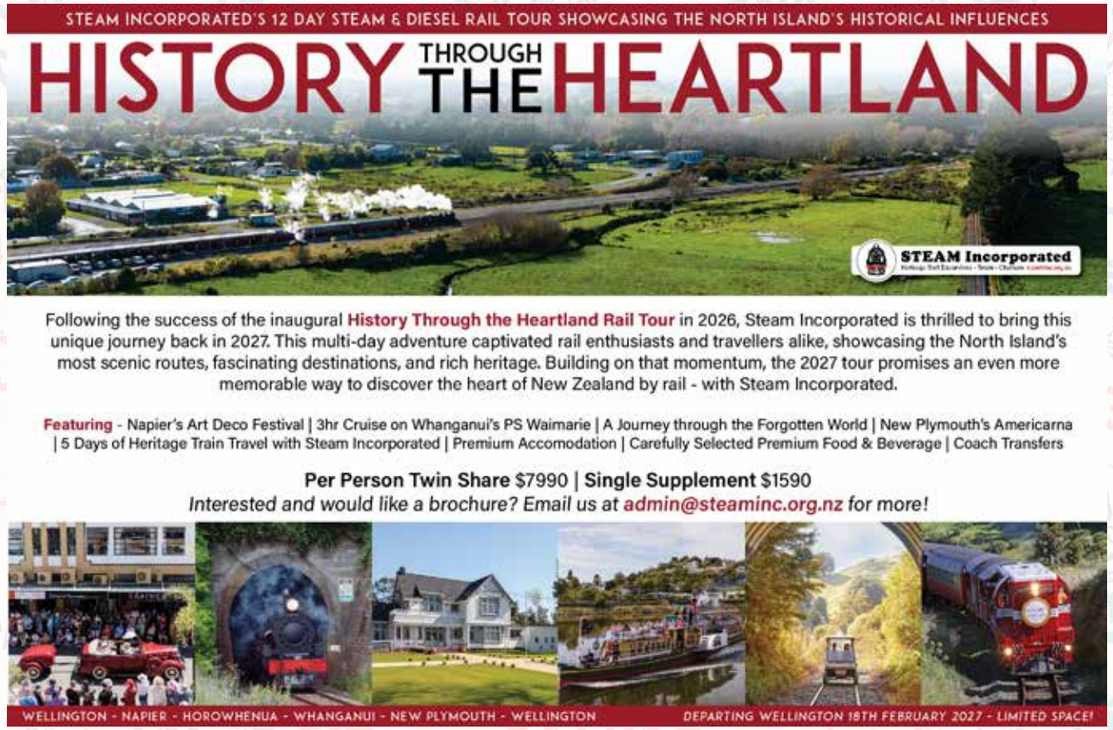


Along the way, guests will experience the colour and elegance of **Napier’s Art Deco Festival**, cruise the Whanganui River aboard the historic **PS *Waimarie***, venture into the remarkable **Forgotten World**, and finish amongst the chrome, colour and atmosphere of **Americarna in New Plymouth**.

Following the success of the inaugural tour in 2026, the 2027 journey builds on an experience enjoyed by rail enthusiasts and travellers alike.

It is more than simply a train trip. It is 12 days of history, scenery, good company and memorable experiences – all woven together by rail.

History Through the Heartland departs Wellington on 18 February 2027, with limited space available. ■



The Rockies by rail

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER offers an unforgettable way to explore the Canadian Rockies.

Travelling during daylight hours, you are invited to slow down and immerse yourself in landscapes often inaccessible by road. Snow-capped mountain peaks, emerald forests, rushing rivers, dramatic canyons, and crystal-clear lakes unfold outside your window.



Along the way, hosts bring the landscapes to life through their stories and local insights, while onboard dining showcases fresh local ingredients and flavours.

Guests can choose between two service levels. SilverLeaf offers oversized windows that maximize views, reclining seats, and gourmet meals served directly at your seat. GoldLeaf elevates the experience, its spacious bi-level glass-dome coaches allowing panoramic views from the upper level and refined dining in an exclusive lower-level restaurant. An outdoor viewing platform completes the picture.

A range of routes take you through dramatic mountain passes, alongside glacier-fed rivers, over historic bridges, and through landscapes rich with wildlife – sightings of bears, elk and bald eagles are reminders that this is a true wilderness region.

What makes Rocky Mountaineer truly special is that it transforms travel from a means of getting somewhere into a meaningful experience in itself, creating memories that remain long after the journey has ended.

Contact your travel agent, or World Journeys, on 0800 117311 www.worldjourneys.co.nz ■

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

Travel by luxury train through the Canadian Rockies & explore further by coach.



First Passage to the West Discovery

9 days Vancouver to Calgary

2 days onboard and 8 hotel nights. Includes Kamloops, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary. The most popular and most historic route for Rocky Mountaineer.

Journey through the Clouds Grand Adventure

11 days Vancouver to Calgary

2 days onboard and 10 hotel nights. Includes Kamloops, Jasper, Jasper National Park, the Icefields Parkway, Columbia Icefield, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary.

Contact World Journeys or your travel agent for details

0800 11 73 11 www.worldjourneys.co.nz

world. JOURNEYS

The luxury of time

IN TODAY'S fast-paced world, true luxury isn't found in five-star hotels or international bucket-list destinations. It's found in having the time to slow down, breathe deeply, and fully immerse yourself in a place.

Nowhere is this more rewarding than in Fiordland.



Aboard the *Fiordland Jewel*, our six- and nine-night wilderness cruises offer something increasingly rare: the opportunity to experience one of New Zealand's most spectacular regions without feeling rushed. Rather than passing through for a few hours, you'll have days to explore hidden fiords, tranquil coves and remote coastlines that few visitors ever see.

Each day unfolds at nature's pace. Wake to the mist drifting across towering mountains, watch waterfalls appear after the rain, and spend quiet evenings anchored beneath some of the most incredible night skies in the Southern Hemisphere. Wildlife encounters are part of the journey too, with opportunities to spot dolphins, seals and native birdlife in their natural habitat.

With a small number of guests onboard and an experienced crew guiding the way, every voyage feels personal, relaxed and immersive. There is time to absorb the ever-changing scenery, share stories with fellow travellers, and simply enjoy being present in a remarkable wilderness.

Whether you choose six nights or nine, a Fiordland Discovery voyage is more than a holiday. It is a chance to reconnect with nature, embrace the luxury of time, and discover Fiordland as it was meant to be experienced. ■



There is more to the Molesworth than a road

AT 180,787 HECTARES, Molesworth Station is New Zealand's largest high country station, larger than Stewart Island. For part of the year, it's accessible only via the famous Molesworth Road, a spectacular backcountry route that winds through vast valleys, braided rivers and rugged mountain ranges.

Many travellers proudly say they've "done the Molesworth" after driving from one end to the other in a day. While the scenery is unforgettable, **we believe the journey is about far more than the drive itself**.

People have travelled through this landscape for centuries. Early Māori established routes through the Molesworth, later used by Ngāi Tahu for food gathering and travel between the east and west coasts. The area also has a rich pastoral history of early sheep stations, musterers and generations of hardy farming families who adapted to life in one of New Zealand's most remote environments.



It's a place best understood through the people who know it best.

At Driftwood Tours, we've spent years building relationships with local farming families and guides. Rather than simply passing through, our guests stay in the high country beside Molesworth Station, share home-cooked meals, explore working stations, hear local stories and visit places rarely seen by independent travellers.

This season we're offering three different ways to experience this extraordinary region: a scenic fly-in adventure from Kāpiti, our popular Molesworth & Rainbow High Country Tour, or the unique St James Wild Horse Sale Tour.

The Molesworth isn't just somewhere you drive through. It's somewhere you experience. ■



Discover the Spirit of the Antipodes – discover New Zealand by rail



THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL about seeing your own country from the railway – and the **Spirit of the Antipodes** offers a journey through the North Island that few New Zealanders will ever experience.

This fully escorted 11-day adventure combines travel aboard the Glenbrook Vintage Railway's private heritage train with spectacular scenery, fascinating history, quality accommodation and carefully selected experiences.

Beginning in Auckland and the Waikato, journey to Rotorua before continuing through the Bay of Plenty and aboard our private train through the **8.9km Kaimai Tunnel**. From there, we head into the heart of the North Island, travelling through landscapes and along railway routes that simply can't be experienced from the road.

Explore **Taranaki and Whanganui**, including a cruise aboard the historic coal-fired paddle steamer PS *Waimarie*, before our train takes us through the spectacular **rail-only Manawatū Gorge** and onwards to Hawke's Bay.

Spend three nights in **Art Deco Napier**, discovering its remarkable architecture, visiting the famous Cape Kidnappers gannet colony and enjoying the flavours of one of New Zealand's great wine regions.

For those completing the journey back to Auckland, **steam locomotive Ab 608 takes over across the Central Plateau and around the legendary Raurimu Spiral**. Experience the sights and sounds of steam as we tackle steep grades, historic viaducts and some of New Zealand's finest railway engineering.

But the Spirit of the Antipodes is about more than trains. It's about the places we visit, the people we meet and the stories behind them. Throughout the journey, our **passionate GVR team and volunteers** provide the warm hospitality, knowledge and personal touches that make our tours different.

With groups limited to **no more than 35 guests**, there's plenty of room aboard the train to spread out and enjoy the journey. Accommodation, rail travel, touring, transfers, most meals and listed excursions are arranged for you.



Explore further with GVR

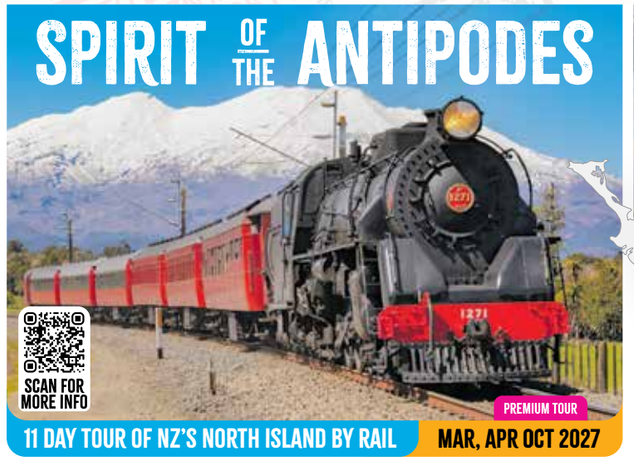
Our adventures don't stop at the New Zealand coastline.

Join us in **Tasmania**, travelling by **rail, river and road – from the wild to the refined**. Discover historic railways, spectacular wilderness, waterways, heritage towns and remarkable landscapes.

Or experience **North Queensland**, with journeys aboard the legendary **Savannahlander**, **Gulflander** and **Kuranda Scenic Railway**, alongside tropical rainforests, the Gulf Savannah, spectacular gorges and remote outback communities.

Whether at home or across the Tasman, expect small groups, carefully planned itineraries, fascinating destinations and the warm, personal hospitality of GVR.

Discover the Spirit of the Antipodes. Discover New Zealand. Then explore further with GVR. https://www.gvr.org.nz/tours ■



Travel by private steam and heritage diesel hauled train around New Zealand's North Island.

Experience the North Island aboard the Spirit of the Antipodes, a fully escorted rail journey showcasing spectacular scenery, fascinating heritage and some of New Zealand's most iconic destinations. From steam over the legendary Raurimu Spiral to volcanic landscapes, wine country and Art Deco Napier, discover New Zealand in a way few visitors ever experience.

Highlights include:

- *Auckland/Waikato to Rotorua*
- *Tauranga to Ohakune by train*
- *New Plymouth & Taranaki Garden Fest.*
- *Manawatu Gorge & Hawkes Bay*
- *Winery, Cape Kidnappers Gannets & Art Deco Tour*
- *Raurimu Spiral by Steam*

3 day pre-tour exploration of Auckland and Pre/Post Tour options available.

Fully escorted small group touring. Limited spaces remain.









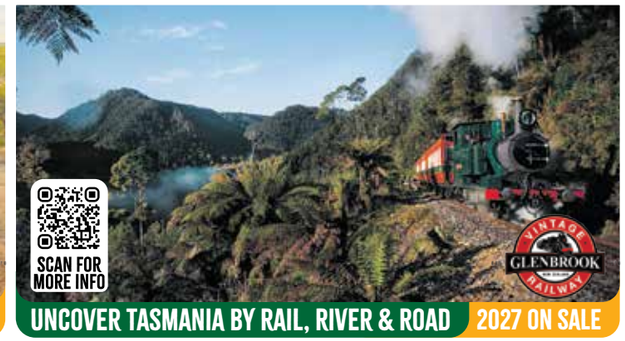












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Spirit of the Antipodes - 11 day North Island Rail Tour and Overseas Rail Tours are proudly operated by The Glenbrook Vintage Railway Charitable Trust Board. Tours, packages and fares all have terms and conditions, inclusions and exclusions which can be found on our website - www.gvr.org.nz

Exploring New Zealand since 1968

AT KIRRA TOURS, we believe travel should be effortless, enriching and extraordinary. For over 50 years, we've been curating premium small-group coach tours across New Zealand, designed for travellers over 50 who want to see the best of Aotearoa without the hassle of planning it themselves.

Every itinerary is expertly crafted by passionate local experts, taking you beyond the guidebooks to iconic landmarks and quiet corners known only to locals. You'll stay in hand-selected hotels with premium room types, travel in modern, spacious coaches, and be guided by experienced tour leaders who bring New Zealand's landscapes, culture and history to life.



"Our 17-day tour of New Zealand was truly the holiday of a lifetime. The highlight was our incredible tour guide, Corinne Watson, who was the jewel in the crown of this unforgettable experience." – Keith, AU

From award-winning wineries to hidden culinary gems, fresh and locally inspired meals are woven through every journey, alongside meaningful cultural experiences that connect you to tangata whenua, the land and its people.

Whether it's your first time in New Zealand or your fifth, travelling with Kirra means relaxed, well looked after adventure. Choose from tours ranging 7 to 17 days, or let us customise a private journey.

With decades of experience and a reputation for outstanding service, we're proud to offer fully guided tours that are as seamless as they are spectacular.

Visit www.kirratours.co.nz to book. ■



Read some of our recent reviews:

"We have had the most wonderful trip, culturally, geographically and socially. Couldn't have asked for a better guide; they were there every step of the way. All in all, the Kirra tour was enjoyable and memorable."
- Clare, AU

"We would recommend Kirra Tours most highly. So much was packed into this tour, we cannot wait to go back!"
- Kerrie, AU

KIRRA TOURS

Why the Chathams are worth a visit

OFTEN THE LAST destination heard on the news' weather report, the Chatham Islands are just a two-hour 25-minute flight from Auckland – close to home, but worlds apart!

Pukekohe Travel Director Craig Boyt says a visit is an amazing experience if you love rugged beauty. "It's the way rural New Zealand used to be. Expect locals to wave and say hello, fishing akin to Granddad's stories, rugged landscapes, white sandy beaches and seafood to die for!"

Pukekohe Travel has run escorted tours to the Chathams for over 20 years, and Craig has personally escorted five trips. "Many attractions sit on private land, and the island's basic infrastructure makes an escorted tour the only way to experience it properly. You'll explore without the hassle of a wrong turn or a 'gone fishing' sign on the gate – an experienced guide is essential.

"Each day is dictated by the weather, so no two trips are the same. There's time to walk, chat, take photos, fish, visit Pitt Island, and enjoy a home-cooked BBQ."

Craig's top five reasons to book a tour to the Chatham Islands:

- Daily guided tours with access to private-land highlights
- Hassle-free, all-inclusive experience
- Fresh crayfish dinners
- Warm local hospitality
- Waterfront accommodation with all meals included.

Pukekohe Travel offers escorted tours to the Chathams each spring and summer. These tours are popular and book out fast – contact our experienced team today. ■



Craig Boyt, Pukekohe Travel Director. Craig has worked in travel for 37 years and is close to visiting 100 countries. With fellow director Damian O'Connor, he leads a local team of 17 specialising in escorted tours and family travel.



The Auckland Town Hall NZSO Radiance Concert



WE WERE SO looking forward to this trip; no driving, Passengers were picked up by a door-to-door service and transferred to Tauriko to board the new coach, with two additional passengers picked up along the way.

Andy Sommervile, Managing Director of No.8 Tours, accompanied us and was in full flight with his interesting commentary and good humour. As we sped along the highway towards Auckland, no driving, no parking worries, door-to-door service to the hotel, cafes and our evening venue, and back to the hotel.

It was wonderful to be in the Grand Hall of the Town Hall, experiencing the ambience of yesteryear. It was so in keeping with the opera that we were about to enjoy.

The voice of the tenor, Simon O'Neill, was powerful, dramatic and perfect, and under the baton of conductor Pietari Inkinen, the orchestra was a flawless rendition of this very intricate opera. The whole performance was amazing and prompted a well deserve standing ovation; "Bravo" with clapping resounding throughout the hall.

Next morning, after a hearty buffet breakfast, an omelette for me, we were dropped off at the Auckland Viaduct. After a lunch break and with plenty of free time ahead, I decided to walk further along, Colin stayed put, to enjoy the seascape and survey the many yachts; being an ex-yachty himself. I walked over the pedestrian, cycling bridge, Wynyard crossing, that connects Viaduct Harbour and the restaurants. Plenty of choices here to satisfy any foodie and gourmet.

No.8 Tours are an affordable option comparing tour companies with similar itineraries. We highly recommend No.8 Tours for their customer service, professionalism and flawless planning of the journeys they offer nationally and internationally. They are very well informed about the areas that they visit, and promote. They share information as a commentary throughout the journey.

– Joan Gestro ■



Bring more natural light into your home



See the difference natural light can make: a Solatube skylight transforms a once-dark bathroom into a bright, welcoming space.

MANY KIWI HOMES have rooms that don't see enough daylight, creating gloomy corners and shadowy spaces. It's time to stop hiding in the dark and let the light in. With Solatube, you can transform your home with the pure, natural brilliance of the sun.

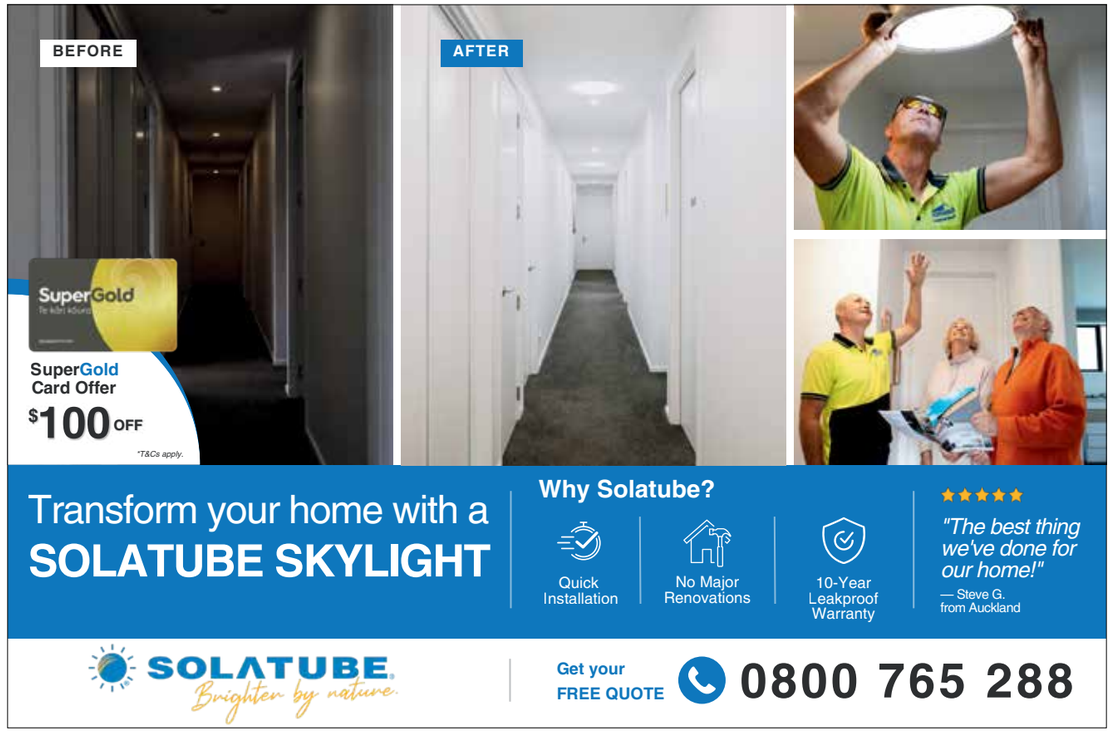
Solatube skylights are the ultimate solution for brightening any room. Their innovative design captures sunlight from a rooftop dome and channels it down through a highly reflective tube, illuminating even the most light-starved areas of your home.

Unlike traditional skylights, a Solatube can be installed in just a few hours and doesn't require the major structural changes often associated with other solutions. Our nationwide network of certified licensees ensures a high-quality installation. Plus, every Solatube skylight comes with a 10-year Leakproof Guarantee.

This energy-efficient system floods your interiors with beautiful, natural light, creating a more inviting atmosphere throughout the day.

Experience brighter living and see how a Solatube skylight can enhance the unique character of your home, whether it's a modern build or a classic villa. These versatile skylights bring life to dim kitchens, hallways and bathrooms, improving both the look and feel of your living spaces.

Ready to see the difference natural light can make? Visit solatube.co.nz or call 0800 765 288 to arrange your free, no-obligation quote. ■



Two million new fans!

Little known Kiwi shines at Shenzhen flower show.

AUCKLANDER JULES MOORE'S ocean-themed display has attracted 2.1 million visitors at Shenzhen Greater Bay Area Flower Show, earning a gold medal and Best Feature Garden recognition among other global masters

The design features kina made from bamboo and beads, a platter of oysters crafted from plaster and chicken wire, and huge shell and bamboo centrepiece

One of our most lauded and awarded landscape artists, Jules has designed gardens and installations for 45 years. She was one of just seven global masters selected for the competition.

Jules, who owns JM Landscape Design and Touch of the Tropics Garden Centre in Auckland's Whenuapai, was invited to represent New Zealand at the expo after submitting a portfolio of previous gold medal wins spanning her 45-year career.

"Ocean's Edge" is reminiscent of the New Zealand coastline and the bounty that comes from the sea, says Jules. "We have such a profound connection to the coast, and I think every New Zealander is touched by it in some way – walking along the beach, building sandcastles, fishing





off the rocks, or going yachting, surfing or swimming."

Collaborating with co-designer and daughter Alayna Bradbury and son James Moore, along with her colleague Ru Zhang who accompanied her to China, Jules brought to life a seaside scene featuring the legend of Maui – represented by a galvanised steel hook, paua slab steepers and some 2,500 plants surrounding a mammoth conch shell centrepiece.

"I chose a conch because of its spiral interior, symbolising the connection between the sea and the inner ear, and the way we listen to the ocean through a shell."

The 160 square metre design, assembled on-site in Shenzhen, features hundreds of purple flax, lupins and succulents, all sourced in China to represent the colours of the Kiwi coast.

Maui's hook was transported through customs then welded onsite by Chinese craftspeople – and New Zealand's stunning waves were represented using an elaborate curved pipe and water system, recycled blue glass and tiny white pebbles.

"It's definitely brought some challenges," says Jules of the construction of her piece. "It's interesting to communicate my exact vision and design in a short build timeframe. When creating my kina, we had to make a last minute trip to a haberdashery store for the right type of decorative beads, then thread them with wire to create the stunning look we were ultimately after."

An oyster platter was sculpted from scratch with Jules' fingers deep in plaster, twisting and reshaping chicken wire until they were perfect, handpainting and finishing with pearls.

"Oysters are both a cornerstone of New Zealand's coastal identity and a prized delicacy in Chinese cuisine. The platter pays tribute to the closeness of our two countries, particularly around our trade ties."

The panel of judges from across China was particularly impressed with the garden's soundtrack, recorded using both traditional Māori and Chinese instruments, along with whale song and vocals by Jules and her son. They also commented on the garden's paua fingerprint motif, which Jules included as a way of referencing human connection to nature. "Kiwis are particularly passionate about their environment – we might leave our footprints on the sand but we also leave our fingerprints in nature."

The exhibition, which took place through March 2026, featured designers from England, the United States, China and South Africa. "It's a highly competitive international field so I'm very proud of my win," says Jules, who has enjoyed a distinguished international career,



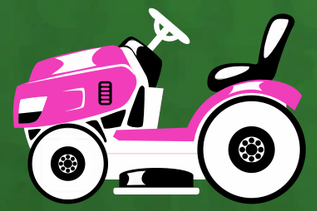
taking gold for New Zealand in Singapore in 2024.

The designer also took out Supreme Winner at the 2018 New Zealand International Flower and Garden Show, and a gold and People's Choice awards at the Ellerslie Flower Show in 2005 and 2007. But Jules says she's not a household name in New Zealand. "I think only people in specific garden circles would know me, although I'm definitely gaining a lot of attention in Asia."

Jules has since travelled home to New Zealand but is already fielding enquiries about a return to China. "The garden is being disassembled now for relocation, but there are murmurs that Ocean's Edge will be given a second life in coming months." ■



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New Zealand garden events

Here is a regional breakdown of the confirmed dates and events for the latter part of the year.

NORTHLAND & AUCKLAND

Sculpture Northland (Whangārei): 2–8 November 2026
Garden Artisan
Held in the subtropical Whangārei Quarry Gardens, showcasing Northland artists alongside stunning plantings.

New World Kerikeri Rotary Garden Safari: 31 October – 1 November 2026
Garden Artisan
A weekend exploring private subtropical landscapes in the Far North.

Waiheke Garden Festival (Auckland): 7–8 November 2026
Go Gardening
An exclusive look into some of Waiheke Island's most beautiful private coastal and boutique gardens.

Mangawhai Garden Ramble: Expected November 2026 (Dates TBC)
Garden Artisan
A local fundraiser featuring unique coastal and country gardens.

BAY OF PLENTY & WAIKATO

Bay of Plenty Garden & Art Festival: 19–22 November 2026
Go Gardening
A massive four-day event featuring over 60 gardens and 100+ artists across Tauranga, Mt Maunganui, and the Western Bay, centered around the "Bloom in the Bay" festival hub.
Garden Artisan

TARANAKI & MANAWATŪ-WHANGANUI

Centuria Taranaki Garden Festival: 30 October – 8 November 2026
New Zealand Garden Trust
One of NZ's flagship garden events, celebrating its 39th year with an extensive lineup of world-class private and public gardens, workshops, and events.

Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival: 30 October – 8 November 2026
Garden Artisan
Running concurrently with the Centuria festival, this features 40+ unashamedly "real, honest, and achievable" private gardens.

Taranaki Sustainable Trails: 30 October – 8 November 2026
Garden Artisan
A dedicated trail highlighting eco-friendly backyards, productive food forests, and organic growing practices.

Manawatū Gardens Festival: 18–22 November 2026
Garden Artisan
Showcasing the region's best properties alongside a classic country fair.

New Zealand Garden Trust Cross Hills Garden Country Fair (Kimbolton): 21 November 2026
Go Gardening
Set within the famous 18-acre Cross Hills rhododendron gardens, featuring hundreds of creators, growers, and artists.

Art in the Garden (Whanganui): 28–29 November 2026
Garden Artisan
Hosted by the Whanganui Potters' Studio, combining beautiful garden walks with local pottery and art stalls.

WAIRARAPA

Wairarapa Garden Tour: 21–22 November 2026
Garden Artisan
A self-drive weekend featuring 14 distinct regional gardens, running as a major fundraiser for the Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre.
Go Gardening

SOUTH ISLAND

Hurunui Garden Festival (North Canterbury): 29 October – 1 November 2026
Go Gardening
Discover private gardens, historic homesteads, and local artists from Amberley to Hanmer Springs.

Garden Artisan Garden Marlborough (Blenheim): 5–8 November 2026
Garden Artisan
New Zealand's premier garden event, renowned for its incredible workshops, international guest speakers, and curated tours of Marlborough's best landscapes.

Motueka Garden Trail: Expected November 2026 (Dates TBC)
Garden Artisan
The annual local toy library fundraiser trail showcasing Tasman district gems. ■



Planting the seeds of wellness

Lifestream connects with Waitakere Garden Retirement Village.

FOR MORE THAN 45 YEARS, Lifestream has been part of New Zealand's wellness journey, championing the power of plants and helping Kiwis make simple, natural choices to support their health. On Wednesday 5 August, that journey took us through the doors of Waitakere Gardens Retirement Village for a special morning dedicated to education, connection and plant-based wellness.

The idea behind the visit was simple: to share practical knowledge about how plant-based nutrition and supplementation can support wellbeing as we age. More than that, it was an opportunity to connect directly with an older generation, answer their questions and make wellness feel approachable and relevant to everyday life.

We kicked off the event by welcoming residents with samples of Lifestream Spirulina Blue. It was a great way for guests to experience the products first hand while learning more about how targeted nutrition can support everyday vitality. Residents were also given our Lifestream barley latte on arrival.

The heart of the event was an educational session led by our guest naturopath, Katrina Browne, who took residents through five key products: Probiotics 14 Strains, Digestive Enzymes, Circulate 5 Herbs, Calcium Natural and Spirulina Certified Organic. Rather than simply talking about products, Katrina focused on practical ways residents could support their overall wellbeing and shared her top tips for staying well through winter.

The session quickly became a conversation, with residents asking questions and engaging with Katrina's advice. That personal connection was one of the highlights of the visit. Wellness information can sometimes feel complicated, but having the opportunity to speak directly with a naturopath helped make it accessible, useful and relevant to the people in the room.

To finish the morning, we returned to where Lifestream's philosophy begins: plants. We gifted herbs and vegetables to Waitakere Village for residents to grow and enjoy together. It was a small gesture, but one that captured the spirit of the day – nurturing wellbeing, encouraging connection and celebrating the power of nature. Residents were also invited to enter a raffle at the end of our speaking session, adding a little extra fun to what had already been an excellent and insightful morning.





(Top) Guests trying Lifestream barley grass latte, and (above) enjoying the free plant giveaway.

Our visit to Waitakere Village was about much more than supplements. It was about sharing knowledge across generations and creating meaningful conversations around what it means to stay well as we grow older.

After more than four decades of supporting New Zealanders, experiences like this remind us why connecting with our communities matters. We look forward to continuing to share the power of plant-based wellness with Kiwis of every generation - one conversation, one connection and, sometimes, one plant at a time. ■



Naturopath Katrina educating guests.



Life's too short for a cabinet full of supplements

WE ALL WANT our retirement years to be filled with the things that bring us joy – tending the garden, travelling around New Zealand, or chasing after energetic grandchildren. But as the years add up, so does the morning ritual of shaking out half a dozen different supplement bottles: one for heart health, one for stiff joints, another for energy, and one for eye health.



It is expensive, confusing, and frankly, a chore.

That frustration is exactly why Lester's Oil was created. Rather than asking you to manage a daily shelf of separate capsules, Lester's Oil combines six key, science-backed nutrients into a single daily routine.

At its core is high-potency Omega-3 fish oil for heart, blood pressure, and joint support. But unlike standard fish oils, Lester's Oil combines Omega-3 with five more complementary ingredients:

- Co-Enzyme Q10 for cellular energy production and daily vitality support.
- Astaxanthin & Vitamin D3 for joint comfort, mobility, and immune support.
- Lutein & Zeaxanthin to support eye health (including macular and retina health).

Instead of taking guesswork (and half a dozen pills) to the breakfast table, you get comprehensive support with Lester's Oil.

Crucially, Lester's Oil isn't 'just another fish oil'. It is backed by a human study which demonstrated a 59% increase in Omega-3 levels in just four weeks.

Healthy ageing nutrition shouldn't mean managing a cabinet full of bottles. By simplifying your daily routine with Lester's Oil, you can join thousands of New Zealanders who trust its science-backed formula to support their heart health, mobility and wellbeing as they age.

Always read the label and use as directed. If symptoms persist see your healthcare professional. About Health, Auckland. TAPS PP6209.





In her happy place

Peace of mind and proximity to family fills Colleen's cup.

BUPA RESIDENT COLLEEN says the decision to move to St Kilda Retirement Village was founded on a desire to be close to family, and the reassurance of a care home on site.

"My daughter Jacqui was building a home in Cambridge, and my other daughter Leanne was based in Australia – both thought it would be a nice move as my husband Rex is totally blind and we were mindful of needing additional care in the future."



"We came down from Auckland, and after meeting the village team and seeing the villa, my heart just knew – this is it," says Colleen. "From the day we arrived I've been in my happy place, we were both made to feel so welcome."

Sadly, after eight months living in their villa Rex had a stroke and needed to move into care. With a care home on site, it was just a four-minute walk for Colleen to visit Rex. "Being so close is wonderful – I walk over every evening and give Rex his dinner," she says.



"Our days here are full, with van outings, happy hour, morning teas and knitting group. I love my villa, and the upkeep is all done for us including the lawns and garden. I feel like I won Lotto living here – my life is blessed."

To find out more, visit bupa.co.nz ■

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At Bupa, we understand making the move to a retirement village or care home can feel a little daunting – and we're here to support you along the way.

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I TRAVELLED TO CHINA in 2007, loved the trip, saw and walked on the Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square, temples, and many palaces.

In 2007, I saw the way the Chinese lived and travelled every day, buses, trucks, cars, motor bikes and push bikes. On my visit to China 12 years later there appeared to be a scene of wealth and prosperity in the country never seen before: new upper-end vehicles everywhere, new motorways and hundreds of people on electric bikes … and no one sleeping on the streets anymore.

I saw two push bikes and hundreds of electric bikes while I was there. The economy had definitely changed.



We could see the future of transportation there: electric trucks, cars, passenger vehicles and bikes.

I saw no push bike stores but plenty of electric bike stores, competition was fierce.

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FFS! Fairness is not special treatment

MOST SENIORS are not asking for special treatment. They want to afford the basics, get care when they need it, live somewhere safe and suitable, and know they will be treated fairly when something goes wrong.

Older New Zealanders are not all the same. Some are financially comfortable; others depend on every dollar of NZ Super. Fairness means recognising those differences and ensuring the right support reaches the right people.

Fairness for Seniors (FFS) is a national, non-partisan campaign. Before the general election on 7 November 2026, we will ask every major political party three simple questions:



- How will seniors afford to live?
- How will seniors get the care they deserve, when they need it?
- How will vulnerable seniors be protected and treated fairly?

These questions cover everyday costs and housing; access to doctors, home support and aged care; and protection from scams, financial abuse, inaccessible banking, unfair contracts and delayed retirement-village repayments.

We will ask parties what they will do, how they will pay for it and when seniors can expect results. Their answers will be published so seniors and their families have the information they need to make an informed vote.

Before election day, seniors deserve clear answers – not slogans, sympathy or promises that disappear after the votes are counted.

Read the questions, compare the parties and have your say at fairnessforseniors.org.nz

And you thought FFS meant something else, right? ■



FFS!

FAIRNESS FOR SENIORS

Fairness For Seniors (FFS) is a non-partisan campaign that just wants some clear answers to basic questions. How will the political parties help seniors afford to live, get the care they deserve when they need it, and be protected and treated fairly?

You can read the full set of questions, see what the political parties are telling us, and have your say (and you thought FFS meant something else, right?).

fairnessforseniors.org.nz

Authorised by R.Idoine.

FAIRNESS FOR SENIORS

Probus Club News

Out and about with the Probus Community.

Behind the scenes at Dunedin's Civil Defence bunker



Fourteen members of Dunedin South Probus enjoyed a fascinating behind-the-scenes visit to the Otago Civil Defence and Emergency Management Centre in the basement of the Upper Moray Place car park. Hosted by DCC Chief Executive and Centre Controller Sandy Graham, members learned about Civil Defence responsibilities, emergency resources and how the City Council works with other agencies during emergencies.

The visit also covered flood mitigation, stormwater monitoring, and the region's key risks, including flooding, slips, storms, earthquakes, fire and rising sea levels. Members gained valuable insights into the importance of emergency preparedness and the systems in place to support the greater Dunedin community. The Club thanked Ms. Graham and her team for their time and hospitality, with Alf Wilson delivering a vote of thanks.

Probus goes around the world!

After retiring from paid employment about five years ago, Robin and her husband, Stuart, joined Blenheim Probus in New Zealand. They found a thriving club and many new friends, joining Club meetings, outings and monthly Coffee & Chat sessions. Robin also joined the committee as Secretary and is now in charge of the Club newsletter.

Robin also introduced her friend Pamela and her husband, Alan, to Probus after discovering they had a club on their doorstep in England.

Having grown up and worked in various African countries, they had retired to England and were adjusting to new ways of socialising. Robin sent Pamela the Probus link, and they joined, finding the members exceptionally welcoming. The English members were surprised and amused that the recommendation had come from the opposite side of the globe, proving that geography has no boundaries when it comes to Probus' values of "Fun ~ Friendship ~ Fellowship".



Otago Daily Times features Joan's 100th birthday

Dunedin South Ladies Probus celebrated a very special milestone when its eldest member, Joan Hardey, turned 100. The Committee marked the occasion in style, with balloons, birthday banners, decorated tables, morning tea, and a special birthday cake greeting member.



President Beryl presented Joan with a beautifully created garland and candle, along with a lovely corsage she had made and pinned to Joan's lapel. The celebration was also covered by the *Otago Daily Times*. Joan shared stories about her life and thanked everyone for the wonderful morning, saying, "I'll go home with a warm heart." It was a memorable celebration of an amazing lady.



A Mad Hatters Tea Party

A spirited group of Kaiapoi Combined Probus members embraced their inner eccentricity and arrived in a spectacular array of fantastical hats and creative outfits for their very own Mad Hatters Tea Party. Held at a charming lakeside property, the event had a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere, with plenty of activities and creative fun to keep everyone entertained and smiling.





After enjoying some time in the sunshine, members were welcomed inside with a glass of bubbles or punch before settling in for a magnificent afternoon tea of savouries, sandwiches, freshly baked scones with jam and cream, and an impressive array of sweet treats. Tea and coffee flowed throughout, and every member went home with a delightful party bag gift, making it a memorable afternoon for all.



The annual seven-day tour

Thirty-six Russley Probus members gathered in Invercargill for their annual seven-day tour of Southland, visiting Riverton, Gemstone Beach and the historic Clifden Suspension Bridge before taking in the beauty of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau. Highlights included a high-speed voyage across Lake Manapouri, a journey over Wilmot Pass to Doubtful Sound, and a cruise through the tranquil waters of the sound, with magnificent waterfalls and seal colonies along the way. The group also enjoyed glow worms, a bird sanctuary, the Fiordland Cinema and its spectacular Ata Whenua film, and the iconic Kingston Flyer vintage steam train. The tour continued with visits to the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre, Owaka Museum, Nugget Point Lighthouse, Purakaunui Falls and the Lost Gypsy Gallery. St Patrick's Day celebrations at Sandy's Café at Shag Point added to the fun, followed by visits to Matai Falls and Lake Wilkie before the final meal at Niagara Falls Café. It was a remarkable and memorable tour enjoyed by all.





A visit to the Waikanae Lagoons

Raumati Probus members walked around the Waikanae Lagoons, where they spotted a black swan with a fishhook in its mouth and reported it for swift removal.
A highlight was seeing several royal spoonbills perched high in the trees, with one coming down to provide a close-up view. The group's next outing is to Zealandia in Wellington, with everyone welcome to join.



Outing to the Thames Museum

Twenty Thames Probus members enjoyed an informative outing to the Thames Museum, where local historian Ted Egan and knowledgeable museum volunteers shared stories of the town's early days. Ted also showcased his beautifully crafted wooden models of historic Thames buildings, each featuring unique details and stories. Donated to the museum, the models will provide a wonderful legacy for future generations. The group then enjoyed lunch together at a local café, rounding off an interesting and enjoyable outing.

Bastille Day-inspired 30th anniversary

Feilding Makino Probus held its annual Mid-Winter Lunch at the Coach House Museum in Feilding, with eighty members attending. The event also celebrated the Club's 30th anniversary and, as it fell on Bastille Day, members were encouraged to dress in French attire, with plenty of berets, fake moustaches and red, white and blue on display. Members enjoyed a tasty lunch, and the Committee received many positive compliments on the celebration.





Positive growth

Turangi-Southern Lake Probus is experiencing a positive growth spurt, increasing its presence, profile and membership over the past 24 months as the Club recovers from the impact of COVID. Members, old and new, have enjoyed a variety of local speakers sharing insights into the talent, history, ecology, geography and culture of the Central Plateau, along with shared feasts, mystery dinners, impressive garden visits, movie afternoons and educational outings, including a visit to Timberline Racing Huskies.



Celebrating 25 years together

Hauraki Plains Probus celebrated its 25th anniversary with ninety guests attending, including members from Paeroa, Thames and Morrinsville Probus Clubs, as well as past PSPL Ambassador Sydney Shepherd and his wife, Jude. Guests enjoyed a sumptuous buffet lunch and live music from local musician Rangi, featuring songs from the 1970s. The Club is steadily growing back to its pre-Covid level and was delighted to induct six new members on the day. Secretary Jill reflected on some of the Club's highlights from the past 25 years, followed by President Joan inviting several foundation members to join her before cutting the commemorative birthday cake. Guests also enjoyed a raffle featuring three fantastic hampers. Joan thanked the caterers, Rangi and the Committee for their contributions, while representatives from Paeroa, Thames and Morrinsville Probus Clubs thanked Hauraki Plains Probus for a very enjoyable celebration. ■



Find Your Social Network

Looking to get more out of retirement?

Social engagement is important for everyone's well-being but is particularly important as we enter our later years and leave the security and structure of the workforce behind. Having an active social life provides both mental and physical health benefits, warding off loneliness and depression and increasing longevity. Probus Clubs offer a wonderful opportunity to reinvent retirement for those who have left their work lives but still crave engagement, purpose and companionship.

Social clubs like Probus provide a vibrant community of like-minded people who come together for fun and friendship . Probus promotes mental and emotional well-being by fostering a sense of belonging and purpose. The shared experiences and mutual support within Clubs help retirees navigate the significant life transition with confidence and enthusiasm.

Members meet monthly and stay active and involved through a wide variety of activities that meet individual needs. From coffee catchups and cinema groups to day trips, walking groups and overnight tours, Club activities are as varied as the more than 1,400 Probus Clubs themselves.

What they all have in common, however, is the opportunity to meet with fellow retirees regularly, to maintain healthy minds and active bodies, to expand interests, and to enjoy the fellowship of new friends.

So, if you are looking to turn your retirement into an adventure filled with learning, connection and growth, Probus offers a compelling path forward.



RETIRED OR SEMI - RETIRED?

Want to make friends with retirees in your community?

To find your local Club, scan the QR code, visit our website or call us:

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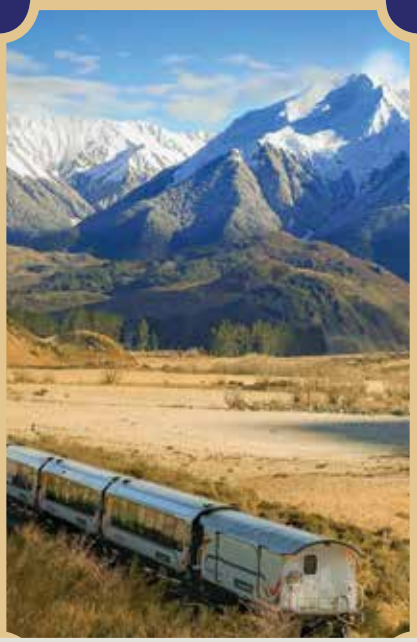
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23 Sep 2026 ***SOLD OUT!***
10 Oct SOLD OUT! 18 Nov SOLD OUT!
23 Nov ***EXTRA DATE!***
08 Feb 2027 SOLD OUT!
20 Feb ***EXTRA DATE!*** *6 Mar - 1* ***LEFT!***
29 Mar 14 ***LEFT!*** *26 Apr* ***HALF FULL!***

ALL DINNERS & COOKED BREAKFASTS

Highlights: TranzAlpine Train, Christchurch, Fox Glacier, Queenstown, TSS Earnslaw Cruise + Walter Peak Dinner, Arrowtown, Kingston Flyer Steam Train, Fiordland, Milford Sound Cruise, The Catlins, Dunedin, Olveston House, exclusive Larnach Castle Dinner, Oamaru historic precinct & vintage railway, Mt Cook



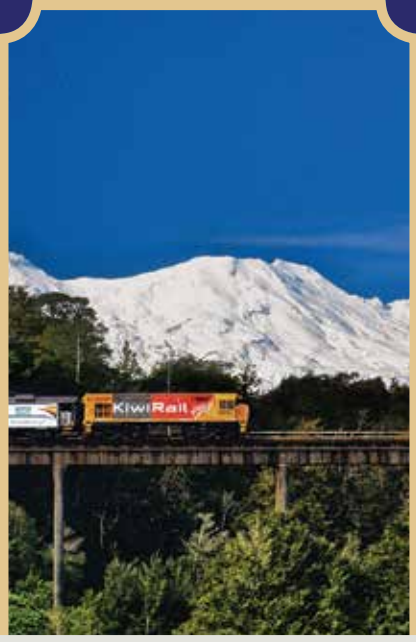
New Zealand Gold Rail Odyssey

17 days $9,500

19 Sep 2026 SOLD OUT! *07 Nov - 2* ***LEFT!***
11 Feb 2027 SOLD OUT!
16 Feb ***EXTRA DATE!***
04 Mar SOLD OUT! *11 Mar* ***EXTRA DATE!***
08 Apr 15 ***LEFT!***

ALL DINNERS & COOKED BREAKFASTS

Highlights: Hobbiton, Rotorua, Maori cultural dinner, Te Puia - geysers & boiling mud, Northern Explorer Train, Te Papa & Gallipoli Exhibit, Coastal Pacific Train, Christchurch, TranzAlpine Train, Fox Glacier, Queenstown, TSS Earnslaw Cruise + Walter Peak dinner, Arrowtown, Kingston Flyer Steam Train, Milford Sound cruise, The Catlins, Olveston House, exclusive Larnach Castle dinner, Oamaru historic precinct & vintage railway, Mt Cook



New Zealand Best of Rail

15 days $8,200

21 Sep 2026 SOLD OUT!
03 Oct SOLD OUT!
05 Nov - 1 ***LEFT!*** *14 Nov - 6* ***LEFT!***
04 Feb 2027 12 ***LEFT!*** ***04 Mar SOLD OUT!***
11 Mar ***EXTRA DATE!*** *05 Apr - 6* ***LEFT!***

ALL DINNERS & COOKED BREAKFASTS

Highlights: Northern Explorer Train, Te Papa & Gallipoli Exhibit, Coastal Pacific Train, Christchurch, TranzAlpine Train, Fox Glacier, Queenstown, Arrowtown, TSS Earnslaw Cruise + Walter Peak dinner, Kingston Flyer Steam Train, Fiordland, Milford Sound cruise, The Catlins, Olveston House, exclusive Larnach Castle dinner, Oamaru historic precinct & vintage railway, Mt Cook

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