

60s Up Tour South Report.

24th March – 7th April 2019

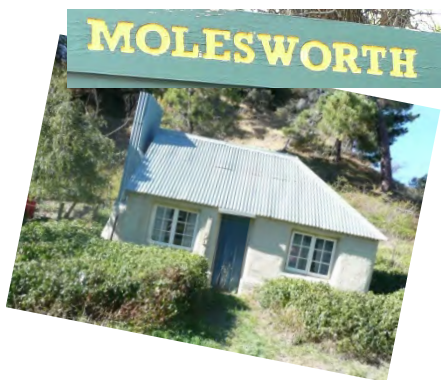
DAY 1: 7am there was a definite autumnness in the air as we loaded the Coach at 1 Beamish Street before heading to Gloucester House Motel for the remaining Hastings pickups. Arriving at Wellington Railway Station at 12 noon for the final pickup of 9 before boarding the Bluebridge Ferry for a very smooth crossing.



Our accommodation in Blenheim was shared between **Sundowner & Middle Park Motels** & all went smoothly. We enjoyed a buffet dinner at Clubs Marlborough to end our first day – (44 on board)



DAY 2: Those whose option was to go through Molesworth Station today were picked up by Ric at 8.30am for their day, meeting up with us at Hanmer Springs, while the rest of us bussed on around the long way.



First stop, lovely Lake Rotoiti & the giant mosquitos, onto Murchison for lunch & then a walk down to the Maruia Falls. On over Lewis Pass to our accommodation at **Drifters Inn & Alpine**



Lodge in Hanmer Springs. This was a handy position for those who spent time in the Hot Pools nearby. Own dinner.

DAY 3: An 8am start as we had a rather long day ahead. First stop was the Antarctic Centre for morning tea before going over the hill to Akaroa for lunch. A 1pm appointment at the Giants House for those who chose this option.

Something so very different, totally mosaic by the very talented artist Josie Martin, who has just been awarded the **'Garden of International Significance'** by the NZ Gardens Trust. From there to **Methven Resort** overnight. Dinner in.



DAY 4: First stop today was at Geraldine & Barkers to stock up on jams, pickles & sauces. Lunch at Tekapo before a photo stop at Dog Friday & the Historic Church of the Good Shepherd. Onto **Countrytime Hotel**, Omarama overnight. Dinner in.



DAY 5: A quieter & shorter day today. Morning tea at Old Cromwell Town



before heading to Fruitland & then a surprise for everyone on the bus - Highland Park

Raceway - a spin round the track in the bus before a finger food lunch & those who wished, had a look through the museum of vintage & classic cars/bikes – the men seemed to really enjoy this little venture. Onto overnight at **Harvest at the Gate Hotel** in Cromwell. Dinner in.



DAY 6: An 8am start for the first stop at St Bathans Historic Settlement & Blue Lakes before trying our hand Curling at Naseby. We had a lovely soup lunch at the

Historic Dansy Pass Hotel before motoring onto **Highway Lodge & Rosebank Motels** in Balclutha for the night. Dinner was at Rosebank.

DAY 7: A perfect day to travel around the Catlins. First stop Nugget Point Lighthouse, then torches ablaze we walked through the Southernmost Railway Tunnel before heading to Owaka & Tea Pot world. Disappointing as the Tea Pots all looked rather shabby & sad. Lunch was at Niagara Falls Café then Curio Bay & the Petrified Forest & the Southernmost Lighthouse at Fortrose before arriving early at our accommodation at **Homestead Villa**





DAY 9: Leaving Invercargill on another super sunny day we headed for Gore & parked right alongside the wall of Sargent Dan, The Creamota Man, before a cuppa & those who wanted headed for Hokonui Whisky Museum & a more in-depth history of 'The Creamota Man' in the same Museum.



probably not the best choice of Motel as they were refurbishing & most Units very tired looking. Dinner at the Galleon next door matched the overall gloom, but we were fed & shouldn't be so fussy. Some of us went off at dusk to watch the Little Blue Penguins come in from the ocean to their nests. We saw 23 penguins, 3 rabbits, an opossum & 3 fur seals.



DAY 11: First stop on another sunny day was at Riverstone, the home or Castle of the eccentric red head Dot Smith, who built her Castle, but the Council still not giving consent to live in it. Camp Mother persuaded her to come on the bus & give us a short talk after we had explored her buildings stocked to the rafters with every

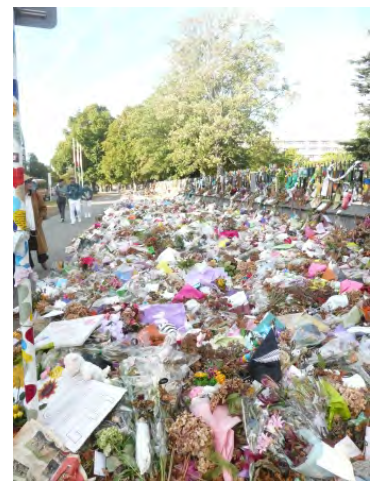


known thing brought in on her overseas travels. It is just impossible to see everything & when asked how she does the stocktaking she said *'we go down one side & up the other.'*

Later a short distance away was the Pleasant Point Railway, where we had a short ride on the Steam Train after watching a 'Road Runner' Movie, while others studied the old stationary trains in the workshop. After lunch at Teapot Cafe in Temuka we motored onto Christchurch to **Quality Hotel Elms** in Papanui Road, another 2 night stay. Dinner tonight was at the Papanui RSA.



DAY 12: Today half the group went on the Trans Alpine, Christchurch, Greymouth, Christchurch while another group headed to the first activity of the day - A Caterpillar Ride & commentary around the Botanical Gardens (the flowers for the Mosque tragedy were outside the gates here & took



up a whole block)

A short walk from here was the 'Punting on the Avon' nice & relaxing & a time to unwind, before we tackled the City Tram, where you could go round & round & get off or on where



ever you liked. Several got off & ventured into Ballantynes then used our Gold Card to catch the bus back to the Motel. Own dinner choice tonight & a lot went back to the RSA.





DAY 13: We started today in drizzly rain & much cooler, driving past the Mosque before heading north. Along the Coast of Kaikoura we checked out the baby seals at Ohau Point & was obvious all the way up the coast the work done & being done since the Earthquake.



We also managed to find Fyffe House, the piles here are made from Whale Bones. We checked into **Donegal House** to see snow on Mt Fyffea



roaring open fire greeted us at dinner & after dinner a band kept some of the hardy dancing to their tunes. A very happy night.

DAY 14: A 9 am start. Picton for lunch & a few photos before boarding the Bluebridge Ferry for a *very rough* crossing, several of our group were seasick but a very nice stewardess looked after them well with iced water & lots of TLC. A very slow crossing so late into



Wellington & nearing 7 pm before we checked into the **Angus Inn** in Lower Hutt, but they had a beautiful Buffet meal ready for us.



DAY 15: Having said goodbye to the last of the Wellington region members we motored over Haywards to the Police College Museum at Porirua. A most interesting place & will definitely go back again on a weekday for lunch with the recruits & a Police Dog Demonstration. We stopped at Levin for lunch & from there was nonstop home, unloading at 5pm. (3376 k travelled)

We announced in Picton that there would be another Tour down South in 2020 much to the delight of all on board.



☺ Molly Ballantyne
for Coral Atkins Tour
Organiser
14/04/2019

