Journey #14212 - Des Moines to Perth and Auckland

Daily Journal – Part 10

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| **Day 6 Itinerary** – We travel back to Christchurch via the McKenzie Country. We will see lakes Pukaki and Tekapo and view NZ’s tallest mountain, Mt Cook (12309 ft) if it is not covered in cloud. We will see a couple of dams and several canals, all part of an extensive hydro power generation system. The last almost 2 hours of our journey will be across the Canterbury Plains again.  Accommodation is at City Park Motel which is adjacent to a very good dining place. | | | | |
| **November 3 - Jean**  We gathered early today and left our Dunedin hotel after two nights. We followed the coastline north up to Oamaru. Outside Oamaru along the eastern shoreline we were able to see the Moeraki Boulders. These strange looking formations began forming millions of years ago when sedimentary particles and minerals aggregated around an organic nucleus such as a leaf, shell or fish bone and began slowly growing. There are approximately 50 boulders remaining with the largest weighing nearly 7 tons.  From Oamaru we proceeded into Mackenzie country. This is a sheep farming and resort area east of Mount Cook and the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers. Melt from these glaciers help fill several area lakes. Among these is Lake Tekapo. Beside this lake is the village of Lake Tekapo. The area is in one of the largest dark sky reserves on earth and home to Mt. John's Observatory. Unfortunately, it was closed during our visit there. It was a rainy day, but we were able to see Church of the Good Shepherd and the memorial to collie working dogs which are so valuable to the sheep industry.  Following Lake Takapo we made our way through the rest of Mackenzie country and on to Christchurch, where we settled into our hotel and met for dinner in a nearby restaurant. It was another full day on this amazing journey! | | | | |
| MoerakiBoulders.jpg |  | | |  |
| Moeraki Boulders | Moeraki Boulders | | | Sheep Dog memorial at Lake Tekapo |
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| Jane relaxing after lunch | | | Motel room in Christchurch | |
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| **Day 7 Itinerary** – We will have city sights for 1.5 / 2hrs plus a visit to the Antarctic Centre, if you wish. The Antarctic Centre would be out of pocket (approx. $41 USD).  If some of your group would prefer to go shopping or the Botanic Gardens or just wander the city centre, I can take them in and then pick them up at a pre-arranged time and place.  I will drop you off at the airport in plenty of time for your flight. | | | | |
| **November 4 - Jane**  Day 26, our last day in Christchurch before beginning the long journey home. We had a little time to wander through the Christchurch Botanical Garden.  I enjoyed that it was springtime in New Zealand and everything was blooming. There was a World Peace Bell in the garden that is made from coins from different countries and mixed with copper, so it gives the impression that world is one. This made me think of the connections we make through Friendship Force to become one. Soon it was time to head to the airport and the weary, but happy, travelers began the long journey home, bringing with us all our wonderful memories. | | | | |
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| Peace Bell | | Founded over 150 years ago, CBG is the green heart of the Garden City. | | Mary and Jean with one of the many magnificent trees at CBG |
| Christchurch Botanic Gardens | |  | | Inline image |
| Rose Garden at CBG | |  | | Waiting for our flight |