Journey #14212 - Des Moines to Perth and Auckland

Daily Journal – Part 4

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| 23rd October – Auckland Program  Two of our members will be at the airport with the shuttle driver. Shuttle transfer to Host Coordinator Margaret’s home for a welcome plus morning tea/brunch and to meet hosts. We then have a Maori Kapa Haka.  Group welcome at a local primary school. As everyone will be quite exhausted after their long flight, they will spend the remainder of the day in their local area sightseeing, maybe visiting a beach and settling in. | | | |
| **October 23 – Jean**  After a five-hour, overnight flight from Perth we arrived in Auckland bright and early. We were greeted by members of the Auckland - North Shore club with vans to take us to a welcome morning tea. After introductions and conversation, we left with our hosts to Manuka School to hear their Kapa Haka group sing.  Following an afternoon nap, we had dinner with our new hosts and settled into home. Dean and I enjoyed the view of the ocean from our hosts' deck! | | | |
| IMG_3103.jpg | |  | IMG_0009.jpg |
| Dancers | |  | Jean and Dean’s View |
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| 24th October – Auckland Program  We will travel to the West Coast beaches, visit a bird sanctuary, have a Welcome Lunch at a restaurant and a visit and tour of a vineyard. | | | |
| **October 24 – Mary**  We went to the West coast to day to visit the Gannet colony on Muriwai Beach. The Gannet birds come to this area every year to lay their egg. Each female bird only lays one egg a year. Both the mother and father take turns setting on the egg. There are thousands of them there during this time.  We also visited a black sand beach near the Gannet’s. Black sand is found where there has been volcanic ash.  We then went to lunch at Swanson RSA for a buffet lunch. It was very busy today. The wait was worth it as there was an extensive variety of food and the desserts were wonderful! Pavlova was of course served and it with some wonderful chocolate sauce was quit a hit.  We then went to Soljan’s Vineyard for talk on how they make their wines. They are in their third generation of family members working the winery. They grow many grapes but also purchase many high-quality grapes from around the area. They use all stainless-steel vats to make their wine. They use all steel vats to make the wine as they can control the temperature better.  The wine is stored in oak barrels. The barrels cost $1900NZ. Each barrel holds 30 bottles of wine.  In the evening several of us went to play Pub Quiz at a local tavern. We had 2 teams. One had several people that had played many times before. My team were all rookies. It was great fun the other team came 4th and we were in the middle of the 20 or so teams playing. We were proud that we did that good. | | | |
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| Soljan’s barrels | Gannet colony | | Gannet colony |
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