

International Relations Report May 2007

I'm pleased to be able to report yet another busy and very interesting year.

After having discussed, agreed and having International ratify us to allow Perth 41 Club to Affiliate with us Perth then were not sure and also wanted to retain their links with UK.

The end result is that Perth is now affiliated with both New Zealand and Great Britain, thereby getting the best of both worlds.

Starting in August we have hosted;

Marcus (born again "Easy Rider") & Carola Hildebrandt from Old Table 131, Wiesbaden, Germany and gave them a flying tour around the top of the South Island in the 4 days they were here.

An English couple we met in Tallin, Estonia while we were having a Medieval Banquet. They spent a month here and visited even more than I had suggested.

Dans & Darce from Club 41 Riga, Latvia; they started their tour in Auckland and worked their way down to us at the end of their 15 days of relaxing and fishing.

After delivering Dans & Darce to the airport we went back into Christchurch and picked up 2 Swedish girls, one of which was the sister of our host in Stockholm.

They had been backpacking around New Zealand for 6 weeks and were delighted to have some home life and pampering.

It's always a great pleasure to be able to help plan and host these people from overseas and of course the very things our aims and objects reflect.

Recently I have been rather absorbed in the process of setting up Consuls to vote for us at International Meetings. This was brought about by the fact that 3 candidates put their names forward for the International Secretary/Treasurer position and then started canvassing for votes.

Having spent a long time pouring over the remits in the Agenda for the AGM in Graz, the International Rules and proposed rules I with the consent of the National Executive have approached Michael Dalbo Pederson from Denmark and Peter Poech from Austria to be our Consuls and represent us.

We should have elected International Councillors at each of our AGM's but until now we really have had no great need to.

My only concern is that so much importance seems to be placed on rules and politics in 41 International for what is basically a friendship club.

Over the year I have been working with Peter Butchart, helping (at least that's my story) with the planning of the Western Australian 07 and Eastern Europe 08 Tours.

What an amazing amount of work goes into these trips and how often things have to change and start all over again.

Peter your work is invaluable and your contacts everywhere priceless.

Thank you all for the opportunity to have experienced these last 2 years, it's been a steep learning curve but introduced me to a lot of very interesting new friends throughout the world.

I now put my name forward for re-election.

Yours in 41 Derek Johns

"Promoting and furthering friendships at Local, National and International levels".