

## **International Relations Report 2009.**

I have just looked back in my files and find that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> report I have presented to this our family of friends, it certainly doesn't seem like that long, has been an extremely busy, interesting and fulfilling time and I have gained so many wonderful friends world wide.

One of the highlights of the year has been the tour of NZ by Randolph and Rosie Reidlinger, their visits to all the 17 main 41 Clubs throughout the country and stays at other contacts certainly enabled them to meet a large proportion of 41 Club New Zealand Members and gain knowledge of how we think and operate.

Another would have to be the "Beijing to Berlin Tour" and the amazing number of new Friends/Contacts for use in coming years and Tours and we were particularly fortunate to have found 41 Clubs in Spain and Portugal and had a great time in both places after the Tour.

Over the last year I have received many e-mails regarding visits by 41er's and or children of 41er's and have hosted a delightful, interested and very grateful young couple from Denmark, Marie & Martin and Opheile a French girl who had already spent nearly a year here but in the North Island (our son Sam has since stayed with her family in Paris).

I must say this has been so much easier to arrange than YAP Tours and of course these people have had the opportunity to visit what they want to, are not bound by rules and of course we have no responsibilities towards them other than as contacts and friends should they need us.

As a note I must add that YAP International still talk to me and are still asking if we have some one to send over to visit them, the doors are still wide open.

We had an interesting day visit by an English couple who live in Calpe, Spain and who work, Andrew as a lecturer and Kathy as a craft instructor on Cruise Ships. Picked them up in Lyttelton early in the morning, showed them the best bits of Christchurch then lunch here at Amberley, a trip inland to where Tina was brought up and then back to the boat by 4:30. A real shame that it was so quick and we weren't able to share them with the rest of Christchurch Club and for that matter all of NZ as they were as usual great people who we will be keeping in contact with.

All these people I give a list of the Club Contacts so they can meet as many as they wish.

Some of you will have heard that International had set up a Strategic Work Group and sent out a questionnaire which between us the National Executive had filled in the answers and sent back. Our reply was the first and by the time they got round to sending out reminders to fill them in had forgotten ours and sent me one as well, I received an apology very quickly but as yet there has been no feedback from the results.

New Zealand has a very good reputation within 41 International, not only as travellers and I regularly have conversations with members of the Board on all manner of subjects at all times of the day and night and our thoughts are well regarded.

Thank you all for the help and support you have shown me over the year and I offer myself for the position of International Relations Officer once more.

**Yours In 41**

***Derek Johns***

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