

TOUR OFFICER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED MAY 2006.

It is my pleasure to once again present an annual report on the tour activities that form a part of 41 Club.

Since 2003, planning had been continuing to bring together an extensive visit to Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden Finland, Russia, Estonia and Latvia.

This planning culminated in June of last year when the first group of 26 travellers left New Zealand to take part in this 6½ week trip to far off places. A second group of 24 undertook the same trip, and left in late August.

What we saw, who we met, and where we were taken will be memories that will last a lifetime, and visiting so many countries, while not without its difficulties, served to remind us all of just how fortunate we are to be able to call New Zealand our home.

As always on such a trip, meeting and staying with the 41 Club members in each country, gave us such a unique insight into their daily lives, and into the history of a part of the world not often visited by New Zealanders. These hosts opened their homes and their hearts to us, and while we spoke different languages, we were always able to communicate with each other.

From these visits, there has been a flurry of enquiries to visit New Zealand from Germany, Denmark, Norway, Finland (2) and Estonia. However, once the initial enthusiasm subsides a little, reality sets in and that is the stage we are at right now.

Planning is well underway for a visit from a group from Germany in October/November of 2007. A lot of work was done to try and get a group from Denmark out here, but Niels was unable to get enough interest at his end – he will keep on trying though.

If you keep an eye on the 41 Club website – www.41club.org.nz – then you will be kept fully up to date with plans and ideas.

I would like to propose starting planning for a trip in the middle of 2008, travelling to Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Rumania and the Ukraine. Some initial thoughts have been formed on such a trip, and we have a very good contact willing to help us in Germany. There are a number of 41 Clubs in these countries, and once we get underway, contact will be made with them, seeking their cooperation and assistance.

Thank you for allowing me to serve another year as your Tours Officer, and as required by the Rules of the National Association, I offer myself for re appointment for another year.

Yours in 41

Peter Butchart

TOURS OFFICER – June 2006