

# SCOTTSDALE TOURS

## WAIHEKE ISLAND 2008



Wonderful Waiheke was truly wonderful again this year. The weather was perfect allowing the bathers among us to take a dip each day. We were lucky enough to secure accommodation down on the waterfront at Onetangi this year which was a plus. We dined next door at Cats Tango one night and tried to book it again for Ross's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party but sadly they are closing down and we dined at the Waiheke Bowling Club instead. Sherry kindly cooked Ross a birthday

cake which was subsequently shared amongst the patrons.

We had another special guest on board again this year, Beverley Wickham who has now received her silver VIP travellers badge, congratulations Beverley.



We toured the island from one side to the other and were delighted with the views from up on the hills. Each time you think the views can't get any better, they do. All the beaches, and there are many of them, have their own unique appeal. You have a choice of sandy or stony beaches and many options to launch the boat for a great day's sailing. The ferries run from Half Moon Bay and Auckland several times a day and around 2000 people commute to Auckland each day for work. Not a bad lifestyle really.

Stony Batter is another very interesting piece of history built during the war. Sue Pawley has been taking us through Stony Batter for several years now and is still as passionate about her work as she ever was. She and her wonderful team of volunteers are doing a great job of restoring Stony Batter to its former glory. If you want to know more about Stony Batter come with us next year or look it up on the internet. Very interesting.

There are several large vineyards on Waiheke Island growing grapes for red wine, these create quite a varied landscape. There are all sorts of people living on Waiheke Island from the alternative lifestyle people to multi-millionaires. This in itself creates a diverse range of accommodation choices which we found quite fascinating. In all a fantastic trip, far too short we all decided. The rain on the way home did nothing to dampen the spirits. Again another lovely group of people. Thank you for sharing this experience with us and we look forward to seeing you again.



*Ross & Susy*