

Thursday, 1 May 2014 ~

**To Continue On .....**

To continue on ..... Our time with Ellen & Tom Chester and the special friends we introduced them to and their unique enterprises .....

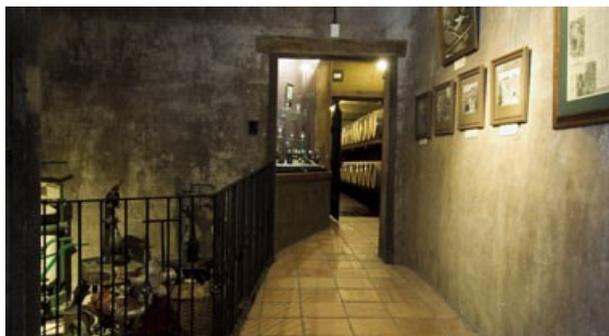
~ Murray Douglas and his partner, Helen ~ Te Mata Figgerly

Helen took us on a personal tour, thus we wandered amongst the fig trees and sampled all the varieties as she explained the uniqueness of each fig type and what they did with them before we did some buying of the delicious products - jams, relishes, sauces, etc. (A side note - Murray and I were at primary school together over 55 years ago!)



~ Denise Greer is a tour guide at the Church Road Winery.

For an hour or so, Denise took us on a personal tour of the winery, explaining as we watched each process from the grapes being delivered, testing of them, crushing of them and then the liquid result being poured into the stainless steel vats or wooden barrels (although we did not see the bottling as that is done elsewhere). We then toured underground where 100 years ago the wine used to be stored in concrete holding tanks/vats before being placed into wooden barrels until it was bottled. Nowadays, the dividing walls between each concrete vat have been removed and are now filled with old photographs and all the old equipment that they used. Really interesting.



Afterwards we sat in the garden of the winery and enjoyed a beautiful lunch - sampling wines with the different foods. Yummy!

~ Laurel Judd : fibre artist extraordinaire

Laurel has the most amazing creative talent and won so many awards - year after year. She also designs the most beautiful knitwear for one to purchase. Both Ellen and myself had a spend!



~ Deb Bell : another very artist lady

Fashion designer, painter & glass/jewellery artist. Deb makes the most exquisite pieces of jewellery (necklaces, bracelets, earrings and rings) - the shapes of the beads or ornaments of the jewellery being created by her from coloured glass rods. I purchased a necklace from her a few years ago and wear it as often as possible. Besides the beautiful traditional style of jewellery that feature flowers (such as roses or pansies, etc.) she also makes what I call "whacky" pieces. For example: wrapped lollies; liquorice allsorts.



~ Mave & Dave : Keith's sister and her husband

One evening we went to their beautiful home that sits on the top of one of the Havelock Hills and has the most outstanding view of the bay. Mave has an awesome garden which we wandered about and a home full of wonderful antique furniture and china. Mave is a very good cook and so she introduced Ellen & Tom to a traditional Kiwi Sunday roast - that is, roasted lamb, potato, pumpkin, kumara & parsnip, accompanied with cauliflower cheese, carrots & peas and gravy & freshly made mint sauce. I had asked Mave to make another kiwi icon - a pavlova - but she opted to do a lovely raspberry custard & sponge dessert instead. Fortunately Ellen & Tom were able to indulge in the delights of a pavlova covered with whipped cream, strawberries and passionfruit when in Australia. And so, they didn't miss out on this treat when "down under".

To view photos taken by Tom & Ellen of some of their experiences  
visit Ellen's blog - [www.withmyneedle-ellen.blogspot.com](http://www.withmyneedle-ellen.blogspot.com)  
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*That's all for the moment.*

