

## Day 5: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012

What do they say about the best laid out plans? Early this morning as I lay in bed 'as sung as a bug in a rug' I couldn't hear the rain anymore so immediately assumed the weather had cleared up and we were in for a fantastic fine sightseeing tour of Christchurch until I opened the blinds and to our amazement it was snowing.

Perfectly formed snowflakes drifting gently to earth must have been falling most of the night so that the ground, trees, cars, motorhomes and buildings had a cover of around 1cm of snow. So that's the reason why Robyn and I started to feel the cold even though our gas and 240 volt heater had been going all night. But what a beautiful sight and like a couple of kids we took off outside to take photos of the falling snow and anything that had a dusting of snow over it. As you all know snow is wet and trying to keep the floor of the motorhome dry has now become a challenge until the well at the door became the place to leave shoes and coats, thank goodness we brought our thermals and gloves.



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Having been rung by the tour operator to firstly say he wouldn't be there until 9am to 9:15am before ringing again to say the tour is off because of the snow we settled in for breakfast and

watched the snow fall around us. The only noise coming from the clumps of snow falling from the overhead branches on top of the motorhome, sounds like someone trying to break-in.



Okay, if the tour is off why not catch a bus into Christchurch and have a walk around the shops. We were told by the people in the office the number 14 bus comes past every 15 minutes and the bus stop is in front of the BP service across the road. On with all of our gear (including our thermal pants) we headed out the front entry making our way across the road toward the bus stop in the snow that was getting heavier.

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As we waited by the bus stop we heard a cracking sound only to see a branch covered in snow snapping off the tree falling on the bonnet of a little blue car. An accident but try explaining that your insurance company. Shortly the number 14 bus arrived at the bus stop but nearly didn't stop to pick us up. When we went to board and pay he said this was the last bus heading back into Christchurch and no other busses will be heading back until the snow eased. We really didn't have to go into town so we headed back to the motorhome to ride out the snow and as we had enough food to last today there wasn't a need to trudge through the snow back to Countdown to buy more food.

With nothing else to do we relaxed in the warmth of the motorhome watching the snow pile deeper on the ground and seats outside listening to Oldies 92.9 FM.

Around 5pm we ventured outside again to take another series of photos before the light faded and was surprised to see the difference between the photos in the morning to those of this afternoon.

The radio announcer said some parts of the district expected up to 1m of snow, but here in the park I would anticipate we got around 10 to 15 cm at the most.



The weather forecast for tomorrow is clearing snow tonight with fine weather for tomorrow with a top of 12 degrees after a low of 3 degrees in the evening. So without TV we settle back into keeping the diary up to date while Robyn does her crossword puzzle. The snow started easing off late afternoon so fingers crossed the weather bureau in New Zealand are right and by morning we can head south toward Dunedin to start the motorhome stage of our journey around the south island.