



# ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

A TAURANGA COUPLE  
RECENTLY ENJOYED THE  
TRIP OF A LIFETIME, WITH  
A LITTLE HELP FROM THEIR  
LOCAL PEUGEOT DEALER.

When Ross Potter suffered a stroke 18 months ago, it took away his ability to play tennis as he had regularly done up until that time. But it certainly didn't diminish his lifelong passion for the sport.

Recently he and wife Linda were invited by friends to join them for a European river cruise, with the added opportunity to meet up with family based overseas in Paris dovetailing nicely into their holiday plans. The serendipity didn't end there though, as the Tauranga couple's time in France would also coincide with the French Open at the historic Stade Roland-Garros.

"Nine years ago we had the opportunity to

attend Wimbledon and enjoyed it immensely. The thought that we might be able to attend the French Open added a whole other dimension to planning for this trip," says Ross' wife Linda.

Of course, with Ross' medical condition meaning he now has reduced mobility – and the prospect of negotiating large crowds, steeply raked stadium seating and myriad other logistical issues weighing heavily on their minds – the Potters' decided to take a novel approach with regard to securing tickets to the tennis and transport arrangements once there.

"We knew Peugeot has had a long association with the French Open and

sponsor some key players. Similarly, Ross and I have had a long association with Tauranga Peugeot, knowing both dealer principal John Hayes and his wife Jacqui, as well as having been close friends with Jacqui's parents Sandy and Trish for many years," continues Linda.

"With Ross' mobility an issue, we decided to approach Peugeot with our plans, with the idea that they might be able to help 'smooth the way' a little in terms of getting around the stadium.

"Both here in New Zealand and across the other side of the world in France, we were absolutely blown away by the kindness and assistance given to us."

Having purchased their tickets, and with Tauranga Peugeot having helped with arrangements, the Potters set off on their adventure.

As part of the package the couple purchased, they were collected from Peugeot's brand headquarters along the Avenue de la Grande Armée in central Paris and driven to and from Stade Roland-Garros

in what Linda describes as "beautiful black Peugeots".

As it turns out, Linda wasn't the only one who thought their transport beautiful either.

"I came back to New Zealand with a bit of a bee in my bonnet about getting a new black Peugeot," laughs Ross.

"We've never owned a black car before and I hadn't really ever considered it. But seeing

those rows of gleaming black Peugeots in Paris certainly added a sense of ceremony to things. So yes, I think when it comes time to retire one of the two Peugeots we currently own, our next one will be painted as such."

Once at Stade Roland-Garros, Linda and Ross discovered that, while the events centre is set in beautifully-manicured grounds with adjoining gardens, a fair bit of walking would be involved. Ross is only able to walk short distances at a time, adding difficulties to getting court-side in good time.

But, as Linda relates, the Peugeot team in Paris leapt into action to assist.

"Having been involved with the French Open for many years, the Peugeot team there is very experienced.

"From our first day there we had the expert assistance of Peugeot Events Manager, Corinne Charbonnier, who very quickly realised we would need a wheelchair; the one that was dispatched for us to use even came with a small team of very caring young people attached, who helped guide us around the complex.

"We couldn't have asked for any more help; it was really very good. We even had access to Peugeot's wonderful hospitality village and met many people involved with the brand from all over the world," says Linda.

The assistance provided by Peugeot's ground staff at the French Open meant that the Potters could sit back, relax and enjoy the tennis they had travelled from the other side of the world to watch.

The couple enjoyed centre court seats just five rows back from the famous clay and, for the most part, enjoyed great weather and great competition during the two days they were in attendance.

"It was certainly a big 'Bucket List' item to tick off," concludes Ross.

"We felt very privileged to have been able to get there and we will always remain very thankful to Tauranga Peugeot and the ground staff in Paris for the effort they all went to in helping make this happen for us."



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