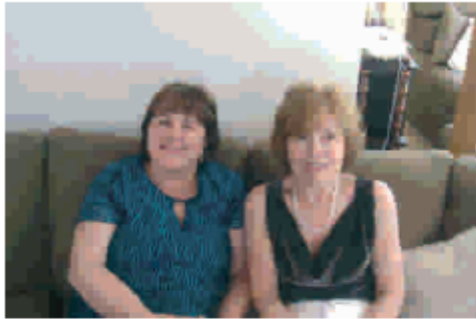


Jackie (below left with her sister) reports back on her trip of a lifetime to New Zealand, thanks to the Jerry Farr Travel Fellowship.



I have just arrived back from my holiday in New Zealand, which I won after applying to the Jerry Farr Travel Fellowship, and can report that I had a fabulous time and even the jet-lag and the snow have not prevented me from this feeling of sheer exhilaration. I travelled there with my husband Nigel, who was also my carer, stayed almost a month and managed to visit all of the places I had planned to. We visited Tauranga and Mount Maunganui in the Bay

of Plenty region, Lake Taupo and experienced the wonders of the hot volcanic pools in Rotorua. In addition, we visited a Maori Village and swam with dolphins.



Jackie (front) and Nigel making friends!

My holiday in New Zealand was indeed a 'holiday of a lifetime'. The landscape and scenery in this wonderful country is spectacular and I was given the opportunity to embrace, in a small way, some of New Zealand's heritage and culture. However, there are two big 'thank yous' which I need to express. Firstly, to the family of Jerry Farr, who have made this holiday possible and secondly to my sister Ann and brother-in-law Graham who made my stay with them so fantastic. I can't begin to describe how they went out of their way in order to make my holiday so memorable and special. To have been able to spend time with members of my family and to simply have a coffee with my sister ... well, we never stopped talking ... was a dream come true. So many special memories, but one which comes to my mind each morning is the sound of the Tui (a native bird, a bit like a blackbird, only bigger) gloriously singing from the Pohutukawa Tree in my sister's garden. **Jackie Long**

Applications to the fund are open until 19 March - download a form from www.ataxia.org.uk or contact the office.