

ABOUT SALLY BLYTH Personal Travel Companion (PTC)



Let's make it happen!

I'm Sally Blyth and I set up Beyond PTCS to help people travel without stress and with as much love as I have for it.

My life has never followed a straight line and I guess this has enabled me to evolve into a person with many dimensions. Being multifaceted may mean juggling all sorts and managing much, but it also enables me to view life through a wide-angled lens and approach it with a strong focus.

After a solid education, a diverse and unconventional career unfolded for me, which has taken me around the big wide wonderful world as well as around a few tricky corners. I wouldn't change a thing!

Throughout my life, professionally and personally, I've been gifted a great deal of experiences. Whether incredibly joyful, truly challenging or thoroughly eye-opening (often all three at once!), I've embraced these experiences head-on, and learnt precious skills along the way.

The exuberant and fun moments have engendered a relaxed and upbeat perspective on life; the demanding times have equipped me with resilience and the ability to turn my hand to many things. For many years I have been a companion for elderly people and I also have extensive experience working with and assisting people with various disabilities including, specifically, vision impairment.

- I have courage, confidence and energy, and am always up for a challenge.
- I pride myself on inner stamina and resourcefulness which enables me to tackle even the trickiest problem in an unflappable and level-headed way.
- I have a flexible approach to life and an easy-going manner.
- I love to observe and absorb the world and people around me and am conscious of health & safety issues.
- I have an appreciation of global cultures and diverse environments.
- I'll chat about anything and everything, and I love to laugh. It's even more fun with wine!

Enabling connections, generating inspiration, sharing experiences, looking beyond the first glance and taking people beyond their expectations are what I enjoy most.

Tour Leading & Travel

I am a Tour Leader for Maher Tours, leading a couple of tours a year. Maher Tours offers a fabulous range of escorted group tours across the world. Aimed at mature travellers, young at heart, the itineraries are outstanding. If you enjoy travelling in a group and making new friends, one of their tours could be just right for you! Check their website www.mahertours.co.nz

In 2019 I led two tours: the Murray River Run, April 2019; and Russia/Baltic States/Danube, July/August 2019. Both, in a word, fabulous!

In 2020 I will be leading the Spain/Portugal tour for Maher in July – two of my favourite countries!

I also led the “Racing in the South Pacific” trip to New Caledonia in October 2019 put together specifically for people interested in horse racing. Our group of 20 attended a Nocturne meeting at the Hippodrome Henry Milliard and had a huge amount of fun, learning and camaraderie in the sun.

If group travel is not your thing and you'd prefer to travel with me as your Personal Travel Companion, enjoying the trip of your choice, I'm happy to help you explore the options. If I'm not available, one of my PTC team will be!

I don't consider myself particularly sporty, but Skiing is a passion and I'm fortunate to have skied in stunning resorts across the world, as well as here in New Zealand. Gentle cruising is my ski style these days!

Having played golf for most of my life (I learnt when I was 12), I still enjoy the occasional round and am still capable of hitting a reasonable drive – but we won't talk about my short game or putting! I fully understand the golf obsession as I was immersed in it for years – but these days, I prefer an Ambrose fun round – no pressure!

BACKGROUND

Born in Dunedin, I have lived most of my life in Auckland apart from ten years spent living and working in London during the 1980s. During much of that time I worked throughout Europe and have a very deep-seated love for the Continent. I return as often as I can to visit friends and favourite places, as well as discover new ones.

Having travelled extensively in Europe, I consider myself a Europhile; but exploring the whole world makes me very happy indeed!

My husband is a solicitor as well as a keen golfer, surfer and skier. After 25 years together, we got married in 2017! We have two adult sons, born 1993 (currently living in London) and 1996, who have added rugby and cricket to the sporting codes enjoyed in our household. We live in an eclectic indoor/outdoor home set amongst the trees in Remuera, Auckland, and enjoy escaping to our beach house in Omaha Beach, which has been in my family for 45 years. It is currently undergoing a major rebuild - time for a new era!

My Professional Background

I have mainly worked in the not-for-profit and NGO (non-governmental) sectors, both in NZ and overseas, in the fields of health, disability and wellbeing. I also have experience in small

businesses, large corporates, professional practice, industry, consultancies, the arts, design and sport. From project management, administration, conference & event organisation, facilitation, coaching, writing, editing, transcription, governance, creative endeavours, voluntary work and more, the roles I've held have taken me far and wide around the world and introduced me to many amazing organisations and individuals.

I've been a practising artist and mask artisan since 2000 and have exhibited, sold and donated my art alongside professional work.

Writing has always been a huge part of my life, especially travel writing (contributing writer for *NZ Herald Travel Section* and *Destinations Magazine*). Also other avenues and projects.

In May 2006 I set up my own company "Beyond" which enables me to combine my diverse skillset and passions in a truly flexible way. Each day, each week, each year holds something new, different and inspiring. Being a **Personal Travel Companion** is part of that.

Since being self-employed, my offering has evolved, but the purpose is the same: I aim to take people beyond their expectations, beyond their limits, to new horizons.

It's about you, not about me.

People have always been at the core of what I do; from youth to the elderly, I love interacting with people, regardless of age or circumstance.

I approach everything in life from a "big picture" perspective, with a vision in my head and an eye on things that can't quite be seen yet. From this, magic comes.

I love horse racing, skiing, quiz, creativity and great food & wine. I love cooking, Bridge, languages, music and piano. I'm a WOW Wearable Arts enthusiast and have designed garments that have been on the World of Wearable Art stage in Wellington since 2011 (eight garments over six shows). My 2019 entry has been submitted for judging!

It goes without saying, I love travel, and people!

It may seem like I never sleep – and that's mostly true, I'm often still up at 2am writing, creating, devising ideas – or just doing chores. A lifetime of travel and many years working for myself means the traditional notion of time doesn't quite fit my style – I'm always "on the job" no matter the when or where of the moment or place!

Interestingly, I have a clock collection (collected from my travels over a number of years) – none of them tell the real time, it's the stories they tell that are much more interesting!

Community/Voluntary Involvement

I've been involved in all sorts of community organisations, volunteering my time and energy in many ways for many years.

- Co-President of the Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association, since 2015
- Vice-President, Auckland Racehorse Owners' Association, since 2016
- Member of Executive & Board, NZ Racehorse Owners' Federation, since 2016
- Many years' involvement with NZ Family Planning, since 1990

- Manager, Grammar Junior Rugby Club (2005-2009)
- Member of numerous school and community committees and trusts
- Assisting with and participating in many Rotary functions, events and fundraisers

I'd love to help you go travelling!

Let's make it happen!

Contact me!

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