

# Travel tips involving wheelchair users

"We can't be the first family with a wheelchair to do this" said former travel consultant Julie Jones, on her recently created website 'Have Wheelchair Will Travel'

Julie has been travelling since childhood when her family took her out of school for six months to explore Europe, Egypt and Scandinavia. She was determined to show the wonders of the world to her own family and the birth of her son diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy did not deter her from her goal.

"As an ex travel consultant I put a lot of time and effort into researching and planning our trip and we had a fantastic time. When we returned it seemed a waste not to share the information with more people and that was when the website idea became a reality. The idea of sharing the information about our USA trip then grew into sharing information about our home city, Sydney with others coming from overseas and it is now an ongoing work in progress," said Julie

There are great tips throughout the website. For example a full wheelchair service is essential and a basic repair kit is highly recommended. Julie made sure there was a lot of built in storage on her son's wheelchair.

"We had pockets sewn into our son's wheelchair to add to the amount it could carry. We have a deep zippered pocket on the backrest of the chair which saves me carrying a handbag as it fits keys, wallet, a drink and other bits and pieces. The deeper the pocket the better. We have a netting carry all underneath where we put jumpers etc and under the seat we have a zippered pocket. This is hidden by our son's legs when he is in the chair and it proved the perfect place to keep our passports, extra cash and ipad," said Julie.

**For more invaluable insights go to:**

[www.havewheelchairwilltravel.net](http://www.havewheelchairwilltravel.net) and the facebook page is [www.facebook.com/havewheelchairwilltravel](https://www.facebook.com/havewheelchairwilltravel). The facebook page concentrates on the smaller things like useful equipment and accessible cafes.

Both website and facebook page are worthy reads full of positive experiences aiming to motivate people.

**Writer - Researcher**  
Ross Flood  
[rflood@cpsociety.org.nz](mailto:rflood@cpsociety.org.nz)



[Havewheelchairwilltravel.net](http://www.havewheelchairwilltravel.net)

"Surf access no problem"



[Havewheelchairwilltravel.net](http://www.havewheelchairwilltravel.net)

"All set for a river paddle"

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## FUNCTIONS for the 2012 Year

The Christchurch and Dunedin midwinter functions for 2012 were cancelled due to family and financial issues and a trimmed budget. To clarify Jane's report in the latest edition of the Review, the Christmas events in Auckland and Christchurch for 2012 are on, and Midwinter events are scheduled. The Midwinter events on the South Island may be pushed into the current financial year. Auckland and Christchurch events will be reduced to