

Moving on

If you're not lucky enough to be eligible for a British passport, there are plenty of other countries where Australians and New Zealanders can continue their working holidays. Most schemes are available to people between the ages of 18 and 30. For many countries, applicants must go home to get their visa. Aussies and Kiwis are entitled to working visas for the following countries:

■ Republic of Ireland: The visa allows you to work for 12 months, but you can only work for a single employer for three months. You'll need a UK working holiday visa for Northern Ireland.

■ Canada: Perfect for those wanting a winter in the snow. Apply early in the year as the small quota of visas usually goes very quickly. There were only 6000 Canadian working holiday visas for Australians and 800 for New Zealanders in 2003.

■ The Netherlands: A great base for exploring Europe, and English is widely spoken. The visa has no entry and re-entry restrictions, employment restrictions or quota limit.

■ Japan: The visa is a single-entry visa, so you must get a re-entry permit if you intend to take time out. There are also restrictions on where you can work.

■ Australians and New Zealanders can also get working holiday visas for Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Hong Kong and Korea.

■ Australians can also get them for Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Malta and Norway.

■ New Zealanders can get them for Argentina, Chile, France, Italy, Malaysia and Singapore.

■ The UK's working holiday-maker scheme allows all Commonwealth citizens access to the UK, regardless of whether individual countries reciprocate. This is why South Africans can go on working holidays to Britain, but Brits can't go on

working holidays to South Africa. Other countries tend only to offer reciprocal schemes. Therefore, it appears South Africa hasn't arranged reciprocal schemes with other countries. South Africans should contact individual embassies for options.

■ For some countries, applicants must go home to get their working holiday visa. This is a bit of a hassle for those coming to the end of their UK visas. So TNT, in conjunction with the Southern Cross Group, will be lobbying to improve the situation, so watch this space.

■ See www.southern-cross-group.org or www.workingholidayguru.com.