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Dear

A Happy Christmas to you all from sunny New Zealand. The November weather here is warm and sunny with a few equinoxal winds. Spring has been very dry this year and the rivers are beautifully clear for fishing which has been excellent and many large trout are already in the freezer.

We have had a busy year with lots of travelling. North to Auckland to see David, Karen, Andrea, Logan, and baby "Liam Norris" who is now nine months old and a lovely baby. David has been on T.V. demonstrating the new digital camera he has developed for mole mapping on peoples skin. He works for the government in a company called Industrial Research. We have also been South to Wellington to see Diane Andrew Kate and Adam. Tired of driving these distances we tend to leave the car at the airport for the week (it only costs \$4) and fly to them now. Full retirement certainly makes this easy. Adam and Logan will join the girls at school next year and it is good to see so much of them in these quickly changing years.

April saw us in Australia with Diane and family. The resort of Darling harbour was excellent for children and families and we were able to cruise the harbour and see all the sights. A strange incident occurred when we caught on Australian candid camera but I don't think that it has been shown in N.Z. yet to our relief.

August we spent in England catching up with family and friends- some we hadn't seen since coming to New Zealand in 1975 and one since our wedding—a distant 1962. We toured both the South and the North and enjoyed Bed and Breakfasts near Bath Stonehenge, and the Cheddar Gorge. In the Cotswolds Norris managed a photograph at Burton -on-the-Water in the same place where he had one taken as a 10 year old in 1949. The Cotswolds were lovely and a tour of the Wedgewood factory really interesting.

On the Northern trip we visited Whitby of Captain Cook fame to New Zealanders and Robin Hoods Bay where we once collected fossils on a caravan tour in the 60's. After a drive through Wensleydale and the cheese factory we arrived at the Lakes via the Yorkshire dales and met friends at Ravensglass on the N.E. coast. The tour around the nuclear power station at Sellafield was extremely interesting and really well done. After a trip on Lake Windermere and a reminder of Bowness we continued our stay with Bob and Iris (Norris' sister) in St Helens and we both caught up with relations.

Bob and Iris need special mention for lending us their car and being such excellent hosts. They fed us really well and Norris played crown bowls and snooker with Bob while Iris took us to Manchester to see the Lowry complex. Unfortunately we had to return home but having enough air points for business class made the flights comfortable.

Back home we were pleased our new home was designed to be low maintenance and the garden easy care; Norris' succulents and Rita's pots and roses keep the garden neat and easily tidied. Since we have calculated that we have been away three months in total this year we certainly need that. Rita still loves her walks around the local vineyards and as you can see Norris has been going to computer courses; scanning pictures is the next project.

We send you all our best wishes for the future and hope we get more visitors one day. We do have one U.K. visitor next February to show around.

Rita and Norris