

November 2005

GREETINGS FROM NEW ZEALAND AND WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.



(Iris, Bob & Rita)

The year 2005 started with Iris & Bob visiting from England and they also called in on Diane's & David's families plus a tour of South Island. It is almost 31 years since we left St. Helens and this peaceful part of the South Pacific has been a good choice for all our families. We have seen NZ develop into a very technological country and with its open unspoiled places, food, climate it has been an ideal environment to see the children and their families grow. (Liam)



(Ella)

As usual retirement has given us plenty of opportunities to visit the families and little Ella has changed most of all and is now a very chatty active 2 y.o. (Nov 12th) with a permanent charming smile on her face. Adam and Logan have both done well as soccer players this year and Andrea continues to excel at gymnastics. Kate reached the top in Brownies, carrying the Brownie wreath at NZ's remembrance ceremony and has attended several camps, she also loves horse riding. Liam, who is almost four, is a lovely boy and wants to go to school soon.



Visiting David, Karen, Andrea, Logan & Liam in Auckland usually entails us visiting the



Flying field to fly radio controlled models and the children are (David learning too. David is President of NZ's largest club and & Plane) he & Norris fly their models together at every opportunity. We usually go to help out at the Birthday parties which inevitably end up dressing up with an appropriate theme. The beaches are popular too and as ever the children have a lovely time.



(Logan at soccer)



David & family



Andrea splashing



Liam & Logan busy



Liam on the slide



Novatel Twin waters

In July this year we joined Diane, Andrew, Kate, Adam & Ella on a trip to Queensland, Australia. We stayed at a wonderful complex called Novatel Twin Waters which is just South of Noosa. The complex had playgrounds, restaurants, swimming pools and also a very large lake. Around the lake were beaches with houses and apartments. We stayed in a luxury 4-bedroomed house with 3 bathrooms. Around the grounds were lots of Aussie wild life and birds. There were organised games for the children if you wanted and free catamarans and canoes to sail on the lake.



Rita on the beach
Outside the house



Norris on a catamaran



Andrew & Ella



Diane & Ella
on the beach

A highlight for Adam & Kate was a visit to Australia Zoo to see The “Crocodile Hunter – Steve Irwin” and his handling of crocodiles and snakes etc. and the Koalas and kangaroos got the usual petting. On a trip inland Norris collared a ride on a camel which was like a rolling boat.



Kate & Adam
Petting a Koala



Steve Irwin's
crocodile show



Norris on a camel and as the ‘Crocodile Hunter’



We are active members of Probus and join their walking group, visits & activities. Rita recently looked very smart in her Art Deco outfit for a recent meeting. We also now edit the newsletter. Norris continues to tutor groups on digital cameras and computer graphics and has had several of his photographs published in the daily paper. The cinema is still a favourite with the last film being a NZ film called “The World’s Fastest Indian”. This world record still stands from 1967. An excellent film and the “Indian” is a motorbike. Other NZ films due out soon are “The Chronicles of Narnia”, The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe and “King Kong” by the director (Peter Jackson) who made “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy. NZ is a favourite place for film making now.



Judy & Rita

The family are all coming here to sunny Hawkes Bay for New Year and it is a wonderful time for the cousins to get together. Last year they had loads of fun at the heated salt water pools, the honey farm, seahorse factory (100,000 bred there!), crazy golf and beach.



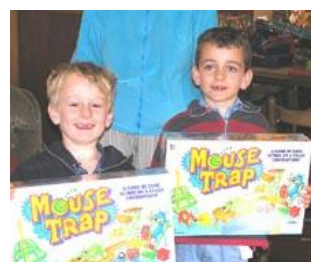
Kate tasting honey



Logan showing the Queen Bee



The Seahorse farm



Two happy boys

As we head towards our summer, we hope your Christmas will be White & Crisp but not too cold. Our Sunflowers are heading upwards again and there are more planes to fly (and more gardening!). P.S. Diane treated herself to a new sports car this year and zooms around Wellington in it.



A Balloon overhead



Norris & new Plane



Rita in the garden



Diane in her new car

We will look forward to hearing from you by mail
Or email. Best Wishes to you all.

Rita & Norris

26 Palmbrook Avenue,
Havelock North, 4201
New Zealand
rita-norris@extra.co.nz