

# **GREETINGS FROM NEW ZEALAND AND WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS 2006 AND NEW YEAR 2007.**

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As we head towards Christmas we realise that we have had quite an eventful year. Recently we had a tremendous time with Frank & Joyce Davies who arrived from St. Helens to lovely Hawkes Bay Weather. Norris & Frank were in



**Rita, Frank & Joyce**

the same class at Cowley Boys and last saw one another in 1954. Joyce (Fishwick) was at school with Rita & they once went a school trip to Paris together. We met on the internet (Friends re-united) 3 years ago. It was an exciting time catching up on old friends, activities and event that had happened over the last 52 years. We were able to show them our corner of NZ and Norris was able to show Frank his flying skills on the



local field. They are now headed to Christchurch and then to Australia, Since our last letter we too have been to Christchurch and had a lovely time in this very picturesque English type city. Punting on the Avon, the Antarctic centre, the Port hills and Gondola and the old



**Christchurch  
Lyttelton Harbour**

French settlement of Akaroa were great experiences.

As usual we continue with all our activities. Our Probus Club is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year & we plan special activities for it. We are still avid film goers and often see the Art Films, French & Italian festivals and all the films that seem to be made for the 'Colonies' out here with famous British actors that never hit the commercial cinemas. Recently



**Rita on the Avon**

we saw a wonderful Swedish film called "As it was in Heaven" Walking is now back on track now that Rita is fully recovered from her two weeks in hospital in September. Her blood thinning Warfarin went out of control and with brain bleeding followed by pneumonia in hospital gave us an anxious time but now all things are well again. Lying in hospital looking at sky gave Rita the idea that our back fence was too obstructive and so began several weeks work of removal, concreting, fencing, painting and re-planting the garden after much trampling on it. However the result was well worth while and now we have a lovely view of the Reserve land outside our back fence. (The insight of a woman- the hard work of a man!)



**The garden before  
In Winter**

**Rita pottering  
in the garden  
21-11-06**

Wintry July (It drops to 12°C here— shiver ) saw us on the warm Sunshine Coast of Australia with Diane & Family



at our favourite resort with more sailing, canoeing , and sight seeing. We were at Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo just before he was attacked by a sting ray and he was a great favourite of the children. Adam and Norris had great success fishing too on the Maroochydhore River by the Novatel resort catching Puffer fish and Perch



**Holiday scenes  
In  
Australia**





Another good re-union was at Lake Taupo in the October school holidays where we met both David's & Diane's families. Taupo is quite central for all of us to drive to and the children loved meeting each other playing on the trampoline and going in the hot pools.



Liam



Andreas' summersaults



Logan & Adam



Katie



Liam & Ella



Ella at Taupo

Ella & Liam had a lovely time together each having someone the same height. We were very lucky with the Weather and the snow on Mts. Ruapehu & Ngarauhoe Looked so inviting that one day David & family went up the snow.

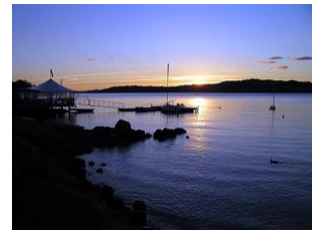
Andrea  
On her  
Sledge



Logan



David Karen & family



A Lake Taupo evening



Ruapehu & Ngarauhoe

We are going to Diane's for Christmas in Wellington & David will be with Karen's parents in Auckland. Then everyone arrives here in Hawkes Bay for New Year for another family get-together.

Ella is now a very talkative and active 3 y.o. and generally organises everyone around her. Katie is now in Guides and loves horse riding and camping, while Andrea is an excellent gymnast and just represented Auckland in the National championships in Christchurch where her team got a medal. They both head off to their next level of education next February going to private Girls schools, Kate to Queen Margaret's in Wellington and Andrea to Baradene College in Auckland. Both Logan and Adam have been players of the year for their respective soccer teams this year too.

Diane & family have just returned from a month overseas for Katie and Ella were flower girls at my sister Iris's daughter's wedding. Rachel and Patrick (who is French) were married at St. Nicholas' Church in St. Helens with the reception at Knowsly Hall. What a fabulous time everyone had there and also with visits to London, York, Stonehenge, the Cotswolds, Chester Zoo and the Lake District. They loved a traditional English Guy Fawkes night too. There were also stays in Singapore going out and returning. Ella says she is going back to England soon for Uncle Bob entertained her so well with his magic tricks and walks around Taylor Park feeding the ducks. Kate kept us well informed with a weekly email diary.



Kate Adam & Rachel



Flower girls



Kate & Adam



Bonfire night with Andrew



*Best wishes from Rita, Norris  
David & Diane*

