

GREETINGS FROM NEW ZEALAND AND WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE

A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS 2007 AND NEW YEAR 2008.

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Time to put pen to paper or input to computer for NZ Post says it must be on its way by 10th November. 2007 has been a good year for the family and it has been especially encouraging to see the grandchildren make such progress.

This year saw all twelve of us having a family holiday at the Novatel Twin Waters resort on Australia's Sunshine Coast. This is a fabulous place for the children with sailing, swimming, fishing, activities and very central to other Queensland centres. Here is the link if you wish to see it. Explore the website.

<http://www.twinwatersresort.com.au>

One of Andrea's activities was at the Circus school which is onsite and soon she thrilled us flying though the air on the trapeze way above the ground. There were visits to the wild dolphins at Tin Can Bay, Whale watching, the lovely coloured sands of Rainbow beach and of course Zoo & fairgrounds,



Andrea on the trapeze

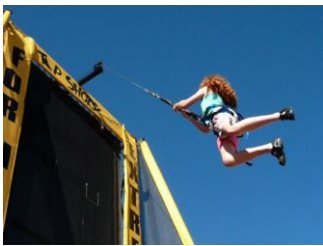


Feeding the dolphins



Rainbow Beach

Fun and games, Fairground rides and bungee jumping, and sailing were wonderful activities



Katie on the bungee



Adam & Logan on the water boats



Fishing



Ella & Liam

Rita & I like this part of Australia so much that we went back two months later. This time a little farther North at Noosa for a quiet week on our own where we could sail the waterways, visit the native bush and the wetlands and tour the small market towns at our leisure. Once more we saw Kangaroos, Kookaburras, Pelicans and a host of wildlife on the rivers as we had done at Novatel TwinWaters.



Rita at the Marina



Norris on the Jetty



An egret by the river



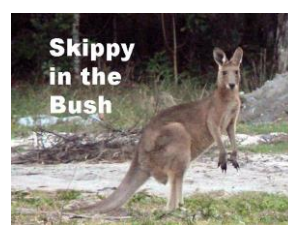
A pelican preening.



Bush turkey in tree



Inquisitive birds



Skippy in the Bush



Kookaburra

Another trip Rita & I undertook this year was to way down in South Island to the “**Edinburgh**” of the Southern hemisphere or **Dunedin** as it is called. Dunedin has a long history of Scottish settlement in the 19th Century and a distinct architecture found nowhere else in NZ. A Robbie Burns statue is outside the Town Hall. It has a very famous university (Otago) and the largest medical school in NZ. Diane is actually employed by Otago University to lecture in Pathology to the 5th and 6th year medical students sent up to Wellington. She often flies down for the day for meetings. The province of Otago is now mainly sheep and cattle farms but in the 19th Century there was a gold rush there and thousands came from Australia and China to mine Otago gold. Mostly now the gold is gone but there are a few workings. Also in Otago is the famous Taieri gorge railway that once connected the East and West coasts but is now used mainly for tourism. Interestingly in the Otago museum is one of their famous early engines—made in Newton-le-Willows near St.Helens where we came from. We visited the famous Albatross, Penguin and Seal colonies and the strange Moereki beach boulders. Also we visited the stately homes on the peninsula and the picturesque Lanarch Castle.



Dunedin



The railway station



Boarding the train



The Taieri Gorge Railway



Town hall & Robbie Burns



Moereki Boulders



Seal colony



Lanarch Castle

Both Andrea and Katie are progressing well at their Girls Schools. Katie plays the harp, is in the Orchestra, Choir & drama group. Andrea still wins medals at gymnastics and is an excellent netball player. Logan is doing very well in Maths and science and is great at soccer. Adam too is a soccer player and also goes to Tennis and Karate. Liam has started school and Karen is now a teacher Aide at the Primary school. David has his own research company and has a large contract with NIWA (National Institute for Weather and Atmospheric Research). Ella is the only one now still at Kindergarten but she is growing fast and will be 4 on the 12th November. We are travelling down to Wellington for her birthday. Ella is a confident well spoken girl, way beyond her years and often answers the phone and has a long conversation with us. When she goes to our local animal farm she is first on the largest horse she can find



and at the fairground always wants the wildest rides. Everyone will be down in Hawkes Bay at the end of December and for New Year so it will be the warm salt pools of Napier, mini putt, the animal farm and fishing and flying the planes with the boys. All the Christmas lights will be up and our street has the best display in the Bay. We have bus tours and lots of people walking past

the house. We will make it extra dazzling this year but Rita isn't happy about having a giant Santa & Sleigh on the roof.

Diane has already planned a month in England with her family next July for Diane has a conference on pathology in York so she will catch up with everyone over there. Ella is excited already.

Rita and I reach a milestone this year with our 70th birthdays on the 9th and 7th of December respectively. Time to sort out all the old photos of wonderful past times for a permanent record on the computer I think.



Best Wishes to you all. from

Rita, Norris David & Diane