

GREETINGS FROM NEW ZEALAND AND WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE

A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS 2008 AND NEW YEAR 2009.

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Hi All, Here is some of our news from over the year

In a couple of weeks it will be time to put up the Christmas lights and meet all the families who walk past to view them. Last year was our best yet and as Christmas approached the Avenue was packed with people viewing the 35 houses with their decorations.

The family all arrived down for New Year and as usual the cousins had a wonderful time meeting one another in the Hawkes Bay sun with lots of activities to do.

In the recent September school holidays Andrea, Logan and Liam flew down from Auckland on their own, (Growing up fast!), to spend a week with Diane, Andrew, Katie, Adam and Ella. We drove down too to help out and luckily Diane has a large house for us to stay in. It was a very busy but enjoyable week.



Logan & Adam in Wellington



Ella & Liam



Andrea, Rita & Logan & Tulip time



Family Duck Feeding



David & Kayley



Rita & Kayley



Karen, Kayley & Lois (Karen's Mum)

This allowed David & Karen in Auckland to have a quiet time with baby Kayley for a week. Yes, we have grandchild number seven, Kayley Rose, born on the 27th June this year.

What a lovely baby she is; so happy and contented. David and family came down last weekend to stay and Kayley was so good, Smiling and laughing and sleeping though the night too. David & Norris were able to put in some serious flying over the three days too.

This year we are going to meet in Rotorua which is a holiday place in the centre of the Island. It has lots of activities and all the children will love it. Rotorua isn't too far for David to drive down with his family in two cars.

Diane & family headed off to England in July for Diane had an international Pathology conference in Leeds and it was a good time to see the family again. Sara, the nanny, went along to help with the children. They stayed with Iris and Bob for a while and caught up with Andrew, Joanne, Rachel, Patrick and baby Lulu. After a trip up North to Hadrian's wall and the Border counties they headed down to London to stay with Julian, Alison and there three new lovely adopted daughters. Again thank goodness for a large house. A trip over to Paris for a few days saw them visiting the sights and a cycling trip around Paris.

David is very busy with his new company and is making computerised fish measuring tables for NIWA. This is a Government organisation which monitors the fish catches around New Zealand to preserve stocks. Their agents go out on foreign & local fishing vessels to check on fish catches. The usually have to weigh, measure everything and record it by hand. With David's instruments the fish is measured and recorded electronically

and all the data recorded on a computer. It is a very expensive instrument and is build to withstand the rigours of life on a boat. It can even read electronic tags which are put on fish which are released to see how they grow and travel.

Rita and I continue with our daily walks, weekly cinema visits and travels to the family in NZ and friends in Australia. This year we went to the Gold Coast to catch up with Lol and Louise who we used to teach with in Hastings many years ago. Australia is our favourite place, not being too far away. Diane and Andrew too are often there on conferences. Rita still has an active visiting life with her old ladies and last week we went to the 92nd birthday of one of her friends at the local country restaurant.

Norris still runs a large computer group (over 80 now) and his planes fill the Havelock Skies. The latest endeavour is a camera in a plane which can be triggered remotely from below and take photos from on high.



Rita at Nancy's birthday



our estate from Norris' plane



and Havelock North from the plane



We now have lots of views over the houses, countryside and Havelock North Village. Friends are pleased to have a photo of their house from above.

One recent trip was to a farm South of us which has acres of daffodils. There are hundreds of varieties and you are free to wander and pick them. There are so many you just don't make an impact and for \$2.50 (£1) you can have 30 blooms. The money goes to charity. We took a picnic and had a wonderful day there.

Our photos are still published regularly in the Hawkes Bay paper and the latest was of our family of thrushes that raised 4 chicks on a platform I made under the eaves. Yesterday they all flew out and the parents are busy rushing around feeding them in the garden.

The latest news is that Ella turns 5 on 12th November and as is usual in NZ, that is the day she starts school. Here are some more photos from our files of the children at play, Diane, Andrew and Ella.



The thrush nest under the eaves



Rita at the daffodil farm



Our lily of the valley are lovely this year



Best Wishes to you all from Rita & Norris in New Zealand