



Newsletter Christmas 2011

26 Palmbrook Avenue, Havelock North, New Zealand, 4130



1st Dec 2011

rita-norris@xtra.co.nz



Rita on Noosa Beach



Norris Fishing @ Twin Waters



Waxeye
On
Prunus

Greetings Everyone,

Whilst we enjoy our Christmas Dinner with David, Karen, Andrea, Logan, Liam and Kayley here in warm Havelock North, our other family will be in England possibly hoping for snow. Diane, Andrew, Katie, Adam and Ella head for Singapore in a few days before going to Iris & Bob in St. Helens. (You may catch them at 0744 22673). Then they will all be going down south to stay with Julian, Alison and family for Christmas in Surrey.

Diane has two month's study leave from the Pathology Department and Medical School to visit teaching hospitals in the North of England and London.

There will be time for outside trips and Diane has booked holiday cottages in Truro and Lyme Regis; especially to see the fossil beds that Katie is interested in. Diane and family are becoming seasoned travellers having spent the two weeks of the October School holidays in Hawaii and Maui where Diane was attending medical conferences. They visited Pearl Harbour and went 10,000 feet up to the Hawaiian volcanoes.

David has been on overseas business trips too at conferences in tropical Townsville in Queensland and Seattle in the USA demonstrating the equipment he manufactures. In Seattle he was able to visit the Boeing factory where they are now building the 787 Dreamliners which Air NZ is buying.

David is still a keen flier like Norris and he came down recently with children to fly some of Norris's planes. These have now expanded into more sophisticated electric jet turbine models and fly very fast. Rita and I have been to Australia twice this year. In July we stayed in our favourite resort of Twin Waters at Mudjimba on the Sunshine Coast with Diane and the children where the girls swam and sailed and Adam and Norris fished.

Rita and I also went to the Gold Coast in October to visit an old teaching friend and his wife and then we went up to Noosa where Norris had remarkable success with a variety of fish caught.

Winter was unusually cold and wet this year and it seemed to set everything back by two weeks but when Spring did arrive the blossoms were better than ever with the fields at daffodil farm covered in a variety of blooms. The Cherry blossom and the road by our house had Waxeyes and Tuis jostling for the best nectar.

Rita's health has been good this year but Norris had a scare in June when a badly infected gall bladder needed an urgent operation to remove it. However the skill of modern surgery meant that he was able to travel to Australia two weeks later.

Rita continued to be part of the U3A group which watches the musicals of the 40's and 50's and she took over the organisation of the Egyptology group when the tutor became ill. We have had a wide variety of books and videos on the topic around the house and found **Amazon.co.uk** a great source and a fast and cheap service from the U.K.

Norris's computer group has continued to grow with the addition of Windows 7 operating system to XP. Making and editing videos has been a popular topic with several being loaded onto YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4Os7tXzTEQ>

Twin Waters videos July 2011

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLFovWsPAMY>

Twin Waters Photos July 2011

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM4yZ9x_x10

Mabins Daffodils September 2011

Or look for **EnkayRK** videos on YouTube

Norris will be pleased that his term of office as President of the U3A finishes this year. It is a large organisation with lots of courses, meetings, speeches and presentations to give. The garden and planes can now have more time.

The grandchildren continue to grow at an ever increasing rate and Adam is much taller than Diane and heading for six feet. Andrea has passed her driving test (It is 15 in NZ but changes to 16 next year) and both she and Katie have finished their Form 5 Exams (School Certificate level). All the children are achieving excellent results with Katie top in Physics and receiving the Science prize as well as excellence in English and French. Andrea also has excellent results and Adam in his first year at Scots College has gained excellence in Academic studies. Logan continues with his Maths skills and now is competent in writing computer programming code. Diane's family are also musical with Katie on harp, Ella on violin and Adam starting the flute. Andrea won a gold medal with her Cheerleading team in Australia and Liam has almost reached black belt level in Tai Kwon Do. Liam also took the school prize for the Wearable Arts Award with a Dalek suit he made and wore. David now has a new number plate for one of his cars -- "DR WHO"



Logan and Karen



Andrea



Kayley & David



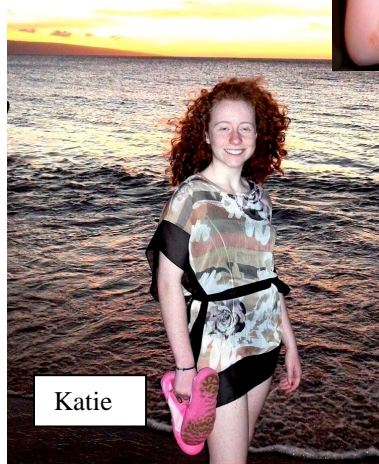
The Dalek



Liam



Ella



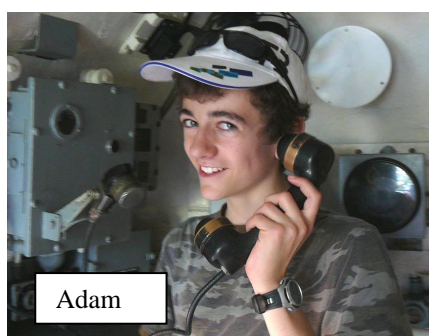
Katie



Andrew Diane
Katie
Adam & Ella
in
Hawaii

My one legged thrush has come back again for the third year and can almost be hand fed and sings on the rose tree by the window for his food. A pair of Blackbirds also raised another brood on a ledge Norris made under the eaves and the male bird is always on the lookout for titbits to feed the five young. Almost time for the Christmas lights again so have a wonderful Christmas and the New Year and a happy and healthy holiday period.

**Best Wishes to you all from
Rita & Norris**



Adam

MERRY CHRISTMAS