

Newsletter Christmas 2014

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Palmbrook Reserve in October



November Flowers

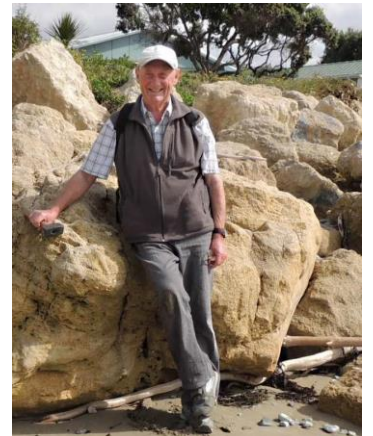
Greetings Everyone,



We have had a wonderful Spring and the cherry blossoms in the Reserve opposite our lounge window have been magnificent this year. As we head into Summer we still receive the occasional blast of cold air from the Antarctic to remind us that we are down in the South Pacific. However the spring flowers and sweet peas are now all in full bloom.

Our one legged thrush must have succumbed to Winter as he never returned after six years but a new young one (daughter) has taken his place to feed at my feet. She is presently feeding young in the tree opposite and brings them to our garden to learn to forage for themselves. A pair of blackbirds are also nesting in the corner of the house again.

We do not travel as we used to but the family regularly visit us here. However David and family won't have far to travel for they have bought a Garment alteration business for Karen in Havelock North and she is already running it. David will be returning to Havelock after 22



years and the children will be attending school here. They have a house off Busby Hill for a year. Diane and family continue with their globe-trotting with visits to Sydney, Gold Coast and London. Andrew also travels the country for he is President of the Optometrists association again. Andrea and Katie have finished their first year at University. Katie has enjoyed her Geology and the field trips and receives rocks and mineral from me, she ended the year as an A+ student. Andrea has been studying Sports Science and Commerce. David has bought a car for her when she is now flatting in Auckland. Logan and Adam are presently finishing their year 12 (6th Form) exams and Logan is now in France for 9 weeks. In July a French boy, Fabian, stayed with family on a school exchange and Logan is staying with him in Nantes and will go to school there. As usual Logan was top in Computing at school.



Cherry Trees seen from our garden



Flowers Nov 2014

Adam was top student (year 12) and represented the school with a science project on electricity generation on the South Pacific island Vanuatu and came second. He loved the warm island climate and the snorkelling. He is academic prefect next year at Scotts College. Kayley is as bright as ever and loves school and Liam will be starting secondary school next year in Havelock North. Ella will be starting intermediate school to increase her wide range of friends who she meets regularly on holiday horse and guide camps.

We still continue to walk although not as quickly as in the past but put on sun screen and wide hats for Rita has been suffering from photosensitivity due to one of the medications she has been taking. The latest change in alternatives now seems to be working.

We still go to the cinema each week and recently saw "Interstellar" with the latest "Hunger Games" showing shortly. Norris thinks the garden is growing larger for it seems to take him longer to tend to it these days. Old age? Nah!



Minerals and new pendants etc.



Rita has studied Egyptology this year and Norris computing. A new topic we have taught is Geology with an enthusiastic group meeting at our house each month admiring Norris' rocks, minerals and fossils and Rita's gemstone jewellery. There have been lots of tutorials written and videos seen. It has been a good reminder of our jewellery making hobby we used to do and Norris' school geology teaching. Our display cabinets have seen a new variety of samples of ammonites, trilobites and minerals arriving from China, Turkey, Madagascar, Lands End and even Stonehenge; many via my sister in the U.K. It was useful to have Iris and Bob acting as a staging point for samples not able to be delivered here. Diane was able to collect them on a visit to England. One case was very full and went through English customs but she has to explain what she was arriving with in NZ with such a heavy bag to an interested customs officer. All arrived safely.

We hear that Iris and Bob could be visiting early next year which is excellent news.



Rita's Orchid



Relaxing

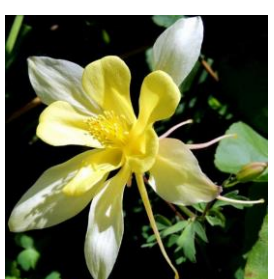


Iris and Bob

We hope that you have had a good year and still enjoying life as time takes its inevitable toll. Keep fighting on! I like Dylan Thomas's poem "Do not go gentle into that good night" (Look it up- Featured in the film "Interstellar").

BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE COMING NEW YEAR.

RITA & NORRIS



More November flowers in our garden