

Newsletter Christmas 2015

26 Palmbrook Avenue, Havelock North, New Zealand, 4130

rita-norris@xtra.co.nz

Cape Kidnappers near Havelock North

Best Wishes to you all for Christmas and the coming New Year with another newsletter to catch up on 2015 as we look forward to family gatherings in 2016.

In a week's time Rita and I will be 78 and we could not have dreamed about our life now when we were youngsters. We still get around (but not as far these days) and have a lovely house and garden, with family and friends nearby and live in a Province ([Hawkes Bay](#)) with sun; scenery and local produce.

We still walk for about an hour each day (although somewhat more slowly) past the local vineyards or down to the village where we get the bus back for the hills have recently become steeper. We go to the cinema once a week having just seen "Bridge of Spies", "Spectre", "The Dressmaker" and the final of the "Hunger Games".

We go to Probus (We have poems to read next week) and the U3A where Norris, still teaches Computing and has a very enthusiastic group in his Geology course - with Rita's help passing the rocks around. On our trips in the car Rita and I visit the local beaches; rivers; cliffs and rock cutters to collect samples for the course which is making our house and garden very interesting.

We fly the planes in the local paddock and Rita is chats to the guys and visitors about the planes when Norris is flying. We now have a catapult system to launch the fast jets up to flying speed as quickly as possible.

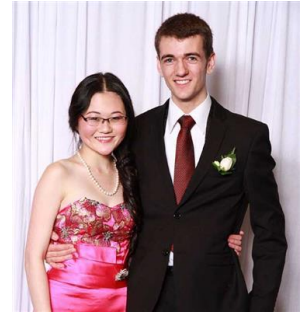
Our health reflects our age but remains good. Rita recovered well from a nasty fall outside the local supermarket and spent a few days in hospital recovering from severe blood loss and had blood transfusions. She joins me now with a sore back so we both have to be careful in lifting and garden chores. A trip saw me crashing into the edge of a door at home of which my arm and wrist bore the brunt and it has taken a couple of months to recover but a recent X-ray is still showing a small chip near the knuckle. But here we still are and are grateful for the NZ health service.

Photos of Iris, Bob, Rita, David, Karen, Kayley, Iris (log balancing) Rita's orchids, Norris & Iris, Rita by our Crab Apple



Rita & Norris at Art Deco 2015





Rita, Ella, Diane, Karen, Kayley, Helen and Adam

Karen Ella and Liam

Highlights of the year have been Iris and Bob's visit from our old home in St.Helens and they were just in time for the Hawkes Bay Art Deco celebrations. They got into the swing of the events buying 1930's clothes that are on sale here for the event; everyone in the Bay dresses in Art Deco style. With David & family we had a great time in Napier over the weekend. The summer weather was as lovely as usual and we were so happy to see them and had lovely times. Iris really entertained us with her log balancing act in the surf at Waimarama and took a surprise dip to the delight and fun for the watchers – something she won't forget. They then travelled through the Island to stay with Diane and family. David and family's move to Havelock North was fantastic and it is wonderful to have them so close. Karen's Alteration Service has been very popular and has led to the employment of extra staff to meet demand. Karen has also enjoyed joining the Keirunga (<http://www.keirunga.org.nz/>)



Arts and Craft society which is a very popular organisation in the Bay.

David still runs his business at home and they have a lovely house overlooking the Heretaunga plains and mountain ranges to the West. They have beautiful sunsets and amazing views of the snow in winter. An added bonus is that David and I are able to fly together once more.

Andrea has completed 2 years at Auckland University and is top of her class of 100. She is in great demand as a gymnastic coach in her spare time which supports her studies in sports science. Kayley-Rose (7) is in her second year at primary school and has lots of new friends.



Liam (13) is a top student in his year and goes into an acceleration group in Maths and science next year. He is a keen BMX rider at the local track.. Logan (17) returned from two months at a French School in Nantes and he now has excellent French oral skills. Because of the move and his subjects he joined the NZ Correspondence School and has a prize this year.

Diane has been a regular visitor by both Car and plane during the year and has had a usual hectic life with overseas conferences where she is an accomplished speaker. She is now Deputy Dean in Pathology in Wellington and next year will be speaking in Singapore, Perth, London and Amsterdam. Andrew, Diane and Ella will take advantage of the London trip to visit Iris, Bob and other family in the UK and they will head into France to see the Prehistoric cave paintings in Lascaux; South West France. (<https://vimeo.com/40849516>) . Andrew is President of the NZ Association of Optometrists and it was sad that his dearly loved Mum; Val: passed away a couple of weeks ago.

Katie has finished her second year of Geology Maths and Physics at Otago with excellent grades and over the summer has a position in the Geology department to assist in the analysis of microfossils from cores taken in Antarctica. From field trips she is bringing me some rocks for Christmas when the family visit and I can reciprocate. Adam has completed his secondary schooling by being top scholar and Dux of Scotts College in Wellington. He was invited to special science schools in Hamilton and Auckland Universities during the year and has been awarded a \$45,000 scholarship to study medicine at Otago next year. Adam is also an excellent debater and is learning to drive. At the science schools he met Helen and she too will be a medical student at Otago next year. Ella, full of life and a bubbly as ever- 12 and seemingly going on 16 with her maturity will finish intermediate school next year. A [Katniss Everdeen](#) devotee (The Hunger Games) Ella is an archer and Guide and will attend the NZ jamboree in South Island in January.

So there we are. We have had a lovely Spring and the flowers and Cherry blossoms have exceeded themselves this year. Late Spring has been hot with just enough rain to keep the grass green. We picked daffodils with the family in the beautiful [Taniwha](#) daffodil fields in Waipukurau and look forward to seeing all the family over Christmastime. So we send you best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.



Te Mata Peak Havelock North

Love from Rita & Norris