

Newsletter Christmas 2016

Sunrise on Te Mata Peak Havelock North

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Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Yes we are still in our home in Palmbrook and loving the garden as it is full of Spring flowers. It takes a lot of time and effort and we will be 80 next year so there may be changes coming for we are looking at a 3 bedroom villa in the retirement village just up the road where they provide all the services.

<https://www.summerset.co.nz/havelock-north/about-our-village-2/>

Our village is certainly changing too with a new 5 star hotel being built and an upgrade to the domain.

Havelock North Village; The new Domain ; Summerset village



Otherwise life has continued at its usual busy pace and we walk each day, go to the cinema regularly (saw sci-fi "Arrival" this week and enjoyed it) and with Norris Vice President at Probus we are busy with their activities such as a recent car rally and Art Deco walk in Napier.

Our U3A Geology group has been very popular this year with lots of videos and specimens to see with Norris writing the tutorials and Rita helping with the specimens. Norris has been developing websites and this is his U3A website (put this in Google or click on a live link) and if you click on the newsletters you can see some of his topics in Geology.

<http://www.u3ahavelocknorth.com/>



Tony, Lois, Kayley, Karen, Andrea, Logan, David, Norris, Rita, Liam

At the Hawkes Bay Art Deco week Karen's parents (Tony and Lois Hill) came down from Auckland and with all of David's family we had a great time watching all the events.

Adam came up to stay with us in his holidays to help Norris paint the pergola which now is as new. It was an opportunity to help with his driving lessons and he successfully passed his test during the year. Norris also took Logan out for many driving lessons and he passed his test too. It has been an excellent academic year for the family. **Adam** has completed his 1st year of Medicine at Otago medical school and **Katie** will shortly graduate in Physics, Maths and Geology at

Otago. Both have done brilliantly well. Next year Katie will do an MSc and with Adam and two friends they will flat in a house together in Dunedin. **Logan** moved to Hastings Boys High School at the beginning of the year and had a fantastic year finishing with the Lodge Haeta Prize for Mathematics with Calculus, the Physics, Biology, Chemistry cups; the Rhodes Cup for Senior Science, and the Colin and Alan Jones Scholarship. He will study Engineering at Auckland University next year and stay at David and Diane's old student hostel. **Andrea** will start the final year at Auckland with her double degree in Sports Science and commerce. **Kayley and Liam** continue at primary school and High



Norris, Karen, Logan, David, Rita at Logan's prizegiving

School and **Ella** starts her secondary schooling at Wellington High next year.

Diane has been travelling the world as usual; teaching at the new medical school in **Samoa** for a week at a pleasant 31°C in winter. With **Andrew** and **Ella** she was at a conference in Perth for a week and visited the beautiful Margaret river caves- very impressive. <https://www.margaretriver.com/nature-adventure/caves/>
Also with **Andrew** and **Ella**; **Diane** had lectures and conferences in London, Paris, Leiden and Amsterdam and also took the opportunity to visit all our families in the UK. There were also stops in Vancouver on the way over and Tokyo on the way back. As well as Deputy Dean at the Medical school and H.O.D Pathology **Diane** has now been appointed **Professor**. She also has Dr.Di's. pathology cooking show on YouTube which is worth watching to see a video of Diane. This is the link to them https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8b_vvK9eiOvftKamc2wYzw or Google **DrDi's pathology cooking show** on you tube.

David and **Karen**'s big news is that they have bought a two acre lifestyle block on the outskirts of Havelock North at 57 Endsleigh Road. It is a lovely property and they are now keen gardeners ([link to Google Maps](#)). The surrounds are lovely with beautiful fruit and blossom trees, a pond and lots of wildlife such as ducks, pheasants, rabbits and quail.



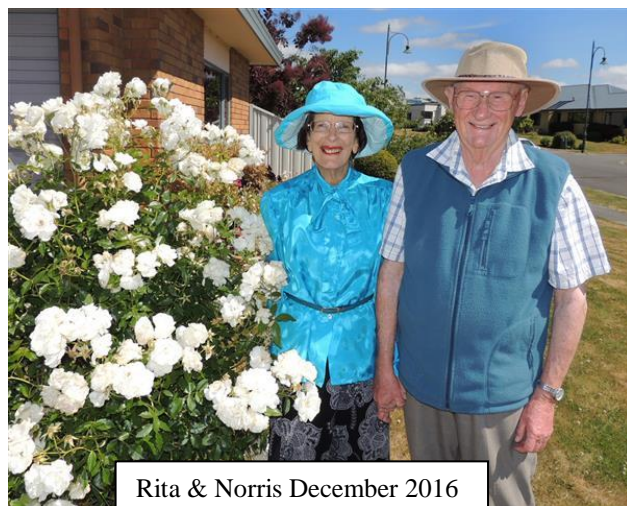
Karen and David's new house at 57 Endsleigh Road Havelock North



Andrew & Ella in France; Sur le Pont d'Avignon; Diane and a Roman aqueduct

David and Karen are still very busy with Karen's alteration shop a hive of activity and David is now building his computer boards in a large space above the shop which he has insulated to keep it cool in summer and warm in winter.. The worst thing to happen to us in 2016 was when Havelock North village was the centre of a campylobacter illness. Out of a population of 15,000 one third were affected in some way. Norris had the runs badly and had antibiotics. Houses on either side of us were affected but luckily Rita never caught it, which was a relief. Hawkes Bay has a brilliant aquifer and the water is pure and not chlorinated. There are three bottling plants which export water over the world from bores 60 metres deep. However the bore for Havelock is only 20 m. deep and quite old. We had had a considerable drought and the ground had become cracked around the bore head. Then we had a two day downpour and water from the surrounding paddocks ran down the cracks down the side of the bore which contaminated the water. This brought in faecal matter from all the sheep and cows in the surrounding paddocks and hence the water was contaminated. The bore has now been closed and water comes from a distant bore and the water chlorinated to remove any traces from pipes. It doesn't taste half as nice and we long to a return to the pure water. But now everyone is well again. Hooray!

All the family will be here in Havelock North for Christmas celebrations and also the occasion of Katie's 21st birthday. Diane has booked two holiday houses on an orchard for her family and Katie's friends and with David's large house and section we are looking forwards for a lovely time. Summer weather has already arrived with temperatures in the high twenties and Norris will be out watering the pots of flowers on a regular basis.



Rita & Norris December 2016

We hope that you have a lovely Christmas and holiday with friends and family

Love to you all from

Rita & Norris