



First of all best wishes to you and your families for the coming Christmas and New Year.

This is a great time to get together; renew old friendships; to talk about all the good things past and present and to raise a toast to loved ones.

This is perhaps the most difficult newsletter to write for it is the first one written without Rita for almost 60 years. Looking back we had a brilliant life with families and friends and we travelled the world and finally settled here in this house in Havelock North which we designed and built 18 years ago.

We loved its flowers, garden and views and although we looked at retirement villages always realised that this was the only place for us.

We have so many photos collected of family, travels and houses we have lived in that we decided over a year ago to regularly bring out the old albums and look out past photos. I am so pleased that we did this and can only suggest to you to do the same before they become dusty albums forgotten on a shelf. A project that I have continued is to change all those negatives and 35 mm slides into real photos. We had great fun looking at them all and just keeping the best. Surprisingly it is not difficult and at no cost. I now teach this at my photography class and if anyone wishes to know the process just email me and I will send you my tutorial. (Typical slides below of Diane, David & Rita from the early 60's)



David, Diane, family and friends have been so loving and helpful since Rita's passing on the 11th May and also been very kind in their donations to Rita's memorial scholarship for students leaving school to enter Teacher Training. I attended the Prizegiving at Hastings Girls High School in November where Rita's contribution to 24 years of teaching was recognised and two students received scholarships. This will continue in the coming years.

As you can see from the heading picture, my friend Ken Nysse, who flies planes with me, and is also a talented artist has painted a huge beautiful poppy scene (*Poppies for Rita*) with the Havelock hills in the background. These were Rita's favourite flowers. It hangs in pride of place.

My journey to England to take Rita's ashes to the family grave was long (the leg from Auckland to Dubai was 17½ hours on the huge double deck Airbus 380) but with a bed it was easier. My sister Iris and husband Bob had done a marvellous exercise in arranging the service at St. Nicholas Church; where we were married and where the family graves are and also the reception and masons to carve the new inscription on the headstone. I met so many friends and people I had not seen for over 60 years. One trip I drove was down England to Surrey and to the Solent to meet Rita's childhood school friends; Margaret (née Hand) and Jean (Yule). The English countryside was lovely but the traffic jams; 9½ hours return; not so. And why does everyone have a penchant for gear change cars. I had great difficulty in hiring an automatic for in NZ 90% of cars are automatics and stop and start driving is so more relaxing!! In NZ you can take your licence in an automatic car and still receive a full licence to drive all cars.



With the usual time jet lag I was out and about at 6 am and usually walking around Taylor Park and the Lake. With peanuts and bread I soon made friends with and photographed the wildlife and was pleased to accommodate myself with

animals we don't have in NZ like squirrels, Red Robins and a variety of Tits. I really enjoyed these walks.

Mike Melia took me to Blackpool which was very quiet with its wide promenade and more donkeys on the sand than people, but the fish and chips were good. The piers were crowded with amusements which I didn't expect but the double decker trams still ran.



I visited Formby and Southport with Iris and was surprised to see the sea wall and the sea so close for I remember Southport with cars on the sand where you could play family cricket and the sea was out of sight. The large open air baths had vanished too where we spent days with our children. Liverpool did impress me with wide open walking spaces, an attractive dockland area and new museums. We were lucky to be able to see the opening up of the mosaic floor in St. George's hall which hadn't been seen for 100 years. It was there I had a spectacular fall down the steps with a local saying with his dry humour that I "dove better than the Liverpool goalkeeper". Only a few bruises and scratches and a bent camera and pride.

St. Helens centre looks a little drab with the migration of shops to new developments on the ring road. Woolworths was boarded up and Marks about to move. Couldn't believe the amount of "Vaping" I saw. However Pilkington's museum was excellent and we often had lunch there.

Diane has a conference in London next June and I hope, all being fit, to come back and have another visit. In October Diane and Andrew had a conference on the Gold Coast in Australia.

With Ella and Kayley we made a family holiday out of it and first of all stayed at a large apartment on the beach in Currumbin. It was also just across from a very extensive wild life park with amazing birds and animals and lorikeets which perched on your arm to be fed. The kangaroos loved to be stroked but not the crocodiles. Every day Ella and Kayley were in the pool and surf and had a grand time.



Then we moved up to the beautiful Twin Waters Resort where Rita and I spent many happy holidays and with the whole family had our 50th wedding anniversary. I was able to visit a large Gem and Mineral show nearby and was amazed at the quality and talked to people who prospected and searched for rocks, fossils and precious stones all over Australia. This was a real bonus. More rocks and samples in the case for my Geology classes back home.

This was a wonderful trip full of lovely memories.

Rita adored the grandchildren and they too loved her so much. She would have been so pleased to hear about their continuing successes. This year Andrea completed her double degree in Commerce and Sports science and after a tour of Europe with



boyfriend Tom is working as an Events Manager in Auckland. Katie has almost finished her MSc in the Geophysics on the fault zones around Dunedin and will be looking for a job in February. Adam has completed his third year in Medicine in Otago and topped his class. Next he starts the final three years of study and practice at Christchurch hospital. Logan has completed second year Electrical Engineering at Auckland University, again as a class leader, and is specialising in Computer engineering. During this summer break he is back in Hawkes Bay working for a robotics company writing software for Robotic interfaces. Liam has just finished exams for year 12 and has his final year at Havelock North High School next year. Ella who just turned 15 starts year 11 at Wellington High school next year and loves making films and videos to enter into competitions. Ella's video of going to Tasmania with Diane and Andrew for a conference in July is below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65FzZMr0qyk&feature=youtu.be>

And finally little Kayley who has one year left at primary school and is a little bundle of Energy.

David is now also working in the Robotics industry mainly in the huge Kiwi Fruit operations. He designs and writes software for the automatic scanning, analysing and packaging of Kiwifruit. He is often up in Te Puke (Centre of Kiwi fruit) testing high speed and infrared cameras to look for damage, bruising and misshapen fruit to reject as the fruit moves fast on conveyor belts for packaging.

Diane is busy as ever as Professor of Pathology in Wellington and Deputy Dean of the Medical School. Conferences, meetings and air travel are part of her life as well as teaching Pippins (very young Brownies) Last Christmas was held at David's with all the family and it was a beautiful hot summer. Rita and I went as usual to the Art Deco Festival in Napier which sadly was our last major outing. We loved Napier with its Art Deco with all its



Art Deco 2018

events, walks on the “boardwalk” and tea and ice cream in the beach cafés but as you know Rita became weaker and soon it was just car trips which we still loved. A beautiful time together This Christmas Diane has the use of a Four bedroom house in “Bethlehem”, which belying its name, is actually a suburb of Tauranga, a beautiful city on the East Coast in the Bay of Plenty about 4 hours drive North from me. So I will be joining the family there.

My other news is that three weeks ago I had a double cataract operation at a new eye hospital in Hastings and all went well and took two hours all told. The world is a brighter place and colours more vivid and vibrant. The blues and purples really stand out as I see more into the U/V. The surgeon said that I can see more how bees see flowers. Adam stayed with me for two weeks administering eye drops. I had one eye long vision (to fly my aeroplanes) and the other eye average vision. Apparently this is a good combination. In a couple of days I go to my friendly Optometrist in Hastings who runs Specsavers. Niall came from St.Helens too and went to West Park coming to NZ in the 80's so we have a lot in common and he always looks after my eyes. Time to wrap up and wish you all well for times ahead. Remember to keep you loved one's close; pull those dusty old albums off the shelves and remember to good times past; plan well for the future and spare time to sing “Auld Lang Syne” for me at the end of the year.

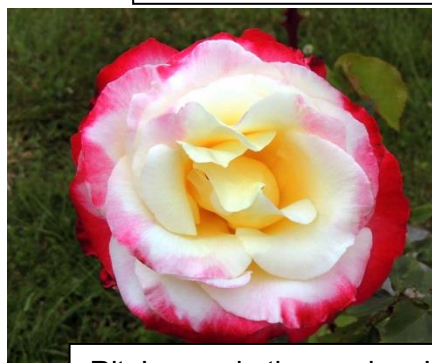
Best Wishes to you all

Norris

You can contact me at rita-norris@xtra.co.nz and see more information at www.ritanorris.com



Catamaran sailing at Twin Waters; Lorikeet feeding; Crab apple blossom in garden



Rita's rose in the garden; Liverpool with Bob; St. George's hall steps to fall down



At Bob and Iris's; lunch at Pilkington's glass museum; Rita in Blue in the garden