



Newsletter Christmas 2009

26 Palmbrook Avenue, Havelock North, New Zealand



Hi Everyone,

Best wishes to you all once more on this lovely November day as the sun shines down on our roses, geraniums, lavatera and aquilegia. The petunia seedlings and begonias have all been planted and we have said goodbye to the swathe of lily of the valley, freesia, ranunculus and bluebells. It should reach 23°C today which is quite pleasant.



Rita & I were in Queensland, Australia a couple of weeks ago and we found the 32°C warm but we had a great time, walking, fishing, eating out and sailing on the Noosa river. The Australian wildlife is always colourful and the famous Jacaranda trees of Gympie were quite brilliant throughout the area. Rita's major complaint was the raucous Kookaburras, whip birds and parrots which woke her up at 4-30a.m. each



morning. Queensland has this odd time zone where there is no daylight saving, it starts to become light at 4am in mid-summer and twilight is at 7pm.

This time we stayed in Tewantin, inland from Noosa, and the native bush is close and there is a pleasant mountain (Mt. Timberwah) which we climbed.

Previously in July we were south of here with all the family, thirteen of us, at Twin Waters resort, Mudjimba, on the Maroochy river. It was fun to see all the cousins enjoying each others company, sailing, fishing and swimming. Ella and Liam

seemed to spend most time on the beach chatting away.

The children are certainly growing. Andrea (14) & Katie almost 14. Logan and Adam 11, Ella 6, Liam 7 and Kayley 1.





Andrea now has babysitting jobs and has done well in her science projects at school. She is a cheerleader too- the one who is thrown in the air. Once they didn't catch her and Andrea fell on her head; but happily soon recovered. Katie has won prizes for Speech and Drama and recently represented her Underwater Hockey team in the Nationals in Christchurch. You certainly need to swim well and hold your breath. This is an amazing game where you swim underwater and try to steer a weighted puck on the bottom through goal posts. Adam has played soccer during the winter and also took up shooting but now it is softball season for him. He is excellent on computer games and also an excellent pilot of my radio control planes when he come up. We expect Adam up shortly, flying on his own on Air NZ from Wellington so do some more R/C flying.



Logan also plays soccer and writes computer programs. In a recent examination for Australia and NZ he came in the top 4% for Maths, Science and computing.

Ella and Liam love school and when we phone Diane, it is sometimes difficult to speak to her if Ella answers and chats away. I think that she has the making of a politician.

Kayley is quite charming and is now walking and says a few words. She attends playgroup with Karen who has now been able to continue with her job with the association. We met David & family on our way to Australia and Rita & Kayley had a lovely time together.



Both David & Diane have been visiting Australia regularly. Diane took all the family to both Adelaide and the Gold coast where the Children enjoyed the theme parks. These venues where conferences she attended as part of her position as Pathology examiner for NZ and Australia.

David has just been to Melbourne where he demonstrated his electronic fish measuring table to the Aussies. This is a robust high tech instrument which he manufactures and automatically records all statistics of the fish when they are caught on the fishing boats. It is used by governments to monitor catches to prevent over fishing of a species.

Rita & I continue on our merry way and Rita helps me with my position as president of our U3A. We have 350 local members and run over 45 courses. The computer group now has 90 members and Rita comes along to help out. You can see something of our organisation at the website which I have created at www.u3ahavelocknorth.com . There are photographs on the site which I have taken around Havelock North. Some from a camera in the radio control planes which I build and fly. The garage ceiling now has quite a collection of my planes.

We still continue with our daily walks, cinema visits and visits to our older & sick friends.

We seem to have lots of festive dinners building up to as the Christmas season approaches.

2009 has been a very busy and active year for us and there always seems to be something to do. It has also been remarkable with the Recession, Swine Flu, Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Pirates and refugees on the high seas and the political shenanigans about carbon credits and global warming. But here we are quite isolated in the South Pacific from most of the planet with enough fresh food, re-usable energy supplies and resources for a much larger country than our 4 million; even though the number of immigrants from the UK seems to be rising.

Time to put the Christmas lights up on the outside of the house to welcome all the visitors who wander down our Avenue in the warm summer evenings to view the houses all lit up. The best decorated street in Hawkes Bay.

Have a Great Christmas and New Year.

Best Wishes from Rita & Norris

our new website is www.ritanorris.com

