

## Dear Friends

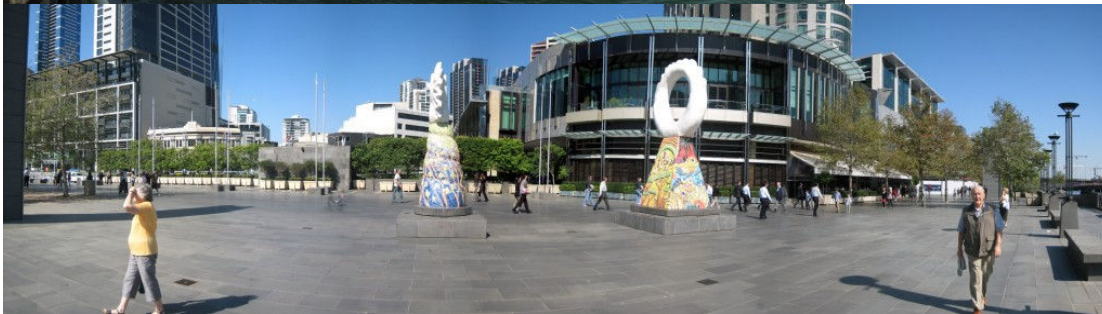
As we reflect on the happenings since our last Christmas newsletter, we realise that this has been a fairly quiet year for us – thankfully. The first departure from routine, was a visit to **Lyndell and Smithy** in Nelson in March. Also in March, saw the conclusion of a task commenced when Reg was Chairman of the Church Board of Managers, with the return of the ‘retired’ St Andrews church barged by sea from Snells Beach to its original home in the village of Matakana.

In April, we visited Melbourne as the guests of some dear generous friends who made available their 5<sup>th</sup> floor apartment at Beacon Cove (below), Port Melbourne (and a spare Range Rover). From this vantage point, we



St Andrew ‘On sea’

watched the ferry leave nightly for Hobart, and another re-appear in the morning. We were impressed with the development in the city of the Southbank Boulevard on the Yarra River. We also visited friends in Geelong who shared the Oberamagau experience with us in 1990, and as previously, this became



SouthBank Boulevard, Yarra River, Melbourne

On the 5<sup>th</sup> May, **Paul** and his partner **Erin** delivered our third grandchild, initially nicknamed ‘Pug Monkey’, but later basking in half a dozen Christian names commencing with ‘**Miro Zade**’ and ending in ‘**Turley-West**’ – a combination of his parents surnames. When **Jan** and **Larissa** met up with them all at Lyndell’s in September, they found a happy contented little chap with doting parents – including a father happy to deal with the business end of nappies.



Erin, Miro and Paul (Pav)



In June, **Lyndell** and **Jan** went north to Kerikeri

unsuccessfully searching for a pottery handbasin for Lyndell’s home. There was a happier outcome to Lyndell’s stopover of 18 hours at the end of November on her way to Tonga and Vavau Islands with an old school girlfriend, when she discovered she had the wrong passport!. There was also a happy outcome when Lyndell celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with a tandem parachute jump – which she says she will repeat (the jump, not the birthday).

July storms saw hurricane force winds attack our exposed position on the ridge, dislodging roof tiles, demolishing guttering, and wrecking stowed awnings on the house and cottage. Our bush was decimated, the canopy reduced to shreds and a carpet of foliage some 150mm thick covered the ground. Recovery is slow and it will take many years for full restoration.

<<<<<<<< Aunty Lyn and Miro



In August, we took our third **Blue Lagoon Cruise** around the Yasawa Islands off Fiji. It was every bit as relaxing, romantic and rejuvenating as we remembered. We made new friends, including a couple now living in Orewa whose background in



Christian living paralleled ours with many friends in common, and Karen could have been Jan's twin with similar hobbies, health issues – **and** 10 year old grand-daughters - both called **Larissa** !



**Swimming Pool on the stern of the Fiji Princess**

Social activities for **Jan** continue to include her Embroidery Group, Garden Club, weekly church based coffee mornings where their special functions have included ***Islands in the Sun, Honouring the Old folks, Around the world in 40 Minutes*** and the just held ***Scotland the Brave*** on St Andrews Day. We have been to concerts, theatre shows, followed the grandchildren around on their netball, dancing, soccer activities, and enjoyed '**siblings dinners**' with Jan's brothers and sisters-in-law. We still travel to Auckland one day a week for Reg to attend the office (and a similar time is spent working from home), Jan for her Embroidery group, usually ending the day having dinner with **Cherie , Larissa and Marcus** .

**Cherie** has now completed her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 3yr post-graduate Diploma in Business Management and is applying her new skills to the management of **Latitude Six**. Latitude Six is a small coffee importing and distribution activity under the auspices of Mission Aviation Fellowship honouring Richard's wish to improve the living conditions of the PNG Highland villagers where he was flying out their coffee in dangerous conditions, by returning the maximum funds directly to the villages for community projects.

May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you and your loved ones throughout the year.

**Uncle Smithy and Miro**

*Jan and Reg*

