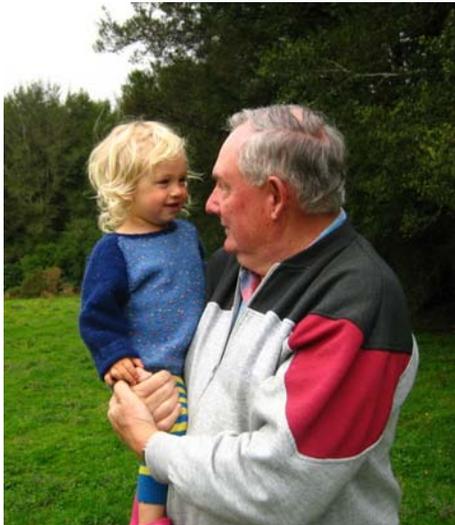


Christmas last year weighed heavily for Jan, but the surprise visit of **Lyndell** for two days lifted her spirits as did the arrival of **Paul's** second boy, named **Solix** (with half a dozen other names of NZ trees and birds) Then in January, we had an interesting lunch in a Treehouse – an intriguing promotional construction and a unique experience on a delightful summer day.



February was Australian visitors month with **Robert and Heather** from Melbourne, with whom we have holidayed many times, visiting while on a cruise around NZ with Robert's brother and his wife. **Joyanne and Paul** were also visiting from Sydney for the first of their two visits this year.



Reg and Miro

We borrowed a mobile home in March and made our way to **Paul and Erin** in the South Island to spend some time with them and **Miro and Solix** and meet **Erin's** parents visiting from USA. This trip rekindled our interest in mobile homes, and we are on the lookout for a particular model.

We had the fun of taking **Marcus and Larissa** to a '**Cats**' production – their first live show. They were impressed. Later in the year, we took **Larissa** to Wellington for The **World Of Wearable Arts**". All 3 of us were suitably **WOWed**.



Larissa & a WOW Friend

they crawled all over and inside large aircraft. We also took the whole family to the volcanic **White Island** off the coast from Whakatane. Quite awe-inspiring and spectacular, with a dangerous history.



Marcus at the controls of an RNZAF Hercules

We have had the children stay for the school holidays, and **Jan** has spent time looking after them while **Cherie** has been away at conferences. She found their activities of netball, dancing (winning a school competition) and music practice (flute) for **Larissa**, and Boys Brigade, Surf club, soccer and dancing for **Marcus**, kept her on the go. She had to come home for a rest. Next year, **Marcus** will have his last year in primary school, and **Larissa** will move on to Rangitoto College.

Church activities continue, with **Reg** involved in the Finance Committee of the National Presbyterian church, and **Jan** with her weekly ladies coffee mornings. At the beginning of the year, we welcomed a new minister as an associate pastor, but unexpected serious health issues forced the early retirement of our senior minister and the new man found himself carrying the full responsibilities sooner than planned.



Jan and Solix

Jan has become an accomplished public speaker, taking the lead in four Church Ladies coffee programs for the year, and being invited on several occasions to give talks to garden clubs and the RSA on her favourite subject – **NO**, not the grandchildren or even Reg, but **Monarch Butterflies**. She has even been in print in local papers, raising 900 butterflies in the last season – about the yearly average, but well down on last year's numbers of 1600.

Reg has had a busy year in 'retirement' with significant company re-organisation creating a lot of personnel activity, and being tasked with finding new premises for all of the companies in the Group. It appears age is catching up on him, and he celebrated the conclusion of **'three score and ten'** in October with a gathering of all of the family (**Paul, Erin, Miro and Solix**, and **Lyndell** all up from the South Island) and 30 or so close friends. Mid-year, he was taken aback with a confirmed diagnosis of glaucoma in both eyes, but has adjusted to the regular eye drops routine, which hopefully will contain the problem. Apart from this, we are keeping remarkably well.



We spent a week with local friends who have a beachfront property at Bagara, out on the coast from Bundaberg, five hours by high speed 'Tilt Train' north of Brisbane. YES, it really does



"What's for lunch?"

tilt to enable speeds of up to 160kmph. Then later for Reg's birthday treat, we spent a week at Lake Wanaka near Queenstown where we explored all of the roads leading away from the lake to the Aspiring National Park and up the steep winding roads to the ski fields - and fending off hungry Keas. Reg spent some time piloting a glider over the internationally renowned gliding area of Omarama - parachute and all.



"That's the EJECT lever .."

We are planning a Northern Hemisphere holiday mid next year, centred on the Oberammergau Passion play in Germany which we saw 20 years ago. We will spend time in Turkey, Greece, cruise around the Greek Islands, another on the Danube or Rhine, and conclude with time in England and Ireland. Much planning to be done.



"GO WEST" 'male' train - 3 Generations

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

Jan and Reg



Reg's birthday dinner, Lake Hayes