

Christmas Day 2010 was shared as usual with **Cherie and Mike, Larissa and Marcus** and the extended Marriott Family at the Whangaparoa home of Cherie's brother Aaron. After that, **Larissa and Marcus** stayed with us for a few days before they headed off for their usual Rotorua Lakes and Papamoa Beach holiday.



In late January, our good friends **Richard and Janet Burfitt** from Hurley-on-Thames (UK) came to stay, and we toured Northland, Waitangi, Cape Reinga, etc with them. It was great to be able to repay some of their wonderful hospitality to us over the years.

In February, Reg's mother's husband **Graham Newport** moved into a Rest Home at age 94. He subsequently died in August. Graham's passing allowed the sale of Reg's Mum's flat, and the proceeds are earmarked to provide the initial funding for the Richard West Memorial Foundation, dedicated to supporting Mission Aviation

Pilots with serious financial shortages in the final stages of their training, as Richard and Cherie experienced.

In March we spent an enjoyable few days with good friends **Jan and Alan Stevenson and Rosalie and Alex White** at Opito Bay on the Coromandel Coast. We have stayed several times with them at their beach property at Bagara just out of Bundaberg, Queensland.



April saw a 'Street Party' – country style, where all the residents of Sharp Rd (3km long) gathered on the property of one neighbour to mix and mingle (and imbibe) while enjoying various pizza creations baked in a large pizza oven by a well known chef. – with no risk of being breathalysed on the way home.

Easter also saw the long awaited arrival of our Motor Home. There were many frustrating delays before it left UK, and just as many before it was road legal in NZ. We tracked the ship via its various ports through Panama to Auckland. Our first 'shakedown' trip was to the Agricultural Field Days in the Waikato. It was an enjoyable relaxing visit staying onsite overnight instead of the usual early start and late finish. We found the van cosy and comfortable.

**Jan** had been complaining of sight problems, and in discussion with **Paul**, he advised prompt consultation which revealed she had a small Macula Hole in the retina. The operation itself was painless, but the endless week lying face down while the repair healed was agony. She was only allowed to raise her head for 10 minutes per hour – which is not long enough to tend to personal matters, cook Reg's meals, do the laundry and grocery shopping! A cataract operation was also

done on the same eye – if done later separately, it could undo the Macula Hole repair. Jan's sight has stabilised, but it not as clear as previously.

In July, we took **Larissa and Marcus** to the BBC world tour of 'Walking with Dinosaurs' – a quite spectacular production.



**Lyndell**

**Joyanne**

**Cherie**

The **BIG** event for this year, was **Jan** achieving her "Three Score and Ten" milestone which she celebrated with a Hen Party involving 35 old and new 'girlfriends' including our

bridesmaid, **Margie Dennis** – and one Rooster. Friends came from all over including **Joyanne and Patsy** from Australia, for a very happy time. The celebration lasted for a week, (not the 'Hen Party') concluding with a night in the Sky City Hotel as a gift from Lyndell.





**Lyndell** had a holiday in Vanuatu for week in mid year with her partner, **Lance**, and then announced that she wanted to expand her culinary skills in Melbourne. Her house has sold, and she finishes work in January and will relocate at the end of February, 2012. Like all parents, we'll be storing "stuff" while she is away, starting with her Classic BMW Motorbike.

In September we had a lovely visit here for a week with **Paul and Solix (Solly)** while Erin took **Miro** to the USA for her brother's wedding. Solly is a lovely intelligent well behaved boy (we're not biased – much!), and Paul is a devoted father. Crawling around on ones knees chasing a 2 ¼ year old in response to a "Chase me Poppa" request can take its toll.



We also joined a Caravan and Motorhome club for a weekend away at Port Waikato – enough to convince us we must do more of it. It also provided Jan an opportunity to practice on her new folding bike.



As the Rugby World Cup neared its conclusion we visited 'Party Central' on Queens wharf for an International Robotics competition in a temporary shelter called "The Cloud" – named after NZ being known as "**The Land of The Long White Cloud – Aotearoa**".

For November 5<sup>th</sup> Guy Fawkes night, we had fireworks with **Larissa and Marcus** by our ponds – good fun.



As we compose this, we are in the midst of planning a 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary trip in UK/Europe for June/July/August 2012, commencing with a riverboat trip from the North Sea (Amsterdam), south through Europe via the Rhine and Rhone Rivers to the Mediterranean (Marseilles), an apartment in the Dockland Area of London for a week, some time in Henley/Hurley with Richard and Janet and the rowing regatta and other cultural festivals, and then a tour around Ireland – cleverly avoiding the Olympic Games in London. This will be followed by a leisurely B&B tour of Northern Scotland, down through Wales, concluding with a canal cruise on a narrow boat for a week somewhere in England, and finally back to Hurley again for some R&R before returning for the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding celebrations in December.



Normal activities have continued – Jan with raising Monarch butterflies, her midweek Sewing Group in Auckland, and Coffee mornings on a Friday with their well attended occasional larger gathering centering on special themes. Reg still visits the office on Wednesdays, but the volume of work is decreasing. He has had more involvement assisting other Presbyterian Churches north and south of Auckland through some difficulties as well as supporting individuals with work related personnel issues.

As always, we wish the Blessings of Christmas on you and your loved ones.

*Jan. and Reg*

