

As in the past, we shared Christmas Day 2012 with Cherie, Mike, Larissa and Marcus and the extended Marriott family. We had Margie Dennis, our bridesmaid, stay over New Year as she enjoyed some 'time-out' with us, and before we spent 10 days at Papamoa Beach in our motorhome with Cherie and the kids. Our major activity over New Year was preparing the house and grounds for our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in early February, postponed from December last year. Although concerned about having good weather, the prolonged drought that NZ experienced from January to March provided a fine day. Lyndell and Lance



came home for the week, and Lyndell applied her culinary skills and provided a wonderful meal for

our 50 guests which included old friends Patsy and Noel Cairns and their daughter Joyanne and husband Paul, all from Australia. We had a wonderful time of celebration reminiscing with family and friends.

***Reg, Larissa, Cherie, Marcus***



In March we headed off to the South Island for six weeks, meeting other friends in their motorhomes in Blenheim and Taupo. On the road to Murcheson, we had a stone crack the windscreen and arranged for it to be replaced in Greymouth while we spent some days with Paul and the boys. Unfortunately, as they installed the replacement, that too cracked, so another was ordered for installation on our return from Bluff and Stewart Island. We spent a couple of days on Stewart Island. The Fauveau Strait crossing was smooth both ways much to Jan's relief, and then we drove through to Milford Sound and took a boat ride on the sound out to the Tasman Sea.

***Mira, Sally, Paul, Reg***

The weather treated us well, and we enjoyed staying in DOC campgrounds as we travelled. We went to Christchurch and Dunedin for several days each, and visited old friends and explored the surrounds including the Taieri Gorge Railway, before crossing the Southern Alps to Hokitika on our return to Greymouth for the new windscreen and more time with Paul and the boys. While overnighing just south of Hokitika, we experienced a heavy downpour, and the van leaked badly, but it stayed dry while we spent a weekend at Marsden Point south of Whangarei with the Good News Vanners, a Christian group in which Jan's brother Murray has a leadership role. So the van hasn't been out much over winter especially after going to the National Agricultural Field Days near Hamilton, where we were reminded of the leak. A near neighbour builds motorhomes, and believes he has solved the problem (we hope), and we are looking forward to a 'dry run' - literally!!!



***A Taieri Gorge Rail enthusiast***



***Joyanne and Larissa***

In April, Marcus was baptised which was a great thrill, and Jan took Larissa to Sydney for a week for a 16<sup>th</sup> birthday treat, staying with Joyanne. The photos indicate they had a great time.

We stayed home for the winter, and it wasn't until September that we went offshore to visit Lyndell in Perth, stopping off in Melbourne to visit relatives and friends in Geelong.



***Larissa and Jan***



**Perth Wildflowers**

After a week with Lyndell and Lance we drove south to the coast and the Margaret River area, and then north of Perth in search of the wildflowers. We came home via Sydney, spending a week with Joyanne and Paul, and visiting the Sydney office of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). For the last couple of years, we have been in discussions with MAF in New Zealand and Australia, to establish the **Richard West Memorial Foundation**. The purpose of the fund is as a Fund-of-Last-Resort for experienced MAF trainee pilots who have exhausted their personal funds and whom MAF was at risk of losing because they cannot conclude their training. We know this was a difficulty for Richard and Cherie. We have made an initial contribution to establish the fund, and we hope it will attract additional donations. In November, we had the first inaugural meeting of the Trustees – a momentous and emotional time for us. In February next year, it will be 9 years since the accident.



In late October, friends from KeriKeri invited us to stay the weekend to experience the local



**A KeriKeri Garden**

Garden Ramble – the first ‘garden’ event for the year (apart from Jan’s monthly local Garden Club) !!!!! A fortnight later, we were in Paihia (and KeriKeri again) for a week, with Lyndell joining us.

During the year, it was ‘business-as-usual’ with our regular involvements of Home Group, ‘Coffee @ 10’ for Jan, and her Embroidery group still meeting in Auckland. She was also asked to make a presentation of our Rhine/Rhone river cruises of last year, one to her Coffee @ 10 Group, and another to her Garden Group. Reg continues to visit the office on Embroidery days, and to terrorise the natives. He has also spent a lot of time with a small committee charged with finding a new site for the Church. (A LOT of time – Ed)

Generally our health has been good, except that Reg put off last December having a mole on his leg checked because of preparations for our Wedding Anniversary, and when it was eventually confirmed as malignant, the resulting operation scar was 90mm long – performed by a doctor with 25 years surgical experience prior to joining the practice, who turned out to be a dark stocky Nigerian– with shoulder length dreadlocks!!!. Reg has since had a Whole Body mole map, and a couple more moles removed – thankfully all benign.

As we look forward to Christmas, Paul and Miro and Solly will be with us from Christmas Eve for two weeks, after which we will spend the last half of January at Papamoa again with Cherie, Larissa and Marcus. We are currently planning two months in UK/Europe in mid 2014, starting with the Henley Regatta and Festival, and concluding with the Hurley Regatta – both on the Thames - but majoring on a rail trip to the Arctic Circle through Sweden and Norway,



As usual, we wish the joy and peace of Christmas to be with you and your loved ones now, and throughout the coming year.



*Jan and Reg*

