

HAPPY, MERRY CHRISTMAS

12 December 2011



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**AND THE BEST FOR
2012,
YEAR OF THE DRAGON**

Yee-har! -- Year of the Rabbit ended up with the All Blacks manoeuvring a shaky 8-7 win over France to grab the Rugby World Cup (24 years since we last held it!). Jeremy became a significant part of it by taking on a contract as NZ Rugby Union's Finance Manager, so enjoyed meeting all sorts of important people and sinking many beers. Lindy's parents, Johan and Mercia, were here from Joburg to support the Spring Boks.



We enjoyed our usual quota of overseas and other visitors, starting with C's brother Tai and Joanie in January, and last week Alan and Vicky Young from Beijing. Hope we'll see more to enjoy Wellington with us. Well, I say enjoy, but in August, for the first time in 30 years, we had snow around us for three days -- our deck was white as were all the surrounding hills. (Global warming Huh!)

In February, having had a nasty shake five months previously, Christchurch suffered a really serious earthquake and large parts of the city were rendered unlivable-in. Many people were killed. It will be many years before Chch is restored. (The lovely Cathedral was seriously affected).



March saw the acquisition of seventy years by Christine, celebrated by a superb dinner at Wellington's new French restaurant, the Hippopotamus. And on the same subject, Gerald achieved 88 in November, a most lucky year ("baht saap baht") in Cantonese. And of course Tayla ("TJ") reached 1 on another lucky date, 1.10.11.

In Wadestown we keep as busy as we need. C has stepped down from the NZ China Friendship National Executive but has taken on the administration of their new national

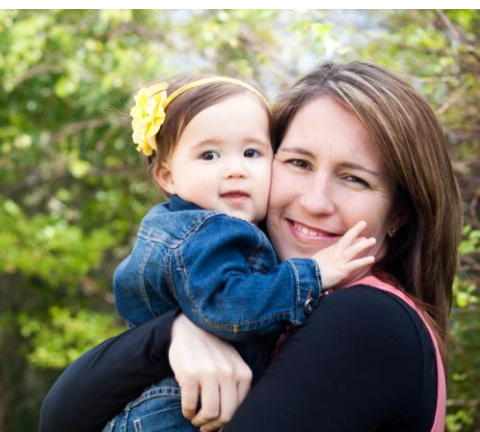
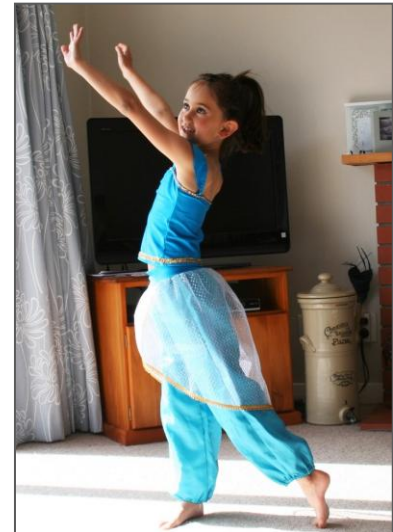


Website, which involves seemingly endless telephone discussions. She is keeping pretty fit, tending grandkids where required and keeping the deck "garden" in good shape; while G is beginning to seek the comfort of a book and La-Z-Boy as much as he can.



Sarah and the other Cottons in Nelson continue to thrive, the highlight being a trip to England in August to attend the wedding of Jenny and Linda, who have been partners for many years. Picture shows, from l, Sarah, Olivia, Jen, Linda and Simon. A very happy function, and we wish we could have been there. James stayed home, busy on his IT studies.

Out at Lower Hutt, Nick continues to split the atom and Mala is part-time accounting. They are half-marathon fit, and Alex(9) & Lauren(8) doing well at school, Lauren deeply into jazz and gymnastics. We greatly enjoy having the kids with us during school holidays. The four of them visited Disneyland etc in October – pic shows them at Universal Studios.



Jeremy Lindy and Tayla are going well out at Whitby, Lindy working part-time so we have the pleasure of caring for the little one, who is extraordinarily good and charming, walking well but not talking yet; once a week. They went family visiting to Joburg earlier this year.

Finally, we've of course had our election, with the expected majority for National, but also with some quite weird side effects such as 8 seats under MMP (and none by winning an electorate) for the aged and mad Winston Peters' party.

OK that's enough. Hope you have a wonderful silly season and all the best for the Dragon year.

Christina and Gerard