



HAPPY MERRY CHRISTMAS & THE BEST FOR THIS YEAR OF THE HORSE!

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Greetings All!

12 December 2013.

So, galloping along into the Year of the Horse, and still keeping as busy as we wish – well, Christine too much really with her garden and the NZ China Friendship Society. G reads a lot and is still doing some bookkeeping.

Wellington has unfortunately re-elected a rather feeble Greenie Mayor, and as a result Government's final agreement to go ahead with a flyover round the Basin Reserve (well-known cricket ground) and the Transmission Gully (alternate motorway north out of Wellington) are being interfered-with by our Wellington Council. The National Government is planning to sell up to 49% of many of its Energy assets -- Probably quite a sensible idea, but strong opposition from the opposition parties. The NZ economy is doing well enough, compared with much of the world. The All Blacks still dominate world rugby, with an unbeaten test record this year, though our last winning match against Ireland was most unconvincing. Wellington has been windy as usual, with a couple of severe storms (global climate change?) and a quite nasty 6.5 earthquake early in the year, not too much damage and no deaths thank goodness.

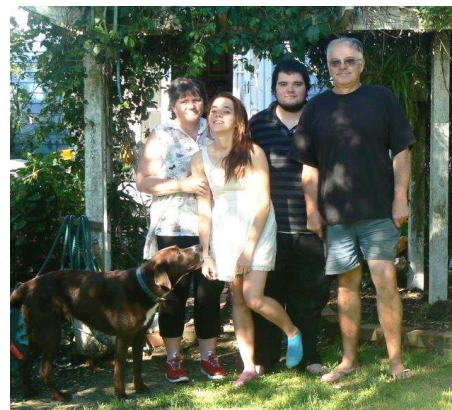


Big event of the year (yeah!) was Gerald's 90th Birthday, to celebrate which C organised a wonderful lunch down at the dockside. About 30 guests including Chadwicks from afar, Robin from New Jersey USA, friends from Nelson, and Sarah Nick & Jeremy with theirs. Four and a half hours. A glorious sunny day, and plenty to talk about!

G's driving license came up for renewal on his birthday, and he's decided not to renew it, having become a bit shaky and dim. His pacemaker is doing well. Some fun with the HK Club, which is producing a book on its history, and sent the author to Wellington to interview G (and others I suppose). (I joined the Club in 1956 and was residing there for my first 3 months in Hong Kong, and later also chaired the library committee.)

Sarah Simon James(22) and Olivia(14) are still enjoying the Nelson sun, Sarah carrying on with her part time nursing at neo-natal, and James is planning to move to Melbourne where life is a bit more active.

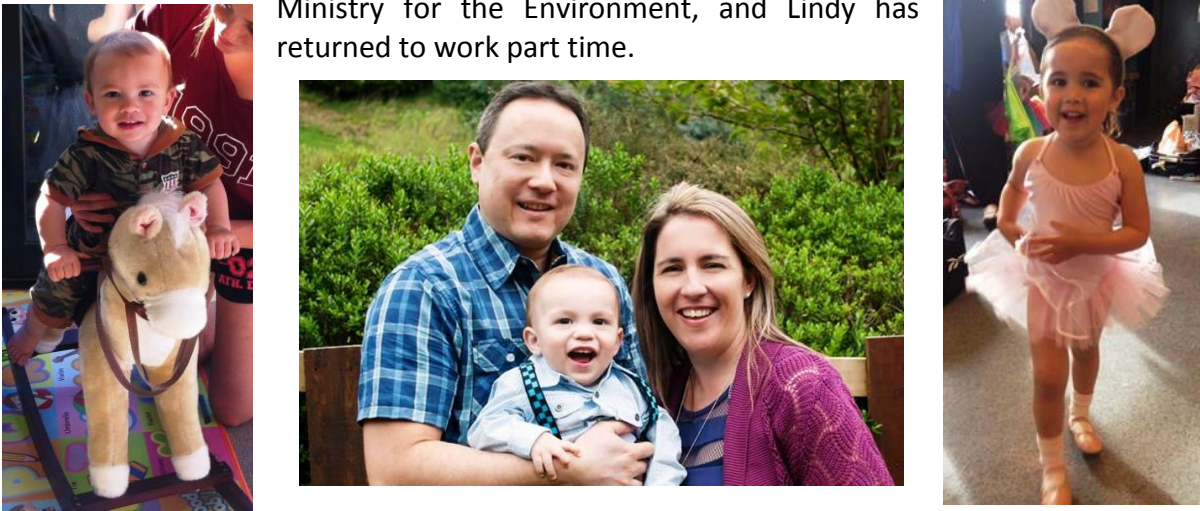
Jenny, in London with Linda, hopes to come out for a visit in 2014. Jenny spends time between her Sports Injury & Physiotherapy Clinic and lecturing at Greenwich University.



Out at Lower Hutt Nick & Mala, with Alex(11) & Lauren(10), flourish, especially at gymnastics & karate ouch! Alex, now in intermediate, is learning golf and saxophone, and Lauren is winning medals. The National Government has restructured the national science system, disestablishing the research capabilities, as a result of which Nick's research group has now transferred to Victoria University. Mala is still at Transpower part time.



Jeremy and Lindy thriving out at Whitby (just past Porirua) with 3-yr Tayla, who delightfully spends most Thursdays with us in Wadestown, and 1-yr Carter, who is now walking and participating vigorously. Jeremy is now a permanent employee of the Ministry for the Environment, and Lindy has returned to work part time.



Christine is still busy with the NZ China Friendship Society, and was persuaded back as the Wellington branch vice president. As Website Administrator <http://nzchinasociety.org.nz/> she was stressed out getting the Chinese Language version completed in July. Since then she has been quite involved with Te Papa, the National Museum, when NZCFS became sponsor for some of the society's interesting exhibits.

All the very best for the coming year,

Christine and Gerard