

HALLIDAY CHRISTMAS NEWS 2001

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The year began with a trip to Hastings, where we caught up with some friends, including our friend Sue, her new baby, Ian's ex colleague Peter, his wife Roz, David's school friend Robert and the congregation of St James Church. While we were there, we visited Splash Planet, the water theme park there, which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

In March, we travelled to Solway, north of Wellington for the balloon festival. This is one of the largest hot air balloon festivals in the world, and we all enjoyed the marvellous spectacle of these balloons from many nations as the sun went down. Particularly memorable were two, in the shape of an eagle which soared into the sky just on dusk and a kiwi, which surprisingly did the same.

In September, we went to Melbourne for a family holiday. Although the city was much the same as it had been when we visited in 1996, it seemed very different to us because our children are so much older. We again spent time at Sovereign Hill in Ballarat where we were still very impressed by the reconstruction of the gold rush village. We also saw their late-night show, Blood on the Southern Cross, which told some of the history of the area in sound and light. While in Ballarat, we also visited the wildlife park, where we fed some delightfully tame kangaroos.

We made two visits to Melbourne Museum, a new complex since our last visit, and the IMAX cinema. We were particularly impressed by the IMAX movie The Haunted Castle and Viv was excited to find an exhibition about Emilia Reggio, an innovative movement in early

childhood education. We also visited the new Aquarium on the banks of the Yarra River. We met up with our Vanuatu friends Sue and John Rolph and spent a pleasant day with them visiting the zoo. Altogether, it was a very lovely holiday.

Ian

Ian continues to work at National Bank, where he has now been in Risk Management for over two years. There is a change in the emphasis of the work he is doing at the moment, but it is still in the same broad area. Apart from that, he's still active in Toastmasters, where he is Area Governor for the Hutt Valley. He was involved in the organisation of the Wellington national conference in May and regional conference in October, also attending the national one in Christchurch in November. He's also filled in more time assisting in the foundation of the Business Analyst Institute of New Zealand and continues to be active at St John's Church in Trentham, where he is a Vestry member and Diocesan Synod representative. That's without counting the Banking and Finance Institute or being recorded for the New Zealand version of The Weakest Link (which unfortunately never made it to air).

Viv

Viv continues to be involved at Stokes Valley School in a mainly voluntary capacity. She's a member of the Parents Liaison Committee and is involved in the parent-tutor reading programme. She also continues to be involved in St John's Church. For most of the year she was the church newsletter editor. She retired from this position in September but continues to lead the children's ministry. Viv has taken over the presidency of her Toastmasters club, Upper Hutt, this year. She was also elected to the Board of Trustees of Avalon Intermediate School. She has found this interesting and challenging, especially as the school underwent an Education Review Office review shortly after the new Board was appointed. However, overall the review went very well and the school received a very positive report. Towards the end of the year, Viv went as a parent helper on Matthew's school camp. There, she enjoyed such varied pursuits as kayaking in the rain, supervising the flying fox



in the rain and outdoor swimming in the rain. It was a rather damp week, but great fun. Viv was also asked to act as a judge in the Great New Zealand Sausage Competition for a second year and appeared on the TV news in this capacity.

David

David started at Avalon Intermediate School this year. Intermediate School is equivalent to the first two years of an English secondary school. He looks very smart in his green and black uniform. This year, he has started learning the violin and resumed learning the piano. He seems to be making good progress in both of these pursuits. He also sings in the Church Music Group and performed in the Avalon Roadshow, which involved more than twenty performances in different venues around the area, a huge commitment in terms of time but a very rewarding experience. He continues to play softball, for which he was awarded the "most improved player" trophy for the 2000/2001 season. David has enjoyed the opportunities for technology at Intermediate, producing many interesting items, including an original pencil holder, a chessboard, a pencil box and a flying wooden bat (which is hanging above Ian's head as he types this). David has just returned from his school camp at Kiwi Ranch, about twenty miles north. He seems to have had a good time there, with much more favourable weather than his mother and brother. David has had a successful year academically, achieving well in the Australian Schools competitions and in the Otago Maths problem-solving challenge.

Matthew

Matthew continues to be an enthusiastic hockey player and cricketer. He too has resumed learning the piano. Matthew also took part in the Australian Schools competitions and also did well, especially in the writing competition. Matthew went to camp at El Rancho near Waikanae, about an hour to the northwest of here. All the children, including Matthew, had a wonderful time a camp, despite the inclement weather. The constant rain really didn't cause them to miss any of the experiences available. Matthew will be taking a leading role in the school's end of year production as the narrator of his class's play. He also represented his school in the inter-school athletics, cross-country and swimming events. He is looking forward to joining David at Avalon next year.

Christopher

Christopher continues to play t-ball. He has had a good year at school, with a noticeable improvement in his academic skills, particularly reading and writing. Currently, he is busy practising for his performance as a pirate captain in his class's end of year

performance. Christopher did well in the school cross-country competition, finishing in the top five in his year.



Cats

We still have four cats, the same as last year: Sooty, sleek and black, Willow, small and black and white, Fluffy, fat and tabby and Sludge, long haired, tortoise shell and cheeky. They continue to grace our household as only cats can.

That's about it for this year. We again wish you and your families every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

All our love,

**Ian, Viv, David, Matthew
and Christopher**