

HALLIDAY NEWS 2002

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given - Isaiah 9:6

Another Year

Another year has rolled around, and it scarcely seems that this is the thirteenth Christmas since we left England, or the ninth one we will celebrate in New Zealand or even the fourth one in the Hutt Valley. Ian has still never got used to having Christmas in the summertime, though if the weather continues as it has done for the past month, he won't need to.

Ian's father

I suppose that the main event this year was the death of Ian's father in September, at the age of 89. John had been very poorly since a fall in November 2001, but it was still a shock when the time came. Ian travelled back to England for the funeral and to be with his mother, taking about three weeks away from Viv and the boys. Ian flew straight from Wellington to Manchester, but on his way back took a day's break in Los Angeles, where he used the new metro system to get to and from Universal Studios, which has changed substantially since our first visit there in 1990. Ian finally got to take the Jurassic Park ride as recommended by Viv and Chris on their trip there in 2000.

Easter in Taupo

Over the Easter break, we spent a few days in Taupo, taking the jet-boat ride along the Waikato River to the base of the Huka Falls and also walking along the riverbank the following day over much the same route. We also revisited favourite thermal sites such as the Craters of the

Moon and the Taupo hot pools, which had a taniwha waterslide, which the boys enjoyed.

Here is the news

Ian appeared on national TV news in April as a result of a problem with email security on a mobile phone. For the rest of the year, people have been buttonholing him and saying "I saw you on the news", which is fun at first but gets to be wearing months later.

Balloons again

We went to the balloon festival again. It's still an inspiration to see these beautiful hot air balloons and to eat the exotic food from the stalls there. This year, the main attraction was a balloon in the shape of a Highland piper, who was cut loose just before sunset.

New Zealand films

We went to see the New Zealand premiere of Star Wars, which was a popular event here, as the film stars two New Zealanders. We won't be going to see the premiere of the second part of Lord of the Rings (because that is far too popular for us to have a chance for tickets) but we will be seeing it very shortly after its release.

School news

At the start of the year, Matthew joined David at Avalon Intermediate School. Although they are almost two years apart in age, they are just one school year apart. Matthew and Christopher were selected to take part in the gifted kids programme, which is one day a week away from their

own schools in a group of their peers. The GK programme is a relatively new venture, and we are pleased to support it.

At the end of January, David will be starting at Taita College. College takes students up to University entrance. We are looking forward to this, as is he, but it really doesn't seem long since he started school.

This sporting life

Over the summer, David again played softball, Matthew again played cricket and Christopher again played t-ball. David won the "most improved player" award for softball and Matthew won the "best team payer" award for cricket. Over winter, all three boys played hockey in the same team and seemed to enjoy it. The summer sport season has just started again, and the merry chauffeuring service has also started, delivering three boys to three different venues each Saturday morning.

That's another story

Matthew and Christopher were selected to attend story telling workshops at their respective schools and were subsequently chosen to perform in the "Glistening Waters" story telling festival in Masterton (an hour north) over Labour Weekend (end of October). This was a great experience for the boys, who both performed very well, with Matthew telling the story of the Spanish invasion of the Aztecs and Christopher telling of the Three Billy Goats Gruff. We also heard some excellent international standard storytellers while we were at the Festival.

David, on the other hand, attended the Kids Conference at the Wellington Stadium. There he had the opportunity to attend workshops and presentations on many different topics and to present an essay which he had written, on the subject of the effects of genetically modified food.

Music, music, music

All three boys have taken an active interest in music this year, with David learning violin, clarinet and piano, Matthew learning oboe and piano and Christopher starting to play the recorder and clarinet. Ian is trying to learn patience, but is not finding it easy.

Still doing...

We are still both actively involved in both Toastmasters and the church. Our vicar resigned at the start of December, effective at Christmas, so who knows what the future will hold?

Ian is still actively involved in Credit Risk management at the National Bank of New Zealand, while Viv is still on the board of Avalon Intermediate School and helping as a teacher aide at Stokes Valley School.

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