

HALLIDAY NEWS 2003

*The question everyone is asking is:
Where did 2003 go?*

Start of the year

We started the year with Chris going to Napier with his friend John and his family, and while he was in Napier, Viv, David and Matthew went to Wanganui with Sandra and Michael. Ian stayed in Wellington and, among other things, went to the cricket at Wellington Stadium, where India beat New Zealand. After that, we met up with Chris and we all stayed a couple of nights with Peter, an old workmate of Ian's, and his wife Ros, and also caught up with some friends from St James' Church. Also over the break, Viv and the boys went on a YMCA camp while Ian again stayed home and at work.

Wellington celebrations

A highspot of Wellington life is the "Stadium Spectacular", when all sorts of spectacular things happen at the stadium, such as the 1812 Overture with cannons. The two highspots were the riders from the Lord of the Rings holding flaming torches as they processed, and a tribute to Sir Edmund Hillary, with our boys as three of the fifteen hundred waving paper lanterns. I'm not entirely sure why this is appropriate as a tribute to Sir Ed, but it looked impressive.

Soarin' over California

Easter saw us travelling to California, revisiting Disneyland and Universal Studios Hollywood. For the first time, we went to the new California Adventure Park and to Knott's Berry Farm. The best part of California Adventure was the ride "Soarin' Over California" which simulates a trip over California's landmarks, with the sights, smells and feelings of such a trip. We also visited the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Island, which has a "petting zoo" with sharks as the main attraction.

David starts College

At the start of the year, David started at Taita College. He seems to have had a good year: he is in the accelerate class. He particularly enjoys English, Drama and Science. He represented the school at the Mathswell competition and a debate.

Matthew: speaker, runner...

Matthew is about to complete his final year at Avalon Intermediate School and has been school representative and school council representative this year. He had the opportunity to attend a Young Leaders Conference where he presented a highly acclaimed speech to around a thousand people. He also won the school speech competition. He also played for the school hockey team and took part in the school roadshow. He also took part in the Round the Bays run, as did Ian. Matthew's time was 60 minutes, Ian's was 68. Matthew would probably have been disappointed if his time had been more than Ian's; Ian was just glad to finish at all.

Christopher's news

Christopher is still at Stokes Valley School. He has taken part in school cross country, the Artsplash music festival and other events, and is a keen and enthusiastic citizen of the school. He also did well in the Australian maths, science and writing tests.

Gifted Kids

Both Matthew and Christopher have taken part in the Gifted Kids Programme this year. This is a one day a week programme for primary and intermediate aged children. In the middle of the year, Gifted Kids held a "Night of the Notables" evening when each child presented research on a notable character and dressed as that character. Matthew took the part of JRR Tolkien, while Christopher took the part of Genghis Khan. A more recent project was to choose a family treasure and produce an A3 sheet of material about it as part of a display at the Museum of Wellington City & Sea. Each

class had to vote for one person's treasure to be displayed in the Museum. Christopher's was chosen, so our Family Bible is currently on display at the Museum. Another aspect of Gifted Kids is that they receive chess tuition. Matthew was part of a team of four representing Gifted Kids in a recent chess tournament. The team was placed second. Matthew played exceptionally well, winning five and drawing one out of the six games he played.

Ian and Viv: no change?

Ian and Viv are still very actively involved in both St John's Church in Trentham and Toastmasters. Ian is still a member of the Vestry and the Diocesan Synod and is also President of his Toastmasters Club this year.

Viv is still involved in the Youth Group and Kidz Stuff (Sunday School).

At the end of October, we welcomed our new vicar, nearly a year after our previous vicar left us. We are looking forward to seeing how our church family develops over the coming months.

Schools and Banks: "Strategic reviews"

Last month, Lloyds TSB announced the sale to ANZ Bank of Ian's employer, the National Bank of New Zealand. It's too early to say what the impact of this sale will be: at present, both the ANZ Bank and the National Bank will continue their operations much as before.

For now, business continues as usual, and Ian continues to work on the new Basel Capital Accord.

At the same time, the Government announced a major review of schools in Stokes Valley and Upper Hutt. Again, the impact of this will not be known for a while, but it is likely that two of the schools in Stokes Valley will close. Christopher will have left Stokes Valley School before then, though Viv is employed there as a teacher aide. She is also on the Board of Trustees of Avalon Intermediate School.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2004.

Lots of love,

Ian, Viv, David, Matthew and Christopher

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