

2012 GREGOR CHRISTMAS LETTER

Our year started off with a trip to Italy with all five of us plus Kath. Theo has an annual ski ENT conference in Campitello, the call of the snow and mountains was too much to resist so it ended up being a family affair. Reinie and Kath both presented a paper at the conference which were well receive, Theo's ENT colleagues were impressed with them as they are only 4th year med students. After the conference Theo, Fiona and I went to New York for a few days which was great fun. We were so moved by the Twin Towers memorial. Fiona left us to go to the west cost of America and we went onto Vancouver. In Vancouver we met up with a school friend Paula Ford (Stravino) and had a great time catching up and were happy to discover that great friendships endure.

Theo and I are still very busy with our full time jobs and it seems to me that we are working harder as we get older instead of the other way round. I suppose one can look at it that we are both "suffering" from extremely good health and should be pleased that we can still work this hard. Waikato Hospital has had a huge re build and Theo's little project was overseeing the new ENT outpatient clinic, which was officially opened two weeks ago and is most impressive. I think Theo installed many ideas from the clinic in Holland. Running theatres remains a challenge for me; not so much the surgery but navigating all the personal issues of the staff and that does not include the doctors. My main project this year was organising our entrance into the NZ Inaugural [Pink Glove Dance competition](#). The best part is we won \$10,000 for breast cancer foundation. Please click on the link if you have not seen the dance. The next big project is next year and enjoying all the celebrations I intend to have for my big 6. (News of this in the next letter!)

Kelly remains in Auckland and after having to endure several moves has found a good home with good friends. She continues to run marathons and is growing from strength to strength in her job at Tower Insurance as communications manager. Fiona returned to Waikato Hospital in the surgical paediatrics ward. She has bought an apartment near the hospital and started running and even did a 10km run with Kelly.

Reinie has completed 4th year med. He has been totally bitten by the golf bug to the extent he even goes and plays on his own. He is home for the holidays and is doing another research project with Theo and will read that paper in Campitello next year.

Although this year has been busy it has been a happier one with no close family or friends meeting with untimely departures except for David Boynton in England. But it has been a year were the Arab world has reared its discontented head, the economy continues to be a challenge and the ferocity of cyclones and storms wreaked havoc worldwide, and continues in the Pacific as I write.

All I can say that if you have a family, friends and your health you are a wealthy person. My quote for this year is Christmas inspired but depicts exactly how I feel this year.

***"Two things upon this changing earth can never change or end,
The splendour of Christ's humble birth and the love of friend for friend."***

So my dear friends and family have a blessed Christmas and a glorious New Year. We wish you and your loved ones only the best and that 2013 may be filled with laughter, love, good health and joy.