

Christmas 2014: Gregor family Newsletter

It's that time of year, the end of 2014 and another Gregor family newsletter. I am hoping that Kelly, our writer, in years to come will take all our annual newsletters and make them into a book for our grandchildren so they can learn what we were as a family and who influenced our lives. Yes, you who are reading this newsletter will be part of that history.

Our year started in Campitello, Italy at the ENT meeting. We stayed in an apartment with our Dutch friends Frans and Agnes. Our ski trip was hampered by a massive snowstorm that had us housebound for two days. But the trip was saved by going to see "Lucia di Lammermoor" at La Scala and by having a fabulous bottle of noble late harvest from Sicily. We then went to Vancouver where Reinie and Kath were doing their elective period and spent a few days skiing at Whistler with them. If you are a skier and have not gone to Whistler, go there, it is truly amazing.

It has been a busy year for all of us. Lets start with Theo. You are never too old, so it seems, to add qualifications to your name. This year Theo became president of the New Zealand Society of Otolaryngology /Head and Neck Surgery and a fellow The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. The convocation was in Singapore. This he was able to enjoy with his nephew, Reinie and family.

As the President he was invited to attend the 50th South African ENT meeting in Cape Town. I, of course, took this opportunity to join Theo. Several things made an impression on me during this trip. Firstly we are all so much older yet still have so much in common with our old colleagues. South Africa still has so many special features and they are all people-related, they are a proud nation and our friends stand tall in it. In life one makes choices; some good and some bad and we must live with them. We chose to leave to offer a different opportunity to our children. Luckily for us they have done well. But I am mindful that it is our strong South African roots along with the New Zealand adage "She'll be alright mate" that have made them the awesome three that have become.

Secondly there is no place on earth that is more special than the Kruger Park area; our dear friends Avril and Gavin Walsh took us to Ingwelala for a few days. Thirdly, and not least, was our time spent with family and friends; Erica, Pietie and Jenny - wonderful family moments that meant so much to us. Dot and Peter in Stellenbosch and a memorable evening in Johannesburg with Kevin and Ann-Louise Fisher and Keith and Marilyn Davidge-Pitts having a Friday night Seder dinner. Life is funny we have lived around the world and it has given us so many special moments and treasured friends, it just seems a shame that we are so far apart.

Not much news from me. What I have discovered this year is that I at 61, and my mother at 61 are two completely different beings. We bought a double Kayak this year and I cannot imagine my Mum going on the lake for an 18 km kayak at 61. The old 50 is the new 60. All I can say is good health is worth more than gold.

So on to the news of our three. Kelly has continued to be a force in the commercial world of banking and communication. She also took up competitive sailing, which is a big kiwi thing. Fiona and Tony have consolidated their year together in Hamilton.

I suppose the big story of the year is Reinie becoming a Doctor. He is now working at Hasting Hospital as a House Surgeon and as he said to us on the eve of starting his job he is living his dream. The Gregor family are in awe of his absolute dedication to becoming a doctor and working so hard to achieve that goal, he is an inspiration to us.

The Gregor family wish you and your loved ones over this festive season a wonderful time with your family and hope that 2015 brings peace, happiness and good health to you all.

Every year I give a quote. This year is dedicated to Reinie as he starts his life as a Doctor with all the responsibilities and privilege that brings, son, remember the following:

“Life is an opportunity; benefit from it.
Life is beauty; admire it.
Life is a dream; realise it,
Life is a challenge; meet it.
Life is a duty; complete it.
Life is a game; play it.
Life is a promise; fulfil it,
Life is a song; sing it.
Life is a struggle; accept it.
Life is a tragedy; confront it.
Life is an adventure; dare it.
Life is luck; make it.
Life is too precious; do not destroy it.
Life is life; fight for it.”

Mother Teresa





