

Christmas Greetings from Ross and Kathy Callaghan

Welcome to our 2008 newsletter!



2008 has been a great year for us with a few ups and downs and many changes and re-adjustments. We hope that it has been a great year for you, too. Our prayer is that you will end the year with a wonderful Christmas celebration, and will face 2009 with much joy and hope.

You can always get up to date news on our activities (and lots of photos!) from our website <http://rosscallaghan.googlepages.com> but here are some our highlights for 2008:

Move to Paraparaumu Beach

We bought our new house in Paraparaumu Beach in November 2007, based on an offer that we had received for our house in Lower Hutt. Unfortunately this offer fell through and we were then significantly affected by the fall in the housing market. We had no income; our house was rapidly falling in value, and we were paying for the new place using bridging finance! This was a very stressful time but we decided to move to Paraparaumu Beach anyway (doing the whole move ourselves with our trailer), and waited for Lower Hutt to sell. After another offer fell through it finally sold in April. This was a great relief and we were then able to settle in properly and re-new much of our furniture.

And what a wonderful place we now live in! It has been a real joy exploring the lovely environment, setting up our new home and garden, and building new relationships.



Family

We were able to visit **Debbie and Fraser** in Melbourne twice during the year. They had a daughter Heidi in August so we now have two grandchildren. JJ is still full of energy and is getting used to having a new sister!



Sarah and Michael are also doing well. Sarah will be doing relief teaching next year, rather than being full time. She enjoys singing with Kathy in the Faultline Chorus; is on the Chorus Management Team, and is part of a quartet called Stage Hans.

Phil is very busy in his business, Verboom Badges. He has a shop in Cuba Mall in Central Wellington, and often has stalls at markets and big events. See www.buttonbadge.co.nz Phil's wife, **Sarah**, is doing occasional massages and will be studying science fulltime next year.



Our business

What a change we have had this year! We have had almost no work, so are enjoying being semi-retired (well quite a lot more than semi!!). Kathy has been doing some relieving as receptionist at the local medical centre and we have tried to establish a wedding video service <http://callaghansweddings.googlepages.com> Not working all the time has taken a while to get used to, but it has meant we have been able to focus on other aspects of life.

Visitors

One of the most pleasant aspects of the year has been how many visitors we have had. So many people have popped in; stayed a few days; received help or support; called in for a coffee; shared a walk to the beach.... This has been great! If you are close by to our place in Paraparaumu please come and see us!

Chorus

Kathy has continued to sing with the Faultline Chorus. This has meant lots of trips back and forth to Wellington, but she still enjoys her singing and is still learning the craft. A highlight was having Jo Kraut, retired Director of the Kansas City Chorus, and her sister Dee staying with us for a while, then all travelling to Hawaii in November for the Sweet Adelines International Competitions (as a spectators this time, not as participants).

Church

We have settled into a new Church in Paraparaumu. It is the Gateway Christian Fellowship, a small Church, mainly of older people. They have made us very welcome and Ross has been able to share his teaching gifts in Bible Studies and preaching. He set up a website for the Church <http://gatewaychristianfellowship.googlepages.com> He has continued his involvement with Girls Brigade and has developed a major leadership training programme for them, run a few 'train the trainer' workshops, and helped with Queen's Award.

It has been great to have time for all of these important aspects of life. God has been good to us!

Well that's the main news for 2008. Next year we will be going to the Girls Brigade Fonomarae in January, visiting Melbourne a few times and going on a trip to Vietnam and China. No doubt we will continue to develop our garden, take many walks on the beach and continue with our various ministries. Being 'semi-retired' sure does open up lots of wonderful possibilities!

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and that 2009 is a fulfilling and blessed year for you and your family. Do keep in touch! We value our relationships with friends all around the world and trust that you will know God's richest blessings on all that you do.

Love from Ross and Kathy Callaghan

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Glory to God in the highest. And on earth, peace towards men of goodwill.
Luke 2:14

Have a wonderful Christmas!