

## Christmas greetings from Ross and Kathy Callaghan

Hi there. We wish you a very Happy Christmas, and pray that you will have a safe and blessed 2011. It's great to keep in touch, isn't it, so we hope you enjoy our annual newsletter. Here are some of our highlights in what has proved to be an eventful year:

- **Travel**

This year we had three trips north visiting Taupo (with friends from America), New Plymouth (for Aunty Norma's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday) and Hamilton (for a family reunion), plus two trips to Melbourne. Our big trip, though, was to Hong Kong; Scandinavia, Russia and Estonia (on a Trafalgar tour); the Shetland Islands to find more about our family, and then a tour around Turkey. What a wonderful time we had! You can read all about this trip on our website under "Recent travels". It includes lots of photos!

We had an amazing experience on the trip in Nannestad, Norway when we met up with family descended from Kathy's grandfather, Harald Oskar Andersen. We didn't know anything about Harald's life before he came to NZ in 1903. Kathy wrote to the local newspaper to say we were coming and the reporter turned out to be a cousin of hers. How incredible! The family in Norway didn't know they had a family in NZ and vice versa. It was wonderful to bring the two sides of the family together over 100 years later. Kathy's account of this was recorded as the lead story in two editions of the *NZ Genealogist*. The story is also on our website <http://callaghans.yolasite.com> Don't miss it!

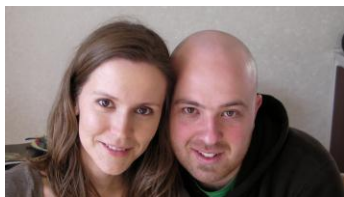
- **Ministry**

We have continued to lead the Gateway Christian Fellowship church and are thrilled with how the Church has developed throughout the year. Most of the people in the Church are elderly but all are involved in serving God in relevant ways, which is great. We have become even more involved in voluntary work at Sevenoaks Rest Home visiting people in the dementia unit; showing our travel DVDs and leading sing-alongs for the elderly residents. We find this very rewarding and the old folks get much joy from what we do.

- **Family**

**Debbie and Fraser** are still in Melbourne and doing really well. They had another child this year: *Luke Lewis Cunningham*, who was born in August. JJ is now 4, and Heidi 2. They are very energetic, and love their new baby brother. We visited the Cunninghams in Melbourne twice during the year, and they came to New Zealand twice as well. This, together with skype means we are fulfilling our goal of being "active grand-parents".

**Sarah and Michael** had a wonderful start to the year when their first child *Blake Laurence Stevens* was born. Blake is now a placid and contented little boy who seems to smile most of the time. Sarah and Michael are great parents and are enjoying each of Blake's milestones as they occur. We helped re-decorate Sarah and Michael's house at the beginning of the year in preparation for Blake's arrival.



Sarah and Phil

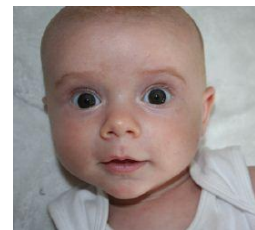
**Phil and Sarah** are also doing really well. Phil's business *Verboom Badges* has kept him busy, and doesn't seem to have been affected by the economic downturn. He finds that stalls at large events are especially effective. Sarah is continuing to get great marks in her university science studies, and still does some massage therapy work. Phil is making quite a name for himself in his cricket and still enjoys a bit of golf.



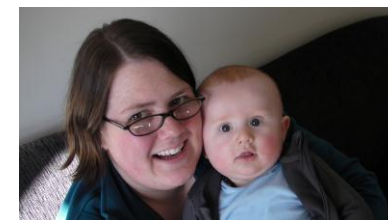
Ross and Kathy in Norway

- **Activities**

Kathy had serious problems with her teeth during the year but thankfully this is now sorted. She has continued to explore our family history and is especially enjoying building relationships with families we met in Norway. Ross has kept well throughout the year and has taken up golf again (after 40 years!). He is getting better all the time and recently had 34 for 9 holes (even par). We had almost no work during the year and so have decided to close our business and retire!



Luke, JJ, Debbie and Heidi



Sarah and Blake

We thank God for His continuing goodness in 2010 and pray that He would be with you and bless you richly in the coming year. Keep in touch! You can get lots more detail on our activities (including photos of our trips) from our website at <http://callaghans.yolasite.com> Check it out!

**Merry Christmas and lots of love from Ross and Kathy Callaghan**

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