

Ross and Kathy Callaghan's 2021 Christmas Newsletter



Ross and Kathy Callaghan wish you a very Happy Christmas, and pray that you will have a safe and prosperous year in 2022.

At this time of year we lead a number of carol services for elderly people in our community. These are wonderful times of celebration as we sing the familiar carols and reflect on the birth of Jesus – the One who came to *bring peace on earth and goodwill amongst men*. How much this is needed in our rapidly changing, covid-focused world!

Highlights of 2021 have included:

- **Debbie and Fraser** sold their house in Melbourne and bought a little one nearby with more land. They intend to demolish the house early next year and build a larger one, complete with swimming pool. **JJ, Heidi, Luke and Dan** have done remarkably well during the extensive lockdown especially as they had so little time at school and were all squashed together in the little house. Debbie is really enjoying her new career as a speech pathologist but, sadly, couldn't play much golf. **Sarah and Michael** are also considering doing alterations to their house in Lower Hutt. We were very proud when Sarah graduated as a RTLB - a support for teachers - and she is doing really well in her new role. **Blake and Isla** have had a good year with fewer lockdowns than their Australian cousins. (Blake is now at intermediate school). We get to see Blake and Isla regularly which is great. Early in the year **Phil and Mo** got married on a beach not far from Melbourne. **Billie** was the flower girl. We were very sorry not to be there but watched via Zoom. Phil had a difficult year with shows and cricket competitions being cancelled but worked hard to build up his on-line business. Mo has continued her nursing studies and Billie (now 3) is a delight. Phil has just achieved 'Legend' status in Last Man Stands cricket with 500 wickets and 11,000 career runs. With Melbourne finally opening up we are hoping that 2022 will be a much better year for the Melbourne families (and that just maybe we will be able to get over to see them!).
- **Kathy** has continued with family history research, this year focused on her grand-parents Jack and Nell Jones. Once again, Kathy discovered some amazing family links which led to special re-connections. A particular highlight was when Kathy told the local genealogy group how she re-connected with the family of her long lost cousin, Wendy. Not a dry eye in the building! During the lockdown **Ross** made another model ship, this time a scratch-build of the Devonport ferry 'Toroa'. It was a special build because Ross used to go to school on the ferry during the 1960s. We have kept fit by regular walks and by Kathy's aquafit and Ross's golf. We haven't been able to do as many community singalongs this year but still lead our wonderful "Youth Group" on a Sunday morning. And, with all the lockdowns we missed our regular cruises and overseas trips, but have still got out and about quite regularly. Instead we explored our local area and went on short trips to places like Whanganui, Palmerston North, and Masterton – not too far away from home.

Even though we live in uncertain times and are noticing our age a bit more, we have so much to be thankful for - a wonderful marriage; good health; three amazing children and the seven best grand-children in the world. We live in a beautiful place here in Paraparaumu; are still able to bless elderly people through our community activities, and, of course, have so many special friends and family - like you with whom we share our life.

Our prayer is that this Christmas you will, like us, know *the peace of God that passes all understanding* and will have a blessed and fruitful year in 2022.



Fraser, Debbie, JJ
Heidi, Luke and Dan.



Michael, Sarah
Isla and Blake.



Phil, Mo and Billie
wedding day



Ross's model ship
the 'Toroa'.



Kathy's presentation

You can get lots more detail on our activities from our family website <http://callaghans.yolasite.com>

Merry Christmas and lots of love from Ross and Kathy Callaghan

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