

## Ross and Kathy Callaghan's 2022 Christmas Newsletter



Ross and Kathy Callaghan pray that you will have a wonderful Christmas and that 2023 will be another happy and healthy step in this great journey of life - for you and your family. As we reflect on another covid-influenced year we appreciate more and more the opportunities that life throws us. For us, this is focused on relationships with friends and family; keeping fit and well, and on our (somewhat limited) travels.

We seem to have found a special place in supporting elderly people in our community which this year has meant continuing our exciting ministry with the 'Youth Group', fewer community singalongs but a wider range of opportunities alongside those who are struggling a bit. Right now, we are leading a series of carol services which are wonderful times of celebration of the birth of Jesus who came to bring 'Joy to the world'. How much this is needed in our rapidly changing, covid-focused world!

### Highlights of 2022 have included:

- Thus far we haven't got the virus and are keeping well, although starting to notice our age. During the year **Kathy** had a short stint in hospital to have her ovaries removed but recovered quickly. She has continued with family history research, this year focusing on her great-grandparents. She keeps fit with regular aquafit, walking and bike rides. **Ross** keeps fit by walking 11,000 steps a day and still plays golf regularly, occasionally beating his age! This year he made a couple of model ships including a scratch build of a nifty little tugboat.
- *Building of **Debbie and Fraser's** new house in Melbourne is under way, and **JJ, Heidi, Luke and Dan** have all done really well despite the lockdowns and disruptions. It was a great thrill to see them all again when they came over to NZ to celebrate Fraser's father's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Better still, they are all coming over for another holiday in the new Year. Debbie is really enjoying her work as a speech pathologist and is continuing to get better with her golf.*
- **Sarah and Michael** are about to begin alterations to their house in Lower Hutt. Sarah's auto-immune disease has settled but this year she developed a most distressing sudden hearing loss in one ear. This caused significant imbalance as her brain tried to compensate, and she wasn't able to continue her RTLB (support for teachers) work, full time. It is gradually improving as Sarah gets used to new sophisticated hearing aids. **Michael** changed jobs, (still in IT) and **Blake and Isla** have had a good year with fewer disruptions than their Australian cousins. Blake starts at High School next year.
- **Phil and Mo** have had a much better year than last. They were able to get a new rental around the corner from their old place; Mo is getting closer to qualifying as a nurse, and they were able to attend a few conventions to sell their hoodies. Phil's Last Man Standing T20 cricket was affected by all the rain in Melbourne, but lots more games are being held so that is really positive. It was great that Kathy was able to rebuild a relationship with the lovely **Billie**, not having seen her other than through a screen for the last few years. Great news is that Phil, Mo and Billie will be visiting us in in February.
- This year we have continued our **travels** with short trips to Foxton, Wairarapa and Picton. Kathy also went to Napier and had a lovely visit to Melbourne for Billie's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Most weekends we have also gone out exploring our local area so the covid situation hasn't held back our travels too much. We are booked for three cruises next year which should be great! We have just got home from an extensive road trip to Tauranga, Auckland and Hamilton catching up with friends and family. It was lovely to see so many old friends, with special highlights being the wedding of one of Ross's great-nephews and catching up with all of our brothers and sisters who we hadn't seen since before the pandemic.

Our blessing for you this Christmas is based on the final verse of 'While Shepherd's watched their flocks by night':  
*All glory be to God on high, and on the earth be peace. Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men, begin and never cease.*  
We do so appreciate your friendship and look forward to keeping in touch.



Michael, Sarah, JJ, Debbie  
Blake, Luke, Heidi, Isla, Dan, Fraser



Phil, Mo and Billie.



6 of the grandchildren



Debbie and Sarah



Tugboat



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

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