

# The Croft Chronicle

Dear

Greetings and salutations from all of us here "Down Under". We would like to extend to you and yours "A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year". Well, 1999 seems to have slipped by at an accelerated pace - but as they say "Time Flies

School in Bombay from 1949 to 1953). Quite a few ex Cathedralites now live in Melbourne and in November we had a most enjoyable reunion at a restaurant there.

During the year we attended several wonderful afternoon Musical Concerts and were entertained by very talented performers. We also went into Central Melbourne to see two live Theatre Productions, "Showboat" and "The Boy from Oz" - this is about the life

crushing two vertebrae" - Thoracic 10 and Lumber 1 - resulting in a 10 day stay in hospital. He was sent home in a body brace and on a walking frame, then progressing to walking sticks, with the painkillers always close. After several months of Physiotherapy exercises, he steadily made remarkable progress and is up to his old tricks again. The only downside is a legacy of pain on days when he overdoes it. Being school holidays at the time, Jeanette, Michael and the boys were visiting from Sydney and their dog Dougle also made the plane flight down, fortunately as Dougle with his loud bark alerted me to John's plight as he was unable to move.

After Johns 10 days in hospital it was home to inspect how well Joan had looked after his beloved garden, which incidentally at this present

time is looking a picture of colour and oh the pool maintenance shouldn't be forgotten. In all my years



*Jeanette, Michael, John, Joan, Ross, Suzanne, John & Lynne  
(If only we had Robbie & Paula in the Photo!)*

When You're Having Fun". The new Millennium is upon us, we trust that your year has been a pleasant one and that you have accomplished all that you wanted.

The Croft seniors didn't leave Australian shores this year, but have had several short country visits within the State of Victoria. We visited Phillip Island, Mornington Peninsular and some inland cities of Ballarat, Geelong and Bendigo. The visit to Ballarat was to attend a school reunion of Old Boys from St. Patricks College where John attended from 1940 to 1947. We went to Bendigo to visit friends and attend to John's father's grave. The Geelong trip was for Joan's school reunion (she attended Cathedral and John Connon

story of Australian performer and song writer, Peter Allen, who at one time was married to L i z a Minnelli.

On Easter Saturday John decided to give a tree, belonging to our neighbour, a trim as the branches were overhanging into our yard. Unfortunately he had a serious accident when the ladder slipped and John fell about 15 feet into the neighbours yard, falling flat on his back and breaking it in two places. Using doctors words, "completely



*Dougle taking it easy after rescuing John*

on this earth I never learnt to start a lawn mower, so boy I had to learn quick how to cut lawns with a hard taskmaster like 'John' looking over my shoulders!!! Our son John came up with a BAD suggestion of starting a garden round titled "Hire a Mummy" - the cheek of him!!

## OUR CHILDREN

John (41) & Lynne are still going strong and building up Croft's Catering Supplies business.



*John & Lynne*

John's two girls Danielle (12) and Melissa (10) are growing fine good looking young ladies. Danielle starts secondary school in the New Year so the girls will be parted for the first time. Melissa is still continuing with piano lessons and doing really well, this thrills us. Both are very involved with tennis and excel at the game - obviously take after their mother - Merrilyn.

On 1st September John and Lynne flew to the USA to visit Robert,

Paula and children. Robert took 2 weeks off work to show them around Manhattan, Washington D.C., etc. On the way home they had a two day stop over in Los Angeles visiting Disneyland, etc. before arriving back home on 19th September.

They are building two houses at present, one in Melbourne, the other a holiday house by the bay. At present they are living in our Canterbury house, so when they move to their new

head office of 'Carpet Choice' took them on a trip to Bali for 2 weeks 14th to 29th August. They were fortunate the troubles of mainland Indonesia had not reached Bali, but caught up with the place soon after.

In July they held their 3rd ODAG (Organ Donor Awareness Group) Dinner Dance Fund Raising Night in aid of the Children's Hospital, a great night and a lot of dedicated work so Congratulations to them and their helpers!. The night raised \$46,000 for the Liver Transplant Team. This is in memory of their



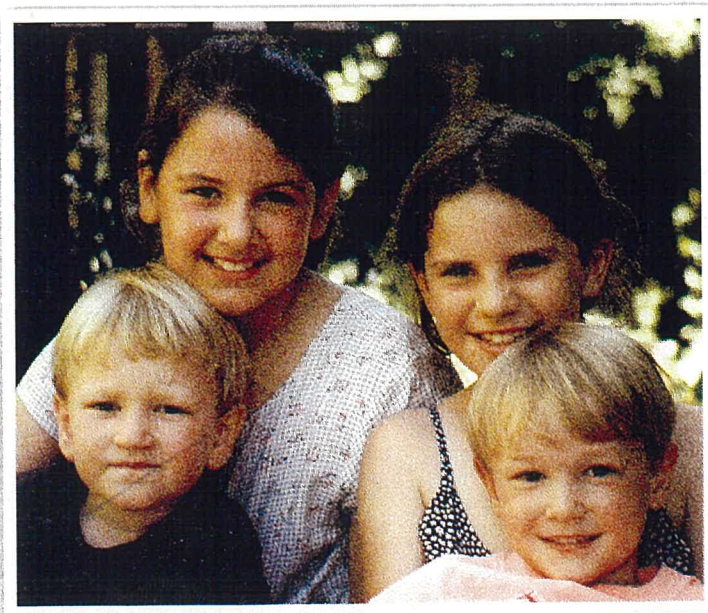
*Suzanne & Ross at their O.D.A.G. Night*

house in mid 2000 we are planning to move back to live there. This will cut down on John's garden workload.

Suzanne (39) & Ross are very busy in the carpet business. Since opening the shop in January 1998 they have done extremely well. The

darling 'Sarah' who we lost in 1995. A total of 3 fund raising nights has raised \$106,000 for the Hospital.

It never fails to amaze us how these two cope with work and their ever so busy social calendar, that's the worst of being so popular!



*Danielle, Meliisa, Chris & Ben*



*The Only Club Where You Give Nothing Until You Die*

Jeanette (37) & Michael are always on the go. Their Photographic business on 5 Passenger Ships with prospects of more on the horizon are always busy. They have several pho-

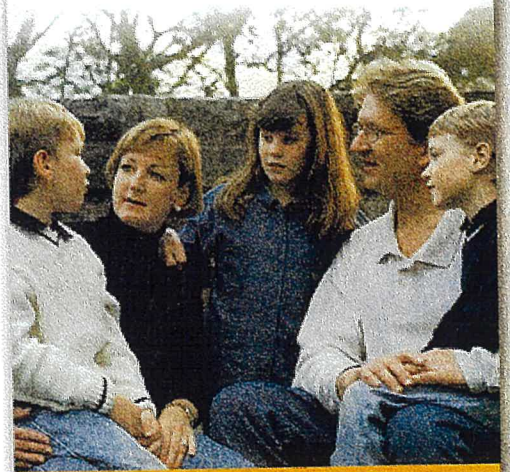
ticular his Grandma and Grandad Miller, who celebrate 65 years of marriage this year. Before returning to Sydney he spent a short time in Honolulu on business.

land, what a shame they won't be the first to live in it. They welcome any of our friends to come and visit them in Sydney once they return.

They were just recently used as models for the front cover of a brand new book published in Australia called ParentCraft. The girl in the photo was borrowed from a close friend of the family. Her name is Carla - doesn't she look a lot like Jeanette!

They have demolished their home making room for the building of a new house - its going to be 57 squares - that's big, 5 bedrooms, an office, formal & informal entertaining, fireplace and pool. Their plans are to rent it out while in Eng-

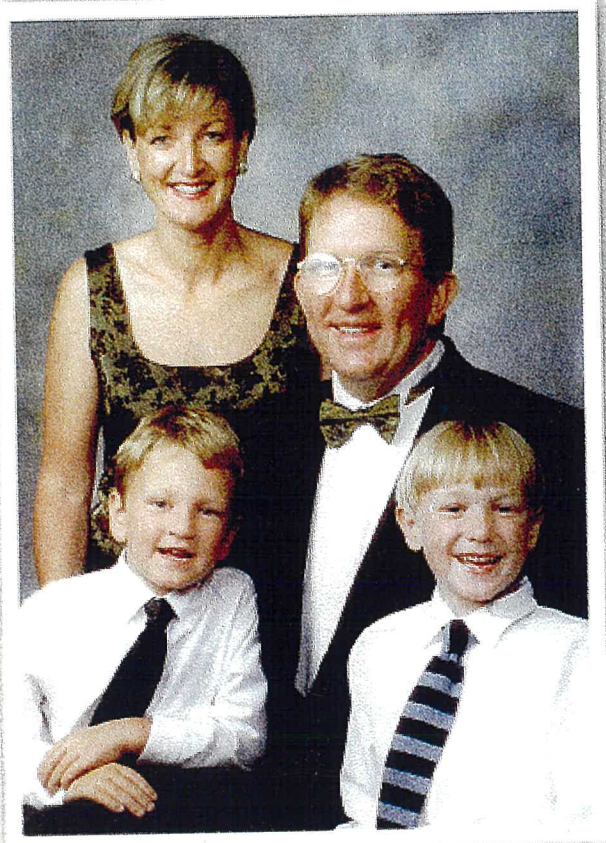
## PARENTCRAFT



Essential skills for raising children from infancy to adulthood

Ken & Elizabeth Mellor

Once in England they have to find somewhere to live and school for the children. Wonder if Ben and Chris will come back with English accents?



Jeanette, Michael Christopher & Benjamin

tographers on each ship. In mid 2000 they are moving to England for 3 to 4 years. The partner in England, who has been there for 5 years wants to return to Australia for a while, hence the swap. Benjamin (7) and Christopher (6) are growing up smart little boys. Ben can hold his own on the computer, as a matter of fact he knows it all, thanks to his Daddy and he thoroughly enjoys playing soccer. Chris is more an indoor person, loves playing with his Train Set and Brio. Both are at school and doing well. The family had two visits to Melbourne this year and its always good quality time with them. Michael had a trip to England in August then to Miami, Florida on business, making his way up to Sth Carolina to spend time with his parents and family. Flying north to Ohio to visit more relatives, in par-



Soon to be built - #1 Kilpa Place, St Ives, Sydney Australia

Robert (35) & Paula Robert still works for "Marriott" in Maryland



*Robbie & Paula*

USA and enjoys his work, the family takes advantage of the good discounts on accommodation. This year they took the children Chelsea (7), Madeline (5) and James (3) for

a trip to Manhattan, where they visited the Statue of Liberty, Time Square, Empire State Building, Central Park, etc. They also went South to Georgia, Sth Carolina and back up to Myrtle Beach. It doesn't seem like 10 years since we attended their wedding in Baltimore in 1989. So after 10 years in the States it would be nice to see them all living back here. Maybe they would miss the snow!! They do have their house up For Sale at the present time, so who knows.

Little James starts preschool this coming year, so that means all three Croft littlies are in some form of school. The last time we saw James in 1997 he had just taken his first few steps.

In the latter part of this year, we had visitors from Germany, England, Ireland and Scotland, which kept us busy showing them the sights of our

city and extending some Aussie hospitality. It really was great to see them all again.

John reaches the age of three score and ten years on the 22nd January 2001 - which is not that far off. He has already booked a venue for this 70th birthday party. Then all being well he is also planning an overseas trip to Europe to visit Jeanette, Michael and the boys in England.

In conclusion, we extend to you and yours our Very Best Wishes and hope the first year in the New Millennium brings Peace and Harmony to our world.

Well that's the 1999 update on the Croft family so please keep in touch - we love hearing from you.

Warmest wishes and God Bless.

from

John & Joan Croft

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*Chelsea, James & Madeline*

