

Crofts Christmas Greetings

16th Dec 2005



2005 has sped by, we again have been so involved, yet we look back and say "what have we achieved?" maybe old age has crept up fast and we take twice as long to do things, John is 75 in January and Joan will be 69 in October, where have the years gone?

Our eldest son John (47) and wife Lynne are flat chat in their business. Lynne manages the "direct to the public" shop which has beautifully set up and John takes care of the staff and supply to the catering business'. It is quite a cut throat industry, so they have constantly to be really on the ball. The business is called Croft Catering Supplies, they have all types of catering utensils and supplies required by people in the Hospitality Business.

Johns two daughters, Danielle (18) and Melissa (16) are still living at home with their mother. Danielle has done her final year at school and has been accepted into the University of her choice which means she can continue to live at home and cut down on expenses. Nursing is the only thing she has ever wanted to do. On the day of her 18th birthday she achieved her drivers license with 97% pass (well done girl) and now driving a lovely car, thanks to the fact that John Jnr. up-

dated his Rep to a larger car. Melissa is still at school studying hard and will miss her "big sister" around at school, but it won't be long before she finishes too. At this stage Melissa loves being chauffeured around by Danielle.

Last June, a delightful bundle of joy and happiness came into the lives of Suzanne (45) and husband Ross and Paige (11 in January) in the form of a little girl (3½) now 4 yrs old, by the name of Kahala, another granddaughter for us to love, and she is just so easy to love. What with Paige at school, Kahala at kindergarten and all the extra activities that they are involved in, Suzanne has taken leave from working in their business. They now have 3 carpet shops and a 4th being built and due to open sometime in February. Wisely, Ross has taken on a partner and consequently allowing Suzanne to retire.

Jeannette (43) was divorced from Michael a couple of years ago. She and the two boys Ben (13) and Christopher (12) moved back to Sydney last January. The boys attend at the Northern Beaches Christian school and doing extremely well. Once a month they fly to Melbourne to spend a weekend with their father, who has since remarried (2004) a

woman who worked for them in the photography shop on the ship. They have a son and another child expected very soon.

Jeannette and the boys are very happy living back in Sydney. We have not seen Jeannette this happy for a long time and it will be good to have her join us on Xmas Day for a few days after spending a holiday in Pert (WA). Both boys are taller than Joan and lovely young boys.

Last November (2004), Robert (41), Paula and 3 children, Chelsea (13) Madeleine (11) and James (9) arrived in Melbourne, we were given to believe with the prospects of settling down in Australia. After 2 months made up their minds to return to America. No reason given to why. If Robert, Paula and children are happier living in the USA so be it. We wish then the best of luck.

It has been over 2 years since we have been on a holiday, except for a few days or weekend here and there or down at Suzanne & Ross' holiday house on the Peninsula, which we always enjoy, but John cannot help being a good Dad and works too hard in the garden etc. It gives us a chance to spend more time with John & Lynne, who also have a beautiful home in the same area, which they built to their own plans. We have been kept busy entertaining overseas, interstate and country visitors, who we enjoyed spending time, stories and laughs with. This year has seen both of us with visits to various.

He has another visit to the specialist next March. No operation is suggested for his right leg at this stage. In the new year Joan has two knee replacements to look forward to, of course one at a time. In the meantime it has been rather uncomfortable and painful. John says his wife will be a Bionic Woman once it's done!

Our summer season has arrived with a vengeance, we are only 12 days into summer and already we have had temperatures up to 35°. The forecast is that we can expect the hottest summer on record. We have permanent water restrictions already. It would be nice to see some of our friends make a visit "down under" would be wonderful to catch up again.

Melbourne will be a buzz in March with the Commonwealth Games being staged. We do hope it is totally incident free, taking into consideration the climate of religious hate in the world. We wish one and all a Happy New Year with good health and happiness.

Take care, keep in touch and enjoy a very

Merry
Christmas



what?

