

The Croft Chronicle

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Dear BECKY & FAMILY.

Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes to you and yours for a Happy and Prosperous 2009.

2008 has certainly been a very interesting year, not only in Australia with a new Labor Government (for which we do not vote) but also the changes in the USA. The recession there has certainly affected the rest of the World. Hopefully, we can all get through without too much pain.

Earlier this year, both John and Joan had bouts of bronchitis which was nasty and recovery was rather slow. Joan has also had an arthroscopy on her right knee which showed a large tear on the inside. This procedure eliminated some of the pain, but the surgeon advised her that a total knee replacement is required due to the severe arthritis in the knee. Having also had a total knee replacement on the left knee nearly three years ago, she is not looking forward to another in the new year.

In June, this year, John had a fall down some steps at our daughter, Suzanne's home. He was taken to hospital where they suspected a break in his upper arm. X ray's proved otherwise. They then found that he had torn the muscle from the bone – he was in agony. After a great deal of physio treatment he is doing well once again. He still has his annual check up at the Peter McCallum Cancer Clinic with a good report after his cancer operation in 1995. His cardiologist is pleased with him after some heart trouble a couple of years back. He is hoping to come off some of the medication for this condition shortly as it necessitates regular blood tests.

Last Christmas and New Year we spent in Sydney with our daughter Jeanette and had a great time. This year we will be spending it in Melbourne with our daughter Suzanne, Ross and their two girls (Paige & Kahala).

Great Celebrations took place in August last. Our eldest son John turned 50. His wife Lynne organized a fancy dress birthday party for him – what a wonderful night. As a surprise, his brother, Robert, flew out from Baltimore, USA and spent two weeks here with John before going back to his family and work. Both John's girls are doing very well in their choice of studies Danielle (21) has two years to go before becoming a teacher after changing from nursing. Melissa (19) is undertaking physiotherapy.

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John's wife Lynne has been very busy with a new venture – a restaurant - and what a good job she has done. Later this month it will open and we wish her the very best of success.

Suzanne (48) lives close to us. She is always on the go. Apart from looking after her husband Ross, she maintains a large family home and is a daily "taxi service" for their two children Paige (14) and Kahala (7) who are involved in so many activities. Ross manages their carpet business.

Jeanette (46) loves living in Sydney. She is a lovely girl, very independent and has done a wonderful job in caring for her two boys Ben (16) and Chris (15).

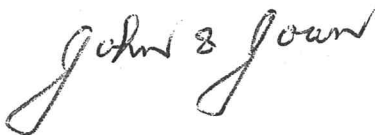
Robert (44) with his wife Paula and three children (Chelsea (16), Madeline (14) and James (12) came from the USA to live in Melbourne a few years ago but after only three months, decided that Australia wasn't for them and returned to the USA. They bought a home in Severn, near Baltimore – such is life – home is where you make it.

In November, we had a visit from Tom and Marlene Robson, both are Scottish, but they live in Vichy (France) approximately, 200km south of Paris. Marlene is Joan's cousin. Both share the maiden name of "Twiss". Marlene has two married daughters, one lives in Glasgow (Scotland) and the other lives here in Sydney at the beach suburb of Bondi. Tom and Marlene spent two weeks with us.

We are driving to Sydney in mid-February to spend some time with our daughter Jeanette and her two boys. They live on the north shore of Sydney in a lovely suburb of St. Ives. Sydney is approximately 900km from Melbourne. We decided to go to Sydney after having received a letter from another of Joan's cousins, David Garrity, who hails from Bath (England). He and his wife Pauline will be cruising for 107 days on the "Tahitian Princess". This ship leaves Fort Lauderdale (Florida) on 15 January, it will not visit Melbourne, but arrives in Sydney on 19th February. We shall be there to greet them and show them the sights of Sydney.

Thank you all, so much, for your cards and good wishes. Please keep in touch. Next time you write, please include your telephone numbers. You may just get a 'phone call from us.

Fondly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John & Joan". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid and personal.

John & Joan Croft.