

Anne's 4th and 5th Lives

Anne Molver compiled these life notes to cover her 4th and 5th lives – from her arrival in South Africa in 1969, moving to Australia in 1977, and then until 2007 after which she embarked on her 6th life.

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Anne at Bonny Hills beach, December 1997

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1. Anne's lives

1	Life in India from my birth in Rawalpindi until March 1945 on my final return to England
2	The early years in England growing up, school, college and a bit of farming
3	Early work years, in Rhodesia in 1959-60, then Devon and Wiltshire until I left in September 1969
4	Life in South Africa in Pietermaritzburg and Durban, marriage to Iver in 1974, until leaving for Australia in September 1977
5	In Australia, in Sydney and on the NSW Mid-North Coast, from September 1977 to the end of 2007 including the death of Iver in 2003 and overseas travels
6	With Dave, for many travels, while still on the NSW Mid-North Coast and from July 2013 at Glengara on the NSW Central Coast

The first 3 lives are well covered in my parent's life stories:

JAH and MRH Life (Part 1 1900-1938);

JAH and MRH Life (Part 2 1938-1948); and,

JAH and MRH Life (Part 3 1948-1989).

The 6th and current life is covered in our web site <https://www.daveandanne.me> which is a work in progress!

2. South Africa

1969-1970

In September 1969 I left England and flew to Johannesburg, to proceed by train to Pietermaritzburg in Natal, west of Durban. Pietermaritzburg was a lovely small university town halfway to the Drakensberg Mountains, with a temperate climate but invaded by industrial smog during the winter. Accommodation was at a premium when I arrived, so I started off in a residential hotel until I could find a flat to rent. It was pretty basic and full of cockroaches! It was there that I met Iver who became a firm friend and who I later married.

I was to join a small organisation with a big name – the Natal and East Griqualand Farm Management Production Union. I was one of a team of consultants who regularly visited member farmers to assess their productivity and assist them in their management plus of course record keeping. One of the objectives was for them to be able to compare their results with other similar enterprises. It entailed being away from home for two or three days at a time due to the travelling distances involved, quite often staying with one or two of the farmers visited, who became very good friends after a while. I loved the freedom of the job in spite of the long hours we worked.

For my first Christmas in South Africa, I met up with my brother Peter and his young family near Johannesburg, to motor up to Rhodesia to stay with his wife Barbara's parents on their farm Galetas near Bulawayo. Barbara's father Mac died while we were there. Peter was on his way to his new job in Marandellas, near Harare. He and I had both quite independently decided to leave the UK to explore other possibilities.



Christmas 1969 at Galetas, Rhodesia:
On our journey (left) and with Barbara's family (right)

I bought a second-hand Fireball sailing dinghy in April 1970 to sail and race on Midmar Dam, a few miles from Pietermaritzburg. Iver and I had many happy weekends enjoying the sun and water. We started by renovating the Fireball on the edge of the lake on a part of the dam belonging to a 'Ma' Dougall, an elderly lady who was still farming the area. We shared the experience with a New Zealand work-mate Bob Chetwin who had built himself a small dinghy from a kit.



Apr 1970 Midmar Dam, Pietermaritzburg, Natal:
 ‘Ma’ Dougall, Anne and Iver christening the yacht with Bob Chetwin at the back (upper left),
 about to sail (lower left), and on the water racing (right)

In July 1970 Iver and I went camping for the first time, in the Drakensberg at Kamberg Nature Reserve, near Sani Pass and Giants Castle. The camp site was at the bottom of a steep hill and we punctured our fuel tank due to the stony road. The leak was filled with some putty material which seemed to be effective.



July 1970 Giants Castle Nature Reserve, Drakensberg, Natal: Kamberg (upper left),
 Iver with view (upper right), and our tent (below)

1971-1973

In August 1971, I flew to the UK to stay with Marjorie my aunt, and see my parents who were over from Malta, as my father had been in hospital soon after they had moved there the previous year. By Christmas 1971 I was back in Rhodesia again to see Peter and family in Marandellas.



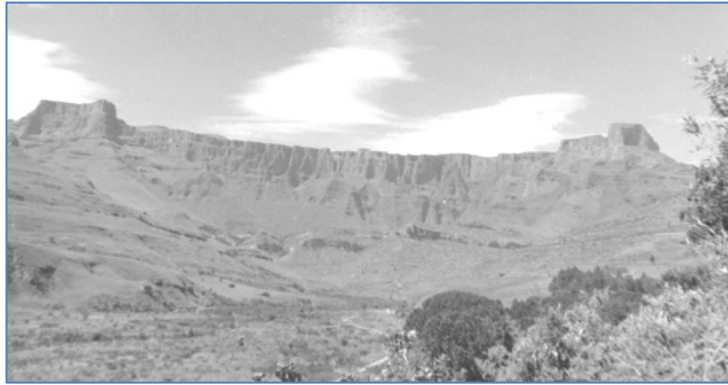
Christmas 1971 Marandellas, Rhodesia:

Barbara, Peter and family (upper left), Derek doing shotput at school (upper right), Nicola on Smokey (lower left), and Jeremey with his pets Squib, Crow and Gobbles (lower right)

In September 1972, I flew to Malta for three weeks as my father had died very suddenly on 31st August. Peter arrived at the same time as we managed to catch the same flight from Rome. He continued on to Sussex, to be with Marjorie, after spending about a week in Malta. We missed the funeral but were able to sort out the tombstone.

Christmas 1972 found us camping again, this time in the Giants Castle National Park where we also saw in the New Year – hiding in the tent while other park campers were rampaging through the camp site!





Christmas 1972 Giants Castle Nature Reserve, Drakensberg, Natal:
Anne and view (upper left), Iver at Sani Pass (upper right), and a Drakensberg view (below)

By May 1973 work was starting to change – Bob Chetwin had decided to return to New Zealand and we were getting new staff. Later that year Brian Sugden, the head of the Consulting Service, left to take on a new job in Durban with the Cane Growers Association. I attempted to step into his shoes for a brief period, before I too left after getting married in August 1974.



May 1973 Durban, Natal: Bob Chetwin, who was returning to NZ, and Sylvia May, who didn't
The rest of spare time in 1973 seems to have been in Rhodesia with Mama and Peter and family, visiting the Zimbabwe Ruins at Fort Victoria and Wankie Game Reserve.



1973 Zimbabwe ruins at Fort Victoria, Rhodesia



1973 Wankie Game Reserve, Rhodesia: impala (left) and wildebeest (right)

Iver left South Africa during 1973 to try his luck in Australia before restrictions came into force – his intention was to get to New Zealand but they clamped down on immigration just at that time, so he ended up returning to South Africa in 1974 where he was no longer welcome as he had ‘given away his birthright’.

1974-1975

Iver and I were married on 17 August 1974 in Pietermaritzburg. After the church service we had a small but intimate gathering at Ray and Allie Tyson’s house. My mother was not able to be there but Peter and Barbara had come down from Rhodesia for the event and a bit of a beach holiday.

Aldyth Quayle and her friend ‘Ma’ Dougall from Midmar were present, as was Hilmary Hodgson from Pretoria, together with some of Iver’s friends and my workmates and friends. Ray Muir cooked the cake which I think was decorated by Lisalotte, Valda made the nibbles, Nicola made flower arrangements, and others no doubt contributed.



17 Aug 1974 Iver and Anne's wedding at Pietermaritzburg, Natal: leaving the church (left), Ray and Allie Tyson (hosts) with Iver and Anne (upper right), and Anne and Iver with Peter, Barbara and family (lower right)

We very soon moved into an apartment in Durban where Iver's work was situated, and I spent the first month making metres of curtains to keep out the glare and road noise before starting a new job with the Cane Growers Association. This was somewhat similar to what I had been doing in Pietermaritzburg, but more advanced technologically – the company had installed a huge new computer system to hold records and employed several Indian data processors.

By the end of the year we had found half a house to rent, inland by about 20 miles in a small quiet village called Hillcrest, where we stayed until I finally left in 1977, and where we acquired a very lively Chihuahua cross Pomeranian puppy, and a stray kitten which was the bane of my life.

During 1975, Iver's daughter Lesley and her husband Shane came to visit us in Hillcrest and we explored parts of the Drakensberg.



1977 Hillcrest, Durban, Natal: How to clean the car with Chika (upper left), Anne and Chika (upper right), and Shane, Lesley and Iver at a picnic (below)



Christmas 1975 Spring Grange, Rhodesia: Family gatherings (left and right)



Christmas 1975 Spring Grange, Rhodesia: Enjoying the Umguza River in flood

Mama, Peter and family were all at Spring Grange in Rhodesia for Christmas 1975, still accommodated in the stables as Peter and Barbara's house had not yet been re-roofed and renovated after the electrical fire in 1972.

1976-1977

In 1976, Mama had arrived from Rhodesia to stay with us at Hillcrest, and she and I enjoyed a weekend in the Drakensberg where she did more climbing than I, including up vertical metal ladders! Later in the year Derek came to stay while hitch-hiking with a school friend. They ended up in South West Africa somewhat destitute having run out of money and no-one would give them a job! Nicola came to stay in Hillcrest in May 1977, and she and I spent time in the Drakensberg.



1976-7 Drakensberg, Natal: Anne (left) and Nicola (right)



Aug 1977 Hillcrest, Durban, Natal - before Iver left for Australia:
Iver, Anne and Chika (left), and Iver and our maid Madeline (centre).
Sep 1977 Harare, Rhodesia - Lesley, Shane and baby Brendon (right)

Iver left South Africa to fly to Australia in August the same year, just in time before his Australian residency expired. I left later, having packed up the house, found homes for the dog and cat, and taken time to visit Lesley and Shane in Harare where their son Brendon was born on 27th May 1977, and also Peter and Barbara at Spring Grange.

It was on this occasion that their farm was invaded by terrorists who shot and murdered Evelyn Rushmore, Barbara's aunt on 6th September 1977, in the cottage where she was living with her trusty Alsatian dog. Luckily, her husband Edward was in hospital at the time. Nicola and I heard the first shots and we bailed up with Barbara and Jeremy, as well as we could in the small dining room, while Peter crept around with his rifle trying to find out what was going on. It was a mercy that he never met anyone! We were eventually rescued after three hours.



Sep 1977 Spring Grange, Rhodesia:
Peter in his truck (upper left), Barbara and Nicola (upper right),
Derek on his motorbike (lower left), and Jeremy (lower right)

So, my saga in Southern Africa ended, as I flew out of Durban on 23 September to join Iver in Sydney.

3. Early days in Sydney

1977-1979

I flew into Sydney from Durban on 23rd September 1977 to be met by Iver who had come earlier in the year in order to qualify as a returning immigrant.

I had arranged for Iver to be met by my cousin Hilary at the airport and they drove immediately to Woy Woy on the Central Coast, where she was renting a small house. They went hiking on his first Australian weekend and he fell and broke his ankle in Bouddi National Park while negotiating some rocks – a most inauspicious beginning. At the end of this first year in Australia, we spent our first Christmas at Leeton in northern NSW with Hilary and her mother.

The most notable event of the second year was the wedding of Hilary and Bruce Wilson who were married at Hunters Hill, Sydney, in August 1978.

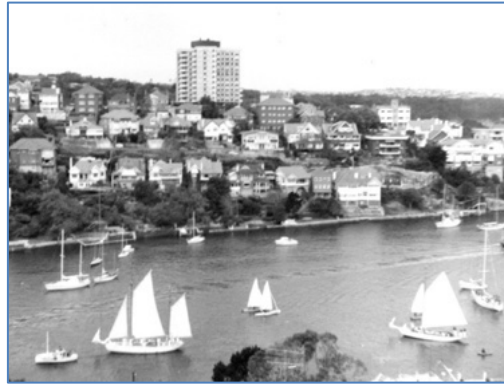


Aug 1978 Hilary and Bruce's wedding, Hunters Hill:
Todd, Annette, Bruce, Hilary and Annie (left), and Hilary and Bruce (right)

Our first accommodation was an attic in an old harbour-front house at Cremorne – the rest of the guests were disabled. It was a bit un-nerving but there was compensation in having an opera singer in full voice next door. My initial experience of Sydney was overwhelming, having to drive out west to have our imported car steam-cleaned, crossing the Harbour Bridge in the rain with a greased windscreen and no wipers. This led to finding I was recrossing the bridge by accident, and I fled into the Sydney Conservatorium in tears to be rescued by Iver from work!

We soon moved to a small apartment on the water's edge at Cremorne Point. At this stage our few belongings had not arrived by ship from Durban, and we managed to hire a bed, table and chairs and a few kitchen items from one of the wonderful auctioneers at Crows Nest who seemed to specialise in this sort of business. I remember that the cutlery was plastic and the first time you used the knife it shot off in two pieces. We eventually managed to equip ourselves with second-hand furniture from house sales – an interesting past-time particularly when one member of the selling party was very much against the sale!

At the end of 1978, our second year in Australia, we had Christmas at the Cremorne house topping off the year celebrating New Years Eve at the Opera House.



Jan 1979 our flat at Cremorne: view from bedroom window (left) and view of regatta (right)

In 1979, we upgraded to half a house at Collaroy overlooking the golf course – a wonderful location but freezing cold in winter as the owners had the northern half of the elevated structure.



1979 Collaroy: Iver at front of house (upper left), view of Long Reef (upper right), and Iver inside the house (right)



April 1979 View of Snowy Mountains



April 1979 View of Canberra

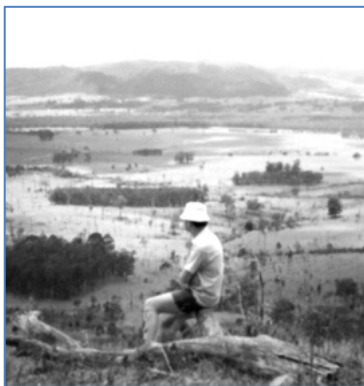
My mother visited us and we all paid a quick visit to the Snowy Mountains and Canberra in April 1979. We were to revisit the Snowies many times over the next few years. My mother and I then went on to visit New Zealand in May 1979, leaving behind Iver who was disappointed at missing out.



May 1979 New Zealand:

Treaty ground at Waitangi (left) and Maori Meeting House at Waitangi (right)

Iver and I managed to get away at the end of 1979 and spent our Christmas at Gloucester.



Dec 1979 Christmas at Gloucester: Iver sitting and admiring the view (left) and Iver "the painter" at the river (right)

1980-1981

I flew to Malta and the UK in 1980, when my mother finally left the island to join Mary in England, after my aunt Marjorie died (10 April 1980). I saw some of my friends whilst in the UK.



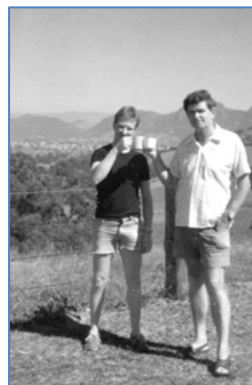
April-May 1980 UK: Mama in a Sussex garden (left), Marjorie's house Providence (centre), and Ros, Anne Mog, Victoria, James and Jessica (right)

We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas 1980 in a log cabin at Tumut with Fred and Joan.



Dec 1980 Christmas at Tumut:
Iver and Anne (left), Iver, Anne, Sue, Fred and Joan at our log cabin (centre),
and view from Blowering Dam towards the trout hatchery (right)

David Crawshaw, a friend of Nicola, came to visit us from UK and we spent Easter 1981 with him at Sapphire Gardens, Coffs Harbour.



Easter 1981: Iver at Sapphire Gardens (left) and David Crawshaw and Iver (right)

In August 1981, I flew to Harare, Zimbabwe, to attend Derek and Carol's wedding. They emigrated to Australia almost immediately afterwards, joining us in Collaroy

before taking off to Yass to start farming at Yeumburra, where we spent Christmas accompanied by my mother.



Aug 1981 Wedding of Carol and Derek in Harare, Zimbabwe

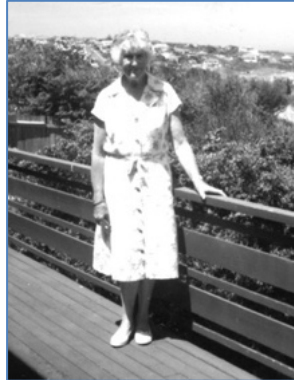


Nov-Dec 1981: Daphne, Ian, Iver, Carol and Derek at Collaroy house (left)
and Christmas at Yeumburra, near Yass (right)

1982-1983

The next move in June 1982 was to North Curl Curl to our own old house – clad in aluminium and requiring a complete clean and paint job indoors. Again, the position was wonderful with an excellent view to the south-east from where the weather came. Luckily, we had resold the house before the cladding blew away in a storm.

We spent Christmas 1982 at the Curl Curl house with Mama and Hilary, Bruce and family.



Dec 1982 our house at North Curl Curl: Anne in front (upper left), view from house (upper right),
Mama on veranda (lower left), and Iver at the garage (lower right)

In February 1983 we took my mother to the Snowy Mountains with Derek and Carol
and stayed in a hut at Sawpit Creek to experience the wildlife!



Feb 1983 Sawpit Creek, Snowy Mountains:
Mama with wallabies (upper left), Mama and Derek feeding a possum (upper right),
Anne at the Murray River (lower left), and walking in the Snowies (lower right)



Feb 1983 Sawpit Creek, Snowy Mountains: Mama at a picnic (left),
and Iver and Mum on the road Mt Kosciuszko (right)

Iver went to Natal to settle his mother in a home in 1983. Peter and Barbara came to Curl Curl in April 1983 during the height of their farm invasions.

I had started employment soon after arriving in Australia as a book-keeper with APPM in North Sydney, moving on to the Sales department. I found paper-manufacture and sales were pretty boring in spite of winning first prize on a paper-making TAFE course. However, I did like my fellow workers and only left when we decided to burn our boats in Sydney and move up the coast to Bonny Hills, on the NSW Mid-North Coast. This was at a time in 1984 when business was changing rapidly – staff down-sizing, moving, no business entertainment, etc. – so we left a turbulent scene.



1982-3 Anne and the girls at APPM

4. Bonny Hills

1983-1984

Bonny Hills was chosen after a holiday when my mother and I had travelled up the coast through Port Macquarie and I mentioned that it looked an interesting place to which to retire, and later Iver and I had spent time searching for a suitable block of land to buy.



1983 Mid-North Coast NSW: Laurieton from North Brother (upper left),
Dunbogan looking north (upper right), and our block at Bonny Hills (below)

We found a wonderful builder in Bonny Hills who helped with a house plan and completed the building with the occasional hasty visit from us and many phone calls. My mother had by this time decided to come and live with us permanently and we were able to incorporate a granny-flat into the new house.



1983-4: Construction (left) and camping during construction (right)



1984: House and driveway completed (left) and the start of gardening (right)

We moved into the Bonny Hills house in April 1984. My mother's furniture arrived a few days afterwards generating great excitement discovering what she had shipped from England. It turned out that she had sent almost all she owned in England and far too much for her granny-flat, however there was plenty of space upstairs to accommodate most of it.

For the rest of 1984 Iver struggled with a failing business attempt and Mama and I investigated the social scene in Port Macquarie, taking classes in bridge before joining the club, and attending CWA meetings.

1985-1988

After the introduction period I left my mother to amuse herself while I looked around for a job, taking on a couple of temporary ones before joining Expressway Spares in June 1985.



1985 Bonny Hills, NSW: Smiths visiting the new house (left) and house with Pippa (right)

Peter and Barbara arrived in Australia for a holiday in May 1985, joining Derek and Carol in Brisbane before driving to Longreach and south to us, when Nicola, Jeremy and Harriet arrived for a while. During this time, I had started work.

My introduction to working at Expressway Spares was somewhat traumatic – there was a mountain of paperwork to get through as the previous book-keeper had only lasted three weeks. The accountant with whom I worked was forced into resigning and not replaced, and the culture of the whole operation was feudal and chauvinistic, rugged and aggressive. Given time it changed enormously, with a different management system and expansion, which included office comforts! I became a valued worker and lasted for fifteen years.



1985 Bonny Hills, NSW: With Derek and family on Diamond beach (left) and Barbara, Peter and Mama at Diamond Head Reserve (right)



1986 Yeumburra, Yass, NSW: Carol with young Pete (left) and Derek with Pete on the farm motorcycle (right)



1986 Bonny Hills, NSW: Anne and young Pete (left) and Iver with dogs (right)

We spent many holidays with Derek and Carol, their first son Peter Craig being born in December 1985 and Sean in October 1987. Their progress from Yass to Huntingdale near Glen Alice was followed with interest, and then to Monivae at Lue and finally in 1993 to Kangarooobie and Tantallon near Orange.



Yeumburra, NSW: Christmas 1987 Anne with Sean (left) and 1988 Pete and Sean (right)

My mother had her 80th birthday celebration at home in Bonny Hills in June 1988 when Peter and Barbara were able to be present from Zimbabwe.



Christmas 1988 Huntingdale: Derek, Carol with Pete (upper left), Derek, Iver and Sean (upper right), and views across the property (below)

1989-1991

My mother suddenly died in October 1989 but, sadly, Peter was not able to get a flight from South Africa in time to see her. He finally arrived for a short visit in February 1990.

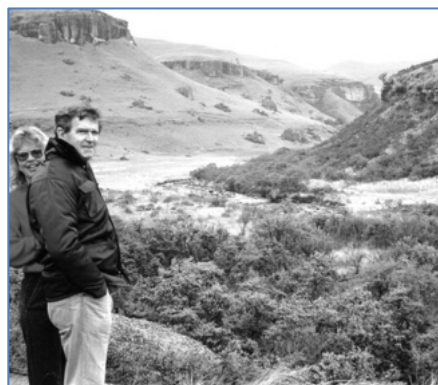
In August 1991, Iver and I were able to go to the farm in Zimbabwe to be present at Peter's 60th birthday celebration, and we caught up with Iver's two children in South Africa before the return flight. We went to Pietermaritzburg and were able to take Iver's mother Norah out for the day from her nursing home. She died a year later.



Sep 1991 Spring Grange, Zimbabwe: Peter's 60th birthday party and a picnic by the river



Sep 1991 Spring Grange, Zimbabwe: The house with its new roof (upper left), back of the house with its new roof and extension (upper right), and farewell to Iver and Anne who were leaving for South Africa (below)



Sep 1991 Giants Castle, South Africa: Lesley and Iver (left) and The Boys in Iver's family – Bruce, Shane, Dustyn, Brendon, Iver and Craig (right)

5. Culture in the 90s

Camden Haven Arts Council

During 1989, I became interested in the operation of the Camden Haven Arts Council, a very small organisation of dedicated people intent on bringing good music and musicians to the district for individual performances. Venues varied in the early days as the Kendall Hall did not at that time have a piano. Sometimes the hall at the Public School was used and that was where I met Dave Johnson who was visiting his father Frank and step-mother Irene. He had been rounded up as extra audience. I remember it was a freezing cold night and the hall had no heating which must have been trying for the pianist!



1992 Kendall: Pete and Bar at their gallery in the “Tower” (left)
and Irene, Frank, Bar, Iver and Mick (right)

Kendall Hall

In a few years we were able to fund-raise enough to purchase a good second-hand piano from Sydney for the Kendall Hall. This meant that we could enjoy a greater variety and groups of musicians who were willing to perform for what was a small fee and home accommodation as they were touring NSW. It was during this time that Goetz Richter and his wife Jeanell Carrigan started playing for us, gradually increasing the number of performers to quartets and a greater number of musicians as our audiences grew. The Kendall Hall was spruced up by volunteers on several occasions, with the addition of a commissioned design for the proscenium arch, stage curtains and stage extension, and general painting and renovation.

Hastings Choristers

A few years earlier I had joined a choir in Port Macquarie – they became the Hastings Choristers in 1990 under the musical direction of Robyn Ryan. We became well known in NSW singing in Armidale, Coffs Harbour, Taree, and joined other singers to perform in the Opera House on several occasions.

In 2011 a history of the choir was printed celebrating 21 years of the choir’s endeavours. This took me two and a half year to be collected and written, assisted by a small group of early members and Dave Johnson’s invaluable help with the many photos and setup.



Jan 1995: Anne, Joy, Bon and Irene cutting the cake at Hastings Choristers 5th Birthday

Camden Haven Music Festival and Kendall National Violin Competition

The first Camden Haven Music Festival was held from 21-25 March 1997 hosted by the Camden Haven Arts Council. I was intrepid enough to put my hand up as the co-ordinator and with one old computer and Keri Levy's invaluable help - she was more experienced than I. We pulled it off and it became an annual event.

It soon spread to several different venues including Laurieton, Bago Vineyard and Port Macquarie. Goetz Richter was the Musical Director. He continued in this role until he resigned in 2004 and I went too.

Graham Street was our home when planning started for the second music festival to be held in March 1998, hosted by the Camden Haven Arts Council.



Mar 1997 First Camden Haven Music Festival, Kendall:
Quartet with Goetz as 1st Violin (above) and a School Band (below)



Mar 1997 First Camden Haven Music Festival, Kendall:
Ensi's group (upper left), Jim Newton and friend (lower left),
and a multi-talented local musician (right)

In 1999 the Kendall National Violin Competition was added to the Music Festival under the direction of Goetz with generous annual sponsorship from Graham Caldersmith in the form of a new violin made from Australian timbers, and funds from NSW State Forests and Kempsey Timbers as they were then named. This competition very soon became independent of the Camden Haven Music Festival with its own schedule of events. It is still thriving in 2020.

6. Bonny Hills to Kendall

The early 90s were crowded with visitors to Bonny Hills as well as visits by us, both overseas and within Australia.

1991-2

Later in 1991 we drove to Lennox Head to spend Christmas with Hilary and Bruce Wilson in their newly built dream home.



1991: Front (left) and back (right) of Hilary and Bruce's new house at Lennox Head

1992 began with an Easter visit to the Warrumbungles National Park with Ted and Judy Morton, camping at Coonabarabran.



Easter 1992 Warrumbungles NP: Picnic lunch upper (left), Ted, Judy and Iver on the track (upper right), and spectacular views (below)

In May we paid a visit to Derek and Carol at the farm Monivae near Lue, halfway between Rylstone and Mudgee, a large historic house where they had moved to in late 1990.



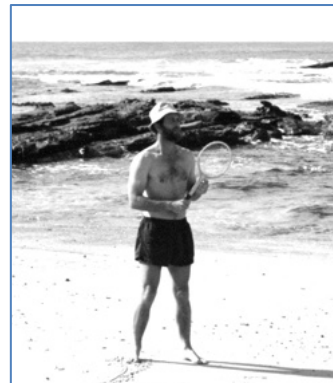
May 1992: Front (left) and back (right) of Monivae at Lue

By September 1992, Joan and Fred had stayed for a few days with a nice visit to Swans Crossing to the west of Kendall.



Sep 1992: Joan and Fred (left) and Swans Crossing (right)

Derek and Carol and their young boys arrived for a beach holiday in October.



Oct 1992 Bonny Hills beach: Sean (left), Carol (mid), and Derek (right)

Iver's niece Lynne Lewis with family Martin, Victoria and young Gareth came in November from Zambia, intent on staying in Australia.



Nov 1992: Iver's niece Lynne Lewis, her husband Martin and daughter Victoria
(son Gareth was hiding in the background!)



Christmas 1992 at Monivae, Lue: Carols (above), dinner (mid left),
presents time (mid right), and concert (below)

We took Jill Halliday to Derek and Carol's farm Monivae, near Lue, for Christmas before driving up to the Queensland border to visit Lamington and Springbrook National Parks. Both Jill and her friend Pat Willis had arrived in Bonny Hills in June 1992 for a quick look around our scenery before travelling elsewhere in Australia.



Dec 1992 Southern QLD: Sweeping views at Lamington NP (left) and Iver in Springbrook NP (right)

1993

Derek and Carol moved to the farm Kangaroobie near Orange in early 1993. Monivae had not really been Derek's type of farming carrying only sheep, and his boss was very conservative about the operation. We spent a few days over Christmas with them at Kangaroobie when they were accommodated in the historic old farm house which was mouldy and inconvenient. The magnificent main house was being completely renovated for the owners.

Nicola, Derek's sister, was married to Peter Stephens in Aldingbourne, in Sussex UK, on 11th June 1993. Iver and I with Derek and young Peter Craig, who was the page-boy, flew over via Tokyo on an extended flight to London. Our BA flight had been cancelled due to an air strike. It was a pretty horrific journey and we all arrived with colds and the flu!



Jun 1993: Before the wedding - Derek, Jeremy and Iver (left) and Peter and Barbara (right)



Jun 1993: Nicola and Peter's wedding -
Nicola and Peter with best man, bridesmaids and young Pete as pageboy (upper left),
the Stephens family (upper right), and Aldingbourne Church (below)

We took a couple of weeks after the wedding in the UK to explore old haunts such as Coombe Park Farm, previously owned by my parents, which had completely changed and parts of Cornwall, St Albans where Iver's grandfather was buried and visiting old school friends.



Jun 1993: Falmouth street scenes (left and middle), and
Iver at St Albans grave of his grandfather (right)

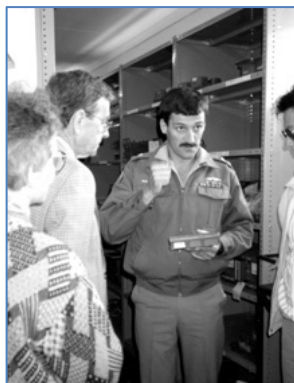
We returned to Australia via South Africa to meet Iver's children Bruce and Lesley and their families. We started the South African visit in Johannesburg dining at a special resort near the Drakensberg Mountains.



Jun 1993 South Africa: Lesley, Iver and Bruce (left)
and a resort near Drakensberg Mountains, Natal (right)



Jun 1993 South Africa: Lesley's family (upper left), Bruce's family (upper right),
Dustyn, Iver and Brendon near Johannesburg (lower left), and The Boys (lower right)



Jun 1993 Visit to Army Signals at Pretoria, South Africa:
Discussions with Commander (left), meeting members of Signals Corps (centre),
and Iver at the Old Railway Station near to his old Camp

Iver arranged with the South African Army unit in Pretoria to visit the camp where he had started his illustrious army career when he was sixteen. We all including Brendon and Dustyn, Iver's grandchildren, spent the day being treated like royalty by the Signals Commander, with a tour of the current camp, talk on the history and equipment, and a good meal. There was a presentation at the end.

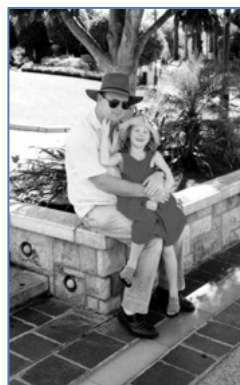
In December 1993, Iver's brother Derek and his wife Lorraine, together with Martin and Lynne Lewis and family visited us in Bonny Hills. We caught up with them again in Brisbane in April 1994 as they were settling into their rented house.



Dec 1993 Bonny Hills: Derek (Iver's brother) and wife Lorraine with the Lewis's and Anne and Iver

1994

In September 1994 we again went to Brisbane, this time taking Iver's daughter Lesley to see her cousin Lynne and family. Lesley had come to visit us in a fraught condition over her relationships and her future in Africa – we thought she might consider Australia as an option.



1994 Brisbane: Martin with Victoria in a Brisbane park (left) and Anne, Lesley, Lynne and Martin Lewis in the bush near Brisbane (right)

Our next major overseas trip began in Perth early in December 1994, when we stayed briefly with Iver's old army friend Bob Ashley with his wife Lena and three daughters from Darwin.



Dec 1994 Perth: Bob with Iver and Anne (left) and Anne and Iver with Lena (Bob's wife) and their daughters (right)

This stopover was on the way to join Peter and Barbara on the farm in Zimbabwe to celebrate the completion of their new swimming pool and enjoy a family Christmas. Peter was having a lot of trouble with his back and was hoping that swimming would correct its chronic condition. Nicola and Peter were also out from England and we all drove to Hwangwe Game Reserve and Victoria Falls for a break.



Dec 1994 Spring Grange, Zimbabwe: New swimming pool (upper), staff Christmas party (mid), and family Christmas party (below)

1995

Our journey continued in South Africa in January 1995, when Lesley drove us to Natal so that Iver could see his mother's grave in Pietermaritzburg. We also visited Rae Muir, with whom I had worked, Enid Mackenzie, and with Bruce and family.



Jan 1995 Natal, South Africa: Grave of Iver's mother, Pietermaritzburg (left),
Bruce, Enid, Angus, Elizabeth and Anne (upper right),
and Eileen, Les and Craig enjoying the pool (lower right)

In April 1995 we were in Palm Beach with Nicola and Peter Stephens. Peter had spent a few years growing up in the area. Nicola was recovering from DVT developed on the plane to Melbourne while visiting Peter's older brother Anthony so they were delayed for a few days. They joined us in Bonny Hills, and we were later visited by Peter's younger brother Simon with wife and young daughter Chrissy – it was an unfortunate time for the latter family who later broke up.



Apr 1995: Nicola (nursing DVT leg) and Anne on Pittwater (left)
and Nicola, Anne and Iver at Pittwater picnic (right)



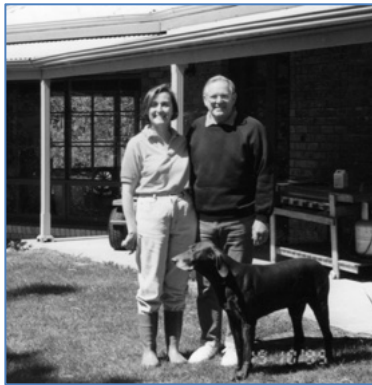
Apr 1995: Peter and Anne on Camden Haven River (upper left),
Nicola and Peter at top of Big Brother (upper right),
and Pelicans on Camden Haven River near Queens Lake (below)

Early in August 1995 Iver and I travelled to Mount Tambourine to visit John and Sylvia Tomlinson. We explored the area and visited Dreamworld.



Aug 1995 Queensland:
Iver, John and Silvia Tomlinson and others at their Mt Tambourine house (above),
Iver and Anne (lower left), and Iver and John (lower right)
messing about on an old car at Dreamworld

On the eighth of October 1995, we started a long drive to Adelaide arriving for a visit to Clare and Ron Hayes on the twelfth and meeting Ian Burden in the city. The journey took us to Echuca for a night or two and the joy of a cruise on the paddle boat the "Pride of the Murray".



Oct 1995 Victoria and South Australia:
At Echuca for Murray River cruise on "Pride of the Murray" (above),
Ian Burden, Clare Hayes and Anne in Adelaide (middle),
Clare and Ron Hayes at their house near Mt Barker (lower left),
and Anne and Clare at Carrick Hill (lower right)

We made the return journey through the Barossa, passed Lake Bonney in SA and stretches of the Murray River through Renmark to Mildura in Victoria where we investigated old museums and Chaffey's magnificent house.



Aug 1995: Lake Bonney Riverland, near Barmera, part of Murray River (upper left),
Charles Chaffey's Renmark house "Oliveward" (upper right),
Murray River cruise boat entering lock (lower left),
and William Chaffey's Mildura house "Rio Vista" (lower right)

Our journey continued through Hay, Forbes where we explored the old Lachlan Historic Village, and Parkes before stopping to see Carol and Derek at Tantallon, and looking at Kangarooie House on the way home.



Oct 1995 NSW Lachlan Historic Village at Forbes: Chemist Shop (left) and Jail (right)



Oct 1995 NSW: Kangarooobie House near Orange

Our final journey for 1995 was to Lennox Head for Christmas with Hilary and Bruce Wilson and their families, spending a few days in Dorrigo on the way back.



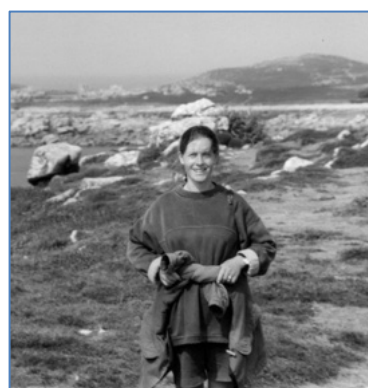
Dec 1995 Dorrigo NP, NSW: Skywalk and views (above), more views (middle), waterfall (lower left), and historic cabin (lower right)

1996

Nicola's son Michael was born in hospital on 18 June 1996. Jeremy was in the UK in August and was the first of the Huberts to see him, as Peter and Barbara did not arrive from Zimbabwe until a bit later in August. However, they did spend quite a few weeks with Nicola and Peter, and they were all able to travel through Cornwall visiting the Stephens family before sailing across to the Scilly Isles for a holiday staying on Bryher.



1996 Michael: At 3 months 6 days (above),
with Jeremy (lower left), and with Nicola (lower right)



1996 Bryher, Scilly Islands: Peter, Nicola with Michael and Barbara (left) and Nicola (right)

Peter and Barbara must have then come to Australia direct for another visit as they were with us in September 1996, when we all drove up to Airlie Beach in Queensland to visit the Barrier Reef. They also went to see Derek and Carol.



Sep 1996 Airlie Beach and the Barrier Reef:
Iver, Peter, Barbara and others on the way to the Reef (upper left),
our Reef cruise boat (upper right), and our view from Airlie Beach (below)

This was the year that we decided in earnest to move to Kendall which started out with finding a two-acre block in Albert Street – a relatively new sub-division. We had a block party!



Dec 1996 Kendall: Anne and Iver examining the block for the new house





Dec 1996 Orange: Grain harvesting at Tantallon, with Derek and their Ridgeback dog (upper)

We were at Tantallon for Christmas 1996, watching Derek harvesting grain. The season was early and they could not come to us.

1997

The first Camden Haven Music Festival was held towards the end of March 1997. Having bought the land at Albert Street we continued to wait for Bonny Hills to be sold! In the meantime, we took a brief holiday to Queensland in May 1997, spending time at Caloundra, the hinterland around Maleny and Montville, beside Lake Baroon Pocket Dam, and north to Noosa where we took a cruise on the Everglades. On the return journey we dropped in to see Hilary and Bruce at Lennox Heads. Hilary's brother Andrew Newman was staying with them at the time with Bruce's daughter Annie.



May 1997: Baroon Pocket Dam, Montville, Queensland





May 1997: Noosa Everglades, NSW (upper left, upper right and below)



May 1997 Lennox Head: With Bruce and Hilary and also Annie and Andrew Newman

Finally, the Bonny Hills house was sold and we rapidly packed up and left, moving on the twenty-first of December temporarily to Graham Street, Kendall. This was a small house overlooking the water meadows and many of our packing cases remained stacked in a bedroom. Carol and Derek came to stay after Christmas, when they had to sleep on the verandah. We managed to fit in time at Bonny Hills Beach and on the Kendall Golf Course.



Dec 1997 Kendall: Sean, Anne, Pete and Iver at Bonny Hills Beach



Dec 1997 Kendall: Anne the expert golfer (left),
how to play golf – but where's the ball? (upper right),
and at Graham Street after fishing (lower right)

1998

The second Camden Haven Music Festival was organised from Graham Street. This held up any planning for the building of our future house in Albert Street.

The design for our house at 67 Albert Street was not finalised until March or April 1998 although Peter Stephens had sent me some excellent plans in 1997. The steepness of the land had led to many alterations. Greg McMahon was engaged as builder and together with his son, who did most of the carpentry work, completed the job by November.



Aug 1998 Albert Street, Kendall:
Building work is almost complete - from below (left) and above (right)

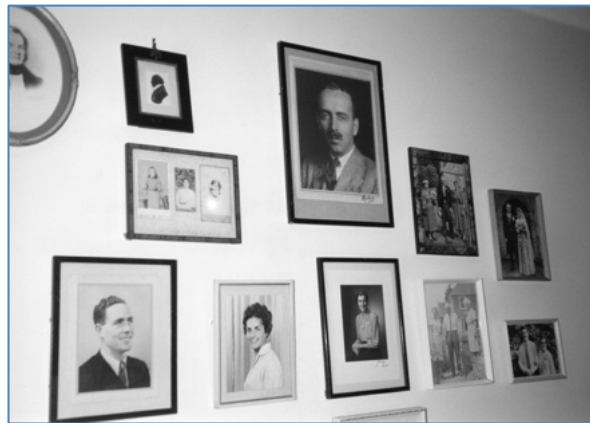


Dec 1998 Albert Street, Kendall:

View to Keri and Franks place (note new turf on sewerage trenches) (left) and back of house (right)

Iver and I moved to our new house in Albert Street in late November 1998 and Peter and Barbara arrived in mid-December for an extended stay from Zimbabwe, which was in the midst of farm invasions. Barbara was due to be given a further course of cancer injections which her specialist had allowed to take place with us, but before the course commenced we all drove to Tantallon for a Christmas with Carol and Derek and the boys.

The only thing we did before travelling to Tantallon for Christmas was to hang our pictures, including the "Rogues Gallery" in the passage, when Barbara was an enormous help.



Dec 1998 Kendall: Part of the "Rogues Gallery" at Albert Street



Dec 1998 Orange: Christmas at Kangarooie

7. Kendall

1999

On our return from Tantallon early in January 1999, Barbara's injections were started with horrible side effects. Derek and family came to Kendall, we tried to amuse them with a fishing trip from the Camden Haven, only to hear a desperate message that Barbara who had stayed at home, had been taken urgently to hospital.

She was admitted into Intensive Care where they did not expect her to live and Peter was distraught. Carol and the boys returned to Tantallon, Nicola flew over from the UK followed by her husband Peter and son Michael (then about two and a half), and finally Jeremy who came for a brief visit – the house was bursting!



Jan 1999 Albert Street, Kendall: Pippa helping in the garden (above), Peter at side of house (lower left) and looking towards Keri and Frank's house (right)



Jan 1999 Albert Street, Kendall: Peter with his tea (left), Iver making his tea (middle), and Jeremy having his breakfast (right)



Jan 1999 Albert Street, Kendall:

Peter, Derek and Jeremy getting evening meal (left) and ice-creams all round! (right)

While Barbara was in Intensive Care, the three young men set to work on the west side of the house, putting up the parking rails and side steps – Derek whose back was playing up supervised, Peter S. got blisters and Jeremy completed the job!

Barbara came out of hospital at the end of January much to everyone's relief, and Nicola, Michael and Peter S. returned to England after the first week of February. Barbara was allowed to fly by the seventeenth of February so she and Peter returned to Zimbabwe, being well supported by the airlines.



Feb 1999 On top of Big Brother, Laurieton:

Michael, Peter, Barbara and Nicola (left) and Peter, Barbara, Michael and Peter S (right)

We received a visit from John and Joy Hussey at the end of February, the second Music Festival took place at the end of March, and enjoyed a visit from Hilary and Bruce in April.



Apr 1999 Albert Street, Kendall: Iver, Bruce and Anne in the kitchen

We then pitched into the garden which needed a lot of development and was an ongoing effort. By August we felt more relaxed and were able to enjoy friends to lunch.



Aug 1999 Albert Street, Kendall:
Iver, Bar and Peter Grosse with back of Joan Arthur (upper left),
Keri and Frank with Joan and Iver (lower left), and Graham Caldersmith with others (right)
Christmas 1999 was spent with Robyn and Frank Ryan.

2000

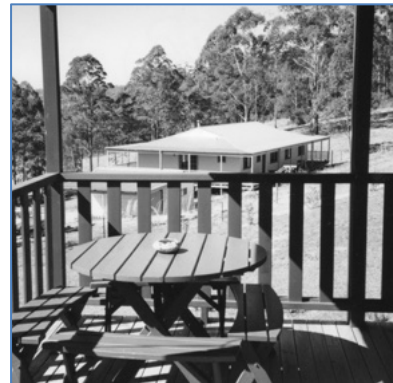
I finally retired from work on the twenty-first January 2000 and continued with garden improvements until the fourth Music Festival took place, held at the end of March. Such were the pressures over this period that Keri ended up in hospital by mid-April.

At some stage Derek helped with a well fenced vegie patch, and the boys with spreading pebbles at the back of the house. The driveway was concreted as well as part of the cellar under the house, and a garden path put in. The grass was mown.



Jun 2000 Albert Street, Kendall: Garden path to the house being made (lower left)
and path completed (Keri and Frank's house in background) (lower right)

When Bill started building his house next door it became necessary to fence the eastern boundary and bushes were planted, but we did still give ourselves time to relax.

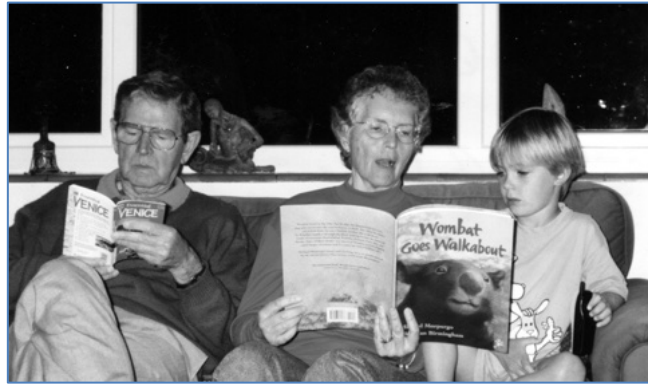


Aug 1999 Albert Street, Kendall: House from below (upper left),
Iver relaxing (upper right), from above with Pippa in the grass (lower left),
and view of Bill's newly built house on adjacent property from veranda (lower right)

Our “Grand Tour” of Europe ran from the third of September to the twenty-first of October 2000.

We began in England by spending a week with Nicola and Peter Stephens. Nicola was heavily pregnant with William at the time but that did not stop us from visiting the Isle of Wight, Osborne House, Portsmouth, Winchester Cathedral, Salisbury, and Laycock Abbey in Chippenham, the village where they were filming “The Mayor of Casterbridge”. We also visited Bradford-on-Avon with the Kennett and Avon Canal, Bath and various castles and monuments down the west of England, all ferreted out by Peter Stephens.





Sep 2000 UK: Picnic in Ilford Manor gardens with Iver, Anne and Nicola (upper left),
Iver on Ilford Manor gardens steps (upper right), and
Anne reading a bedtime story to Michael while Iver continued his planning (below)

We also explored London, Westminster Abbey, St Pauls and Churchill's old war bunker, the Albert Hall for a promenade concert, and many historic places on a bus tour. During our travels we visited old friends Jill in Urchfont and Anne Mogridge near Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Also, Tricia and Alan up in Yorkshire who helped us to explore York, York Minster, Skipton Castle and Halifax.



Sep 2000 UK: Kennett and Avon Canal at Bradford on Avon



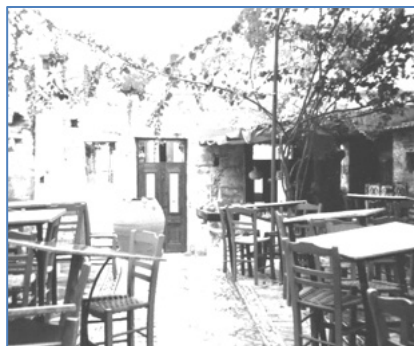
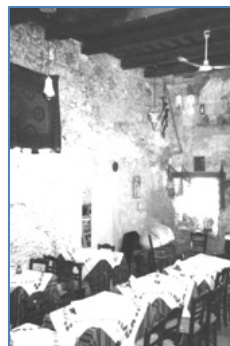
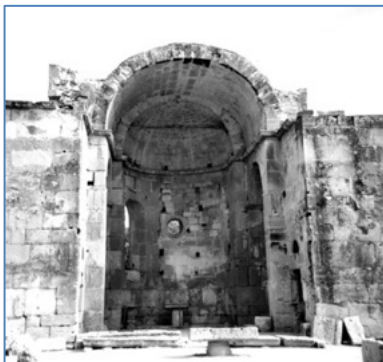
Sep 2000 UK: HMS Victory in Portsmouth (left),
Osborne House, Isle of Wight (residence of Queen Victoria) (centre),
and The Shambles, York (right)

The European part of the tour commenced on 26th September with a flight direct to Venice where we spent three nights before taking trains to Bologna and Ancona.



Sep 2000 Venice: Palazzo Ducale (left) and Burano (right)

From Ancona we caught a ferry to Patra, a coach to Athens for two nights before flying to Heraklion in Crete on the second October. It was all too hurried. In Crete we were joined by Jill Halliday, and had a wonderful 5 days touring around old ruins in a small car.



Oct 2000 Crete: Saint Titus Basilica, Gortyn (upper left), Monastery Preveli, Plakias (upper right), a restaurant in old Venetian house (lower left), and a cafe (lower right)



Oct 2000 Crete: Kourtaliotiko Gorge (left), Anne in Chania (centre), and a street in Chania (right)

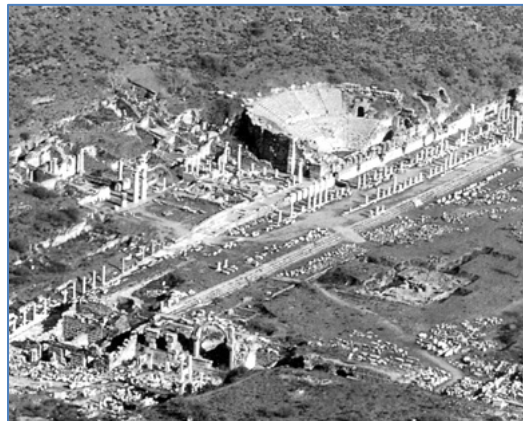


Oct 2000 Chania Crete: Venetian arsenal (left) and lighthouse (right)

On the seventh October the rest of the journey began with a short flight to the island of Rhodes for a night before catching a hydrofoil to Marmaris in Turkey. This border crossing caused us more trouble than any of the others due to official inefficiency.

After a night in Marmaris we were collected by driver and private car to a sightseeing tour to Istanbul. The first stop was Bodrum for two nights, followed by a day's drive to Didyma (Apollo Temple), Priene and on to Kusadasi for two nights.

We then joined another tour for day visits to Ephesus (Museum and Temple of Artemis), and Pergamon Troy and Canakkale seeing monuments and a replica of the wooden horse of Troy. The final journey was from Canakkale across the Dardanelles to Anzac Cove Gallipoli and along the shores of the Sea of Marmara to Istanbul.



Oct 2000 Turkey: Temple of Apollo, Didyma (upper left), Ephesus (upper right),
Replica of Trojan wooden horse, Canakkale (lower left),
and Hagia Sophia (Ayasofya Museum), Istanbul (lower right)

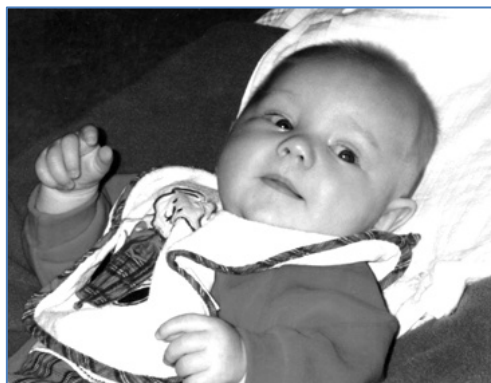
We spent four nights in Istanbul amusing ourselves in the daytime visiting The Blue Mosque (Sultanahmet with six minarets), Saint Sophia (pink dome Ayasofya Museum), the Suleyman Mosque, the Chora Museum, the Harem at Topkapi Palace and the Grand Bazaar. We had a boat trip up the Bosphorus past the Dolmabahçe Palace.

On the eighteen of October we sadly left Istanbul for Hong Kong arriving back home two days later. We spent Christmas at home, visited by Derek and family, and celebrated the New Year with Milly with family fireworks.



Dec 2000 Kendall: New Year's Eve Fireworks at Millie's

At this stage it should be recorded that Michael Stephens went to South Mundham School for the first time and William was born in Chichester on the fifteenth of November 2000. Peter and Barbara were in England for the birth and visiting friends, and later in December Sussex received an enormous storm which caused so much flooding that Peter Stephens had to go to work by boat.



Sep-Dec 2000 South Mundham, UK: Michael in his new school outfit (upper left), Michael, Nicola and William (12 hours old) (upper right), and William being entertained by grandfather Peter (below)



Dec 2000 South Mundham UK: village green in flood (left) and Michael getting ready to push his father to work (right)

Kendall CTC & RTC

In May 2001, a small group of people in Kendall became interested in Government Loans for the establishment of a village Computer Technology Centre (CTC) and later on a Rural Transaction Centre (RTC).

We applied firstly for the CTC but because of population size we were forced to negotiate in combination with the village of Comboyne. There were many meetings and much driving up the hill to Comboyne! Although the application was successful it required a split effectively halving all funds. The situation proved unworkable by late 2002 and by 2003 the two organisations were run separately.



2005 Kendall: Foundations for RTC with retaining wall

RTC discussions were started with the NSW Government in November 2001 but put on hold while CTC differences were sorted out, to be resurrected in April 2003. They dragged on until the final launch of the RTC in March 2004, after the building had been designed, to be completed and refurbished by 2005.

My role over these years was as the Treasurer – an unenviable task which entailed quite a bit of trouble-shooting.

2001

2001 was also a bad year for friends and family – Frank Johnson died in June, Hilary Wilson (Newman) in Lennox Head in July, and Peter's wife Barbara in Zimbabwe on the fourth of August. I flew over to be with Peter when I heard Barbara was very sick, and stayed until after the funeral.



Jul 2001 The School at Spring Grange, Zimbabwe: teacher and children (upper left), Nicola in the school house (upper right), football pitch (lower left), and the loos (lower right)



Jul 2001 Hide Game Park, Zimbabwe: accommodation (upper left), impala (upper right), wildebeest (lower left), and elephants (lower right)



Aug 2001 Spring Grange, Zimbabwe:
Barbara seated (now very sick) with family and friends (above),
Jeremy, Michael, Tricia, William and Nicola (lower left),
Michael, Peter and William (lower middle),
and a picnic by the Umguza with Anne, Nicola and Jeremy (lower right)

On my return to Australia I became aware that Iver's health and mobility was deteriorating slowly and he was diagnosed with mild Parkinsons in September 2001. At the end of the year we took a holiday and drove from Sydney to Nowra and Canberra visiting Iver's old friends, returning via Tantallon for Christmas then Nundle and home.



Dec 2001 Australia: Christmas at Kangarooobie with Derek, Carol, extended family and friends



Dec 2001 Australia: views from Hanging Rock, near Nundle in northern NSW

2002

In February 2002 we drove to Lennox Head to stay with Judy and Brian Smith to attend Hilary's Memorial Service at the local church. Judy held a grand remembrance dinner at their house afterwards, with all the extended families including their various grandchildren from Annette and Martin, their own adopted children.



Feb 2002 Hilary's Remembrance Dinner, Lennox Heads:
Iver, Andrew, Bruce, Chris, Annette and Martin (left),
and Judy, Andrew, Iver, Bruce and others (right)

At the end of April, we had some fun attending a play called 'Caravan to Comboyne' directed by Angela, Graham Caldersmith's partner, at the club in Comboyne. They also managed to feed us.



Apr 2002 'Caravan to Comboyne', Comboyne Club:
Iver all dressed up (left), Sue (centre), and the play being put on by Comboyne folks (right)

By September 2002 Iver seemed to be pretty stable and we decided to take a slow car trip through Nowra and round the south coast to Melbourne. This had all been planned and booked but as the departure date approached I could tell that Iver did not want to leave home which I put down to his Parkinsons.

I was wrong as somewhere along the road he suffered one or two TIAs leading to a visit to the Emergency Department at Frankston Hospital - they could find nothing wrong! It was only later that I was aware or able to recognise some of the symptoms of heart disease. We drove home via Wagga Wagga and Tantallon.



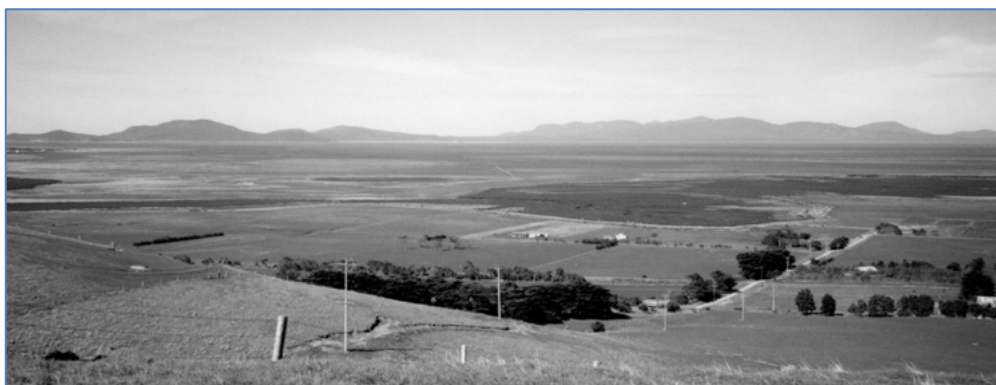
Sep 2002 Tilba, southern NSW: main street (left) and the Dromedary Hotel (right)



Sep 2002 Eden, southern NSW: fishing boats in the harbour



Sep 2002 Mallacoota, eastern VIC: from the air (above) and a channel through the sandbar (below)



Sep 2002 Toora, southern VIC: our cabin (left), wind turbines providing power for the town (right), and a view to Wilson's Promontory (below)



Sep 2002 Mt Martha, Mornington Peninsula, southern VIC:
Anthony Stephens and daughter (with Iver)

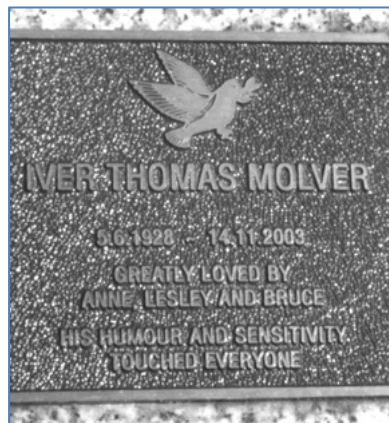
That Christmas was very quiet – at a restaurant with friends in Port Macquarie – on 28th December Iver had a fall on our road in Kendall and ended up at hospital in Port and then at the Royal Prince Alfred in Sydney until mid-February 2003.

2003

My brother Peter visited from Zimbabwe in February 2003 after he had been evicted from his farm – while he was trying to make up his mind where to end his days and living in a house in Bulawayo.

In October the same year we had driven up to Lennox Head to visit cousin Judy and Brian Smith (Newman).

On the return journey Iver had a massive stroke while in a motel in Woolgoolga and was rushed to Coffs Harbour hospital before being flown to Port Macquarie hospital where he died on the 14th November. His daughter Lesley was able to fly from South Africa to see him and stayed until after the funeral.



Nov 2003 Port Macquarie Crematorium and Lawn Cemetery, NSW:
Iver's memorial plaque (left), and part of the native garden area (right)

Peter made another visit from Zimbabwe at the end of November 2003 on his way to England in January 2004. He and I visited Derek and family for Christmas.

I then went into isolation and drifted!



Nov 2003 Bonny Hills "Remembrance Pool" to Mama and Iver

2004

Joan and I flew to Cairns to explore the Atherton Tablelands in May 2004, driving past Millaa Millaa, searching for the waterfalls circuit, visiting Lake Barrine in The Crater Lakes National Park, and staying in an apartment near Lake Tinaroo.





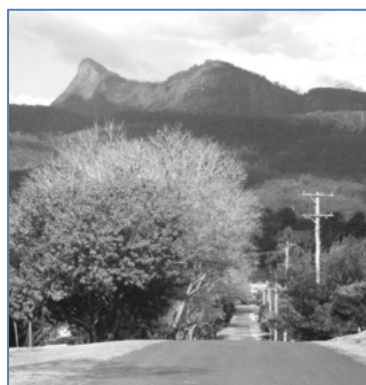
May 2004 Atherton Tablelands QLD:
 On the way up to the Tablelands (upper left),
 Joan and Anne in front of a waterfall (upper right),
 Millaa Millaa Falls (mid left), Elinjaa Falls (mid centre),
 Curtain Fig Tree (mid right), and Dinner Falls (below)



May 2004 Atherton Tablelands QLD: Lake Tinaroo, on the way to Bells

Irene Johnson had her eightieth birthday party at Cassegrain Vineyard in August, organised by Dave. It was at this auspicious event that he planted the seed that he might take me trekking in New Zealand, which happened four years later!

For six days at the beginning of September a party of us drove to attend the Tyalgum Music Festival west of Murwillumbah NSW near the QLD border. Irene, Toby Lopert and I shared my car. The concerts were held at several different venues, and we enjoyed home accommodation from willing supporters.



Sep 2004 Tyalgum Music Festival, northern NSW:
Alvina, a couple, Ian, Anne, Toby and Irene (upper left), Tyalgum Arts Hall (upper right),
and views from town (below)

I went to Orange for Peter Craig's Speech Day in early November, and back home in mid-November for Frank and Keri's open garden weekend to raise funds for the Violin Competition. Apart from the garden viewing we were well entertained and fed.



Nov 2004 Frank and Keri's Open Garden, Kendall:
Elaine, Mavis and Alison collecting tickets (upper left)
and entertainment on the deck (upper right)



Nov 2004 Frank and Keri's Open Garden, Kendall: tea preparations with Flora, Anne, Jill and Keri

By Christmas I was back at Tantallon celebrating with Derek, Carol and the boys – a double celebration as it was also Pete's 19th birthday. I stayed on to await brother Peter and his new partner Bev's arrival on the farm for a few days. They had been in Sydney on temporary visas since early December to start the process of immigration.



Dec 2004 Orange: Derek, Pete, Carol and Sean celebrating Xmas and Pete's birthday



Dec 2004 Harden: Wheat Harvesting

On the 29th December I accompanied Derek to Harden where they were harvesting grain on a share basis using equipment supplied by Bateman's daughter and husband.

2005

In January 2005 I joined Derek and Carol and their boys to drive to Bright in Victoria to stay with Richard Steiner at his log cabin, where a party of his friends were spending time cycling and canoeing in the area. I also spent a few days with the Mortons in their new house.



Jan 2005 Bright VIC: Richard Steiner's cabin (upper left), cycling party including Richard and Carol in the middle (lower left), and view from Mt Buffalo (abseiling instructor trying to get someone to try) (below)

It was necessary for Peter and Bev to go to the UK from Australia for a while prior to immigrating permanently. They drove up to Kendall in their newly purchased second-hand car before they left, breaking down on the highway around Taree. Bev flew out on the second March while Peter stayed on until the end of the month, spending more time with me driving to Armidale for a music weekend and the Camden Haven Music Festival.



Mar 2005 Diamond Head: Peter before leaving for the UK (left) and the headland (right)

Immediately after he left all the Hastings Choristers went by bus to Sydney, joining the Beethoven Society for Mozart's Requiem at the Opera House. I was again singing in Armidale in August, this time Mahler's Resurrection, driving other choir members. In April I went to visit friends in Canberra, losing the car in a carpark, before going to Tantallon for Sean's Anzac Day parade in Orange, where his school cadets were marching.



Apr 2005 Orange Anzac Day Parade: Sean with other School Cadets (left), and students and parents (right)

During the winter of 2005 we enjoyed beautiful crisp days, often spent on the beach, before I had a small party in Kendall to celebrate the Melbourne Cup.



2005 Kendall: Anne and Barry at a Dunbogan picnic in July (left) and Melbourne Cup party with Toby, Barb, Anne and Keri in November (right)

Peter and Bev returned to Australia in November coming to Kendall at the end of the month, before we all enjoyed Christmas lunch in Sydney with Angus and Cecile and family, as well as the rest of Bev's sister Sharon and Michael Mackenzie's extended families.

The end of the year was spent with them at Tantallon.

2006

I returned from Sydney with Margaret and Davis Jansen. Otherwise the year started in similar fashion to 2005 with various visits by Peter and Bev, and a trip to Armidale in mid-March for the Poulenc Gloria.

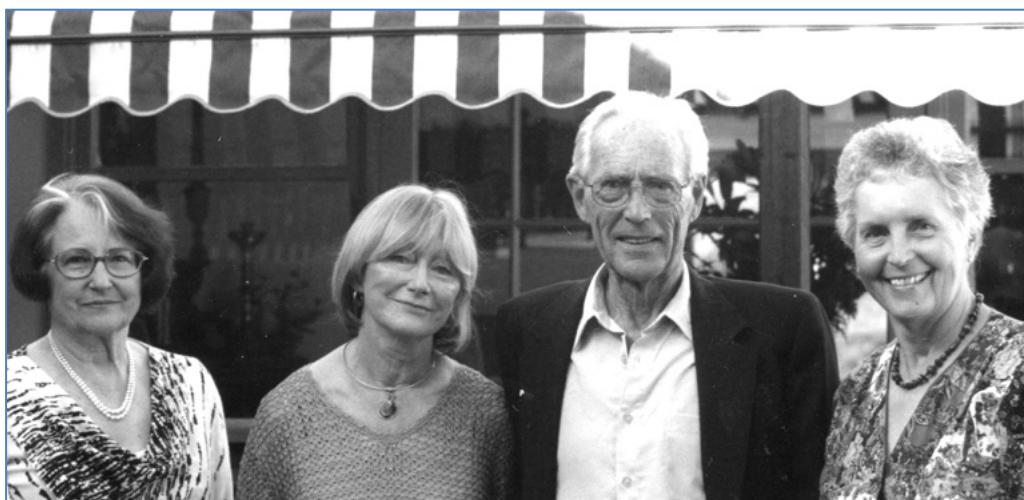
I was with Derek at the end of March when he bought almost the whole of the Gilmandyke young Angus cattle offered at the Autumn Sale in Bathurst. This was a nerve-wracking day as Derek had been given a rough monetary limit on the purchases

he could acquire for his boss Bateman who was unable to attend, and it was to be the start of a new cattle breeding project.



Early 2006 Kendall: David, Anne and Marg on our return from concert (left)
and Anne and Kookaburra in Millie's garden (right)

Peter and Bev were married at the Anglican Church, Frenchs Forest on 17th April 2006. Derek supported Peter while Bev had her sister Sharon, and friend Jill from Johannesburg.



Apr 2006 Peter and Bev's wedding at the Anglican Church, Frenchs Forest:
Anne, Sharon, Peter, Bev, Jill and Derek (above) and Jill, Bev, Peter and Anne (below)



Apr 2006 Peter and Bev's wedding at the Anglican Church, Frenchs Forest:
Lori, Cecile, Angus and vicar (upper left),
Peter, Bev, Sharon and Michael (lower left), and Bev celebrating (right)

They finally moved into their last home at Mona Vale in October.

In May I was back capturing some of the Kendall garden improvements, in particular a Nyssa tree which was turning a beautiful red colour.



May 2006 Kendall: Bush growth at Albert Street (left),
Nysee Tree in east-side garden (middle), and a flowering bush (right)

For other entertainment Theresa and James Lawrenson came to stay in April, I took Irene to visit her relatives in Nelson Bay in August and bush clearing at Lansdowne, and travelled to Glen Innes with Marg Newman to fetch her new dog Holly who was sick in the car on the way back!



Aug 2006: Irene and others bush clearing near Lansdowne, NSW

By the latter part of 2006 I had connected with Theres Sterndale in Port Macquarie and decided to accompany her on a fabulous holiday from 9-29 September to Tibet and the Silk Road with a private group of small plane pilots! This experience made me realise that there was a life still to be lived!

We flew from Hong Kong to Chengdu for two nights, visiting the Giant Panda Research Station. Chengdu is large - 10 million population - with wide 10 lane streets and many bicycles. It is on the confluence of five rivers and has a very old irrigation system still used for food and fruit production. We waited for a few late arrivals in the morning, went shopping and then to the airport for the flight to Lhasa.



Sep 2006 Chengdu: Adolescent Panda's at feeding time at research station

After a two-hour flight to Lhasa in Tibet, we were met by our guide plus a small bus with driver to escort us into the city – a one hour's drive. This took us by a new road, through a long tunnel and along the Lhasa river. The city is surrounded by mountains and snow-clad peaks.



Sep 2006 Lhasa, Tibet: Potala Palace (left) and Dalai Lama's private residence (right)



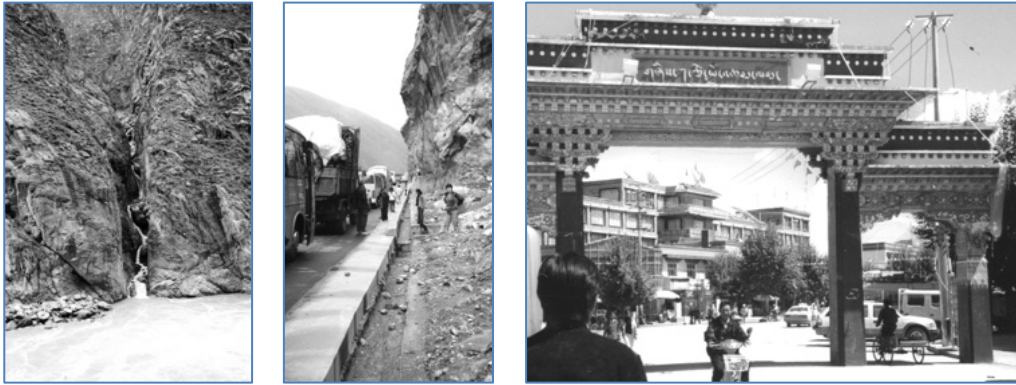
Sep 2006 Lhasa, Tibet: View across Lhasa from Potala Palace

Due to the altitude of about 3600 metres, I suffered from oxygen deprivation in the night and had to obtain oxygen pillows. We spent a total of four nights in Tibet. On our first day, we explored the Deprung Monastery, Potala Palace and NorbulingKa Palace which was the Dalai Lama's summer residence.



Sep 2006 Lhasa, Tibet: Outside Jokhang Palace on Barkhor Street (upper left), NorbulingKa Palace summer residence of Dalai Lama (upper right), and entrance to NorbulingKa Palace (below)

We then drove along the Brahmaputra river, through Sigatze and on to Gyangtse where we stayed the night, visited the Palkhor Monastery, then back through Sigatze.



Sep 2006 Sigatze, Tibet: Waterfall at Brahmaputra River (left),
Holdup due to rockfall (unstable terrain and road only 2 years old) (centre),
and gateway to main street in Sigatze (right)



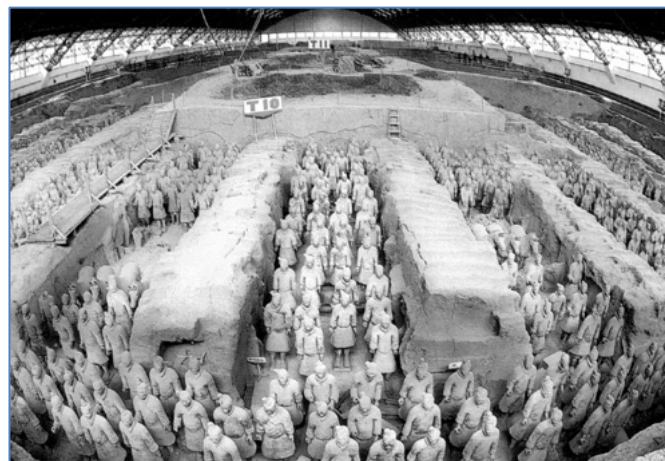
Sep 2006 Gyangtse, Tibet: Zongshan Castle, king's castle near Gyangtse (top),
Palkhor Monastery (middle), Baiju Temple at the monastery (lower left),
and prayer wheels before main gate of monastery with Zongshan Castle in background (lower right)

The bus took us the following day to the Tashilhunpo Monastery, the home to the 11th Panchen Lama with Stupa built in 1412, and the Temple of the Buddha of the Future with enormous statue, and back to Lhasa to catch a flight in the morning to Chengdu.

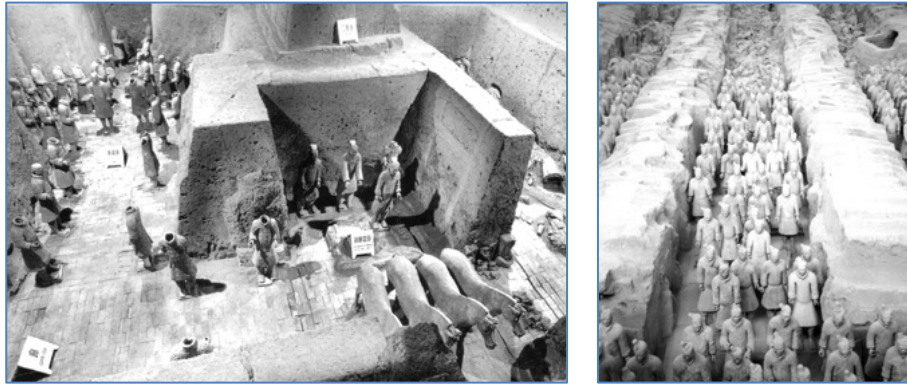


Sep 2006 Tashilhunpo, Tibet:
Tashilhunpo Monastery with Golden Shrine at centre (upper left),
Panchen Lama's residence doorway (upper right),
and a bridge to nowhere? (below)

Another flight took us to Xian where we enjoyed evening entertainment of The Tang Dynasty Show. In the morning we went to see the Terracotta Warriors and Horses, and then toured the old city walls. A dumpling banquet in the evening kept us well fed.



Sep 2006 Xian, China: Terracotta Warriors and Horses exhibition hall



Sep 2006 Xian, China: Terracotta Warriors and Horses parts of vault 3 (left) and vault 1 (right)



Sep 2006 Xian, China: View of city centre from top of city wall (above) and another view from city wall (below)



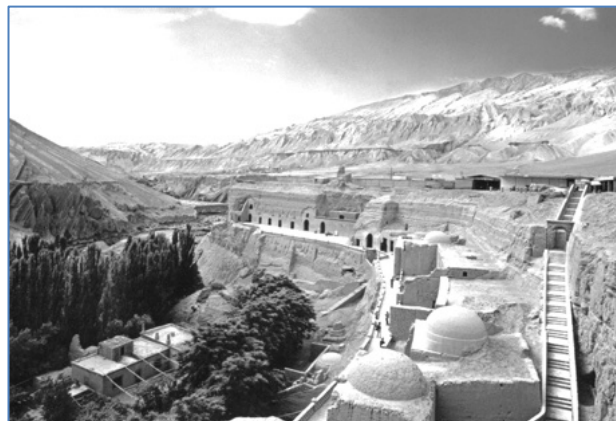
Sep 2006 Dunhuang, China: Mingsha sand dunes

From Xian a coach took us to Dunhuang and the Mogao Grottoes, a series of caves containing ancient Buddhist art. We also saw the Mingsha sand dunes for a view of superb desert scenery.



Sep 2006 Dunhuang, China: Mingsha crescent moon lake, oasis and temple (lower left) and Mogao grottoes (lower right)

An overnight train carried us to Turpan where we visited the Flaming Mountains north-east of the city and Thousand Buddha Caves in the Bezkilik valley. Turpan is a small Islamic city lying below sea level in the Xinjiang desert. It is close to two ruined 2000-year old cities which were main trading posts on the Silk Road, and with amazing irrigation systems. We visited one of them, Jiaohe.



Sep 2006 Bezkilik, China: The Thousand-Buddha caves (above), part of the caves (lower left), and part of the Flaming Mountains (lower right)



Sep 2006 Jiaohe, China: Ancient fortified city between 2 rivers (upper left), one of the city's gates (upper right), and after final destruction of crops and water supply (below)

A bus took us from Turpan to Urumqi - a university city - for a flight to Kashgar, the most western city on our route and near the border with Kyrgyzstan. Kashgar is at the meeting of the northern and southern silk routes and where we stayed for two nights.



Sep 2006 Kashgar, China: Apak Hoja's tomb (left) and entrance ceiling of People's Mosque (right)



Sep 2006 Kashgar, China: Sheep market (left), donkey market (centre), and horse trading (right)

Apart from passing a famous Mosque and a Mausoleum, the huge bazaar occupied our time, watching horse, cattle and goat sales, strolling through the open-air markets which sell carpets, embroideries and cloth together with any other marketable product.



Sep 2006 Kashgar, China: Kazak yurts

Leaving Kashgar, we flew back to Urumqi for the night after a visit to Kazak people's yurts, leaving in the morning for the long flight to Beijing. There we spent the next day visiting the Great Wall some distance out of the city and Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, finishing with a farewell dinner.



Sep 2006 Great Wall near Beijing, China



Sep 2006 Beijing, China: Tiananmen Square (upper left), Mao's mausoleum (upper right), inside the Forbidden City (lower left), and The Emperor's Garden (lower right)

Christmas was spent at Tantallon with Derek and the boys, Carol having left to live in her own place in Orange. On the way home, I dropped in to visit the Hines who were farming near Goulburn.

2007

After several trips to Sydney and Orange in 2007 including a visit to the farm with John and Rona Lomas, four days at the Byron Bay Writers Festival with Judy Smith and a visit from Jenny Nanson, I planned and took a six-week overseas journey visiting family and old school friends in the UK.



2007 NSW: Byron Bay Writers Festival (left) and Jenny and friend at Diamond Head reserve (right)

Anne and James Mogridge picked me up from Heathrow on 23rd August and whisked me straight to Little Harrowden before we went visiting 'Froggie' at the village of Husbands Bosworth and on to see Theresa and James on their longboat 'Jemima Puddle-duck' on the canal at Weedon. The next day we spent in Cambridge followed by a visit to June Barrington at Horsham.



2007 UK: Anne M & Froggie (upper left),
Theresa, James and Anne M on the canal boat (upper right), punting in Cambridge (lower left),
and Anne M and June Barrington, Horsham (lower right)

I spent a week with Nicola and family going to Goodwood, Chichester, the boys sailing club and Porchester Castle before taking a train to Bath to be collected by Cilla. Jane was also staying, having travelled south from Edinburgh. We toured Wells Cathedral, the Bishop's Palace and the following day drove to Muchelney Abbey and Glastonbury Abbey before Jane left and Cilla and I went to the Cheddar Gorge. Jill collected me to return to Urchfont, we visited the Husseys at Uffcott and viewed sculptures in Urchfont Manor Gardens.



2007 UK: William, Nicola and Michael in their garden (left) and William sailing (right)



2007 UK: Wells Cathedral (left) and the Bishops Palace at Wells (right)



2007 UK: Glastonbury Abbey ruins (above), Cilla, Jack and Jane at Wells (lower left), and Jill and Anne at Urchfont (lower right)

Jill and I spent a few days around Devizes before she took me to see Liz and Philip Street and on to meet Ros at a pub lunch.





2007 UK: Liz, Philip and Anne in front of their house (upper left),
Ros and June Hunt in front of Ros's house (upper right), and John and Ros in their house (below)

While at Ros and John's we were visited by June Hunt and Jill Honeywill with Jill Sandberg, before Ros took me to Kew Gardens and Hampton Court gardens. I finally took off for Vienna on Saturday 15th September.

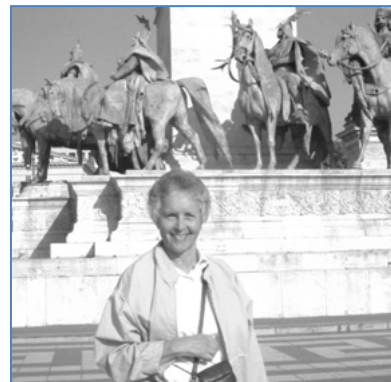
I arrived in Vienna in the evening and attempted to take a tube and train to the city with Sherryll, before dining at the local golf club. The next day we had a city tour visiting Schönbrunn Palace and extensive gardens, before leaving for Budapest at lunchtime. In the evening we had a cruise on the Danube. Monday 17th September was spent exploring the city – the two sides of the river - seeing many building and monuments in Buda and Pest, these included Buda Castle and the Matthias Church, and Fisherman's Bastion. On the Pest side we saw Heroes Square, the Imperial Palace and Houses of Parliament plus other buildings.



2007 Vienna: Schönbrunn Habsburg Palace (above)
and Gloriette Maze and gardens (below)



2007 Buda: Buda Castle and Matthias Church (above),
Fisherman's Bastion Buda Castle (lower left),
and statue of a king on horseback with lions (lower right)

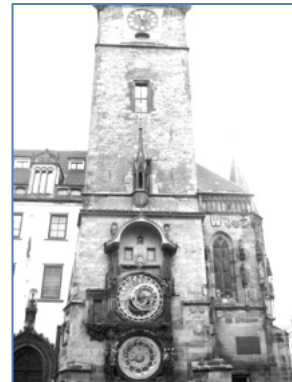
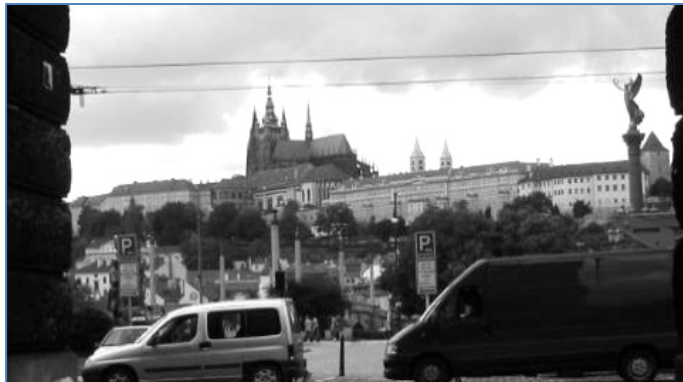


2007 Pest: Heroes Square with raised mounted chariots (upper left),
Heroes Square column and Anne (upper right), Grand Imperial Palace (lower left),
and falconers (lower right)

From Budapest we bussed to Prague via Bratislava, an unspoilt charming town and now the capital of Slovakia.



2007 Bratislava: New bridge over River Danube with ferry (upper left), square with Old Town Hall (upper right), old city walls and steps (lower left), and St Martin's Cathedral (lower right)



2007 Prague: View of the city from our cruise boat (upper left), square with St Nicholas' Church (upper right), distant view of St Catherine's Cathedral (lower left), and the famous Prague Astronomical Clock (or Orloj) (lower right)

In Prague we had an evening cruise on the Vltava (called the Moldau in German) before visiting the Jewish Ghetto the next morning, a tour round the castle and an organ recital in the evening at St Catherine's Church.

We continued on our journey towards Berlin visiting Dresden, viewing the Opera House, Cathedral and Dresden Castle surrounds, the Glockenspiel (carillon), The Parade of the Princes Mural, Martin Luther Square and Church, and the Elbe River ferry terminal with bridge.

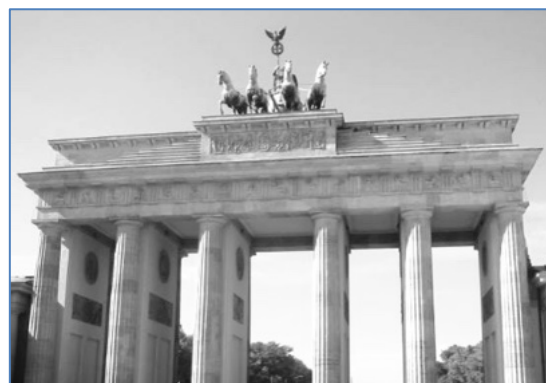


2007 Dresden: Opera House (upper left), Cathedral (upper right),
The Parade of the Princes mural (centre), Martin Luther square and church (lower left),
and the Glockenspiel, a carillon of 40 Meissen porcelain bells (lower right)

On a new day in Berlin we started with a tour of the Reichstag parliament building, both new and old and the extensive surrounding park. We continued exploring at the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin wall and Checkpoint Charlie, the Holocaust Memorial and other important areas.



2007 Berlin: The dome of the New Reichstag (upper left), looking down from the top of the dome (upper right), view of park from the dome (lower left), and the Old Reichstag (the people's parliament) (lower right)



2007 Berlin: Holocaust Memorial (upper left), the Berlin wall (upper right), Checkpoint Charlie (lower left), and the Brandenburg Gate (lower right)



2007 Berlin: Sans Soucis Palace (above),
Cecilienhof Royal Residence and WW11 summit site (lower left),
and Alexandrowka Heritage Village (museum of Russian colonial life) (lower right)

In the afternoon the bus took us to Sans Soucis Palace and gardens, and nearby Potsdam Cecilienhof house and Alexandrowka heritage village of timber houses. We travelled on to Nuremburg via Leipzig the next day. Leipzig was a particularly interesting city being the home of Johann Sebastian Bach, containing St Nicholas Church and St Thomas Lutheran Church.

In comparison Nuremburg was somewhat forbidding.



2007 Leipzig: Johann Sebastian Bach statue outside church (left),
the Bach Museum (centre), and St Thomas Lutheran Church where JS Bach was cantor (right)



2007 Nuremberg: Castle wall (left), Castle lookout tower (centre), and the Frauenkirche and market square (right)

The final drive took us back through Passau to Vienna and London, Sussex and eventually home.



2007: Three friends at end of our European tour (left) and Michael getting ready to go camping (right)

Almost immediately after arriving back in Kendall, Millie and I and her painting group took off to Thredbo for a week of art and walking. Another seed was sown – I wanted to do some serious walking!



2007 Thredbo and Bonny Hills: Kevin, Hanna, Barry and Millie (left) and some of the Thredbo painting crowd (right)



2007 Thredbo and Bonny Hills: bushes covered in snow (upper left), Anne in the snow (upper right), and Hanna and Anne painting at Bonny Hills Beach (below)

Back in August 2004, Dave's step mother Irene had her 80th birthday party at the restaurant at Cassegrain's Vineyard to which I was invited. During the course of the meal I had been complaining that my brother would not accompany me to New Zealand and out of the blue Dave said he would take me on the Greenstone-Routeburn trek which he and daughter Alex had recently walked. I registered the offer with surprise.

Forward to Thredbo late 2007 and I wondered if the offer still stood! When I made tentative enquiries to Dave by phone he said that one would have to book soon for early 2008 – after a few days he rang to say that he had reserved a position for us on the five-day trek from Queenstown at the end of February 2008! Panic! After checking the requirements to enable me to get fit from my doctor and that my knee could cope with the walking I agreed to the booking.

This led to a serious month or two of training around Kendall to discover that when Dave arrived to be with Alex and Steve in Port for Christmas, I was fitter than he.





Christmas 2007 Dinner at Millie's house: Peter, Derek, Bev, Carl and Sarah (upper left),
Nicola, Virginia, Darcy and Sarah (upper right),
and Derek, Peter and Bev recovering at the beach (lower)

Christmas 2007 was spent with a large portion of Bev's family who were staying in Millie's house as Derek and the boys were at Albert Street.

2008 was the start of my 6th life, with my first experience of trekking in New Zealand with Dave on the Greenstone-Routeburn track.