

Anne and Dave's Christmas Letter for 2021

Dear friends and family,

2021 has been a most unusual year with continuing problems avoiding the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent partial and full lockdowns in the Central Coast and of our retirement village.

For many months our own Country Club was completely closed which meant no community activities. We were also barred from travelling more than 5 kms outside the village. This was all very restricting, but we socialised with people either walking around the village or paying home visits for specific reasons. The result was that we have suffered little from isolation.

The village has managed the pandemic very well with good compliance to the restrictions and now residents are almost completely vaccinated with all 3 jabs (mostly delivered through mass jab sessions in the village). The management have contributed greatly to preserving our health and well-being throughout this pandemic.



Glengara Retirement Village: Flowers behind our villa – Clivia (left) and Begonia (right)

Anne says she has never read so many books, some worthwhile and others to be quickly forgotten, while spending three months on one small jigsaw!

Dave has been heavily involved in coordinating and helping to run several IT courses with government support with the balance of the costs being funded by our Residents Association. The aim of these courses is to help village residents become more proficient and confident in the increasing demand for mobile phone usage – a very steep learning curve for some in the village who needed to get QR proficient and be able to show their proof of vaccinations.

The variations in applications between mobile devices from Apple and other vendors using various brands of android together with a wide range of device vintage was quite a challenge. We were able to include courses for Windows users on laptops. The courses will hopefully be continuing in 2022 and we have managed to restart our popular Q&A sessions for Apple devices.



Glengara Retirement Village: One of our IT courses (left) and an Apple Q&A session (right)

Anne has continued to be the village coordinator for Residents Assistance, arranging volunteers to transport needy residents to medical appointments when the residents do not drive and have no

available family support. The demand for this service diminished at the height of the lockdown but has recently doubled in popularity. Residents are most appreciative of the service.

In December, this final month of 2021, we are finally FREE to travel anywhere in NSW, so we have had three quick trips away from home. The first took us to Millthorpe, near Orange, to visit Derek and Lisa. There we had four glorious fine days, although during the last two the wind chill was fierce. It was so good to see all the improvements Derek has made over the last year. The season has been perfect for grass growing, consequently the growth was all at least knee high and the barns full of hay, but the land is very wet and boggy in places. The cattle are flourishing and are producing good revenue which will be used to continue improving the farm and addressing house improvements.



Millthorpe: “Daleside” Derek and Lisa’s home

On returning home we had five days at home before driving up to Port Macquarie to see some friends and attend a final Hastings Choristers concert before the retirement of long-time Musical Director Robyn Ryan. It was a rushed trip and we missed seeing some of our friends, but it was most enjoyable after over two year’s absence.



Port Macquarie: Visitor at lunch (left) and a fine tree near Westport (right)



Sydney: Waiting for Emma’s recital to start (left) and Dad and Emma in the pool at home (right)

We have finally managed to catch up with Alex and family in Sydney. We had seen them briefly in March and we tried to see them again in June but became housebound before the visit took place.

More recently they have been very busy with their own activities to fit us in. Both Jamie and Emma have shot up in height – thirteen-year old Jamie is now taller than Dave!

We enjoyed an early Christmas dinner with them in very hot weather, followed by a huge thunderstorm to cool things down fractionally. We attended Emma's piano recital where she played very well. Some of us enjoyed a visit to the movies to see Dune (part 1) – sadly part 2 is due in 2024!

After all these celebrations our plan for the Xmas period is simple - a special lunch out on Christmas Eve, prawns and seafood on Christmas Day, and a day visit up the coast to Fingal Bay where Alex and family will be camping for a week after the New Year.

We do hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year with a healthy and happy 2002, wherever you are, and many thanks for your cards and letters already received.

Love to all
Anne and Dave



Glengara Retirement Village: Sunset