

Anne and Dave's Christmas Letter for 2022

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Dear friends and family,

This year has been marginally better than 2021 enabling us to go to a few concerts in Sydney and family visits, but it was necessary to cancel all other trips either because of the weather or latterly due to Dave's mystery complaint.

We managed to visit Sydney for two Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) concerts in February and March 2022. The first of these was a fantastic concert, featuring the music of Piazzolla with a very special performance by James Crabb on the bandoneon (a concert version of the piano accordion).



The stage for Piazzolla at the City Recital Hall with colourful decoration suspended above

We enjoyed a special performance of the Aboriginal Bangarra Dance group's Sandsong in July. The various outback depictions from Bangarra and their music is certainly totally different to anything else.

We managed to get to 2 concerts in Sydney during November. The first one was at the Opera House with the Australian Chamber Orchestra's program The American. The second was at the Recital Hall with Musica Viva hosting the Signum Saxophone Quartet and violinist.



The newly refurbished Concert Hall at the Opera House (left) and stage setup for Signum (right)

In addition, we have enjoyed several events at Glengara including monthly sessions with our own Glengara Quartet and special events including the Hawaiian Night in February.



Anne & Dave at the Hawaiian Night

Family-wise Steve and Jamie Salgo both had band concerts in Sydney which we enjoyed in May and another in July, although one of Jamie's was on a day of the most atrocious weather of wind and heavy rain and took place in a hall with one side open to the elements!



Garden wall collapse after heavy rain at Alex and Steve's house

The weekend of 3rd September we stayed at Castle Cove to keep an eye on the kids while Alex and Steve were down in Cronulla – this was the only weekend we have managed to stay with them as they were away in Scotland for a month in April returning early May and their calendar of activities is very busy. We are anticipating having a few days with them for Christmas this year.

From the weekend of 3rd September Dave gradually became increasingly ill with an unknown complaint. At the start we called it Long-Covid with some interesting additions such as frozen legs, fevers, much sleeping and generally very weak. After many tests of all sorts ranging from innumerable blood sampling, scans and MRI, it was decided that it was some other unknown problem! This has given him a phobia of needles and anything sharp!

At the beginning of November, a visit to a very conscientious neurologist who ordered more specific blood tests came up with the solution to the mystery – the CMV virus. We have been suffering for two months – Anne says that is true as she has been earning many brownie points with extra duties including rushing off to buy an electric blanket and taking over all the driving.

On 5th September we took possession of a brand-new car – a Subaru hybrid (petrol and electric) with all its knobs and screens and advisory messages. Anne spent the first two days being terrified of it, and then rapidly took over the sole driver's job!

We had planned to fly to Mildura in June to explore Mungo National Park with a small busload of fellow enthusiasts, but this got cancelled due to huge floods in the area. It was rescheduled for October when we were going to combine it with a few days with Derek and Lisa on the farm in Millthorpe, a drive to Mildura for the tour and then return via friends in Canberra. Sadly, that

was cancelled due to Dave's ongoing illness. Dave had also booked to go on a flight over Antarctica but once again that had to be cancelled.



Our new car (Anne wanted to keep the red bow!) (left) and our new lampshades when they finally arrived from Millthorpe (right)

The last time we saw Derek and Lisa was in December 2021 (when we ordered our new lampshades), and now it is postponed until 2023. We hope then to see the Canberra crowd, and at another time visit our friends at Port Macquarie. We did manage to catch up with Sean and Clare and their two children for lunch at a local garden centre in April while they were on their way to Newcastle.



Sean, Clare and family visit: At the farm enjoying a ride (left) and young Ella at Ourimbah (right)

Bev moved from Mona Vale to Hornsby Heights last January to occupy a cottage in the garden of her son Carl's house. Anne managed to visit her in August with the aid of the satnav. It was thought that because she was nearer to Tumby Umbi we might be able to get there more often but it does seem to be off our usual route to the city.

Back at home at Glengara, Dave was very much involved in a program called "Be Connected" run by an organisation with the aim to help residents become more "tech savvy" in the modern era. Anne continued being co-ordinator of the Residents Assistance committee organising volunteer drivers for residents needing to get a lift to medical appointments. This she gave up in September having completed three years in the job – she has not missed it one bit. It was growing into something of a continual worry!

Have a wonderful
Christmas and New Year,
and a healthy
happy 2023.

Love to all
Anne & Dave



Double rainbow at Glengara