

Merry Christmas from the Leech Family!



This week I have been through the photo albums searching for photos and have been reminded of all the adventures during the year - horse riding camps, birthday parties, high school reunion, missing Ruth (who died last year), celebrating my mum's 80th, enjoying friends, camping, selling the yacht and buying kayaks, school trips, Simon & Garfunkel's concert, moving our Numicon stock from the home garage to a warehouse, school and Guide camps, moving back to the church where we were married. We have not had time to be bored this year!

Stephanie has had a very fulfilling year at her last year of intermediate school. Her teacher has inspired her with good things and as a result Stephanie has really extended her abilities and achievements. She was awarded a prize last week- 'Outstanding contribution to the School Orchestra'. The Arts Awards evening was a formal affair with many students being awarded. We are so proud of her. She has been successful in her auditions for choir and orchestra (bassoon) and band (Clarinet) at Epsom Girls' Grammar, where she is going next year. She too has loved swimming, Guides, clarinet and now the bassoon! One of the highlights for Stephanie was joining the Scout Guide Gang Show –12 performances over two weeks, with a fun solo song from Les Miserables. She's eager for the next show to begin! Cooking is becoming part of her lifestyle- we are having our palates really tickled!

Emily has had a not so successful year at school. She will move onto her last year of primary school with the same teacher, but have a new aide. Emily loves reading, playing computer games, watching movies, outdoor activities, though her favourite is dance. This year she has participated in a creative dance group - the highlight of her week. She enjoyed her swimming classes, even a spot of belly dancing, and joining Guides. Now she is becoming a good kayaker. Emily treats us to pancakes, bread-making and chocolate cakes on a regular basis. Our waistlines are challenged!



Our parents are well, enjoying life, friendships and all their community activities. We are so thankful for their wisdom and company on those special occasions such as children's shows, concerts and to share good news with. This year we are celebrating Christmas over two days- one with Margi family and Boxing Day with Ken's family.



Margi - I have had such a full year presenting courses to teachers on using the Numicon maths programme in New Zealand and Australia and how to teach students with Down syndrome in NZ. Meetings with Ministry of Education staff and the MP for Special Education has produced some good results for children with Down syndrome. I am also part of the New Zealand Down Syndrome Association Education Advisory Group. Next year looks similar to this one already- busy and fulfilling and even further afield- to Singapore and hopefully Hawaii! I have also enjoyed the friendships in the neighbourhood Book Club. But I mostly enjoy being home and enjoying the girls through these exciting years.



Ken - I have had a very successful year mostly consulting to Primary Health Organisations in Northland and Wanganui and I have also managed to rack up the Airpoints travelling regularly to Dunedin as well (although that has now finished). More recently I have started doing some strategy work for St John – a job in Auckland at last! Our girls are learning the geography of NZ very well as a result!

Our diaries have to be well-coordinated to make sure an adult is in the house!

We joined a choir for the Christmas season and so enjoyed doing something together other than ferrying children to their activities.



This year has seen God lead us through some pretty hard financial times. Redundancy 2 years ago and building up a business has been hard work.

God's encouragement and support from family and friends has help us now get back on our feet. So the recession has already been part of our lives, but we have been able to continue supporting our friends in full-time ministry and organisations in the community that help others.



Blessings to you for 2010!

