

Ross and Kathy Callaghan's 2017 Christmas Newsletter

Debbie, Kathy, Ross, Sarah and Phil.
March 2017.



Ross and Kathy Callaghan wish you a very Happy Christmas, and pray that you will have a safe and prosperous 2018.

Last year we started our Christmas Newsletter like this:

"Writing our annual newsletter always gives us opportunity to reflect on the blessings we enjoy, and, for us, they are certainly many. A wonderful marriage; living in a beautiful place here in Paraparaumu; three amazing children and the six best grandchildren in the world; being retired and staying healthy; being involved in lots of activities and being able to bless so many people through these activities; travelling to so many interesting parts of the world, and of course, having so many special friends and family - like you - with whom we share life". All of this is still true! Another year has passed and once again we are about to celebrate the birth of Jesus – the One who came to *bring peace on earth and goodwill amongst men*. Our prayer is that this Christmas you will, like us, know *the peace of God that passes all understanding* and will have a blessed and fruitful year in 2018.

Highlights of 2017 have included:

- **Ross** turned 70 this year and we had a suitably great celebration. His major project for the year was to build a very complicated model of the USS Constellation – the first American warship. Ross played golf a few times each week, and ran the mid-week men's competition. He is still on a single figure handicap and broke 80 every time he played in the first half of the year, even with his bad back. **Kathy** kept fit by doing aquafit and cycling. She had quite a few medical tests during the year that finally resulted in clearing up a chronic cough. Kathy continued to sing with (and sometimes direct) the Kapiti Women's Choir, and did some pretty amazing genealogy research. A major project was to research Ross's mother's side of our family (the Tysons and the Grahams) but she also carried out research for many local people who requested her help. Together Ross and Kathy continued to run singalongs for elderly people in the community and lead our wonderful "Youth Group" each Sunday. (Ages up to 93). In Youth Group we study the Bible, sing, watch movies, support each other and have lots of fun. We lost a few members of the group during the year which was sad.
- **Our family.** This year **Debbie, Fraser** and family had an amazing trip around Australia in their camper. Debbie continues to do well in her studies towards a new career in speech pathology. **JJ, Heidi, and Luke** are doing well at school and **Dan** will join them there in February. We are hoping JJ's voice doesn't break so he can go to Europe next year with the Australian Boys Choir. **Sarah** has fully recovered from her nasty autoimmune condition, and has got back into her relief teaching, mainly in art and music. **Blake** and **Isla** have both had a great year and Isla is looking forward to starting at Blake's (and Sarah's) school in April. **Michael** and **Sarah** are planning a major redevelopment of their house next year. **Phil** and **Mo** have had an excellent year with their conventions and both continued to work at the Science Museum. Phil still organizes the 'Last Man Standing' T20 cricket competition in Melbourne and is right up there in the stats for both batting and bowling. A special highlight was when his Melbourne team competed in the World champs in South Africa. We get to see all of the family pretty regularly which is great, and it will be nice to have the Cunningham's and Stevens's staying with us this year over Christmas.
- **Our travels.** In February we went on a great cruise around the top end of Australia on the "Radiance of the Seas" to celebrate Ross's 70th and then in August we went to Vanuatu and New Caledonia on the "Sun Princess" before heading to Melbourne. (The videos are on YouTube under **calros3**). We love cruising and have two cruises booked for 2018 (to New Guinea in February and to New Caledonia in June), and one (so far!) for 2019.

You can get lots more detail on our activities from our family website
<http://callaghans.yolasite.com>

**Merry Christmas and lots of love from
Ross and Kathy Callaghan**

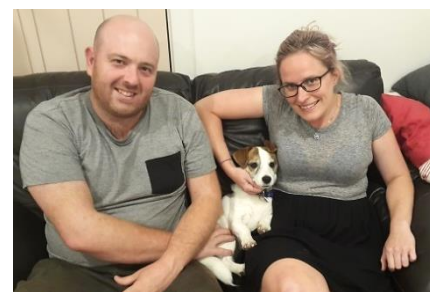
81 The Drive, Paraparaumu Beach, New Zealand.
phone (64)4 2970733, +64210452925 rosscallaghan@gmail.com



JJ, Deb, Dan, Heidi, Fraser and Luke



Michael, Blake, Sarah, Isla



Phil and Mo with Rocky