

Ross and Kathy Callaghan's 2018 Christmas Newsletter

Ross and Kathy Callaghan wish you a very happy Christmas, and pray that you will have a safe and prosperous year in 2019. Christmas is a special time as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and get together with our loved ones. May you know the exceedingly great joy and richest blessing of Jesus in this season. Our very best wishes to you and your family.



2018 has been another excellent year for us: we are certainly making the most of our retirement years!

Ross keeps fit by walking every day (averaging over 11,000 steps!) and by playing golf (off a 10 handicap). He has continued making model ships as a legacy for the grandchildren, and this year made three: the Pevensy, the Santa Maria and the Pinta. **Kathy** keeps fit by walking, cycling and by doing aquafit. She had her gall bladder removed during the year (first ever surgery!) and made a remarkably quick recovery. Kathy continues to sing with (and sometimes direct) the Kapiti Women's Choir, and to carry out research into our family history. DNA testing has provided some interesting links with people around the world.



Together **Ross and Kathy** continue to run singalongs for elderly people in the community and to 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.

Our family. Sadly, we lost our much-loved Aunty Norma in July, aged 97. She was an inspiration to us all, and it was a great privilege to take her funeral. Aunty Norma was a very big part of our lives, and we will miss her greatly. We saw **Debbie, Fraser** and family three times this year. They visited us at the start of the year, and we went to Melbourne twice to help look after the kids while Debbie was doing her speech pathology studies. **JJ, Heidi, Luke** and **Dan** are all doing well at school. Special highlights were JJ's trip to Europe with the Australian Boys Choir; Heidi's calisthenics; Luke's soccer and drumming, and Dan's speed at learning new things. JJ and Debbie have taken up golf, with coaching from Poppa (Ross). The big news for **Sarah and Michael** is that the renovation of their house is complete, except for some final painting. Unfortunately **Sarah** is still troubled by her nasty auto-immune condition, but has still got back into teaching part-time. **Blake** and **Isla** have both had a great year. Isla started at Blake (and Sarah's) school and Blake is turning out to be a very promising drummer. The big excitement for **Phil and Mo** was the birth of **Billie Alice Callaghan** in October. Billie is totally gorgeous and her parents (and grandparents!) just dote on her! Phil and Mo had another excellent year with their conventions and both continued to work at the Science Museum. Phil has taken on the 'Last Man Standing' T20 cricket franchise for Melbourne which keeps him busy. Even though two of our children and five of our grandchildren live in Melbourne we get to see all of the family pretty regularly which is great. Our grandchildren sure are a lot of fun to be around!



Aunty Norma



The Cunninghams



The Stevens



Phil, Mo and Billie

Our travels. During the year we visited the family in Melbourne three times, and also took a couple of cruises out of Australia: an amazing cruise to Papua new Guinea on the “Pacific Aria” and then a short cruise to New Caledonia on the “Pacific Eden”. Later, we had a lovely short break in Samoa. (The videos are on YouTube under [calros3](#)). We really love cruising and have two cruises booked (so far!) in 2019. At the end of the year we drove up to Auckland to celebrate Ross’s brother Brian’s 70th birthday. Along the way we were able to catch up with most of the family, which was great.



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

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