



## Ross and Kathy Callaghan's 2020 Christmas Newsletter



**Ross and Kathy Callaghan wish you a very happy Christmas, and pray that you will have a safe and prosperous year in 2021.**

Way back in January we had no idea 2020 would turn out as it did. Still, we have survived the year in pretty good shape and have certainly made the most of the unusual circumstances we have all found ourselves in.

During the lockdown we began to go back over our old historical records - starting with our love letters from 1973! What a joy it has been reviewing the journey of our lives - God has been so good to us over the last (nearly) 50 years! A special highlight was to re-live our marriage in 1974, then remember how we brought up our three wonderful children in succeeding years. We thoroughly enjoyed reviewing all the places we have lived; the jobs we have had, the ministries we have been involved in and the various parts of the world we have visited (75 countries at last count!). Very special in our journey have been all the friends we have made along the way and the special ones (including you!) that we have shared our journey with.



**Ross** still keeps fit by walking more than 10,000 steps every day and by playing golf three times a week. During the year Ross had a ride in an ambulance and a night in hospital with a twisted bowel, and also had a melanoma removed, but has come through both of these just fine. During the winter he made his best model ship ever - the Danmark, the training ship for the nation of Denmark.

Click here if you would like to watch a video showing how the Danmark was built:

[https://youtu.be/80H96\\_IM8uw](https://youtu.be/80H96_IM8uw)



**Kathy** keeps fit by walking, cycling and by doing aquafit three times a week. Mid-year an injection from the dentist damaged the nerve to her tongue. Six months later the feeling has returned and Kathy can now talk, taste and sing normally. Kathy continues to sing with (and sometimes direct) the Kapiti Women's Choir, and to carry out research into our family history. This year she completed a major publication telling her Shetland family's history. She is now working on the story of her Grandparents Jack and Nell Jones from England. Through this, it has been exciting to get in touch with newly discovered cousins and re-connect with others she hasn't seen for years.



Together **Ross and Kathy** were able to run quite a few singalongs for elderly people in the community and to lead "Youth Group" each Sunday. (Ages up to 93). We were able to keep the group going successfully all the way through lockdown, even if the electronic interactions were new for many. It was fun getting all the oldies connected for Zoom sessions!! We sure do have a great time in Youth Group - studying the Bible, singing, watching movies, and supporting each other. Sadly we had to take funerals for two members of the group during the year.

**Our travels.** Early in the year we visited the family in Melbourne and took a short cruise to Tasmania on the Pacific Aria – pretty much the last cruise anywhere in 2020! We sure had a wonderful time and were blessed to make it back home before the lockdown. But only just!!! We also had a very pleasant short break in Taupo, and a catch up with the family in Hamilton.

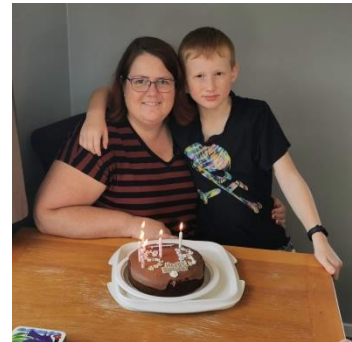
Click here to watch our cruise to Tasmania <https://youtu.be/Pz9qIC85fHA>



**The Cunningham family.** Debbie has made a great start in her new career as a speech pathologist, working out of a hospital in South Melbourne. The work is challenging but she is learning a lot and making a real difference in many peoples' lives. The virus has meant Fraser has been working from home but this has been convenient as JJ, Heidi, Luke and Dan have had so much time at home during the lockdown. All have continued to make the best of the situation and are doing well.



**The Stevens family.** Sarah completed her RTLB studies and now works supporting teachers in Lower Hutt who have children with learning or behavior problems. She loves the work and is obviously very good at it. Michael was able to work part time from home which has meant Blake and Isla have not been too badly affected by the lockdown. We have visits with them regularly which makes up a bit for not seeing the other families (but video chats to Australia are great). Click here to watch a short movie we made starring Blake and Isla. <https://youtu.be/SOijplGr2No>



**The Callaghan family.** Phil and Mo were significantly affected by the situation in Melbourne as their jobs (and income) all suddenly stopped. They worked hard on their Manatees website and sales gradually improved which was very encouraging. Phil's 'Last Man Standing' cricket franchise is now getting back into full swing so things are looking up. Billie is now 2 and gives Phil and Mo so much joy.



Melbourne has finally got control of the virus so Phil, Debbie and JJ have been able to get back to playing golf. They are still trying to match Poppa (unsuccessfully). Click here if you would like to watch the Callingham Cup challenge, back in February! <https://youtu.be/BA8qMRCbad8>

This Christmas we pray that you will have a lovely celebration of the birth of Jesus – the One who came to make life so meaningful. And as you look back on 2020 may your memories be not of viruses and lockdowns, but of precious family times and deepened relationships. Then as you go forward into 2021 may you find it to be filled with love, joy and peace, and lots of hope.

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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