

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



JONATHAN, 55 in May

Worked too hard, played too little. Had 7 papers and 1 patent accepted. Is very excited about concept of Threshold Concepts. Made 2 trips to Australia for work, to Perth and Sydney. Supervised 11 students plus teaching. Was an expert witness for prisoner locator anklet case in South Island. Managed to take some time off to walk the Tongariro Crossing with Kay, her cousin Julia and husband Bruce. Probably the only man ever to complete the trek wearing tropical fish pants. Still soporily in love with his wife (aaawwwww). Loves to relax in the spa and listen to birdsong and the peaceful sounds of the countryside. Hates listening to Xbox. Scheduled to have surgery next February for septum realignment, which should help with disrupted sleep caused by breathing problems. Cannot believe 2 pre-teens can use up one month's 12GB bandwidth allowance in less than a week!

KAY, 45 in October

Worked too little, played too much. Returned to being stay-home mum in January 2011 when part-time job hours became excessive. Was chief cook at Kaipaki School camp again this year. Made 2 trips to Sydney, where she became a member of the new Costco for nostalgia's sake. Still proofreads Lifestyle Block magazine monthly for chicken feed - literally. Seriously in danger of becoming 'mad chicken lady of Mystery Creek' with about 18 adult birds, and 50 chicks hatched since spring, including Orpingtons, frizzles, pheasants and many 'backyard specials'. Loves her 6 sheep, and was very sad to lose Moon and lambs during lambing. Enrolled in full-time study for 2012 - Bach. of Computer Graphic Design at Waikato Uni. Loved Tongariro Crossing. Finally joined the cell-phone accessible with the birthday gift of an HTC android phone. Often forgets to take it with her, but has become quite good at Angry Birds!



MERINDA, 13 in December

Worked hard, played hard. Spent 2011 in the accelerant class at Berkley with soulmate Sam and other best friends. Discovered that it is possible to spend a huge amount of money on texts at 20c each. Is now a fan of prepaid text plans, although this month she has used the 2500 allowance in 3 weeks. An avid reader, she devours series Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, Mortal Instruments, Twilight etc. Read Da Vinci Code with phone in hand to Google the accuracy of claims made in the book. Started learning French for school trip to Noumea. Spends 20 minutes every morning straightening her hair. Can walk and run in stiletto heels. Learning to rollerskate while socialising with friends on Friday nights. Has grown 5 cm this year, to 1.6m. Worries she'll be short. Is very sad to finish at Berkley Intermediate and not be zoned for Hillcrest High where all her friends are going. Not too enthused about St Peters where she starts Year 9 in 2012.

EDWIN, 11 in October

Worked hard at playing hard. Got excellent grades at school despite spending every waking minute welded to an Xbox or Wii controller or computer mouse. Is the prime spender of our bandwidth allowance. Hates creative writing especially poetry. Played hockey with school team Kaipaki Kaners. Was persuaded to give away his parrot Topaz after the bird's antisocial behaviour became too much for the rest of the household. Misses him still (as does Kay). Went to Sydney unaccompanied in October to stay with friend Robert and do Bubbledome animation and game design course together. Still enjoys collecting and building Lego. Now 1.53m tall, a full 5cm taller than his sister at the same age. Is a little sad to be leaving his friends at Kaipaki but we're sure will blossom in Year 7 in the larger social and learning environment of Berkley Intermediate. He is looking forward to their Japanese exchange program.



*From the
Scott
Family,
New Zealand
2011*

