

# the WILSON family

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2008



## Merry Christmas

*It seems only a few months since we were getting over Christmas Day in 2007. It's hard to believe that once again, we have reached that time of year.*

*We have had another interesting year in 2008 and are grateful for the ability to maintain a lifestyle that is interesting and full of enjoyment. We are blessed with family and good friends.*

*Having now decided on (almost complete) retirement, we have lots of flexibility and are able to put off those things that don't really have to be done today until tomorrow.*

*We trust that this will continue for a long time to come!*

*Merry Christmas to you all!*

Over this year, we have been fortunate to travel to more interesting places and to see some other parts of the world. In April, we commenced a six-week trip to Europe by visiting Villers Brettoneux on the WWI Western front for the special dawn service on Anzac Day. It was a very moving day as my (Bruce's) grandfather was wounded in that battle in 1918. From there we travelled to Luxembourg and then on to Paris to start a two-week tour of gardens in France and Italy which was followed by another two weeks in Greece and Turkey, including a visit to Gallipoli.

In September, we travelled to South America for three weeks and visited five countries including Chile, Peru and Brazil. The highlights were our visits to Macchu Pichu and Iguazu Falls.

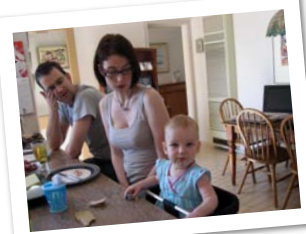
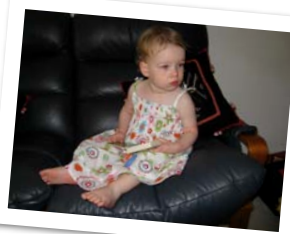
Our visits to the European gardens stimulated us to renovate some of our own garden and with the increased time that we now have available to keep it in good shape, we are very pleased with the results.

My vegetable patch is flourishing and it provides more food than the two of us can eat. We are

very grateful for having the foresight to install some water tanks to enable us to continue watering the garden in these continuing dry conditions.

David (now 34), moved to Japan in July to take up a two-year assignment as a lawyer at Nippon Oil. This is a secondment from his employer, Deacons, in Melbourne. He is based in Tokyo and is now working in more of a commercial legal role than that of his previous job in Deacon's Intellectual Property Division. David seems to find that his workload is now a lot less intense and his personal time is filled with a lot of social activity, hiking trips to remote mountains and visits to his host family and friends in areas near Nara and Osaka. We are looking forward to seeing him when he comes home for two weeks over Christmas and the New Year. We are very grateful for technology such as Skype which allows us to have long video chats over the Internet for free.

Cathy (now 30), returned to work after a year's maternity leave that began on the birth of Audrey in July 2007. She has been working as a Registrar in a respiratory



ward at Western Health (Footscray Hospital). Her major achievement was to pass a very difficult full-day practical exam which qualifies her for entry as a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians. She had to go to Sydney to sit for that exam. Next year she begins training in her chosen specialty as a Geriatrician. We are very proud of her (as of course, we are of David).

Cathy's husband, Chris, enjoys his job as an intellectual property lawyer. He is a bit disappointed that his weekend golf has become curtailed, but he does a great job of helping Cathy in caring for Audrey. He works very hard and seems to become involved in some fascinating legal cases. In addition to family and his job, Chris also somehow manages to find time to study further subjects for his part-time Masters Degree in Law.

Our little grand-daughter Audrey is now 17 months old. We mind her on most Thursdays and completely enjoy having her with us. She is a very bright button and has a good number of words in her developing vocabulary. She now understands a lot of things and it is wonderful to

see her own own unique personality developing. We find her a constant source of amusement and entertainment as she picks up new words and recognises new objects. She loves reading and she spends hours with us looking at pictures and words in her story books. She is a real joy for us. (Of course her 'Grandy' doesn't spoil her much - she just manages to buy some item for Audrey on almost every shopping trip).

Speaking of Grandy, Jill has been very busy maintaining contact with her friends. She is always at lunch, or coffee with someone. I stupidly had the idea that now I am at home more consistently, I would be served delicious lunches and morning teas every day. How wrong could I be! Jill is still involved in our church at St Stephen's Greythorn. She has a leadership role as a vestry member and in between her social engagements, she provides support at working bees, doing flower arrangements, catering and other key activities. She has been very inspirational in restructuring our garden into one that will be a lot more drought tolerant.

I (Bruce) have virtually stopped work, and now have just a few days of consulting here and there. I am developing an interest in photography and hope to be able to publish more of my better pictures on our family website as well as printing them in some more travel books. I have managed to fit in a number of bushwalking trips throughout the year - Wilsons Promontory, Mt Kosciuszko and Mt Baw Baw.

I decided that in my first year of retirement I would not to get involved in any formal activity, but just see how time went. It really goes very well indeed! I joined a local Probus club and meet up with some of the 'old boys' each month. I have has also started attending monthly lunches with the people with whom I worked at Control Data over 35 years ago. That was quite a significant time in my career.

We'll see if next year will be just as kind to us. If so, we'll all enjoy it enormously.

Bruce & Jill Wilson

