New Address! 9A Hepburn Pl.
Kambah, ACT 2902

It's been a busy year for us!

We guess one of our big events was that we sold our house in Chifley and brought a new (Dual Occupancy) one in Kambah, just 2-3 KM (as the crow flies) away from our old one. We can't say it wasn't a traumatic experience! First we had to downsize our possessions by giving away to friends and relatives – then the massive Garage sale, very much supported by our Children and Grand Children. Then after moving everything here we had to buy shelving and double door cabinets for the garage - those plus a (plastic) garden

shed to <u>almost</u> house all the stuff that we probably should have got rid of as well… The middle of the above collage is a bit of an experiment. A 360deg panorama in the living room – I even managed to trap Betty… Of course all the pictures and many many more are on-line at https://www.flickr.com/photos/144334942@N06/albums

We moved in early June, and since then we have done (or mostly got other people to do) lots of things that we wanted to do to change the house into our home. Like a massive solar installation of 18 high efficiency panels and a Tesla battery. As the weather gets closer to summer we almost always generate 2-3 times more than we use, so we are hoping for a big rebate on our first bill. We generated >1MWh in November alone and exported most of it. . Also we replaced the Gas cooktop with an induction electric one and the instant Gas water heater with a heat pump storage unit and got rid of gas altogether. After paying around $2000/winter for heating in Chifley we didn't want to repeat the experience here as Gas in particular will only get more expensive…

The other big item is a roof over our deck in front of the house, and it will have a large centre opening section which closes automatically if it rains when we are not home. We are hoping for planning approval any day now. Luckily none of our new neighbours objected when they were officially asked by the ACT government if they wanted to do that!

Our new Address is : **9A Hepburn Pl. Kambah ACT 2902** and our new phone number is **(02) 6181 4579**. And we are very lucky to live next door to Aden who built the house….

We visited NZ between 25th Sep and 16th Oct with our daughter Hilary. Singapore Airlines have started a service that runs from Singapore to Canberra to Wellington and return 3 times a week. It cuts 6-8 hours off the old trip when we used to wait around in Sydney. We had flights of just over 3 hrs to and from Wellington. Hilary turned 50 this year (more later) and is hooked on fitness. I think she thought we needed watching – specially when walking the Queen Charlotte track in the north of the South Island.

We had been wanting to walk this track for a few years as you stay in reasonably luxurious lodges overnight ☺ As we had been walking on Mt.Taylor and later the Urambi Hills in Kambah we thought we should be O.K. But we were really unprepared for the track which was deep mud in many places and wet on the 2nd day as well. Still we covered 26KM or so with many climbs up to 400M or so along the way. Hilary of course covered another 36Km in bad weather on the 3rd day and sprinted to meet the water taxi back to Picton on the 4th – she covered the whole 86Km or so while we caught boats to the next lodge!!

Hilary was keen to walk/run the Heaphy track which was laid out by my Surveyor Grandfather – there is a Saxon hut, Saxon River, Saxon falls, etc! We dropped her off at the start and collected her at the end on the West coast! She had bad weather - sleet and snow but survived very tired. It's normally a 5 day walk but she did it in 3.

Later we travelled down the West coast which was predicably wet (they measure the rainfall in Metres) to Fox and Franz Joseph glaciers, then over to Wanaka, followed the snow ploughs to Tekapo – then stayed in Kaikora (missed the earthquake by a few weeks) to Picton and back to Wellington. Quite a memorable trip but the weather could have been better.

Hilary turned 50 and celebrated in style holding a fancy dress party with a Mad Hatters tea party theme. It was a great success and even these old fogies had fun!

So on to Family news. Our three girls are in various stages of study for doctorates - where did that come from? And all three have been delivering papers at conventions in places like

Vienna, Bangkok, Glasgow, and many other reasonably exotic locations. Who said doctors were only interested in Medicine?

All the rest of our extended family are going well, buying houses, building, getting degrees, and presenting us with great Grandchildren. We have 4 now – Yay! They are so busy that over Christmas time most of them will be out of town visiting in-laws or other family.

So this year we had an early Christmas lunch at Tim and Sheri's place. It was a great occasion with most of our extended family still in town. Then Betty and I have decided to follow the crowd, and visit youngest daughter Catherine's place in Brisbane after taking a Christmas cruise out to New Caledonian and Hebrides islands, see https://goo.gl/aylUN5 . How we went will have to wait till next year's missive.

So hopefully you have managed to stay awake long enough for us to wish you a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS and we hope 2017 will be a superb year for you all.

Love and best wishes from John & Betty