

Dear Family and Friends,

It's the time of the year when we extend our wishes to each one of you and wish you a happy Christmas, as we reflect on what the past year has brought into our lives and we hope that you will enjoy a blessed New Year as we commence another circuit around the sun.

We started the first week of this year in the midland area of Victoria in the midst of some wild windy weather which took the power out for a day at the caravan park where we were located and so we relaxed in the waters of Lake Nillecootie keeping cool on a rather hot day. We also enjoyed exploring some of the high country in Victoria with some four wheel driving to Craig's Hut and taking in the local scenery around Mansfield. (Glenda enjoyed sketching some of trip - See below)



Kevin & Glenda at Craig's Hut

Then we travelled down to Ballarat to spend time with our daughter, Sheralyn and her family, continuing on to Port Fairy for a week with them at the beach.

February was spent at home catching up with tasks around home, planning committees for the year and various appointments. One highlight of the month was a trip to the Pharaoh Exhibition in the museum in Sydney which was quite impressive and which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Much of this past year has been spent in promoting the centenary of the first car to circumnavigate Australia, which will take place in 2025. The Incredible Journey was able to purchase a 1923 Citroen car and have it rebuilt as a replica of the first car to do the trip in 1925 (the original vehicle is in the National Museum in Canberra). So the highlight for March and early April, was our trip across to Perth to tow a second replica and to promote the journey for 2025 and we had the car on display during the WA Big Camp convention there over in Easter. The main vehicle ("Bubsie 1") had been rebuilt and the second vehicle ("Bubsie 2") had been made from spare parts that came with the first vehicle. The car we took (Bubsie 2) had been rebuilt as a filming prop to reproduce episodes from the original story for the Incredible Journey TV program. "Bubsie 1" was also unveiled at the Victorian Big Camp at the same time. So our journey west was quite an adventure as we spent time with some friends from the past along the way and met up with many interesting people enroute and at the convention. It was the first time that we had been back to WA since we were married there in 1972 and Glenda had spent a few years there as a child and teen, traversing the Nullarbor a few times in those years. On our way back, we were unfortunately delayed for a day, due to a fatal accident which closed the road at Nullarbor, so we were not able to be present at Glenda's oldest brother's 80th birthday celebration, arriving home

Bubsie 2 on the Nullarbor



an hour or so after it finished. However, we were able to catch up with Raymond and Daphne in the days following.

**Bubsie 1 @ Grey Nomads**



We also attended the NSW Big Camp in April and assisted in running the display of "Bubsie 1" there and repeated that in May at the Grey Nomads convention. We then travelled up to the Gold Coast for the Incredible Journey Partnership weekend and spent a few days relaxing with friends there.

The end of June saw us on the road again as we made our way north - this time to the North Queensland Big Camp convention in Townsville. We picked up "Bubsie 1" in Brisbane where it had been stored since the

Partnership Weekend there, and travelled up to Maryborough where we picked up our 12-year-old twin grandchildren and together had an adventure as we made our way to Townsville, and then spent another week with them in Maryborough for their school holidays at the beginning of July. We were also able to catch up with Glenda's middle brother (Graham & Lorraine) in Hervey Bay during that time.

July and August were busy catching up with things and doing life at

home,

including doing some filming with "Bubsie 2", but we managed to have a weekend with Andrea, our eldest daughter's family in Kempsey and then spent a weekend camping with friends in mid August.

September found us up in Brisbane with "Bubsie 1" at the South Queensland Big Camp convention and we also did a display on the way home in Kempsey where we were able to catch up with our family there again. Glenda was slightly slowed down for a few weeks over August and September due to breaking and dislocating her toe.

October was mainly spent at home with lots of appointments and tasks to catch up on before we left for a month in New Zealand in November.

We arrived in New Zealand to assist with a men's camp at our daughter, Orelle's place. We had a great weekend to commence November with them at Basecamp Rangī. The weather over there was a bit cooler than in Australia so the snow on the mountains that weekend was quite invigorating. What a great time we enjoyed while there with the family. It was tinged with concern as well, as they had experienced some illness over the last few months, with Banner (aged 10) in hospital in Wellington (with his mum), from August to October, needing bowel surgery three times due initially to an emergency with a blocked bowel which had been caused by an unknown congenital deformity and then the following surgery due to complications which included a rupture and then reconstructive surgery in October. It was good to see him much improved and working well while we were there. Unfortunately, Orelle was also diagnosed in early November, with an aggressive stage 2



**With Abel, Rose and Amelia**

**Filming with Bubsie 2**



**Playing with Billie-Jo**



## Christmas Day, 2024

breast cancer, but was able to have it removed quickly, while we were there. She is now recovering and will have further treatment in the next few months. The doctors are happy with the way the surgery went for her.

Ari's discharge from hospital - Abi, Sheri, Ari, Aleah, Jono



December has been at home again with a weekend (12-15) down in Ballarat for the baptism of two of our grandchildren there - Jono and Aleah. It was great to have the weekend with them, especially as Ari (their dad) had just had his aortic valve replaced on December 2 and had only come home from hospital the weekend before, but was able to attend the baptism. We flew back into Newcastle at the same time as Rose and the twins arrived down from Maryborough and so it has been nice to be able to spend some time with them while they are visiting family and friends here too. Abel and Amelia are also being baptised this coming weekend, so that will be special. So that brings 2024 to an end and we look back and thank God for all the successes, the challenges and the fact that we

are daily in His care.

The New Year will be a new challenge for us, as Glenda flies back to New Zealand on January 8 to assist Orelle in her recovery for a few weeks, and then the Right Around Australia Project with "Bubsie" commences on February 21 with local presentations. We will leave home in mid March to retrace much of the route of the original journey, visiting many places to share the stories from the journey and display the car. God willing, we will complete the journey in Perth on December 30, 2025 and then drive back home through Broken Hill and western NSW and arrive home again on January 25, 2026. (We will pass through home for a couple of weeks in October.) The information regarding our journey can be found on <https://rightaroundaustralia.tij.tv/> So, if any of you are on our route, come and see us as we pass through!

So as we begin our adventure next year we hope that each of you also enjoys a year of blessings, challenges and adventures too.

Sending you our love, blessings and prayers for a happy and successful 2025!

## Kevin and Glenda

Hoschke Family on mission trip with Sonship (Solomon Is)  
Michael, Akaylia, Malek, Kesani, Rhy, Andrea (in blue)



Rhy on Schoolies mission trip to Cambodia



Sketch of Craig's Hut by Glenda



Hoschke Family at Rhy's Grade 12 graduation  
Akaylia, Michael, Andrea, Rhy, Kesani, Malek



Malcolm & Irene in South Korea - He was selected as the "crack-top" English teacher for the military officers this year.



McDonald Family  
Hamish & Orelle



Billie-Jo & Bastian (21st birthday)  
Youngest and oldest



Bobby-Jae & Bree-Anna

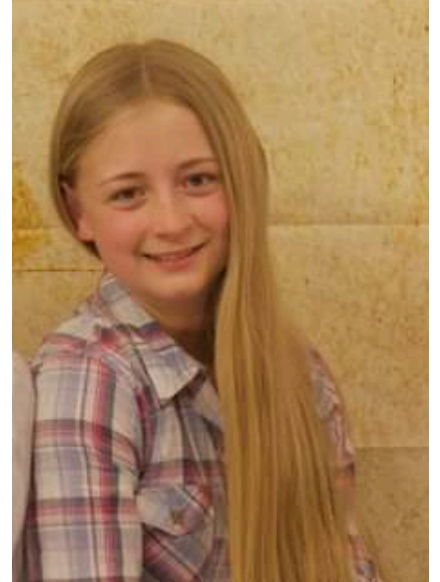
*Christmas Day, 2024*



Bethany with boyfriend,  
Tristin



Bram



Bernice



Orelle & Banner - discharged from  
Wellington Hospital



Banner's breakfast after last  
operation



Benson & Billie-Jo



Boaz

Sunset sky over McDonald's farm - November



Van Egmond Family - Sheri, Abi & Jono, Ari, Aleah  
Pathfinder investiture

