



# Merry Christmas







Hey lovely friends and family,

# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

It's been a pretty good year, our extended families are okay, and we hope it's been the same for you.

The most different thing we did this year was walking the Thorsborne track on Hinchinbrook Island with a road trip: ★Uncle John's birthday in Bundaberg ★The Caves near Rockhampton ★Queens Beach and Horseshoe Bay in Bowen ★Lucinda to start and end the 5 day walk, joined by Tony the Powerhouse, who instituted the inaugural Zoe Bay parkrun ★St James' Anglican Cathedral and Castle Hill in Townsville ★Long stretches to Emerald ★Petrified wood fossicking in Chinchilla ★Home again, with thanks to Felix who manned the fort, looked after the dogs, and attended not-to-be-missed parties while we were away.



Closer to home we cycled - two days on the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, a fundraiser ride around greater Ipswich, and getting to chapel by bike. And the other powerhouse in our lives, Bev, kept us rock climbing on weekly mornings at Kangaroo Point.

Peter continued being self-employed, getting work and recognition without having to look for it. This year, he and his sisters completed the mighty task of emptying, doing up, and selling his mum's two-story home, no longer the right fit for a single person on a walker.

Liz took on more work and is close to full-time again with a mix of employment. She's put out a few agricultural papers this year -

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2949911923000503?via%3Dihub> ,

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13593-023-00880-1>. Favorite book read this year: The Midnight Library (Matt Haig). Hottest domestic tip: get yourself signed up to Nagi's <https://www.recipetineats.com/> website.

Felix has been head-down for the year and has completed the first year of his engineering-IT dual degree with a fabulous GPA. He thinks he will go with the electrical strand of the engineering part of the degree. He has some part time holiday work with an engineering company.

Myles likes to try different things. He is a keen bushwalker, leading his own overnight bushwalks into Lake Manchester Reserve and Flinders Peak during the year. He has been working up his own collection of equipment, including a Hennesey hammock, rocket stove, flint and Sawyer water filtration system. Next year he begins grade 11 at a school specialising in trades and he is aiming to get an electrical apprenticeship.



Our feathery and furry family has had some changes, too. Lolly the rescue kelpie pup joined us from Warwick, disturbing our old girl Chokito's peace and encouraging her to be more active. And us too - a long morning's walk makes for a better day with an active pup 😊. Miss Espresso Guinea Pig passed away from old age. One of Felix's zebra finches made a break for freedom when someone was sorting out the cage (but we won't talk about that, Liz prefers to think it is choosing its own adventure



and has joined a finch community living by the river). Peter also brought home some native birds in need. One was a magpie, paralysed from several ticks on its chin. Ticks removed, hand feeding with dog biscuits and three days later it flew away. The other was a tawny frogmouth chick - Peter noticed the little ball of white feathers falling to the ground after a channel-billed cuckoo pushed it from its nest, too high up to return. We spent a few weeks feeding Owlie before surrendering him/her to the RSPCA.

Merry Christmas, happy New Year and our love - stay in touch!

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*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*