

Dear friends

Looking back on the past two years, it feels like we have been carried along by a racing river. Many milestones have whizzed by - Rob's and my 50th birthdays and 30th wedding anniversary, Elwyn and Tristan graduating and leaving home, many voyages on Dusky Dolphin as we learn to sail on the ocean (we've got lots of time to make up there!), and so many happy times with friends and family. Although the waters have been very muddy at times, and even felt like they were sucking us down to unimaginable depths, we are here, happy, hale, and hearty.



Figure 1: Wendy & Rob on our 30th Wedding Anniversary



Figure 3: Elwyn in Scotland



Figure 2: Jeanette in Newcastle, UK



Figure 4: Tristan dressed to kill at Wendy's 50th Birthday Party

Rob & Wendy

These past two years have challenged Rob and me with enormous changes. The most challenging have been our younger ones leaving home. Elwyn was the last to leave on our 31st wedding anniversary this year (January 28th, two days after she turned 25). Fortunately we have had practice at this with Jeanette leaving home, then leaving the country, some years ago. But it is always a wrench. There is huge tension between wanting them to keep connected and wanting them to find their own life paths. So when Elwyn looked at the possibility of moving back home when things did not work out as she planned that tension came back. Although tempted, we encouraged her to try another place, and now she is very happily sharing a house with good friends.

Elwyn graduated with her two degrees of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science (Honours). Tristan graduated with his Geophysics degree (Honours). Of course we were only a little proud.....



Figure 5: With Elwyn at her Graduation Night

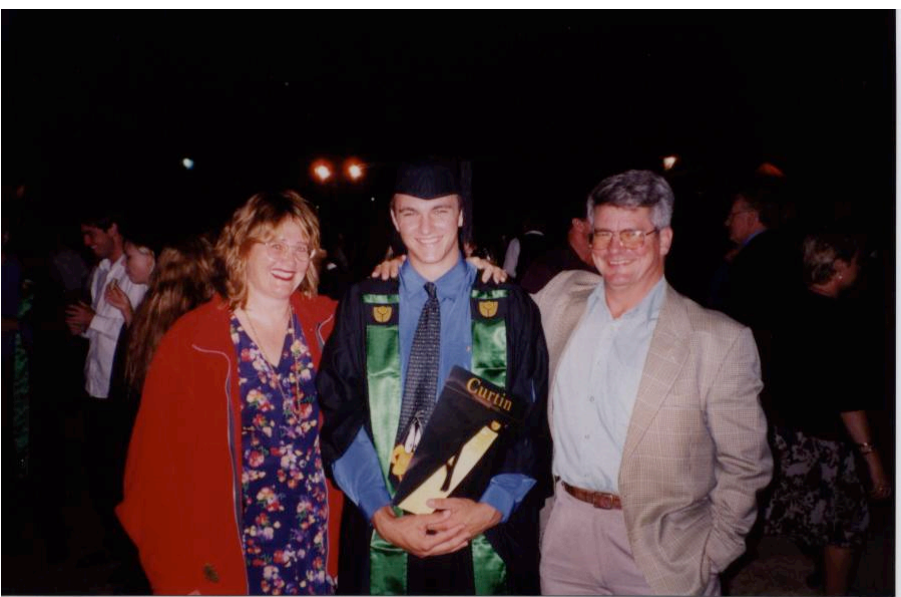


Figure 6: With Tristan at his Graduation Night



Figure 7: Tristan and Blaine on the summit of Mt Bruce, northwest WA

Tristan's fiancée Blaine has been warmly welcomed to our family, and always brings delight with her cheery smile and her deep connection with the earth. In the manner of the Campbell males, Tristan is introducing her to the outdoors as part of their life journey together:

Now, what was that about grandchildren you may ask? Well, Jeanette and Christopher continue to evade that issue – too many fun treks to do. Elwyn is too busy to settle down, and Tristan and Blaine have too much else to do. So we wait and hope.....

On the health front I have been to hell and back. Realising that my heart was not going to be “ticking” too much longer when we celebrated my birthday in March last year, I decided that the prescribed operation needed to happen soon. I was diagnosed with a hole in my heart only a few years ago, and I knew that it was getting very tired. So, in June Rob left me at the hospital and I tried to be calm. How do you face up to possibly dying under the anaesthetic, or waking with more damage than you thought you would have? I actually couldn't tell most people about it beforehand – it was all I could do to face up to the operation. I am writing this, so you know that I woke up alive, and the repair was successful. It took me some months to recover, and then we celebrated with a huge (belated) birthday party in September, 4 days after September 11. What an amazing time to have such a wonderful celebration! Everyone came ready to celebrate, to celebrate life; life does go on its own path despite all our plans.

Rob has given up jogging, after persistent pain in his knees. The mountain bike has been dusted off and he makes good use of the hills in Kings Park nearby to get his exercise in. The knees have slowly improved, but other pain occasionally emerges. The joys of getting older. He also trains on our “rock hanging”; melded rock-like holds on a board hung high in our hallway. Pulling himself up by his arms is excellent for building strength! I have had to join our local gym. When we started more serious sailing I found that I have NO arm muscles. I have progressed from remedial to strength training, and can do the winches and other rope work now.

I would have to say that our yacht has become the fourth child in our lives. The summer of 2000 Rob and I worked hard and completed our Day Skipper certificates, and we have done lots of sailing since then. South to Bunbury for Easter 2001, lots of trips to Rottnest, Garden Island and other lovely places around here, south to Quindalup with the sailing club last summer, north to Lancelin after Easter this year on our own. We love taking out other people to share the wonders of the ocean too. Now we are planning to get around to Albany this summer, if the weather is kind to us. We keep making new friends in the sailing fraternity, who bring lots of warmth and shared experiences. Then they take off for their long voyages (eg 5 years!) and we make other friends. Our children love to share the Dusky Dolphin with us too....



Figure 8: Elwyn at home in the cabin



Figure 10: Blaine enjoying a "relax"



Figure 9: Jeanette ready to take charge!

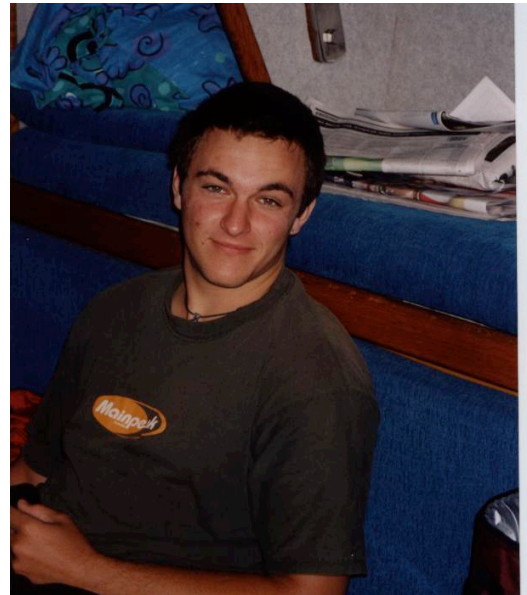


Figure 11: Tristan "in control"



Figure 12: Rob at the helm, with able seaman Elwyn



Figure 13: Tristan - "cool dude"



Figure 14: Wendy at the helm

We hit a reef for the first time last year, when we misjudged our navigation. We managed to not only collide with a reef at Rottnest, but also got our yacht stuck there with the tide going out. It was a scary feeling to have the boat starting to lean over as the water level got lower and lower. The Sea Rescue (volunteer) people were wonderful, and hauled us off the reef before our boat actually fell over. The damage to the rudder system was serious, and took a couple of months to sort out. This was all a BIG learning experience; the first thing we did we install a new depth sounder, the second was to keep better track of where we were!



Figure 15: Dusky Dolphin in full sail



Figure 16: Jeanette on the Bibbulmun Track

Jeanette gave us a very special surprise and arrived unexpectedly in May this year. Elwyn was the only one who knew and kept the secret very well! While Jeanette was here we took them both over to Garden Island in the boat and stayed there the night. When we came back the next day we were hit by nasty squalls which were definitely NOT in the forecast! This severely tested Rob's and my skills, and Jeanette and Elwyn's courage. We arrived safely back at our club after a harrowing voyage, shaken and bruised. Rob and I learnt a lot from that trip (even more than usual), and Jeanette and Elwyn have some respect for our sailing now – it is so much more than a hobby! Jeanette rediscovered her love of the Aussie bush too...

One of our sailing dreams is to reach New Zealand in our own yacht. We know that it will be some time before we are competent enough to sail there ourselves, so we indulged in the only long holiday we have had these past two years and booked 2 places on the Breaksea Girl for 10 days. She sailed from Bluff on the south end of the South Island in late November last year, south across the strait to Stewart Island for a couple of days of fascinating exploration. There is some serious regeneration happening here. The isolation of this island allows for the removal of introduced species and the reintroduction of native animals, birds and plants. The biggest difference between here and mainland areas is the wonderful chorus of the birds. We were blessed with a sacred sight as we walked through the bush – two kakas mating. We sailed back across the strait to Preservation Inlet on the south-west corner of the South Island where we spent more time with endangered wildlife, some of which is returning. Then up the coast to Dusky Sound. Our boat is named after the dolphins here - Dusky Dolphins. More importantly Rob's hero, James (later Captain) Cook, sailed in here all those years ago, in his ship the Resolution. We stood up at the bow (front) of the Breaksea Girl as she sailed gracefully into the sound under sunny skies and a gentle breeze – one of those totally magical moments. After some days' exploring there, we sailed north again to Doubtful Sound, and then it was back to "civilisation".



Figure 17: Breaksea Girl anchored in Dusky Sound



Figure 18: Wendy on the bow, sailing into Dusky Sound



Figure 19: Rob on the bow, sailing into Dusky Sound

We have had some great bushwalks too. Some on the Bibbulmun Track, and a wonderful trek in the Nelson Lakes in New Zealand to Lake Angelus up the Robert Ridge with Tristan last summer. I found this very scary as the ridge was high and sharp. But we made it and stayed at the Lake Angelus Hut: a very special place. I was glad that I got there and shared it with my menfolk.

When sailing Rob has a tendency to sea-sickness which is frustrating for him. But the more sailing he does the better he deals with it! He is learning about boat mechanics VERY quickly, spending many hours reading and sharing stories with other “yachties”, and sorting out the many mechanical challenges that keep happening. This is a whole new career for him! His work as an anaesthetist continues, with his successful practice bringing work about 4 days per week (but some of those days can be VERY long). He has been working with the same surgeons for years and they have become good friends. There are always stories of shared hobbies during their working time; sailing being the most popular one. One of the surgeons is also a keen ocean sailor and always has good advice for us.

For both of us boat care, and the ongoing project of cleaning out and repairing our house after its many years as the family home, take up quite a lot of time. The house has empty spaces now, although I have taken over Tristan’s bedroom for my leadership coaching work. It has been reborn as a very peaceful room, away from the stresses and strains of life which is really important for my work to be effective. We have taken over Elwyn’s room to set up all our books (finally) as a library. It is a lovely room. And Rob and I have our study/office in Jeanette’s old room.

I have evolved through a career change over the past two years. I wasn’t able to work much up to my heart operation and for some months after. Then I quickly built up a practice in personal life coaching. This has largely dropped away as I have taken up the corporate market, providing leadership coaching and transformational change facilitation. I love working in both of these areas, and get a real buzz when people can embrace the change in their lives as a positive force and in their very own way. I am also writing my first book, while taking writing classes. This is something I have wanted to do ever since I was quite young. I don’t know why I didn’t do it before this – maybe I wasn’t ready. Anyway, it is coming along well, and I am planning the publishing stage with my writing teacher. A successful, prize-winning author herself, she will act as my editor and agent. It is really exciting to have this coming together, and Rob is a wonderful help as my sounding board and story editor.

Life is full, challenging and wonderful. We wish you the same for yours.

Jeanette & Christopher

The strangest thing happened on the 21st August 2001. Christopher spent all day in various queues in Croydon (south London), at the end of which we became Permanent Residents of Pommie-land.

Having bought the flat in mid-2000, we set about doing it up. This also involved chucking out lots of stuff. We had a new kitchen put in as soon as we bought the flat, then early 2001 started sorting out the rest of the flat. We got laminated-wood floors put in everywhere except the bathroom, knocked down one wall of the store-room (so now we have a decent lounge/dining area), and painted most of the flat. In 2002 we did up the bedroom - got a nice Sheridan quilt and some wool carpet. Not bothered to re-do the bathroom yet though; the old one still works.



Had a few trips in the middle of all the renovations though :

At Christmas 2000, I'd had a dodgy mole cut off the bottom of my foot - luckily I was in Perth so had a decent doctor. The cancer hadn't spread, but the wound took ages to heal. So for a few months I was limping a lot.

April - 2-week Europe trip with Christopher. Went to an Aussie friend's housewarming in Utrecht, Holland. From there flew to the Amalfi Coast for a 10-day hiking-and-being-a-tourist trip. Including a couple of days walking on Capri - it's a very strange experience being on Capri in one's hiking clobber. It's soooooo posh and touristy...

Started training in earnest for Corsica, now that I could actually walk on my foot again. This while we were getting the wall knocked down and stuff. Paid a bloke to take the horrible grey vinyl wallpaper off the lounge room walls, then spent a very busy weekend putting 4 coats of paint on everything in the lounge room and the hall (the plaster underneath was a bit of a mess) before getting the new floor put in. Just managed to get this lot finished before Elwyn's visit:

June/July 2001 - I took a month off work to go travelling with Elwyn. Started by watching the Aussies beat the Pakis at cricket in Cardiff, then went to Barcelona for a week (Christopher joined us there). Spent most of the time walking the streets; saw some fantastic Gaudi buildings. Met a couple of my Aussie friends and went for a tapas-bar crawl one evening. Attempted to watch the Aussies again in Durham but it got rained out, so instead Elwyn and I went to Ikea to purchase a TV bench and a dining table, and spent the rest of the day assembling them. Had 5 days hiking in Scotland - amazingly, we even managed to get to Skye. Then off to Corsica for a 2-week Exodus trip. Sharing a tent with Elwyn was entertaining.

July - had a week to recover before Christopher's family (except Jeremy) visited for a few days. They were on a round-the-world trip; the excuse being Christopher's cousin Russel was getting married in Canada. Our shiny new flat coped admirably with our 4 visitors - I like dishwashers - but unfortunately we didn't have enough comfy mattresses for everyone.

August - We'd both planned to go to Turkey with C's parents for a few days, but for some reason I'd had enough of travelling by now so I decided to be slack and stay in Newcastle. C seemed to have a great time in Istanbul, and bought some rugs and some jewellery and a posh watch. And took loads of photos. They even managed to organise a day-trip to Gallipoli.

October - Ireland for a week. Flew to Cork, drove to the coast of Co. Kerry. Some touring and some short day-walks. Stayed in a B&B in Kenmare, a little village with a nice selection of restaurants and lots of American tourists.

Probably finished making curtains for the flat around November. Day-walk in the snow in North Yorkshire - brilliant clear day, fresh snow on the ground. Had a snowball fight. Which I won of course.

November - training for the Midnight Fun Run in New York. And snowboarding lessons. Work moved offices, to some shiny new ones behind the railway station in town (had been in some very cramped ones near our flat before the move)



Figure 20: Christopher and sister Kate enjoying a posh coffee in London

December - Aussie Christmas with C's sister Kate (currently teaching in London), our friend John from Perth who's working at Reflections, and one of his Perth friends. Drank lots of fine Aussie wine and laughed at the Queen's speech. We finished eating the cake around March.

Boxing Day - flew to New York for a week. Lots of walking the streets in different areas. Wish I hadn't visited Ground Zero - lots of American tourists with their cameras. Then again, if they can be tourists so can I. Stayed in 4 different posh hotels cos they were nice and cheap - even managed the Waldorf Astoria on the first night – so civilised having fantastic staff when you arrive very jet-lagged at midnight (5am UK time). Went to Central Park to see in the New Year - there was a 4-mile fun-run starting at midnight. We finished in about 55 minutes, including the time it took to actually cross the start line. Great fun - about 5500 people shouting "Happy New Year". Walked back to the Beacon Hotel (about a mile from the start line) for hot chocolate and Grand Marnier and a sticky bun. Back to Newcastle on New Years Day.

January 2002 - after 2 days back at work, we set off to Austria for a snowboarding trip. Had a few half-day snowboarding lessons from a mad (in the good way) Dutch guy. Day-trip to Salzburg - bit disappointing after all these other European touristy things we've seen unfortunately. Just goes to show, you should do things when you want to, not wait until the novelty's worn off. Anyway, snowboarding was brilliant, even though we stuck to the nursery slopes next to the hotel in Oberau in the Wildshonouer valley. Got some fantastic bruises but no broken bones.

I went to Patagonia (southern bit of the Andes) for 3 weeks in February. Spent 2 weeks of that hiking in spectacular scenery. And had my very own tent. Got back to England on the Friday, met Christopher for a weekend in Brighton. Pub crawls are much more fun when there's a sushi bar involved. Excellent modern Jazz performance on Friday night - I've never seen a piano played like a harp, by someone who seriously knows what they're doing.

Sore feet after Patagonia



Figure 21: Jeanette hanging over a raging torrent

Trip to Perth for 3 weeks in May/June - got some orthotics; haven't had any problems with my feet since then. Spent a week in Turkey with Christopher in August. 4 days Istanbul and 3 days Cappadocia. Bought lots of carpets in Istanbul, for when we eventually move back to Australia. Spent some time hiking in Cappadocia - up the hill behind the hotel to watch the sunrise; along a gorge with some old painted caves (I think they used to be chapels). My favourite building in Istanbul was the Hagia Sophia - it was built as a mosque around 600AD, then converted to a church

a few centuries later. The Muslim mosaics were plastered over, so they're preserved beautifully. It's a majestic building, and the atmosphere was wonderful early in the morning before the tourist buses turned up. My next favourite was an underground cistern - lots of columns holding up the ceiling - again worth waking up early for. Quinn, a friend from Perth, got married in Glasgow in September to Erica (from California) - had a nice reunion of some friends in Perth for the occasion. The wedding was a secular ceremony, in an old church that's now a theatre - the ceremony was beautiful.

Had a yukky shoulder injury in October - just from doing weights unevenly and using the wrong muscles, so my shoulder-blade was squashing some tendons - and have been recovering since then. Have finally finished the physio and started going to the gym again, so things are looking up. I've decided to actually spend some money on a personal trainer so I don't repeat the injury. In theory. I can carry a daypack now, so hopefully I'll be fit and healthy for a hiking trip to Costa Rica in January.

Now that we've won the Ashes again - and had a good time hassling a guy at work who reckons Yorkshire-dudes are the world's best cricketers - it's just about time to go snowboarding. In Andorra (in the Pyrenees) for Christmas this time.

Elwyn

Work

My first year of work at Nautronix has been a really interesting one. Our project, Nasnet, has developed a long way and it has been great to be a part of this. Nasnet is an "underwater GPS" system which allows very accurate positioning for construction of deep sea (3000m) oil rigging. Learning to work in the private industry has also been interesting. It has taken a bit of adjustment from uni, but it is far more rewarding working in a team situation.

We finished the year having some sea trials in December which went extremely well. Nasnet is the largest project Nautronix has ever undertaken so these sea trials were critical to Nasnet's success. We have a couple of oil companies interested in Nasnet which will hopefully be tested overseas sometime in 2002.

Travel

The middle of 2001 was spent touring around western Europe and the UK over about 10 weeks. I had planned this trip as an "end-of-uni" trip and saved up for it over a couple of years. I was based in London with my uni friends Claire and Belinda and travelled through to the rest of the UK, Spain and France from there. Spent about a month in the middle with Jeanette on a couple of trips. Next it was off to Barcelona with Jeanette for a week. What a great place this was with the nightlife different from anywhere I'd seen before. The architecture in the city was stunning as well.



Figure 22: Cricket Groupies

A long trip up to Scotland followed. It was clear on Ben Nevis which gave a great view of the Scottish highlands. Did a couple of walks around the Glen Coe area along the Highland Way with Jeanette. Then we headed up to Skye and did a walk in the Cuillins. A very cold place, and this was summer...Then it was on the plane to do a 2 week group trip with Jeanette in Corsica, an island that is part of France and very close to Italy in the Mediterranean. This was a great contrast to Scotland - hot and dry. There is a large mountain range with peaks up to 3000 metres. We walked along this range over the 2 weeks to the coast where we did some snorkelling.

The Corsica trip was during the entire 2 weeks of Wimbledon but the gods were smiling on me by rain causing the men's final to be a day late. I decided to have a go at getting into the men's final where Pat Rafter was playing Goran Ivanesevic. Bumped into some cricket club mates in the queue who let me in. That was the most awesome day of sport I'd ever been to as it was such a close game and the crowd was full of boisterous Australians which normally wouldn't be the case.

Then it was off to the Pyrenees on another group trip for 2 weeks, but this time by myself. Had a great time there and saw snow for the first time. Made some great friends as we had plenty of French wine and cheese during our treks over the mountain ranges. This was quite a hard trek, but very rewarding. Spent a week with Aunt Judy in Cornwall. Was great to catch up with her and see Cawsand, the village she lives in near Plymouth. Also saw Christina and met Jamie. Then spent a week in Wales with Belinda and Claire, and Michelle. It is a great countryside over there as we travelled from Snowdonia in the north down to the Brecon Beacons in the south, avoiding the outbursts of foot-and-mouth disease along the way. Than back to work for a rest. Phew!



Figure 23: Elwyn near Nilgiri Peak, Nepal

Made a trip to Nepal during March and April 2002. I did the Annapurna Circuit, a 3 week walk covering over 250 km of varying terrain and vegetation. Altitudes covered were between 500m and 5,500m which was rainforest right up to the extreme mountain passes. The walking was only part of the trip as there are huge cultural differences between there and back home in Australia with strong Hindu and Buddhist influences.

Sport

My cricket club team won the premiership for the first time. We were in the midst of a batting collapse in the final but we managed to pull through to win the flag. I was lucky enough to win the "Player of the Year" for WA. At a state level, we played a couple of the games at the WACA ground and finished 3rd in the national competition.

My hockey team also had a good season, making it to the grand final. Unfortunately we lost a close game. All up, there were 8 teams from my club in their grand finals, but none of them won! The odds of that are very small but we managed to (not) succeed in achieving this.

Entered the Avon Descent in 2002 for something different. I've always meant to give it a go and this year I finally decided to put in some training for it. This meant plenty of early mornings in the cold darkness on the Swan River as well as white water training on the Avon River. This all paid off when I crossed the finish line and had a big hug from Mum, Dad and Tristan. It was an amazing weekend – thanks Tristan for being my support crew! It was all over too quick so perhaps I'll give it a go again next year...



Figure 24: Concentrating hard through the rapids

So long for now and happy returns until next Christmas!!!

Tristan

Hmm. How to sum to the two most amazing years of my life into 1 page.

Well, last year started with me going to Tassie for a few weeks with my new girlfriend. Had an absolutely amazing time and after she left I did a traverse of the Arthur Range, in the SW corner. And during this, climbing Federation Peak on my birthday. I did the 14+ day walk in 9 days and lost about 4 inches around my waist doing this – by the end I almost couldn't tighten up the hip-belt on my backpack enough!

I then launched myself into honours – including a fair bit of coursework. I was researching ways to use geophysics to non-invasively investigate tree roots and soil moisture content. A VERY new field and got some great results. The middle of the year was kinda marred by me breaking up with Jo – she thought that our different backgrounds 'might possibly' cause problems in the future. Chick logic – can't beat it! ☺

So I didn't do too well in my exams and decided to make a bit of a fresh start by moving out of home. I found a great place in South Perth (near uni) and lived by myself while finishing honours. I got right back into swing dancing and life was great. I was offered a fully funded, 5 year scholarship to do a PhD in Canada in a brand new method in geophysics. I even managed to scrape through with 1st class honours! And during the year I picked up a bit of field work, doing salinity mapping, cavity detection and a bit looking for some unmarked pioneer grave sites!

I did my usual trip to NZ at the end of the year – morning after my last exam – and had a great time with Mum and Dad and did a beautiful walk on Stewart Island by myself. Spent a lot of time mulling on where I was going and decided to turn down the PhD – I would be going there to go to Canada rather than for the project and didn't want to get stuck working on a project that wasn't what I wanted to do.

Rather than tell you what's happened since then, I'd probably be better to say where I am now. I've got my own business going now, doing Life Coaching and facilitating spiritual development workshops. Mum and I are getting more and more interest in our revolutionary (and I'm not just saying this for marketing – it really is) methods of Corporate Transformational Change using a combination of Deep Ecology and Appreciative Inquiry. I'm still picking up bits and pieces of geophysical field work (I'm sitting here peeling slowly after working down south last week) and will continue my honours research in a few years. I'm getting more work at Mainpeak too.

Mum and I are also working on developing a corporate retreat and wilderness education school near Walpole. We have just put through the purchase offer and are only really waiting on approval from the Shire Council on the development plan before it's right down to work. The block is 217 acre, fully forested and right on the Franklin River (2km upstream from Circular Pool for those that know the area).

And just to top it all off, I'm engaged to the girl of my dreams – we share pretty much all the same interests, are already working together on some projects and are planning a round-the-world trip next year. So basically I've been through a bit of a rollercoaster last year but things are on the up and up now, and they'll just keep on getting better as far as the eye can see!

Hope you've all had a great couple of years and have a couple more great ones coming up!

PS – have a look at www.earthconnections.com.au to see what my company is doing at the moment...