

Our Christmas greetings this year will be sent to you from the mountains - the Victorian Alps. Although we thought that last year was frantic, with Jeanette and Christopher's wedding among other events, this year has earned us all a long break!

Jeanette and Christopher have almost reached their first wedding anniversary (18/12/94). They have found running a house takes more hard work and \$\$\$ than they had imagined (surprise, surprise!). However, their friendship is now much stronger after this first year of "hard knocks", and they are settling down for the long-term.

Jeanette has almost completed her Master Prelim (in Robotics), and started work this week at ERG as a Component Engineer (she will have to explain that!). She will continue her Masters next year part-time. Her entry to the work-force has been challenging, with handling CV's, interviews and work clothes. However, she is already making her place there, and will give ERG good value for money.

Jeanette as a housewife is quite impressive, and has generally learnt to keep things in order. She and Christopher have also become keen gardeners, entertaining us with their stories of their latest seedlings! Jeanette's latest home development is a workbench (where her sewing machine was) to make circuit boards and small robots!

Christopher has worked for the last 2 years at UWA. His job finishes this month, so he is also busy with CV's and interviews. As he has become a very talented programmer in networks and graphics, we await his next job with great interest.

Elwyn began this year with her decision to

1. Play as much sport (mainly cricket) as she could.
2. Work hard enough at school to get into Engineering at UWA.

Her first goal has been achieved admirably. She has played cricket for the school, as captain (leading them to a good win in their final match in March), for the Subiaco Cricket Club (winning a number of trophies so that we had to set up a new trophy shelf), and for the WA team (she is in NSW at the moment).

Engineering at UWA - the results of her TEE will be announced in January, but we are fairly certain that she will get in. However, you can never be certain until things are signed and sealed!

Unfortunately, the determination and self-discipline required to achieve so much this year have left Elwyn very tired, and at times unable to just be quiet. We hope to see her catching up on quiet time over the next few months - she is looking forward to it! She reminds me a lot these days of Kay Cottee (for those of you who have read her book, "First Lady") - a great achiever who also needs a quiet home life and supportive family at times.

Tristan has become an excellent saxophone player this year - his final performance was his first solo, including improvisation. I have been informed that it is an honour to be allowed to improvise - there is quite a bit of learning involved. Although we did not fully understand the technical background, we were very proud to see the results of some years of hard work on the parts of Tristan and his teacher.

Sport has also been a big feature of this year for Tristan. He continues to excel as a hockey goalie, winning the Club trophy for excellence (but he hasn't filled up his trophy shelf yet). He is playing his first baseball season at the moment - it remains to be seen whether this will overtake cricket as his sport of choice.

Tristan's notorious ability to speak volumes has been put to good use this year in the school debating team. Rob and I attended a few of his "performances" - his ability to speak, backed with some sense of logic, made his arguments very persuasive. The school must have agreed, because he won the school Debating Trophy!

Schoolwork seemed to come last on the list, but he has put in some extra time on his maths (ably assisted by Jeanette!). He has finished quite well, I think, but will only really put his head down when he has a specific goal in mind. At the moment, Tristan is a good "all-rounder"!

Rob has outdone the children's achievements this year. He decided that his medicine was not offering so much challenge as it once did, and booked himself in for a 2-week mountaineering course in New Zealand. They have real mountains there, permanently covered in snow and ice. He had his own guide, and climbed one of the highest mountains there - Mount Aspiring (picture enclosed). We call it Rob's mountain! He came back to Perth with a much brighter outlook on life, and has since taken up rock climbing with Tristan.

Rob also takes a very active role in the children's sport, and they rely on his coaching and advice quite heavily.

Apart from keeping up with an extremely busy family year, my business has continued to grow. We now have 4 part-time office staff and many good clients. The next stage will be moving the office out of home. This will cause some turmoil to the business and home, as the family and the business have grown together. However, we have many competent, dedicated people involved with the business, so I dare say we shall weather it!

I joined Rob in New Zealand for 3 weeks, after his mountain climbing expedition. We had a very special holiday together, getting to know the "mountain people" and making our first long hikes (3 to 5 days out on the trail). Hiking around the valleys and mountains is very uplifting, especially sharing it with one's partner in life. I also discovered heli-hiking - the helicopter does all the hard work, and I just have to walk around the mountain tops (photo enclosed). I thoroughly recommend this to anyone who doesn't want to climb!

My personal time has involved learning to abseil after we came back from New Zealand, and getting bifocals so that I can return to one of my favourite past-times - reading.

As I write about this year, it does sound tiring, but it has also been a "growing" year for everyone in the family. However, I do hope that next year is just a little less challenging!

We send you the very best of wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with your family and friends,

Rob, Wendy, Jeanette, Christopher, Elwyn and Tristan



1: Jeanette and Christopher DID enjoy their wedding



2: I just loved the mountains



3: Tristan - he had just climbed a mountain in the Stirlings which had previously defeated him



4: Rob on his mountain - Mt Aspiring



5: Elwyn kitted out for the final year school dance - her first voluntary wearing of a dress!



6: Wendy was very proud of Jeanette when she graduated with 2 Degrees this year