

Volume 4

January 2001



CAMPBELL FAMILY

Christmas Newsletter 2000

Better Late than Never!

Dear Friends,

We have been promising you a Newsletter for some time. I have to admit that it was Elwyn's persistence that was the catalyst for this "production" this time. Now that she has finished Uni and started work, she is very "forthright" (Rob's term).

You will see from the story of 2000 why this has been so long coming. We thought of you all over the festive season, and sent much love. I hope your Christmas was as filled with love and joy as ours has been.

Our household is seeing many endings now. Jeanette and Christopher have lived in England for over 4 years now. They are planning the end of that sojourn within two years, and (whisper, whisper) plan to start a family. Naturally they plan to move back to Perth to do that (Now, would free babysitting be some of the reason.....?)

Elwyn has finished 6 long years of study for electronics engineering and computer science, and is planning her own car and her first place of her very own. That may not happen for some months yet, but the cleaning out (how can anyone fit so much into one bedroom.?) has started—"Mum, remember this drawing I did in kindy?".

Tristan, currently in Tasmania enjoying

his last long summer break, has finished his geophysics degree. He will stay on this year at Curtin to do his Honours. However, he plans to move out of home once he returns from Tasmania. He and I have already spent many hours (days?) cleaning out his room, so he has already said "Goodbye" to childhood.

So, as Rob and I celebrate 30 years of marriage and 50 years each of life, we are making new beginnings. We have both found new challenges in work and play. Especially the play—we bought a yacht, a new baby called "Dusky Dolphin". We have both learnt to sail, with our Day (Inshore) Skippers' certificates.

So Rob has so much to learn—radios, engines, the list is endless. I am finding new ways to lead as the skipper of "Dusky Dolphin". We love to take friends, old and new, out for the day to Carnac or Garden Islands. Sharing this time with them, letting them be part of the experience in whatever way they wish, brings much joy to all of us.

We invite you to share our stories of 2000, and we wish you love and joy for this 2001 year.

Wendy



Tristan



Paddling down the Avon

Well, I've had a pretty fun year. It started off with a month in NZ, doing a mountaineering course with some friends from work, then a while with the fam doing bits and pieces and finishing off with a 5 day walk by myself - I did the Cascade Saddle Route near Mt Aspiring.

I arrived home the day before uni started and got straight into a pretty interesting year. Being the final year of my degree, it was actually interesting stuff - not off the boring background units. I also started actually doing some study and so got through the year no probs. So I'm now a qualified geophysicist. Scary, huh? I've got a good honours project lined up for this year - seeing of geophysics can be used to image water circulation around trees.

Had a good year for fun stuff too. My usual trip down to Margaret River for rock climbing and mountain biking didn't happen as I ran into the back of a car on my bike a few days before I was due to leave. A rather nasty gash in my ankle (that Dad stitched up) left me unable to wear shoes for a week and so going down south didn't happen. Then, just to make things really fun, I got a mild



The pack horse ready for Cascade Saddle.



One of my few excursions on the yacht.

case of gastroenteritis then got tonsillitis and epiglottitis at the same time, resulting in me being unable to eat and barely drink for a few days. But I've been fine since then—barely even a cold.

I planned a trip to the Kimberlies but it didn't get ahead as I got a new bike instead - a Gary Fisher Sugar 2. Have been broke ever since but have great fun on it. I did the Avon again, basically without training at all so I didn't compete - just cruised down the river over the 2 days. Good fun.

I got back into hockey as well - the first time for a few years. It was great to play again. I got into eh State 2B's team for most of the season. We got the minor premiership and they won the final but I couldn't play as my shoulder was kinda dodgy after a season of goalkeeping. That'll be my last season - I'm more into other stuff now but it was nice to finish on a high note. I might fill in for them on occasion but that'll be about it.

The other stuff consists of climbing (3-4 times a week now) and dancing - I've been doing modern jive since August and learnt some swing too. I'm hoping to start some salsa/latin as well this year.

Unfortunately I didn't get to do the Nanga Challenge this year as I was in Kalgoorlie for a field trip - had a week there with one of my units doing some surveys for Centaur. Did gravity and magnetics in one area, trying to map the extent of a gold-bearing (up to 1700g/tonne!) quartz vein around small open-cut mine. Also did some electromagnetic lines across a the Zuleika Shear Zone - trying to find the areas of mineralization around it. Got back to data processing and report writing. Ended up with a 50-page report on the project. Done in about 3 weeks. Sheesh! Oh well, good practice for this year....

The night after my last exam, I left for NZ. Again... I had a week hiking on Stuart Island then met up with Dad for 2 weeks. We went out to Milford Sound then did some climbing around Mt Cook (up to Mueller Hut), Mt French (near Mt Aspiring) and a hike up towards Mt Brewster. It was great to be back and I'm already planning a skiing and ice-climbing trip there in July..

PS—see the back page for more piccies.....

Elwyn

I will remember the year 2000 as it was the year I finally finished my science/engineering degree at UWA. As usual, there was plenty of other things to keep me occupied and my mind off study throughout the year.

At the start of the year, my women's cricket club merged with a local men's cricket club. This proved a success for both the men's and women's teams in the club. I had the opportunity to play in one of the men's teams whilst there was a break in women's games in the new year. That game was a good chance to prove myself against quick bowling.

I was fortunate to be picked in the Australian women's "A" cricket team on a tour of New Zealand. This tour proved a success, with the team winning the series against New Zealand. I took the opportunity to stay on for a week longer, and joined the rest of the family in Wanaka. Did a couple of walks, some canyoning, rafting, and a 3-day trek.



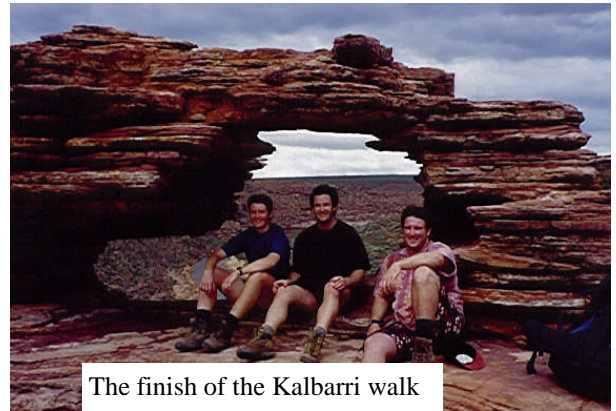
The team celebrating a victory against NZ.

This New Zealand trip went into the first semester of uni by one week. So once I returned, I had to quickly organise work at uni for my project. I chose a project involving a GPS autopilot for a model plane. This kept me busy throughout the year but I enjoyed the work as it was interesting working on a different project from most of my friends at uni.

I went for a week-long trip to Kalbarri in the middle of the year with two uni friends: Mark and Warwick. This was a 5-day trek through the gorges. We timed it well, as there was no rain for the duration of the trip except whilst we were

driving out at the end of the walk.

Second semester at uni proved a busy one as to be



The finish of the Kalbarri walk

expected. Most of my project work was done here, with the challenge of both implementing the project and documenting it comprehensively in my thesis. Plenty of revisions were required but thanks to the patience of my supervisor, fellow students and Mum & Dad, it was all handed in a week early. This was necessary as I had several state cricket games in the eastern states and therefore had little chance of finishing the work then.

The Western Fury (the WA women's cricket team) had a reasonable season, finishing one game out of the final. We played two games at the WACA for the first time. Hopefully we will play there more in the future.

November proved busy with state cricket games and final year engineering exams for most of the month. It was a great relief to walk out of my last exam -ever-. I've lost count of how many exams I have done over the years but there were enough.

Nautronix were keen for me to start work two weeks after my final exams so there wasn't much of a summer holiday. Now I am used to working full time and really enjoying my work here. I am working as a systems engineer on a new project involving a revolutionary oil rig positioning system which will keep the company busy for the next 4-5 years. No doubt there will be plenty of travel involved with this project.

So the year 2000 for me proved a year of large change with the transition from undergraduate student to full time work and responsibility!

Rob & Wendy - A “sailing” year

January – Rob worked hard with Wendy to complete all the theory for ocean sailing training. So navigation, victualling (food and drink planning), and seamanship helped the hot January days to pass by.

Holidays were saved for February, when Rob and Wendy left for New Zealand on their 29th wedding anniversary.

A wonderfully relaxing and refreshing 4-day trip on Doubtful Sound in the yacht “Breaksea Girl” made a great start to the holiday. For the first time in his life, Rob swam with the dolphins and seals in the freezing cold water. He said after his first swim with dolphins “This is even better than mountaineering” – Wendy was speechless at this announcement!

Rob and Wendy met up with Tristan in Christchurch, to watch Elwyn play cricket with the Australian Youth Team. Unfortunately she didn’t play on the only day they could watch – such is the life of the parent!

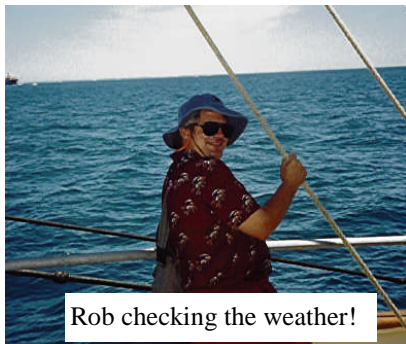


Rob relaxing on deck

Wendy hired a car and drove up to Kaikora for more time swimming with the dolphins, and also spent magic time on the ocean with albatrosses and other ocean birds.

Then she returned to Christchurch to pick up a “cricketed out” Elwyn.

Meanwhile, Rob and Tristan travelled to Wanaka, to set up house for us all to meet later. They tried out some thrills like mountain biking (on the



Rob checking the weather!

real mountains!) to while away the time. Wendy travelled to Wanaka with Elwyn when her cricket had finished.

Elwyn and Tristan wore themselves out with thrills around Wanaka- canyoning, jet boating, white water rafting to name a few, while Rob and

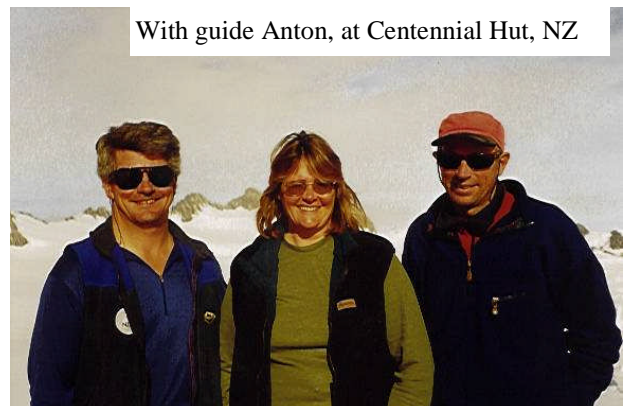


On Moonlight Peak, NZ

Wendy drove and helicoptered to Centennial Hut, up on the Franz Josef Glacier near Mt Cook.



They climbed a couple of small snow-covered mountains there, and could see the surf breaking on the west coast of New Zealand from the balcony of their hut.



With guide Anton, at Centennial Hut, NZ

After that restful sojourn, Rob organised for Wendy and he to undertake the arduous 4-day

Rob & Wendy - A “sailing” year



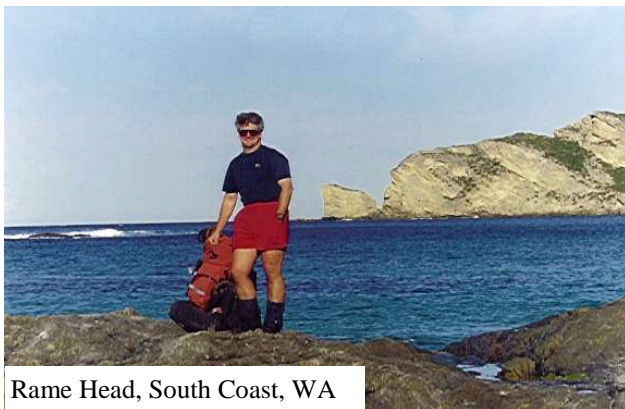
Gillespie Pass, NZ

alpine tramp Wilkin-Young Traverse. They tramp-
ing between the Wilkin and Young rivers, up and
over the Gillespie Pass. This involved a few epics,
but they came out alive in the end!



Matukituki Valley, NZ

Easter (April) – Rob and Wendy did a 4-day Bib-
bulmun Track tramp from Walpole to Peaceful
Bay – walking through huge karri and tingle for-
ests to the south coast. This was a “far away” time
– no phones or TVs or computers.



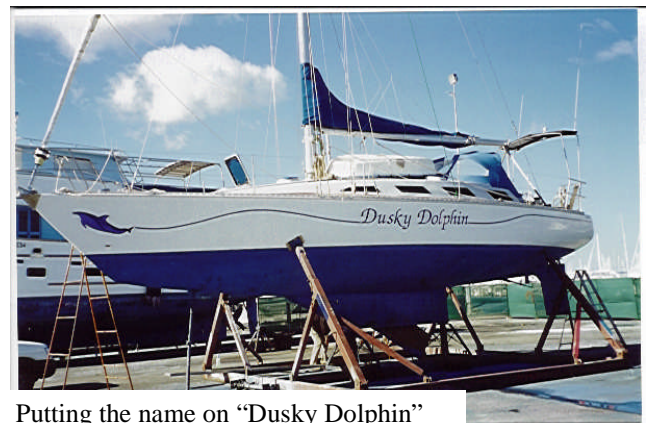
Rame Head, South Coast, WA



Wendy and tingle tree, South Coast, WA

May – they both completed their sailing train-
ing, to become Day (or Inshore) Skippers. The
next step was to look for a yacht to keep up the
experience. Wendy joined Fremantle Sailing
Club, with Rob as Associate, to have a “home”
for the yacht when they found it.

July - The search was mercifully short - they
bought a 12 metre Adams12 yacht, which was
renamed “Dusky Dolphin”. Their holiday time
was spent sorting out many workmen, to get the
“Dusky Dolphin” ready for sailing the ocean
waves.



Putting the name on “Dusky Dolphin”

August – an emotional moment as they launched
“Dusky Dolphin”. She was out sailing most
weekends after that. Rob and Wendy renewed
old friendships and found many new friends, to
share their time on the ocean with “Dusky Dol-
phin”.

Rob & Wendy - A “sailing” year



Wendy and Mum - launch



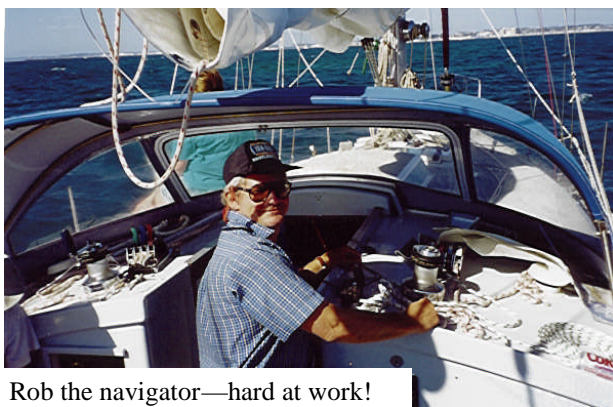
Jeanette sunning her English “tan” on “dusky Dolphin”

October – a break from sailing with a 3-day tramping trip along the Bibbulmun Track near Pemberton, along the Donnelly River through the karri forest. This brought some special moments with nature and some new friends.



Wendy at the helm—a brisk sail back from Rottnest

A special surprise came one Saturday when Rob’s brother Dick called up to say that he was in town (from Sydney). So he and wife Sue were introduced to the “Dusky Dolphin”.



Rob the navigator—hard at work!

Rob and Tristan on Mt French, NZ



November – Rob travelled with Tristan until mid December, for climbing and tramping. They tramped up the Matukituki Valley and climbed the snows of French Ridge, Quarterdeck and Mt French. They also visited the Mt Cook area and climbed Mt Ollivier in the Sealy Range. Unfortunately avalanche risk precluded the planned highlight – climbing Mt Jean and Mt Jeanette. So spare time was whiled away with a challenging kayaking trip on Clutha River, and mountain biking.

Wendy completed (and passed) her first year of Group Leadership study, and the first round of BAS statements, settled things with all her clients and the Coach Federation (of which she is Chapter Co Host for WA) and then **TOOK OFF!** She travelled to the United Kingdom to stay with her Aunt Judy in Cornwall for a few days, and then met up with Jeanette in London to fly to South America. They landed in Quito, capital of Ecuador, at midnight at 2880 feet in the Andes. Lots of trouble walking to the terminal because they couldn’t breathe the thin air!

Jeanette greeting a giant tortoise, Galapagos



Rob & Wendy - A “sailing” year

After a few days there they flew to the Galapagos Islands, where they spent a magical fortnight sailing right round the islands. Every island had its own special mixture of animals and birds, but no beach will be complete for them now, without its resident colonies of sealions and iguanas. It was also a very special mother-daughter bonding time, which has been a bit difficult with them usually living on opposite sides of the globe!

A short travel through America, including seeing old friends Steve and Blandyna Brand in Boston for Wendy, and they returned to Perth via Sydney. During their day in Sydney, Rob’s brother Dick kindly took Jeanette and Wendy out to lunch with his family.



Christopher, Fi and Aunt Judy lunching on “Dusky Dolphin”

December – the family joined together again. Rob, Elwyn and Tristan warmly welcomed Jeanette and Wendy home from their travels. So Xmas was a joyful reunion (including the cats, Tiger and Mittens!), AND Wendy’s sister Fiona from Hobart, Aunt Judy from England.



Jeanette and her cat, Mittens—a joyful reunion

The Galapagos Islands

On our first morning, this is where we awoke....

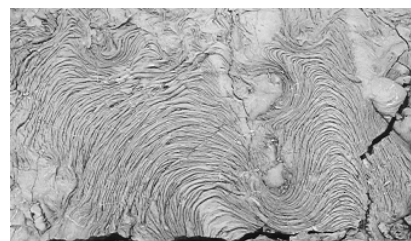


Pinnacle Rock

and this young sea-lion was on the yacht steps to greet us...



We saw lots of lava during our two weeks, with many different patterns....



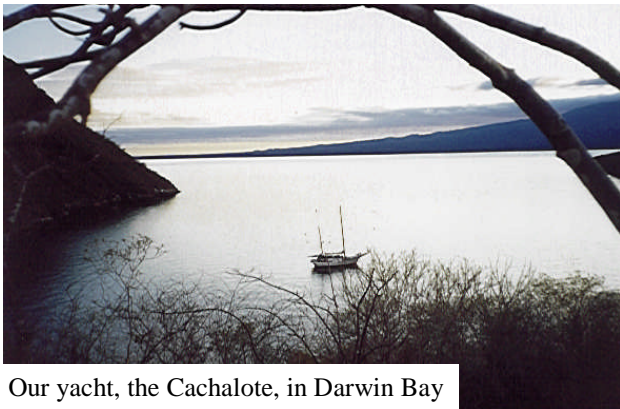
The Galapagos Islands



Cachalote showing her best side



Male frigate bird—showing off to the females



Our yacht, the Cachalote, in Darwin Bay



Flamingos



Candelabra cactus



Lava cactus



Opuntia cactus



Masked booby



Galapagos cotton



Wandering albatrosses

The Galapagos Islands



Blue-footed booby, with chick.....



Mocking birds



Galapagos hawk



Male land iguanas, fighting over females and territory



Old, giant Galapagos cedar



Lava lizard



Marine iguana, just come in from the surf

Sally
Lightfoot
crabs, eat-
ing sea
lettuce



Male marine iguana, calling all females with his colour

Baby sea-lion, about
2 weeks old. It was
very hard not to cud-
dle this one!



Young sea-lion, suckling from his mother,
watched by a marine iguana



The last photos



Me 'n' my toy!



Near Mt French, NZ (Dec trip)



Elwyn "hanging around" in NZ



Elwyn signing autographs at a sponsors' day



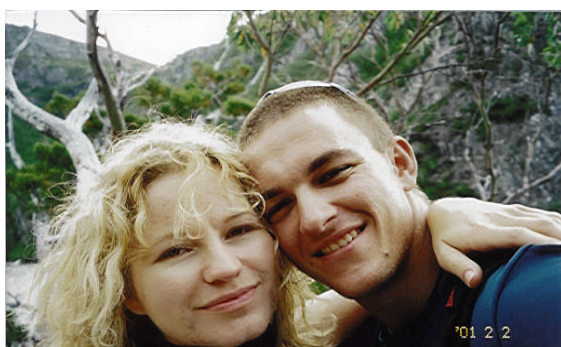
End of my Cascade Saddle walk



Elwyn & Tristan near Mt Aspiring



Elwyn and members of the SMCC 3rd grade men's team



What you'll all be hearing a LOT about next newsletter..... :-)



Elwyn celebrating her birthday with cousins Bette, Sarah and Trishy

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