

Campbell Family Christmas Newsletter 2003



Welcome to the Campbell family christmas newsletter for 2003.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year was the marriage of little (!) Tristan to Blaine on the 5th October. This was a great day out for everyone involved as we added another member to the Campbell clan.

We wish everyone a merry christmas for 2003 and all the best for everyone in 2004.



Please enjoy our individual year's stories and photos over the next few pages.

Elwyn.

Tristan and Blaine

by Blaine

It has been a busy year this year - full of lots of fun, work and of course the wedding!

The year started - well, in December 2002 really - with Tristan coming home in the summer, saying to me, 'Babe, its too hot, lets go to New Zealand for the summer!'. And in a couple of weeks, off off and away we went. My first overseas trip was amazing, and Tristan didn't let me fall off a mountain either (which was good, because my family threatened to break his legs if he did!!!)



Panakaki, New Zealand

Tris and I spent about 2 months in New Zealand, and we even went to a couple of places that Tris hadn't been too (being his 100th or so trip!). We spent most of our time on the South Island, only taking the ferry to Wellington for the OFFICIAL Lord of the Rings Expo (sucked in Brad!). The Expo was amazing, with lots of costumes, inside information, drawings and models as well as the head of Treebeard.

We spent a lot of time on a tramp in Nelson Lakes - because, despite it being my first tramp, I wanted to go to a pretty lake called Blue Lake (and it was pretty see the photo enclosed) but it was a seven day tramp - a major one, especially being my first one. Tristan tried to tell me that it would be better if we did a short one - but I wouldn't budge. So despite much cursing (bad knees) we got to Blue Lake. We ended up having a hut day because the rain came in, but played cards all night, till 11pm which is REALLY late in a hut, with Mike 'Park Ranger' Ausema and Omer 'So Much Food' Schori. Mike is from Alaska and Omer from Israel - and they are one of the funest (is that a word?) and well traveled people I know. Both have a wicked sense of humor and we ended up walking and eventually meeting up with them several times during the trip - which makes me think that Tris and I were meant to meet them.



Mount Richmond, New Zealand

Well we kayaked on Lake Manapouri (in Fiordland) and had an island all to ourselves, spent lots of time lazing around, throwing MMs at each other and sun bathing. It was beautiful. Dunedin was also beautiful - we ended up seeing the albatross - one of the most amazing birds in the world. Unfortunately, Dunedin, which is quite famous for its bird and penguin life - also has a very healthy book shop industry! We bought a few too many, but that is cool. We even managed to dance for the premier of 'Chicago' in a restored 1930's cinema!!!!

Costume and everything! It was very exciting, and we even got a tip - 50cents

We tramped in Mount Cook area and in Mount Richmond Forrest Park (with Mike and Omer) and soaked in thermal springs for our 1st year anniversary!

Tristan was a perfect guide and I think that he had fun too!
grin

When we got back Tristan started a casual job with a geophysics company named Geoforce. This pretty much went full time straight away, and in July both Tristan and I were on the books. Tristan kindly put in a good word for me and I am now the bookkeeper and admin girl. Its ok working with all the guys, except sometimes you get comments like - 'a fitting? (for my wedding dress) doesn't one size fit all?' Oh well, Tris and I love working there. Tris is managing his own jobs now, focusing mainly on the environmental side, which is of course what he prefers. I have even been out of the field as a 'field flusie' as Tris calls me. (Tech name field assistant). It was really good going out with Tris, seeing what he does and why and



Mount Avalanche - our first summit!



Dressed to the nines for 'Chicago' premiere

what a difference the work he does can make. The salinity mapping that Tristan does through Geoforce is really important, as the salinity crisis in Western Australia is growing rapidly. The more information that can be gathered, the more resources and possible solutions can be sought. It was a real eye opener for me to see the salt lake and salt that has burned the land in the Wheatbelt. In the city we never see that kind of stuff, maybe a photo occasionally, but nothing so stark and saddening.



What happens when Tristan sleeps and Blaine is bored!

Signing off now, I guess. I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas, full of family and friends and laughs and good memories. Hug each other and smile too! Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Tristan and Blaine Campbell.



Mueller Hut sunset

Elwyn

It's hard to know where to start for the year of 2003. There were plenty of highs and lows throughout the year but fortunately things have taken a turn for the better as the year draws to a close.

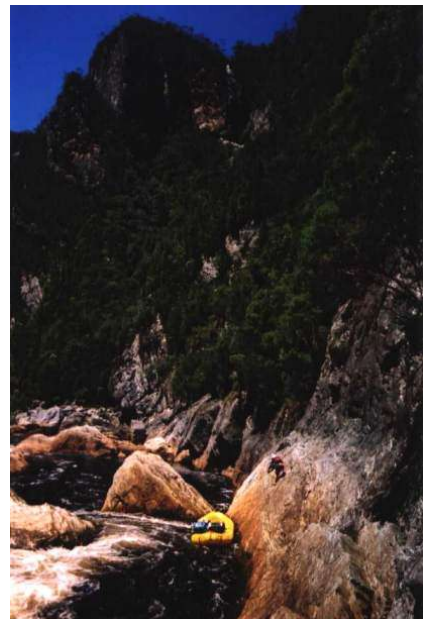
The year started whilst I was in Tasmania visiting Aunty Fi. It was great spending time catching up with her and spending a few weeks travelling around the state. New Years Day 2003 was during a 11 day rafting trip on the isolated Franklin River in the south west of Tasmania. Christmas Day last year was a memorable one, climbing Frenchman's Cap with a great view over western Tasmania.



Franklin River



Frenchman's Cap



Franklin River

Work at Nautronix certainly got a lot busier as the year unfolded. Our underwater GPS system, Nasnet, had extensive trials during March which meant a lot of days out on a boat over 100km off the coast of Perth testing the system. Everything went well after some last minute adjustments and it was full steam ahead for the next phase of the system.

Went on a surfing trip up to Exmouth over easter which was a welcome break after some long hours at work. An amazing place up there with such rich marine life. That would be the extent of travel this year, or so I thought.

I spend a lot of time kayaking during winter preparing for the Avon Descent. It was great fun being out on the water most of the time, although there were plenty of cold mornings providing incentive not to fall in! The big weekend came and went quite fast, but it was made very enjoyable through my support crew of Belinda, Mark and Kiera. There was a lot of rain on the saturday night of the race which provided for some spectacular rapids for the next day. It was great to pass the finish line and being able to get out of the boat.



Kiera, myself and Mark on a cold race morning



Support crew - Mark, Belinda and Kiera and a muddy Rav 4



Avon descent lunch - mmm banana!

The year was going on very nicely until a week after the Avon Descent when there was a plane crash which involved five of my Nautronix workmates. They were on a work trial to test some equipment off Rottneest when the light plane they were using crashed shortly after takeoff from Jandakot Airport. The fully-fueled plane exploded upon impact there were some serious injuries and a couple of deaths. It was amazing that anyone survived the crash. Everyone at Nautronix was shaken up for at least a month after the accident and we are still strongly affected by this event. Needless to say, plenty of tears were shed during this time and I thank all my family and friends for being such great support through this.



We lost a friend and mentor in Harry Protooolis. Harry was our engineering director at Nautronix who was a brilliant person and made a mark on us all. His death affected everyone at Nautronix especially since it was so unexpected. We are a close-knit group of people, especially on my project team and the loss of such a great leader has been devastating. His wife works on my team and hopefully she'll be back with us full time in the new year. Unfortunately a few months after the accident, a second person, Steve Warriner, died from burns complications. There are three remaining survivors whose conditions continue to improve and they should be alright in the long term. They have received the best possible treatment at Royal Perth which had extensive burns work to do after the Bali bombings of 2002.

Going through such an ordeal which has affected so many people has really affected my outlook on life. Whilst it was, and still is, hard to deal with this incident, I try to make the most of every day and every opportunity that arises since you never know when your last day will be.

Out of this tragedy came an opportunity as I was thrown more responsibility to make up part of the void of losing Harry. It's certainly not what I expected but I decided to give the challenges a go as we had immediate deadlines to deal with in the face of this despair. We had another project which was a portable submarine and torpedo tracking system for the US Navy. It was being tested in Hawaii for just over two weeks during November. This was my first overseas assignment for work and I was the only person from Nautronix, but fortunately the US sailors did what they were told and everything worked well. There were some long hours spent on the boat but it was worthwhile seeing our hard work during the year pay off.



The Napali coast, Kauai, Hawaii



Hanalei Beach, Kauai - where "South Pacific" was filmed

So out of all that came a trip to Hawaii paid for by Nautronix. Needless to say, I took a few days off after the successful trials and saw some more of the island for myself. Hawaii is such an amazing place – tropical jungles, beaches, surf and free cocktails at the hotel. There was surfing and snorkelling right outside the hotel. There was plenty of surfing practice! There was a shark attack on the island where a 13 year old girl lost her arm, so I was a little cautious after that.

Surprisingly, there was also plenty of hiking to do on the island, with a great range of terrain from arid areas, canyon, tropical jungle and beaches on a relatively small island of only about 50km across. I spent a night camped on a beach after a

12-mile hike and met a hippy colony who had been living there for quite a few years. It was paradise and I could have stayed a lot longer.

A few days after returning, it was straight into national cricket league season. The WA team is going relatively well this year, and it was great to have a win against those Victorians in Melbourne. Fingers crossed for the remainder of the season.

I hope everyone has had an excellent 2003. Merry Christmas and all the best for everyone in 2004.

Elwyn

Jeanette

Jeanette and Christopher had a relatively quiet year, mostly hiding out in Newcastle apart from a few weekend trips to various cities to see concerts and art exhibitions. Christopher has actually managed to do a small amount of programming at home. Jeanette re-tiled the bathroom. And spent lots of time at the gym with a personal trainer, getting her flaky shoulder under control. And started running up and down very small hills - hard work!



One of the "little hills" on the plateau at the top of Mt Chirripo, Costa Rica



Rocks bouncing down Mt Fortuna - they glow red at night

Jeanette went to Costa Rica for a fortnight in January. They both went to Cornwall for a week mid-year (trespassed on Tintagel one evening to watch a lovely sunset), met up with Judy and Fi and Rose in a Greek restaurant in Carlisle, and attempted to go paragliding near the Lake District. And went to Wales for a long weekend. Oh, and to The Wedding (and Christopher's Dad's 60th and his brother Jeremy's 30th birthday parties) in Perth! Where Jeanette won a CD voucher in a game, for being a scheming evil person.



View from about 300m below the top of Mt Chirripo, Costa Rica



Mt Fortuna, Costa Rica





Volcanically-heated swimming pool with Mt Fortuna in the background. That evening, we ate in the restaurant, watching bright red boulders bounce down the mountain!



Portmeirion, North Wales. The sci-fi series "The Prisoner" was set here. Number 6's roof is on the left, covered in pine needles.



Boscastle Harbour entrance, North Cornwall



Jeanette attempting to control a paragliding canopy. Unfortunately we never managed to get off the ground this year - still, we didn't break any limbs either.



Jeanette's pet iguana in Costa Rica



mmm beer!

Jeanette and Christopher celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in December. They're both leaving Reflections at the end of the Xbox/PS2 versions of Driver 3 (sometime early next year) to have a long holiday and decide what to do next. Snowboarding in Sweden sounds like a good start!

Rob & Wendy

by Wendy

When I reflect on where this year has taken Rob and I, I realise that it has followed the gentle embrace of our yacht, the *Dusky Dolphin*.

On the first morning of the year, we awoke on the waters of Geographe Bay at Quindalup, anchored amongst 50 or so yachts which arrive there each year. We had sailed from Fremantle to Bunbury on Boxing Day. It was a long day, beginning at 3am, but we enjoyed an amazing sail with winds changing from strong to nothing as we headed south.



We tried to return to Fremantle by sailing straight from Quindalup, which would have meant sailing at night. However, the winds and seas picked up during the afternoon, and kept on increasing after sunset, so we had a nasty sail in the dark into Dawesville for shelter, arriving very tired and wet. No, we don't have to do this but somehow the challenges draw us on...



For the rest of the summer, we enjoyed many day sails with friends, and with Elwyn, Tristan and Blaine. Elwyn loves sailing, and always involves herself with the ropes and sails. Tristan and Blaine enjoy the peace that the boat brings, and curl up on the deck or our bunk to sleep the journey away. And Rob began to spend time working on the boat during the week between work-times, often with the willing help of the many friends we have been blessed with at the club we belong to.

Come autumn, we booked a couple of weeks off work to sail north. This would be a huge test for us, on the exposed coastline, but we felt that we were ready, and really looked forward to extended time on the ocean. We planned to leave Fremantle one afternoon and sail through the night to Jurien Bay for our first stop. The night was calm with little wind and the moon lit our path. It was not as frightening as we had thought. As the dawn light appeared in the east we thought that we were nearly there, but then the boat's propeller tangled with the ropes of one of the many cray pots that float off our coast. Immediately the boat was disabled - we could not use our motor, we could not sail - we were stuck with the early morning easterly wind whipping up the seas. To say it was frightening was an understatement. But we knew that we had to be calm and work out the safest solution, which was to call the rescue station on shore. After 3 hours of drifting in that lumpy sea, a cray boat arrived. The crew used the grappling hook to pull up the heavy cray pot so that Rob could cut it free. Our yacht leapt forward, no longer held back by the weight of the pot, and we sailed towards Jurien Bay. With rope still around the propeller we could not use the motor, so we could no longer sail when the wind died at about midday. Rob did not tell me at the time, but he braved the risk of shark attack when he donned his bathers and slipped over the side to cut the rope

off the propeller! The tangle of ropes and floats burst out behind the boat as Rob scrambled back on board. Then we motored into Jurien Bay and stayed there for 5 days to recover. No more going north this year.

While we spent our quiet days on the water there, I spent time writing my book with the laptop. This was something I had been thinking about for a while. I did not seem to find the time at home to settle in for at least half a day to write, and so the book was not being written. As Rob read or pottered about the boat, I would be free to concentrate. I was surprised how quickly the book took form, and promised myself that I would spend at least 2 half days a week focussing on the creation of this tome. As our home office always seemed to be busy, I took myself and the laptop to the yacht, twice a week, during the winter. By spring, the book was well on the way to being finished!

Not so much sailing in winter, when the weather was either calm or stormy, but I spent some time on our neglected house and Rob did a lot of work on the boat. This is paying off, as he learns more about the many parts of our vessel. He prides himself on fixing things without assistance, especially the engine (which we call “Thomas”, to work with “Genevieve” the wind generator, and “George” and “Mildred” the autopilots). I have been amazed at the knowledge he has picked up in this way.

We also involved ourselves very heavily with the sailing club, wanting to give back some of the fun at friendship that has been showered on us since we joined in 2000. Rob took on the role of Cruising Captain, and I was voted onto the club’s Board of Management. Although time consuming, we have gained much satisfaction from our involvement.



The three Campbell girls take charge of the boat

Spring blessed us with a very special event for our family - Tristan married his sweetheart, Blaine. The day was fine and sunny, and a most joyous occasion. The first time we met Blaine, Tristan invited her for a sail on *Dusky Dolphin*! The week before the wedding Jeanette and Christopher flew out from England to join us. Then after the wedding, we took Jeanette and Elwyn away on the boat for a few days while Tristan and Blaine went on their honeymoon to Victoria. I was glad of this time, because I had not realised the sense of loss that I would experience. However, time on the ocean was a great healer, and I was ready for the world again when we returned.

Spring also brought good boating weather and we enjoyed many weekends at Rottnest or Garden Island. On one of our early morning walks on Garden Island a young man came up and asked us “Do youse guys live here?” I wondered if we were becoming ever so slightly feral...Hearing news from sailing friends who had arrived in Tasmania, we wanted to see what the sailing was like there. We booked a yacht for a week in November, to sail in the D’Entrecasteaux Channel south of Hobart. So, in mid November, we were sailing a strange yacht out of Constitution Dock into waters which we did not know. But all the training and practice we have had the past few years paid off, and soon we were comfortably and safely anchored in the channel for the night. My sister Fiona lives near the channel, and we spent 2 nights anchored in the delightfully named Copper Alley Bay just 2 minutes drive from her house! She joined us for a lunch of barbecued salmon - Rob has transferred his skills with a barbecue to our boating. Rob loved the bays here - 7 nights of flat water (or “duck ponds”) meant that he had no troubles with the queasiness that often plagues him at night, when we anchor in the rougher waters around Fremantle.



Wendy sailing the D'Entrecasteaux Channel



Rob getting a suntan on the D'Entrecasteaux Channel

A few days at Cradle Mountain gave us a chance to test our bush-walking legs. We were blessed with a magic day, when we walked into the mountain the long way, through the beech forests that we love. I tired more than I expected, and we did not quite reach the top. However, wading through the snow drifts, and savouring the fresh wind and amazing scenery was more than enough to make it a magic day.



Wendy scales Cradle Mountain



Rob checks out the view at Cradle Mountain

Back in Perth for a frantic December, we were glad of the quiet times we had enjoyed in Tassie. Now we are planning our next sail to Quindalup!

The wedding - Tristan and Blaine Campbell, 5th October

by Blaine

Well, I can't really say enough about the wedding, other than it was a lovely day, the weather was beautiful, the sky was a clear bright blue, the grass was green (der!) and with the bright pink of the bridesmaids dresses and the white of my dress and the dapper black of the spunky groom and groomsman, it was a wonderful day.

Jeanette and Christopher made it out here too, which was great - and all the Gibbos (Gibsons) and the Brine family were there. Almost the whole families - unfortunately the Campbell brothers and couldn't make it.

We had a bit of a hiccup on the Tuesday before the wedding, and I ended up with a very swollen and mangled face! But thanks to rest, LOTS of drugs and wonderful, masterful makeup and hair techs I ended up looking how I felt on the day!

Tristan was conspiring with many people, including the photographers the couple of weeks before the wedding, and I ended up having a lovely surprise - a horse and carriage from the Bell Tower to the Sheraton Hotel after the reception. On a Sunday night, mainly tourists were out, and we had our picture taken by many of them, kinda weird, but nice at the same time.

People asked us what we did for our honeymoon - and technically, we traveled through Victoria and spent a week in a resort in Thredbo - but really, we slept, ate and read books... oh and slept some more! Tris had been doing a lot of field work prior to the wedding and well, I had a wedding to organize! We also spent a couple of days in my Uncle Robs wood working shed, and that was great - we made stools and a bench and a couple of other things! Thanx Rob!

Well, we are now on that lovely search - a search for a house. Money before Christmas and after a wedding is kind of a joke, but we are hopeful that we will get there by September next year!!!!!!!





The groomsmen





The honeymoon



Thredbo



Stop kissing my husband!