

Dear Friends

As our mailing list by 'snail mail' grows shorter each year, our email list and social networks expand. Regardless, we look forward to this festive time of year to avail ourselves of this opportunity to renew friendships by sharing our activities with you.

Seasons Greetings

2012 has been a quiet year for both Lily and Don with our activities largely confined to our neighbourhood. After starting the year in a casual position at a Architect's office in Fremantle, she is now employed permanent full time and taking responsibility for much of the strategic management as well as undertaking the landscape architecture components of projects. She loves her work and loves the dynamism of the office.

Her one trip this year was to Melbourne to stay with a friend who was house sitting. The weather was lousy, and together with an earthquake, and public transport closures, it should have been a great deal less enjoyable than it was. The National Gallery of Victoria had on a well curated exhibition focussed on

Napoleon, which was riveting. Lily and her friend Terri sought out the city's best Vanilla Slice, with one almost every day for comparison. We emailed instant scores and pictures home to our friends and colleagues who were less enamoured with our study than we were.

Lily's leisure time is taken up with her bookclub and catching up with friends. The garden needs some renewal, which will be a project for 2013.



A friend with hairier ears at Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo, Queensland

Don also has focussed on neighbourhood activities, including daily coffee breaks in local cafes, regular pub outings, particularly to Irish venues to quaff Guinness and a weekly lunchtime meal at the Saigon Vietnamese Restaurant with a group of amateur radio friends. He's modified a belt driven wheelchair by the altering pulley size, and installing powerful lighter lithium batteries, thus increasing its speed to 20 km/hour and a cruising range of 70 km. It is only five minutes for him to travel two blocks down Irvine Street to end at the sandy beaches and boatsheds of Freshwater bay, and Cappuccino by the River. Within ten minutes his heavy duty tires reach the fine white beaches of Cottesloe, the Indiana Tearooms and the beautiful sunsets over the Indian Ocean. More ambitious ventures include accompanying cyclists on Perth's myriad scenic cycle paths for lengthy fifty km outings.

After last year's tour around Zambia, Don has only travelled for two weeks in the Gold and Sunshine Coasts with Richard Smetek. This gave him the opportunity to visit theme parks such as SeaWorld, Movie World and the Australia Zoo. Of particular interest were visits to

Byron Bay and the iconic, quirky village of Nimbin, home of Australia's modern day alternative culture. Don appreciated catching up with Kathryn Scott, a former carer, who now lives on the Sunshine Coast.

In 2011, Don edited a friend's memoirs, The Rosalie Boys which is currently being published. Don spent three months in 2012 scripting, storyboarding, filming and editing a half hour docodrama based on the book. He used extensive historical photos and archival footage with green screen techniques and enacted some events with three young actors. For this movie, he enjoyed using his new Canon 5d MK2 camera. Don has followed up his filming interest by joining the WA Film and Video Club.



Don (Spielberg) Pugh



Don is pleased to have survived thirty five years of quadriplegia after breaking his neck as a passenger in a late night rollover on the Nullarbor Desert. In spite of advances in medical science most of his quadriplegic friends of that vintage have passed on to permanent addresses. Don's now hampered by low blood pressure causing dizziness after eating, but with the beneficial side effect of keeping him thin by his avoidance of snacks. However, the

necessity of lying down mid-afternoons to relieve pressure on wounds has sadly hindered his travel aspirations involving long air flights.

We have enjoyed regular visitors throughout 2012, who've appreciated our large guestroom with ensuite bathroom. The Liebecks drove regularly from their farm to Perth to follow up their teenagers, Britt, finishing year 12 and Curtis finishing second year University. We've enjoyed all their company on many weekends but are sad to hear of their poor wheat crop. Mike Hand, now 76, has stayed with us periodically while passing through Perth on his jaunts around WA to paint landscapes in watercolour. We also welcomed Joe Buckell, First Nation Chief from Wawa, Ontario from whom Don had rented a flat while teaching there from 1973 to 1975.

We are excitedly anticipating the three week visit of Andria and Jonathan Crowther from High Wycombe, England over the Christmas period. We will be joining them on the Liebeck farm

to celebrate Christmas. Another 2013 highlight will be Don's brother George's visit with his wife Pat who are also calling in for a week in mid-March, 2013.

Sincere thanks for your continued contact, through letters, card and email. We love getting your correspondence, reading and rereading it. We hope that this finds you well and best wishes for a happy, healthy, enjoyable and prosperous year.

Don Pugh and Lily Auld
don@faroc.com.au



Don's movies are at:
<http://www.youtube.com/don434>
<http://donpugh.dyndns.org>



With Chief Joe Buckell (Wawa) at the local Irish Pub