

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE



Christmas 2007 is here and our thoughts turn to all our friends. It does not seem to matter if we have not heard since last year - the warmth of our friendship is still there.

Like Bruce says in his Friendship poem;-
“So as we meet again each year there was no time between.”



What an eventful year it has been for us. The biggest news is Bruce and I have “retired”. It became official at the end of June and we took off for far horizons.

We stayed with the Marfleets who moved back to England in Sept. 2006. We had a marvellous trip catching up with them and other friends, taking horses to the big shows and dashing here and there sightseeing. We had a quick visit to Paris too by car on the train through the tunnel under the Channel. The Terminal is only 10 minutes from the Marfleets’ home.

We had spent 5 weeks in England last year with the Fredericks in Wilshire and attended the major Horse Trails where Clayton and Lucinda Fredericks competed.

This year we visited with them again and were thrilled to hear Clay announced No. 1 in the world. He won the very prestigious Lexington Event in the US and a week later his wife Lucinda won the Badminton Event in England. It was very exciting for me as Clayton was one of my pupils and he attended many shows with us in his teens.

We were also privileged to be invited to Clayton’s 40th birthday celebrated over a week’s period in Western Australia. Along with many overseas visitors (including candidates for the Australian Eventing team that aims to win gold at the 2008 Olympics), we travelled the lovely coastal areas south of Perth.

Our eldest son, Peter, has been working in Mauritius for 12 months so we stayed with him for a week on our way over to England and coming back – very nice! Peter is now working in Singapore. He, as a Commissioning Engineer on power stations developing new techniques in other countries, has become a resident of the world over the last few years. He only gets home for a week every 2 or 3 months.

Brad, our second son, also travels a lot with his work as a paint-less dent remover, specialises in hail damaged cars. His work has taken him often to USA, Germany and Austria, but he misses his family so mostly tries to work closer to home these days. He and his wife Gail have 3 children Cody 16, Erin 13 and Lachlan 6 years.

Lindy moved back home in June to mind the Stud whilst we were overseas and she is still here. A little crowded, but it is a lot of fun to have her 2 children, Luke 4 and Keeley 2 years, here with us for a while.

Of course, the dreaded Equine Influenza struck NSW in August and a total lockdown was imposed Australia-wide. We took all precautions and held it at bay for 2 months, then a very strong southerly wind hit one afternoon. Within a couple of days a few horses were coughing then it spread like wildfire until all were infected. Imagine taking 68 horses temperature twice a day for 3 weeks!

However, the horses have recovered and we will be able to commence work with them in January to slowly bring them back to performance level. I must say they are feeling well and look magnificent.

Canberra and Sydney Royals have cancelled their normal horse programmes and it is not clear when general competition will start again. The one thing everyone agrees on is that we must do all possible to stamp out E.I. whilst there is a chance.

The other major impact on our life this year was an offer to buy our beloved property. There were good reasons for selling and good reasons for not selling – after much soul-searching we decided to sell. Over a period of several months there were on going negotiations for this property and the new one. In the end it just did not happen. These were stressful months for the family and this Christmas we probably will all rejoice just a little extra to be still here in our home of 35 years.

Thank you to all the people who remember us at this time of year. It makes one stop and think how little time we spend with the people we would most like to be with. It is also a pleasure to here from all our pupils who make us part of their Christmas

Lots of Love and Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Successful New Year to you and your family from all of us at Marena Stud **Maureen, Bruce and Lindy Walker**



Christmas News Letter 2007 - Instruction Dates;

All our horses are almost ready to go back into work and they need your help
There is washing and grooming and exercise needed by all your pals.
Even if you have only been riding for a short while you can still help them get ready for riding lessons and we are sure you will learn lots of things too.
The more experienced riders will be of invaluable assistance to help ride and so get the horses fit to start lessons again. Ring Lindy and see what days you can come out

Lessons will start the second week in January, ring for an appointment.

2008 School Dates

Please note change due to horses needing a little more time.

THREE DAY SCHOOL: - Mon., Tues., Wed., 21st, 22nd and 23rd January 2008

Book early as there is only one Three Day School these holidays.

ONE DAY–Tuesday, 15th January, and also on Friday, 18th January

SPORT & REC.: January, Thurs., 10th (9am -12pm) and Thurs., 17th (9am – 12pm)

Shows - We do not know when we will be able to attend shows again but will keep everyone informed

LESSONS – will be back as usual when School returns after the holidays. You will need to book your lesson to make sure you get the time and the horse you would like.

We know you have had to wait a long time for your lessons and we have missed you all.
We are looking forward to seeing your bright smiling faces again.

Best wishes and have lots of fun in the holidays
Lindy Walker

REACH FOR THE STARS

