

**What a year it was this year.**

This year started off with Janet, Evan & 4 boys arriving and having Xmas at 3am early in January after an epic trip from Bundaberg. Their stay was too short and we had a couple of trips to Bundy during the year that only convinced us we needed to be closer – at least in the same state. Jack is growing fast and all the boys are so beautiful. Jack has been scheduled to have his tonsils out and hopefully it will happen in January after several postponements.

The highlight of the year was John's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday that I was sure he had worked out but thanks to everyone he had no idea. Seeing all those people turn up really gave him a big thrill and he was totally overwhelmed by the whole thing. The jumper is too heavy to hang in the rental house and takes pride of place in the lounge room (we don't have a garage).

Moving out of the house and just getting in the car and driving to Qld was our next challenge as we had no idea of what was going to happen. We have rented a nice little house in Aspley very close to Helen's work and are booked out for State of Origin. We spend our weekends driving around looking at places we might like to live.

We are planning a big trip next year to visit Alan & Val in UK, Susan in Florida and a few other relatives and friends. Cheryl plans to be in Paris for her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and we will probably be there too.

**John:** got a job with the House with No Steps, kept up his involvement with Shellharbour Juniors and resisted all attempts to move. Only problem was he mentioned to one of his mates that we were thinking of putting the house on the market and they turned up 2 days later and bought it. He can't blame me for that one

He is doing an aged care course and following it with some volunteer work that will hopefully lead to a job.

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**Helen:** Is still working in the ATO but at Chermside, doing much the same things. I do less living on the internet but continue sporadically working on family history stuff and my historical transcription site.

My new website hosted by my brother Mike:

<http://addison.homedns.org>

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**Evan and Janet:** have moved into a house we bought in Bundaberg and are enjoying a large roomy house with plenty of room for both grandmas to visit. They are finding out that part ownership of a house involves a few problems such as a fencing contractor who nearly came to fisticuffs with all the neighbours and don't even mention venetian blinds or ceiling fans. Evan works on a farm organising the backpackers and digging sweet potatoes. He tried to plant beans at home but Jack ate the plants before they got very far.  
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**Pat:** was living in Mackay when we made the decision to move but decided to move back the week we settled on the house.

He lives with his friend Kate in Blackbutt and is now working at the Steelworks Hotel at Port Kembla.

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