

Christmas greetings to all.



December 2011

Seasons Greetings to our GFA family. It is that special time of the year when we celebrate Christmas and all that it means to each of us.

It is hard to believe that this time last year we were in Darwin and about to experience the wettest wet season on record. 3 metres of rain fell in the 3 months of the season plus the rain before and since. Listening to the radio one day we heard the mayor of Darwin comment that the trees hadn't blown over during the 'almost' cyclone but had simply floated up out of the ground and laid down. Towards the end of our time there, we took a trip to Litchfield National Park which was a picture after all the rains with the waterfalls in full flow. We really enjoyed our time in the Territory and met many wonderful people.

We left Darwin at the end of April to return to the Central Coast, arriving there in early June and then spent until early November in and around Sydney, catching up with friends, family and GFA family via the picnic days at Picton in the school holidays.

Since being on the road again we have travelled down the coast and are now at Yanakie which is near the entrance to Wilsons Promontory. While there we did an 8km walking trail and then followed a photo trail of the destruction caused by floods back in March at Tidal River, within the National Park. 500ml of rain fell in 24 hours and caused many landslides as well as the flooding – amazing! We really liked the coastal towns along the way and think that Narooma would be our favourite so far.

We are heading towards Eildon, the long way round, and will arrive there next Tuesday to spend Christmas with our sons and families. It will be great to spend the time with this part of our family. The last time we had Christmas at Eildon was in 2007. We did fly down from Longreach in May for Tony's 50th birthday celebrations. At that time we also met our youngest great granddaughter, Ava, who was born in January. We will have to get a 4 generations photo this time!

We have both celebrated our 70th birthdays this year and keep being surprised by the fact. There are days when we feel it but not that many as we are keeping well and reasonably fit. It helps that we love our lifestyle. Kerryn came up to Darwin for a few days just before Ian's birthday, so we had a nice dinner to celebrate then. When it came to my turn, we had lunch near the Hawkesbury River with Annie, Milton & girls, Kerryn & Pariss and Heather who had flown down from the Gold Coast especially for the occasion – AND flew back that evening so I was really spoiled.

Our Growing Families ministry was very busy while we were in Darwin but we've not done a great deal since then for one reason or another. However, over the past couple of weeks we have visited churches in Victoria and given short introductions of the ministry and had our resource table available which has been well received. We are looking forward to conference and catching up on many of you. At present we are planning to visit Tasmania to encourage parents and leaders there sometime during 2012.

We wish you all a blessed and holy Christmas and an exciting 2012.

Blessings,
Ian & Lynn