

*'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift'*

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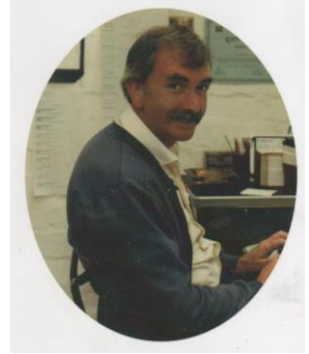
Dear

Thank God for this gift, His gift' – 2 Cor 9: 15 the Message

Our hearts are full of *thanks* to God, first for His Son given as a tiny babe to live amongst us, growing into a man to show us how to live and then to die for our sin and rise again so we may have His empowering Spirit within us. So much to be thankful for!

*Thanks* for Alison's brother, Neil who passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. We are thankful for happy childhood memories- of hours of imagery games, of early family life, Christmases shared, phone calls and his unique sense of humour. Our hearts are sad that a chapter has closed but thankful for time together.

*Thanks* for the opportunity to encourage young people to say no to 'Ice'. In February, the preparation work accumulated in 3 speakers presenting their perspective on the challenge of Ice Why Say No? to 700 students in 8 schools. The completion of the competitions brought the commitment to a conclusion in June. This scourge is still effecting our society and we trust that many of the young people who heard the message will have the courage and strength to say 'No'



*Thanks* for the fellowship of Church. We enjoyed the Church camp at Anglesea. The weather was perfect as too was the surf. Never too old to enjoy the boogie board!!!! Pastor Jono Ingram is encouraging us to apply BELLS. A way of life that encourages us to think of *B*lessing another each week, *E*at a shared meal with folk. *L*isten carefully to what people are saying: their joys & needs, *L*earn from God's Word and be willing to be *S*ent'.

*Thanks* for the enjoyment of celebrating 140 years of the Granite Community Church in October. There may not be many churches, in Australia, set in a paddock, having continuously worshipped for 140 years. Time was not long enough to chat to all those who came back for the celebration.

*Thanks* - a very big thank you to the Lord for Ian's successful open heart surgery in April. It came as a surprise as Ian had no pain, no obvious symptoms except tiredness. An angiogram investigating the tiredness revealed 4 blocked arteries. Ian has recovered well, although doing a day's farm work still leaves him very tired in the legs. We are so thankful that Ian did not have a stroke or a heart attack prior to the operation.



L to R Bungle Bungles, dinner cruise on the Katherine Gorge with Hannah Wales, Levi's partner, stop along the road

*Thanks* for a wonderful trip in June and July, up through the Centre and across to Broome and down the west coast, across the Nullabor and home. We enjoyed Uluru, the Olgas, driving



across 'the loop' into Alice Springs. Probably never do that one again! – too rough on the caravan. Onto Katherine and warm weather! The cold and wet followed us as far north as Mataranka. We loved our 12 days with Debbie, Steph, Olivia, Levi and Hannah. Dinner on the Katherine Gorge, Edith Falls, swim in the hot springs and other lovely sights were loved. We were sorry to leave the family but we pressed onto Broome. One day we will return to Broome and spend a longer time there. Down the coast to Port Hedland and time spent with Chris and Robyn Sellick. Chris had his 4 days off & suggested a tour of the harbor – so interesting. The iron ore ships being loaded – lower and lower into the sea as the weight of the ore took up. The automation of the trains and conveyor belts is an amazing system. Onto Shark bay, Monkey Mia – loved the dolphins, Perth, visiting friends, across the Nullabor to Border Village, onto Streaky Bay, visiting friends in Adelaide and home.

*Thanks* for the safe arrival, in September of our first great grandson, Hamish James to Rebekah and Billie. It was lovely to see Debbie over the month she was home to support Rebekah. Delighted Bill and Steph were married on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. Their home is in Weipa. We enjoy hearing news of Hamish, back home in Aust and Renee in Canada. Cassandra, Georgie and Harrison have been busy with their courses, work, social life and school. We enjoy regular contact with James, Grace, Rob, Marianne and Karin



Hamish James with Mum, Rebekah

who as you expect are well involved with their work, church and social activities.



*Thanks* for the arrival and delivery of 4 ½ tonnes of humanitarian aid for a Bible College in Samoa. The Look First Op Shop volunteers are always pleased when their sorting, washing, selling or packing results in a container of goods arriving at its destination and is of use to the recipients.

*'Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God.--- showing your gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ.--- Meanwhile, moved by the extravagance of God in your lives, they'll respond by praying for you in passionate intercession for whatever you need. 2 Cor 9: 12-15 the Message*



This indeed is what we have experienced in the past 5 weeks!!!!

*Thanks* for the marvellous harvest! The best yield ever we reckon and it's good to be part of it even though it is shared this year. We have a clearing sale tentatively booked for the first Friday in March after 65 years of active farming.

*Christmas Greetings*

*and a Blessed New*

*May you enjoy the Christmas season  
with family and friends*

*Ian and Alison*

Top: Family of 89 year old lady thrilled to have a wheelchair given to them

Middle: Appreciative Bible College student looking for clothing that fits

Above: unloading container onto trucks



James admiring the harvest – some yields up to 30 bags to the acre (old terminology)



Ian and Alison with National Party officer bearers (Donald Branch) and Senator Bridget McKenzie – front right