



Terry's Travels

TT37-1 Winter drawers on.... 18th November 2010

Even though we are retired we needed to get to NZ more quickly this time (escape UK winter), so we saw the inside of airports but also managed a bit of shopping in Dubai. Recently walking on a nude beach in Spain, I especially noticed the **really** old guys with their nuts almost dangling to their knees! It struck a chord—so that's how Pierre Cardin sold me some supportive undies at bargain prices.

Harry's bar in Singapore airport is an open air rooftop area but at £9 per pint you made it last. Next to the Airport Hotel (inside the airport) is a splendid outdoor pool and spa which makes an overnight civilized.

We got into Brisbane at 2am for a few hours hotel sleep before our friend Jonette picked us up to start a lively weekend. Their home is on Redland bay and lunch was with three more friends and conversation around the pool was very wide ranging before we were surprised with a birthday cake to celebrate the UK based 1940 themed 706040 party that Di, Lindy and I had earlier.

The next day was a Rock n Roll concert 'adayonthe green' in the large grounds of Sirromet Winery (we think owned by Philip Morris of tobacco notoriety). It's known as The Big Day out for Grownups—yes that's about right. We had stage side seats where an eyeful of Vanessa the copper haired and tidy bodied 24 year old were very good, oh! she sang pretty good too. Jonette drove us home in the dark but we saw many kangaroos in the inky dark 25C night.

Our Kiwi friends Henry & Val welcomed us back "home" in Nelson airport. Another Kiwi friend Priscilla had surprised us with a bagful of "War Rations" - again referring to the UK party that we had earlier. What with home made orange and kiwi fruit jam and exotic topped fruit cake it was anything but, there was not a tin of spam in sight.

The Saab started 1st time, the BMW motorcycle the same after I put the recharged battery back. We are Woffed (MOT) tagged and legal. The old desktop computer slowly chugged through 50 upgrades. Clothes are stored and Sky surprised us by being contactable at 9:15pm to get our sports channels working. The diary is filling with events and invites, the 1st BOF motorcycle ride in a sunny 25C took us to Happy Valley—we are soooooooo lucky.....



Parisienne taste at Dubai



Tranquillity inside Dubai Airport



Troy boy and Jonette



Colourful garden at The Cut

Leave for NZ via Dubai/Singapore/Brisbane and Nelson for mid Nov. Return to UK in May 2011 and possibly a trip to Mugello MGP Italy in June then possibly Greece etc and back for summer in UK. Maybe a trip to Turkey later.....



Terry's Travels

TT37-2 Life at "The Cut" 23rd December 2010

A month has flashed by since we returned to NZ. I have a confession to make "I've been a silly boy Captain Mainwaring"- I thanked the wrong person for the war rations that greeted us so kindly. They were skillfully baked by Janet Gardener who, with Lloyd and Marcus are the friends who look so well after our garden & pool.

We heard the sad news that our neighbor in the UK Hilland had passed away, two years ago he was told that his wife Ethel only had weeks to live following the removal of a brain tumour. He loved to come and sit with us and have a whisky and lemonade, he regarded that as such a break from his fantastic care of Ethel. The family have taken over that caring role. We shall miss him and his funny stories very badly when we return in May.

We have been busy with house and garden since our return, first the fitting of a heat pump and near completion of the hifi system in the lounge, our balcony which is much used for lunching and cuppas with many visitors has been glassed in for greater safety and comfort. Next on the list is a kitchen update following the small fire, Di has this so well planned that it can disappear when the work starts.....

Everything feels expensive here with the pound being low to the NZ \$ but GST (sales tax) has increased and inflation seems noticeable—are we glad to be here with all the flowers growing rather than frozen BBrittain? - YOU BETCHA.



Glass balcony—note Xmas lights



The Cut—entrance to harbour



Orchids greeted our return



*Colourful garden at The Cut
Union Jack flying and
Fingers crossed on the Ashes*

We have friends arriving from Brisbane on Xmas eve, they are escaping tremendous rain storms there. We met our new neighbours Gary & Donna here in Nelson, they drink, garden and laugh so we have things in common. We plan on a sunny Christmas time and wish you all **Merry Xmas and Happy 2011**.

Live in Nelson, return to UK in May 2011 collect Mercie in Spain late May, trip to Mugello MGP Italy in June (meet Des Molloy)back for summer in UK—Mercie serviced taxed etc. Maybe a trip to Turkey Sept/Oct.....back to NZ via Philippines for 2012



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TT37-3 Earthquake Devastation in ChCh 1st February 2011

With a kitchen upgrade about to start at "The Cut" it was time for me to have a week away - by motorcycle. Ken was to ride with me before meeting up with Henry & Val on the West coast. We rode via Blenheim (winery centre) Kaikora (whale watching) and down the East coast to Christchurch, a terrific 1st leg of some 500km. Four months had passed since the scary 7.2 quake which was centred near ChCh. I now appreciate the miracle that there was no loss of life. Around 30,000 brick household chimneys have been destroyed and the city centre around Manchester St is starting to look like the blitz. It will take years to rebuild especially with big aftershocks that are still happening. I am sure we have seen the city at its worst and it will be better than ever when rebuilt.

The buskers were bringing life and laughter back, tourists were having fun and spending money so the recovery is under way in this lovely city.

The Akaroa Peninsula was our next stopover—nature created it by volcano and French settlers came in 1840. It's a unique and beautiful place. Heading West towards ChCh is the Lyttleton Harbour, which 10 years ago was a very sordid downmarket place. What a different feeling now, in the main street was a couple playing very good jazz and the atmosphere was almost 'chic' even with quake damaged old buildings propped up. We got a leaflet and luckily found Harbour Lodge, the owners Frank (a biker) and Jenny looked after us very well and the photo is from their balcony -it was stunning at night too.



Manchester St Christchurch



Chimney snapped—roof held!



Empire Hotel Lyttleton



*Lyttleton Harbour
Busiest in South Island*

New Zealand has the world's oldest driver at 105 and has four motorcycle license holders over 90 years old -with trips like this I hope to manage a few more years riding.

If you have not received Biker Blog or Techo Blog in the last few weeks and would like to just let me know.

Live in Nelson, return to UK in May 2011 collect Mercie in Spain late May, trip to Mugello MGP Italy in June (meet Des Molloy) back for summer in UK - Mercie serviced taxed etc. Maybe a trip to Turkey Sept/Oct.....back to NZ via Philippines for 2012



Terry's Travels

TT37-4 New Zealand's Darkest Day 23rd February 2011

This is a very sad issue and I have put photos into it to brighten it up. You will be aware of the terrible earthquake that has struck Christchurch (5 hours drive from Nelson) which is South Islands biggest city in an island that has a total population of 750,000. The death toll will be in the hundreds and a state of emergency has been declared. All we can do is fly our Union Jack at half mast and offer beds to anyone that needs them. We are so dreadfully saddened by this awful event just as they were recovering from the September earthquake.

Di had the terrible news that her brother John had had a sudden heart attack and died just as he returned home from a party of a good friend, who had been awarded an MBE. John had said on the return trip home that it had been "the best day of my life". His funeral was last week. I feel so pleased that we had the big 70-60-40 party with all the families attending—the photo is from that, taken last July. We will all miss him. Di joins the family in May to scatter his ashes. We hope Chris, his widow, visits NZ.

The weekend prior to that we got news that my pal, who I called Captain Dennis (he lived on his boat in Marbella Marina in S Spain) had lost his battle with cancer. Dennis went to the same grammar school as me just a few years earlier, once again it leaves a big gap in my life. I used to tell people that Dennis had a ready smile but not so many teeth! He was fun.

It has been a fantastic hot summer here in Nelson



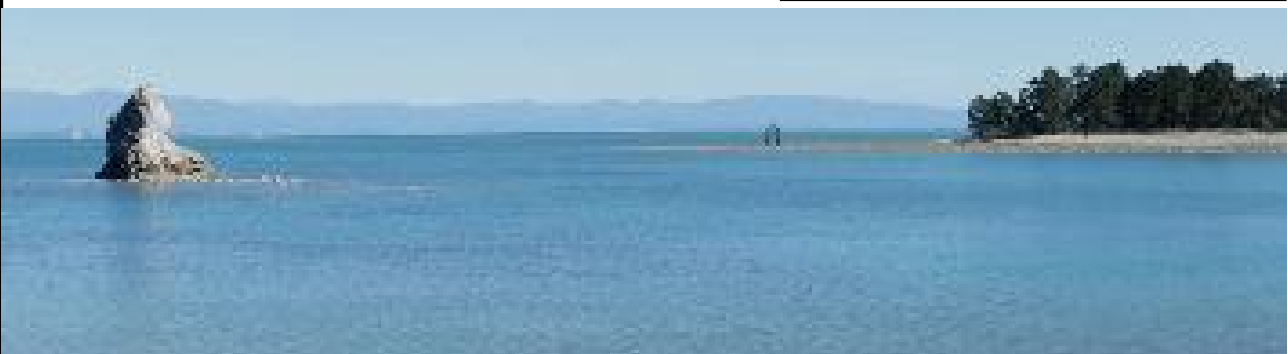
John, Joe, Monica and Di



Mist lifting from the Cut



Cider sign on HOT day



and we feel so blessed to be so enjoying life. Today excavation starts for a new garage for my precious bikes. It all makes me more determined to pack as much into living as possible—in fact to live the motto of my Ulysses motorcycle club.

“Grow Old Disgracefully”

Galleons used to come between rock and island

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Many more photos with captions and previous travels on my website www.THinnco.co.uk



Terry's Travels

TT37-5 Meltdown? 18th March 2011

The weather is still great as we slip into autumn here in Nelson. I had a great uncle who had a clawed hand when I was a boy, the family genetics have struck (Dupuytren's Contracture) so surgery was advised for both hands. It is keeping me out of the pool and off the bike but using the computer is OK.

The kitchen is refurbished after the minor fire and it was a leak and pork casserole with roast kumara, stuffed marrow (home grown tomatoes) and carrots you see cooking—I can report that the new kitchen tastes good.

Starting excavation brought the rain—I can state that sods law prevails everywhere in the world, so we have had some gooey mud to contend with. The Christchurch earthquake has brought us a tenant for the house when we leave. He owns a large storage business so we can store our car and bikes to leave him room for his two Mercedes's—no problem.

I have been living for many years with the Mayan prediction in mind for 2012 to be the end of the world, always a bit tongue in cheek. With the latest Japanese earthquake/tsunami and potential meltdown it seems a bit nearer a possibility, certainly it makes us more determined than ever to pack all the living possible in. We saved for a rainy day and it seems that these are the times to consider it is VERY rainy.....

Natural beauty abounds in New Zealand and especially in South Island, despite the earthquakes I would strongly recommend that you put it on your 'bucket list'. Whilst getting over the surgery I have spent time in the sun and can report that the Kindle ebook reader was an excellent way of reading Tess of the D'Urbervilles and Kidnapped. I have many more free classics downloaded and ready to enjoy. I will be riding again next week to enjoy NZ before my next surgery in mid April.

PROCRASTINATION is the thief of time!



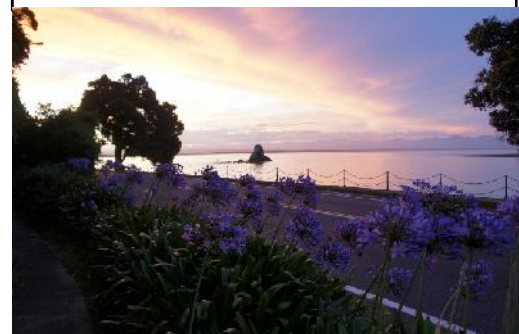
One hand done



Kitchen finished



Marcus bores postholes



Shot earlier in summer with Agapanthas blooming in front Of The Cut

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Terry's Travels

TT37-6 Leaving Nelson 29th April 2011

The surgery is healing well on my right hand and appears to have gone well on my left hand two weeks ago. Since I am right handed, everything is getting easier and there will be no problem travelling back as planned on May 2nd. The autumn weather here became cool and rainy for a day or two but is now improved the mountains are now snow capped. The main recent task has been the corner of the garden and you can see that the excavation has progressed well with parking and patio area and the plants should establish themselves whilst we are back in Europe, we will finish this project next trip. The swing seat has views of the entrance to busy Nelson harbour and catches the evening sun.

We have new neighbours moving in soon from Cambodia which is very unusual for here. We also have been to numerous parties and a lovely lunch invite from a spritely 90 year old! - it was a joy to see the spirit and fashionable clothes and was held just a short walk down the seafront.

I have had test rides on two motorcycles and a new Triumph Tiger 800 should be awaiting my return to the UK (my 71st birthday present!) I could never afford one when I was young! - at least that is my feeble excuse.....

Autumn is in full swing with leaves dropping and the feeling that winter is approaching. Easter brought rainy weather and winds but happily improved on Easter Monday. People were on the beaches and in the parks. The local Model Society had their big event of the year and a chance to see ten trains running, nine of them steam and they were fully loaded with both young and old responding to FREE rides.

Our return journey starts Monday with stop-overs in Brisbane—Singapore—Dubai and Manchester before a bus ride gets us to our Yorkshire home and family.



Garden upgrade coming on....



Kawasaki retro W800



The new 3 cylinder Triumph



*Easter Monday in Nelson NZ -
So like Easter in the UK*

*return to UK on May 2nd collect Mercie in Spain
late May, trip to Barcelona MGP in June, Mugello
MGP Italy in July (meet Des Molloy) Sachsenring
MGP Germany, back for summer in UK - Mercie
serviced taxed etc. Greece/Turkey Sept/Oct. and
store Mercie. Back to NZ for 2011/12.*