

Bringing it all back home

We are in, we have a house again. Our new address is 37A Seaview Road, Paremata, Porirua, 5026. The address is accurate as well we do have a wonderful seaview, we are right on the beach and still have not tired of watching the sea come in and go out again. We are learning about tides and phases of the moon.

Its Sunday afternoon and I am sat at the dining room table looking across the bay with the sub slanting in through the open doors. The sailing club class has just been passed and the rather strange looking surfers who are stood up on their boards have paddled past.

Its so good to be in a house again, I think we have managed to find everything and put everything in its place. The house is quite a bit smaller than the last one so we have had to be quite inventive but we fit in – just. We even managed to find the plastic feet for the broadband router – lost since we came to NZ last year.

The house is smaller, has no bath, it's a five minute hike uphill to the road, has no heating or dishwasher and it a fantastic place to live. I've never lived anywhere



quite like it, we spend lots more time outside – if we are going to stay in NZ then this is the sort of place we need to live to get the proper kiwi experience. In NZ they call these sort of places batches, and they are usually used for holidays, lets see if we still like the batch on the beach in the middle of winter.

We only really lived in the van for a couple of days. After we stayed in Simon and Katie's flat for a couple of weeks we headed off to Napier for a weekend. It was the Art Decco festival and its been on our list for ages so it was nice to be able to fit it in. Steph was there for a conference on Concussion and then we dressed up, Steph in a long dress and me in a dinner suite, not really kiwi cloths, and went off for our black tie dinner. Very nice, good food and dancing, yet by the end of the evening I had sort of managed to get out on the floor without ac-



tually causing any accidents so I'll count that as a success.

The whole weekend was lovely, we sat in the park listening to Ar-



gentine Tango music while people danced and then there was a Big Band playing Glenn Miller amongst others There were regular fly pasts from bi-planes and even a soap box go-kart race. We even got to plan adventure golf, I won.

Johann and Antoinette took us in when we got back to Wellington, Antoinette works with Steph, they are from South Africa. Francis, Johann's daughter was good enough to let us stay in her room while she slept in the study, thank you Francis.

I managed to poke myself in the eye, to the extent I ended up having to go to ED (A&E or ER depending where you are from). I'd just managed to scratch my cornea so I was given antibiotic cream and told to have a week off from contacts.

Then last weekend we moved in. Low tide was 2:36 pm so we were aiming for that – or we would have to bring everything

down the hill from the road, washing machines and all. The movers were great, they did have to test the depth of the water on the beach (by throwing stones in it from the cab) but did manage to get the van right to our deck. Then the mad rush to get everything off before they got trapped.



We have settled in over the last week. We have seen lots of wildlife, stingrays, kingfishers and even birds I don't know the names of. On Friday evening we walked down the beach to the pub and had a nice

meal and listened to a good band, we walked back on the road as the tide had come in.

We had Katherine, Sarah, David, Jess, Johann, Antoinette and Francis round for a construct your own pizza evening last night a great if completely chaotic event. Antoinette brought our plants back.

Johann is convinced we need to buy a boat of some description and it would make sense as we could launch from the deck and paddle to the supermarket.

Right, that chicken is not going to get itself into the oven, so I think its nearly time to end. We have managed to find a local badminton club so we hope to go out to play for the first time in ages tomorrow (Monday) evening. We have also booked our tickets for the England v New Zealand test match at the basin reserve. We are going on the Friday on our own and on the Saturday with Sarah, Katherine and Jess (Jess is planning it as a massive picnic event but then again she is only six)

The other upcoming event is my birthday. We are planning a swimming and food event on Saturday 13th April (high tide is 11:24 am). I realise it's a bit of a long trip for most of you but it would be lovely to see any of you.