

Before the flood

So here we are – well into winter in our little beach shack. Part of the reason for moving out



here, even though its further to get to work is that the

commute is better. It's not as steep and hilly and we



can cycle together. I've got two basic methods of getting to work I can walk along the inlet to our local train station and catch the train into

town and then walk along the front of the harbour trying to dodge the cyclists, skateboarders, scooter people and roller-bladers.

The other approach is to I can cycle with Steph down to Porirua, its 7 KM and takes about half an hour. I've got a folding bike so



I can hop onto the train into Wellington and belt along the front of the harbour



weaving between the pedestrians with the great

and the good all trying to get to work.

The pictures are from the walking trip as it's a bit hard to take pictures and cycle.



Well its winter, what does that mean here? We get fierce storms, lots of rain and 150 KM/H gales. Then between storms we will get a couple of beautifully sunny days, green lipped muscles on the deck for lunch sort of day. We decided that our





bikes needed some protection from the elements. We keep the bikes at the top of the hill, nobody wants to have to drag a bike up a 50 m steep path before cycling to work so we leave them at the top.



Steph looked around for a shed to keep the bikes in on trade.me (ebay for Kiwi's) and discovered that they are quite expensive second hand, in fact after you have hired a trailer to get it home the cost was pretty much the same so it seemed obvious we should buy a new one, after all how much trouble could it be to put together? Well quite a lot as it turned out. It took a week for it to the shop to order it however then we had a sunny weekend to get the thing together. We didn't have enough power cables to get all the way up the path so we needed to ask neighbours for



power to plug the drill in. Ahh the drill – I didn't bring mine from the UK so we had to borrow on a snazzy drill with reverse drill action – I've never had a drill with reverse action

before.

There was a lot of drilling needed, there must be 500 rivets that need putting, we needed to drill each hole in steel plates by hand. We had been at it for 3 hours and done exactly 6 rivets. By my calculation this could take years – something must be wrong. We made several trips to Mitre 10 (think B&Q or HomeDepot) however they could not explain why it was so much hard work .

Well, Steph was particularly grumpy and vowed to phone the manufacturer up. After talking to many people she was transferred to Ben who asked had we got the drill in reverse or forward drill mode. How ridiculous of course we hadn't done something as stupid, or had we. We decided to just check and it turned out that the slider was very easy to trip into reverse and like I said I've never had a drill like this before but when drilling in a forward gear it turned out to be rather easy. So a week later in grey weather we did finally get the shed together. The high winds do mean that we have to stake the shed down and tie an old car battery to it.

We decided to go back to the Food Show this year. We loved it last year and thought it was worth a second chance. We were amazed as it was so different. At least 50% of the stalls were different. You walk around the donut of the Westpac stadium, trying all the wine and food. Last year it was all yogurts. This year we had the best lemon spirit ever. The eco herb man was funny as he had been to the Auckland show and was saying it was so busy in Wellington – and that was JUST FRIDAY. It makes a fab day out and we brought lots of new and exciting things to try

over the next three months.

We then had a long weekend so decided to go back to Martinborough – and mentioned it to Simon and Katie, who work with Derek and will go back to the UK – via a holiday –



in October. We have spare seats in the van so they can along. It such an exciting weekend. We went to see John Slater – out picture framer coach. He has now got us doing an excellent BOX frame for a picture that needs a black light. He also got us using Photoshop – tarting up our holiday photos. We also cycled out to a chic vineyard and played Pétanque before a wine tasting and yummy food. It is a small town but has so many options – we are back in August to make this epic picture frame box!!!!

And so to Christmas. Last year we did the whole roast turkey thing at Christmas – but it turns out that its just too hot in the middle of summer so this year we are going to have a mid-winter meal when we can actually get Brussels sprouts. That and the fact that we have found a number of people that have never seen “It’s a Wonderful Life” mean that next weekend we are going to have out mid-winter meal.

In the same spirit we have been making our Christmas cards, we do have to plan in advance what with the delivery times. Steph





has had a particularly mad idea to dress as a reindeer and Santa and then be photo'd in the spa pool, and a

kayak. Well you will all just have to wait to see the result of our labours – be afraid.

Right so time to go – next stop Steph's birthday.

