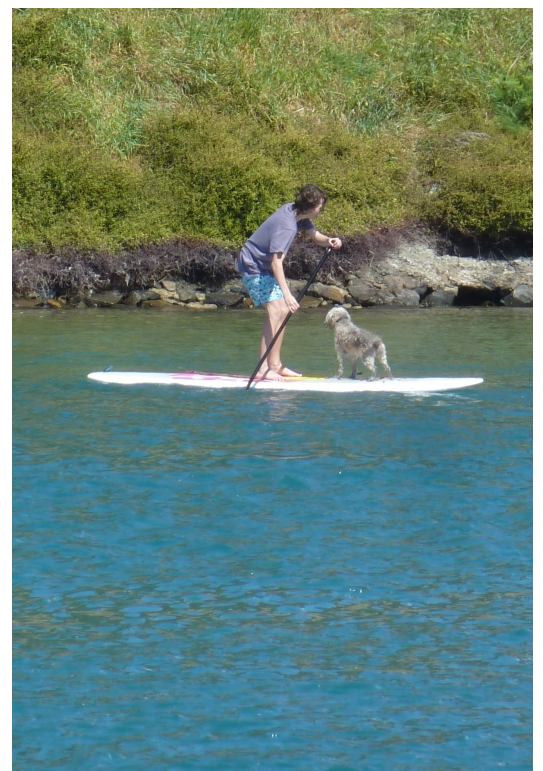


It seems ever such a long time since I have written, and when I look it turns out to be over three months. Well we are back and this time its on a permanent visa. When we came out in 2012 we got our visa with travel restrictions, which meant that we had to spend at least 50% of our time each year in New Zealand and be back in the country in September 2014. This dictated the timing and length of our trip back in the northern summer. Now we have been granted our permanent residency which means we have no restrictions, we can come and go as we please and have permanent right to live here. Hurrah, this is the last of the hoops we need to jump through. Unless we decide we want to become citizens in 2017, but there isn't much reason to do that.



I don't know if it's the change in our status to become permanent but it has been quite a stuttering return to life back here in New Zealand.



Stuttering on many levels. I have moved to another team and am now writing software for mobile phones. In any team I want to feel that I can contribute and obviously I am still finding my way around phone development. Sometime when we are writing for the phone we need to make changes on the server and of course this is the environment I am used to so I go super-fast on the server and then slow slow on the phone. It is coming together I am finding my feet but I find it very tiring. They are a good team and I think I am going to end up enjoying it.



I know its very British but: the weather. This calendar year's sequence of seasons has been weird to start with our trip to the northern hemisphere it has gone, Summer, Autumn,



Spring, Summer, Wet Season (Laos), Spring. I had forgotten how stormy the spring is here. It might just be Wellington or maybe it's a NZ thing but we get glorious sunny days and



then it can suddenly get chilly. We have had the light duvet on and then this weekend we had 120 KM/H winds and we were back under the heavy duvet. Gradually this will become more consistent, I hope. I did notice that there was a hurricane the other week in the UK, and public transport was disrupted. It made me think when we lived in Manchester we used to say that if we didn't go out when it rained we would never go out. Well in Wellington if we weren't able to get around in 100 KM/H winds we would be able to get around.

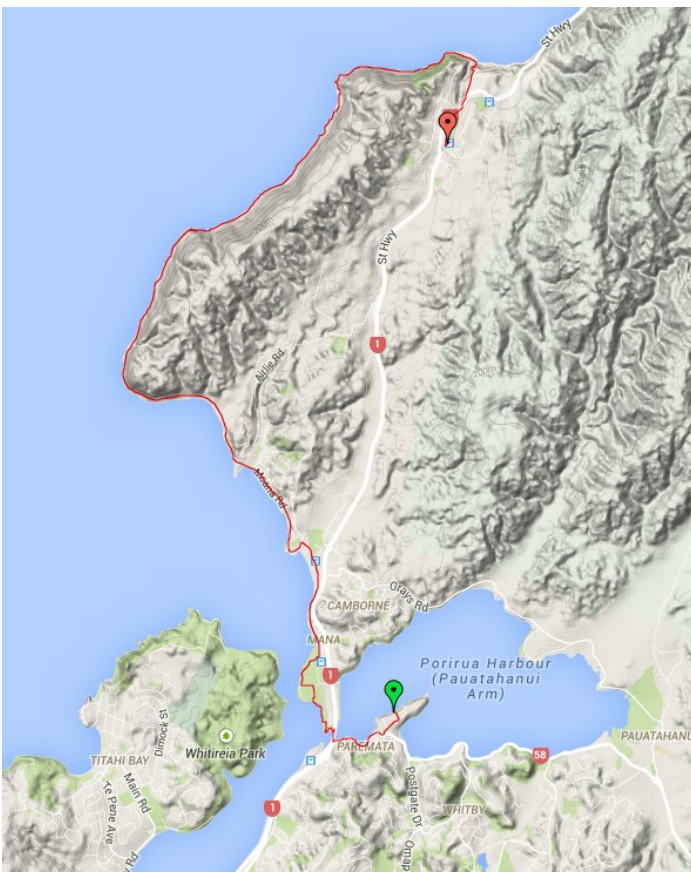
Speaking of getting around, we have been having some problems with this. The camper van has blown its head gasket and indeed its head. It's really difficult to know what to do. The value of a vehicle that cannot move is quite low but the







cost of repair is significant, to say the least. We have had no vehicle for 7 weeks which is very frustrating, mind you its taken so long to repair that we have managed to save up enough money to pay for it.



It does seem ironic that we have had our travel restrictions lifted on our visa when we now have no vehicle and no money to travel anywhere, ho hum. We were determined to have some time for fun, so we arranged a staycation visiting local attractions. There is a cycle



path down the Tawa valley next to the railway that I see every day on the way to work. I have wanted to cycle it for a while, and even though its quite short it was great fun and now when I look at it I remember our cycle. We also walked down the coast for 4 hours and caught the train back to a very nice polish restaurant.

Its really quite different coming to New Zealand this time round. I thought it would be much easier, after all we knew what were coming back to but its not quite worked out like that. Yes in some ways its easier as we understand the mechanics of live and we have jobs all ready for us but emotionally I have found it harder. Last time it was a two year experiment whereas this time I guess its open ended and that gives me a different dynamic. A more up-setting dynamic. I am still thinking about why. Yes its been very difficult to get



rhythm this year, what with changing jobs and the UK trip but I do wonder about the open ended nature maybe we need to not fall too far into the rhythm of life maybe we should always feel like this is a two year project to make sure that we don't just freewheel.



We are starting to do new things, which does help energize us. We caught the commuter ferry across the bay to go out for dinner, it must be great way to commute, there is even a bar!

Liz and Andrew came down and we took them to the Wairarapa for some wine tasting and they took us to climb the huge staircase to the lighthouse at Cape Palliser. It does seem weird that although we are all in NZ we live at opposite ends of the north island.

Anyway unbelievably Christmas is approaching; Christmas in summer is something that we will probably never get used to. We have made the Christmas cake and it will soon be time to get the advent tree out. We are having a party on the 6th December so making mince pies and mulled wine slushie!!!