

Jenny's Annual Christmas letter!

So, stuff that happened to me this year. I think the only reason I write these as I get to talk about me me me! I guess one of the most significant was that I crashed my car. Very annoying. All the fault of silly Melbourne trams and some inconsiderate person in front of me who seemed to think that they might like to stop for one. I, of course saw no such need. The good news is now I have a fabulously gorgeous new Suzuki SX4 which I love.

July was the busiest time of the year. I decided that I needed a challenge so loaded myself and the business up and headed to Queensland for 3 national conferences in the 2 weeks. The 1st was was in Surfers Paradise. Alison and I thought that sounded like a nice place for a conference/holiday. Needless to say - I got the conference! We then headed up to Noosa for a couple of days on the way to Maryborough conference, which was lovely. Then quickly back home for a conference in Melbourne. I presented workshops at all 3 conferences and started term 3 in desperate need of a good holiday.

I have been working part time at Catholic Regional College Caroline Springs again this year which has been fun. I have a new job for 2012 at Princes Hill Secondary College. This school is in Carlton which is closer to the city (and pasta and coffee), and has a massive music and arts program. I will miss CRCCS after being there for 4 1/2 years and having seen it grow from 82 students to about 500. I have also made some wonderful friends who I will miss very much.

One of the big highlights of the year was with my Orchestra - The Napier Community Orchestra. In August we put on a 'Last Night of the Proms' concert. It was a fantastic success. The first half of the concert was Dvorak's 'New World Symphony' which really pushed the orchestra but was so rewarding to perform. The 2nd half was 'The Proms' - full of Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia etc. We had several local choirs join us and it really was a great afternoon had by all.

In the middle of the year Mum and Dad finally left 11 Bailey Ave, our family nest for so long, and moved to a retirement village. They are both in their 80's and are now happily settled although Dad misses his garden. I think the neighbours probably miss Dad's garden as well.

Casper the cat may well be on her last legs. It appears she has Thyroid issues, liver trouble and arthritis and is now 15. Despite this she is extremely active and pretty full on. She remains a character cat and enjoys hiding in boxes and singing in the bathroom.

Under the category of 'Just when you thought you knew me' - I have been hitting the gym pretty hard this year. Swimming, running, biking, boxing, combat - you name it, I am doing it. Unfortunately it hasn't had any effect on my waistline, possibly because I get so hungry after going to the gym!

One highlight of my year has to be Facebook. I have loved finding and reconnecting with friends all over the world, finding out what they are up to and being able to feel part of their lives again. For those who say they haven't got time or haven't tried it is a wonderful way to have all your friends in one place without having to talk to them all the time. The World Cup wouldn't have been the same without being able to watch games and comment on them with friends from several countries all at once.

Overall 2011 has been a really good and busy year with not much to complain about at all. We have had lots of fun enjoying everything that Melbourne has to offer from shows, to going to the races, tennis, shopping and many wonderful meals out. It really is an excellent place to live.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2012!

Love *Jenny*

