



Merry Christmas 2013

St Jean Pied de Port



Walking the Camino 2013



With love from
Colin and Sue

Dear friends,

Christmas 2013

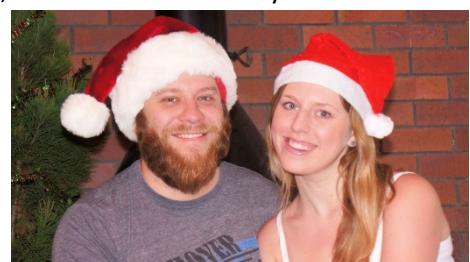
Our first year of retirement, 2013, has been a wonderful time, and we have been doubly blessed in that we continue to enjoy good health. We have spent a lot of time travelling. The highlight has been walking the Camino again. We have been home for 20 weeks this year. This has meant that we have spent a lot of time together, just the two of us. Some people apparently find that a challenge in their early years of retirement, but we have transitioned with no problem at all, and are loving it! People have asked "Do you miss work?" or "Are you bored?". The answer to both is a resounding "No!". We perhaps at



times miss the friendships from work, but never the work itself.

Sarita and Chris moved to their newly renovated home midyear. They are only a short drive away from us so we see them (and their dog, Elly) often (when we are home). They have both taken up cycling to work, Sarita to EscapeTravel at Toombul, and Chris to the Valley.

Tim and Fiona have (fortunately for us) stayed at The Gap to look after our house while we have been away! They have both been back at uni since midyear, so have appreciated having the house mostly to themselves. They



will have more housesitting duties next year as we are heading off to South Africa and Namibia in March.

Colin has joined Facebook this year, so, perhaps you already know what we have been up to. In case you missed it, here is a summary:

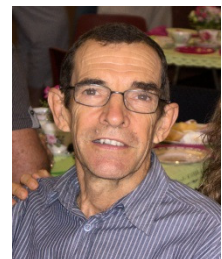
January: Our usual caravanning stint at Tallebudgera. Relaxing as always.

February: Together with Colin's siblings, scattering of their parents' ashes at Colmslie, where the Beavis family first stayed on migrating to Australia in 1956.

March and April: Asia, including a cruise from Hong Kong via Vietnam to Singapore, then a Guide-yourself tour of China including the Great Wall (photo above), the terracotta warriors, a cruise on the Yangtse River, and Yangshuo. We had a very enjoyable trip and saw many amazing places.

May, June, July. Home again, apart from a week on Fraser Island with our Ultimate Campertrailer friends. Sadly, Colin's brother in law, John, passed away in July after a battle with cancer.

August, September: Off to Spain to walk the Camino again as we did in 2004, but this time walking the whole 800km of the *Camino Frances*. At times, challenging, but always invigorating, experience. Made many new friends. Here are some of them on the steps of Burgos cathedral.



October, November: Home for a week, then hooked up the camper trailer and off to Tasmania (via Broken Hill). Travelled around Tasmania for a month with Joe, Di and other friends from Samford.

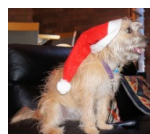


Had a great time visiting the tulip farm (photo), Cradle Mountain, Strahan, Hobart and many more.

December: We will be making our annual trek to Tallebudgera. We are looking forward to plenty of walking, talking, cycling, swimming and just generally lazing around. Visitors are always welcome.



We wish you Love, Joy, Hope and Peace this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Love from the Beavis family. *Colin & Sue, Sarita & Chris (and Elly), Tim & Fiona*