




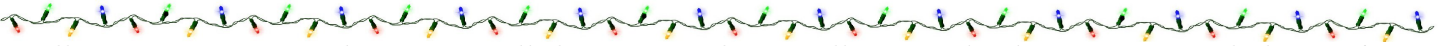
Seasons Greetings





Here's wishing you all a very Happy Christmas!

Yup, here we are again putting finger tips to keys and pounding out another Christmas letter to pronounce that we are still here, still well fed and still most grateful for the later as having met the prerequisite of the former, the later makes the former that much more enjoyable.


 Leila is about to complete her year eight and was awarded top of her class this year in Humanities, "hums" for short, hmmm. This is her second year in the High Achievers program with one more year to go before she starts narrowing down into specialty subjects and focusing on her VCE's. She continues to show a keen interest in art, graphics and digital media, I don't know where this comes from. Next year she will be old enough to have a part time job and she is already handing out her resume at preferred shops in Frankston.


Avellin's mum was not doing too well this year and so Avellin went back to Penang to help out for 10 weeks midyear. Her mum is now better but Avellin returned a bit worse for the wear and now is taking it easy as she works through a couple health issues of her own before looking for another job in the new year. As always, Avellin's heart remains in her kitchen with her recipes albeit Leila and I are often too preoccupied with other things to display proper appreciation of her good efforts. The neighbours don't complain about this situation though.


The MD of the company I worked for since '98 passed away last year and as the sons settled in and old activities were wound up I found myself without much to do as I had been hired by and worked for the father. I decided to take my package and see what I could find closer to home. I had originally hung out a shingle as a carpenter and painter in September but I am finishing out the year working as a carpenter for a custom builder working Port Phillip bayside and the Mornington Peninsula. A bit of a change to say the least but there is much less driving so I spend more time at home even though the hours are at times longer.

 2008 was the year of getting the house finished off. We have all been busy in one way or another with the final phase of work on our humble abode with Avellin and Leila helping when they could.

We have installed gas fired ducted hot air into the attic with everything sized for AC in the future (maybe) and put down second layer of insulation while laying out the ducts. The final phase of our long term plan for this house commenced in July with the pouring of footings for the garage sandwiched between the carport, verandah and property line. This creates a courtyard effect in the verandah/garden area we competed last year. I've finally plumbed the rainwater tanks to the house so we are flushing with rainwater and I'm now in the process of rendering the house to match the garage and garden walls. The lower portions of the floor to ceiling windows are being removed and filled as I render around the house. I hope to very soon to be able to hang out in the garage unobserved with some less arduous projects involving things like furniture restoration, electronics and maybe hand launch gliders.

 Well, that's the wrap for 2008. Hopefully I'll be able to report next year that Avellin, Leila and I are all in good health and that I'm idylly and wastefully enaged in activities that have no usefull purpose whatsoever.

.... and as for all of you guys, here's hoping that you have done what you wanted to do over the past twelve months and we three wish that you all remain in good health with secure wealth in the forthcoming year!

