

Our 2006 - a review

Contributed by Ron B
 Friday, 22 December 2006
 Last Updated Thursday, 18 January 2007

As we wish you all a happy Christmas and a successful New Year for 2007, let's review our progress for 2006. We visited Hendra's family in Makassar, Sulawesi in February. Here we are in a good seafood restaurant.

Then we went to Bali and made our way to the north coast to look at properties. Here we are watching dolphins at dawn near Lovina. Rajia, in the other boat, is happy.

Photo time at Tanah Lot - a well known Hindu Temple in the south. Back in Drummoyne in early April, Hendra took photos of me so he could paint a portrait. The portrait can be seen over the Mayor's shoulder at the awards. Then in late April we went to Hobart for the wedding of Sophie and Glen. Here we see Hendra with Narelle.

We went to the US in May and June. This may look like Paris, but it's Vegas. We are having a cap made for Anto in Fremont Street, Vegas. This is the original part of the town that is away from the more famous "strip".

It is too far to go from top to bottom and back in one day, so we went almost half way down.

We also walked along the top.

A view late in the afternoon. On the 2nd day we lashed out on a helicopter flight. Here you can see the highway we drove in along from Flagstaff.

The pilot kept up a lively commentary, and we were all wired in. After Grand Canyon we went to Phoenix and then flew to New York City. We enjoyed cycling and were surprised to find a gay march was limiting the extent of our ride. Then, we took a train to Niagara Falls and we stayed on the American side. Photos can capture bits of the falls - but it is really hard to convey the enormity of it all. It is mind blowing! New York state does not permit casinos, but there is an Indian reservation that is not limited by these laws - so there is this casino - just like a bit of Vegas. Cameras were not permitted in the casino, but I got quite a few snaps before they asked me to stop. We drove from Niagara to Toronto, picked up new coins and notes, then explored in the rain. We took a boat ride to an island - and here you get a good view of the tower. Then we sampled the lunch offerings in the tower. Not far from Niagara Falls is the town of Lockport on the Erie Canal that allows boats to pass by the falls on the American side. Then we travelled by train again to Chicago. We boarded in Buffalo sometime after midnight - and here it is morning probably in Ohio. We stayed in this large house a couple of miles to the north of central Chicago - a couple of blocks from the lake. The elevated railway ran right past our house, and this is the nearby station. We went for walks along the foreshore of the lake. Back in the house David was a real performer and loved the piano that played by itself. The house was spacious and well appointed. Out those windows was the railway. We met Agata for the first time at the house. We enjoyed good Polish food from a buffet in a club. Richard and Agata's wedding was the main reason for our US trip. It was held in a chapel at the University of Chicago. The weather was very kind, and people were blowing bubbles - instead of confetti. Next was a couple of days in Nashville for music - here is the BB King restaurant. We spend time in Tootsie's Orchid Room. We enjoyed both the music and the atmosphere. We didn't actually go into the Hard Rock Cafe here. One more night in Hollywood on the way home. In September we returned to Bali. Qantas gave us Business Class seats. We stayed in Legian again. Discovered a really good restaurant.

Then, back to Lovina, where this cafe was a regular haunt. We tried different hotels including the Melka with its small zoo. And went to the Ranggon Sunset again. Buying a kite for Dian.

With a restful view across rice fields.

From Lupa-Lupa at Lovina. In the background there is a row of thatched houses where ours is being added.

This was the outcome - we had come to get this ice-cream. In October we went back to Hobart for Geoff and Val's 60th. This is Sunday lunch.

With my brothers.

As my retirement approached a CSIRO newsletter did an article that included this photo. A farewell lunch at Lindfield. An old haunt we used to frequent as a group. The food is Lebanese. He also joined CSIRO in 1969 so we share many memories. The New year coming up maybe our last in Sydney for a while. This photo is from 2 years back