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Dear Mr - Mrs Pissycat

Strange how different events impress upon you how the time has flown! The annual letter does that every year, and I am sure this must be the second I have done this year - is it really a whole year since the last one?

1987 has been an interesting year with again a number of changes in our apparently settled lives and more on the way. At the beginning of the year we were both very involved in our Lionistic business and, of course, coping with the children.

Ryan is becoming great fun and we are beginning to rush off to the beach together or he insists on helping with the repair jobs around the house - fortunately at present only under supervision! He is now going on 5 years old and is progressing well at his pre-primary school, which he will be at for another year before the big challenge of real school. His attitude towards his sister is incredibly affectionate and he spends a lot of time teaching her to do the things which he now finds mundane. He has incredible patience with her except when she interferes with his Lego and we are asked to "take this sister away".

Lauren is just over a year old and walking and talking in her own way. She has lost no time in acquiring her feminine wiles and frequently rolls back her eyes and looks longingly at Dad (does that sound a touch chauvinist?). I fear she will get whatever she wants if she carries on like this. We are really very lucky to have 2 such happy and sensitive children and we shall continue to attempt the addition of reasonable manners to their qualities.

Cheryl has had something of a change of lifestyle this year, linked to my plans to a degree, as she now has a permanent job in addition to her part-time secretarial ones. She is Assistant Canteen Supervisor for one of our major Building Societies (Natal Bldg Soc) and works every day from 10.00 till 2.00 assisting the canteen supervisor (how could you have guessed that from her title!). Those of you who know Cheryl's catering and organisational abilities will not be surprised that she has been a roaring success and has already introduced several of Robert Carriers meals to the staff. She is continuing with her

part-time jobs but they had become somewhat less demanding. Aside from that, Cheryl bit the bullet and went on the Weighless course and lost an enormous amount of weight and we are both making semi-serious attempts at a healthier diet.

And so to "Numero Uno" (there's that chauvinism again!). As I mentioned, Cheryl's decision to take the NBS job was linked to my plans. In February I decided to go to the top in Lions and stand as District Governor. In our District, the procedure is to get elected as Lieutenant Governor for a year and then you automatically take the D G's office the following year. So that's what I did, having to fight an election along the way, I made it as Lt Gov in May and will take over as D G in June next year. What does this have to do with Cheryl's job? We will be going to U S A to be inducted in July next year and whilst they pay for me to go I have to pay for Cheryl and of course our spending money. Hence the need for some additional funds.

On the work front it has been a very difficult year with our company going through some major re-structuring which is not yet finalised. I came very close to leaving in July/August but have stayed and am now responsible for Bureau Services - I am very happy with the current position but will be more settled when the company finishes whatever changes still have to come.

Politically of course the country has seen little change this year. The fact that the Conservatives (Right-wing) became the opposition has not had a significant effect and the government seems unshaken by the change. The Liberal arena seems a little confused at the moment and it's probably a terrible indictment but we don't seem to notice the State of Emergency. There has been a recent increase in violent crime and that is of great concern as people are being murdered in their homes by robbers and the like.

On the subject of homes, ours again is suffering from the layers of brick dust caused by walls being knocked down. We are converting the previous maids room (which I was using as a study) into a guest suite, and then turning one of the garages into a study. The eventual plan is to build a second garage in the back of the house and perhaps to include a games room off the pool.

So, that's us and the happenings of the year - I am sure much more has gone on but Cheryl can tell you all the real news in her add-on. Hope this gets to you early this year (take note, Cheryl!) and look forward to hearing from you. The fact that we will have a guest suite at the end of the month suggests you should consider coming to visit - give us a call.

Every so often I look thro' the photo album & see pictures of your last visit to SA, Richard. It is almost four years ago - how time flies & our lives change.

All our love

Tony & Cheryl.