

Christmas 1992

Dear Richard, Rene and girls

"For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travels sake. The great affair is to move." R L Stevenson (Travels with a Donkey).

Indeed - what a great affair to move. We discovered how great in August when we relocated the household to Johannesburg. The move has somewhat eclipsed all other matters of note during the year but we are finally returning to a semblance of normality. The move was occasioned by my taking up a new post with Sage Computing - yes, I know I said for years Never Never Never. But this was an opportunity not to be dismissed lightly particularly against the background of an appalling economic scenario which did not favour bold forays into self employment.

So after I had commuted for 6 months we moved into our new house in Bryanston in August. It is a very nice house with a huge piece of land and in a parklike area of the suburb. A super garden for the kids to play in - very different from living on the side of a hill as we did in Durban. We have not yet sold the Durban house due to the prices being very low and I now have a very close relationship with my bank manager who seems concerned to keep me in sight constantly! One small problem with the house is that we have discovered that it straddles a small stream (perhaps that's what the agent meant by "water feature") but an agricultural drain will apparently resolve that. If you get another letter from this address next year then you will know we did not sail away downstream.

Cheryl brought her business up with her to Jhb but it has taken some time to get going again. She has however now started to settle in and has met several parents at the schools so is beginning to rebuild a social life. She is also coping with the challenge of converting this house into our home (especially difficult without the services of a full-time maid) and still keeps her sense of humour.

The children have settled in better than I expected. Ryan had a very bad start as he was quite sure that we were going to be murdered in our beds, such is the reputation of the security situation in Jhb. However he has overcome that and just turned in an excellent school report for his first term at the new school. He is still excelling at academics but finds the whole sweaty business of sport a bit much to handle. A brief taste of yachting seemed to attract him after we arrived here and I want to encourage that in the New Year.

Lauren, of course, took control of her surroundings in no time at all. Totally unphased by the relocation she settled in at her Pre-Primary and became an immediate favourite. She has now been identified as a gifted child and as a part of her programme must now mix with intellectually equal peers (a terrifying prospect!). Since her gift appears to be creative I am again reviving my thoughts of early retirement on the proceeds of her first award-winning sculpture. (Well, she's going to need a business manager, you know).

With any luck, next year will be a period of consolidation and we will leave the donkey in its stall

Have had a few parties with Hilly + Mel + Lyn Mattson + her boyfriend since we arrived in Jhb! Were your ears burning?! Wouldn't it be super to have a Thursday night reunion?

*All our love
God Bless
I.D. + Lauren*