



Lily Auld and Don Pugh
17 Irvine Street
Peppermint Grove
Western Australia 6011
Phone: +61 8 93849043

don_pugh@swiftdsl.com.au

Dear Friends

Thank you for continuing contact and friendships over the years. We love to hear of your news and though it seems to come around quicker each year, we relish the opportunity to share our news with you.

Lily is relishing being a student again. She has thoroughly enjoyed her first year general architecture course and is looking forward to specialising in Landscape Architecture beginning next year. Even though her social life has involved going to 18th birthday parties and playing surrogate sister (definitely not mother) to many of the international students, she is not regretting her decision. The nostalgia-driven bunch keep asking her about life in the 60, 70s and 80s. The only thing older than her at the University of WA is the faculty building.

She has had great fun in design- particularly when one of her projects involved designing the surroundings for the new Faculty (staff) complex. Her biting sense of humour appealed to the folio markers and she has received excellent results. Her lack of drawing skills are balanced by her sound computing skills and she is becoming adept at CAD and rendering programs.

Lily has put in long hours on the many open-ended projects and she says that she has never worked so hard. The challenging students at school were spared a thought on the first few days when school returned- she hoped that someone would take care of them, but that feeling didn't last long.

In the inter semester break, Lily went to Malaysia and Singapore. She stayed at the restored Cheong Fatt Tze mansion in Penang. It was built by a Chinese trader in the 1890's and is certified by 100 geomancers as Feng Shui perfect. The house was taken over by squatters for many years who built kitchens in the middle of bedrooms and plundered the gold fittings.



It was a magnificently restored place that now runs as a private hotel. A couple of days in Kuala Lumpur added to the excitement and gave Lily a chance to stock up on pirated DVDs and computer software for the family.

Her garden is still a source of passion and is beginning to fill out, though she has spent considerably less time outdoors in the garden this year. Her monthly bookclub and maintaining contacts with her many friends and ex-colleagues take up the majority of her spare time.

Don's nephew Trevor from Vancouver and a friend Jed visited us in July for a lightning visit. Lily's sister and her children remain frequent visitors. Curtis (12) will attend a boarding school nearby our home in 2005 and we expect to see more of him, if only to cadge money! Britt (9) will remain at the school in Merredin for a few more years. The farming year is satisfactory and Robyn (Lily's sister) is hoping for a few extra dollars for a new farmhouse.

Don turns 58 in January and is beginning to struggle with his health after twenty-five years of quadriplegia and immobility in a wheelchair. In December, 2003 he underwent a painful operation on his bladder and spent two weeks in hospital. He now has been diagnosed with arthritis. In September, 2004 his left eye was successfully operated on to remove a cataract and insert a plastic lens. His eyesight is now greatly improved as a consequence of this second amazing operation by Dr Littlewood. He has just recovered from a severe chest cold which caused him to miss six days of work. Yet in spite of some health issues, Don has continued working as a psychologist four days a week. At the request of the principal, Don has been giving short five minute talks to fifteen classes of year eight and nine students weekly, based on a theme of a safe and friendly school environment. The remainder of his time is spent counselling, running anger management and cognitive behavioural therapy sessions for depressed students. In 2005, he will be running classes for small groups of ten to twelve students called ACE, or Adolescents Coping with Emotions.

Using frequent flyer points Don visited Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon in Vietnam for two weeks with Richard his Attendant Care worker. They toured the city, visited all the museums and did a trip to the old Viet Cong tunnel complex outside the city. Traffic in the city moves slowly because of the hundreds of small motorbikes. Don was bemused that prices are quoted in American dollars in spite of a Communist government. Interesting country trips included a hair raising two hundred kilometre trip north to stay in the picturesque fishing village of Phan Thiet in a luxurious French resort overlooking a beautiful sand beach. At night the sea looks like a city from the lights of thousands of fisherman boats. Then Don drove into the interior climbing to the hill station Dalat, a cool country town a mile above sea-level. On the way home, Don and Richard enjoyed three days in Singapore.

In October, Don flew to Bali, Indonesia for a week accompanied by Mike, a friend from his school. This is Don's third visit there, and he enjoyed a drive around the island, through rice paddies. Kuta Beach is again filled with Australians in spite of the recent bombing of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. Don drove past the sites of the Bali bombings where hundreds were killed from terrorist bombings two years ago.

Don (VK6DN) continues to chat away happily to amateurs worldwide on 2 meters (amateur radio) during the one-hour drive to and from school eighty kilometres south of Perth in Warnbro. Don's spare time still continues to be spent on weekly visits to movie theatres to see most of the new release films and regular reading of new release books by his favourite authors.

Don has expanded his website to include a pictorial history of his youth. Check it out at

<http://donpugh.dyndns.org>





We wish you a
Merry Christmas
and a happy,
prosperous 2005

All good things,

Don Pugh and Lily Auld

