



McLoughlins' Missive 2008

Our contacts

840 Sheffield Road
Lower Barrington
Tasmania 7306
Tel: + 61 3 6492 3034
Fax: + 61 3 6492 3290
mike@mccloughlin.uk.com
hazel@mccloughlin.uk.com

It's December again, and we're coming up to our third Christmas 'down under.' This year Ruth and Neil have invited us to spend it with them in New Zealand. John's coming over too, so it will be a Kiwi Christmas get-together, which we're really looking forward to.

The last year has gone very fast. We were back in the UK in May for our niece, Nicola's, wedding - a lovely way to catch up with all the family. Ruth and Neil made it back too, and we took the opportunity to check out the venue they'd chosen over the internet, for their own wedding next May - Ringwood Hall, a lovely old hotel just outside Chesterfield. Nicola and hubby Dan are expecting the first addition to their family in February, so we're thrilled that we'll get to meet him/her when we're back.

On our way back, we stopped off in Hong Kong to spend a couple of days with our old friends, Carolann and Donovan - luckily managing to catch them just before they moved back to Singapore. Unluckily it rained most of the time we were there so the views weren't quite as spectacular as

normal. Mike was interested to see all the changes that had taken place since he was last there, and Donovan, being local, took us to some wonderful restaurants tourists wouldn't normally find.



On our return home we plunged straight into the olive harvest. We had a bumper crop this year - four times as much as last year - but the local processor wasn't able to handle it and we had to send it to the other side of the island to get it pressed. The quality was possibly affected in the process as we got no awards this year, but we were happy with the quantity we achieved and have sold quite a lot of it in bulk to a local food retailer. The whole process was very hard work, though, and we realised it would only get harder as the yield increases in coming years. We would need to invest in our own press and other processing equipment, and we decided it was a bigger commitment than we were prepared to make, so we've put the property on the market. We've had no interest as yet and we don't expect it to sell quickly so are enjoying it while we can.



We've had a lot of spring rain so everything