



McLoughlins' Missive 2009

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As usual, the imminent approach of Christmas leaves us wondering where the last 12 months have gone....

2009 has been an eventful year for us. The biggest event was of course Ruth and Neil's wedding in May. The official photos are still available at: www.class1weddings.com/ruth-and-neilwedday/wedgal/ if you'd like a 'squiz.' There are some photos Mike took on our own website too: www.mcloughlin.uk.com Or you can go to Ruth and Neil's website: www.ruthandneiladventures.com It was an unforgettable day, when the sun shone on our wonderful family get-together and left us with memories we shall always treasure.

The newly-weds seem to have settled into married life very well. They're coming to us for Christmas, so we're looking forward very much to seeing them again then. Ruth has a big adventure starting in the new year: she's managed to secure a job with Saatchi and Saatchi in Auckland!

John's not so happy with his job in Leeds/Manchester. His firm has had to make cut-backs in light of the 'financial crisis,' which have denied him the promotion he was hoping for. We're hoping it might spur him into trying his luck on this side of the world. He's got tickets for the World Cup in S. Africa next year, so won't be thinking of making any changes in his life before then. He's also entered next year's London Marathon, and would be very grateful for any offers of sponsorship. Details can be found at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=Johndoesthelondonmarathon2010>

Before the wedding, we sadly had to take the decision to close our restaurant. The financial crisis hit our custom badly and at the same time our lease was up for renewal and our landlord



was looking for more rent. The enterprise was no longer viable for us, and in the unfavourable financial climate, no-one else wanted to take it on, so we were left with no option but to recoup what we could by selling the contents at auction. Clearing the place out was a major undertaking, and it was a big relief when it was all over. It's nice to have our evenings to ourselves again, but we're now finding we have a bit too much time on our hands. Hazel has found a nice part-time job at the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre, and Mike is on the look-out for something to keep him occupied.

We still haven't found a buyer for the olive farm, but are keeping our fingers crossed that the new year will change that. The olive harvest was poor this year, not just for us, but for most Tasmanian growers. Hopefully next year will be better. The trees are full of buds about to open, and we're keeping our fingers crossed that the weather will be kind for pollination to take place. The promising start to summer at the end of November has turned into a very unsettled start to December. We need some nice warm sunshine now, to bring the olives on.

We hope all is well with you and yours, that you have a wonderful Christmas and that 2010 will be a rewarding year for you.