

# Te Roopu Hinga Whanau

## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2008

### Kia ora kia koutou

**“It has been a long time between drinks”—as the saying goes.**

The intended purpose of this newsletter is to keep whanau connected and updated about whanau news. However, many things have conspired against us in getting this edition out.

First, because the editor simply hadn't had the time due to a busy study and work schedule. Second, because “updated” news can be found on various whanau bebo or facebook pages. Finally and perhaps most importantly, because news cannot be generated out of thin air!

A comprehensive newsletter of this nature requires your participation. There has not been enough

participation to warrant regular editions of *TRHW*.

A lot of newsworthy events have happened since the release of our last one. Significant whanau members have passed on, major milestones have been achieved, new people have been born and so much more will be affecting us in the coming days, months and years.

*“...Finally and perhaps most importantly, because news cannot be generated out of thin air!...”*

So we salute and pay tribute to our whanau who have journeyed to the other side of the

veil and we welcome the trickling of new members that have taken their place.

As the world continues to spin on its axis so will change and individual circumstances remain ever constant.

This is the forum to catch our

breath, to be inspired and to reminisce.

*“... This is the forum to catch our breath, to be inspired and to reminisce...”*

If you have any items of interest please email me or post it in.

Contact details are provided on the back page.

In this edition we continue to report on important events.

Opinions and views are varied but as you will see, they provide a rich account of the daily lives of our whanau members.



Pictured Above: Papa and nana with son Roger and grand daughter Trinity. Taken at Coober Pedy in South Australia

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



## THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK—OUR EPIC JOURNEY

—BY PAPA EDITED BY DAZ

**A**t a New Zealand whanau gathering held at the homestead of the Blick whanau in Matamata, a decision was offered by all to send Nana and Papa on a journey.

This would enable both nana and papa to experience something new and exciting about how people live and work in the isolated outback area's of Australia.

Friday 15 October 2008 began with a Qantas Flight QF26 out of Auckland International Airport to Melbourne Australia. On arrival Nana and Papa were met by resident son Darrell (Daz). From here he whisked them away to his home in Croydon nestled at the foot of the Dandenong Ranges in Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

This was to become home base for the next 18 days. Everyone awaited the arrivals of son Roger from Ireland on flight QF30 and granddaughter Trinity on flight JQ603 from Sydney.

Roger arrived a day earlier than planned which set the scene for an interesting reunion with his daughter who expected to meet her dad later that evening. Attendance was mandatory at Star Train Academy to watch Renee perform in a local Idol competition. Renee did extremely well and finished with an encouragement award for her efforts. Most agreed she should have taken first prize but we're a little biased (just a little)!

### DAY ONE

Our epic outback journey would begin on 1 September 2008 at 3:30am. Destination: Uluru or Ayres Rock—arguably the most famous landmark in the southern hemisphere. The return trip would total approximately 6,000kms.

Although travelling in a 2007 Holden Calais may at first seem like a luxury proposition, the practicalities would be one of challenge and perseverance.

The tour party made a couple of 'pit stops' at Ballarat then on to Horsham for breakfast before stopping briefly at Bordertown for lunch.

The sightseeing was interesting as we witnessed one extreme to another. From a densely populated city of over 3 million to the vastness of the flat terrains of rural Victoria—a State renowned for its wines, vegetation and dairy farming. Once we crossed the State border it was a reasonably quick journey to Adelaide arriving at 1:05pm.

Since we were making good time (despite being momentarily distracted in Adelaide—some may say “lost”) we decided to push through stopping for an ice cream and a bum break at Gawler before arriving in Port Augusta at 5:30pm. That's 14 hours of travelling on day one of our epic journey! Luckily for us Rachael arranged accommodation at the Big 4 motel.

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# THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK—OUR EPIC JOURNEY

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Dinner consisted of 2 dozen oysters and a variety of foods from the local takeaway. Port Augusta was home to Roger and his wife Eve for a few weeks in 2005 so we had the advantage of a local guide to help us navigate the township.

## DAY TWO

Well rested and showered by 7:30am it was time to hit the road again. This saw us heading towards Coober Pedy which, unfortunately for our back seat passengers, amounted to about a 6 hour journey. However, after a few brief stops including one at Nurrundar we had a hearty breakfast at Woomera having arrived there at 9:22am.

*"... The outback is truly awesome with sights that have to be seen to be believed..."*

Another stop at Pinbar at 10:11am saw us stretching our legs before stopping at a site seeing road stop in Gosses before our arrival at Coober Pedy at 1:30pm for lunch.

The outback is truly awesome with sights that have to be seen to be believed. If a desert is what you want to see then you wouldn't be disappointed. This huge landscape is hardly fit enough for human habitation but surprisingly, it is good enough for sheep, cows, dingoes and no doubt a host of venomous elongate reptiles otherwise known as snakes. I won't mention the spiders and other nasty creepy crawlies.

Only two more 'pit stops' came between us and our accommodation in Eridunda across the South Australian border into the Northern Territory. After dodging kangaroos and dingoes we arrived at the Desert Oaks Resort at 8:30pm. The entire second day cost us 13 hours of travel time and for many it was beginning to take its toll. After a good feed and a quick look about, it was time to hit the sack.

At least the accommodation was clean and tidy. The food was excellent and the cost was reasonable. We decided to book another night at the same place. The sights of wild cattle, sheep and kangaroo's along the highway roads added excitement to the miles of desert plains where every km certainly highlighted the difference between Australia and New Zealand countryside's.

From following a pipeline that runs for hundreds of km's over hills and through the desert, viewing dry ocean seabeds revealing salt flats that stretched far and wide, to witnessing a whole underground township truly be fumbles the imagination. Even being accosted by the occasional Aborigine who

*"... These events motivated us to keep moving and to appreciate every moment of the trip..."*

greeted us with "got a dollar mate?" or "got a cigarette?" simply added to the experience. These events motivated us to keep moving and to appreciate every moment of the trip.

However, the "Please keep your door closed at all times as snakes may enter" did not exactly promote a zest for new adventures.

The morning found us looking at a vehicle that ran into a kangaroo the night before. It made a hell of a mess of the vehicle. Mental note: don't drive at night on the outback roads unless of course, you have two very determined son's that continually pushed the boundaries of human endurance!

## DAY THREE

Following breakfast at the resort we trekked off to Ayres Rock, Uluru about 264 km's away. This was the day we looked forward to most.

The drive itself provided enough excitement as we took in yet more interesting 'outback' sights. Again, it was simply breathless.

*"... Here was the world's largest monolith dressed in a shimmering brown cloak..."*

Mt Conner was the first hint of Ayres Rock otherwise known as "Fool's Uluru" an imposter that has visitors believing they are seeing the actual rock.

Bad news...Uluru was still some 100km away. When we cast our eyes onto Uluru there was a sense of awe. Here was the world's largest monolith dressed in a shimmering brown cloak. It was well worth the miles and miles of travelling. It was an amazing sight indeed.

*"... using the eloquence of the Australian colloquial speech - absolutely "buggered"..."*

This massive boulder stands alone in this seemingly isolating desert wilderness of central Australia. All around this massive rock was just flat desert plains. Nothing could spoil this moment. That is, until a lovely Aboriginal attendant asked us for \$25.00 per person if we wanted to drive right up to Uluru and experience it in all it's grandeur! After failing to dazzle her with his charm Daz reluctantly handed over the cash. But it was worth it.

Nana, Papa, Trinty, Daz and Roger had an Edmund Hillary moment. Images of us climbing this massive rock came tumbling down when the reality of the climb became clearer.

However, undeterred by such a daunting task saw Roger take off with Daz closely in tow. The rest of us tiptoed gently onto the rock and taking only a few rather hesitant steps. We froze as we etched ever closer to the chains that are provided to aid climbers up Uluru. Just standing on the rock was enough to give a sense of real achievement. At this point it just seemed natural to whip out the camera's.

Photo's were quickly taken before retreating to the safe confines of terra-ferma. We headed down faster than a Sherpa on P.

Daz made it up to just below the safety rail before succumbing to height sickness. He sat down on his bottom and slowly made his way back down. Roger meanwhile continued on his merry way. He was our superman up, up and away with his green Ireland football jersey gently flapping in the stratosphere.

45 minutes later, a little dot served as confirmation that a Hinga had indeed conquered Ayres Rock. This super-figure stood in a victorious salute to mankind. His name now etched in the canals of history. However, even the great mountaineer himself concedes he did not go to the summit as this was still some several hundred meters away or close to two hours. So there is still hope for our adventurous moko's. Admittedly, Roger knew the rest of the party was not going to wait for him to reach the summit. Just being near there was enough for one day and this entire trip as a whole.

We enjoyed a celebratory non-alcoholic drink before heading off to Curtain Springs for a late lunch at 3:15pm. The lunch was pathetically expensive. Mental note: Take a packed lunch next time!

It was time to drive to Alice Springs still 300+ km away. We hoped to get there before sun down to take photo's. Unfortunately, we arrived just as the sun was setting at 7:30pm and so experienced the oasis of Alice Springs only at night.

After a proper feed consisting of McDonalds it was off to our desert sanctuary in Eridunda. At least we spent a bit of time around the city taking in what we could before leaving.

We were, using the eloquence of the Australian colloquial speech - absolutely "buggered" when we arrived at our temporary abode at 10:00pm. We simply konked out and slept like little lambs having felt like lambs to the slaughter for just over two days. However, Roger and Daz thought it was a good evening to stay up and watch DVD's.

## DAY FOUR

The next day we were Melbourne bound. We stopped to take photo's on the South Australian and Northern Territory border before heading to Marla for breakfast some 245km away from Eridunda.

Here we purchased a couple of mementos before continuing south stopping at Coober Pedy for a late lunch at 3pm. We maintained a familiar pattern of stopping and starting to break the monotony of travel before arriving at Glendambo a further 255km away. This is where we essentially spent the last night in the outback before heading to the sights and sounds of the hustle and bustle of city and rural life.

(Continued on back page)

**WHANAU REUNION**

A WORK IN PROGRESS

We are once again considering holding a family reunion. In order to determine the interest level among the family and to begin developing a plan, we'd like to get your input concerning this event.

If you are interested go to:

<http://reunion.hilandweb.com.au> and complete the online form. Alternatively, you can send in your response via snail mail (regular post) to:

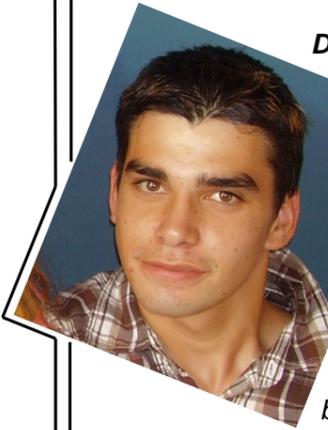
Darrell Hinga  
6 Goroke Court  
Croydon 3136  
Melbourne  
Australia



These details will be useful in planning a reunion and having an up-to-date contact list for the whanau.



Another more detailed questionnaire will be uploaded or sent shortly to gather information to be used for the reunion.

**HAPPY 21ST DANIEL!**

**Daniel William Blick was born  
10 October 1987 at  
Papakura Maternity  
Hospital to Annabelle  
Martha Agnes Hinga  
and David Edward Blick.**

*We extend our warmest congratulations to an inspiring young man who is living proof that determination and courage are the keys to overcoming life barriers.*

*Daniel is a qualified lifesaver. His self confidence has hit new heights. He can be found working out at the gym in between his pool side work.*

*Daniel is also on the verge of getting his passport.*

*Could this be for the 2012 Olympics in London?*

*We are immensely proud of you Daniel. Kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui.*

**NEWS—  
In Brief****NANA'S HEALTH  
Pukekohe, NEW ZEALAND**

Nana's health appears stable in that doctor's only require monthly monitoring replacing the former week by week schedule.

Latest X-rays show remission may be possible. At present she is in good health although not entirely out of the woods. Nana is very active around the whare with nurses monitoring her health pleased with her current condition.

She has been blessed by the concerns, the love, and the regular prayers from members of The Salvation Army, other Christian friends and the whanau.

**NEW BABES IN FOLD!  
Waikato, NEW ZEALAND**

Two new babies have been added to the whakapapa. Anika BLICK, second child to Mark and Susan was born earlier this year on 22 April 2008 followed by our more recent addition to first-time grandparents Lindsey and Jacqui and first time mum Lillian with the birth of Zedekiah Chase APIATA on 27 August 2008.

In Oz Trinity welcomed a new brother Samuel Isaac McKAY to their family on 16 September 2008.

CONGRATULATIONS everyone!

**TRHW FARMING COMMUNITY  
INCREASES IN SIZE!  
Waikato, NEW ZEALAND**

Speaking of growth. First we had the Stimpson's venture into farming (Walton) followed by the Blick's (Okeroire) then the Hinga's (Matamata). Enter stage left Annabelle and her new partner Steve (pictured on back page) to the farming industry. We just about have enough whanau to own all the cows in Waikato!

Annabelle and hubby along with the kids are still completing their move but have started their new sphere of employment already. Tumeke whanau!

**ON THE MOVE!  
Papakura, NEW ZEALAND**

Rhona is now living in Papakura with new partner Mike. According to papa, his presence has added a new dimension to her life. Mike is a quiet easy-going sort who likes to keep busy at all levels.

**74 AND STILL STRONG!  
Auckland, NEW ZEALAND**

Nana and papa have just returned from celebrating aunty Martha's 74th birthday. Aunty Martha now has the distinction of being the oldest surviving Hinga following the passing of aunty Sally at aged 90 last year. A big whanau spread was held at Denny's in Manukau City.

**LOGO COMPETITION**

**Do you think you have what it takes to create a new logo for the whanau?**

You may recall we promoted a similar competition when we first started producing these newsletters? The result was the fantail as depicted below.

Well, here we are again this time to find another logo. And we want originals too. So have you got it? If you think you do, we want to issue you a challenge. Just remember the logo must do more than just look good.

So, put on your creative thinking caps and have fun submitting a design you believe best describes our whanau.

We're not sure what to put up as a prize. We'll leave that up to everyone to decide. After all, it will take a team effort to properly reward the eventual winner!

What we do know is 'it wont be financial'. Perhaps the recognition that you created it would be enough?

Send your entry to papa at:  
[cleaningpapa@hotmail.com](mailto:cleaningpapa@hotmail.com) or Daz at:  
[hinga2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hinga2@optusnet.com.au)

**A FAMILY POEM**

—BY TRINITY GILL

**F**amily is a time of joy and celebration  
A time where people come together  
With little hesitation

**F**amily is a time where the bonds of love  
are shared  
Because you know no matter what -  
Your family is always there

**F**amily is a time of laughter and singing  
A time to know your heritage  
and what we learn from our upbringing

**F**amily is a time that makes our hearts feel  
whole  
Without the love from our family -  
An absence fills our soul



Pictured Above: Papa and nana with grand daughter Trinity (middle) - "A time of joy and celebration..."

Did you know you can view all the birthdays and anniversaries of whanau members on our whakapapa website?

Go to: <http://whakapapa.hilandweb.com.au>

Just log in, click on 'people' from the tab then go to 'events'.



You can view more pictures of this epic journey at <http://hinga.hilandweb.com.au>

## THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK—OUR EPIC JOURNEY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

### DAY FIVE

We left after breakfast at about 8:30am. We had no real ambition to push the envelop. In fact, we planned to just take it slow. We had lunch in Port Augusta 284 km away before heading into Adelaide. We again hit a snag frantically trying to negotiate our way out of the city.

This time however, we had the added complication of dealing with peak hour traffic. Adelaide isn't very well signposted and this just added to the frustration.

Finally, the A7 and the South Eastern Freeway! With dark time approaching we were fortunate to have rung home to ask Rachael to make an accommodation booking at Taillem Bend to ensure we arrived to a bed. Dinner took a while to come as we spent our last night dining in a well equipped restaurant and bar. Nana and papa retreated to their ho-

tel room after dinner. Roger, Daz and Trinity spent the evening in the bar listening to a bunch of 'wannabe's' singing karaoke style. At least they sang. Roger spent the entire time sifting through the voluminous song selection before deciding he wasn't going to sing at all.

### DAY SIX

The last day of our epic journey was steeped with comedy accompanied by uncontrollable laughter as we shared crude jokes with an Aussie flavour.

What do you call a skinny Aborigine? Abbone. What do you call an Aborigine all by himself or herself? Abalone. What do you call an Aborigine in the army? Absalute. If pakeha's have shopping malls what do Aborigines have? AniMalls.

We had an ice cream break in Ballarat having shared more stories about our work histories. It wasn't long before we found ourselves on the doorsteps from whence we came.

### FOOTNOTE:

The whole trip was immersed with fun, stories and new adventures. But it came with a host of other surprises too.

The huge expanse of the universe viewed at night in the outback and unaffected by the illumination of city lights, the constant laughter, the music (John Denver will never sound the same), the serious discussions, the past, the future, our dreams and hopes. Added to this were the sights and sounds of the desert, the Aboriginal culture, the animals, vegetation, the breathtaking landscapes and of course, Uluru. That's what epic journey's are made of. And that's what this journey was about!

*"... That's what epic journey's are made of. And that's what this journey was about!..."*



## WHANAU TRIBUTES

Here we pay tribute to those who have passed on since the last edition of *Te Roopu Hinga*

Name	Died	Age
Roger DASHWOOD	23 March 2007 Melbourne	49
Sally (Rahera) Rankin nee PARATENE HINGA	15 April 2007 Auckland	90
Thomas PIT-MAN Snr	23 May 2007 Rotorua	76
Tui Dashwood nee RAPANA	11 March 2008 Melbourne	56
Rona Peihopa nee HINGA	15 July 2008 Auckland	68



*Pictured above—from left to right new partners Steve and Mike with Hosea and mum Rhona—enjoying a day at the beach and below: Anna-belle and Steve playing peeka boo!*



### Te Roopu Hinga Whanau Newsletter

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