



*How do you fill your time? What was the best year of your life? What's your happiest memory? What's on your bucket list?*

How do you answer questions like that?

Our time mostly follows regular patterns - much as it is for most of us. Monday to Prayer meeting and an hour at the gym. Tuesday, shopping for what we can carry and coffee at one of the coffee shops. Wednesday evening, Bible Study. Thursday morning coffee with friends at the Old Butter Factory. Friday afternoon Elizabeth teaches the Bible to her beloved Scripture (Special Religious Education, SRE) class. on Sunday we go to church (where Ken leads and teaches monthly) then out to lunch with the group.

The garden gets a touch-up, attend to the washing, and the pool is maintained some days. There's an occasional trip to Coffs Harbour for heavier shopping. Grandson Jacob has been a fortnightly worker. Peter, Virginia and Ethan call in some Saturdays on their car-cleaning round. Anna and Andrew are close enough so there are visits to and fro with them and/or their boys.

Nothing very unusual or interesting about all that, is there?

We could sit around on our veranda soaking up our wonderful view with a coffee and often with company, and we love to do that to fill our time.

When you have up to 83 years to weigh up it's not easy to pick the best one but we are satisfied with 2014, the year we sold up at Berry and moved to Bellingen - that was one of those years we were very aware of God intervening in our lives.

And with all those memories - go to 1967 when we were married. Look up a summary of those years and read *My Story* here: <http://www.poweringon.com/blog/readentry.php?rowid=189>

As for a bucket list - what we want to do before we die - we just expect God to come up with things worth doing!

Of course, there are inconveniences like aches and pains and some things are harder to do than they used to be but we keep walking. Infections have come and (mostly) gone. Deterioration leads to medication.

We have covered quite a few kilometres in our old Mondeo with its eccentricities that complement our own although the pandemic slowed this down, of course, and reduced the number of visitors we had. It had minimal impact on our local "social life".

In March we had a week with family on Bribie Island then in April a loop through the Shoalhaven, Canberra, Wagga Wagga (for the wedding of niece Susan to Mark), Wellington, Tamworth and home complete with both of us having our COVID infection.

In May to Bunya Mountains for the 80th birthday of Prue, Elizabeth's older sister. A spectacular spot lost in the mist! Came home via Bribie again. A train trip to Sydney in September, a week on the Sunshine Coast in November including a lovely 4 days in an apartment at Mooloolaba and Lily's graduation from school.

To fill in some more time we flew to London UK on 1st December. With us were Simeon and Kelly, grandchildren Charlotte (16), Oliver (14), Thomas (8) and Lily (17). This trip finished off a project we set ourselves years ago; we have now taken all 14 of our grandchildren on an overseas trip.

London let us and the children see palaces, parks, towers, castles etc in real life plus, of course, the *Harry Potter* exhibition. Simeon, Kelly and the children included a day trip to Paris via the Eurostar and the Chunnel. Elizabeth and I took the train to Liskeard in Cornwall to visit Ann and Jim Salisbury, Peter and Vanda Maslen and others we appreciated so much after living there for a year in 1983 — 40 years ago! We have memories of that in a video at

<http://www.poweringon.com/video/Europe1983.mp4>

Ken, Elizabeth and Lily had planned a visit to cousin Lorraine and family in Slovenia but that was thwarted by all the worst that airline travel can afford. A RAT test showed Lily had Covid but it didn't slow her down. The experience provided a valuable if disappointing experience.

Fortunately Simeon, Kelly and their 3 had several successful days in Berlin for Christmas markets and lights in the meantime.

However a few days in a hotel in lovely Trieste, Italy, cheered us up and we rejoined the others aboard the *Costa Deliziosa* for a cruise on the *Adriatic* with wonderful visits to Split (Croatia), Kotor (Montenegro), Olympus and Athens (Greece) and Bari (Italy). From the ship to the plane we flew to Naples to visit Pompeii and a very different experience wandering through Naples at night with crowds, lights and dozens of cafes and shops.

By train to Rome and all its historical features, St Peters and the Sistine chapel before the uninspiring and very long flight to Singapore to change planes to Sydney and a couple of nights in an apartment there. There is a video summary of this trip at <http://www.poweringon.com/video/Europe2022.mp4>

The once-every-4-years family Christmas gathering was at Stonewell Tops 23 to 27 December. This year it was luxurious: fully catered, motel style accommodation so some 60 of us from our family and those of Elizabeth's sister and brother had the pleasure of catching up with each other. That was a blessing.

Now we are home life is catching up with us including a month's worth of mail including Christmas cards and letters (thank you so much for your good wishes and for thinking of us) which has brought us to this letter!

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