

Dear friends,

We wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

The best wishes for a lovely 2013

We spend the first 3 months of 2012 on the hard at Whangarei, New Zealand. The last years cruising in the Pacific has been hard to Dana, so there was a lot of work to do. It was a summer with so much rain that our work was very slow and when we went back in the water in the beginning of April there was still a lot to do. But we have decided to spend the winter at the islands up north so the rest of the work had to wait until next year.



We join the ICA rally to Fiji and the 1<sup>st</sup> of May we sailed up together with 25 others boats. A hard northerly wind made us stop for a few days at Minerva Reef. We arrived at Savusavu the 14<sup>th</sup> of May and the next week we were busy with all the arrangements there was for the rally boats.



We had a great sailing around the area east of Savusavu. Meet very friendly people at the small villages. Had fantastic snorkelling on the Rainbow Reef. After five weeks there, we sailed down to the main island and out to the Yasawa group, the western part of Fiji. Here were more tourists and we did not get in close contact with the locals like in the eastern part of Fiji.

After about two and a half months in Fiji we sailed to Anatom, the most southern island in Vanuatu. Had good days there with friendly people, before sailing north to Resolution Bay at Tanna Island. Tanner is famous for its active volcano. You can stand on the crater edge and see it erupt. A 4x4 drove us up to the volcano late in the afternoon where we walked on the crater edge, looking at the smoke and lava erupting high up in the sky from the bottom. It was so beautiful against the night sky.

But the volcano was not the only excitement here. We were so lucky that one of the villages had a big feast for 4 boys. Three of them were just circumcised and one had shaved for the first time, a very important ceremony for the family. They invited the people from the yachts to the feast, together with more than 200 people from the neighbour villages. We all had a great day.



Next stop was Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu. Here we enjoy buying French pate, wine, baguette and every day fresh vegetables and fruits from the big market.

We left Vanuatu and sailed to New Caledonia, the French island. We stayed a couple of months here and in Noumea, the capital. Wonderful sailing around in the southern lagoon and down to Isle of Pines. We enjoyed Prony Bay. There are good trails everywhere and we walked a lot.

We are now back in New Zealand and will spend the summer here, mostly working on Dana. But we also have plans to spend a month to explore the South Island this time.

Kind regards

Lene & Henrik