

Dear friends,

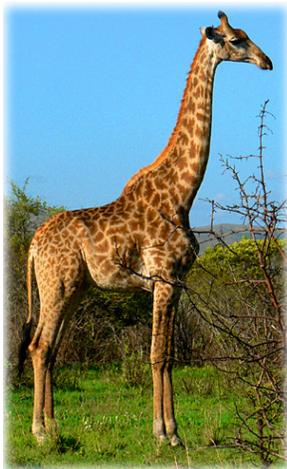
We wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

The best wishes for a lovely 2014

We spend the first 3 months of 2013 on the hard at Whangarei, New Zealand. We did a lot of work on Dana last year, but there was still much to do. But we took a couple of week off and went down to the South Island by car.

We left Opua in the beginning of May, heading for Bundaberg in Australia. But after a few days the engine did not get any cooling water. We anchored at Norfolk Island, got the engine running again and after a couple of days we continue. But now there was no wind and the weather forecast showed that there would be light head wind for the next week. At the same time the current was against so we drifted with 1.5 - 2 knots back to New Zealand. There was 850 miles to Bundaberg against wind and current and 400 miles easy sailing up to New Caledonia, so it was not difficult to change the course to north.

When we arrived at Noumea in New Caledonia we got new problems. Just as we drop the anchor the engine run warm. It lost the cooling water inside the engine. We had blown the head gasket. 3 weeks later the engine was ready again and we left for Australia. But we were a little late now and sailed to Cairns instead of Bundaberg, saving 700 miles sailing inside the reefs.



From Cairns we sailed around the northeast corner of Australia to Darwin. From here we sailed to Cocos Keeling Island with a short stop at Ashmore Reef. We spent 8 windy days at Cocos Keeling before heading to Mauritius. At Mauritius we meet again Birger on the Danish schooner Mie. The last time we were together was 10 years ago at the Canary Islands. We rented a car and drove around the island. It have the best marked we have seen for years.

A night sailing brought us to Reunion. Together with Marie and Anders, from the Swedish boat Tina, we rented a car for 4 days and visit the most beautifully mountains and valleys. We did not look forward to the next passage, but in the middle of October there was a good weather window and we sailed to Richards Bay in South Africa. We had a nice sailing most of the way and were happy when we could tie up in Richards Bay. From here together with Marie and Anders we went to game parks and have fantastic experience with the wild animals. An adventure we will remember for a long time.

From Richards Bay we should have an easy night sailing down to Durban. But a big dark cloud came over us and gave lightning, rain and wind for 4-5 hours. An Italian boat besides us measured 82 knots, but most of the time it was around 60 knots. The sail maker in Durban got something to do.

We waited 3 weeks in Durban before we got a good weather window and sailed down to Knysna, at the middle of south cost of South Africa. Here we are now and will spend Christmas and New Year here, before we sail to Cape Town.



Kind regards

Lene & Henrik