

2010 has come and almost gone past rather quickly for us!

Early in the year, we joined a 6-day walk in World Heritage Area of Tasmania through a variety of spectacular landscapes. The weather was perfect throughout our walk. Sau-wan had harboured the desire to do this walk for a long time. So she decided to take up the challenge to celebrate her recent retirement.



In July, we spent a week holidaying in Darwin and its surrounding area. We appreciate the vastness of the dry continent and the beautiful tropical sunset.

Catching the walking fever, we did another walk in September with two friends. It's a 4-day walk along the southern coastal region of Australia, the Great Ocean Walk, to celebrate Kwong Yin's retirement on this occasion. This walk was easier than the previous one as our luggage was taken care of while we walked during the day. It was more relaxing as we did not have to carry a heavy pack. We were lucky to have good weather most of the time.



Kwong Yin threw the towel in September. He was greatly honoured by the presence of many colleagues, past and present at his farewell lunch. Many of them had to travel for quite some distance to attend the function. In order to catch up with years of things-to-do around the house, he now spends much of his time working in the garden. With all the trees we have planted over the years, the garden has become too shady particularly for our orchids and needs much clearing. He has bought himself a chain saw and has been rather busy with it. New vegetable patches have also been opened up. Sau-wan keeps reminding him to slow down a bit, as she is worried by his cracking speed. With the luxury of being flexible in time, we are now going to the swimming pool in the quiet hours during weekdays.

With the improved condition of our orchid houses, the orchids did pretty well this year notwithstanding the harsh summer and cold wet winter. We were rewarded with some pretty flowers, many of which were raised from seedlings. Enclosed is just a sample of them to share with you.



In recent years, we have also developed an interest in Australian native orchids and have joined the Australian Native Orchid Society. We went on some orchid excursions during the year. They usually involve tracking in the bush, looking for orchids growing in the wild. To increase our knowledge in this area, Kwong Yin talked Sau-wan into doing a native orchid judging course. It's a very serious business with lectures, assignments, project and examinations! Hopefully, we will benefit along the process.

Sau-wan has participated in some recreational activities like Tai Chi exercise, cooking and singing classes this year to keep herself active and to meet people from other walks of life. She has already made some friends. The cooking class rekindles her interest in cooking and her trials at home are appreciated by Kwong Yin in particular. Wei-Ling is treated with a new dish on dinner table every time she comes home while Jee-Lin has to imagine the taste when she talks to Mum over the phone.

We are planning to do more travelling to see the world and may drop in to see some of you along the way!

We wish you a healthy and happy 2011 and would love to hear from you as well.

Best regards

Kwong Yin and Sau-wan