

News from Tryon Road, Christmas 2008

Dear Friends,

We have managed to get through another year in good health though the deer have defoliated everything in my vegetable garden and the cats keep bringing live rats into the house and letting them escape. One walked on my face a few nights ago. (I didn't take a picture of it.)



We keep in touch with distant daughters by Skype. Here is Rachel talking to her mother from France.

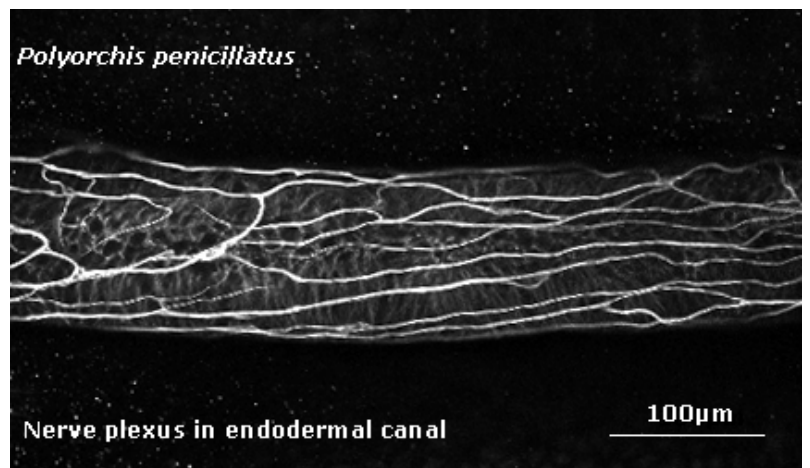


Gill's home made bread



At Friday Harbor I got some good preps of endodermal nerves in a jellyfish, never before seen by man or beast

We didn't get to Europe this year but Gill went to New Zealand where she stayed with Tina and Chris and then went on to Australia to see Pat



(her sister) and Stuart Krichauff.
Here they are in Bullengarook



Back at Tryon Rd, George with Bella from Kazakhstan



Here is Tina in Auckland



and Gill having fun in Oneroa Bay, Waiheke Island



New Zealand, most beautiful country in the world : Coromandel Peninsula

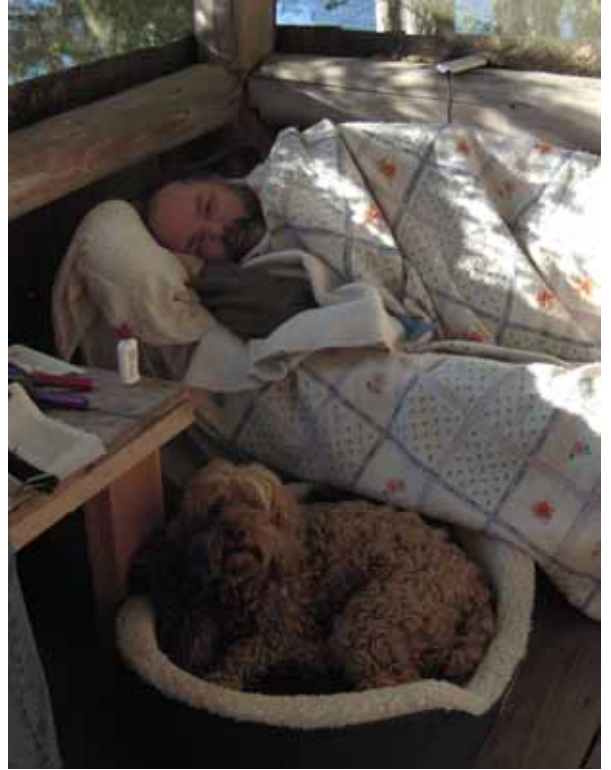


In the summer Rachel and Alice came from France. They went camping and we all met at the cabin at Sugar Lake in the Monashee Mountains.



Alice by Fraser River and

Quentin with fierce guard dog, who kept us safe from bears and wolverines.



Rachel having her hair checked for nits



Grandchildren's doings



Hugh, Parssa, Bran and their dad Alexander talking to us on Christmas Day by Skype while we were snowed in up here at Tryon Rd.



Juliet, Raffi and Rupert at Chesterman Beach



Juliet (above), and Charlotte (right). She spent six months traveling round Europe with her boyfriend Drew and had a great time



Oldest son Alexander with his wife Kjerstin at a mediaeval feast. Kj is a textile conservator at the Royal B.C. Museum and made the costumes, basing them on bog finds from Denmark, and grave clothes from Herjolfsness, Greenland.

You will have no trouble in recognizing Al's *Kjortl* in black and yellow stripes trimmed with yellow inkling, or his black linen *Sark* trimmed with narrow blue and yellow inkling, while the understated elegance of Kj's undyed linen *Handerock* (*Hangselkjol*) suspended by bronze apron brooches and her muted grey linsey-wool *Klanning*, along with the amber necklace, combine to provide a harmonious counterpoint to her spouse's assertively masculine attire.



Finally, Gill's latest quilt and plates by her (right) and George (above)



I had better stop before the file gets too big to email,

Lots of love and happy new year from George and Gill Mackie