

Another year, this one a bit more sedentary than the last.

2013 started with more travel but then slowed down to a normal pace.

On New Year's Eve we went to El Palace Andaluz in Seville, for their end of year celebration. We were entertained by Flamenco music and dance, all performed with fire, passion and sultry looks.

It was then back to Barcelona and our little apartment in Badalona to prepare for our return home.

We did get to go see Cirque du Soleil perform in Barcelona with the compliments of Hayden and Andrea, who were back in Granada for the Christmas break.

Our year away was topped off with a trip to Tenerife in the Canary Islands. The Canaries are Spanish and 100km to the west of Africa and the outermost region of the European Union.

It was a great Winter break and a fitting end to our travels. It was then back home and back to reality.

We arrived in Melbourne just in time to say farewell to Ev, and his partner Steph, who were heading off for six weeks in Brazil. They had arranged to dance in the Carnival in Rio and had the Samba steps rehearsed and their costumes organised.

Once we had settled into our apartment we went and picked up Sally, the dog, from her 12 months holiday. She was healthy and happy and had obviously had a wonderful time with her minders, Helen and Doug.

Sally is now rapidly approaching 17 and apart from poor eyesight, deafness and a bit of arthritis she is still an amazingly robust animal.

We got back to a normal routine with Thea reacquainting herself with friends over coffee, walking and talking. I returned to my part time job at the Business to Business Ad Agency Bravo Tango Bravo. I also was cajoled into going onto the committee of the Melbourne Beer and Beef Club, as Food Master. This then resulted in us volunteering to build a website for the club.

We soon got the wonder lust again and started to arrange a trip to Japan for September. After a lot of research we decided to extend the adventure to include South Korea.

It was a good move as South Korea was the surprise of the journey. The people are friendly, welcoming and the cities and countryside well worth the visit.

The trip started with three days in Hong Kong and then on to Seoul for five days.

While we were there we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. We were made to feel very special as the tour company had an enormous cream cake, including candles and poppers, delivered to our hotel. It was so large that we donated most of it to the hotel staff when we left.

From Seoul we worked our way south through Joenju and Jirisan National Park to Busan in the south east. It's then only a short ferry ride to Fukuoka, in the south west of Japan, on the island of Kyushu.

Via the Shinkansen, or Bullet Train, we worked our way north over four weeks and finished with five days in Tokyo.

In Tokyo we were lucky enough to catch up with our nephew Mike, his lovely wife Natsumi and their delightful children Manami and Josh.

No sooner had we arrived home Hayden and his partner, Andrea, also arrived from Spain. They were here for a wedding, of yet another of Hayden's school friends. This was Andrea's first trip to Australia and they had decided to make a real adventure of it. They spent a couple of days in Dubai and then three days in Sydney before arriving in Melbourne, where they stayed for almost three weeks.

It was great to have them here and get the entire family together for several days of eating, drinking, laughter and memories. Andrea took delight in going through the family albums. This gave her a real insight into Hayden's upbringing. We even visited the old family home in Ocean Street, which has been entirely renovated and updated. It's not to our taste but the new owners have done an amazing job and the quality of the work is excellent.

We were tourists in our own town and visited Williamstown, the bathing boxes at Brighton and Healsville Sanctuary, where Andrea got to see some of our wildlife up-close. Hayden and Andrea even visited the penguins that nest on the breakwater near St Kilda pier. A much easier place to get to than Phillip Island.

We have picked up some freelance work, designing and building websites and Thea has even got a contract to help a company implement a new business software package. So a lot of this holiday period will be occupied with work.

Which is a change from constantly moving.

However we do have plans to return to Spain next year, as Hayden will hopefully finish his PhD and we want to be there for his defence.

What we do before and after that trip is still up for discussion.

