

Nyasaland Memories

Firstly, a very Happy New year to all the NYPOL members, let's hope this year will bring much peace and happiness to the World. Very optimistic I know but we live in hope.

I just read Eric Hopes Letter on the website and enjoyed it very much. I also loved the video on the website of the Malawi story, such a beautiful Country and brought back many memories. I loved the African dancing and as mentioned in one of my previous stories on Chit Chat, it brought back those so very happy memories of our first Christmas in Blantyre when my dear Mother invited our houseboys and their lovely families up for Christmas lunch and presents, and it all ended with singing/drums and dancing in our garden, such a fantastic day.

Sadly, back in the here and now, not many people are really interested in my past life which was so full of adventure and excitement. My Children and Grandchildren of course have always been interested and envious of my childhood. But throughout my adult life I have found not every one is really that interested.

For example: back in 1976 I was working in the accounts department of a large factory in South Australia. One day we were all clunking away on our Ledger Machines (yes it was that long ago!) and all the Ladies were chatting when one started a conversation: "So Ladies what is the most unusual and fun pet you've ever had??" So, they started with me, so of course I mentioned "Well I had a pet Baboon in Malawi (see *Chit-Chat 2015*) who was delightful but at the same time a real pain to look after". There was silence for a while when another lady piped up that she had an adorable cat that played in her washing basket and everyone said 'Aw that's lovely' and so the conversation ended. My point being is that no one is really interested unless you have actually been there and done that. And that's what's so great about this website, everyone has the same fantastic memories, the same stories to share and I for one love reading them all.

So, I hope this can continue because there are too many cherished memories to lose.

Please keep up the good work and I look forward to reading many more interesting stories of our Wonderful lives in the Beautiful Country of Malawi.

Alison McLennan

Jan 2024