Keeping Up With The Clauses

This month Santa Claus, Mrs Claus and some of their helper elves will return to Remuera for the festive season. Taking time out from their extremely busy schedule, the Clauses spoke to THE HOBSON for an exclusive interview.

Welcome back to Remuera, Mr and Mrs Claus. We know this is your uber-busy time, you must be very good at diary management. How do you fit everything in?
Santa: We have a great international Time Management and Logistics team. Head Elves Ricardo and Svetlana – that’s her in the photo in the green boots – run that department. They have a huge electronic map of the world, with GPS. We all carry Frost-Phones with a proprietary app called Santify.

Do you meet some lovely children when you come to Remuera?
Mrs Claus: We meet lovely children everywhere, all over the world. But yes, we adore the Remuera kids.

Do you have advice for kids who perhaps don’t have such nice manners when they come to see you?
Mrs Claus: Yes, don’t visit! We love pleases and thank you’s, but I’ve got to say that 99.9 per cent of all kids are lovely. Santa is always on the lookout for performance improvement, and he checks it twice!

What are some of the more unusual presents children have asked for in previous years?
Santa: One little girl wanted a cooked chicken – I think it was close to lunchtime! One wee boy wanted us to take his little sister back. We had to explain that we don’t do returns. Many children say they don’t want anything, they just want to visit and have a photo with us to share with their family and friends.

With your insider knowledge, what are you expecting to be favourites for presents this year?
Mrs Claus: There are so many! I think the Barbie three-storey townhouse will be popular and will really keep its value. The Furby Connect, the WowWee CHiP Robot Dog and of course, Lego. We expect to see a lot of stockings too filled with books, arts and crafts kits, and fun family games like Googly Eyes.

So many newer Remuera homes don’t have chimneys. How do you squeeze through narrow window openings?
Santa: Well, it’s a trade secret but we do use our patented Santa Shrinkolator – presents are shrunk, and then expand under the tree or in the house. We’re experimenting with onsite 3D printing too, through fibre and broadband. It seems to be working well.

Mrs Claus, do you worry about Santa’s diabetes risk with all that Christmas cake and beer that gets left out for him?
Mrs Claus: Of course I do, there’s a lot of temptation. We’ve installed a Chest Cam onto Santa, and our Trainee Elf Doreen monitors the live feed. She alerts me if she thinks there’s danger of too much cake, and I send him a text! The reindeers do love to have a carrot or two.

Have you discussed the paleo diet with him?
Mrs Claus: Yes, we try to stick to unprocessed food. Lots of fresh fruit and vegetables – we’ve installed some green houses here up at the North Pole.

Santa, as you walk around Remuera, do you see things you’d like Mrs Claus to buy you? And Mrs Claus, is there a special gift you’d like to receive this year?
Santa: Absolutely. I joke with Mrs Claus that I’m going to buy her one of everything in Remuera. No HO-HO-holds barred!
Mrs Claus: I always tell Santa, “Nothing functional”. A present needs to be fun and maybe a bit unexpected.

Mrs Claus, we’d be guessing that as well as overseeing the toy workshop, supervising the elves and wrapping presents until midnight on Christmas Eve, you’ll also be cooking Christmas dinner for the family. What’s on the menu this year?
Mrs Claus: We try to keep it light, as we’re pretty pooped by then. I always do an asparagus, mint and pea risotto, and some ham – free range of course – and stuff a turkey. Santa does a mean Christmas pudding that the elves look forward to every year. It’s a team effort. Who wants to be stuck in the kitchen on Christmas Day?

Christmas is your busiest time. When do you two get to take a holiday and where do you like to go?
Mrs Claus: From February to May everyone takes a big break. We sometimes take a bach in New Zealand, or a cottage in Canada. Santa loves to fish. I read a book.

Thank you Mr and Mrs Claus. Have a wonderful Christmas!

Santa and Mrs Claus will be in Remuera on the following dates. The cheery couple will be based in the Village Green between 11.30 and 1pm, but will be out and about around the shops at other times, so be sure to stop them for a selfie with Santa!

Saturday December 3, 10, 17, 24 from 10am – 2pm
Wed – Fri December 14, 15, 16 from 10am – 2pm
Wed – Fri December 21, 22, 23 from 10am – 2pm