

Happy  
Holidays

# Cheers!

December 2007

Jewell Family Newsletter

Volume 17

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Special points of interest:

- New kitchen spices up meal times
- Steve tackles half marathon
- Hannah hits 17
- Emily is 12
- Amelia strikes double figures (10)

## 2007 in Review 🏠

It is always a struggle to think what happened during the year. "Not much" is the first thought, then you start to remember bits and pieces and you realise how busy the year has been and why you never seem to have any time.

The kitchen renovation was our biggest project during 2007, both in terms of time and money.

Michelle assured everyone that the new kitchen was a bargain. But then there were the new appliances, the

floor sanding, the plumbing, the electrical work and all of the restoration work.

Fortunately, Stephen did the restoration, although what seemed like a simple job to put a few sheets of plaster on the wall became a whole lot harder when the old

kitchen was pulled out and it was discovered there wasn't anything behind it—including studs, which had been eaten by white ants many years ago.

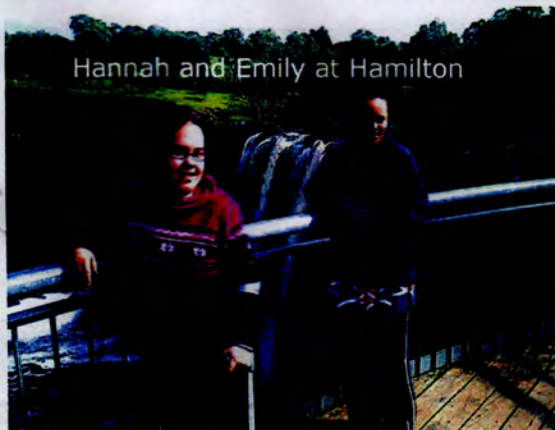
Never mind, Stephen assures us that there are now more studs than ever before.



New kitchen in place

## Out and About ❄️

Hannah and Emily at Hamilton



Started the year with a weekend in Swan Hill, where it rained cats and dogs. Shame there has been very little since.

In April we spent 4 days in Melbourne at the World Swimming Championships. It is quite easy to get into the mood of things and it was a buzz seeing a few world records getting broken. Traffic

& parking wasn't much fun.

We did a quick day trip to Hamilton after one of Emily's netball games and the girls have had trips to Warnambool, Melbourne and Sovereign Hill at Ballarat.

Pretty quiet really. Had planned a trip to NZ, but it was a kitchen or NZ. Guess which one won (see above).



## Secret Women's Business

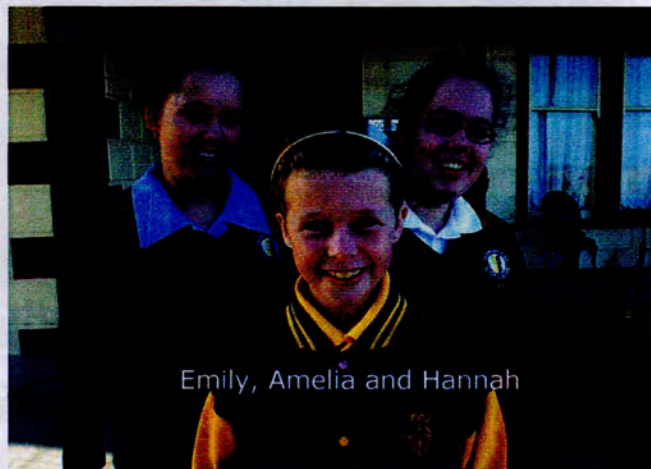
Michelle and Emily have stuck with their dancing this year. Ask Michelle for a photo in her 70s-style green furry pants. Amelia decided to have a year off, although she is keen to give it a go again next year.

The girls have enjoyed a variety of activities this year including swimming, netball, the school musical and school band

performances.

They continue to excel at school. Emily is thriving in her first year of high school and has been accepted into the SEALP program (accelerated learning). She has also taken up the flute and is quite good at it.

Amelia sat a test for a gifted learning program in grade 5, which we



Emily, Amelia and Hannah

are yet to hear the results of. For her birthday she got a guitar, so now she can be a musician as well as a singer-song writer

Hannah has been playing 10-pin bowls in a local competition and enjoys it thoroughly. Hannah finished Year 11 in November, much

to her delight.

Emily and Amelia had a couple of days away in Warnambool at a sibling camp earlier in the year.

On the school excursion front, Amelia spent several days in Melbourne, visiting the MCG, airport and other attractions.



Amelia and Emily at Sovereign Hill

## Work Prospects

Michelle continues to work at the local medical centre and is enjoying herself there.

She was offered work at the competition medical centre in town, and after successfully negotiating a better pay rate she decided to stay where she was.

Something about being happy where she was (and they also agreed to increase her pay, etc.). Nice having the power to negotiate better terms!

Stephen is still with

GWMWater. Same old, same old—only with less water all the time. How come the less water there is, the busier it is.

The CEO left in June and he applied for the role, but missed out.

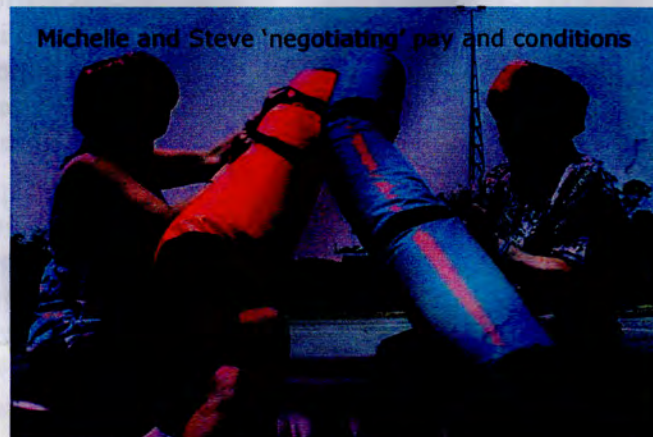
He was approached recently by a HR crowd about a job in Brisbane. Unfortunately, or fortunately, this didn't come to fruition, so there is no mad rush to clean up and sell the house and move north.

Hannah has been doing

work experience at a number of places around town, including the Catchment Management Authority, as part of her VCAL program.



Hannah Jewell



Michelle and Steve 'negotiating' pay and conditions



## Run Buddy, Run 🏃

Steve is still President of the running club, although he claims that the coming year will be his last in the job. While he enjoys the whole thing, occasionally he would like to just go for a run and not worry about other things.



Michelle and friends at the head of her 5km run.

He got a bit serious this year and did a number of fun runs around the country, as well as completing two half marathons (21 kms) in Melbourne.

Steve continued to referee rugby, with games in Deniliquin, Ballarat, Bendigo and Melbourne. He claims that 2007 was his swan song, but let's see.

Michelle has also been back running this year, although the knee did

protest a bit with the longer distances. She has retired again.

So what does Michelle do instead....Boot Camp. She then spends the entire four weeks complaining about all the aches, pains and bruises she is acquiring. She says it's fun!

Couldn't get the two youngest to have another go at the running, not that either of them need it really.



Steve doing it tough

## Around the Farm 🌿

Albert is well, thank you for asking



An interesting year.

It looked like the rains had returned early on and it was amazing how the place greened up.

For the first time since we have been here (probably not—but it seemed like it) the whole place was a sea of green and the gardens promptly became massive weed beds.



Emily and Amelia pose with the Mallee Bull at Birchip

We planted out about 100 native tree seedlings in July, which have all come to nought. We have lost a few well established trees around the house. Some of the gums are doing very well despite the lack of rain.

We have pretty well converted the bath to a full time grey water reservoir. It gets filled from buckets in the shower and keeps the garden alive.

There has not been any significant inflow into the rainwater tanks. Shame, as we invested \$6,000 in a new tank. The only water that it has seen is the regular tanker loads from town.

We are rationed to a tanker every other month. We even invested in a front load washing machine based solely on the fact it uses a third of the water of the top loader. Anyone want an as new top loading washing machine?

The sheep continued to multiply. We had 5 lambs this year. Three of last year's lambs have been consigned to the freezer. A first for us.

The girls were pretty good about the whole thing. They realise that having animals means certain things and they even help catch the lambs for the inevitable tail rings.

Had one of the sheep get fly struck in November. Steve diligently clipped all the wool, applied the fly strike powder and the sheep promptly died. Another first. They have since been shorn.

We lost Bingo, the faithful old Muscovy drake, to a fox earlier in the year. That was a bit of a blow. It was our fault as we forgot to lock the fowls in.

We have nearly finished the fence around the house. At the present rate we expect it to be completed about 2011.



Tigger



## Contact Us 🧑‍🦰

If you haven't heard from us in a while, maybe we don't like you anymore. Find out.

Ring us on **(03) 5382 3939**

Or email us @

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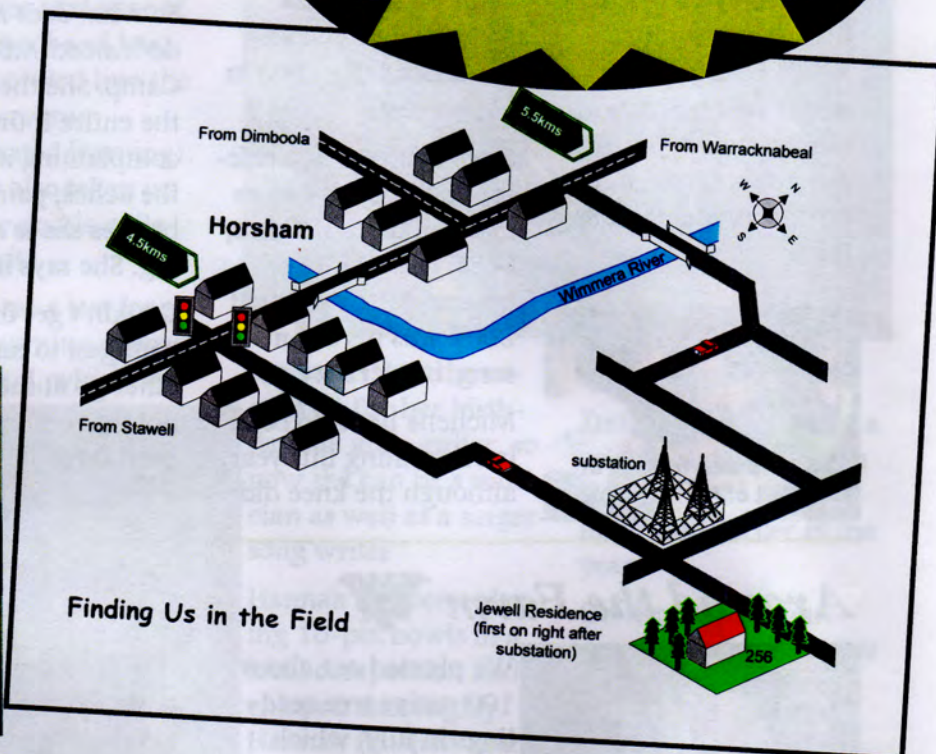
Write to us (and send presents):

**PO Box 1457**

**Horsham Vic 3402**



'Deck the Halls...'



## Late Breaking News 🧑‍🦰

Has been a fairly quiet year as far as visitors go. Michelle's mum and stepdad made the long trek from Qld in October for a visit and are due back in December for Christ-

mas.

Michelle's sister, brother-in-law and nieces arrive for Christmas too, so should be a fun mad time for all.

Steve's Dad (Alan) is now resident in the Talangatta Nursing Home. He was booked in for about six weeks from late July while Steve's Mum (Olga) went overseas. On Olga's return the family (and Alan) decided it was probably best for all concerned if he stayed there.

He is getting frailer and more difficult to look after. It was getting too much for Olga to cope with.

Must away.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all.

Lots of love from us all.

*Stephen, Michelle, Hannah,  
Emily & Amelia.*



Michelle out to dinner



Stephen and girls in Swan Hill