

Cheers! 2010



Jewell Family Newsletter

Issue 20 December 2010

2010 in Review

Late as usual, but a bit later than usual. But here nevertheless. Okay, where to start.

If 2009 was characterised by a lack of rain, 2010 was the exact opposite. The rain started around June and seems to have been with us since. We even managed a flood in the Wimmera River in September, which fortunately didn't do any real damage.

Rainwater tanks are all full and overflowing. Grass is still green and growing madly, even though it's December.

We have had 620mm of rain this year compared with the average of 413mm (and it's still raining).



Emily and Amelia in front of a swollen Wimmera River, Horsham, September 2010



City and Country cousins

Caitlin, Emily, Michelle, Amelia and Skye in Sydney

Michelle and girls had two trips to Sydney, the Central Coast and Blayney in NSW during the year. The first was in January and the most recent in September. Emily is hoping that there are more long trips next year, as she is due to get her L-plates in March.

And Amelia would like it known that she is officially now the tallest girl in the house! The others are not pleased.

Hannah and Chris haven't announced a wedding date as of yet. We are not in any hurry.

On the Home Front



A new generation steps up!

Works around the house seem to be never ending (but hopefully will).

We have finally had the electricity connected to the pool—well almost connected—and some other electrical work done around the place.

The carport has been concreted and the path to the pool has also been concreted along with some of the pool surround. The concreters

are returning in January to do more concreting around the pool.

The next job will be the study. A fairly ferocious storm in early December has found out a few drainage issues and we fear the study ceiling may not be too far off collapse. Fortunately not too much of importance in the study was damaged.

...and then there's the laundry, bathroom, etc....

Volleyball

The year has been dominated by volleyball in one form or another.

Amelia followed in Emily's footsteps and took it up on Wednesday nights.

Since Steve was down at the stadium most of the time picking up, dropping off or watching the games he got roped into playing as well.

Amelia's team continued to improve throughout the year and they made the grand final in November, only to lose in straight sets.

Both girls have been away to tournaments around the State. Amelia's



Amelia and the team lament what might have been

Maddie, Aimee, Sarah, Amelia and Mercedes

team came second in the under-14 section of the Daylesford tournament and second in the Western Region Schools comp, which she was pretty chuffed about.

Emily went off with the school Under-17s B-team to compete in the State championships. They ended up coming sixth and the Horsham A-team won the State Championship.

The highlight of the volleyball year was Emily's trip to Melbourne to compete in the Nationals Schools Cup in early December. This event is huge with 400+ teams and over 4,000 kids from all over the country.

Steve volunteered to drive the bus for Emily's under-17 team and spent the week in Melbourne with the girls. Results were not as good as hoped, with only one win from 11 matches. The kids had a lot of fun though and are already planning their 2011 campaign.

Emily 'spike' Jewell and the bus driver



Other Sport

Plenty of netball in 2010, with the usual Saturdays spent watching Kalkee play. Amelia was in the under-13s and Emily had one game in the under-15s before being promoted to the under-17s for the rest of the year. This was good for her game, making her work much harder.

The under-17s made it as far as the final, losing in overtime.

Amelia was a bit disappointed that she didn't make the main under-13 team and languished in the 'moddies' during the year.

She is a bit undecided about what she wants to do next year as she

might have to play under-15s.

In other sports news, Hannah has continued her ten-pin bowling throughout the year. She picked up a trophy at the end of the year for highest handicap score.

Steve completed half a dozen half marathons and a 30-kilometre run before tackling the Melbourne Marathon in October, his third.

Steve has also attended adult learn-to-swim classes during the year. His style has been compared to "a beached whale desperately trying to get back into the water".

Emily in action for Kalkee



School Daze

Another year over. Good results all round, plenty of distinctions, credits and merits. The girls were happy. Emily will be in Year 11 next year and Amelia in Year 9.

Hannah finally finished her two-year TAFE course in November and is currently looking for a job. If there is an opening for someone to play computer games and spend time on Facebook—Hannah is a shoe-in.

Emily went off to Mt Buller in August with Horsham College for a week's skiing. According to Emily it was 'the best ever'. There were some very tired kids who fell off the bus after a week on the snow.

Emily also had a trip to Millicent in South Australia during the year, to attend a Rotary Leadership Camp. The usual activities and workshops, followed by a presentation to the

local Rotary Club back in Horsham to tell them what she achieved on the camp.

Amelia came second in the regional German poetry competition, which meant an invitation to Melbourne to compete in the State finals. Although she was unplaced in the final she enjoyed the trip and the shopping, which was the main attraction anyway.

Amelia has been selected, after application and interviews, to attend the Alpine School in second term next year. The Alpine School campus is at Orbost, so there won't be any trips home for the weekend. Six kids from Horsham are going, so at least there will be a few familiar faces. It will be interesting to see how we get on without her, and vice versa.

Emily in the snow



Farm Fun

We have got ourselves more ducks. Steve and Emily went off to a poultry auction in Horsham and came home with a dozen ducks (a bargain apparently). It could have been worse, they got carried away with the whole auction thing and bid on nearly every lot that 'looked cool'.

Some months later we still have eight of the twelve, the rest falling prey to a much too bold fox who has been lurking. He has also taken a few of the chickens. The fox hasn't been back since Steve bought a gun. Not that he'd hit it anyway! They have finally started to lay and we are getting half a dozen eggs of one sort or another each day.

The mob of sheep we bought in September last year were sold off in January to save buying feed. With some rain in April/May and the need to get on top of the grass growth we

obtained a few 'loaners' from friends up the road. Bert, Ernie, Matilda and Dennis are pet lambs that outgrew their welcome where they were. They are doing a good job here though, keeping the place tidy.

We also picked up a couple of orphan lambs that needed to be bottle-fed. Emily and Amelia dutifully looked after them until they weaned themselves. Hercules and Larry are

Dorpers, which means that we don't have to bother about shearing them.

Amelia has got herself another rabbit, who has only been with us since the start of the month. Amelia thinks he may have been a magician's rabbit and not likely to be with us much longer if one of his escape episodes corresponds with one of the cat's hunting forays.



Larry and Hercules enjoy the sunshine

Other Stuff



Hannah and Chris

Okay, just about done. What else happened during the year, or is due to happen next year?

Emily is planning on making her debut in April next year. Busy looking for deb gowns and all

that. Michelle is on the planning committee.

The girls have all but given up dancing. Emily gave it away to make room for netball, volleyball and study this year. Michelle gave it away half way through the year leaving only Amelia. Amelia is undecided about 2011 at this stage, as she tries to find room for everything.

We all went off to Melbourne in April for the Run 4 Kids (Stephen ran, the girls shopped), again in October to see the Titanic exhibition (and shopping), then again in November for a 50th birthday party (and shopping).

Michelle and Steve turn 50 next year, and Hannah turns 21.



Emily and Amelia meet the natives at Halls Gap Zoo

Holiday Happenings

We are having Christmas and New Year in Horsham again this year. Michelle's mum and stepfather, Jean and Brian, are due to lob in any day and will be here until New Year.

Both Steve and Michelle are back to work after New Year. The holidays have all been chewed up through the year.

Steve will be the Acting Managing Director at GWMWater for three weeks again in January. He is hoping for a quiet time and no tricky issues.

Okay, that's it. Can't think of anything else.

**Merry Christmas and
have a brilliant 2011.**

And keep a look out for edition 21....

Check us out on Facebook!

Award Winner

Emily entered a Rotary photo competition a few months back and was rewarded with a second place. She is still keen on becoming a graphic artist of some ilk.



Emily's award-winning photo