

Cheers 2011

ANNUAL JEWELL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Memorable Moments

1. Watching the floods creep up the driveway
2. Finally getting the concreting done around the pool
3. Emily getting her L plates
4. Milly going away to the Snowy River Campus for school
5. The Volleyball Nationals Schools Cup
6. Some BIG birthdays for Michelle and Steve
7. Emily making her debut
8. Emily turning 16
9. Steve clocks up another marathon
10. Hannah turns 21
11. Amelia bungy jumping
12. Being there when Namibia scored a try against Wales

Emily Makes Debut

Our little girl is not so little any more. Emily was one of 35 girls making their debut in April. Everyone scrubbed up pretty well for the evening.

The search for the dress took Michelle and Emily all over the State, before settling on one at Bendigo only a few weeks before the event.

Emily also made her debut as an L-plater this year and has clocked up 40 hours of driving thus far. She started very tentatively (25km/hr on her first outing) however she soon got the hang of things and has had a go at most things, with the exception of the city.



Daniel, Aymee, Emily and Mark



Auld Lang Syne 2011

What a year! We started in fine style with floods. Fortunately we were relatively unscathed. More on that inside. Emily has had a very busy year and Amelia wasn't here for half the year. All very exciting. Read on.

Some significant milestone birthdays during the year, starting with Emily celebrating her sweet 16th in March. Two weeks later Michelle hit the big 50, followed by Steve a couple of days later. Hannah turned 21 in May to complete the milestones. Our tall girl (Amelia) was 14 in December.



Amelia—14



Hannah—21

Emily—16



Stephen—very late 40s



Michelle—21-ish

Wall to Wall Volleyball



Amelia serves

Sport this year meant volleyball. Emily and Amelia have both ditched netball and dancing and are concentrating on volleyball.

The Wednesday night social comp has been a bit of a mixed bag through the year. Emily's team made the finals in November and won the grand final. Amelia's team is playing in the women's comp which is a bit of a step up from the juniors.

Horsham hosted the Victorian Country Championships in June and the Horsham Tournament in November. The girls got in plenty of volleyball and Steve had a couple of busy weekends as the stadium manager and general gopher.

Emily was part of the under-17 team that won a silver medal in the State Championships in June, losing in a tense three-setter.

The highlight of the year was again the Nationals Schools Cup in Melbourne in early December. Both Emily and Amelia travelled down with Horsham College teams.

Steve was the bus driver for Emily's under-17 team and spent the week in Melbourne with the two girls. They won some and they lost some. No medals, but Amelia picked up an award at the Presentation Night for consistency.



Emily on the court



Emily, Molly and Bec



Annika, Sarah and Amelia

Milly goes Trekking

We were without Amelia for the second term this year. She managed to get herself accepted to do a term at the Snowy River Campus Leadership School.

We had to deliver her over to Orbost at the beginning of May and she spent the entire term there, coming home in early July.

We had a visiting weekend in June, but other than that she was on her lonesome. This was a bit of a challenge for her and the rest of the kids.

There was a total of 46 kids from 9 different schools, including Horsham, so she did have a

few familiar faces from Horsham with her.

The highlight was probably the expeditions they did, which involved trekking, canoeing and camping out for a few nights.

In other Milly news, she has become an avid shooter and big game hunter. Mainly targets on the dam bank, but also branching out, helping to cull the local rabbit population.

She has even had a couple of outings at the neighbours, shooting rabbits for them. All highly illegal so we will arrange for her to get her shooter's licence next year.



Sharpshooter Amelia with her 'lucky' rabbit's foot.

NZ Rugby World Cup Trip



Those of you who take an interest in Rugby will know that the Rugby World Cup was held in New Zealand during September and October this year.

We (Steve) decided that we should go, so off we went on 22 September. Hannah had other ideas and stayed at home for the two weeks.

The four of us started the trip off in Wellington for three nights. We had a great little holiday house overlooking the airport and very conveniently located. We all went to see Australia play the USA (Australia won easily) and then

Steve went and watched Scotland vs Argentina.

Then it was off to New Plymouth for a night. Shame that it wasn't longer as we had a beautiful old house, very luxurious. We all went to see Namibia vs Wales and whilst poor Namibia got a hiding everyone in the place cheered and went wild when Namibia scored a try near the end.



From there it was off to National Park Village for three nights for some skiing. This was a fair test for us all as we (all bar Emily) hadn't skied since 2005. Emily went off to the snow with the school last year so was the expert skier in the group. Two days skiing nearly killed us and it was a relief to finish up.

Then it was off to Hamilton for a night, followed by Auckland, then back to Hamilton and then over to Rotorua. The backwards and forwards was due to what accommodation we could find and what games were on. Steve saw Wales vs Fiji in Hamilton and Scotland vs England in Auckland.

The entire country was decked out for the World Cup and the place was absolutely packed with Rugby fans from all over the world. The Kiwis really went all out and it was a great carnival atmosphere up and down the country.

We finished off the trip with a couple of nights in Rotorua, staying on the same farm we stayed on in 2009. Apart from enjoying the luge, Milly finally got to ride in a Zorb ball (she was too small last time) and she also braved the bungee! She

is officially the only one of us brave enough (or silly enough) to jump into space from a 43-metre high platform.



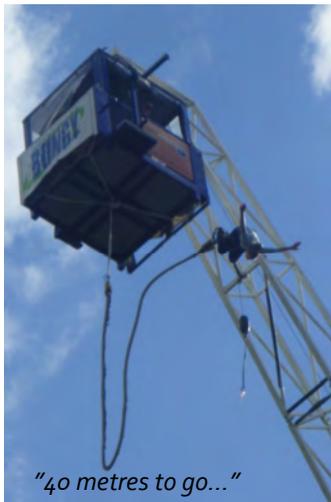
Finally it was back to Auckland and the flight home.

The real excitement came when we got home and Telstra sent us a \$3,000 bill for data usage in New Zealand. After a lot of phone calls and a letter to the Ombudsman the charges have been dropped. The morale of this story is do not use the Internet on your mobile phone when you are overseas.



News in Brief

- Emily has started work a couple of days a week at a local café.
- We have acquired a little building which is now the craft room'.
- We have finally got the area around the pool concreted and poles up for the shade sails. There is still a bit of work to do to finish the landscaping.
- The garden edging has been concreted, awaiting installation of concrete blocks to finish the garden beds.
- Steve shot a fox that had been cleaning up our chooks. At the moment we have only 7 ducks in the fowl yard.
- Milly was the star performer in her drama class music production, wowing the audience with her rendition of 'Popular'.
- Hannah had a 'stack' on her scooter when she got hit by a car crossing the road in town. Fortunately no damage was done to anything, including Hannah.

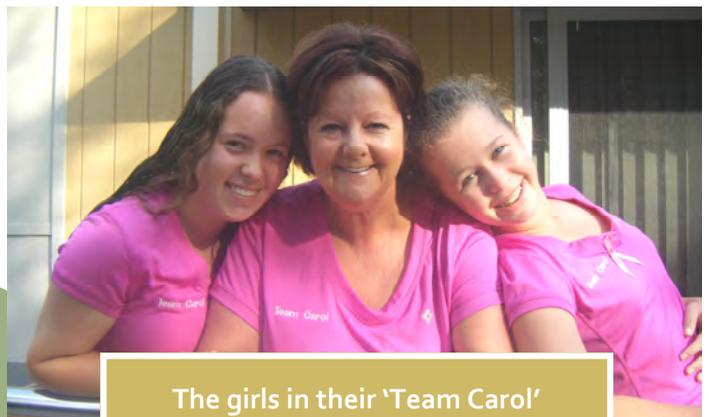


"40 metres to go..."



"Guess who we are going for..."

- After 5 years (or maybe 6) the power has been put on to the pool.
- Michelle's step-mum, Carol, passed away in April after a long battle with breast cancer.



The girls in their 'Team Carol' Mother's Day Run Shirts

FLOODS HIT HORSHAM

After all the rain last year we thought we had seen the end of it. However, following on Queensland's massive floods we enjoyed something similar in Victoria. Not quite as spectacular maybe, but big nevertheless.

We knew we were safe from a 1-in-100 year flood only to find out that Horsham was going to be on the wrong end of a 1-in-200 year flood! Fortunately we now know we are safe from that too.

The water came up the driveway and made it to about 30 metres from the house. Everyone had a couple of days off work (as we were flooded in) and the water took forever to ebb away. Wrecked our driveway, killed a few trees and delivered huge volumes of weeds. Other than that we got off fairly lightly.

Last year we wrote that Steve was hoping for a quiet period in January, as he was acting Managing Director again. Not exactly quiet!



Next door neighbour under 1.5 metres of water!

What's on for the Holidays?

We are hoping for things to be a little quieter next year. No overseas trips, no floods and fortunately no more milestone birthdays.

We are off to Sydney for Christmas, owing to Michelle's Dad being too unwell to travel down and spend it with us. That was Plan A, going to Sydney is Plan B. We will leave a few days before Christmas and be home again by the New Year, dropping in on Steve's Mum on the way.



Hannah and Chris

All the best for the season. Hope this finds you healthy and happy. Have a great 2012 from all of us here at Horsham

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