

# CHEERS!

## Issue 22

### A Bit Late?

Here we are, with the 2012 edition. Did you think you weren't getting one? No such luck. This is the 22nd time we have done this, we know what we are doing—sort of.

The newsletter sometimes runs a bit late and goes out after Christmas. It was even posted on 2 January one year. We have set a new record. It will be in the post (or on email) by 7 January, or maybe the 8th or even 9th.

### School's Out!

Schools over for 2012 (obviously, since it's 2013) and out for good for Emily. She has finished Year 12, finished all her exams and is looking forward to starting at university in March. The final results are in and Emily received an ATAR score of 82. This gets her into her preferred course, Bachelor of Arts/Education at Latrobe University in Melbourne.

Amelia has finished Year 10 and is looking forward to being a senior in 2013. Three weeks to go and it all starts again.

### Amsterdam Beckons

It's good to have friends. Its especially good to have them overseas. One of Emily's best friends, Sien Van Der Plank, moved to the Netherlands two years ago to finish school and start university. The two have been on Facebook and email since and now Emily has jetted off to Amsterdam to spend two weeks with Sien.

Sien has been planning tours of the country and side trips to Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium. Emily jetted out aboard an Emirates A380 Airbus on 28 December and returns on 16 January. We gave her a shopping list to take with her.

There was never going to be a better time for Emily to visit Europe without interfering with uni, so we bought her a ticket (return ticket in case you were wondering) in lieu of a Xmas present and sent her packing. She has been prancing around the house for a month singing ♪ "I'm going to Europe..." ♪



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#### Points of Interest

- Emily goes OS!
- Amelia medals at Nationals Schools Cup in Melbourne
- Michelle hobbling at moment





## Volleyball and More Volleyball

Amelia's volleyball team broke through for its first tournament win, at Bendigo in October. She was a bit taken aback to get presented with a piece of Bendigo Pottery as the winner's prize.

Amelia and Emily headed off to the Nationals Schools Cup in Melbourne from 9-14 December. The event is huge, 130+ schools from across the country send 500+ teams and 5,000+ kids to play in this thing.

Amelia's team went very well coming second in their Under-17 competition. She has had a good year,

getting into the Sunraysia Volleyball Academy in September.

Emily's team didn't fare so well, coming 20th in their division, although they played okay.

Stephen drove the bus for the week and caught up with Kylie Tummon from Gladstone, who was in Melbourne to watch one of the Gladstone teams in action.

Stephen is still playing volleyball on Wednesday nights, starting his own team in C Grade. Composed of fellow runners from the Running Club and imaginatively called (wait for it...) the Road Runners.

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*"We finally win a tournament and I get a quiche dish! I wanted a medal!" - Amelia Jewell*

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### High Hopes

Stephen put his hand up to run for Horsham Rural City Council back in October.

The outcome wasn't exactly what he was hoping for, missing out on a place and copping a bit of a blow to the ego.

The whole experience was interesting, from putting together adverts for the paper to dropping leaflets around the town.

He did get plenty of positive feedback from people disappointed that he didn't make it onto council. That was good for the ego.

Not to be. Next time maybe? Maybe. Four years is a long time.

**VOTE 1 JEWELL**

### Remodelling the Ranch

Work on the laundry has started in earnest. By that we mean that we have made an almighty mess of a perfectly functioning laundry with no end in sight for the completion of the project.

The plan is to reline the laundry, install a shower and make the whole thing a bit more functional. Until then Michelle has announced she is more than happy to have the washing machine on the back verandah and work from there. If it isn't finished in a fairly short time that happiness may turn out to be fleeting.

Ripping the lining off has revealed about a ton of old birds' nests, mouse droppings and even a fossilised rat.

One day the garden edging will all be finished. But that day is still a way off. Earlier in the year Steve laid blocks out the front to create a roundabout. This looks good (even better before the weeds grew). The garden edging around the eastern side of the house has also been finished, to match the western side which was done in 2005.



We also had concrete laid in the pool area to finish that off (pool was put in in 2006). A new shade sail adorns the pool area, which was custom made and looks better than the \$100 Coolaroo shade.

Good things come to those who wait. Now for the garden bed in the middle of the lawn, and the sleepers around the perimeter, and the scoria and the BBQ shelter around the pool, and ....



## Working Girls

Emily is still working 2-3 days a week at the Figtree Café in Horsham, keeping her in spending money. Probably all spent by now in Amsterdam.

Amelia is awaiting the call to start work at K-Mart. She has had the interview and completed the paperwork, but had to wait until she turned 15 (3 December) before they would employ her. Now she is set. Her orientation day is Wednesday, 9 January, then look out staff discount!



## Hannah Happenings

Hannah turned 22 in May and is busy being Hannah. By that we mean going to bed between midnight and 1am most nights, sleeping in until lunchtime, then repeating the whole process. This isn't helped by any of the epilepsy drugs of course, which must dull her senses a bit. The good news is that seizures are few and far between and also only short and mild.

Hannah hasn't found any full-time work. She did start as a volunteer with Wimmera Uniting Care (doing mainly

data entry) in June which has livened her up a bit. She seems to be getting on okay and has had her volunteer hours extended. She is happy about that.

Hannah and Chris are still together. Not sure what the future plans are. The relationship runs hot and cold a bit and any talk of marriage seems to be off the table at the moment. Still, they are company for each other and they probably both benefit from that.

## Steve's Stuff

Work continues as usual for Stephen, working at GWMWater.

He is still running, although it has been a slack year by the standards of recent times, with no marathons, half-marathons or other ridiculously long runs.

His only runs out of Horsham in 2012 were the Run for Kids in Melbourne in April and the Nail Can Hill run in Albury in May.

Stephen has helped out with the volleyball during the year, driving a bus to Melbourne for the Western Phantoms Volleyball Club in September and also for Horsham College for the Nationals Schools Cup in December. He also managed one of the stadiums during the Horsham Tournament in November.

Combined with the volleyball on Wednesdays and his failed attempt at getting onto Horsham Rural City Council it has been a busy enough year.





### Michelle's Moments

Michelle is a bit of a cripple at the moment. She managed to roll her ankle crossing the road in early December, tearing ligaments, tendons and chipping the bone.

She has narrowly avoided surgery and it has slowed her down considerably. She should be mended about February.

Michelle is still working three days a week at Tristar Medical Clinic (since 2006 now). She has also started back at the hospital in maternity on the casual list, just a day or two a fortnight.

If that wasn't enough she has also run the odd immunisation clinic for the local council and even worked for a day or two in a local café, just for fun.

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## Farm News

Fudge is no longer with us, having died in September. He is buried in the pet cemetery on the hill out the side with other venerated animals. Emily wants to get another dog, but not just any dog. She wants to rescue some poor dog from a shelter. No luck so far. Failing that she would happily get a puppy, however Michelle says no.

One of our ducks sat on 12 eggs and hatched out every last one. They are now two months old and there hasn't been a single fatality.

The extreme heat over Xmas-New Year has taken a toll on the smaller animals. We lost the rabbit and one of the guinea pigs on a 43° day last week. We are still looking for a fool proof way of keeping them cool.

Stephen fired the first shot in anger with his new shotgun (bought back in 2011 in expectation of a bad snake season), shooting a snake on the back verandah. It was a very large (as big round the girth as your wrist but not all that long) brown snake.

His aim was true and he blew the snake into several pieces. At the same time he peppered the side wall, verandah post, electricity meter box, a couple of chairs leaning against the wall and god knows what else with buck-shot. He points out that this was all ricochet off the concrete verandah and, more importantly, the snake was despatched.

## Final Words

The opportunity to wish you a Merry Xmas has passed us by. New Year has also gone, so:

🎶 **Hope this finds you well and you have a great 2013** 🎶

The next edition of the newsletter will definitely be this year and definitely well in advance of Christmas. That's all folks. All the best for now.

