



Cheers!

2008 In Hindsight

It has been a pretty good year all up—not too much has gone wrong, a few milestones and we are basically all fit and well.

We had a few weeks off around Easter and drove up to the Gold Coast. The only thing that marred the trip was collecting a speeding fine when we were almost there.

The idea was to catch up with Michelle's mum & Brian before they went overseas. We stayed on for a week to house sit their waterfront home. Tough job, someone had to do it!

The weather was good and we had a relaxing holiday, until the 3-day, 2,000 km trek to Harford!

Steve bought a trailer on the Gold Coast to transport a woodworking machine

home that he had bought. Yes, it was a big machine (and only just fitted in the trailer). He reasoned that by the time he paid the freight he would own the trailer. He promised to sell it when we got back to Harford. He didn't say when...

hit the half century on 1 December and his dad Alan hit the big 8-0 in November!

We travelled to Tallangatta to help Alan celebrate his birthday with all the family.

Alan's health continues to decline as he struggles with

his illness, but he did enjoy his day!

Michelle's step-mum Carol is once again battling breast cancer after being in remission for 3 years. We

wish her all the best as she goes through chemotherapy. Read on.



Cameron, Hannah & Amanda

There were a few milestones birthdays this year:

Hannah turned 18 (more inside), Steve's sister Barb

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Special update on Alan

- Hannah turns 18
- Emily is natball grand final
- Amelia finishes primary school
- Steve completes first marathon

World-wide Cheers!

The newsletter will be available on the web page (www.jewell.id.au) by Christmas. The 2008 edition was going to be all electronic, web-based, etc. but we didn't quite get there.

There isn't a lot else on the site yet, but we are working on it. The 2007 newsletter is there and, as this is the 18th edition, we thought it might be interesting to put editions 1-16 on the site as well, just to see the way it has developed.

Stay tuned.



Stacey & Mark 2008



Yvonne, Hannah & Ray

Netball nemesis

Emily turned 13 in March. She is finishing year 8 this year and has excelled with glowing school reports. She really enjoys her school work, most of the time. Emily has grown up a lot in the



Emily's girls

last year and has a good circle of friends.

Emily also has a new smile, having had her braces removed in November. She was rather pleased about seeing the back of the braces.

Dancing continues to rate highly on her agenda and she revels in the mid-year and end-of-year dancing concerts.



Emily lined up to play netball again this year, for Kallie in the Horsham District league.

Her team fared well during the year, losing only a handful of games and eventually making it through to the grand final.

Unfortunately they lost the lead in the last quarter of an entertaining and hard fought game. There is always next year.

Hannah makes it!

Our big news of the year was Hannah's 18th birthday in May. We can't believe 18 years have passed since that tiny scrap entered the world in rather dramatic circumstances!

Just to jog everybody's memories, Hannah was delivered by emergency Caesarian at just 28 weeks, weighed all of 925 grams and was just 36 cm long! Small in anyone's language.



Hannah getting assistance to open her presents from Mandy, Olivia and Zett

She had a great birthday weekend with lots of presents. We all went out for dinner at the Glide Horsham, 18 of us in total, including the Hesleys, Townsends and Hewitts all the way from Blayney. Their efforts in making it a special weekend for Hannah were much appreciated.

The big surprise was when Michelle's sister, Nicola, walked through the door unannounced. Nicola flew and drove down from Sydney just for the weekend. All a bit much for Michelle, who was reduced to tears.

Hannah also completed 13 years of schooling this year. Year 12 over and done with. She attended the graduation dinner, looking every inch the confident young lady.

"What can I say? I'm worth it." Hannah on the occasion of her big night out for her 18th birthday.

Hannah's extracurricular activities centre around her ten pin bowling (and sleeping in). She bowls in a local league every fortnight.

Hannah's plans for next year centre around going to TAFE. She has been doing some work experience around town, including GWM Water.



Amelia moves on



Amelia turned 11 a few weeks ago, although that isn't as exciting as finishing Year 6. This brings Amelia to the end of her primary school learning and onto high school next year. Look out Horsham College!

Amelia has been accepted into the SEAL (accelerated learning) program and is really looking forward to being part of that next year.

This is a big change from 6 months ago, when the program was way too nerdy to be considered.

Amelia took up dancing again in 2008, and thoroughly enjoyed her concert performances. She fluctuates with it though and is considering dropping the dancing again in 2009.

Her ambitions to be the next Tommy Emmanuel were given

the flick during the year. She found that guitar just wasn't for her. Maybe she will look at another instrument.

Amelia's big adventure for the year was the Year 6 excursion to Canberra in November. A week away visiting all the attractions and morning tea with the local member.

She also enjoyed a sibling camp to Warrnambool mid-year.

Around the farm

The newsletter wouldn't be the newsletter without a roundup of the comings and goings from the farm.

Another cockatiel has joined Albert. We called her Tilly and after a promi-



Amelia & friends

A long way.....

Steve's running is going well. As well as doing the 3-times weekly Club runs he has been striking out doing the odd fun run around the State.

He managed to do two fun runs, three half-marathons and topped the whole lot off by entering the Melbourne Marathon in October.

Training consisted of lots and lots of kilometres, getting up at 6:30am every Saturday and Sunday for 4 months (all through winter) to go off doing training runs.

Fortunately he managed to get through the whole thing without injury and

ing short it has become a bad tempered thing and won't have anything to do with us and we're not even sure it's a female. Albert doesn't particularly like it. The cat does though, maybe we should let them play...

After peaking at 23 sheep, the flock is now a much more manageable 6. All of the lambs and wethers have been dispatched and we only have 5 ewes and the ram left.

One of the ewes (Dotty) has managed to have 3 lambs so far this year—twins on 3 January, another one in July and she is looking damn plump again! We are wondering if she will manage 4 in the calendar year.

The process to sell the sheep took about 6 months (register the property, get ear tags, get the vendor book, etc.) while the actual selling took 5 minutes.

Amelia purchased herself a rabbit in July. She was told it was a dwarf lop-ear. It started very small, but is now about the size of a sheep and eats about the same. It is a lop-ear though.

Chickens and duck numbers have dropped. We put a couple of roosters in the freezer, then while we were away one weekend all 3 Indian Runner ducks vanished, leaving only the duck. There are now 7 chickens and a duck.

Poor old Tigger left us in August. He developed a wheeze which turned into some sort of growth on the lungs and then \$1,000 later he died.

About 6 weeks later the girls heard a meow on the verandah and there was a rather frightened and hungry kitten. Luckily we had a vacancy. He has been christened Marmalade and has made himself part of the family.

lined up in Melbourne on a hot, windy day to do his Marathon.

Four and a half hours later he staggered home. Asked if he was going to do it again next year he replied that there wasn't enough money to make him do that again. Six weeks later and he is already weakening and considering doing another one "just to prove that the first one wasn't a fluke".

Steve finally stood down as Running Club President in October after 3 years in the job. Michelle is hoping that means more time for jobs around the house.



"Damn—that's a long way."
Steve following his marathon run in October

Who's where?

Michelle continues her work at the medical centre on a job-share basis, for which she gets paid.

In her unpaid work she also serves as chief taxi driver, cook and bottle washer. She is struggling to get back into a decent sort of exercise routine this year (other than her once-a-week dancing), citing the need to run children all over the countryside as her excuse!

Stephen is still in the same role, managing operations with GWMWater. Occasionally he mentions other jobs in other places, but reasonably settled in Horsham. Having no water doesn't make the job any easier.

As mentioned, Hannah has sort of joined the workforce, having done work experience at the Ballarat University, Christian Emergency Food Centre and GWMWater during 2008.



Jewell Family Newsletter

For any back issues or to get a copy of the newsletter, please contact me at the phone number below.

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For any help:

2012-2013: to paul@jewell.id.au

2013-2014: to paul@jewell.id.au

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Changing of the guard

Vale Tigger



Wetshin Normande



Special mention:

We usually have a section titled 'Visitors' Book'. But this year, nobody loves us. Apparently Jenny and Peter Scott visited us in both 2006 and 2007, only to be snubbed in the newsletter. They didn't come this year...

Late breaking news.....



Christmas and New Year will be spent in Horsham this year. At some stage we might even get to use the pool.

Annie reminded us that last year we were in the pool in September. It is mid-November and as of yet we still haven't been in it. There have only been 2-3 days over 30°C

so far this summer.



She will be coming back with Michelle's mum and Brian in their carpool in late January. Unless she gets a better offer.

All the best for Christmas and 2009.

Lots of love from Stephen, Michelle, Hannah, Emily and Annie.

Sitting at the computer finalising the newsletter and it has actually decided to rain (which is good as it means the newsletter might get finished).

So far in 2008 we have managed a miserly \$68000, but even that is a vast improvement on yesterday when the total for the year was only \$54000. According to the BOM we had \$4000 yesterday and last night. Our wettest day for the year!

so far this summer.

We are off to New Zealand in January for 2½ weeks, so that will feature in next year's newsletter.

Hannah isn't going with us. Our choice—being 18 has its privileges, so it will be our first holiday for a long time without 3 children in tow.

Hannah has decided it is not



Girls and Gramps
November 2006