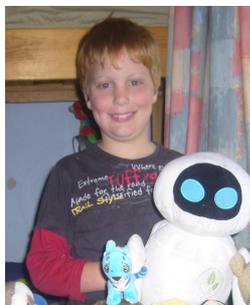


At Home with the Harlands

Christmas 2008

Now once again its Christmas time ... the year has positively flown past for us, with all the usual activities, and then some, it seems! With no-one starting school or finishing a significant stage this year, this is probably about as normal as it gets for us. It did mean that we had four performers at the time of the biannual school 'atoo!, including a munch" in, a #pice \$irl, a %&!s roc"er and a drummer --- than"fully it will be two years before we have to do it all over again!



has 'ust completed (ear). *e has had en'oyed a lot of things, with the highlight probably being an e+cursion to , ippon -ea, an old mansion. *e is building up a large collection of soft toys, which ma"es his bed loo" li"e a .oo! *e really en'oyed dressing up and singing at the atoo and some other concerts, but if he wants to "eep the songs secret from the rest of the family, he will have to learn to stop singing them around the house ...



has 'ust completed (ear /. #he has often being found doing her homework" well before it is due (with occasional lapses!), and en'oyed a lot of her studies this year. #he has continued with her dancing and added a singing group this year as well, which meant that on one of the performance nights, she had to sprint from one end of the school to the other to appear in both items. #he must have run faster at some point in her life, but we don't "now when!



has 'ust finished (ear %, which is his first year in a class for boys only (which will continue to (ear)21. *e too" up 3apanese this year, and did very well at it. his means that he has a fighting chance of understanding the stream of near gibberish that his elder brother comes out with. *e also started playing school sport, with tennis, football, soccer and athletics. *e too" a great deal of delight in "nowing that his shoe si.e is now the same as his father's, which may e+plain why he drives around the local go-"art trac" with the speed and e+pertise of a \$rand 4ri+ driver!



has 'ust started (ear), having completed (ear)& a few wee"s ago. *e 'oined the 4ipes and 5rums band this year, which won the 6ictorian #chool championships this year for the 2%th year in a row. his meant 7uite a busy year at concerts, assemblies, speech nights, and other events, which has meant 7uite a few occasions in a "ilt. 5espite all this, he has "ept his academic progress, and hopes to go on the school trip to 3apan ne+t year. 8ur '9ig 5rummer 9oy! (now taller than his father! has continued playing bas"etball, where he is no longer one of the shortest on the court.

has had another busy year at wor", although she was very pleased to finally hand over responsibility for timetabling the largest school in the southern hemisphere to someone else in :ovember.

his means far less wee"ends spent over a computer, and hence a lot more free time.

has done his share of travel (again!), but has managed to hand over the 6ietnam and ;alaysian activities to others, so that will mean more lectures and e+am mar"ing ne+t year. -oo"s li"e 'bac" to the classroom! could be a theme ne+t year ...

With best wishes from all of us for a refreshing Christmas and a prosperous :ew (ear,

ames, -inda, 3oshua, imothy, <mily = 3eremy *arland