

At the Building Site with the Harlands

Christmas 2010

2010 has been a year of change for a number of reasons, but three stand out: Joshua completing secondary school, the arrival of Beau, a three-month-old beagle pup in November, and the recent commencement of what will be about six months of extensions and renovations (and, no, we are not moving out whilst this is happening, and yes, we are crazy, but you already knew that!). The kids have been raising the roof for a number of years now, so we thought we would follow suit, and add an upstairs story, which will have 4 bedrooms (one for each child, very much by design!) and a bathroom, so that most of the chaos and noise will be moved upstairs. We are also re-modelling some of the downstairs rooms and completely re-doing the kitchen. Mess and mayhem rules (even without the dog)!



Beau is a very cute and energetic young dog, and has taken to chewing everything in sight, and quite a few things that are not. He has already established some seating habits, including being very adept at pushing Joshua out of his chair, and ducking into various cubby holes out in the garden. He loves attention, and is far more likely to lick someone to death than to bark or attack.



Jeremy has now finished Year 3, and is looking forward to being at the top of the Junior School next year. He is a natural at show-and-tell, and has an endless enthusiasm for contributing in this way, which involves carrying lots of stuff to and from school. He has continued with his viola, and enjoyed performing concerts in a string group. He is also an orange belt in karate now, and has continued his experiments with photography (without any identifiable hypotheses). He had his first school camp this year, and couldn't wait to get away, just like his older siblings!



Emily has thoroughly enjoyed Year 5, which has been in a girls-only class, and seems to delight in being in a separate part of the school from her brothers. She has taken up the clarinet this year, as well as a choir, and had quite a busy night at speech night, flitting between band, choir and other activities. She has also been doing diving classes once a week, and has thoroughly enjoyed it. She is an enthusiastic member of the school's adventure club, and has just returned from a week-long camp on Philip Island. Exhausting, but lots of fun.



Timothy has finished Year 7, which means 2011 will be his last year in Middle School. He is shooting upwards at a great rate, is already as tall as Linda and wears shoes at least two sizes bigger than anyone else. Perhaps unsurprisingly, he has enjoyed volleyball as a sport, both the indoor and outdoor (beach) variety. Japanese is still his favourite (and best) subject, and he is very enthusiastic about training Beau to do various things, including catching balls and Frisbees, and taking him to obedience classes (as long as they teach dogs how not to chew things).



Joshua has now completed Year 12, and did very well. He is planning to study Computer Science at Monash (despite, rather than because of, his father's profession) and will probably be joined there by a number of friends and schoolmates. He is keen to continue with Japanese as well. He enjoyed his final year in the Pipes and Drums, but never more so when the band re-gained the Victorian Schools title on 'home turf' at Haileybury, and we got very sick of the phrase 'What are you Victorian champion in?'

Linda has busied herself at Haileybury again, and once more was part of a delegation to China in December. Despite a brief bout of 'Beijing belly' she spent a week or so visiting schools teaching VCE over there, despite the freezing weather. A highlight was a visit to the Forbidden City, Tianamen Square and the Great Wall. She returned to find builders in full swing working on the roof, and some of the early morning (and noisy) starts to the day made it difficult to catch up on sleep for a while ...

James has now become a Discipline Leader, which means more management responsibility, some adjustment, and a lot of catching up (especially on paperwork). A couple of trips away (one to Lisbon in the warmth of the summer) have also made things busy, and things are likely to stay 'interesting' in 2011 ...

With best wishes from all of us for a refreshing Christmas and a prosperous New Year,

James, Linda, Joshua, Timothy, Emily & Jeremy Harland