

## At Home with the Harlands

Christmas 2014

2014 has been an eventful year for us in various ways. As usual, it has gone far too fast, and we seem to make a habit of wondering where all the time went. The saddest part of the year was when James's mother Eunice passed away in March, a couple of weeks after her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was peaceful, and she wasn't in pain, and it is hard to feel cheated. Since then there has been paperwork to sort out, which is about the only thing that seems to proceed at glacial pace ...



**Beau** is now a four-year-old crazy beagle, and has developed a number of steady habits, including hiding in various parts of the back yard for seemingly bizarre reasons, including the appearance of the lawn mower or garden hose. He still digs, and occasionally escapes, but is slowly getting better at not getting lost. He seems to still enjoy silly games, such as chasing a ball, picking it up and deciding he has better things to do with it than to return it to the person who threw it.



**Jeremy** is now well established as a teenager, which makes us officially old as parents. He has recently completed Year 7 at Haileybury, and is really looking forward to Year 8, particularly as he has been appointed Drama Captain. He has continued playing the viola and singing in various school choral groups, and has started to drive everybody mad with his imitation of various accents. He has recently developed an interest in playing Dungeons and Dragons, often with his cousins. He attended a performance of 'The Return of the King' by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in March, completing the sequence of three, and as soon as we left the concert hall, he was asking whether there would be similar performances of 'The Hobbit' movies. He has also become a fixture at the School's end-of-year Adventure Camp.



**Emily** has just completed Year 9, which turned out to be quite varied. Not only did she take part in all sorts of musical events, she also went on an expedition to the Otways, returned home a couple of days early, and then flew off to the US for 10 days in New York and Boston on a music tour. She certainly had a lot of tales to tell when she got back. As if that wasn't enough, a few months later she went to Xian, Shanghai and Beijing as part of the first Haileybury girls group to visit the new Haileybury campus in Beijing. She found time to play in the Wind Symphony, Orchestra, the Tattoo band, and as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award she assisted with the concert band in the Middle School. Somehow she will have to adjust to a school year next year which doesn't involve two overseas trips and looking out for her mother on the same school campus.



**Timothy** has just completed a busy Year 11. Not only did he have six subjects to cope with, he was another who gave his passport quite a workout in the last part of the year. He spent a week in Dili in September, visiting some students who had visited Melbourne in July, as well as helping to paint an orphanage. He is currently about one month into a two-month visit to Japan, where he is on a cultural exchange program, which involves staying with two families in Tokyo and going to a Japanese school. It meant that it was quite a busy final month or so, with preparations, exams, and shopping for winter clothes, but he seemed to take it all in his stride and was very keen to get on the plane! There will be a quite a tale or two to tell when he gets back, even if it is only to whinge about getting his hair cut before going ...



**Joshua** is planning to return to Monash next year to study Japanese, which will be a change of direction for him. He has continued his involvement with the Computer Games Boot Camp as a volunteer. He also managed to work at Haileybury for a "horrible boss", and is keen to get some more work in the near future. He has also continued to invent bizarre games to play with Beau, which usually involves each of them egging each other on. He still doesn't seem to be keen to get his driver's licence, He must be the only person in Victoria who enjoys public transport! Emily seems to be quite keen on possibly getting hers before either of her older brothers do. That doesn't seem to worry Joshua as it would mean he would get Emily to drive him around ...



**Linda** had an extremely busy year at work. Towards the end of the year, she relinquished the burdensome role of Director of Reporting, as well as being a VCE Mentor and running internal exams, and has now thankfully switched her workload to 80%. This not only relieves some pressure, it also means that she has one day a week that does not involve work (she just has to learn not to read emails on Tuesdays!). This new freedom has been quite welcome, after a long period of not having enough hours in the week ...



**James** has continued at RMIT, which included negotiating a period of being available for jury duty, but then not being called. Eventually it was only for one day and a straightforward case, but it took a long time to get that far. He was also very pleased to complete the 100km version of the Ride Around the Bay in October as part of a Haileybury "staff" team.

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

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