

2016 nearly over? What year is it again? Surely that can't be right! Somehow it doesn't seem like a year since the last time we wrote one of these, but on the other hand, there seems to have been a lot of water flowing under many bridges (which sounds far too organised to be a summary of how things have gone for us this year!).



Beau is still with of course, and continues to drop hair all over the place, despite supposedly being a breed of dog that doesn't do that. He also seems to have an unhealthy attraction to the compost bin and prefers to drink water from anywhere but the bowl provided for him. Sounds like the perfect pet for teenagers! Speaking of which ...



Jeremy has just finished Year 9, and has had a few weeks of Year 10 as well. As is typical of Haileybury in Year 9, he has spent some significant time travelling. The highlight was undoubtedly the trip to Japan in the middle of the year. Not only did this mean that he finally has a passport, he can now compare notes with his brothers on the country. He also enjoyed travelling to Sydney with the 'Entertainment' option and an expedition to south-west Victoria, which happened to be at a time of heavy rain and floods. He has continued his love of Drama, and was very pleased to be awarded the Year 9 Drama prize. He has also taken up the bass drum, and hopes to be part of the Pipes and Drums band before long. He has also managed to squeeze in some weekend work at K-Mart. It is a sobering thought for his parents that he is only a couple of months short of being old enough to learn to drive ...



Emily has just started Year 12, her final year of school. She was very keen on History: Revolutions, and did very well in this subject as well as Further Maths. Just don't ask her about the Russian or American revolutions unless you have a spare few hours! She is looking forward to a less hectic year, continuing her study of maths, drama and Australian history. As usual, she has somehow managed to fit in playing the clarinet in various school ensembles and singing in the choir. Emily is definitely the most enthusiastic learner driver in the family, and is several boulevards ahead of her older brothers in the number of hours of practice. Emily and Jeremy (my ears reel simply at that phrase!) have established a very strong sibling rivalry in various areas but particularly in Drama, with Emily also being awarded the Theatre Studies and Drama prize. Some would say that this is simply formal recognition of what we have known for a long time, which is that there seems to be no shortage of drama around our place ...



Timothy has enjoyed establishing his life after School, which is focused on studying Engineering Technology at RMIT. Seems that once he finished at the place his mother works, he felt he had to just keep things in the family! Motivation doesn't seem to be a problem for him at all, with him often having to be out the door by 7.30am or earlier in order to make it to his classes. Given that this is about 30 minutes before the younger ones head off to school, this is very much a change! It is also fair to say that he has let his hair down a bit this year --- in his case quite literally! At one point, he had just about perfected the 'Ginger Jesus' look, beard and all, but thankfully he has recently re-acquainted himself with the barber! He has also become very adept at both getting supplies for dinner and for actually putting it all together at the appropriate time.



Joshua has continued studying Japanese, but as part of an Arts degree at La Trobe, whilst still continuing work. The café has given way to regular work at the local Pancake Parlour, which is a lot closer to home. Combining that with travel to and from La Trobe has meant that he has mastered the art of using mobile computing technology on public transport. Driving is certainly not high on his agenda, although at some point surely the temptation must be too strong! It has often been amusing listening to him and Jeremy comparing 'insiders' notes' on the recent renovations to a large local shopping centre, based on their regular observations of the status of various bits of building work.



Linda has had a varied year, having had some long overdue long service leave until April. This meant a lot of rediscovery of local walking tracks and bike paths, and I don't think Beau has ever had so many walks in his life! It was a bit of a jolt to go back to work after that, and get back into the swing of life at Haileybury, but as usual she has done so with gusto. Driving to and from school with two keen learner drivers in 2017 might change that ...



James has endured some reorganisation at RMIT, and somehow ended up with the grand-sounding title of Associate Dean, Student Experience. Exactly what this involves is still being worked out, but it will definitely involve some new ground in 2017. He enjoyed doing the 100km version of the Around the Bay in a Day event in October with Jeremy, despite the very strong wind.

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

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