



## *Happy Holidays from the Heisel Family*



Hello from the Heisel Family, coming to you direct from Australia! It's different 'down under' – mainly because it's very summery here. It's not what we're accustomed to for weather during the Christmas holidays, but we'll take it! We hope all of our family and friends enjoy their holidays. We miss all of you dearly!

### **Paul (40)**

Of course, the year we, I mean 'I', turn forty would be the year we move halfway across the world. Paul is enjoying his Australian experience in both business and at home. Visiting Sydney was a grand experience and something we'll do again. What he likes most about Australia is the wine and the people. The wine is incredible and the people are friendly, which has made the transition from the USA even easier. The 'which' refers to both the wine and the people.

### **Deb (20)**

It's a good thing we moved to a place where you don't have to be 21 to have a drink, otherwise Deb would be out of luck. She's settled into the house and is meeting new people all the time through the children's schools and mum's groups. Driving on the other side of the road had taken some time to become accustomed to, but just like everything, now that she's comfortable driving on the left side, we're visiting the States so she can drive on the right. Her favorite thing about Australia is the sunshine and the beach across the street. No fake tan needed here, right Deb?

### **Rachel (13-1/2)**

Rachel finished Year 7 (terminology is different in Australia) at her school, Star of the Sea College. She's one of 1,100 at an all girl Catholic School. She's made a bunch of friends and has been invited to numerous birthday parties. She did get lost on our fifth day here; we were in a panic and nearly had to call the police to help find her. The local mall closes at 5:00 pm and she got locked out, turned around, and she couldn't find us. So she saw something familiar, McDonald's, and walked there. A lovely Australian family helped mall security find us. Her favorite thing about Australia is the people.

### **Robbie (12)**

Rob goes to a special school for disabled children, Berendale. He gets to swim every Monday, which he always looks forward to and he's taking some cooking classes. He loves going to the local library, which is two blocks from our house. He's enjoys, like Deb, going to the beach near our house and wading in the ocean. His favorite thing about Australia is the ice cream. Apparently the Aussies make the best ice cream he's ever had. At a charity event in Albert Park, Rob jumped out on the dance floor and entertained thousands with his dancing. Way to go Rob! Keep that low profile!

### **James (10)**

James attends the Sacred Heart Catholic School, which is just up the road from our house. He's very social and has met/made many friends through school and sport. Technology is still a favorite of his – it's hard to pry him away from it sometimes. He's playing baseball and basketball, trying his best to improve his skills. It keeps him occupied during the weekends. When we arrived in Australia, he got his first pair of glasses, so you'll note his new specs in the pictures. They have been repaired once already – those boys. His favorite thing about Australia is all his new friends.

### **Joseph (7-1/2)**

Joe, like James, attends Sacred Heart. He's tackling chapter books now, which has been a good challenge for him. Sports rule his world. He's playing baseball (with the 12 year olds) and basketball. He loves the Australian games – footy and cricket. Joe is still a stubborn kid, so he isn't going to move if he doesn't want to. His favorite thing about Australia is all the new sports. He seems to have really taken to cricket in particular. Joe has picked up the accent as well. So if he's talking different, it's him not your ears.

### **Libby (33 months)**

We managed to enroll Libby in the local pre-school program for kids, and she loves it so far. It's once a week and she loves wearing her hat, taking her drinking bottle, and carrying her lunch. She's ready for school. Now that she's a big girl, she's wearing underwear and trying to understand the potty training. Lately she's become more expressive and jumping around like a silly little girl. She has a plush shark toy we bought from the Melbourne Aquarium, which she calls "Shark Baby". We haven't seen the toy lately though. We're suspicious – Libby keeps saying, "Die Shark Baby!"



Season's Greetings

# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE HEISEL FAMILY

Season's Greetings



We love you Grandpa Bob

We love you Grandpa Jim

Season's Greetings

Merry Christmas

Season's Greetings