



Happy Holidays from the Heisel Family



Hello from the Heisel Family! Australia is still our home and we're looking forward to a hot Christmas at the beach. We've had another active year of Australian sport with James and Joe. Deb and Paul went to the horse races during the spring racing carnival. Rachel plays piano and Robbie is a great play actor. Time is flying, we've been here 2-1/2 years!

Paul (42)

Paul feels the pain. He's playing baseball (again) this year and coaching two teams the boys play on. Work is busy as usual, nothing changes there. Highlights for this year were getting an XBOX 360 for his birthday, now it's a matter of matching the console technology with a proper HDTV and finding time to use it. He's still writing of course, his passion!

Deb (21 or so)

Deb put together a charity ball this year for Robbie's school that raised over \$50,000 towards building a new school. All in attendance, including us, had a blast! With five kids at five different schools, she has to be at many places at the same time. Mom's Taxi Service. Her favorite things are reading and playing Scrabble, and helping out at the numerous schools the kids go to. She enjoyed her birthday this year, celebrating it in America amongst her family.

Rachel (15-1/2)

Rachel finished Year 9 at Star of the Sea College this year. She was Class Captain, and we are delighted that her peers chose her for such a great honor. She plays piano in the orchestra and doing well in classes. She does like going to the mall with her friends, it's only a short mom-drive-me-here away. Her interest in anime and manga continues and she's drawing characters of her own. Her favorite computer games are Nancy Drew mysteries and the Sims. Next is year 10, and she'll do great. But it's back to the normal school uniform, Year 9's get to wear sport uniform year round.

Robbie (14)

Rob goes Port Phillip Specialist School, a school for children with disabilities. This year the school put on a great play, GoGo's Big Adventure – Robbie was the star, playing GoGo. It was a wonderful show and everyone was congratulating Robbie after the performance. He received an Oscar at the end of the night for his efforts, and gave a rather confusing speech ala Roberto Benigni. His favorite thing is to talk with you, *ad naseum*, about movie ratings (as in a scale of 1 – 10). So if you're bored and have a few hours, ask Robbie about movies. Next thing you know, you'll be well-informed about IMDB and Robbie's opinions. Go to robspot.heiselfamily.com to see some of his online reviews.

James (12)

James had his first year at Xavier College. The father-son camping trip was a blast, the only exception being when the opposing team rammed our canoe and sunk us. His glasses went to the bottom of a very murky, man-made lake, irretrievable. James plays basketball year round and is getting his cuts in this year with Little League. He's growing of course and eating us out of house and home, just like Robbie. At school he did well in sport (basketball and badminton of all things) and Japanese, and the computer seems to be his favorite thing. He's a navigational user, so one day he'll be fixing everyone's computer instead of Dad. We can only hope.

Joseph (9-1/2)

Joe attends Sacred Heart Parish School and is definitely the sportsman in the family. His sporting routine thus far is as follows. Basketball year round playing under 12's (he's 9) and he subs on James's team under 14's despite the height difference. His under 10's team won the championship last September. He plays footy for East Sandringham, the same club that spawned Chris Judd, and his team voted him third Best and Fairest, a great achievement for an American playing a new game. We're on baseball now, and Joe is doing well playing first base, pitching, catching, and generally doing anything the coaches ask him to do.

Libby (4-1/2)

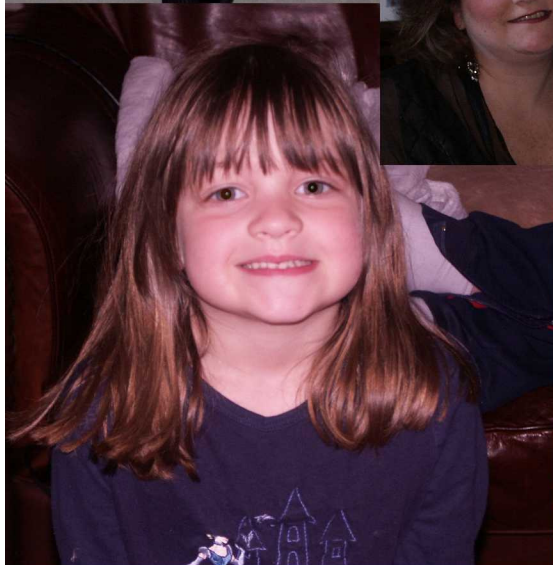
What can you say about our little darling – she's such a joy to have, a wonderful child. She still likes Dora the Explorer and bossing everyone around. She does go everywhere with us, always going to the sporting events. Swim lessons are about complete and we're looking forward to some time at the beach over the holidays. She's getting to that age where she'll be riding bikes more often. Part of her routine is to keep up with her brothers, which is a challenge. She goes to prep next year, which is like the American Kindergarten. She's happy to have her uniform and going to "Joe's school".



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