

*Dear Everyone,*

*Our Christmas Greetings are delivered to you after a very exciting and busy year in our household. Although it has been one of those special times, when so many things come together, we are all hoping for a more relaxed 1994!*

*We began the year in Tasmania. Our last holiday with Jeanette (before she married) was spent in Hobart and in the special mountains of this island. We enjoyed Christmas lunch with my sister and her partner - this does not happen very often! We also took a small plane flight along the wild south coast of Tasmania - a little scary but very spectacular.*

*Back to Perth, and Tristan entered Year 8 at Christchurch. He was suddenly expected to organise himself much more with his school work, which he was doing by the end of the year. Elwyn started Year 11, and the study plans which we had put together over the summer holidays were put into practice. She also joined the Subiaco women's cricket team, and proved herself a valuable asset almost immediately. Jeanette dragged herself off to her final year of Engineering - it is always harder to do that last lap with the same dedication and enthusiasm as the first, especially when it is 5 years down the track! Rob and I went back to work feeling refreshed, and a little in trepidation, knowing how much was to happen this year.*

*Tristan has learnt the value of consistent moderate work at school this year. He is fortunate in having a good memory, but the good work habits to back this are much harder to develop! He is coming along fairly well with Japanese - a new skill in our family. Tris has also been very single-minded about his hockey. Having kitted him out to look something like Mad Max (with a Goalie outfit), he worked hard at this demanding position during the winter. By the end of the season, he was providing a formidable barrier to any member of the opposing team who tried to score a goal! To keep up his skills during summer, Tris organised an indoor hockey team at Lords with some of his friends. They are called the "BUZZ BOMBS" and wear a red and black uniform - I think it is mainly for fun. As a saxophone player, Tris has started along the Kenny Gee road. He will be playing a very short solo at Jeanette's wedding - a very special wedding gift to his older sister.*

*When Elwyn reaches the end of this year, she will be very tired. She set her work goals to achieve high marks this year, to ensure that she gets into Electronic Engineering at the end of next year. She has acquitted herself extremely well, and will have a well-earned rest over the summer holidays. As always, sport has provided the passion for Ellie this year. She ended the 1993 cricket season in April with an armful of trophies. Her hockey during winter*

*was played with determination, but she saved the best till last - after much effort she was selected for the State Cricket team, and is playing the "nationals" in Warrnambool, Victoria until 20th December. The phone calls we have had reveal that being "on tour" is more difficult than Ellie imagined. However, it will be the first of many. Because of the tour, she will miss out on Jeanette's wedding - a fact that has caused a lot of sorrow. However, she will be there in spirit, and has planned a fax to be read at the reception.*

*Jeanette has had a long and extremely arduous '93. This final year of her course has proved to be exceptionally demanding. Her project started on the 4th January, and went right through to October. She also completed twice the subject load of most courses - this year has been an unending series of study deadlines! In between times, we celebrated her 21st birthday early this year with many friends, and she has done a lot of the preparation for her wedding to Christopher Phillips on 18th December. As she walks down the aisle on this day, to share her life with Christopher, she will briefly look back on a happy family home (which she is missing already!) and her schooling years which finally ended on the 10th December with her TWO degrees (Electronic Engineering and Commerce), before taking her vows and "getting on with the rest of her life" (her own words at her first speech for Rostrum last week).*

*Rob and I have been very hard pressed to keep up with all this. We both turned 42 this year, but feel a little older than that at the moment! In addition, Rob's anaesthetic practice continues to soak up long hours, and he has taken an active role as umpire for Tristan's hockey teams. He continues his love of the outdoors with planning and organising our family holidays. We all enjoyed our trip to the Hamersleys in July (without Jeanette, who was studying), and a camping trip to Cape Arid and the Stirlings in October. Rob's four-wheel-drive is clocking up kilometres fast!*

*My business continues to grow. We took on 2 more part-time staff this year, so the office in the front of our house is always busy, and now includes a computer network! If one can liken starting a business to having a child, then this one is almost ready to "leave the nest". Our Company Christmas party this year was a Sunday barbecue at our house, with spouses, partners and children - a most relaxed, enjoyable affair. Looking around at the 30-odd guests, I realised how many nice people and families we have involved in the company now.*

*All in all, this has been a year which covered about 5 years of experience - we are appropriately tired but happy.*

*We all wish you a Merry Christmas with your family and friends, and a Happy New Year.*

*Rob, Wendy, Jeanette, Elwyn and Tristan.*



