

CAMPBELLS' CAPERS 1998

JANUARY



Tristan on Frenchman's Peak in Esperance

For once we began the year as a disseminated family. Jeanette and Christopher were in England (with the snow), Elwyn and Tristan were in Esperance with some friends (tearing round the race track in Rob's four-wheel drive!), and Rob and I were down south (doing half the Ridge Walk in the Stirlings – we must be MAD!).

was busy with her cricket, and Rob and I with our work. It was hard for Tristan, because he had to finally say "good bye" to his plans for joining the Army Reserve.



Rob on the misty tops of the Ridge Walk



Wendy contemplating the start of the Ridge Walk, in the Stirlings

Later that month, Tristan dislocated his shoulder for about the 17th time, so he had to keep quiet after that while Elwyn



Elwyn enjoyed a very relaxed 21st birthday party

Elwyn had her 21st birthday party on Australia Day, followed by the fireworks. We only have ONE 21st to go – Tristan's. As this is when Rob and I turn 50, we are thinking of a joint celebration?!

FEBRUARY

Tristan was quiet (while his shoulder was healing), and getting ready for his first year at Uni – doing Geophysics at Curtin (encouraging many “arguments” between him and Elwyn as to which is the BEST university!). Elwyn also had some preparation to complete for her Honours year in Computer Science at UWA.

Elwyn was selected in the National Under-23 Australian Cricket Team for a series against New Zealand in Canberra. This was a great honour for WA (and of course for Elwyn, when she opened the batting for Australia), especially as Australia won!

I had a week in Hobart with my sister, Fiona. We watched the “Tall Ships” come in and took part in the festivities. Hobart does the “sailors’ welcome” thing with great flair!



Elwyn playing cricket for WA

MARCH

While Elwyn and Tristan were settling into Uni, Rob and I packed up our climbing things (including crampons and ice axes) and headed for New Zealand, after six months of training. We climbed my favourite mountain there together



Wendy stepping onto the summit of Mount Aspiring

(with a guide each) – Mt Aspiring - and reached the top on my birthday! We took three days to climb and return to the mountain hut, getting caught in a severe blizzard on the way back. We then had to wait in the hut with around 16 other climbers for five days, until the storm cleared and we could get “back to civilisation”.

This was the first and only high (3,340 meters), snow-capped mountain I will climb in my life, and it was a life-changing experience.



Wendy and Rob on the summit of Mount Aspiring

APRIL



Tristan on a beach near Walpole

Tristan headed off to Walpole by himself for his first solo expedition. He finished the walk in about half the recommended time, and had some valuable time alone after dislocating his shoulder again.



Tristan's camp at Hush-Hush Beach, Walpole

Jeanette and Christopher flew out from England to join us for a few weeks – this was DEFINITELY the highlight of this month! We tramped a bit of the Bibbulman Track together, and we all went to Yallingup for a few days – it was just LOVELY to be a family again.

They are both enjoying their work in Newcastle, but not the cold, dark days of winter. Trips around England, Scotland

and Europe certainly make up for the cold, though!



Jeanette “attacking” Tristan whilst camping on the Bibbulman Track

MAY

On May 1, Tristan had his second shoulder reconstruction, as it had not healed from his January injury.

Elwyn was studying for their first-semester exams and getting her teeth into her Honours project.



Tristan, Rob, Jeanette and Christopher on the peak of Mount Cook

Rob was very busy with his work, and I was sorting out the various challenges with my business (some of which had been building up for a while). We finally had to start making staff redundant, and commence a complete restructure, re-engineering and re-positioning of the

company. There was a lot of worry and soul-searching in this process, especially for me. I was ever so glad that I had climbed my mountain before this, because I had overcome my fear of heights and hypothermia to achieve my goal. Anything we did with the company was easier and less risky than that!

JUNE

Rob and I were the supportive parents, as Tristan recovered from his operation and they both did their exams (Tristan's first Uni exams). They did well, as just reward for their dedicated studying.

One of the staff, which my company had made redundant, came back with an unfair dismissal claim. This brought my small remaining team and I yet another challenge to face.

I finally admitted that the ankle injury I had sustained when climbing Mt Aspiring was NOT going to go away, and had it operated on in late June. This meant up to three months of minimal exercise, to allow full healing – what is that saying “no pain, no gain”?

JULY

Rob and Tristan had a “boys own adventure”! They walked, swam, etc half of the Murchison Gorge at Kalbarri. As the river was very high, there was more swimming than they expected, but they had a good time. Rob has written the story of their little epic, and submitted it to “Wild” magazine – the beginning of a new career (or at least hobby)? Tristan went away again as well – this time down to the Stirling Ranges and spent a week riding and walking through the area.



Jeanette and Christopher in their home at Newcastle, England

Elwyn and I spent quite a bit of time together, over her Honours project. It was becoming very large and complex by then. She was developing a “Secure Research Tool for the Internet”, and had to master internet technology and programming (Java), internet network security, Java database design and development, video image compression and transmission, and three-dimensional data display and transmission. If that sounds technical, you should see the thesis! I offered to proof-read it, which took me 6-8 hours each reading (including trying to work out all the jargon). It also allowed me to understand the incredible effort and determination Elwyn has put into this project.

We decided to move our company offices from West Perth to somewhere more convenient, so we commenced the steps needed to make this happen. Also, WE WON the unfair dismissal case, and continued our work (with the few staff we had left) to “reinvent” the company.

AUGUST

My Aunt Judy came out from England, and we had some good times with her. I took her to a “surprise destination” for a few days just for the two of us – Yallingup, where we had taken Jeanette. We enjoyed nice beach

walks, lunches and dinners out. The BEST bit, though, was teaching Judy to drive Rob's four-wheel drive. I hadn't realised it, but Judy used to drive a truck (very well), and took to Rob's car like a duck to water! She decided that a four-wheel drive would be the first thing on the agenda, when she comes back here to live!

Elwyn is discovering that there is more to life than engineering studies and cricket – PARTIES.....



Elwyn with some friends at the Engineers' Ball

SEPTEMBER

Elwyn and Tristan both had little escapades this month. Elwyn was chosen to attend a national cricket training academy in Adelaide, with the Australian Institute of Sport. She had a great time, and it was a good study and thesis break.

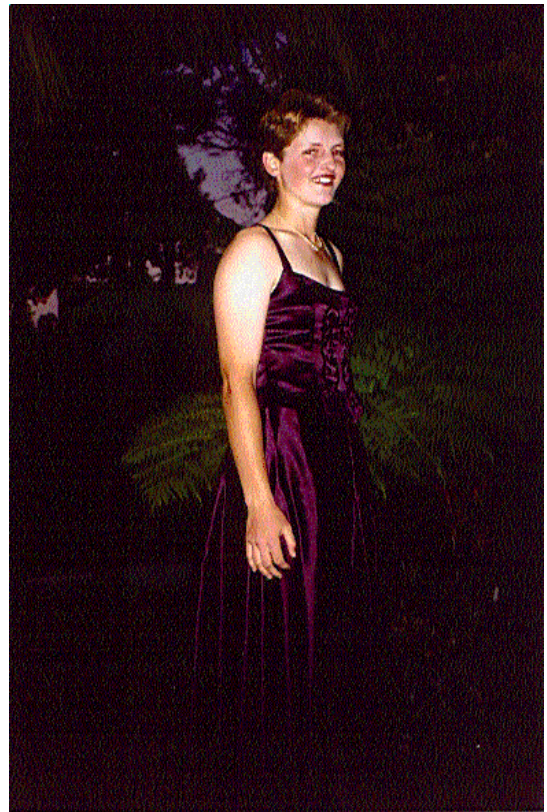
Tristan found a new hobby – mountain-biking! He took part in the Nanga Challenge, a triathlon, and did the mountain-biking section. Apparently he “rode like a lunatic” and was pleased with his results, considering that his bike was a 10 year old touring bike borrowed from a friend. He reckons that the best training for it was riding the 140km from Perth to Gingin for a geology trip as he skipped the proper one to go mountain biking. A new, expensive hobby was born! He now has a new bike plus most

of the trimmings, and hopes to pursue his riding with more vigour after having his third shoulder reconstruction.

My sister Fiona came over from Tasmania, to join us for the last 40th birthday celebration of our generation – for my youngest sister, Rose. We had a great party, and Fiona and I taught a group to do the “Twist” (including Elwyn!). I also “plucked up the courage” to attend the 30th reunion of my last school year. It was a fascinating experience, and re-assuring to find that people hadn't REALLY changed in all that time.

We moved the company office out of West Perth, and we all now work from home linked by the internet and a special Telstra connection (like a Perth-wide PABX).

Rob and I had a lovely week up north, camping at Ningaloo Reef and the Hamersleys. We love the wide open spaces up there, and the clear starry nights are SO special.



Elwyn at a friend's 21st birthday “ball”, in the FIRST long dress she voluntarily bought!

OCTOBER

Tristan had his shoulder operation – an open one this time, and much more painful afterwards. He was very mature with his approach to the immobility, which he will have for some months.

Elwyn was chosen to play in the Western Fury team (Women's state cricket) again for summer, as Vice-Captain – we were SO proud when this was announced at the Western Fury season launch.

Elwyn then had to complete her thesis, and submit it. I knew it pretty well, by the time I had proof-read it 4 or 5 times! We were so proud of Elwyn with completing this – it turned out to be a HUGE project, and she finished everything properly and professionally. Then she and Tristan put their heads down, to study for their final exams.



Rob looking at the summit of Mount Tutuko

NOVEMBER

Exams dominated this month for Elwyn and Tristan.

Rob went to New Zealand again for two weeks, and had a great time climbing three quite difficult mountains (Tutuko, Malte Brun and Sefton). He had some challenges with the weather, being caught in a blizzard on the last mountain! However, he also came home with a very bad cold, which took several weeks to get better.

I had a quite enjoyable and successful business trip to Sydney, making sure that I saw my favourite places there as well – the Rocks, Darling Harbour and Sydney Harbour (from a boat).

My health problems, which had been building up since August, came to a head this month. I finally realised that I would have to slow down soon, and take a long break over summer.

DECEMBER

With Elwyn and Tristan now on holidays, this month was much more relaxed. Elwyn was playing cricket at state and local levels, but she LOVES her cricket.

After two serious health (heart) scares, I was diagnosed with Barmah Forest virus (like Ross River virus). Work stopped immediately for me, and I took leave until the end of January. As we had completed phase one of our company "reinvention", it was time to give my wonderful team a break, too.

Rob and I had planned a week-long walk on the Bibbulman Track to finish the year, but spent a lovely, quiet five days in Denmark among forests and ocean, instead.

December 27 – we all fly together to Hobart, Tasmania, to stay with my long-suffering sister, Fiona. Tristan is even taking his mountain bike on the plane, and we all look forward to a wonderful month resting, sailing, bush-walking and mountain-biking.