



We hope you are well and enjoy the Christmas season.



A little of the Richards' Family Story from 2014 to 2016

It looks like I haven't sent a letter for a couple of years. The last one I can find is dated 2013. We are all well and continue to be 'upright and breathing'.

In May of 2014 (in lieu of a 40th and 70th birthday celebrations in 2013) Eirona and I took a trip to Paris and the UK. It was 'almost' all an enjoyable holiday; the almost being that I coughed my way around the UK. Our 5 days in Paris was great; a bus trip to Versailles and Monet's Garden was a time to be enjoyed and remembered. We stayed in London for 9 nights, and then toured down to "River Cottage" in Dorset. We had lunch with friends in Talybont-on Usk, in Wales, on the way to the Lake country, spent a day and night in Edinburgh a few days in Harrowgate with another friend and returned home to two very welcoming families. Thanks, Grant and Jon.

In October 2015, Harvey Cooper Richards was born to Paul and Jemma. That was probably the highlight of that year. He was and continues to be a delight to us all, especially Samuel, because now he is not the youngest grandchild. Hooray!!

James was 16 in January and is driving. That's a scary thought for his Dad as well as us.

Marc was 40 this year and was surprised to see a large group of his friends at a party organised by Paul. We don't often see Marc 'stuck for words' but, he was. Marc continues his Junior Football coaching at Sturt and James hopes to be playing for Sturt's under 18 team. Marc is also the Vice-President of the Uraidla District Football Club. James has part-time work at the newly opened and renovated Uraidla Hotel. He will be in year 12 at Heathfield High School in 2017 and Ashleigh will be in year 8.

Ashleigh, 13 in September, is as tall as her grandmother used to be.....but I didn't wear 4" heels as well!! She graduated from year 7 last week and, in a class of 8 for most of her primary school life, she was the only girl. Ashleigh is a great netballer and plays for the Summertown Tigers, and regional teams as well as SAPSASSA

Bridget, 15 in September, will be in year 10 next year also at Heathfield High and continues to be a loving and bright Grand-daughter. She is a competent artist, as is Paul, so Grandpa Coudrey's genes may have come to the fore. Bridget plays netball and in her spare time earns money, to buy a car, at a Coffee shop in Uraidla.

Samuel. Depends which day it is as to what his name is..... was 10 in February. He is 'as sharp as a tack', Grandpa says. His football prowess is improving and he bowls well in cricket. Mainly he's just a 10 year-old mischievous, loveable boy. Eirona is the team manager for his football team. She has given up a time consuming voluntary secretarial position this year to concentrate on her family.

In an effort to find out if we would like cruising on the high seas Jon & I left Australian shores in Sydney in December last year for a short trip to Hobart and back again. Bass Strait lived up to its reputation and we may not cruise that way again. The trip on the India-Pacific to Sydney was good.

In May this year we travelled with friends to Budapest and again did the Rhine-Danube River Cruise. From Amsterdam we continued on our own, by train, to Brugge, Paris, Barcelona, Lyon, Rome, Florence, Venice and Dubai. I really enjoyed planning the trip, but upon reflection, we should have stayed longer in Barcelona and Venice, and given Paris and the Soccer crowds a miss!! No-one stole our money or our passports; we made all our train connections, had a great time and arrived home safely. Fast train travel in Europe is excellent. 300kilometres an hour!! at times.

Jon had to have a course of radio-therapy related to his prostate cancer. He coped very well with no discernable side-effects and will have another blood test in February next year. He helped Paul and Jemma build a large pergola and entertaining area at their home in Littlehampton that had to be ready for Harvey's first birthday. It was, and the Birthday Party was a lovely celebration. Harvey has been walking since late October and it's a little disconcerting to find him right behind me, instead of him taking a minute or two to crawl to me. Don't you just love the look on Grandpa's face when I walk in the door and Harvey looks around me to see where Grandpa is!!

Jon is singing with his choir in Strathalbyn tonight, so this epistle is my effort. We are involved with the Uraidla Show Society now and I'm the booking officer for the huge barn of a hall that we have; brides like the space; with the East Torrens Historical Society, and with the Football Club. During the football season we are lucky to be able to see all of our children and grandchildren on Saturday evenings.

Well, that's it. We will see Fiona and Denys this Christmas and catch up with a few more people over the break. For retirees we do not seem to have a great many days when we do 'nothing'.

Our love to you all, Lesley & Jon.



Eirona at Lord's Cricket Ground



Harvey Cooper Richards
20/10/2015



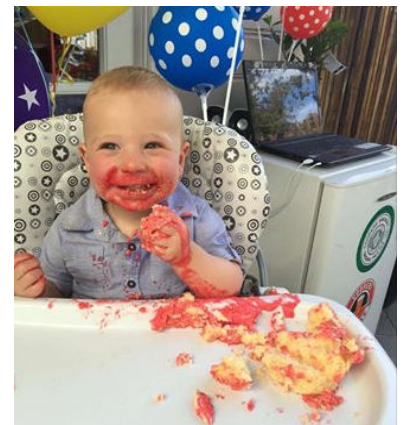
Samuel and Harvey
10 years difference!



Harvey and Grandpa
25/12/2015



Bridget at 15
with green hair



Harvey is One



James and Ashleigh



Paul, Marc & James



The sea was calm
on the way home!!