



Colli Chronicles

Back by popular demand!

2002 is almost over and we're back with another "Colli Chronicles". It gets harder and harder to remember what has happened each year; thank goodness for my diary!

Holiday time

This year's holiday was a cheap and cheerful trip to an "eco lodge" near Dungog and Barrington Tops in NSW. It was organised by the science club to which Francesca belongs. There were about 5 families and we took part in organised activities including bush-walks and frog-hunting. We were supposed to be able to see a lot of native animals, but we all agreed we see more in our backyards in suburban Sydney! The children had a great time as there were plenty of others their age.

As happens so often here in Australia, one of the other people staying at Wangat Lodge turned out to be related to someone we knew: the brother of a friend of Julia's from way back in Rotaract days.

After leaving Dungog we had a couple of days in Tea Gardens, 2 hours north of Syd-

ney on the coast. Some friends kindly lent us their holiday house which they've just finished doing up, so it was very pleasant indeed.



Bush-walking and leaf/stick-boat-making for a game of Pooh Sticks.



We also had a weekend in Mittagong (2 hours south of Sydney) in mid-year—what a disaster! Francesca wasn't very well, and we probably shouldn't have gone. Naturally, we bumped into family friends in a gallery we were visiting!

School Days

Francesca and Alexander both had a successful year at school, culminating in Honour Awards for both.

Francesca has been as busy as ever. This year she was a Library Monitor (a Year 5 privilege) and a student councillor. She and 3 others from her school were picked to go on a Leadership Day organised by the local council, a Leadership Day organised by the NSW government for schools all over NSW, and a Gifted & Talented Day at a local high school, with 2 others from her class.

Year 5 go on a camp every year on an island in the Hawkesbury River; all the children loved this and among other things they did rock climbing, abseiling, archery, fencing and orienteering.

The Hills are Alive..

Francesca continues to play the piano and flute. She's now in the Concert Band and next year will go into the Performance Band (there are so many kids involved in the school band programme that we've had to split the 2 bands into 3!) She

Majic@tpg.com.au

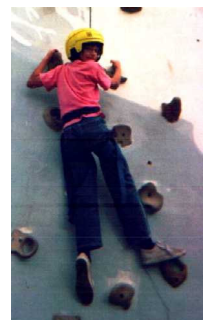
Volume 4, Issue 1
December 2002

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Francesca passes Grade 1 piano with Honours and Grade 2 with Credit.
- ☺ Marco becomes Arsenal manager!!

also went on her first band camp, which was 2 days at a conference centre about 1/2 hour away from here.

Francesca was also in the band's Enrichment Group, which comprises 13 of the more talented musicians from Year 5 and 6. This group is fabulous and plays beautifully; it's a pity it won't continue next year, as their playing is a joy to hear, especially as they perform more interesting pieces of music than the band.



The Long-Legged One rock-climbing

2002: We're back! (continued)



Alexander fights off the opposition in the Arsenal vs West Ham final.

Football Fever

Once again Alexander played Funskills at our local football club. This season, by some fluke, he and his friends were put in the team called Arsenal(!!!) It must have been an omen, because their team didn't lose a game and ended up winning the grand final at the end of the season; after last year's debacle, it was a nice change. Guess Who was the top goalscorer. Confidence is not a trait that Alexander lacks! Marco was team manager, so look out Arsene Wenger!

We all avidly watched the World Cup. What a change to be able to watch first-class football during prime time instead of the middle of the night! I think everyone suffered withdrawal symptoms when it was all over. One of the advantages of it was that children actually saw proper football games for a change, and hopefully picked up some skills (as well as the antics after goal-scoring!)

Sing a Song

Francesca and Alexander both continue to sing with the school's Vocal Ensemble. Highlights this year included singing at the wedding of one of the Ensemble's teachers; and performing a Christmas concert at the Epping RSL Club. Francesca was thrilled because she ended up singing 3 solos at the Christmas concert, and it was extra special because Nonna and Nonno were there on her "big day."

Basketball

Alexander and Francesca are both playing basketball during the summer season. Francesca plays for the school team, and they're both going to skills sessions at the local sports centre. They're both pretty good at it, and Marco's pleased they're enjoying it because he used to play himself.

Back to Work

Marco found a new job in the new year and started in mid-March. He's working for a competitor of his old company, called Citect. They do pretty much the same thing as CSE and many of their clients are people he's worked with before. Coincidentally, Citect's office is about 2 doors away from CSE's, so he often pops in for a visit!

Christmas Again

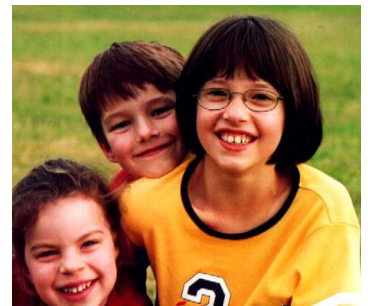
We're well and truly into the Christmas season. We had the school carols by torchlight last Friday, and it actually didn't rain; we've had the school volunteers' morning tea; and we've got our tickets for next week's Presentation Assembly. Both children are involved with different things in the Assembly; the Vocal Ensemble, Concert Band and Enrichment Group are all performing; Year 1 are doing a line dance(!); and the Senior Choir (Years 5&6) perform too.

Holiday

In January we're off to South West Rocks, 5 hours north of Sydney, for a beach holiday. We're renting a flat, and Julia is looking forward to lazing around at the pool and/or beach, and going out for dinner every night!

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Julia still involved with P&C and Band Committee—volunteering's in the blood!
- ☺ Marco and Julia attend their first 40th birthday of a school friend. Yes, it's us next!
- ☺ Francesca finally gets glasses after being ignored by Mummy when she says she can't see the blackboard. Really means she can't read what's written on the blackboard!



With cousin Erica

Arsenal—Funskills champions 2002

