

Lairds 2007

We can't believe another year has galloped by, trampling us in the rush. Last year was so busy that most people probably didn't hear from us at all at Christmas. Sorry. It was a year of milestones, with James turning 18, Kat 16 and Rod 50. Rod and Su also celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. This year has also seen a few milestones – our garden was open to the public through the Open Garden Scheme for the first time, Su turned 50 and has finally finished her ceramics diploma. (Hooray!)

Chez Laird looks more like an op. shop than ever, with much work in progress by all. Rod has his photography, as well as the family photos he wants to sort. Kat has the clothes she "alters" (aka personalises) for other people, her jewellery making stuff, her art materials, etc., etc. James has part of his room set up as a quasi acoustics lab, and continues to make electronic devices, and Su has ceramic stuff and art materials everywhere. The disorder has been further compounded by the arrival of Astrid, Su's Dachshund puppy, and the emptying of the double garage onto both our porches as well as inside the house while the garage is rebuilt to become a studio for Su and a more efficient storage and work place for everyone else. Sadly the rebuilding has taken a lot longer than planned thanks to a difficult neighbour, and with Christmas getting in the way, will not be finished until the end of February.

Rod has been exceedingly busy in the latter half of the year, having picked up a big client that has occupied nearly every waking hour. He still finds time to cycle regularly, and David goes too when he is not in Sydney. (They both went skiing in the USA in January which was a thrill) Kat has just finished Year 11 and next year will see her finishing school – hopefully we will all survive the stresses of the final assessments. She has been selected to train to be a youth worker through a charitable foundation that works with schools and runs its own courses for adolescents. It fits well with her interest in psychology, but at times is very draining. James has just finished third year Electrical Engineering and IT. He has found a research position at the Bionic Ear Institute for the summer and for next year while he completes 4th Year. He still spends a bit too much time inspecting the insides of his eyelids, but we hope that as he has more choice over what he does next year and who he does it with will be more motivating than the work this year. Su has spent the year coping with the rather debilitating effects of menopause, which has had a rather deleterious effect on her ceramic production. Despite that, she managed to graduate, and is now sorting out the best way to market her wares. She has also become more involved in the Open Garden Scheme, having become a selector, and is pleased at the opportunity to visit other people's gardens.

We expect to have another very busy year again in 2008. Su is hoping to go to another Patchwork Reunion in the UK in the last week of August, and we are planning to go to North Africa, Southern Spain and Paris at the end of the year.



- James & Kat at Su's 50th
- Su & Rod ditto
- Su's garden on display in the Australia Open Garden Scheme
- Sgraffito bowls and jug
- Matilda "hanging out"
- Astrid likewise...
- Su appraising Astrid
- Award winning pitchers (as were the Sgraffito items!)
- Gore Range – Vail - USA

