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Hello Everyone

I can hardly believe that we are finishing another year – it certainly does not seem 12 months since I last sat at the computer writing our annual update letter. As usual, it has been a busy year for us but one in which we seem to have survived the many challenges that have arisen.

First, the big news. Lois has finally been admitted as a practising lawyer. Last year, she finished her Bachelor of Laws with Honours and this year she completed her compulsory post-graduate Practical Legal Training. Her two big milestone events were in June when she graduated from Victoria University and in November when she was admitted to practise. During the year she has also continued with her part time work with the Victorian Law Foundation as Education Projects Officer. She has now polished up her resume and has started the process of applying for positions in community law or legal aid.

Tim has completed his first year with Coles Ltd., one of Australia's largest retailers. Although his work there is in the same I.T. area as at AXA, the scope of the job is so much bigger. Consequently, he has had to work longer hours and with a lot more intensity than recent years but he has survived the ordeal and still continued to find time for his various sporting endeavours. He continues to advise Chris as he moves up the racewalking tree and has also signed up for another year as Secretary of the Victorian Racewalking Club and the Australian Centurions as well as continuing in his role as V.Pres. of Racewalking Australia. This year the time finally came for Tim to have major hip surgery and he now has a titanium enhanced left hip joint, compliments of his July appointment with the specialist. The operation has been declared a total success and he is back into his bike riding and a bit of 'social' walking.

David has had a very demanding year, working a lot of evenings and nights at the hotel in Epping where he is employed. But the light is at the end of the tunnel – he has just accepted a position with an inner-city hotel chain and looking forward to joining the normal workforce with daytime work mode for the first time in some years. He has recently updated his motor bike to a big 600cc beast, so we are keeping our fingers crossed that the roads are good to him.

Chris has had a major year with regard to his racewalking. After a long wait, he was finally confirmed as part of the Australian Commonwealth Games team in February and consequently took bronze in late March in the Commonwealth Games 50 km walk. Being Melbourne based, huge numbers of our friends joined us on the day to barrack for Chris and the other Australian competitors. Seven weeks later, he raced to 26th place (81 competitors) in the 50 km event at the Racewalking World Champs in Spain. Both his 50 km times beat the required A standard to qualify him for the 2007 IAAF World Champs in Japan so things seem to be progressing well in his career. He continues to make the required sacrifices, working part time at the Coburg Leisure Centre and with Melbourne Corporate Sports while training as his major daily activity. Chris finally decided it was time to leave home and strike out on his own, following in the footsteps of his brothers David and Paul. He and Rachel are renting in Maribyrnong, not far from here, and seem to have settled nicely into their new life together. All in all, it has been a big year for Chris.

Paul completed his Honours year at Melbourne University this year and has gained entry to study Law next year at Monash University. He completed Honours in Politics while working as an Electoral Officer for the Labor Party member of the seat of Richmond (Victorian parliament). The year culminated in a State election and Labor surged to power again, helped no doubt the the enthusiastic approach of the many party machine people like Paul and girl friend Ali. Paul and Ali are now in the throes of upgrading from their current rental property (which might be kindly described as a dump) to a better flat. I think they both deserve some quality time off after their busy year!

Matt is the only one of the boys still left at home and he lets everyone know of his long term plans to move us on and have the house to himself. Not likely! This year he completed the second year of his Music course and has decided to

take a year off before continuing. He is now in the process of getting the various licences required to work in the pub/hotel industry. It will be good for him to take a year off. He has worked very conscientiously during the last 2 years and will gain lots from a year in the workforce.

Lois' mother Win has not been in good health this year and has spent several periods in hospital to get her back on her feet. She is now 92 years of age and has slowed a lot this year. Lois, along with her brother Neil and her sister Bev, have spent a lot of time at her nursing home supporting her and watching over her.

So it has been our usual big year. Whatever happened to growing old gracefully?

If you want to see our most recent photos and you have internet access, point your web browser at link <http://members.optusnet.com.au/~terickso/2006.html>

To all our friends, local and remote, we wish you a Christmas filled with peace and joy and hope that 2007 will be a year filled with bags of goodies!

Kind regards

Tim and Lois



Merry Christmas

