

## 2015, in a nutshell

2015 has been a big year for our family. We started it off with Chloe turning 1, and ended it with the arrival on 6<sup>th</sup> December of our second daughter, Lucy Philippa Taylor. In between, we've all been to the UK – Pete's trip planned for his brother Brian's wedding in July; Cat & Chloe's trip unplanned and on short notice when they heard a close friend was ill unexpectedly in April. It's times like that working in the travel industry comes in handy – flights were found on 2 days' notice and off they went. The family came together for those two weeks, and Chloe had a lovely time getting to know some very special family & friends whilst seeing how many people she could con into pushing her on a swing in a day and learning to walk. Pete's trip in July, planned for longer, managed to take in a few more places and catch up with a number of good friends and family across the country as he made his way up to Edinburgh for Bri & Vicki's lovely Scottish wedding.

Outside of the two big overseas trips, we had a couple of short trips away, one to our nearby South Coast, in January, and a few days in the Sunshine Coast, QLD, in July at the end of Pete's UK holiday to get a bit of warmer weather in the middle of the Canberra winter! We also had a couple of visitors to our side of the world – Pete's brother came across for a long weekend in early January, followed by Cat's Dad & Stepmum later in the month; Cat's aunt Liz came to help out in July for a couple of weeks while Pete was in the UK (enormously appreciated!), and then Cat's aunt Helen & uncle Anthony popped in for a few days as part of their tour of Australia in October!

At work, Pete has spent the year settling into his job at Marist, while Cat has been working hard at building up her client base at Flight Centre, giving herself a good strong network to return to in mid-2016 at the end of her maternity leave. Her team has changed considerably over the year but seems to be fairly well settled now, and she is looking forward to going back in a few months' time!

Alongside work, the regular activities have carried on – weekly meetups with the now toddlers in Chloe's 'February bubs' circle that have included a range of parks, indoor play centres, swimming, the playroom at Old Parliament House, Mini Q at Questacon (the science museum) and the zoo! Pete has been playing indoor football, Saturday soccer league and more recently summer sixes matches, as well as fitting in a cycle ride or two, and Cat makes time for dessert outings, house group, and of course we have been keeping up with our friends as much as possible. Cat was also fitting in some dancing earlier in the year as the dance school started some morning adult classes and offered to babysit the kids, which gave Chloe a fab introduction to the dance school and staff there ready for when she started her own classes in late November. Chloe continues to love her daycare (thankfully) and also seems to be enjoying the dance classes, as random moments taken from her classes are often spouted through the day. Highlights include "I'm a ballerina!" (accompanied by twirling); "Naughty toes, Just Like That!" and renditions of the rhythm they count out to sing to. We are looking forward to next term!

The rest of 2015, really, has been watching Chloe grow from a baby into a little girl with an incredibly strong, independent character. At the start of the year she was just learning to sign Mummy and Daddy, cutting her first teeth, and crawling around the place. Through the year her vocabulary has literally exploded, she is starting to produce full sentences and recently we have been getting more and more (recognisable) song renditions - the most recent are Jingle Bells and the Hokey Cokey. She has most of her teeth (and is working on the final ones); and she not only walks but runs, jumps and twirls. Her hair has also been growing, through the year it has gone from 'stuck a finger in a socket' to 'mullet'; Cat's mum regularly comments that she much prefers the look with hair clips in to keep it out of her eyes, and the reply is always that we started the day with at least two clips in, they just don't stay there! We are continuing, however, to grow it out and hopefully soon it will be long enough to tuck behind her ears and stay there!

We did manage to round the year off with a couple of unhelpful events over Christmas – our family car had an unfortunate encounter with a ute a week after Lucy's arrival, necessitating the purchase of a new (second-hand) car so that we still have something able to transport all four of us; and a week after that Pete broke his big toe in two places playing indoor soccer. We are waiting to hear this week whether that will need pins, but it has somewhat limited his activities whilst home with the family this week. However, these are only temporary setbacks and we are looking forward to seeing what 2016 brings as Chloe continues to dance and sing her way through life with her friends, Lucy starts to grow (and, hopefully, sleep at night!) and our family unit continues to develop its own little character.

Hope you all have a great 2016! *-Cat, Pete, Chloe & Lucy*