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## EMOTIONAL JOURNEY



Clive and Patricia  
Wilson on their trip.

Yesterday would have been Lisa Wilson's 31st birthday. Her father tells **SARAH JONES** how his late daughter's diary is guiding him and his wife as they retrace her footsteps on the other side of the world

**A**S she wrote a journal detailing her dream round-the-world trip, Lisa Wilson had no idea she was documenting the final months of her young life.

For the 23-year-old graduate who was tragically killed in a car crash as she travelled to Ayers Rock in Australia in 2002.

As her devastated parents grieved the loss of their beloved daughter, they found solace in the pages of Lisa's diary which described some of the happiest days of her life.

So when thieves broke into their New Forest home in December 2008 and stole a safe containing the journal, along with letters and postcards that Lisa had sent home from her travels, it was a sickening blow.

The couple thought they would never see the irreplaceable mementoes again.

But following an appeal in the *Daily Echo*, the burglar's guilty conscience caught up with him and some of the precious items were returned several days later under the cover of darkness.

His movements were captured on CCTV cameras installed outside the couple's home in Nomansland, but the figure, clad head to toe in black, was unidentifiable.

It was getting the journal back that prompted the couple - who own a car parts business - to follow their daughter's footsteps and fly to New Zealand, which Lisa thought was a truly amazing country.



Lisa Wilson, who died in a car crash in Australia in 2002.

Almost eight years since she left home on her journey, the couple boarded a plane to Auckland last month to embark on a six-week trip.

"We had spoken about it before but we had never got round to doing it," said Clive, speaking to the *Daily Echo* from New Zealand. "When we got the journal back, we thought we have to do this while we can."

Using Lisa's diary as a guide, it contains maps, details of where she stayed and graphic descriptions of what she did.

"It is really easy to follow. She put lots of things in the journal that were almost like pointers for us in lots of ways. It says things like, 'mum and dad would really love it here' and, 'this is just an awesome place'.

"Other than booking the flights and picking up the camper van we are travelling in, we have literally just followed her journey. It's almost like she was subliminally planning it for us."

While Lisa was in New Zealand, she not only did a free-fall parachute jump, but also completed the highest bungee jump in the world.

In tribute to his daughter's sense of adventure, Clive completed the same 134-metre bungee jump yesterday on what would have been Lisa's 31st birthday.

It was something the 58-year-old felt he had to do.

"Lisa was a chip off the old block. She had my spirit and was fairly extreme in the things she had done."

"I'm not very good with heights normally but I wouldn't like to think that there was anything that she could do that I couldn't. So I was just trying to keep up with her really."

Reading aloud from Lisa's journal, Clive recited how she described her jump as a 'mega mad experience' which she could 'safely say was the most out of body experience I will ever have'.

Before her untimely death, Lisa had recently graduated with 2.1 BA degree in business management at the then Southampton Institute, now Southampton Solent University.

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## LIFESTYLE

## COVER STORY: Lisa Wilson



■ Continued from front

The 23-year-old, a former Brockenhurst College student, had rewarded herself by taking the trip around the world.

Travelling with a friend, Lisa's trip took her to the USA and Fiji, before she headed to New Zealand and then Australia.

It was brought to its devastating end when the car she was travelling in overturned en route to Ayers Rock. The driver and rear passenger survived but Lisa was killed instantly.

"My wife has family in Australia and when Lisa got there we thought, she's safe now," said Clive. "We never really for one minute thought anything like that would happen to her."

As they make their way through New Zealand, seeing the country through Lisa's eyes, their trip is one of highs and lows.

"We are actually in a position to feel what she was feeling. There are 'good days and sad days' as my wife puts it."

The last eight years have of course been incredibly difficult for the couple and their two sons Scott and Ross.

"We've taken it a step at a time, then a day at a time and then a week at a time. You kind of get through it because you have to for your friends and family. We have had tremendous support from our kids and now we've got two grandchildren that have given us a reason to go on."

However, the family have turned their grief into a positive way to help others achieve their academic aspirations.

They established The Lisa Wilson Scholarship Fund for students who have overcome adversity and need additional funding to help them with their education at Southampton Solent University.

To date it has raised over £180,000 and changed the lives of 40 students who have been given bursaries.

As Clive put it, "It is a fantastic legacy to a truly wonderful daughter."

● For more information on The Lisa Wilson Scholarship Fund or to make a donation, visit [lisathedaddy.com](http://lisathedaddy.com)



Lisa Wilson doing a bungee jump in New Zealand.



Lisa's graduation.

## ALL THAT JAZZ!

A jazz evening and fashion show has helped Eastleigh Football Club in its quest for promotion, as **SHELLY FOUNTAIN** reports



## BEAUTY SPOT TRIED &amp; TESTED HAND CREAM

**PRO-COLLAGEN HAND AND NAIL CREAM £29 ELEMIS**

This hydrating hand cream is great for dry hands leaving them soft and moisturised for up to hours at a

time. Just a small amount is needed to cover both hands so it will last a long time but needs to with its expensive price tag! **8/10**

**SOFT HANDS KIND HEART HAND CREAM £5 THE BODY SHOP**

This gentle hand cream is easily

absorbed and moisturises without feeling greasy. It has a pleasant delicate scent and was reasonably priced but didn't stand out as anything particularly special.

**7/10**



## VIE LADIES MADE UP WITH SUCCESS

VIE at home ladies in the South are finding new ways to make cash, make friends and even win awards, starting 2010 with a bang!

Step aside Oscar and Golden Globe nominees, because this VIE at home team are the proud winners of "VIE at home Region Of The Year", beating 50 other regional VIE at home teams, at the company's seminar in Birmingham last month.

Led by district sales and recruitment manager Amanda Churcher, the south coast team were commended for their amazing sales and their inspiring team spirit. The team were treated to a gala dinner at the Birmingham Metropole Hotel.

To find out more about VIE at home, give Amanda a call on 0778 909 8845 or visit [churchers@ntlworld.com](mailto:churchers@ntlworld.com)

