

**5** HOME BUYERS HEAD OUT FOR SIZE

**12** FEED MELBOURNE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES TO DELIVER



# Heidelberg Leader

**20** PAGES OF REAL ESTATE - LIFTOUT



Picture: JOSIE HAYDEN

## Grand gesture

This is the scene Marta Faller never thought she'd see. Her daughter, Melissa, relishing in the attention of "grandmother" Lisa Engelder, who has taken on the important role because Marta and her husband Steven's parents all live overseas. REPORT PAGE 8



## THE FACTS

ALL "grandparents" must supply police checks  
**THE** surrogate grandparents work on a voluntary basis  
**THERE** is no obligation for either side to continue seeing each other

“My son doesn’t look like he’s going to give me grandchildren anytime soon, so I had a look at it

- Lisa Englander

Lisa Englander is now a surrogate grandmother to Melissa, 2. Below with mum, Marta. Picture: Josie Hayden

# Adopt a granny to spoil kids

Adrian Bernech

MARTA and Steven Fallor have done everything they can to give their two-year-old daughter Melissa a loving home.

But with Marta’s family in Poland and Steve’s family in Scotland, the Viewbank couple have been hard pressed to give her the joy of regular visits with grandparents.

The couple, both 33, met in the UK nine years ago, married in 2007, and migrated to Australia in 2009 before Melissa was born a year later.

After returning from a holi-

## YOUNG COUPLES REACH OUT TO EXTEND FAMILY

day to Europe last year, Ms Fallor found out about an organisation — Find a Grandparent — which connects older people with families that do not have grandparents.

And following the service’s rigorous application process, the Fallers finally met Northcote art teacher Lisa Englander seven weeks ago.

Since the meeting, both parties have met up at least once a week to bond.

“I really had been missing my family,” Ms Fallor said.

“And it’s great because Lisa is not on Skype, she’s right next to us.

“I was a bit nervous wondering whether we were going to get on well, it was a great opportunity.”

Ms Englander, who has a 25-year-old son, said before inquiring about the service she had some friends who did not have local family and so she was aware of the issue.

The 54-year-old, who used to live in Ivanhoe East, said she was keen to meet a young fam-

ily and was ecstatic when she met the Fallers, who “live just down the road”.

“My son doesn’t look like he’s going to give me grandchildren anytime soon, so I had a look at it,” Ms Englander said.

“And it’s been great for Marta especially because she’s had someone else to talk to.”

She said she hoped to spend special occasions such as Christmas and birthdays with the Fallers.

■ [findagramparent.org.au](http://findagramparent.org.au)

