

In Hil's Head

**I'm a mom to two amazing kids – a 12-year-old daughter and a 14-year-old son. I've been married to my best friend for 17 years and we all live in a big, old house in the 'burbs with our two cats and two dogs. I work full-time in the insurance industry and when I'm not working, wife'ing or mothering, I'm studying towards a degree in marketing. And in the very few spare moments I have left, I blog, take horse riding lessons, run (slowly) and sleep!
Please come hang out with me at www.inhilshhead.co.za – I'd love to have you visit!**

I'm no social media fool. Some may even call me an addict. I Facebook, Tweet and Instagram. I'm no guru, but I understand the concept of a hashtag and I've even snapped a chat here and there.

I recently read an article about the micro-generation born in between the X'ers and the millennials – "the Xennials". I fall into that category. Born in the latter half of the 70s, I had an "analogue" childhood and a "digital" coming of age. I'm not scared of technology and I love living in the future.

You'd think this would stand me in good stead to be a cool mom, right? Along came my kids' teenage years. All my dreams of cool parenting have been swiftly dashed.

Social media is a different animal for them. Trends for adults and kids on social media are worlds apart!

A few days ago, The Teen was laughing at me about the way I use Twitter. At first I hated the lack of responsiveness to tweeting. My enjoyment of the medium only set in when I found myself a Twitter community and could engage in actual conversations that other Twitterers could follow and join as they wished. According to The Teen, it's seriously weird to use Twitter in this way. That's

what Whatsapp is for. He is quite satisfied with throwing 140 characters into the Twitterverse as commentary about his favourite football team and not receiving any feedback. The epitome of awesome is when a Tweet in the general direction of a YouTuber, famous for doing nothing, gets a like or retweet from said celebrinothing.

Which brings me to the subject of YouTube. I love getting lost in a good old YouTube black hole. From watching music videos, recipes and DIY tutorials to feeding my fascination with all things birthy, it's easy to lose an hour or three watching YouTube.

My kids treat YouTube like TV. They subscribe to a bunch of YouTube channels and watch the (often inane) webisodes like soap operas. The Tween follows a trio of gymnast sisters and talks of them like they're personal friends:

"You'll never believe what happened to Bree on her bar routine today, mom?!" says The Tween.

"Who is Bree honey? You weren't at gym today?" I reply, looking puzzled.

And then there's Instagram. I love my iPhone camera and together with Instagram, I have a match made in tech-heaven. I've become a decent iPhoneographer, even if I do say so myself, and I



really enjoy snapping, editing and sharing some of the cool things I come across in my daily life. And it's amazing to go back through the memories made in the time I've been on Instagram. A visual journal, if you will.

If you were to find The Teen on Instagram, you'd probably just find a couple of images. That's his thing apparently: only posting a few images at a time. His reasoning is that things from his past aren't relevant anymore since he's changing all the time and finding himself. Since he's no longer the geeky 12-year-old in that selfie he took when he was first allowed an IG account, the photo no longer belongs on his page.

Facebook doesn't even get a mention. Most kids appear to think Facebook is just uncool. The Teen has never even asked if he can have a Facebook account. For now... I'm pleased that that particular medium is all mine. Oh and my mom's. Hmm – maybe the kids have a point there?

PS – if you're a social media junkie like me, you can follow me on IG and Twitter – @inhilshhead – see you there!



woodenways
luxury furniture

 Parkview Shopping Centre, Garsfontein road, Pretoria
 012 940 6807 / 012 809 3677  pretoria@woodenways.co.za

www.woodenways.co.za