

It doesn't get any better than this!

## Another year...

another newsletter. Okay, so what's new about this year's newsletter? Well there's the nifty coloured heading, and the pretty photo on the back. Want more? Too bad. Read on.

## What's cooking?

Not much, especially if you're waiting for me to do it, but we do have a new kitchen. Some advice - never, ever pull out a ceiling in a 100-year old house. You have no idea just how much dirt, feathers, dead mice and other mullock builds up in that time. Do feel free to encourage others to do it though, watch them get covered in fossilised mouse droppings instead.

Eventually a new pressed metal ceiling was installed and all new cupboards, etc. Installing pressed metal is another job best left to someone else. Not that hard, just a pain in the neck, literally. We had the floor sanded and it looks a million bucks. The cost was only just short of the same figure.

And of course it just wouldn't be me if the job was completely finished. I still have to do tiling and stuff, but it's getting close.

# CHEERS

## Study?

Michelle has been busy doing an Emergency Care course during the year. Just finished her last three-day block with Amelia in tow. I think she is now qualified to use the Kerry Packer jumper leads, or defibrillator is the slightly less technical term.

## Really Big News....

2.46 kilograms of whopping big news! That's how big numero tres weighed in at.

Amelia Louise Jewell hit the streets at 8:26pm on Wednesday, 3 December. Sounds small - heck no. Double the weight of number two and three times the weight of number one!

If you can't wait to find out more, check out the back of this newsletter.

I managed to do another whole unit in my Information Technology course through Central Queensland Uni, which means I should be finished about 2010.

## Workforce woes

Another year another couple of grey hairs. Still here at Central Tablelands Water. Fortunately, my contract will be renewed so I do have a choice about staying. Wonderful things these contracts. Getting contracts renewed is totally unrelated to performance.

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Michelle started twelve months maternity leave in September. I think she is looking forward to going back to work now that there are 3 kids in the house.

## Kiddy Litter

Tassie (aka Emily), had a second birthday to remember in March. Michelle and I bought her a slippery dip because she loves them. After struggling with instructions and various tools for quite a while we did actually get it together. Less than two minutes later Emily fell off the ladder and broke her leg! 4 weeks in plaster. Still, I think she liked the slippery dip.

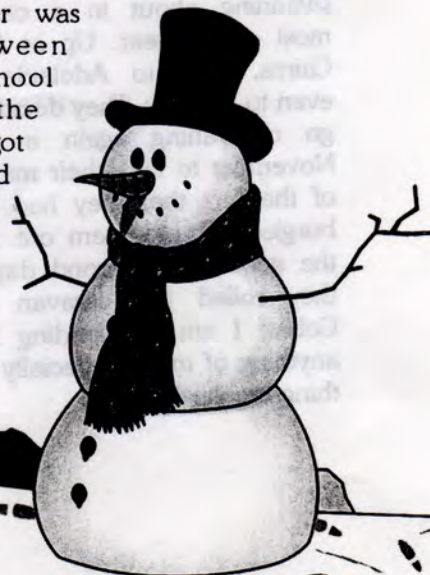


So, what are we buying her for Christmas? A trampoline.... Somehow I'm not sure that we have done the right thing.

The big kid fared a little better, although Hannah did have to have grommets re-inserted in her ears in July. Can't get away from at least one trip to hospital each year.

We went to Orange 10 pin bowls for her 7th birthday in May. She had a lot of fun, bowls better than me too.

October was Halloween at school and the girls got dressed up for a





Halloween party. Hannah went as a wicked witch, while Emily went as a bad fairy, in character.

Hannah was sworn in as a Brownie in July. She loves her weekly Brownie meetings.

## King of the Mount

We got away for a week in late March/early April, down to the Snowy mountains. We climbed half way up Mt. Kosciusko before chickening out. It is a pretty easy climb, but not so easy pushing a stroller and a wheelchair. It was easier coming down though.

## Branching out

Okay, here's the obligatory family bits. I have to include these because they are the only ones who actually read it.

Last year I said something about my sister having her hands full with a new baby and an 18-month old. Well this year Barb and Russell have a new baby, a 14-month old and a 2½ year old to contend with. Graham Terrence Hawkins bounced into the world on 11 December at nearly 9 lb. Sooner or later Barb will work out what's happening.

Mum (ol' Olga) has had quite a few trips this year. Mostly to Victoria to visit with her mum, Bertha (ye olde ancient one) who has also had some more hospital stays. Olga is now with Barb helping with the new baby. Bertha is coming up for 88 in May, and is battling on with Home Help.

Michelle's mother (Jean - the outlaw) and Brian have been swanning about in a caravan most of the year. Up as far as Cairns, over to Adelaide and even to Blayney. They decided to go caravanning again in early November to take their mind off of the fact that they had been burgled. Cleaned tem out of all the good stuff. Second day out they rolled the caravan near Cobar! I am not lending them anything of mine, especially anything breakable.

## Other news

I again ran for a position on the Credit Union Board during October, and again I failed miserably. Only 35 votes in it, could be third time lucky (depending whether or not you have money invested in the Credit Union of course).

Oh yeah, and Michelle and I had our 10th wedding anniversary in August. Still, I can't see it lasting.

## Baby Stuff

Okay, this bit is for all you softies.

Amelia Louise weighed 5lb 7oz (I knew you didn't convert it from the metric) and was 56cm long. Tell me, why does anyone care about this stuff. Nobody asks what nationality the kid is (3 out of 4 babies are Chinese), just her weight. And like most women she will lie about it for the rest of her life.



Michelle was out of hospital after 4 days, and for a change had a baby with her. Amelia was born at 36½ weeks gestation, a significant improvement on the last two at 28 weeks (Hannah) and 30 weeks (Emily). Apparently we are not going to try and improve on that.

She is no trouble (not yet anyway), spending all of her time sleeping. She wakes every 4 hours for a feed then nods off

again (remind you of anyone).

Hannah thinks that she is okay, but would prefer a boy.

She was a bit taken aback when I told her we couldn't swap. Emily thinks she is just marvellous and wants to cuddle her all the time.



## Au Revoir

French for bugger off and get me a beer. Another Christmas in Blayney this year. With the way the weather has been just lately that suits me fine. It has been hot here too, but no where near the 40+°C temperatures elsewhere around the country.

## Merry Christmas



Stephen, Michelle, Hannah, Emily and Amelia

## Late news...

