

CHEERS



This Year: Plenty of ups and downs. Hannah doing her best to worry us to death!



Issue 3

December, 1993

Its Here!

Welcome. Issue Three has finally hit the streets. If it gets any later it will be the New Year newsletter. Anyway, at least I won't have to change the name. Like the new banner design?



Hope this finds you and yours all well. Just so you don't feel like just another Xmas card to be ticked off, I've left a little box over the page for your personalised bit. Its not a particularly big box, hence the word "bit". Be thankful, it's more than I write the rest of the year.

Hannah Happenings

Hannah's year has been one I would rather forget. It started badly when Hannah took ill and we had to cut short our visit to Gilgandra and rush off to Sydney on the 3rd January. Hannah wound up in Westmead Hospital for a week, having a shunt replacement. Poor kid also got a Mohican-style haircut, which fortunately grew back quickly.

July was another major hiccup. Hannah had a fit and wound up in Orange Hospital this time. Scared us more than a little. It looks like she has that to contend with as well. We hoped that it might have been just one of those things, but two weeks ago she

had another one, so no good news there.

I made some silly statement in last year's newsletter about hoping that she wouldn't see the inside of a hospital again until she had kids of her own. Wrong. In August the poor long suffering tyke got sick again. Another trip to Westmead, another shunt replacement and another Mohican haircut.

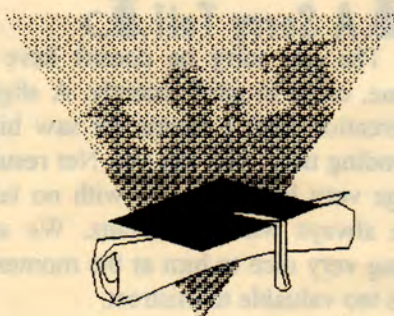
Not all Bad.....

1993 has seen 5 hospitalisations for one reason or another. On the plus side Hannah's Growth and Development Clinic in August said that she was normal, more or less. Ahead of her age in some things (mostly bon-stop talking), behind in others. Mostly behind in motor skills, on account of her not walking yet and not having full use of her right hand.

Enough doom and gloom. On with the rest of the news.

Study Ho

Michelle's studies continue. Only one year to go now. No exams this year, which meant more assignments and plenty of deadlines. Hannah did her best to see that Michelle didn't make the deadlines, but after much effort, many late nights and some angry domestic scenes(!) all was completed. Even more amazingly most of my wounds were superficial.



What's on Workwise?

Michelle is still working at the Wontama Nursing Home in Orange. Two evenings one week and three evenings the next.

I fill in as the domestic help on these evenings. Which just goes to show how difficult good help is to find these days. Michelle spends the rest of the week undoing the damage.

As of the 1st January I start contract employment with Central Tablelands County Council. One of the more significant (for me at least) changes to the Local Government scene this year was that all senior staff are required to be on contract. The good news is that the Council offered me one. It is a five-year contract so we just might finish painting the house after all.

Does it ever End?

My postgraduate diploma in management through Deakin University in Melbourne plods on. It is only supposed to be an 18-month course by correspondence, but I only did one subject each semester first up. I aim to do two subjects this coming semester. If I survive that I may finish it this year. Not to worry, I wasn't doing anything else anyway.

Home Improvements

The renovating progresses slowly. Michelle did an enormous amount of painting during the first half of the year, while I have done an enormous amount of destruction out the back during the second half of the year. What can I say? We're a team.

The fence is finally completed. Looks good, can't beat a picket fence - especially on an old house. The front of the house has been painted as well, all heritage colours naturally. Michelle

patched up and painted Hannah's bedroom during the mid-year study break. Our bedroom is destined for the next study break.

In a fit of destructive ardour one day I demolished the toilet and back verandah. It sort of started as a relining project in the toilet. But when I pulled off the old lining I decided the frame was too suspect to simply cover up again, so I pulled it down instead. Michelle started to look worried when I also pulled the roof off the laundry. She seemed to think that I was pulling a lot down and not putting much back.

Another 20-30 years and \$1/2million should see the house completely renovated. It will probably be worth about what we paid for it then, with our recent luck.



Roughing it Down South

Managed to give the tent a good workout over the last few weeks. Not too many of our proposed weekends away actually got off of the ground this year, for one reason or another.

We made up for the slow start on holidays recently. We spent two weeks touring and camping around the South Coast and Victoria. Itinerary sort of went like this:

Blayney - Canberra - Batemans Bay - Bega - Tathra - Merimbula - Eden - Bombala - Delegate - Cann River - Orbost - Lakes Entrance - Omeo - Mount Beauty - Wodonga - Tallangatta - Sydney - Canberra - Blayney.

Don't even ask about the Sydney bit in there. The Bombala - Delegate - Cann River bit was all about a bit of a family history tour.

Very nice around Bega and Eden. We even went whale watching one day, but by the time we got there the whale was gone. Whales get up too early.

Very spectacular scenery around the Bogong High Plains between Omeo and Mt Beauty, provided you don't mind the winding dirt road with equally spectacular drops off the edge.

The reason the newsletter is so late this year is because we are only just back. You knew there would be a really good excuse, didn't you? It is not because I always leave these things to the last minute at all.

RIP

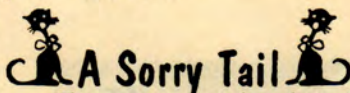
Michelle's grandfather succumbed to the after affects of a stroke in August. He was aged 83, but I am sure that he thought he was too young to pass on.

Michelle's uncle came out from England to see him before he died, which was nice. Peter hadn't seen his parents for 13 years. He stayed on for a week or so after the funeral to spend some time with the rest of his family. He is the only one left in England. The rest of the family were sent out in chains.

Where to this year?

We are spending Christmas in Sydney again this year, with Michelle's relatives. Hannah doesn't care where we go, she just wants the presents.

New Year will be spent in sunny downtown Gilgandra with my family. Hopefully a bit less sunny than last year's scorcher.



A Sorry Tail

The cat, sorry he doesn't have a name, came to grief recently. A slight altercation with a motor car saw him spending time with the vet. Net result, large vet's bill and a cat with no tail. We always wanted a Manx. We are being very nice to him at the moment, he's too valuable to mistreat.

Furthermore

Sorry, no more. Definitely not.

Personalised Bit

This is your very own personalised bit. If you don't get your very own personal bit then this is a forgery. Call the police.



MERRY XMAS !

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**ALL THE BEST FROM
THE JEWELLS AT
BLAYNEY.**