

The Jewell Xmas Newsletter

Cheers

Issue 5 (getting better - the first full colour edition!)

December, 1995

Xmas again?

Didn't we have one just last year? And didn't I promise to have this finished a bit earlier? Good to see that I can be relied upon. Read on....

Don't blink. . .

If you do you miss Michelle's pregnancies. Our latest cherub (Emily Grace) arrived on 15 March, ten weeks early, too impatient to wait any longer.

She weighed in at a huge 1240gms (about 3 lbs), compared with Hannah's 925 gms (2 lbs).

Complications? You must be joking. About the only problem we have had with Emily is deciding whether she looks better in the pink getup or perhaps the bunny jumpsuit. She came home from hospital at about 5 weeks and 2 kgs. She has not looked back since.

Teething is her latest trick (and blowing raspberries - but we don't brag about that). She's around 7½ kgs, at the rolling over, sitting up and grabbing anything that comes within reach stage.

Hannah wasn't too thrilled in the early stages, confiding that she "wasn't too fussed on babies", but is now a very protective (and little bit jealous) big sister and loving it.

But where's the card?

Just so you can hang something in your card space on the wall I have included a cut-out-and-keep card on the bottom of this newsletter.

Relaxing times

Michelle and I have sort of taken the year off study. Although I have just finished a week-long *Municipal Water Treatment* course at Uni of NSW in Sydney and a two-day *Dam Safety Management* course at Terrigal on the Central Coast. And I didn't mention the 7-day *Conflict Resolution* course during the year. But they don't count because there weren't any exams.

We both did courses at the local TAFE as well, but they were for fun as well. Michelle did *Overlocking* and *Interior Furnishings*, while I delved into *Furniture Restoration*.

For better or worse

After 8 years of marriage Michelle is now a Bachelor. Why not a Spinster you ask? Who knows.

We made a last-minute decision to travel to Wagga to attend her *Bachelor of Health Science Nursing* graduation ceremony in April (well actually it was Michelle who made the last-minute decision after saying all along she didn't want to go).

We left Blayney at 9am to be at Wagga by 1pm for a 2pm ceremony, then drove all the way back to Sydney, as Emily was still in King George V Hospital. We arrived in Eastwood at 10pm. What a fun outing. 800 kms!

School daze

After two years at preschool, nothing, but nothing will stop Hannah from going to BIG school next year. She recently had orientation over 3 consecutive Fridays and had the best time ever. We have had meetings with all sorts of people to get ready for it. Public Works have to put in some ramps and handrails so that she can get around and she is getting pretty good with her walking frame.

Hannah's obligatory stints in hospital commenced in April with pneumonia, followed by a trip to Westmead in July for a shunt review (and another Westmead special hairdo). Since then, no problems and that's the way we like it.

A trip to the eye specialist in May found she had become a bit more longsighted than before and she now sports flash new glasses. She was very excited and picked her own frames.

Working class

Michelle has resigned from Wontama Nursing Home, deciding not to return after her maternity leave is up in January. She can elect to be on the casual list later if she wants some spare cash.

I'm still with Central Tablelands County Council, and no the kaffuffle with electricity suppliers didn't affect us. We do water supply. In fact we are about to start trading as *Central Tablelands Water* to stop confusing everyone about what it is we do do.



SEASONS
GREETINGS

from the Jewells

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Renovations

You will be pleased to hear that the upstairs bathroom fitout is actually completed (surprised too, probably). Some minor details are still beckoning, but it is in use and looking great. The downstairs toilet is also finished and looking like a bought one (some minor details, etc.). Now all I have to do are the minor details, and did I mention that the laundry walls still need to be re-plastered?

We had the driveway gravelled and I made new gates which are in place, completing the fence out the front. Isn't it amazing what time, money and a little patience achieves.

This year's trek into the wilderness was abandoned in favour of using the holiday time (and money) to build a new double garage. Unfortunately it has rained so much lately that it looks like being a 1996 project now. You're right, that means the job never got started.

I have completed the year's most important building project, however Hannah is now the proud owner of her own cubbyhouse, complete with pitched roof, verandah and other bits and pieces. That explains what happened to the cladding that was supposed to go on the laundry.

Family Follies

My grandmother has had a rough year with a few falls and trips to hospital, but at the tender young age of 85 she battles on. My mother has spent a fair bit of time in Tallangatta helping her to recuperate.

My sister, Barbara and her husband, Russell, also had a boost in numbers with the birth of Kenneth Russell Hawkins on April 5. It was sort of a race with Michelle to see who would be first, but we had hoped she would. Kenneth was like and big, 4 kgs. He is going great guns, eating them out of house and home.

Michelle's mother decided to

remarry and tied the knot in February, to Brian Taylor. They moved to Berkeley Vale, near Gosford in July. We now have somewhere to stay in Gosford, but nowhere to stay in Sydney! Hannah loved the whole flower girl bit (she was pretty cute).

Halcyon Holidays

We're off to Michelle's mother's new place at Berkeley Vale (near Gosford) for Christmas this year. It will be their first Christmas in their new house, so they are getting a bit excited.

New year is either at Gilgandra or Tallangatta, depending on where I make up my mind to go (and where everyone else is going as well).

Well, bye for 1995, have a great 1996.

Your Very Own Bit

Hope this finds you well. Most of this is old news to you. It will just about be Xmas before you get this. I actually started on the newsletters on the first weekend in December, but have taken a while finishing them off - nothing new there. Keep tuned for the 1996 edition. Look after Ogo for us - she's not as young as she used to be.

lots of love,
S.M.H & E
XXXX



Season's
Greetings

lots of love,

Stephen, Michelle,
Hannah & Emily

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