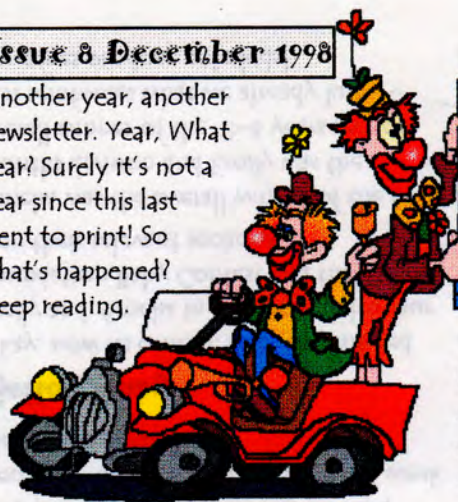


Another year, another newsletter. Year, What year? Surely it's not a year since this last went to print! So what's happened? Keep reading.



and a savage bite! Eat anything.

Crusty old dead flies are a delicacy if she finds them before we do.

Coastal Crusades

Michelle and the girls tripped over to her mum's at Berkeley Vale in mid January for some R&R. I joined them a week later for a few days and caught another performance of Riverdance. We took Amelia along, and she slept through the entire performance! She was only 6 weeks old so she had a good excuse.

We all went over again in April for the Easter break. Speaking of which Michelle did just that, breaking her left elbow roller blading! Pathetic isn't it! Talk about your second childhood.

She wants to have another crack at it (skating not the elbow), so I had better make sure that the health insurance is up to date.



The Move

Well it finally happened. I had been casting the net for a while looking for a move from Blayney. Nothing wrong with Blayney, but I thought it was time to move on.

May and June were a bit hectic, trying to get everything finished at work and on the house. Didn't really finish either.

Bought \$1,000 worth of guttering to put on the house and put up about \$100 worth. I will arrange a local plumber to finish it off. We did get the laundry all finished, relined and painted. Also completed painting of back verandah and all tiling and painting in the upstairs bathroom. A myriad of other little jobs got polished off as well.

Amazing what you do when you have to. Looked pretty good. We weren't too fussed on leaving the house, but it was too big to take.

I started new job in mid-June and came back two weeks later to collect the family. Michelle did a lot of tidying up and packing in my absence (okay she did all the tidying up and packing - so what else is news). We moved on 1 July, so we are coming up for 6 months here.

Our house in Blayney is being rented out at the moment. The transfer of the loan was a long drawn out affair that will make us think twice before refinancing again.



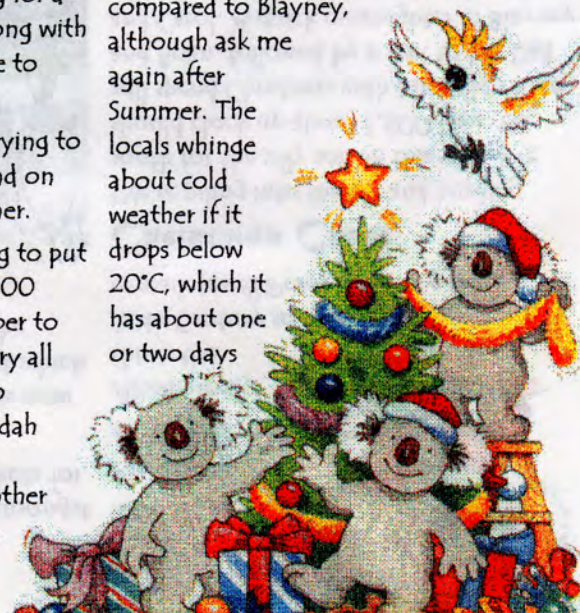
Christening

It seems like we go to Tallangatta each year for a christening - wait a minute, we do go to Tallangatta each year for a christening! The latest was in February this year, for nephew and godson no.3, Graham Terrence Hawkins.

North of the Border

Sometimes it is a bit like living in a foreign country. Nothing opens on a Sunday and god forbid if you want anything after 5pm. A lot of businesses also operate a POETS day on a Friday, (Piss Off Early, Tomorrow's Saturday). And worst of all. No daylight saving. Exactly what have we got ourselves into here?

The girls are thriving though and we're doing okay too. Weather is pretty good compared to Blayney, although ask me again after Summer. The locals whinge about cold weather if it drops below 20°C, which it has about one or two days



Big News

What now, not another rug rat. No, not quite that big a news. But just in case the post code on the envelope didn't tip you off, we've moved to Queensland!

Yeah, Queensland. I am working for the Gladstone Area Water Board as Manager of Assets & Operations. I am looking after day-to-day management of the water supply up here. I was after a move to a bigger organisation and this is a bigger organisation. Heaps bigger. More on the move later.

Kids Capers

Hannah is loving her new school in Benaraby. Up at 6:30am and out the door by 20 past 7. She catches the bus to school at 7:30am. I'm sure in time that the novelty will wear off! She's the only kid I know who as punishment we threaten to keep her home from school!

She is also enjoying Brownies at Tannum Sands. Since moving to Qld Hannah has earned 2 merit badges, much to her delight. She has had lots of trips around with the Group and enjoyed a weekend camp in August.

Emily started pre-school in Blayney in March, which she loved. Unfortunately, with different rules up here she is not eligible to go yet. Michelle and Emily go off to playgroup each week instead. She is an absolute bundle of energy and never stops until she is asleep! We have enrolled her in Kindy 3 days a week next year (NSW pre-school equivalent).

Amelia's doing fabulously. She is a cute blonde-haired, blue-eyed kid (see pic next page) with her mother's temper! She is crawling at the moment and pulling herself up on everything in sight. She will be 1 on December 3. So far she has 7 teeth

since we have been here. Mostly it has been around 24-28°. At the moment it seems to be around 28 - 32°C most days. Humidity is another story.

We have bought pedestal fans for every room. The house overlooks Lake Awoonga (see enclosed brochure which shows where we live).

Michelle's Mum and Brian dropped in to see us for a few weeks not long after we moved. They were on their way back from a trek that started in May with a trip to see us in Blayney, went on to South Australia, Alice Springs and Darwin, then down via Gladstone and back to Berkeley Vale. Rough life.

School Daze

Michelle flew down to Sydney in November to a 20-year school reunion. According to Michelle, she was about the only one that hadn't changed at all. Sure 'chelle. We believe you.



Study and Stuff

I am still doing my Information Technology course through Central Qld Uni, which is very convenient as we now have a campus right on our doorstep. Although I haven't been to it, and so it really doesn't make much difference.

Michelle completed a First Line Emergency Care course last year. Her final practical assessment was on 23rd December last year, complete with 3 week old baby on board.

Bello Baby

Okay, now it's official. Michelle entered Emily and Amelia in the local Endeavour Foundation Baby Contest and they both won their relevant sections.

Amelia was the overall winner of the 6-12 months division and Emily was the overall winner of the 2-4 years section. Just reinforces what we already knew - my genes produce cute kids!

The Endeavour Foundation is a non-profit organisation which amongst other things sells the lottery tickets for the \$1m+ Gold Coast houses.

Flushed with her success, Emily is now an entrant in the Tiny Tots quest which is one of the many fundraisers the foundation holds.



To qualify for regional judging she must raise at least \$500 by August next year. So, when we send you a book of raffle tickets in the mail, you know what it's about! Don't laugh, there will be more even more pathetic pleas for money to assist our tiny tot. If you lived a little closer you would also be getting chocolates to sell, so be thankful!

Oversens Visitors

Michelle's godparents arrived from the UK for 3 weeks holidays. They came over with Michelle's mum and Brian and stayed with us in Blayney for a few days. We met them in the UK during our 1989 sojourn and it was good to catch up with them again.

Other Stuff

I was very briefly President of the Pre-School, and was set for another stint on the School Council in Blayney. Michelle is looking at getting back into nursing up here. She has registered in Qld and is looking at doing Maternity through Central Queensland Uni.

A Reminder

Just a friendly reminder of our change of address for those who don't know, or who have lost it, or simply thrown it out with the veggie peelings!

We now live at:
Awoonga Dam, Benaraby Qld 4680
Send mail to:
P.O. Box 5234, Gladstone QLD 4680

Tel: (07)
4975 0043
Fax: (07)
4975 0053

Alternatively,
this is the
20th Century so send us an
e-mail: jewell@cww.octec.org.au



Christmas Cheer

We're piling into the car and heading south for the silly season this year. We should clock up about 3,500 kms. We will spend Christmas with Michelle's mum and Brian, followed by a visit to her Dad and Carol. A quick overnigher in Blayney after that, and then it's on to Gilgandra for the New Year Celebrations.

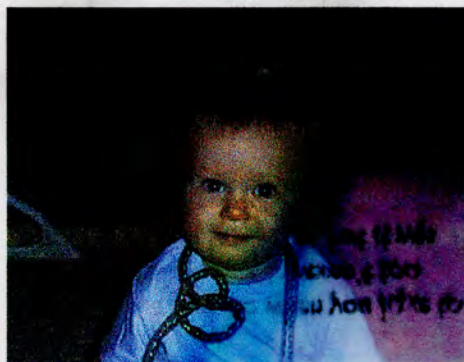
That's it for another year.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Stephen, Michelle, Hannah, Emily
& Amelia



Late breaking news...



JEWELL JOTTINGS - Mid Year Update

June 1998

LET'S BEGIN

We had a busy start to the New Year! Before you know it, it will be Christmas again!

HOLIDAYS

Hannah travelled over to mum and Brian's for a holiday straight after Christmas. It was her first "real" holiday on her own. She was excited, I was a

blithering mess! Anyway, she enjoyed herself.



immensely and came back after a week of fun in the sun! We had scores of visitors in Jan & Feb - they came on the pretext of seeing us but we know they only wanted to check out the new addition! And a very cute new addition she is too. Some people stayed for a few nights, a few were day trippers, so it was quite a busy time.

Riverdance The Show was enjoyed immensely by mum, Nicola, Stephen and I and of course Amelia. She slept through the lot!

The girls and I enjoyed Trip to Berkeley Vale in February, we made good use of the amenities, enjoying the beach and the pool. The girls and I returned home with a lovely tan.

We then had a week at home doing "nothing" and enjoyed

visits to the local pool, morning tea (food) or lunch (more food) with friends and trips to the movies. Generally a good time was had by all! A Trip to Berkeley Vale was taken by all of us for a week at Easter time for some R & R. The weather was passable, the girls did manage to get into the spa and the pool. We did manage some sightseeing. I ventured onto the latest craze on wheels - Roller Blades! What fun! It was just like being on roller skates again except faster. (I know childhood re-visited!) There was one drawback though! I broke my left arm at the elbow! on my way to returning the skates to the hire shop I crashed badly. A very painful end to the holiday. I was quite useless for a few days and everybody got a good laugh at my expense!

KIDS CAPERS!

Hannah is into her 3rd year of school and enjoying it as usual.



Brownies is in it's second year for Hannah and she really loves it.

Emily started Pre-school on Friday mornings which she really loves.

Hannah had the usual Appointments in Sydney for her annual check-ups. All went well and some we have to see in 12 months and one in two years! which is a major coo for us!

A Visit to Dubbo was made by Emily, Amelia and myself for Emily's 3 year check up with the team from King George Hospital. She went really really well, she averaged out at 4 years of age. so they were extremely pleased with her.

THE RELS - HERS

Mum and Brian arrived for a long weekend with my godparents from England in tow. It was lovely to catch up with them, we last saw them on our trip to England in 1989 (B.C.) (before children!!!) They were great fun and we enjoyed showing them some of the local sights and generally catching up on things.

Mum, Brian and some friends of theirs have trekked of into the great unknown for 4 months sightseeing up the centre and down the coast of Aus. in their caravans. Some great post-cards are coming our way.

THE RELS - HIS

Steve's dad had a stint in hospital over the Christmas period with a badly infected

JEWELL JOTTINGS - Mid Year Update

foot, so he had enforced rest from the farm.
We trekked off to Tallangatta again this year for our new nephews christening, we were the chosen godparents, so now we have three delightful little godsons to visit. Anyway it was a nice weekend and an excellent opportunity to catch up with Steve's rels.

THE KITCHEN

is FINISHED!!!***

we finally put the finishing touches to the ceiling and the cornices and have actually hung a new light fitting this month. IT LOOKS GREAT!

BIRTHDAY BASH

Emily's 3rd birthday rolled on and we managed to get through the day without any broken bones this time! She had a ball. We had some friends over for a BBQ lunch and a beautiful day was had by all.

My birthday - another year, Oh dear! they start to pass by even quicker don't they.

Steve's birthday - he was only able to gloat for 4 days then he became the same age as me.

Hannah's birthday was fun as usual. We all visited the local McDonalds store for lunch followed by an exciting afternoon playing Ten Pin Bowls - I won!!!!

The day of her birthday, we had a crowd of rels and special friends over for finger food and drinks, a noisy fun time was had by all!

WHAT'S NEW(S)

We are on the move!!!!!!!!!!!!
Where you ask - well how about the Central Coast of QLD.

Moving

Yes - it's true. Stephen has got a job with the Gladstone Area Water Board as one of their Managers. Gladstone is a town approx 100kms south of Rockhampton - gateway to the Great Barrier Reef! Excellent spot for holidays!!!! Hint, Hint. Anyway our life is in absolute chaos at the moment with Stephen and I trying to repair, repaint, renovate everything we haven't done in the past seven years!!

Steve's



family came over for the June long weekend to lend a hand with the guttering, rebuilding the laundry, tidying etc. etc. etc. Of course we had some of the worst weather we've had so far and then the

!@?!*** Cherry Picker wouldn't work properly. Talk about frustration.

Stephen you see, leaves us to start his job on the 14th June and the girls and I do not head off until the 1st of July. Yeh - I know who got the best end of the deal.

Anyway, Steve will fly back on the 30th June and we move on the 1st July.

Kids are excited, we are nervous wrecks! You will have noticed a little Change of Address Notification that fell out of this letter, please write it down so you can write to us. We may be in need of some TLC!

Stephen is going to be house hunting for us so hopefully we will have a residential address and phone number in the not too distant future.

Boy does moving make you sort out stuff or what?! We have accumulated 7 years of junk and jewels and you would think it was 70 years stuff.

Why do we keep all this!

Anyway must be off.

Ta. Ta. for now.

Yours in removals, renovations and repairs.

Stephen, Michelle,
Hannah, Emily and
Amelia.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



"CHEERS"



Issue 8 December 1998

Year, What year? Surely it's not a year since last print!

Kids Kapers!

Three children in one house! I ask you? Sanity is a thing of the past! (O.K. so it was never present). Hannah had the usual checkups in Sydney in Jan, Feb - all O.K.

and very pleased with her progress.

She is absolutely loving her new

school and looks forward to every Monday morning with amazing zest. She is very keen on catching the bus to school which leaves at 7.30am. I'm sure in time that novelty will wear off! She's the only kid I know who as punishment I threaten to keep her home from school!

Brownies is motoring along with zeal. This year has seen Hannah earn 2 badges much to her delight. That has happened since moving to Qld. They are a very motivated unit here and are keen to push the girls to earn badges they are able to do, which is great. She has had lots of trips around the place with the group and even enjoyed a weekend camp away in August. Had a ball she reckons and will be going again. Apron strings are being stretched already!!

Emily is enjoying life to the full as usual. She had started pre-school in Blayney, which she loved but is not eligible to go yet in Qld. So we choof off to playgroup each week, which is enjoyed by all. She is an absolute bundle of energy and never stops until she is asleep! We have enrolled her in Kindy 3 days a week (NSW preschool equivalent) next year, so she is abuzz about that.

Amelia's motoring along very well. A cute blonde haired blue eyed bundle with a FOUL temper and has learnt to assert it in a very noisy way! She is crawling at the moment and desperately wants to be upright, mainly to keep up with the other two I think. God help us all when they gang up together. The mischief is already surfacing.



She has 7 teeth with a very good bite! Into everything and afraid of nothing. Typical child.

Berkeley Vale Vacations

The girls and I enjoyed a trip to mums early in the year for some fun and frolics in the sand. Stephen joined us a week later for another spectacular trip to Riverdance. It was enjoyed by all, even Amelia who at 6 weeks old

slept through the entire performance! We all went

over again in April for the Easter break, and what did I break? My left elbow! How you ask? Rollerblading! Don't laugh! Anybody got a problem with it!? Very painful for quite along time, but not too bad now. It was interesting indeed to try and breastfeed a very young baby while one arm is immobilized, as for the nappies!!!!



Oversens Visitors

Some long standing family friends (mum and dads) arrived from U.K. for 3 weeks hols in sunny Aus. They came over with mum and Brian and stayed with us in Blayney for a few days which was wonderful. Haven't seen them since we travelled to the U.K. B.C. (before children), but they haven't changed a bit. We did the usual bit of sightseeing, chatting and catching up, very good for the soul!

Christening

We travelled down to Tallangatta (near Albury/Wodonga) in Feb for the christening of our latest nephew and godson Graham. He is Barb and Russels 3rd son. A

good opportunity to catch up with Steve's rels. It was great although as usual too the visit was too short.



The Move

June and July were extremely hectic months with lots of socialising following the news we were leaving Blayney to head to warmer climates. It also involved the

packing, sorting and moving. Not a pleasant job in anyone's books.

We also had the mad, mad rush of trying to tidy up and finish all the unfinished renovation jobs in the month before we left. A truly hectic time! It was very sad leaving Blayney, but very exciting arriving in Benaraby.

Our house in Blayney is being rented which is great, hopefully the tenants enjoy it as much as we did.

Olga and Phil visited Blayney several times during the year to catch up, also lent a hand with the last minute renovations prior to the move, for which we are eternally grateful!

Caravan Club

Mum and Brian trekked off into the great unknown for 3 months with another couple. They travelled up the centre to Darwin and back down the coast. They popped in to see us for a few weeks not long after we moved which was wonderful. They had a great time and are planning another big trip next year. They also take off for short trips with the caravan club at regular intervals.

School Days

I flew to Sydney in November to a 20/22 year reunion with my classmates. Oh my god, is it really that long we all asked ourselves! The vote was Gals - weathered well, Guys - not so well! With the exception of some, a lot of the blokes were grey, bald or had receding hairlines. A few of the girls didn't fare too well either, of course that didn't apply to any off our group, we had hardly changed



at all! A great night was had, we talked and danced into the wee hours at Castle Hill. It was also a great opportunity to catch up with other family and friends, three of whom travelled down from Blayney for the day which was great. Amelia came with me, (t'was a wee bit of an ordeal on 4 planes). The other 2 girls stayed in Benaraby with the househusband for the duration. A great time was also had there, although I think we have both decided the life of a single parent is for neither one of us! Much better to palm the kids off to the rels and for us to go bush on our own!

North of the Border

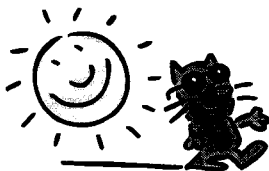
We are living in a foreign country - at least that is what it feels like at times. No wonder people up here are called the Banana Benders. Seriously, it is a very laid back lifestyle

(nothing opens on a Sunday!) and god forbid if you want anything

after 5pm! - no wonder it's great for a holiday. A lot of businesses also operate a POETS society on a Friday, (Piss Off Early, Tomorrow's Saturday). The girls are thriving though and so are we! The weather is fairly temperate around 28 - 32.C, it's the humidity which makes everything stick. Makeup is a thing of the past - slides of the face! Deodorant is now purchased in 10 gallon drums and the jumpers have become houses to families of moths, mice and other critters in need of residence! Air-conditioning is an essential requirement as are the pedestal fans in every room. The beauty of living here is we overlook so much water, that it looks cool and we do get some lovely ah breezes! (almost gale force at times, but very cooling providing you can stay upright!)

Into the Great Unknown!

We decided to visit local attractions on weekends to see what's about. This whole state is almost unknown to us, so it is quite an adventure. We travelled up to Yeppoon in October for the weekend. Enjoyed staying in a resort right on the beach. The FREE Kids Club was the major attraction though! Still we all enjoyed the break and the look around.



There is now only 99.99% of the state left for us to visit!

Study and Stuff

Stephen is still doing his computer technology course through Central Old Uni, we now have a campus right on our doorstep, which makes things a little easier. He will be continuing the same course next year - perpetual student! I completed my First Line Emergency Care course with my final practical assessment on 23rd December last year complete with 3 week old baby on board.

Beautiful Babies

I entered Emily and Amelia in the local Endeavor Foundation Baby Contest and they both won their relevant sections - Amelia - overall winner 6 - 12 months and Emily - overall winner 2 - 4 years. Just reinforces what we already knew - we produce beautiful children! Hannah was a bit annoyed that she couldn't go in it, but it only went up to 4 years and she was at school as well.

"Endeavour Foundation"

What's an Endeavour you may ask? It's a non-profit organisation which raises funds for people with disabilities in the community. Emily is an entrant in the Tiny Tots quest which is one of the many fundraisers the foundation holds. To qualify for regional judging she must raise at least \$500.00 by Aug 99. So, when your book of tickets arrives in the mail, please sell them or buy them yourself. They are raising money for a great cause and helping people less fortunate than ourselves. If you were any closer you would also be getting chocolates to sell, but I feel they do not travel well!

Blayney Update

Two of our very special and close friends in Blayney have had an exciting time this year. Brooke announced her engagement in September to her boyfriend Colin. They are planning a November wedding next year. Much enjoyment to hear the news although we were sorry to be missing the celebrations. This announcement was followed very closely in October by the Elopement of her sister Amanda and boyfriend Cameron. They snuck off to Hayman



Island and got married! They have some incredible photos to show. Then in November they announced they are having a baby next year. Who said country towns are boring! So next year we have a wedding and a new baby to visit in Blayney, how exciting!

A Reminder

Just a friendly reminder of our change of address for those who don't know, or who have lost it, or simply thrown it out with the veggie peelings!

P.O. Box 5234
Gladstone QLD 4680
(07) 4975 0043



Christmas Cheer

We're piling into the car and heading south for the silly season this year. We should clock up about 3,500 kms. We will spend Christmas with mum and Brian, followed by a visit to Dad and Carol overnight. Then it's on to Blayney followed by a sojourn into Gilgandra for the New Year Celebrations. We (Steve and I) might even go out and make use of the built in Babysitters! Will probably fall asleep into the New Year drinks though. We are usually in bed for new year, it happens when one has small children who's eyes spring open at the first hint of daylight.

Till Next Time!

That's it for another year, will sign off now and here's wishing each and every one of you a

Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love from Stephen, Michelle, Hannah, Emily and Amelia. XXXXX

