

Y2K, went thataway!

Another year gone. Welcome to the 10th anniversary edition of "Cheers". Sorry, back issues are not available.

After the Eighties and Nineties we are now in the Noughties. Should be a good decade this one. A big year all round for us. Read on.

And they're away.....

We got into the swing at a New Year BBQ after acquiring some fireworks in Canberra. We let them off around midnight - the lights stayed on and we all had fun. So much so

that we have decided to host another party to celebrate the real Millennium, but we can't actually find any fireworks, yet.

Hitched and hatched

We motored off to Albury in early January (3 days each way in the car - now that was fun, we all know the words to "Big Red Car" and other Wiggles favourites) for my brother Philip's wedding to fiancé Kerry. She seems nice enough, but obviously has some masochist tendencies.

They jetted off to Africa and the UK for an extended honeymoon come working holiday shortly afterwards, and they arrived home in October. They had planned to stay a lot longer, see a lot more and just generally do all the things that get Australians such a bad name overseas, but the cool weather took its toll and Kerry is now heavy with child, due late January.

North for the winter

We had several visitors during the

year, which just serves to remind me that we didn't move quite far enough away.

Ray and Yvonne Nealy from Blayney dropped in for a couple of days in June. They were heading north to warmer climes, only to find it was wet, cold and miserable when they arrived. Not quite as wet, nor so cold, as Blayney was though.

Amanda, Cameron and Jett Townsend dropped in during early July and stayed for a week. Hannah wasn't impressed about losing her bedroom to interlopers for a week, but she did enjoy the attention.

Off to the tower!

In some amazing news, my Mum and Dad actually (finally) went to the UK, while Phil and Kerry were there, and spent a month touring the country.

After spending the last 40 years on the farm not going much further than Dubbo Dad had to admit that it was great and that he would love to do it again.

The highlight for Mum was being able to do a bit of family history research. I think there were too many highlights for Dad to pick just one.

Frequent flyer

I seem to have spent nearly as much time in Brisbane this year as Gladstone.

We all had a trip down in May to go to the Working with Wood Show (only bought stuff I really, really needed - honest), Michelle and the girls can't wait to go back next year and buy more tools. I was back again on my own a month later to watch the Australia-Argentina Rugby Test.

From July through to October I was in Brisbane nearly every week for work. Michelle was pretty impressed juggling shifts around to accommodate my jaunts.

I am on the Board of the Awoonga Alliance (a consortium of Thiess Contractors, the Water Board and a couple of consultants) which is building the \$100 million Awoonga Dam Raising project. Fairly interesting and a bit of a buzz.



Peaceful interlude

After Phil & Kerry's wedding we left Hannah with Michelle's Mum for her own holiday without annoying little sisters. Meanwhile Emily & Amelia enjoyed a quiet drive home without an annoying big sister. Worked out well all round. Hannah flew home a week later to shatter the peace.



It's a girl!

Michelle's sister Nicola had a baby girl (Caitlin Rose) on 3rd August.

Michelle flew down to Sydney 2 weeks later to check out the new addition.

The kids talk about nothing else at the moment, every doll - from Barbie to the teddy bears - is a baby named Caitlin Rose (surprise, surprise) and breast feeding is suddenly a big topic.



Moving out of home

Michelle's Mum and stepfather have sold their house in Berkeley Vale and are now Queenslanders, having built a new house on the Gold Coast. It is on one of the ubiquitous canals in one of the new estates. Now my mother-in-law is right on my back doorstep. Happy days!

In easily the most surprising news of the year, Mum and Dad put the farm up for auction in October. It didn't sell, but they have some interested buyers and they may be out by Christmas.

They have decided to move back south to Tallangatta where my Nana, Bertha resides and has been unwell. Barb and Phil are also down there as are many other family members. We visited the farm in September just in case it was the last time we got to go there. After 40 years I will miss the farm (not that I visited it too often - but you know what I mean).

Aiming for the ton

Speaking of my Nana, she hit 90 in May. We are now holding out for the telegram from the Queen. After being unwell for some time she has had to finally admit defeat and is now staying in the Tallangatta hospital, but hopes to maybe go home one day.



Midwife crisis

It's official, Michelle is half way, a midwife! After successfully finishing her course in January, she started part-time work as a midwife on 1st February.

Her official graduation was in May. It was probably good, but I was too busy chasing Amelia around the hall to see any of it. She has officially delivered some 50-odd babies already.

The good

Hannah is having a great year. She was encouraged to compete in the shot put and discus at her school sports day and did really well, qualifying for the Port Curtis (district) finals for disabled athletes.

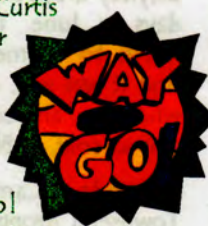
She then went on to contest the Capricornia (regional) school sports and then in early November she was off to Brisbane. Quite a thrill. Especially after she won a gold medal in the 10 years discus and a bronze in the shot put! She became a local celebrity with a big write-up in the Gladstone Observer (copies available on request).

Emily had a great year too, winning the regional title of Miss Tiny Tot again. Last year Michelle was in Sydney and missed the Tiny Tots final. This year they put it on the weekend she had booked to go and see her new niece. I took the kids and saw Emily get the winner's sash, but who went on an all expenses paid trip to Surfers Paradise with Emily for 3 days?

Emily didn't win the Statewide final but she had lots of fun. Me, I got to stay home.

Hannah found herself in the Calliope Schools Shire Choir in June. The choir is a combined choir of 8 local schools and there was 150 children in it. Her school choir also entered the Gladstone Eisteddfod and won first place. So a pretty good year all around for her.

Hannah is still attending Brownies and is a leader, while Emily is already signed up for next year.



Emily started preschool this year and is very much looking forward to being in Year 1 next year, she will be 6 in March.

She started dancing this year and will probably continue next year, although she isn't near so keen on it as she was when we signed up.

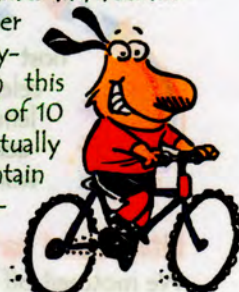
.... the bad

Not much has changed for Amelia, she turned 3 last week and is still precocious and sometimes downright rotten. She is looking forward to Kindy next year and tells everyone she meets. Heaven help Kindy, but I think we all need her to go.

She has also started swimming lessons this summer, in preparation for (maybe) getting a pool after Christmas.

.... and the ugly.

Michelle is still playing netball with a work team (the Baby Catchers would you believe). I am still refereeing Rugby when Michelle isn't working on a Saturday. Bit of a bummer at times as I had to turn down the chance to referee several good first grade games and a semi-final owing to her shifts. I started playing squash again this year after a layoff of 10 years, and have actually bought a mountain bike. Worrying really.



In brief

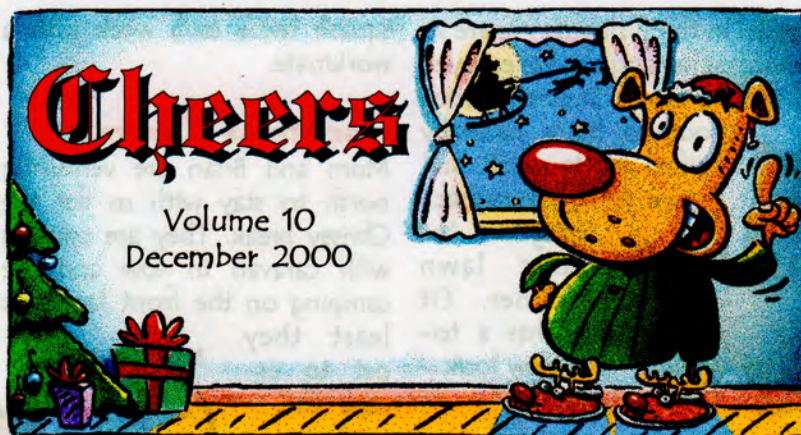
We are staying put this year, so Michelle's Mum and Brian are staying here for Xmas-New Year. We haven't told them yet, but Michelle and I will probably go overseas for the week, so they are welcome to the kids.

Actually last year's Xmas-New Year project was building a bedroom for Hannah, and this year's is a pergola, so nobody will actually get to relax.

Bye for now and Love from us all,

Stephen,
Michelle,
Hannah,
Emily & Amelia.





The year 2000-WOW!!

New Year Blitz!

We kicked off the new year with an almighty boot. We enjoyed a party on the beautiful front lawn of our home with about a dozen friends and their children.

We partied long into the night and even celebrated with a much talked about and enjoyed fireworks display. A few sore heads were had the next day, especially mine hostess!

Wedding Bells

We journeyed south to Wodonga in January for the wedding of Stephen's brother Phil to his beautiful bride Kerry. The day was very enjoyable, and the bridal party looked gorgeous! The following day saw us all at a BBQ hosted by Phil & Kerry before we pointed the car north again. Mum and Brian came down to babysit the girls for us and took Hannah back with them for a weeks holiday. Hannah flew home with mum a week later. It was quite strange having two children instead of three.

Visitors Book

My best friends from Melbourne started off the visitors list in Jan with a lightening visit on their way home from Yepoon where they were holidaying. Our good friends from Blayney, Ray and



Yvonne arrived for a weekend in June on their way north. 2 weeks later more good friends from Blayney, Amanda, Cameron and Jett arrived. A fantastic time was had by all for the week they stayed with us. We were very sorry to see them return home.

Friends that I used to work with in Orange also popped over for the weekend, they now live in Bundaberg - (just down the road). We have also had numerous day trippers and those just passing through and stopping long enough for a coffee and a chat!

Family News

My dad has been unwell this year with a really bad case of shingles. It sidelined him for months, forcing an end to his working career. Carol became the nurse as well as chief cook and bottle washer. Thankfully he is on the mend now.

Kerry and Philip are expecting their first child in January much to the excitement of all concerned. They have spent the time since their wedding overseas, working and touring, but headed home in October before Kerry got too big and uncomfortable to fly.

Alan and Olga spent a wonderful month with Kerry and Phil in August, touring U.K., etc.



Baby Bounty

My sister Nicola and her hubby Brett became the oh so proud parents of a beautiful baby girl Caitlin Rose on 3rd August. Mum made it back down in time for the delivery. I flew down 2 weeks later to check out the new addition, and very cute too.

Clearing Sales

Much excitement is to be had on both sides of the fence. My mum and step dad Brian placed their house on the market in Berkeley Vale in Jan and it sold a week later much to their surprise.

They headed off to Brisbane in April to build their much dreamt about new home. They moved in in August. It is a beautiful home on one of the canal front estates on the Gold Coast. Brian has acquired a new toy (boat) to explore the new area which he is delighted with.

Alan & Olga surprised the entire family by announcing they were putting the farm up for auction after 39 years. They have decided to move south to Tallangatta where Olga's mum, Bertha, resides and has been unwell. Barb and Phil are also down there as are many other family members. It is where Alan and Olga started their lives together!

Tripping around

We have mostly stayed put so far this year apart from the trip to Wodonga (all) Sydney (me) many trips to Brisbane (Steve), One by Emily and I (more later). We all went to Brisbane early in the year and caught up with mum and Brian. We went south to the farm in Sept. School holidays to catch up with Barb & boys at the farm and Alan & Olga before the farm is sold. Brisbane for all of us in Novem-



ber when Hannah competed at the QEII stadium - more later. So all in all a quiet time!!!!!!

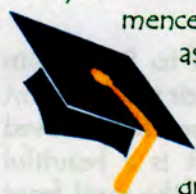
Young Endeavour

Emily has been fundraising for the Endeavour Foundation again and won the regional title of Miss Tiny Tot again, so we went off to Surfer Paradise for 3 days R & R which was great. She did not win the state finals but did enjoy herself.



Graduation Gown

Yes I made it, I finished my midwifery on 31st December 1999 (that was also part of the new year celebrations) and commenced part time work as a midwife on 1st February 2000. My official graduation was in May which I attended with much pride, joy and relief. I payed for every part of that ceremony with blood sweat and tears! I am really enjoying my new career path and cannot imagine working anywhere else, (well only sometimes)!



Sporting Achievements

This year because Hannah turned 10 (can you believe it) she was allowed to compete in shot put and discus at her school sports day. She did really well and managed to qualify for the inter-school district finals for disabled athletes.

WOW!

Hannah then went on to contest in the regional school sports and threw the qualifying distance and was selected in the 'Capricornia School Sports team' that travelled to Brisbane and attended QEII stadium for two days. What an achievement! She won a gold medal in the discus and a bronze

medal in the shot put. We are so proud of her and she has enjoyed herself so much. Stephen turned out to be a naturally gifted sports coach, and spent many hours practising on the front lawn with her, (it now has a totally new look - dented)!!

Hannah also earned herself a place in the Combined Calliope Schools Shire Choir which was a combined choir of approx 8 schools, there was 150 children in it, that was also a great experience for her. Her school choir also entered the Gladstone Eisteddfod and won first place. So an exciting year all around for her. She is still attending Brownie-Guides and has been nominated a sixer (a leader for those of you not in the know)!

Emily is looking forward to grade 1 next year and has already decided she wants to attend brownies with Hannah. Emily has enjoyed dancing this year and will probably continue next year. We are off to the end of the year concert next week in which she is a bunny.

Amelia is valiantly following in her big sister's footsteps and wants to be doing seeing and participating in all they are doing and more. She is looking forward to Kindy next year and tells every person she meets. All three girls are going to swimming lessons to prepare them for the big purchase this year (a pool) Yeh, I finally get one!

Sporty Parents

I am still part of the baby catchers netball team which plays every Wed. We got into the semi finals this year, then lost. Still we keep trying. Steve has refereed quite a few days of rugby this year (when I'm not working or he's not working). He also plays

squash twice each week with a workmate.

Christmas Cheers

Mum and Brian are venturing north to stay with us for the Chrissy break. They are coming with caravan in tow and are camping on the front lawn. At least they get to escape the madness of the Jewell household (of which there is plenty) when they need a little piece and solitude!



New Year Once Again

We have decided to host another new years eve party as the last one was such a success, so if anyone is looking for a party to go to, come on up - we guarantee a good time!

Does anyone know where we can get hold of some fireworks again!!!

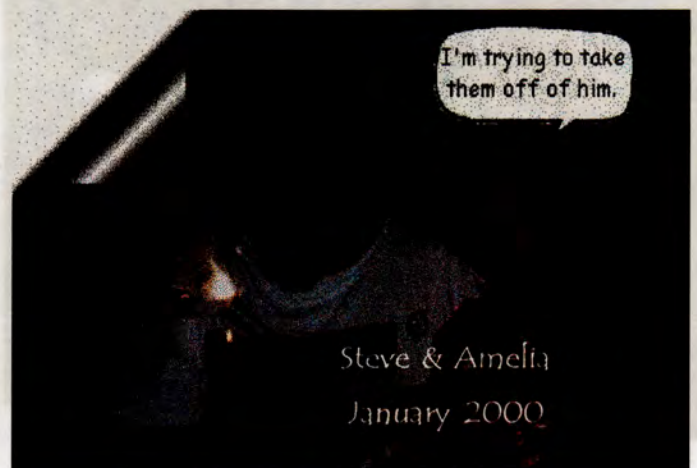
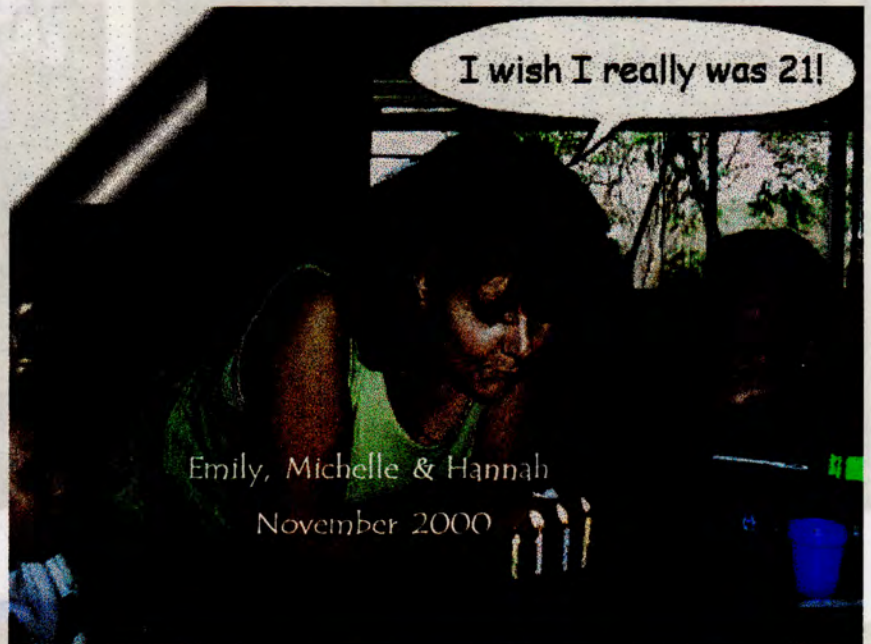


Once more the time has come to wish each and every one of you a wonderful Christmas and a happy healthy and safe 2001.

So until next year, once again, Love from us all,

**Michelle, Stephen,
Hannah Emily and
Amelia.**





Rogues Gallery

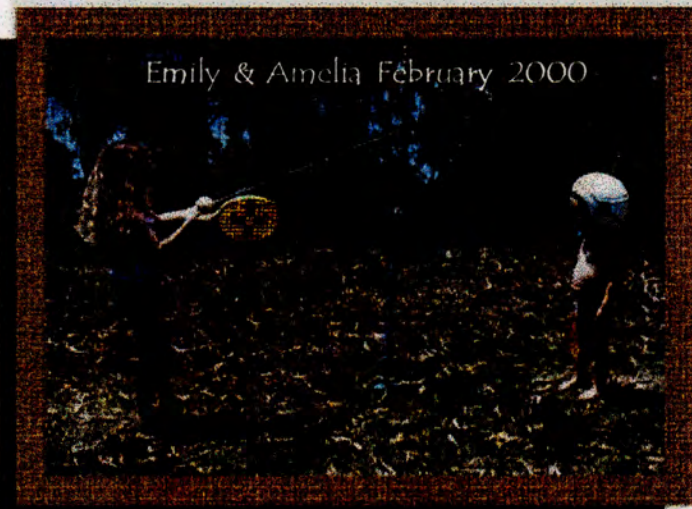
Hannah June 2000



Amelia & Emily August 2000



Emily & Amelia February 2000



Amelia July 2000



Michelle May 2000



Amelia October 2000

