

The Good Life – Jobry Style – Month 8

Where did those 5 weeks go?? It seems that I am always sitting here early in the morning typing the newsletter. In the last month we managed to travel up to Perth for a brief period. Joann was missing the Perth coffee shops and her toy boys. No, actually it was golf that took Jo to Perth. I went up for 2 nights to bring Jo home again. I must have been down here too long, Perth looks best from my rear vision mirror!!

Mandurah, have you driven through Mandurah lately. If you are wondering where the Third World countries dispose of their traffic lights, well they are purchased for the Mandurah region. Every trip there seems to be another set of lights to ensure that traffic does not flow smoothly.

Anyway, down here in paradise, the weather is turning a little cool, -1.7 one morning last week to be precise. Joann has this great idea, when the frost is on the ground you have to grab buckets of water and walk to the extremities of the block and pour the water over plants so that the sun doesn't burn the plants as it comes up. Gloves might be a handy accessory if she is going to keep this practice up. Mind you, it was a thick frost.

In the last month, we have commenced the garden around the house and built the deck which looks like a great dance floor at the moment 6 metres square.



The 'kids' or baby goats I mentioned last month are growing too fast, although I doubt that they will ever be weaned from the bottles. I have never seen such spoilt farm animals. They still sleep in the shed and have hot water bottles of a night. They were out the other day and it rained so they cried to be taken back into the shed, unbelievable. Joann was offered a baby lamb that she showed a great deal of interest in. Fortunately someone else beat her to it.

Zara, the dog looks great with no whiskers. She wore them off trying to get a rabbit in the wood pile.

We had a real test of the B&B a few weekends ago when 3 couples who knew each other came to stay. I spent the weekend torn between drinking with the guests and doing what Joann wanted me to do, be a host and removed from the guests. It

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turned out to be a great weekend. An interesting breakfast conversation at one stage centred around how pleasant it was to get up and go to the toilet during the night because of the heated floors.

Joann prepared dinners for the guests so they had a relaxing time early and then appeared to talk in tongues later. When I went to the rubbish tip on the Monday, I think we had more empty bottles than the local pub.

The weekend was a lot of fun.

We also had one of the QBE Managers visit with his father for a night. It's nice to see that we haven't been forgotten down here in the south.

At last my home theatre is up and running with the new projector and fixed screen, so we or guests can now enjoy a movie on the big screen. The room has a heated floor and air conditioning for comfort as well.



The LCD TV's are in place in all bedrooms and the DVD players will be functional in the next week or two.

There is always something to do down here. In the last month we have been to a repertory function where they had 80 years of song from musicals, which was great. One Saturday afternoon was spent dancing in the Town Hall. It's great to be amongst other people with bad backs and strained groins from chasing cows. I didn't feel so bad trying to get the correct steps!

Found some great wineries down the road at Pemberton as well. That is an area that certainly needs some time to look around. Gloucester Ridge and Mountford wines were particularly good. There are still others we haven't ventured to yet, but they are on the list.

Work at the Bridgetown Visitors Centre will be interesting. We had some Asian visitors looking for advice so they were sent on one of the scenic drives through farm land. On their return they said they couldn't complete the drive because the road was 'broken'. After some deliberation and interpretation the broken road turned out to be a cattle grid!

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On other matters, my daughter Sharon and her family now live in Bridgetown which came as a surprise to Jo and me. They came down to look around and decided that life was better here than in Heathridge, so here they are. Joshua actually looks forward to school, while Sharon and Steve are marvelling in the silence of the area, no hoons or sirens. Sharon is also staggered by the number of stars in the night sky that you don't see in Perth due to the surrounding light.

Those of you that have been here might recall the large Marri tree that had been struck by lightning. Well I had the dead part cut out this week. I expected the guy to come with a cherry picker truck, not a couple of ropes and a chain saw attached to one. He climbed the tree and commenced to drop limbs so as not to damage the rest of the tree, and then cut all the wood into logs that will fit into the wood fire. Interestingly his charge for the work was less than it would cost to buy the wood he cut up, so I guess I'm in front. If you look closely at the photo the lump at the base of the dead part of the tree is Jolly the tree lopper (Jolly is his name!)



There are still a lot of you that haven't come down here yet to enjoy the 'fresh air' and help Jo water the frost off the plants, so start thinking about it. This is a great time of year to visit. There's a new kitchen shop opening this weekend with local produce and kitchen supplies. The Repertory Club has "The Axemore Murders" starting next weekend.

Regards to all.

Joann & Brian