

## The Good Life – Jobry Style – Month 9

A lot has happened in the last 4 weeks. So you guys in Perth had a record low of 0.7 well we had a minus 5.7, not that we noticed nor are we going to brag about it! Glad we didn't have visitors though as the hot water system froze and there was no water in the taps until after 9.00am. We are still following that up with the builders.

We had the long weekend which saw Bruce, Sharon and the grand children visit to create mayhem in Bridgetown. Of course Bruce has to hit the biggest kangaroo in the region on his way down. Fortunately it was only a glancing blow to three panels on the passenger side of the vehicle. Bruce seems to think that the vehicle following might have worn the 'roo as an emblem as the 2 headlights following him changed to 1 headlight.

Karen also came down and became a slave to Joann who seemed to take over the soup kitchen for the kids and grandies. I'm sure that Bruce and Sharon aren't aware that the cooking equipment in the shed actually works!!

The following weekend Joann threw a '50 years in Australia' surprise party for me, mainly because I have always maintained that the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1956 was a great day for Australia. England's loss, of course. The house was full and a great weekend followed. I must admit that I did not have a clue what Joann was doing. I thought she was getting upset easily because I could not see the urgency to get jobs done, but that's nothing new.

You might recall we have two 'kids' the goat style of course. Well, as they are getting bigger I have to build something to keep them in. The locals are very helpful, every time I ask what is the best thing to keep goats in I get the same answer – the freezer! Fred and Margaret, the shed dwellers are going to take them to their block where they can chomp on blackberry bushes and bracken for years to come. But.... But Jo could not contain herself, we now have two lambs. One is a fine wool merino named Sally and the other is a black lamb named Molly (sorry Davenmollie but we didn't name her) she is a Suffolk or something, apparently her body will change to the white colour but her legs and head will stay black. The story is that we are only looking after Molly whilst the owners are in England, but I have my doubts. Interesting though we now have two black sheep in the family but I wish I could get the attention the other black one gets!!



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Cold, did I mention that it occasionally gets cold down here, well one morning when I had to take Sharon's Grandies to school the windscreen was frozen, so I poured cold water on it to remove the ice and started the car up to warm the interior for the kids. Well, when I got back outside the water I had poured on the screen had frozen – couldn't see a thing. But..... It's not cold for long (from May to September, I think). Seriously we have some beautiful days with cool mornings, clear skies and warm days, let's not talk about what happens when the sun goes down! Hey, the wood fire has a flue now so life is really cosy inside, then in the bathrooms and bedrooms the heated floors are great on the feet. I think Western Power may have to put a new sub station at the front gate.

The heated home theatre room is proving to be popular, we have had a few 'movie nights' with refreshments in hand.

Zara has taken to retirement really well. In the winter she gets up when Jo goes to work but then settles back into her bean bag until about 9.00am. For those of you wondering, I get up when Jo goes to work and stay up, when do you think this newsletter gets typed.

The Visitors Centre organised a 'famil' day to Boyup Brook last week. There is a lot to see around Boyup Brook. We visited the Museum, Harvey Dickson's Country Music and Rodeo place, Roo Gully (for those of you who have seen 'Roo Gully Diaries' on ABC TV) and then a new winery. Harvey Dickson is a character, looks like he is still in the 60's & 70's. He has a great studio though for playing the oldies. Boyup Brook is only 20 minutes from here.



Here is Harvey doing what he likes best – playing Marty Robbins.

Don't you just love bureaucracy – we finally got our approval to operate a Bed & Breakfast, so what does the letter say – we now have to apply for a 'Lodging House license'. Every time I walk into the Shire Office it costs me money.

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On the subject of accommodation, the house is fully booked for the Blues Festival, but the shed may be available if a group of you want to come down, There is also the Blackwood Marathon in October for you fitness fanatics. At the Visitors Centre we are now referring people to accommodation in Manjimup for the Blues Festival as, apart from 'Tent City', there is nowhere to stay in Bridgetown.

We now have a large telescope to view the evening sky. People seem to marvel at the number of stars as we do not have any surrounding light to dull the sky. I am waiting for the next full moon to really get into this sky gazing business.



Thought I might as well throw in a photo of two goats, one old and one still full of fun!

The Small Landholders Group organised a one day workshop on growing, pruning and managing fruit trees last Saturday. This was great for us as it covered not only trees but berries as well. It's amazing how many green parrots seem to suffer from lead poisoning in some orchards!!

The garden around the house has started – we now have the total supply of standard roses for the South West in our garden. It has got so bad, we have taken some 'fortuniana' standard cuttings so that we can try grafting our own. A flag pole has also gone in near the entrance (Yes Shellie we are getting ready for the Xmas lights). Talking about Xmas, did you know that Bridgetown has a Xmas shop that is open all year?

A former work colleague and his wife called in this week on their way home from the Wine & Truffle Co in Manjimup. They were very enthusiastic about the food they had eaten whilst there, so we must go down and have a look at that venue.

Well, I guess I've taken up enough of your time, so that's it for now.  
Regards from  
Joann & Brian