

The Avenue Ranger

Avenue Newsletter

2nd Edition

March 2002



Local Heros Save Sydney

The Sydney Bushfire Report by John Hensel



On Thursday 3rd January, Ian Jenke, Ashley Wilkin, Rob Legoe and myself left Naracoorte by bus for Adelaide. We flew out of Adelaide at 4.30pm and arrived in Sydney at about 7pm. Some of the 100 odd fires were very visible flying over the Blue Mountains and the smoke over Sydney was very thick. The sun was just an orange blur and visibility was down to about 1km. We were accommodated at the Pacific International hotel, in Paramatta. I shared a room with Ian Jenke and two other fire fighters, but we never met them. We were day shift, and they were night shift, so we passed each other at the handovers. This made the cost of accommodation economical.

Our days started at 5.30am, with breakfast and briefing, and on the bus by 6.45am. The first briefing was a shock to us, because we thought the Lucindale team would be together on the Lucindale truck. No way. We were split up and the next surprise was that I thought I would be on a hose, but ended up Captain of the Wakerie truck, with 5 other blokes from all over SA that I had never met before. The buses took over an hour to take us to the Linton area, in the Blue Mountains. The handover from the 'night crews' to 'day crews' were classed as a cold change - all strike teams met at an oval, or similar area, and handed over at a leisurely

pace - or a hot change, where you were taken to the truck on the fire ground. Our first hand over was a hot change, in the middle of a back burn. Talk about thrown in at the deep end - strange truck, strange crew, and in a fire situation never experienced before. Just to make things worse, the allocated driver was unable to handle the steep terrain, and I had to take over as the driver. With the thick forest and very steep mountains, this was an experience in itself. The rest of the day was very much a learning curve. Most days we did not get back to our beds till 10:30pm.

The SA contingent consisted of 6 strike teams, which were: 1 forward control, 5 trucks and 1 tanker. The way the whole SA operation operated made the NSW effort look inferior. They could not even have a radio channel to themselves on either UHF or VHF.



Back Burns:

The way of firefighting is totally different over there. You never actually fight the fire. The Chiefs predict where the fire is going to go, and you back burn breaks to protect houses etc, or try to direct or control the fire. The back burns are lit off breaks, made by dozers or single vehicle tracks or roads. At times, it got so hot trying to control back burns, that the plastic on the roof lights, Pro-cleaner element, and paint on the doors of the



Lucindale truck was melted. On one back burn, the local fire officer briefed us and said he expected to loose 5-6 houses, and that we should not let it upset us, because we would protect another 100. We did not loose any, but it sure kept us on our toes and made for interesting times.

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It was very tiring work, and this was not just the length of the days. The heat of the fires was intense, and the days fairly warm, and we were advised to drink 5L of water per day. A lot of people collapsed with dehydration and exhaustion. We lost one of our crewmembers for the last 2 days because of

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A Tribute to NANCY SMITH

By Clare Smith



Nancy Homfray was born on 18th March, 1932. She was the eldest of 3 children, - including Trevor and Kay. Nancy lived at Bull Island, Avenue Range, as a child and young adult, where she completed all of her schooling by correspondence.

At about 18 years of age, she started her nursing career at the Naracoorte Hospital, then trained as a midwife at the Queen Victoria Hospital.

Aged 27, Nancy married Keith Smith in 1960, who was already living on the farm, "Kareela", Avenue Range. The land having already been split by his father. Nancy had 2 children - Barry, born 19.10.1960, and Clare, born 21.01.1963.

Nancy was a Sister/Midwife at the Kingston Soldiers Memorial Hospital, then later as Matron. She tried to retire at the age of 50, to spend more time on the farm. The hospital asked her back as Matron, so Keith and Nancy moved to Kingston. Barry then moved onto the farm, and Keith traveled to the farm when needed.

After Keith's death in 1984, Nancy stayed on at the hospital as Matron. For a change, she decided on relief nursing at Keith and Barmera, then spent quite some time in Coleraine, Victoria, as Matron.


Nancy always hoped to own a General Store, so after her time at the Coleraine Hospital, Nancy had the opportunity to

purchase the Avenue Store in 1988, which took her back to her home town.

While at Avenue, she purchased a house in Lucindale for her later retirement, and eventually sold the store in July 1993.

After moving to Lucindale, she took up cooking for shearers for about 3 seasons.

Nancy did eventually retire for a number of years, until her death on 25th November, 2001, aged 69 years.

 this. We adopted the saying, "hurry up and wait". This described the way we would either be flat-out fighting fires, or sitting around waiting for the next lot of action. You quickly learnt to relax when you could, because you never knew when or where you could be in action next.

It was a great learning experience in Sydney, and has given me more confidence to handle local situations, and also it was good to help our fellow firefighters in NSW.



The local residents were very appreciative of our efforts, and helped us get through the long hot days, by cheering us along and putting out signs with encouraging messages on them. On one interesting occasion, our truck crew had to rescue a 19ft python from a house, and a photo of this made the it into the Sydney Daily Telegraph. Most trucks had a Metropolitan fire fighter on board, and everybody was a bit apprehensive at the start, but once they learnt what to do, everybody got on well. One day we were to have lunch at the Woodford fire station, where there was a mass of activity, and about 500 metres away, a 16 year old girl was caught lighting a fire. Along with fire-bugs, we had to also contend with funnel web spiders and poisonous black berry bushes. When the heat and action was really on, it was not unusual to have 3 helicopters hovering overhead, and it was reassuring knowing they were there.

The Mt Hall bushfire we were fighting in the Blue Mountains, burnt 122,000 hectares and was burning with a 70km front. The SA crews put in 140 kms of back burns. A total of 567,00 hectares was burnt with a total perimeter of 3,025kms.



The Avenue Shin-Dig will be held on Sunday 21st April.

Afternoon tea supplied, but please B.Y.O chairs, drinks, meat and salads for tea.

If it's hot, there will be water games for the kids.

Please contact **Karena** for more details on **8766 0116**.

Gouldy's Gab by Viv & Mark Gould

Since the last Newsletter, we have fare-welled the Bennetts, who were here for a short, but sweet, time, and we wish them well in their new home at Edenhope.

We now welcome the Fogerty's - David, Jackie, Eloise, Georgia, Celeste, Micaela and Darcy, to Avenue Range.

Jason, Sonya and Chloe Lindner have also moved on to Lameroo, and Jenny and Deanne, who had their clearing sale on March 1st, will also be leaving. Our best wishes go with them all.

Faye and Lindsay Pratt are hav-

ing their clearing sale on April 12th, so keep this date free.

Friday night tennis and social gatherings have been a great success. It is wonderful to see this facility being used again. Thanks to the volunteers who have given their time to clean and tidy this area up, for everyone to enjoy.



Letter to the Editor

To the Avenue People,

As the oldest resident in the community, and a Life Member of the Avenue Sports Club, I would like to say how pleased Shirley and I are, to see the revival of activity around the tennis courts. The Avenue people with their families, spent many happy hours on the courts and cricket ground, followed by BBQ teas, and we hope that this now will continue for sometime to come.

We wish everyone a happy 2002, and congratulations on the introduction of the Avenue Newsletter, and welcome to all newcomers to this area.

Ted and Shirley Rivett.

Thank you to everyone for voting to name the Newsletter. We had some friendly rivalry happening down at the Store - with the final results being:

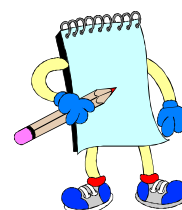
The Avenue Ranger	16 votes
The Avenews	15 votes
Avenue Avant-Garde	12 votes
Inside Avenue	10 votes

Thank you to everyone who participated. We raised \$59, so this will be used for the printing of the newsletter.

Last Editions Mystery Person was.....**Kareena Higgins**
Congratulations to 1st prize winner.....**Kerry Gilkes!**

Mystery Person ???

- 1) I was born in Kingston SE, but have spent all my life in the Avenue District.
 - 2) I'm a bit of an all-round sport, trying any on offer, achieving the position of National Umpire in one.
 - 3) Am sought of a Jack-of-all-Trades, though the only qualification I have achieved, is my driver's license, but am also a certified weight watcher.
 - 4) People say I'm a bit of a super bloke.
- ☉ Same deal, place your entry at the Avenue Store.
 - ☉ First correct answer will be announced on Friday 22nd March.
 - ☉ Great Prize for the Winner!



ThE RoViNg EyE !



One local-West Avenue-Mother of 3-horse fanatic, found herself in a compromising position recently at shearing time. While transporting lambs on the motorbike, she was inconvenienced when the lamb relieved itself on her leg. Being the innovative farm girl that she is, she removed her trousers and tied them to the front of the bike to dry.

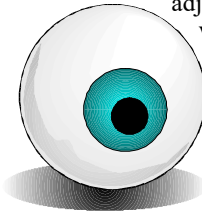
When she stopped to re-clothe on her return to the shearing shed with the lambs, she was extremely alarmed when the trousers were no where to be found.

So with some careful maneuvering, she managed to deliver the lambs to the shed and sneak back to the house, 'dak-less and unnoticed'.....or so she thinks!

One of our famous fire fighters, who hadn't done the new radio course, certainly ended up red-faced one night in the truck. Trying to change channels, he managed to push the Emergency button, connecting Avenue straight to Adelaide. A second attempt had us on Emergency Standby again! Some people just should not play with knobs they know nothingPhil!

Newly settled Northern Territory resident had a very eventful first week at Avenue Range. Having experienced a bushfire on an adjoining property the day before, she got the fright of her life when she awoke to thick, heavy smoke surrounding her home.

After the initial panic of finding herself amidst a ferocious S.A. bushfire in her first week, she realized that this was what the locals call "FOG"!



The same local-West Avenue-Mother of 3-horse fanatic, shared more than she bargained for on New Year's Day. While bbq'ing with friends, she again demonstrated her talent for being prepared for ANY occasion.

As she took her hanky from her coat pocket to wipe her nose, friends were horrified to discover the hanky she produced, was in fact, her KNICKERS!!!

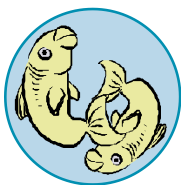
What's going on out West Avenue way, Kevin????!!

My spies tell me that a couple of eligible bachelors from around the area were spotted at The Arkaba Hotel, or as it's commonly known "Grab a Granny".

Reports filtering back in, suggests that these two gentlemen will remain single for a very long time, if their combined efforts are anything to go on. One seemed more interested in the poker machines than the attentions from a respectable blonde!

A famous Englishman once said, *"If you don't understand a complexity, turn your back so you don't look like an idiot".*

Your Month by the Stars Your monthly Horror-scope. by Crystal Ballz



Pisces: (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

You have a vivid imagination, and often think you are being followed by the local Police or a member of the opposite sex.

You have a minor influence over your associates, and people resent your flaunting of power.

You lack confidence, and you are generally a coward.

Pisces people do terrible things to small animals.



Aries: (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

You are the pioneer type, and hold most people to contempt.

You are quick tempered, impatient and resent being given advice.

You are not a very nice person. You cannot hold down a relationship, because you never got over your first love - yourself.



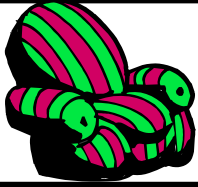
Taurus: (Apr 20 - May 20)

You are practical and over-powering.

You have a dogged determination, and work like hell.

Most people think you are stubborn, and bull-headed, and most people are right.

You are probably a Communist.



“ON THE COUCH”

Today I’m on the couch with Barb Hensel, and we’re trying to focus on John!

- Alan: Where did you meet John?
Barb: **At the pub, where else!**
- Alan: Did you think he was a good sort then?
Barb: **That time of night, everyone did.**
- Alan: Where did he take you on your first real date?
Barb: **I’m still waiting...**
- Alan: When he is naked, what is his best bit? Why?
Barb: **I like to think of him as a whole, not in “bits”.**
- Alan: Name his most irritating habit?
Barb: **How long have we got??**
- Alan: Does he have a sense of humor?
Barb: **Yes, especially when the jokes on you.**
- Alan: What was the last thing you fought about?
Barb: **By the time we’ve finished fighting, we can’t remember what it was about.**
- Alan: What would you change about him?
Barb: **As the saying goes, “you can never teach an old dog new tricks”.**
- Alan: Who wears the pants?
Barb: **In our house, the kids do.**
- Alan: Describe him in 3 words?
Barb: **I only need one word, “UNIQUE”.**

JOKE of the Day Supplied by Clare and Hugh Bainger

On the farm at the end of Carragher’s Rd, there lived a chicken and a horse, both of whom loved to play together.

One day, the two were playing when the horse fell into the drain and began to sink. Scared for his life, the horse whinnied for the chicken to get the farmer for help!

Off the chicken ran, back to the farm. Arriving at the farm, he searched and searched for the farmer, but to no avail, for he’d gone to Alan McGurk’s with the only tractor. Running around, the chicken spied the farmer’s new Mitsubishi Pajero.

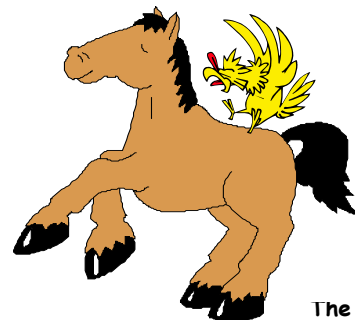
Finding the keys inside, the chicken sped off with a length of rope, hoping he still had time to save his friend’s life. Back at the drain, the horse was surprised, but happy, to see the chicken arrive in the dusty Pajero, and he managed to get a hold of the loop of rope the chicken tossed him. After tying the other end to the rear bumper of the farmer’s Pajero, the chicken drove slowly forward and, with the aid of the powerful Mitsubishi, rescued the horse!

Happy and proud, the chicken drove the Pajero back to the farmhouse, and

the farmer was none the wiser when he returned. The friendship between

the two animals was cemented: best mates, best pals. A few weeks later, the chicken fell into the drain, and soon, he too began to sink and cried out to the horse to save his life. The horse thought a moment, walked over and straddled the drain. Looking underneath, he told the chicken to grasp his “thing” and he would lift him out of the drain. The chicken got a good grip, and the horse pulled him up and out, saving his life.

The moral of the story is: When you’re hung like a horse, you don’t need a Pajero to pick up the chicks!



The Avenue Ranger



SE Field Days

Avenue Emus: will be at the Lucindale Field Days once again, situated in the Regional Flavours Pavilion, near the new Elad Wool Shed.

They will have all their regular products, including Pure Emu Oil, Mettwurst, Emu Sticks, emu eggs, feathers, skins and leather goods, and a range of souvenirs. And by popular demand, they will be returning with their emu stir-fry on a bed of rice! So if you are hungry, come in, sit down, and enjoy a meal, or watch a cooking demonstration.

For more information, phone Julie on 8766 0085.

National Yard Dog Trials: Please come out and watch the dogs in action,

with the sheep proudly donated by the Paltridges of Avenue Range.

The Wild Iris: Kerry Gilkes will be selling rhizomes of full bearded irises again this year in the General Interest Pavilion, at Site 40.

Nature Conservation Society of SA: If you would like more information about native grasses and the grassy ecosystems, please drop in and see Kerry Gilkes (or her clone) at the PIRSA tent.

Community Fire Safe: For more information about bushfire safety, the new Grid Reference number system, or if you want to grab a balloon for the kids, come and see Andrea in the SAFF tent.

HISTORY OF AVENUE

True or False?

It has been said that Avenue was, in the early 1900's, designated to become a mega-city in Sth Australia.

The proposed city was not officially named, however, streets were drawn up and identified as 1st Avenue, 2nd Avenue etc.

The whole project was shelved, when the Rivett and Hocking Families (land barons of the area!!), refused to relinquish land for the city site.

Finally, the project was abandoned. By this time, 1st Avenue and a Railway Station had been completed. First Avenue (the main street through the town) was reduced to Avenue, and the name has stuck.



Let's share a Six Pack with.....

Darren Jenke (Jenks)!



Andrea: If you weren't on the land, what career would you have chosen?
Darren: AFL Footballer or a Radio Announcer (have the face for it).

Andrea: Who would you most like to have over to dinner and why?
Darren: Anna Kornakova and Martina Hingis, for a game of doubles after dinner.



Andrea: If you had one last meal on this earth, what would you choose?
Darren: Felicity's Apricot Chicken.

Andrea: What's the best thing about being a fire-fighter for the Avenue Range Brigade?
Darren: Having a relaxing beer at the fire shed after being at a fire.



Andrea: Who do people say you look like?
Darren: Stone Cold - Steve Austin (WWF).

Andrea: What's your all-time favourite song?
Darren: The Holy Grail - Hunters and Collectors.



Andrea: What 'animal' best describes you?
Darren: Horse (self explanatory).

Andrea: If you won X-Lotto, what would you buy?
Darren: My own personal island, with my own resort and race track for my new Manaro.



Andrea: What has the high-light of your life been to date?
Darren: Flic saying 'yes' to my proposal.

Andrea: And lastly, why do you like living in the Avenue district?
Darren: It comes with the job.



Sports Report

By "Insider"

Sporting news around Avenue over summer has been hectic. Firstly, with the 2 volley-ball teams playing off in the grand final, and at the moment, the Kerry Gilkes led Mixed Net-ball.

Stand-out goal shooters, Nick and Pom, are worth following. But a good each way bet would be Greg Ingham, who looks to be hitting form at the right end

of the season.

Cricket wise it's all happening. Super Coaches, Malcolm and Kathy Gill, have had their first defeat in school cricket for 3 years. Malc has reacted by ordering a Training Camp for the kids on Toms Hills. The Justins, MrGurks, Clarkes, Gills, Hurst and Nick Coles, would make up a pretty handy side for Avenue.

Some quiet achievers around the place who don't get much attention, would have to be our Lobster Brigade. The Rivetts, Pomerys and Terry Small, have all been clocking up more crays than the, aforementioned cricketers, have been making runs.

Looks like Terry's idea of a huge cray night in the Fire Shed could be a go-er!



Pom's Ponder

Well, another Avenue CFS Christmas Party over and done with. Many thanks to all those that turned up, a great day was had by all.

Some interesting tennis grudge matches took place during the afternoon, with a few people thinking they were 15 years younger!

The day attracted about 60 adults and more than 50 kids. Great to see the Sporting Complex being used again.

During the last couple of weeks, quite a few jobs have been done on the Clubrooms. They are now locked and secure.

The CFS have recently purchased a bbq and have enabled people to use this at the courts, so this will save people having to cart bbq's each time we have a

function.

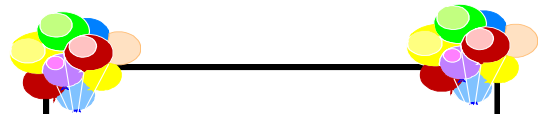
In finishing, thanks to all those who have helped in getting the complex spick and span, and with everybody's help, we can keep it that way.

I hope everyone has a great Easter, and we'll see in the next newsletter!

POM.

"I declare the 2002 CFS Christmas BBQ to be the best EVER...."

Thanks to Trevor and Meredith for organizing such a great day. All the work you put in hasn't gone unnoticed, and fun was had by all ages. Well Done!



**Congratulations
to
Darren....(Jenks)
&
Felicity....(Flic)
on their
Engagement.**

It's about Time!!!

Where Are They Now?

With Doc, Ro, Jessy and Matt Cunningham

When did you move to Avenue Range?
December 1988, and left it 1993 to Penola.

Where did you live?
'Talbots' - on the 'Old Avenue' Road.

What did you do for a living?
Doc managed 'Talbots' for Jan and Bill Hayes.
Ro worked at the Lucindale kindergarten for a little while, but mostly cooked scones for her neighbours!

Where are you living now?
Alice Springs

What are you doing?
Doc is the Northern Territory Cattle Buyer for T & R Pastoral.
Ro is a teacher in Alice Springs (Reception - Year 1).

How old are the kids?
Jessy is 13 - nearly 14!

Matt is 12

What are you fondest memories of Avenue?
Doc playing cricket for Avenue Range.
Ro having top-deck chocolate with Andrea.
Jessy catching the yellow school bus.
Matt loved the fire truck.

Have you even been back to visit?
Yes.

What do you miss about living at Avenue Range?
Life in the country, a big back yard and our friends.