

Well here we are at the end of another year and it's time for the Dennis happenings for the year missive so hope yours was as good as ours!

Dec: As usual at Standown Park as he has the red suit thing, photos should be self explanatory?



On Arrival

Can be a bit rough for Santa at some of these parties.



On departure

Jan: As you do before venturing off, the proverbial round of Porsche payments need to be made, so with that done it was time to point the machinery in a southerly direction down to Barham on the Victoria N.S.W. border to catch up with friends and play some bowls as well as be a tourist or check up on the 'place to be' before they all immigrate to Qld for the winter!

Feb: Wendy started to play bowls and said she was enjoying it and so wanted to start playing regularly so we bought her some bowls, she nearly gave some of them old blokes a coronary with the way she wiggled her bum with excitement when she got in close. Of course mixed in with this we managed to spend a bit of time meandering around the tourist traps as well as a bit of catching up with folks we had met over the years. Got a phone call from an old neighbour from Byfield, Cyclone Marcia apparently did a number on the old place, went through like a packet of salts. The big Kauri pine in the front yard dropped a branch straight on top of Jodi's bedroom. Mind you this bloke wanted to turn it into sawn timber and would have, except seeing my next birthday was put into doubt by the women in my life!

Mar: Mid March so soon and it was time to point the machinery back towards home via Orange to catch up with the sister and family then to Tamworth to catch up with Jodi and some old mates, lovely couple of days but it was time to head home weed the garden again, etc. Prepare to head out to Thargomindah for Anzac Day with the lads

Apr: After the weeding and mowing and the all so popular round of Porsche payments in Brisbane, it goes without saying, thanks as usual to the staff at the Hutleys motel in Brisbane as well their good company and patience. Anzac Day in Thargomindah this year in my opinion was the best that the group have had for some time. The town really laid it on for the visitors, we had another mob that turned up after researching there family tree and finding they had a pair of uncles that came from Thargomindah who went off to Gallipoli, about 14 of them and a dozen of us plus the town made up a great mob and gave the town an excuse to go all out and they did a wonderful job. First Dawn Service they have had for years, Good onya Jan and Tractor and we can't forget Surly Shirley from pub.

May: Wandered out to Nuccundra, Pub for that's all there is out there, Neil and marg and the pup that could have been mistaken for a horse made us welcome. We parked the van up behind the pub for a couple of days. Took Wendy down to Innaminka, the dig tree etc, was surprised to find that the bitumen went all the way to the S.A. border, stayed over at Innaminka, then wandered back too Nuccundra. Then we headed off to finish the round trip through Quilpie to Cunnamulla of course staying a couple a three days at each playing tourist. The next stop was a farm stay just west of Roma Met up with some larrikins from Hervey Bay over the next few days we had a ball even to the stage of getting me singing, I think that's why they all left the next day? We did too as that bloody weeding was still waiting and we had a birthday party at the end of the month in Barga/Bundaberg.



Anzac Day in Thargomindah



Wendy's birthday in Thargomindah



Just tossed myself out (2up for some)



Painting done by a local girl for the council



The Nuccundra Pub



The horse of the Nuccundra Pub

Jun: Porsche payments in Brisbane, so went to the transport assn 42nd birthday dinner, new boots (tyres for some) on the car and van. Called in to see Jewel who was having a bit of down time in hospital on the Gold Coast, but cheerful as usual, home via Boonah just to be different.

Jul: Well Ron and I got stuck in and got the ceiling in the Ranbuild Hilton, done and dusted we were really pleased to see that finished so that him and Janelle could get away on his annual pilgrimage for the winter and we weren't all that far behind them, Just got to finish the painting and yes you guessed it more bloody Porsche payments! (Porsche payments = Quack appointments) Mother says that some people may not understand.



This one speaks for itself



Must be sheep country



The old Innamincka hospital & nurses quarters And it wouldn't be a Dennis letter without the

DocAug: Here we go catching up and heading north Rocky/Yeppoon and Byfield for a look and more catching up. The old house didn't quite look the same as it was still half covered with a tarp where that old branch landed. It had also screwed a huge 100 year old hoop pine off at ground level in front of the old place. It reminded us a bit of what Tracy was like in Darwin, only there wasn't as many houses to wreck. Eventually we got to Yungaburra and settled in on the shores of Lake Tinnaroo, beaut van park overlooking the lake beside the Afghanistan Avenue of Honour, what a great job they have done on this memorial to the young fellas. Yungaburra is a central spot to do the tourist thing you are really only an hour from most of the things to see. Did the Gillies Highway down to cairns for lunch and was pleased that I was driving the ute with power steering and not that old 1942 NR black Mack with a load of logs and NO bloody power steering, I think I should be a foot wider across the shoulders. I was pleased that they've made the road a tad wider and taken a few bends out as well, much better than it was in the late 60s. I think Ted would still like to have me

swinging on the end of a winch rope for him, (blue tonguing we used to call it, hooking up the logs to be winched up and towed out to be loaded onto the trucks for the mill). What a beautiful part of the country it is up here on the tablelands, really glad that we have taken the time to come back up here for a look around and catch up with those that are still looking down at the grass. Also caught up with Eric and Kath as well at Kuranda, what a great spot they've got.



Afghanistan Avenue of Honour at Tinnaburra

Sept: Etty Bay, still catching up, feels like I must have worked here for years. What a great little spot, hard to get into because of those folks from 'the place to be' well there must be some back there by now because we got a sight. Mind you we did meet up with some not so bad Mexicans (folks from anywhere south of the Queensland border) up there. We got a beaut spot with sea views, 'bloody marvelous'! Whilst we were here we had the opportunity to watch the Canberra and escorts going through their paces.



That mischievous girl



The Canberra and escorts off Etty bay

Had this old female cassowary come around one morning and pinch me papaya, (new Guinea red pawpaw), then have the hide to come back the next morning and try for the other one, unsuccessfully I might add. What a great trip this has been catching up with folks that I/we haven't seen for years and you know who you are. Someone commented is this to do with your bucket list, in a way I suppose it is, but to us it's spending quality time with each other and our friends as well as seeing as much of this lovely country we live in.

Oct: Changed oncologists as the bugger I was seeing, well him and I just didn't seem to be getting along so after talking to one of the other Blues about his, I sacked the bugger. The best thing I ever did, this lovely lady in the Greenslopes oncology unit took the time to sit and explain what was going on and what we should expect to Wendy and I, still no cure but at least we know now what's what, when we get the scan results back we'll be a full bottle.

Nov: Wendy and I did a trip down to Coffs Harbour for a week to catch up with her mate and mine, what they worked it out to be a 51 year friendship, (nearly as good as you and me Ted) it was good catching up Chrissy. Of course one wouldn't be expected to come back to Qld without dropping in to see the Doc for a day or 2, and have a bit of a look around Inverell, nice friendly little town. It's always lovely to catch up with our girl. Just to keep you lot in the loop, that lovely new lady after getting the scan results gave me a 2 year plus unless something gets excited, which is at least an honest answer compared to the no info the last bloke didn't give me and I must admit, it is a tad better than a poke in the eye with a blunt stick.

Dec: Well I won't need the Santa suit this year as we will be having Christmas with the Doc in Inverell, mind will miss the mad buggers at Standown.



Ron & Myself putting the ceiling in the Ranbuild Hilton as we call our place because it started out as a Ranbuild deluxe Garage

**WELL THAT'S ABOUT YOUR LOT FOR 2015, SO LOVE
EACH OTHER AND MAY CHRISTMAS BE ALL YOU
WANT IT TO BE AND 2016 BE GOOD TO YOU.**

**LOVE TO ALL
BLOO, WENDY & JODI**