



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Address All Association Correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth

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NOVEMBER, 1957

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West Australian Whisperings

KIDDIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Well, kids, it's on again. That grand old gentleman, Father Christmas is to visit you on the afternoon of Dec. 8 at the Drill Hall in Bazaar Terrace, Perth.

You can be sure of having a good time amongst the ice cream, sweets, drinks, etc. Father Christmas will be handing out your presents to you during the afternoon.

I believe he has been working hard repairing his sleigh. Do you remember it collapsing last year,

Frank Fenn will be there to amuse you and organise games. A picture show will also be provided so you can see it is really going to be a wow!

By the way, ask Mum to bring a plate of something for afternoon tea. We must make Mum a cup of tea after having chased you kids all the afternoon.

BUSY BEE

A busy bee to make preparation for the Kiddies Christmas Party will be held at 9.30 a.m. on Dec. 8 (the morning of the Party) at the Drill Hall, Bazaar Terrace. There are a host of jobs to be done and many hands make light work. If you think you have some special way of helping, ring or write the secretary and notify us. Otherwise just come along and see what can be done. The Christmas tree has to be decorated and the kitchen put into shape among other jobs.

BUCKS' NIGHT

The annual Bucks' Night will be held at Monash Club, on Dec. 17. This has always been a good show and a night to be remembered.

Bring a guest along and join in the fun. A pianist has been engaged and with a few guest artists we can be assured of plenty of entertainment.

A quiz is being arranged and should bring a few laughs.

PERTH CUP SWEEP

As expected, our latest venture, a sweep on the Perth Cup, is proving quite popular. Sweep butts and remittances are coming back quite well and it seems sure to prove a success. As the sweep is to be drawn on Dec. 25 it is essential that all butts be returned well in advance of that date.

So buck up and sell those tickets and return butts to Box T1646, G.P.O., Perth.

TONY BOWERS, your "Courier" is being sent to "Patoka," Orchid Valley, Kogonup. Is this correct? Please advise.

An Address You May Need:

President:
Gerry Green,
158 Landsdowne Road,
South Perth, W.A.

Committee Comment

OCTOBER MINUTES

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Monash Club on Tuesday, Oct. 15. Those present were Messrs. Doig, March, Smith, Geere, Bowden, Kirkwood, Gardiner and Holly. Apologies were received from Mr. Green who had the flu, and Mr. Napier who was in hospital.

In the absence of the President and Vice President, Mr. Doig was elected to the chair.

The Secretary read the minutes of the previous committee meeting and on the motion of Mr. March, seconded by Mr. Geere, the minutes were accepted.

Business Arising. A discussion then took place on our Ladies' Night. A resume of the evening was given by the Secretary, and quite a few points were raised. The music was considered a bit loud and all agreed that the orchestra charges were quite enough. Mr. Hollis our caterer, had done us really proud. The job of barmen was ably done by Mick Calcutt and Curly Bowden. The mannequin parade was voted O.K. and songs by two or three of our guests made the evening a very successful and enjoyable one.

November Meeting: Quite a lot of time was used up in a discussion on our November meeting. The form this meeting was to take was left to Mr. Doig. The usual refreshments were decided upon and as usual the first Tuesday in November was the night decided on.

Finance: This was discussed and found to be, as usual, not good. The one bright spot is our Fertiliser Fund which stood in quite good shape, so it was decided to purchase five bags of potato manure E from Burrage & Warren. It was decided to hold a busy bee on Sunday morning, Oct. 27, at 9 a.m. A mower was to be obtained, the grass cut and then sprinkled with potato manure.

Children's Xmas Party: To be on Sunday, Dec. 8, in the 16th Battalion Drill Hall, at Bazaar-ter. Arrangements to secure use of the drill hall forthwith were put in hand. It was also decided to engage Mr. Frank Fenn, and to have the usual picture show, ginger beer and all the trimmings.

Bucks' Xmas Party: It was decided to hold our bucks' Xmas party on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Monash Club.

Honour Roll: As a list of our casualties from Timor and New Guinea had been sent to us from Army Records we compared them with our Honour Roll. The missing names were noted and steps will be taken to have these names added.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 11 p.m.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Monash Club, Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Those present were Messrs. Green McDonald, March, Smith, Doig, Carey, Gardiner, Kirkwood, Geere, Bowden, Holly. Mr. Herb Thomas attended by invitation.

The President, Mr. Green, opened the meeting at 8.20 p.m., and the Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting.

Business Arising: November meeting was discussed and voted a very good evening. In the absence of a guest speaker games were indulged in and some very close finishes were witnessed.

Perth Cup Sweep: Mr. Doig informed us that sweep monies and donations were coming in very well. Tickets were selling rapidly and the prospects for a successful sweep seemed fairly good.

Finance: Again not good but with the results of the sweep in the offing an optimistic view of our financial affairs were taken. Some accounts were then passed for payment.

Children's Xmas Party: A party of workers agreed to go along to the residence of Mr. Green on the evening of Nov. 26 to assist in the wrapping of Christmas presents. These presents were to be arranged and purchased by Mr. Green.

The following personnel were then given these jobs to assist the organisation of the Children's Xmas party: Jack Carey to arrange for films, Col Doig to contact Ampol for a projector, Gerry Green to arrange for the Christmas tree to be picked up and delivered, A. Smith for tree decorations, F. Napier for Father Christmas, Messrs. Green and Smith to liaison with R. Finklestein re charriot for Father Christ-

mas, Col Doig for ginger beer, ice cream, drinks, sweets and fruit if possible, Ken Bowden to pick up ice cream, etc., G. Green to arrange for paper hats, whistles, balloons, masks, etc.

Afternoon Tea: All ladies attending are requested to bring along a plate of refreshments please.

Busy Bee: It was then decided to hold a busy bee at the 16th Battalion Drill Hall on the morning of Dec. 8 at 9.30. All are welcome and we hope for a good roll up and so have everything ready for what is our most important event of the year. This busy bee is important and we do ask for as many to turn up as is possible and so make this party a success. The names of families and their numbers to be taken at the door in an endeavour to assist in giving out the Christmas presents.

Bucks' Christmas Party: This took a lot of time and discussion and we decided to make it a guest night as usual. The prices to be charged will be fixed at the party by Messrs. Green, Bowden and Smith.

Col Doig volunteered to run a quiz and Jack Carey to provide a pianist and artist.

Honour Roll: The matter of the Honour Roll to be held over to our January Committee meeting on the motion of Mr. Doig, seconded by Mr. Bowden.

Mr. Doig then moved that the minutes as read and debated be received, seconded by Mr. McDonald and carried.

Honour Avenue: A letter received from Bert Burgess suggested a method of caring for our lawn. A further suggestion from Mr. Doig was put forth re the use of various trace elements. Our Warden, Mr. Holly, then told us that on the advice of his gardener friend a roller should be used now. The runners were making good progress since being top dressed. Mr. Fred Gardiner then spoke on the subject of deficiencies in the soil and volunteered to have a sample of the soil from Honour Avenue analysed at the University.

Mr. Herb Thomas (our guest), then spoke re visiting members of our Association while they were patients in Hollywood hospital. A long debate on this matter was then indulged in. Many ways and

means were discussed but no successful remedy seemed to be forthcoming. Mr. Carey then moved that the discussion on ways and means of locating our members in hospital be deferred to the next Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Geere and carried.

As Mr. Campbell was not present to report the Secretary was instructed to call on Mrs. Servante and ascertain her welfare.

'Courier': Mr. March then spoke re the 'Courier' committee which had been formed a few months ago and so far had not functioned, nor had it reported to the general committee as instructed.

The lack of support for the 'Courier' was discussed at length and the value of this paper to our country members is not underestimated, but how our Editor would appreciate news from those who laud our paper, but for some strange reason known only to themselves, cannot or will not put pen to paper and tell our Editor so. Regret was expressed that the Victorians and N.S.W. members seemed also to have writer's cramp.

Various suggestions were put forth, several of which had been tried or suggested previously. After a lot of discussion Mr. Bowden moved that the 'Courier' be published once a quarter. This motion was seconded by Mr. Holly.

Mr. Doig then asked the President if he accepted the motion as it had been put forth at the Annual General Meeting and defeated. The President accepted the motion which was then opened for discussion. Mr. Doig spoke against the motion saying that it had been brought up at the Annual General Meeting and defeated.

Mr. Fred Gardiner also spoke against the motion stating that the 'Courier' was our main means of communication with our country and Eastern States' members. He also said that a 'Courier' would be just as hard to publish quarterly as it is monthly.

Mr. March then spoke. He prefers a monthly 'Courier', but emphasised that he must have support, as it was impossible to conjure up news out of thin air.

As there was no further discussion on the motion the motion was then put to the meeting and was defeated.

Association Activities

BUSY BEE

A busy bee was held at our portion of Honour Avenue in King's Park on Sunday morning, Oct. 27. Those present were Messrs. Ron Dook, Ron Kirkwood, Slim Holly, Merv Ryan, Wilf March, Bill Willis, Percy Hancock and Arthur Smith.

Ron Dook supplied a mower and a utility both of which proved very valuable. Our good Editor, having a touch of the shakes, which I understand originated from a self-inflicted wound of the previous evening, decided to work it off on the mower. After about two hours on this job Wilf couldn't make up his mind whether he still had his original shakes, or was it just vibration from the motor mower. However he certainly had lost that glazed look from his eyes.

Our Warden, Slim Holly, who arrived at the scene at 8 a.m., busied himself cleaning sprinklers and generally making sure that the whole water system was in good working order. Slim was still working there when we left at 11.45 a.m. Very good work, Slim.

With Ron Dook driving the ute, and Bill Willis and Merv Ryan on the back with open bags of manure the top dressing of the area proceeded quite smoothly and fairly rapidly. Percy Hancock and Ron Kirkwood spread manure by hand on the places where it was considered inadvisable to take the ute. I tried to make myself useful but finished up by consoling myself that it was a poor job that couldn't carry one boss anyway.

Wilf mowed the grass one section at a time and as soon as it was mowed and top dressed the water was turned on, so no time was wasted and by the time we left the area it was covered with manure, mowed and was being watered.

Slim Holly arranged with Ron Kirkwood to look after the sprinklers that afternoon and so we left the area feeling that we had done a fairly good job and hoped for a good result from our labours.

Our thanks to Gerry Green, who although he could not be present, took the manure to King's Park for us on Oct. 26, which made it quite easy to get it to where we wanted it. —Contributed.

FERTILISER FUND

Another name to be added to the list of donors to the fund is that of Gordon Rowly. The fund is quite healthy and we are pleased to report that the grass is already showing signs of rejuvenation although a good rolling to press the runners into the earth is what is needed at the moment.

We are having the soil analysed at the University and hope to have that report to hand for publication in the next "Courier".

NOVEMBER MEETING

As this meeting was held on the usual first Tuesday in the month, which was Guy Fawkes night, some members were a little late arriving, having had to see that their children safely dispensed with their fireworks. Some times I wonder if the children or father gets the biggest kick out of cracker night. I know one father who even suggested that we have a Unit cracker night, and perhaps it might not be such a bad idea at that.

Unfortunately our guest speaker for this meeting was unavoidably unable to attend so we were left to our own devices. We very soon cracked the usual and after mellowing a little under its influence someone started a discussion as to the relative merits of tradesmen employed by private industry and those in Government employ.

This discussion really started something and in no time everyone seemed to be talking and no one listening, except of course the odd wise ones who didn't waste time arguing but concentrated on the refreshment side while the debate was at its height. The relative merits of these tradesmen were finally settled to everyone's satisfaction and then we settled down to some steady table tennis and darts.

I'm just not too sure who won what, but there was quite a lot of steady training done for our next sports night. Our champion was there and he showed us that in spite of his increasing years, he will still be a force to be reckoned with at our next championship night.

The City of Perth Sub-Branch had finished their committee meeting by this time and four or five

wandered into our show and were made welcome.

Just in case members are not aware of this fact, our general and committee meetings are all held rent free in Monash Club, only through the generosity of the City of Perth Sub-Branch R.S.L. We owe them very many thanks for their kindness.

All in all this proved to be a very enjoyable evening and as the death rattle was heard in the keg at about 11.30 p.m. we all went home feeling quite satisfied and hoping we wouldn't make too much noise and wake Mum as we were getting to bed.

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

A request is being made to you all to notify the Committee in the event of you becoming hospitalised.

We fully realise how long the hours drag on when you are in hospital and don't receive many visitors.

Quite a few of our members finished up in other units and hospital records only show the last unit a man was attached to. So you can see the difficulty we are faced in knowing when you are ill.

This suggestion is coming as a result of a visit by Herbie Thomas as a guest at our November Committee meeting. Herb pointed out that he was in hospital for a considerable period and didn't receive a visit from the Association members. This is poor and we don't want it to happen again.

It rests mainly in your hands now to NOTIFY THE COMMITTEE.

WHAT'S GEORGE SHIELDS DOING?

At our Committee meeting the other night, our Vice President, Sprig McDonald, asked did anyone know what George Shields was doing these days. Well, George, it's up to you now to write and let us know how things are with you.

Another couple I seem to have lost track of are Boyo Hewitt and Jack Sheehan. Haven't heard of them for ages. Anyone who can give us some info on these gents please do so—preferably themselves.

LEST WE FORGET NOVEMBER

Kemp, Tpr. L. B., killed in action, New Guinea, Nov. 12, 1943.
Thomas, Pte. J. E., killed in action, Timor, Nov. 11, 1942. Age 29.
Smeaton, Pte. A., killed in action, Timor, Nov. 11, 1942. Age 24.
Ludlow, Cpl. Stanley, killed on service, W.A., Nov. 18, 1945. Age 28.

THE BUSHRANGER'S LAMENT

(This poem was obtained from Kev Curran and if anyone can supply the name of the composer then I think Kev will be pleased. I borrowed this poem from Kev when I had the pleasure of being his guest at the Fleece Inn, Bendigo, at the beginning of December, 1956.

—Ay Ee.)

T'was Christmas time at Fanta,
And the boys morale dropped low,
As Basher came up saying,
"On patrol ya gotta go."

There'll be no Christmas dinner,
No noger Christmas beer,
You'll all be 'cross the river,
Bashin' Japs down on their rear.

Now Basher he was happy,
His Bushrangers were sad,
'Cause they had got the G.G.,
A feast was to be had.

They packed their gear up glumly,
And cursed and loudly swore,
For two days off at Christmas
Won't hold up the flamin' war!

For while you blokes are running
And boxing on the mat,
We'll break Olympic records,
A 'undred in nothing flat.

We guess it's no use grumbling
It's a job we gotta do,
You blokes can have our turkey,
We'll have rehydrated stew!!!

An Address You May Need:

Treasurer:
Fred Napier,
65 Branksome Gardens,
City Beach, W.A.

(Printed for the publisher by "The Swan Express", 10 Helena Street, Midland Junction, W.A.)

Random Harvest

In a letter to Colin Doig, Bernie Langridge writes:

Please find enclosed sweep butts and £5 to be utilised as best you think. Sorry the financial position of the Association is not as healthy as it might be. Hope this state of affairs soon changes for the better.

I saw Bert Burges a couple of days ago and naturally the main topic was the Association and those who are doing so much to keep it going. We discussed the possibility of attending the next monthly meeting and decided we could make it. I did suggest to Bert that we find out just when it is being held in case we should make the trip up and find it was not being held on the usual first Tuesday. So would you please make sure both Bert and myself are notified if the meeting is not on Dec. 3. We have a few ideas which may assist in reducing the expenses of the Association.

Well, time is short so please excuse a brief note this time. Good luck with the sweep and our sincere regards to Jess, yourself and the gang. See you at the next meeting, I hope.

(Sweep butts and cheque to hand—thanks, pal, it sure helps the old Association funds as they are really low. Hope that by the time this "Courier" reaches you that your information has been supplied. Any way there will NOT be a meeting on Dec. 3. Arthur Smith intended dropping you a line. —Editor.)

R. Johnson, of Box 7, Koorda, writes:

Please find enclosed check for £2, one for tickets and the other for subs. Hoping all the boys are well and O.K. and that the sweep will be a success.

(Have received sweep tickets and cheque for subs. Thanks a lot and hope everything is going well for you in Koorda. —Editor.)

Bert Burgess, "Burlands," Broomehill, Phone 584K (Kat.), writes:

You will notice we have a new phone number. Apparently the system in Katanning was sufficiently complicated so the P.M.G. Dept. have spent £60,000 on a new exchange system, given some of us

new numbers and informed us that unless our lines are maintained at 100 per cent the system will in all probability be jammed which will necessitate the service being disconnected. So much for the advanced age in which we live.

Noticed in the last copy of "Listening Post" where Jack Denman had been presented with a Certificate of Service from H.Q. for outstanding service to the Geraldton Branch of the R.S.L. Congratulations Jack on a good job recognised.

I haven't as yet contacted all the members who have been asked to put up with me as their Country V.P. for this year. Would it be asking too much to have their names printed after this letter and I will make an effort to contact each personally in the near future.

It might be possible to have a little get-together of our own in Albany with our womenfolk later on.

Sorry we didn't make Ladies' Night. Went up and back in the day to the Show and had cows and dogs to attend to on return.

Only two we met at the Show were Colin Doig and Mrs. Doig and Don Turton. Don had somehow managed to give his wife the slip.

Hope to see the Kojonup lads at the Kojonup Show next Monday. Alf Hillman came over and picked up a sheep dog a couple of weeks ago. Alf appears satisfied with his year's effort on the farm.

There are some really good crops around here and an inch of rain within the next couple of weeks would still be in time to finish off nicely.

Sorry not much news, also for lateness of the hour. Kindest regards to all.

(Sorry haven't been able to get you a list of names of those in your district. It was an oversight and have only just noticed it in your letter. Will furnish names as soon as possible. This letter arrived too late for inclusion in the October "Courier". —Editor.)

Bert Burgess also writes:

My copy of October "Courier" to hand. Congratulations on a good issue. The letters of Jim Smalles and Stan King appealed par-

ticularly to me though they make me feel a bit guilty.

The comments re King's Park Memorial area has given cause for much thought. The following remarks may be redundant which I sincerely hope to be the case and that considerable improvement has been achieved in the area.

However I do not feel that merely applying potato manure is the answer. I have before me a list of registered fertilisers and the potato manures listed contain in addition to ordinary superphosphate only a small percentage of ammonia and potash—some do not contain potash.

As I have always felt that the area is deficient in one or several trace elements I would like to see some experimental strips undertaken with trace elements, particularly molybdenum.

Below is a suggested top dressing which I consider will give results and the cost of treating a strip would be negligible. At this time of the year with adequate waterings results will be seen in about a fortnight.

I would prefer to see the necessary additives mixed with superphosphate in preference to proprietary mixtures when the answer is found and funds are required to carry it out, then I would feel justified in asking members to subscribe and I'm confident it would be forthcoming.

As adequate and systematic watering is the biggest single factor in any lawn success wouldn't our money be well spent in paying a percentage of someone's wages—preferably a King's Park gardener—to attend to this important factor?

Suggested lawn dressing in parts by measure: Sulphate of ammonia 6, Superphosphate 3, Muriated Potash 1, Blood and bone 1, Molybdenum trace (about four ounces per acre). Apply one handful per square yard and water thoroughly.

Please bring my sub up to date out of the enclosed cheque—balance to be used at discretion of Executive.

Marie joins me in wishing all members, wives and families a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

(Thanks for your second letter for inclusion in November "Courier". It is also appreciated to know

that you are keen enough to study the needs of the King's Park area. I feel sure that your suggestions will be turned to good account later. As for now we have just completed fertilising the area with potato manure and until the financial situation becomes brighter we will have to make do. —Editor.)

In a letter to Arthur Smith, Ralph Finklestein writes:

Sorry about Sunday morning, but I did not receive your letter until this morning. Would have been pleased to do my share. However I would like to help with the Christmas Party if anything I can do will be of help please let me know.

(Bad luck missing the Busy Bee but we will surely find you somewhere in the "Courier" re thing to do at the Xmas Party. Busy Bee. Received sweep butts, etc., and have forwarded on more books to sell as requested. —Ed.)

Edie Pendergrast, for Gordon "Blue" Pendergrast, of 69 Porter Street, Collie, writes:

A short note to let you know that Blue and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves on Ladies' Night. The entertainment (especially the mannequin parade) and supper were superb. Now we are looking forward to bringing the children up for the Xmas Tree.

Things are quiet here at the moment but the big works shouldn't be long now. I believe it gets like this here every year about this time people very busy planning for the Xmas holidays. Haven't much else to say folks but a few lines are better than nothing I guess. See you at the Xmas Party.

(Thanks for letter and we will all be looking forward to seeing you at the Kiddies Xmas Party on Dec. 8. —Editor.)

Gordon Rowley, of 20 Hospital Avenue, Manjimup, writes:

Much water has passed under the bridge since I last wrote to you and as I have been talking of doing so for a matter of months I'd better get stuck into it.

The only ones of the old gang I have seen during the last few months are TOM CROUCH, who is looking fit and being kept busy on

his farm, at present in the midst of hay carting I suppose. I want to see him but am not very eager about going out at present in case I get roped in. The other was ALEC THOMPSON. We had a few beers together about six weeks ago. Alec looks well and still likes his drop of amber fluid (who doesn't?).

As far as I am concerned I am still doing contract falling and managing to get three good meals and a bed for myself and family. As a sideline I have taken on selling a bit of farm machinery for Skipper Bailey Motor Coy. I am agent for Blue Streak Chain Saws, Lister Blackstone Bradcarter and any Oliver equipment such as Hay Rakes, Mowers, Hay Balers and even tractors. So if any of you cockies require anything in that line go to Skippers and tell them that Gordon sent you (not Bob). Better still give me a ring and I'll take the worry off your mind. How's that?

Now to get back to the reason for writing this letter. First and foremost I must be behind in my subs, so am enclosing cheque for £3. You can put the change in to the manure fund which I think is a great idea and is the least we in the country can do to help.

Re the re-union I am very ashamed to say that I forgot that it was on until the week after. I don't say that I would have been there but I had intentions of trying to get down. Any time of the year suits me as my job is what I make it. By the way could you give Col Doig a ring or tell him to send me another four books of tickets as they are selling like hot cakes. I am enclosing a list of our kiddies as I think that you are a bit behind. We sure do take a bit of keeping up with.

I shall be coming to the city for Christmas and will be staying at 20 Park Road, Nedlands, from Dec. 21 until about Jan. 2. I hope to contact some of the boys and enjoy quite a number of beers. It's a pity that the Bucks' Party is on a few days early or I sure would like to have been in on that.

This seems to me to be a healthy effort but I'm afraid that I'll have to give it best for tonight. Cheerio for now and all the best to the Association.

(Well Gordon, your letter has been worth waiting for. Just what

the "Courier" needs as it is chock full of news and chat which will make good reading for the boys. Yes, it's bad luck not being able to make the Bucks' night on Dec. 17, especially when you will be in Perth a few days after. Hope to see something of you during your stay in the "big smoke". Your cheque received and thanks for donation to the fertiliser fund. Also list of kiddies, ages, etc., noted and sweep tickets arranged. —Editor.)

Heard This?

The Gadget That Pleased Him

There is a fine and frivolous story now in circulation in Australia.

It tells of the rough, tough Australian bushman holidaying in London, visiting the motor show. For a full day he stops beside the show's most luxurious exhibit, a low, lush super-charged saloon. He listens silently as the salesman shouts its praises.

"Press this button, ladies and gentlemen," says the salesman, "and the entire car is automatically repainted in any of six colours. Press this and the cocktail cabinet swings open and newly-shaken Martinis are instantly at hand. This button and the tiger-skin upholstery is at once, vacuum-cleaned."

The Australian remains impassive. The salesman finally introduces another gadget.

"And this button, ladies and gentlemen, automatically lifts a glass partition between the rear and front seat passengers."

The bushman steps forward.

"I'll take her," he says.

The salesman looks dubious.

"It's-er-25,000 guineas, sir," he says.

The Australian dives into his pocket, produces a gigantic wallet, pays cash on the spot. The salesman is astonished.

"May I ask, sir, what made you suddenly decide to buy?"

"Well," says the Australian, "it's the gadget there, the partition between front and back. At last my sheepdogs won't be able to lick the back of my neck when I'm driving around the paddocks."