



# Business of the Month

# HAMPDEN VETERINARY CLINIC



**Staff:** Wendy Bell (left), Damian Woodberry, Janelle Darcy, Xavier McKinnon, Ashley Spokes. **Insets:** Simon Dean (top), David Buckle.

**Proprietors:** David Buckle, Simon Dean and Xavier McKinnon.

**Management details:** Office manager Wendy Bell oversees the running of the clinic on a day-to-day basis.

**Product/service:** 24 hour veterinary services for small and large animals.

**Background:** David Buckle and Simon Dean started the business from the back seats of their cars in February 2009. The clinic opened in May 2009 and they were joined by a third vet Xavier McKinnon and office staff Kathryn Robertson, Janelle Darcy and Kathryn Brewer.

Building renovations at 22 Curdie St followed in early 2010 to lead the business to what it is today. A fourth vet was employed in late 2010, a fifth vet in the middle of 2012 and shortly we will be expanding to six full-time vets with five support staff in the clinic.

Hampden Vets travel as far as Warrion to the east, Princetown and Peterborough in the south, Tower Hill in the west and Mortlake in the north.

- Ten things you may not know about Hampden Veterinary Clinic:**
1. About 45,000 cows are pregnancy-tested per year.
  2. Small animal surgeries can range from desexings, lump removals, stitch-ups to caesareans, orthopaedic platings and pinnings, and cruciate ligament repairs.
  3. The business provides sponsorship to around 50 community groups including cricket, football and, golf clubs, primary schools, agricultural shows and cattle breeding societies.
  4. Xavier McKinnon spent three months working in feedlots in Uruguay in 2008.
  5. In a former life, the building at 22 Curdie Street was a renowned party house even back to the early life of the late Bob Andrews.
  6. When Hampden Veterinary Clinic opened in 2009, Stirlo's Quality Meats was still a tenant in one of the shopfronts which made for some interesting comments.
  7. One of the vets, Damian Woodberry, has worked with veterinary disaster relief throughout Asia.
  8. Ashley Spokes and Janelle Darcy are the two qualified vet nurses.
  9. Our work cars travelled approximately 190,000 kms last year – far enough to travel half way to the moon.
  10. Most of the vets have a sweet tooth and enjoy having students leave chocolate as a thankyou after their work experience.
- Business contact: Wendy Bell. Phone: (03) 5595 1100.

# CHRISTMAS: A time of joy for people of all ages

A visit to Heytesbury Lodge and Cobden Primary School produced some Christmas memories - some longer than others . . .

**Christmas in Jancourt**

Remarkably, despite a leaking heart valve, **Elva McIntyre** has experienced 102 Christmas days.

She remembers them as ‘happy times, always big with four brothers and two sisters in the family, part of a gum for a Christmas tree, and Mum always producing a Christmas pudding’

The Clarke family lived behind the Jancourt school where they attended Christmas services. “We felt obliged to go to the service to keep up the numbers. Otherwise, we might have lost it.”

Elva noted that Santa Claus seemed to know what was needed or wanted. “I think we may have even heard him one night,” she said with a knowing smile.

Like other years, Elva will be celebrating Christmas day at the home of daughter, Fran.

**When bikes are horses . . .**

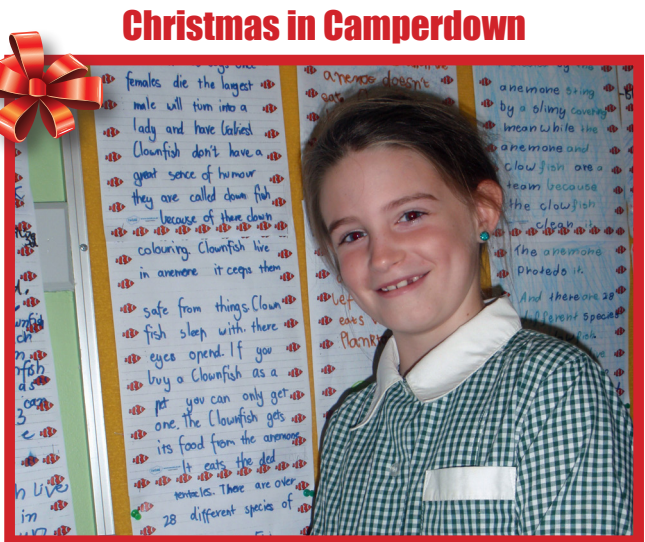
**Karen Smith** (nee McGinty) remembers fondly her four Christmases at Elingamite North, especially the year she and her two brothers, David and Robert, received new bikes from Santa.

What do you do when you are given bikes? You play cowboys and Indians on them, of course!

Karen, who was eight at the time, recalls the family’s crooked Christmas (pine) tree, the homemade decorations and Christmas lunch with all the treats.

The only downer? “Santa never brought me the pony I craved.”

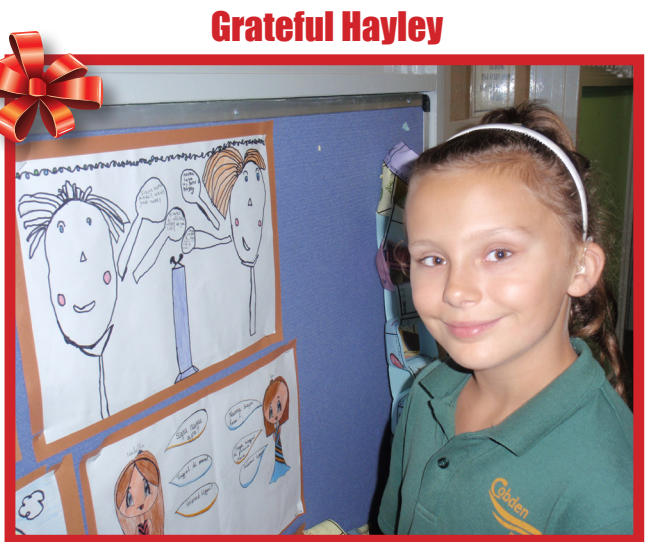
As activities supervisor at Cobden District Health Services, Karen helps to make Christmas special for all residents.



**Eisha Howard** (7) usually goes to Nanna and Pop Holmes' place in Camperdown to enjoy Christmas lunch with her many cousins. She is accompanied by her parents, Brett and Ella, and her two younger sisters, Marley (5) and Zaya (3).

As far as Santa is concerned, Eisha is easy to please. "I am happy with whatever he brings," she said.

Eisha recalled giving her grandmother two chooks for Christmas last year. "That was a surprise for her . . . but they're still laying eggs!"



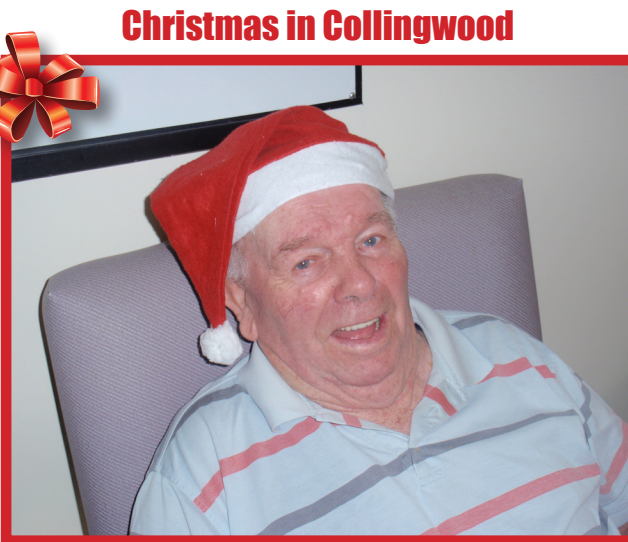
Eleven year-old **Hayley Cameron** sees Christmas as a time to celebrate with her family - two younger sisters, Shelby and Chloe, and parents, Rob and Angela. She enjoys summer, particularly the opportunity to swim in the family's pool.

Last Christmas, Santa brought her an iPad but she hasn't anything special in mind this year. Hayley just enjoys unwrapping the presents after they are left under the tree. Her biggest surprise was receiving an electric guitar one year, "and it wasn't even on my wish list!"

She certainly appreciates what Santa does, making sure he is left a can of beer and cookies every Christmas.



Elva (left), Karen and visiting pup, Mintie



Back in the Collingwood days, **David Carrigan** used to play Santa for about 80 children at the Buffalo Lodge. "I had the build, you see" he said, giving his stomach a rub.

David lived near Magpie football identities Ron and Lou Richards and even had a kick with them on Victoria Park. He moved to the local Heytesbury area to work at McCabe and Trickey's sawmill at Kennedy's Creek.

Some past Christmas days have been spent at brother Jack's in Tobruk Street but, this year, David is off to the home of niece, Debbie, at Koallah.

Cobden Community Bank and Cobden Business Network present

## CHRISTMAS-ON-CURDIE

5pm-8pm Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December

Big draw • Santa • Stalls • Rides • Crazy Hair • Tattoos • Fairy floss • Competitions • Bumper balls • Face painting • Spinning wheel • Wet sponge throw • Barbecue • Buskers • Billy-cart challenge • and lots more . . .

**Big Draw**

1st prize \$2,500 Travel Voucher  
2nd prize 6 x \$50 Cobden Shopping Vouchers  
Free entry tickets in participating stores NOW  
You have to be in it to win it, but if you're not at the draw, we'll bin it!

Prizes courtesy of Cobden Business Network



COBDEN CALENDAR	
DECEMBER	
Friday 19th:	5pm-8pm Christmas-on-Curdie.
Sunday 21st:	7.30pm Carols by Candlelight, Civic Hall.
Wednesday 31st:	Cobden Rotary Club's New Year's Eve Family Fireworks Extravaganza, Railway Park.