

# HUTCHIES' TRUTH

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR HUTCHINSON BUILDERS

APRIL 1996

## Final stage of Keperra Sanctuary completed

THE latest stage of the Keperra Sanctuary Retirement Village has been completed for IOOF Community Villages Friendly Society.

The \$3.4 million contract was undertaken on a construction management basis, comprising a 43-bed hostel and facilities wing including reception, lounge and dining rooms.

The work also included roadworks and bridge.

The project was completed ahead of time and on budget due to an excellent relationship being maintained with client and consultants.

The design is a credit to the architects, The Buchan Group.



Extensions to Keperra Sanctuary Retirement Village.

### OBITUARY

#### Michael Terrance Holmes

IT is sad to report the tragic death of a company member, Mick Holmes.

Mick worked for the company for four years and was popular with all at Hutchies.

He was killed in a road accident while returning home from work (the Bi-Lo store job on the Gold Coast).

Mick leaves his wife, Nikki, and daughter, Natasha.

Our sincere condolences to his family.



The project team (from left) Gary Cordic of Acer Wargon Chapman, John Schulte of The Buchan Group, Ian Hart IOOF Sanctuary Manager, Denis Mathieson IOOF Development Manager, Ken Grant leading hand, Brad Wootten supervisor and Peter Barry site manager.

# From the chairman

## Quality and Employee Involvement

At Hutchies we believe in involving our company members in decision making, particularly those actually out on the job sites.

This is a strategy that saved Harley Davidson from bankruptcy and turned their whole business around.

A quote from Richard Teerlink, Chief Executive Officer at Harley Davidson:

"True employee involvement is a process by

which you actually run the business. It means pushing management responsibility down as far as possible. It means that the employee accepts responsibility for saying 'If there is something that can help me do my job better or make a higher quality product then I'm going to tell someone else in the company about it'. That's employee involvement."

If you feel you can improve things tell the person who can help you implement it.

If no-one is listening...please tell me.



Jack Hutchinson

**Hutchies recently received a despatch from Mawson, Australia's base in Antarctica.**

**It wasn't the usual call for a quote, but an update from former Hutchies' member, Kevin Lee, who reported on life in the frozen Southland, where the sun shines at midnight.**

*Kevin wrote:*

"It takes four weeks to get here by an ice breaking ship called the 'Aurora Australis'.

We spend about two weeks breaking through sea ice up to two metres thick.

This is what slows the trip down, though the endless supply of icebergs and wildlife along the way, making for many photo opportunities, eases the boredom.

As the ship cannot reach the base at the start of summer as the ice is so thick, we are flown about 350 kms across the fast ice, which is frozen ocean connected to the continent.

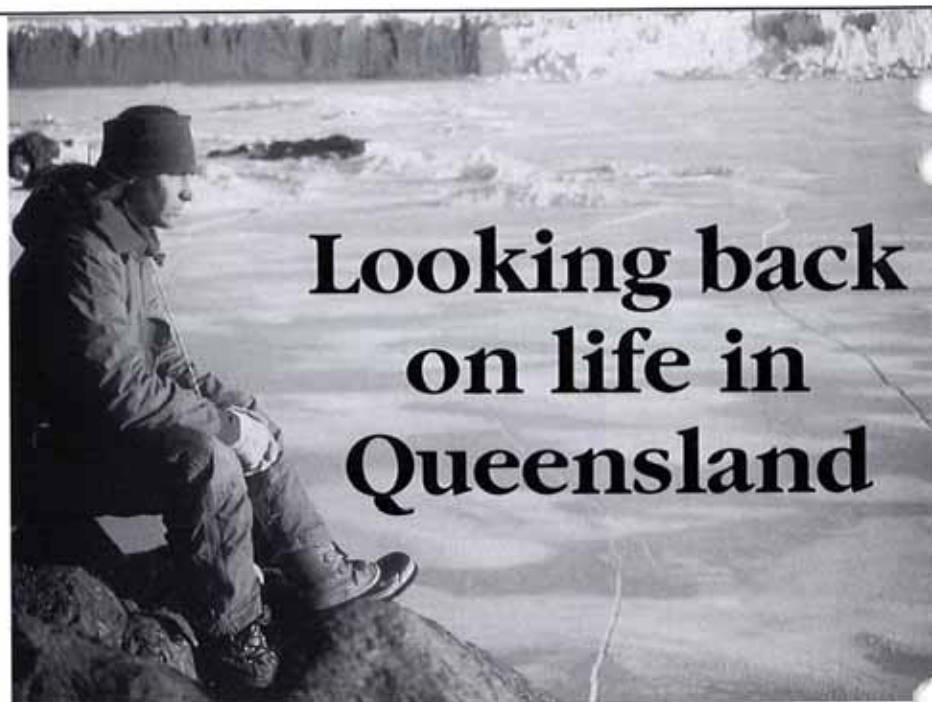
We also use the Sikorsky 76 helicopters to navigate paths for the ship through the ice.

Once on base we work six days a week and are also rostered to work in the kitchen for a couple of days every few weeks... which is probably enough for the expeditioners who have to sample my cooking.

We do get out a lot, staying in field huts in the mountains or neighbouring islands which we drive to on the sea ice by skidoos, quads or hagglands, which are articulated Swedish snow buses.

The sea ice has usually gone by

**...but he has managed to make lots of new friends. His best friend is the good looking one in the back row...**



## Looking back on life in Queensland

Kevin reflects on the life and friends he left behind in Australia...

January so we try and make the most of it while it's here. It refreezes again in March.

There are many icebergs locked in the sea ice as well as Emperor and Adelie penguin rookeries scattered on the ice around the continent, so it makes an evening drive on the ice in the midnight sun worthwhile.

We have 24 hours daylight in the summer and the reverse in winter.

For longer field trips we fly by choppers that support the summer science programme.

These trips are usually to other nations' bases such as the Chinese or Russians.

They are always a lot of fun. Usually resulting in huge amounts of alcohol being consumed by the end of the stay.

Our work programme concentrates on getting the buildings to lockup in the summer and fitting them out in the winter.

At Mawson we regularly get blizzards with 200 km per hour winds and temperatures around minus 30 degrees centigrade, so it is critical to get the outer panels on before the start of winter.



**...transportation is more upmarket than a Hutchies' ute.**

# Congratulations Ken - 50 years on the job

IN plumbing terms, Ken Fennell describes himself as an "ancient fixture" at Hutchies.

Jack Hutchison describes him as a valuable asset...a reliable bloke, who knows his trade.

Either way, he's clocked up half a century and is still going strong.

Ken is the longest serving member of the Hutchies team and is looking forward to retirement on May 10 - his 65th birthday - after 50 years on the job.

He started off with Hutchies in 1946, as a 15-year-old.

His ambition was to be a carpenter, but things were tough after the War with many ex-soldiers being retrained in the building game.

All the ex-servicemen had taken up the carpentry vacancies.

Ken recalls his stepfather finding out about a job vacancy at Hutchies - a building company with a good reputation - but it was for a plumber.

Ken said he was keen to get a job and thought: "That'll do me."

He remembers that when he started the "office" consisted of Jack's father, Jack's uncle and two girls, in a 20x10 shed under the Grey Street bridge.

"Jack's grandfather was phasing out of the business at the time and building materials were in short supply because manufacturing had wound down for the War effort," Ken said.

His first job was renovating an ex-army hut for use by priests at the Banyo Seminary.

As building picked up after the War, Hutchies added labourers, carpenters, bricklayers and plumbers to the staff.

Ken took great pride in his adopted trade - particularly working with galvanized pipe, copper, lead and cast iron.

He said the introduction of PVC had changed the industry and was far simpler to work with than the heavy metal.

Ken's job took him all over Brisbane and as far afield as Goondiwindi.

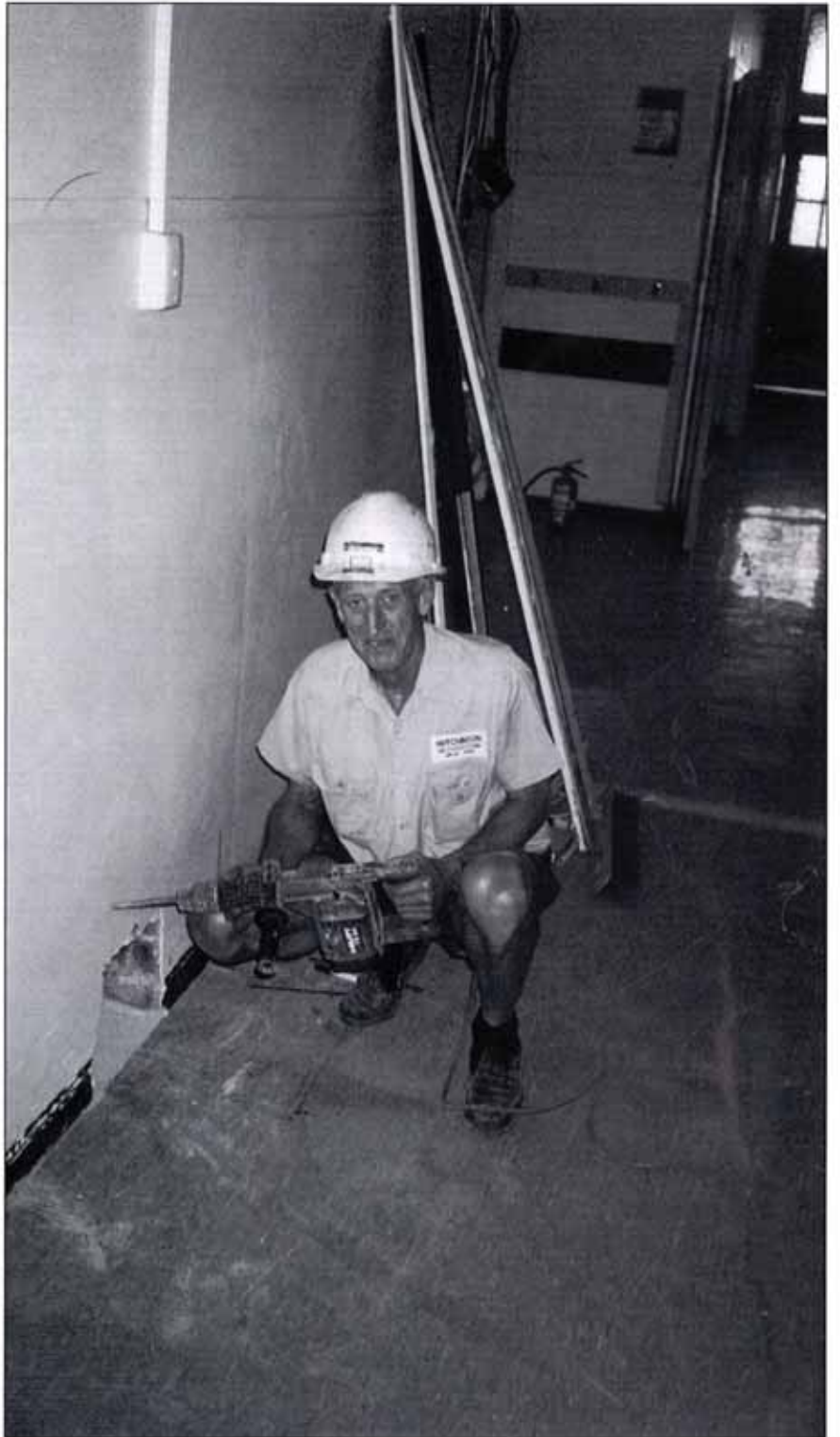
On reflection of his 50 years with Hutchies, Ken says he has "no complaints".

"Hutchies have treated me really well," he said.

The biggest change in 50 years, he reckons, is the size of the main office - from the tiny shed under the Grey Street Bridge, to the complex new set-up at Seventeen Mile Rocks.

But he is looking forward to his retirement.

"My son has just bought a new house so there is quite a bit of work to do for him and there is plenty to do around home," Ken said.



Ken...still going strong after half a century.

## JOBS UPDATE

with  
**Barry Butterworth**



### Tattersalls Club

Construction is progressing on programme for Stage Two of the Tattersalls Club redevelopment. Overall completion is due in early December 1996 with partial completion for ground floor tenants programmed for late May. The co-operation received from the project team, including Trevor Reddacliff (Tattersalls), Paul Jones (Tattersalls), Finn Rasmussen (Robin Gibson), David Mitchell (John Mitchell and Assoc.), and other consultants, has been appreciated to keep this challenging job well controlled. Our site team of Robert Weymouth, Mike Tickner, Bernie Booth and Norm Norman have all worked together to solve some very difficult construction issues, including keeping the Club and tenants operating whilst working in and around them.

### Australian Resorts

We have managed to win more work for Australian Resorts. At the moment we have Steve Low on **Dunk**, Charlie Wilson on **Bedarra**, Syd Britton on **Brampton** and Jamie Sylvester on **Great Keppel**. The work is being supervised by Len White for McWilliams Engineers.

### Sinnamon Retirement Village Chapel

Rob Jones is currently on site building a new Chapel to the Sinnamon Retirement Village, just a stone's throw away from the office. Designed by Fulton Gilmour Trotter Moss Architects and engineered by Alexander, Browne, Cambridge and Partners, the \$250,000 Chapel will lift the look of the existing buildings. Already construction has the residents of the Retirement Village in a state of continual interest.

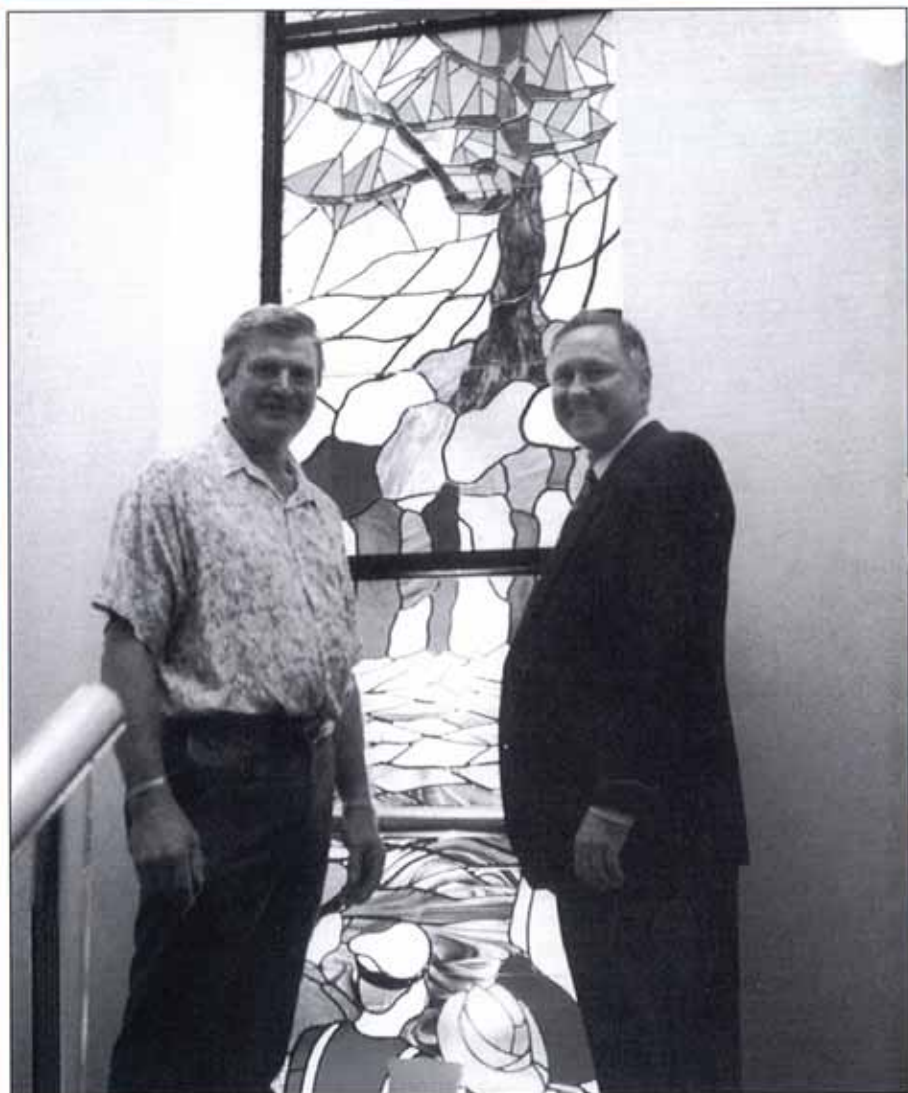
### Maryborough RSL

Construction began on Maryborough's new RSL Club in January with the Diggers due to march into their premises on Anzac

Day. The project, valued at \$2.25 million, involves remodelling the existing shopping centre into a club. Our team comprises foreman/supervisor Glen Houghton, leading hand Wally Taylor and supervisor/administrator Murray Creevey.

### St Margaret's

St Margaret's \$3.25 million new indoor recreation centre is due for completion end of March. Architects Powell Dods and Thorpe and Engineers Connell Wagner, in particular, have been working closely with Hutchies. Despite some unusual construction problems, the relationship between client, consultants and builder is alive and well. Our team comprises foreman Stewart Hemsley and supervisor/administrator Murray Creevey.



### Dalby RSL

Project Manager Len White and architect Milton Lewis at the opening of the Dalby RSL admire the stained glass feature.

## St Ignatius Park College, Townsville

The project was completed on time to all parties' satisfaction. congratulations to Dave Christofferson for his efforts. Quantity Surveyor: Townsville Cost Consultants.

## Ascog Tce Townhouse

Work has started on a \$1 million townhouse development for Blades Project Services. Our team includes foreman Mal Asford, leading hand Col Vogler and supervisor Brad Wootten. Architect: Cottee Parker Architects.

## Fortitude Street Units

Work is well underway at Fortitude Street units, another project with Blades Project Services. Once again, Mal Asford, as foreman, has this three-storey structure flying. Architect: Cottee Parker Architects.

## Brisbane Boys College - Science Block

The \$320,000 refurbishment of two storeys of science block was successfully completed in the school Christmas break. Credit to the project team of Rob Stanley (BC), foreman Terry Wilson and supervisor Brad Wootten.



## Cairns - Mulgrave Road Showrooms

The \$1.6 million shopping and office complex is nearing completion - five weeks ahead of time. Credit is due to the project team of Mal Asford, Peter Singleton and Brad Wootten. Architect: The Buchan Group.

Peter Singleton also had his hands full at home with his young family during the time he was foreman on the Mulgrave Road job.



## Federal Police Building, Wharf Street, Spring Hill

Work is progressing well on a difficult site in the heart of Brisbane city which will result in new premises for Federal Police.

## Safety Task Force formed

Hutchinson Builders are taking safety very seriously and recently formed a Safety Task Force, headed by Jason Williams and Dan Gallagher.

Some safety points to keep in mind include:

1. Ensure safety files are maintained and updated. Remember they must be submitted at project completion.

2. Safety is a consequence of your actions.

3. Always ensure that the six basic steps as shown in the front of all job safety files are followed.

Please direct any queries to Safety Officer, Jason or Dan.

Only with your co-operation can we reduce site accidents.

## Pioneer Head of the Brisbane

On Saturday February 3, Hutchinson Builders and Toowong Rowing Club organised the Pioneer Head of the Brisbane Rowing Regatta.

The purpose of the day is to raise funds for Toowong Rowing Club - more than 100 years old - which produces many athletes who represent Australia.

The day was a great success with some 500 people in attendance at the Stewards Enclosure (Oxley's on the River Restaurant).

The party and the rowing was excellent, but unfortunately the last three races were cancelled because of a severe storm with lightning which made it unsafe to continue on the water.

Thankyou to all our subcontractors and suppliers who supported the day and to Janis Brischke who worked tirelessly to make it a success.

## Big news from Little Rock, USA

JUNE and Jack Hutchinson visited our sister company, Kinco Inc. in Little Rock in January.

Jack visited many of their building sites and spoke with their staff at length.

The companies have many similarities.

Kinco turnover is approximately \$A45 million and, with the US economy booming, they are extremely busy, putting strains and demands on their workforce.

Hutchinson Builders directly employ more staff than other builders of our size, however, Kinco employs even more.

Kinco erect their formwork (with their own cranes), tie the steel and pour the concrete, erect their own structural steel



Jack and one of Kinco's site sheds

(again with their own crane) in addition to having carpenters and labourers.

Phyllis Kinnaman has a sub-contract business, PK Interiors, which specialises in interiors and floor coverings.

Jack Kinnaman and Jack Hutchinson tried their hand at duck shooting but Arkansas was unusually dry...so no ducks.

However, a trip to a pheasant and quail farm produced better results, with the English pointer hounds flushing out the bird and the two Jacks bringing them down with great skill.

Jack Hutchinson almost shot one of the dogs which did not go over too well.

Jack Kinnaman cooked the birds and a grand feast was enjoyed with the Kinnamans and their family.



Building is in the blood. Here June tries her hand on a Kinco building site.

## Care for Hopewell Hospice

Recently, Len White and some of his team volunteered a Saturday to help out at the Hopewell Hospice on Hope Island near the Gold Coast.

Needing a good deal of maintenance, the Hospice was most grateful for the hard work put in by the boys.

Funded mostly by donations, the Hospice, which cares for terminally ill patients, has a hard time coping with continuous maintenance costs.

Scott Hutchinson has taken Hopewell on board as a Hutchie project, and, as there is still much to be done, volunteers are needed desperately.

Not only Hutchie employees, but also any of you subbies out there who can give an hour or two of your time, your help would be appreciated.

If you are able to lend a hand please contact Scott or Len.

Our grateful thanks also to Apex Contractors (Hammo), for their donation of a skylight, and Pioneer Concrete for their supply of ready mix on the day.



Len with the driver of Pioneer truck.

# Christmas Cheers



Kids - big and small - at the Christmas Party.

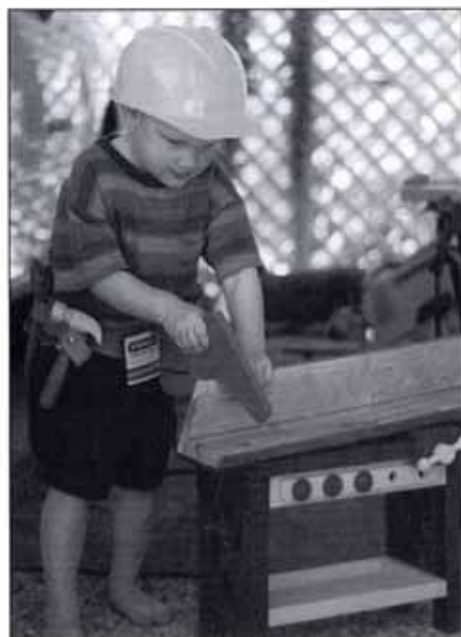
During November we had our annual Children's Christmas Party at Amazons.

The weather was hot, the water was cool and the food was great.

All of the kids (big and small) had a most enjoyable day and, of course, when Santa arrived to hand out gifts, he was a very popular visitor.

Amazons is a fun day which always seems a popular choice with those who attend.

PS: Congratulations to Murray Creevy. He was impressive as a male octogenarian of a charitable nature who had no qualms about dressing in bright red winter clothes when it was 30 degrees in the shade.



## The party's over - and the fun begins

Ben Reynolds was one of the lucky children who received a great present from Santa at the Christmas Party...his own tool kit.

After the Christmas Party the fun really began....and now Ben's great ambition is to help Daddy at Hutchies.

Ben's hard hat is a welcome inclusion but young Reynolds will need to do something about his safety boots before turning up on site.

## HUTCHIE AWARDS

Paul De Jong won Constructor of the Year...taking home the Kinco knife a valuable hand-made custom by Jimmy Lyle of Arkansaw and having his name added to the Honour Board.

Company watches, given for outstanding effort by a company member, went to Christine McIvor (right) for her work in accounts and to Charlie Wilson for a particularly ticklish bit of work on a Bedarra Island sewer. (Seems all is not beautiful in Queensland's tropical paradise!)

Five-year fishing rods went to Alan Matthews, Jason Williams, Grant White, Charles Wilson, Paul De Jong and Wayne Cullen.



## These boots are made for winning



In a reciprocal arrangement with Kinco, prizes for Constructor of the Year results in a Kinco knife being swapped for Hutchies' boots.

Kinco provides the knife to Australia and Hutchies provide boots to the USA. Jack Hutchinson says the handmade, kangaroo skin, R.M. Williams boots are a treasured possession in the USA.

"Everybody knows about the boots and their quality...and everybody wants a pair," Jack said.

Here is the latest prize being packaged up by Cheryl McCaffery to be sent off to the lucky winner at Kinco, James Carter.

## New arrival



Monica Weymouth is delighted with the arrival of the new addition in the Weymouth household - brother, Timothy. Dad, Robert, is working on another addition, as project manager for extensions to the Tattersalls Club.



## Welcome

Hutchies welcome new office and site members (from left) Con Dunstan, Dan Gallagher, Nigel Wagner, Richard Field and Brad Wootten.

# HUTCHINSON BUILDERS

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