



Observer Showbiz

Observer Overnighters

News about the 3AW Overnighters program with Keith McGowan

McGowans in Queensland

Overnighters host Keith McGowan and wife Angela are enjoying their annual holidays in Queensland, but have been in contact with Victorian friends on a daily basis to check on the bushfire situation. Keith and Angela have been in Rockhampton and Yeppoon over recent days, and have experienced some rainy weather. They enjoyed Longreach, staying there for several days. Their next destination is Hervey Bay.

Keith and Angela experienced problems with their car on the drive to Rockhampton. Keith was unhappy with the 'play' in the steering wheel, and the Ford - still under warranty - have a rack replacement at the local Tropical Ford dealership.

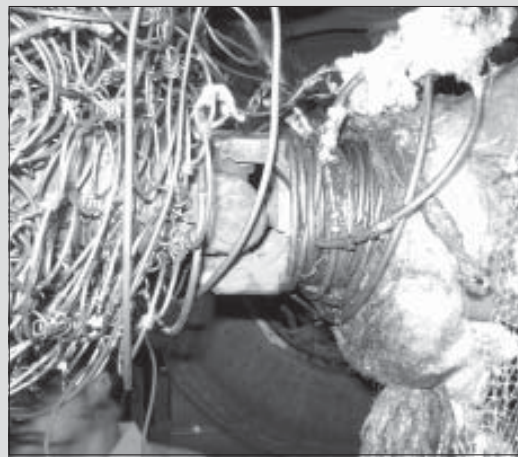
Keith McGowan returns to the Overnighters program on Monday morning, March 2.

'Shimmy' in car's steering

Speaking of steering problems, Observer reader Chris Herrod e-mails: "A lady ran over a mattress and decided to keep going. The ensuing jumble finally whipped around enough to put a tear in the gas tank. The subsequent lack of fuel is what finally brought this vehicle to its knees."

"It had still managed to drive 60km decently with a 30kg tangle wrapped around the driveshaft. She complained that the vehicle had a "shimmy" when driving at high speeds."

"This is what the dealership found:



History of Glenhuntly S.S.

Overnighter, Shirley Miramns, is compiling the history of Glenhuntly State School, and seeks certificates, photographs and information to copy. Write to Shirley, PO Box 62, Glenhuntly, 3163. E-mail: kmirams@bigpond.com

André's charity single

Andre Rieu has written and recorded a bushfire charity single, Yours Forever. "I have always considered Australia to be my second home and I'd like to help in the best way that I can - through music," he said in a statement. "I believe music has a power to heal like nothing else and I'd like nothing more than to ease the sorrow of the wonderful people."



PHOTO: ASH LONG

3AW again threw open its doors and airwaves for the bushfire emergency. The station provided its board room for off-duty MFB firemen to take calls from listeners offering donations of goods. Commander Tony Nestcott and radio station promotions chief David Mann oversee firefighters Paul Ritchie and Chris Month.



PHOTO: ASH LONG

3AW has played a vital communications and society role in state emergencies. During and after the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, 3AW helped the Macedon community. Observer Editor Ash Long took this photo of the radio station gang, as it was 26 years ago outside the Macedon Hotel, for the handover of a cheque to locals. Pictured from left, back row, are: David Mann, Ray Taylor, David McGee, unknown, Neville Wragg, Bruce Mansfield, Derryn Hinch, John Blackman, Dennis O'Kane, Graham Walton. At front: The Macedon Hotel proprietors receive a cheque from 3AW general manager Brian White, flanked by broadcasters Helen Jackson and the Rev. Alex Kenworthy.

Antiques and Collectables

Stamp auction fundraiser

Observer reader Gary Watson, who is proprietor of Prestige Philately, has announced that they will be conducting a charity auction to raise funds for the Red Cross Victorian Bushfire Relief Fund, at their Belgrave premises on Friday, March 13.



● Gary Watson

Gary says he expects the sale to raise more than \$50,000.

"Every cent generated from the auction will be given to the Bushfire Relief Fund," he said. "We are waiving all commissions and donating our time and other resources so as to maximise the value of the donation."

Gary said that the philatelic community has an opportunity to come together to demonstrate solidarity with the victims.

"One client arrived only an hour after the email going out and donated a lovely Two Pound Kangaroo," Gary said.

Within the first 24 hours over \$10,000 worth of material had been physically received.

Members of the Australasian Philatelic Traders' Society were quick to embrace the charity auction concept.

Many of Australia's leading dealers, and as many lesser known traders, immediately pledged to donate material for the sale.

APTA President Michael Eastick said this was a project that everyone should want to support. "We encourage dealers and collectors to donate material for this great cause, and to be active bidders as well."

Noel Leahy, from Australia Post's Philatelic Division, said that the Post Office would contribute "something special".

Because the auction must be pulled together quickly, donations of material have to be received by Prestige Philately by the end of February.



● The Two Pound Roo

Items can be sent by registered mail to PO Box 126, Belgrave 3160 or delivered to the firm's premises at Unit 2, 1630 Burwood Highway, Belgrave.

To keep costs to a minimum and thereby allow the full amount raised to be donated to the Red Cross Bushfire Relief Fund, Prestige will not produce their usual top-quality catalogue.

Instead, on Tuesday March 10, the catalogue will be uploaded to the firm's website www.prestigephilately.com from where it can be easily viewed and/or downloaded. There is no buyer's commission, no vendor's commission, no lower limit on value of lots, every lot is unreserved.



On This Day

Wednesday, February 18

Actor George Kennedy was born in New York City in 1925 (84).

Gavin Wood (Gavin Fullwood) is 57.

Actor John Travolta was born in New Jersey in 1954 (55).

Actor Brian Nankervis (Raymond J Bartholomew) is 53 today (1956).

Thursday, February 19

English actor Dick Emery was born in 1918. He died aged 65 in 1983.

US actor Lee Marvin died aged 63 in 1987.

Footballer Peter Hudson was born in Tasmania in 1946 (63).

Prince Andrew was born in London in 1960 (49).

Actress Lisa McCune is 38 today.

Friday, February 20

Actor Sir Sidney Poitier was born in Miami in 1927 (82).

Football identity Neil Kerley was born in South Australia in 1934 (75).

Roland Rocchiccioli was born in 1947 (62).

American model Cindy Crawford is 43.

Actress Lisa Hemslley is 41.

Saturday, February 21

Australian runner Ron Clarke is 72.

Newsreader Peter Hitchener was born in Inglewood (Qld) in 1946 (63).

Kelsey Grammer, US actor, was born in the Virgin Islands in 1955 (54).

Actor Christopher Atkins was born in 1961 (48).

Singer Charlotte Church is 23.

Sunday, February 22

Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouts, was born in London in 1857. He died aged 83 in 1941.

Artist Norman Lindsay was born in Creswick in 1879. He died aged 90 in 1969.

TV sportscaster Sandy Roberts is 59.

The Duchess of Kent is 76.

Monday, February 23

Former Prime Minister Sir William McMahon was born on this day in 1908. He died aged 80 in 1988.

Actor Peter Fonda was born in New York City, 70 years ago.

Australian actress Kate Keltie is 23.

German classical composer George Frederic Handel was born in 1685. He died aged 74 in 1759.

Tuesday, February 24

Australian playwright David Williamson is 67.

English actor Dennis Waterman is 61. He played Terry McCann in Minder.

Test cricketer Mike Whitney is 50.

Football identity Jason Akermanis is 32.

Tennis player Lleyton Hewitt is 28.