

# Goss

November 15, 2003

## Family Un-Fun Day

By Estelle

On Saturday, Farrah had to go to the doctor. Greg said he was taking her to Dr I. M. Ferocious; but she ended up seeing Dr Valentinoff instead, which was just as well.

The nice doctor wrote her a prescription and told her she had to stay home *all* weekend.

Estelle was horrified and contemplated having a valium or six. Well, not really, but she was horrified.

Greg and Estelle decided to hire some videos for Farrah to watch, so they could have a family *video night* fun day. Farrah even got a special dinner, but it just wasn't the same.

She couldn't go to Taylor's Disco Party, even though she had a new red and white dress with roses.

Worse still, she couldn't even cuddle her mummy, and she *really* wanted to. She couldn't cuddle her daddy either, but she could deal with that.

Then she was covered in stinging goop all the way up to her neck.

*Poor Farrah!* She felt very sorry for herself and she cried. Later she cried some more. Then she cried again.

That evening, her friend Jordan came to play with her; but Greg and Estelle said,

'Aaaargh! Eeeeeek! Go away – we're contagious!' so Jordan *couldn't* stay.

'This is *not* a family fun day,' she moaned pathetically; wondering if the house was about to be surrounded by a big plastic bubble, while men in white suits climbed through the window with walkie-talkies and obscure scientific instruments.

Meanwhile, Estelle and Greg had seen better days themselves. They had to launder sheets, clothes, blankets, sheets, *more* clothes and, wouldn't you know it, the jolly washing machine was on the fritz.

'Why?' Estelle remonstrated with the machine now known only as *HAL*. 'Why? Why? Why? You were working fine last night with not a hint of any bother'.

'I want better conditions and more pay,' said the washing machine stubbornly.

Then, in an act of heroism that will go down forever in the annals of family history, Greg fixed the rotten thing. '*En garde!*' he chortled manfully. "Take that, you reprobate blackguard!"

Then we all watched *Barbie of Swan Lake*, *The Christmas Shoes*, *What a Girl Wants*, and *A Walk in the Clouds*; and we lived happily ever after.

*The End.*



## The Family This Week

### Estelle:

On Monday, Farrah was teaching Estelle some Indonesian. She explained that apple was *apel*, pineapple was *nenas*, and orange was *jeruk*. 'Give me that *jeruk*, or I'll stick this *nenas* up your nose,' said Estelle with sudden inspiration.

On Friday, Estelle rang Greg to tell him she had lost his daughter. Of course, Farrah wasn't really lost because she knew *exactly* where she was; it was only Estelle that saw her life flash before her in the landscape of every mother's worst nightmare.

It all started innocently enough. Estelle had met Nanny in the mall for lunch; and they had bought Farrah a nice, new pair of sandals. Then they drove off to Cranleigh for an appointment with Jill, and returned to the mall to meet Estelle's good friend Lisa for coffee.

Farrah loves Lisa, but soon got bored with the adult conversation. Could she watch television? Sure, they could see her from Gloria Jean's. Could she visit Santa? Sure, he was right near their table. The indoor playground was also within sight; but when Estelle next glanced at it, Farrah had disappeared!

Announcements were made, and security was called. Apparently, they have never lost a single one – they always get their kid! This was reassuring; but it was Lisa who finally found her, looking none too happy that Estelle had disappeared like that!

Farrah had just popped in to Angus & Robertson for a bit of a read, not expecting to be gone long at all. Estelle was hardly mollified, and kept Farrah on the tightest leash of her parenting career.

### Greg:

On Monday, it turned out, it had been many years since the Family had last visited Farrah's Club - and this was no longer to be the case. Grown-ups sometimes have Clubs so Farrah had adopted one of her own many years back. And as Mummy and Daddy were also members, we'd sometimes have dinner at "the Club." Well, enough! Farrah decided that, despite no longer being members, it was time for us to go back. So, we set forth down the road ....

It wasn't very far but, despite this and the need for one of us to drive, *Miss Smith* (played by Farrah) was able to conduct school. School was attended - as usual - by the ever-so-naughty *Dylan* (Daddy) and teacher's pet *Mary* (played by Estelle). It was touch and go for a while but Dylan managed to get into lots of trouble in a very short time, so the game settled into its usual pattern. Just as *Dylan* was sent off to clean the toilets as a punishment, Daddy sped up and we arrived at the club.

The club looked exactly the same. Except for all of the major renovations. 'Our club had changed so much I didn't know *what* was going to happen to me!' Farrah exclaimed.

The bouncer wasn't present so we crept in. And renewed our memberships. Because of the renovations, the salad bar had temporarily disappeared, so we ordered *à la carte* and sent Greg off to order and pay. Did he know the table number? Or would he have to come back? Unable to deal with the suspense, and being basically good-natured, Estelle sent Farrah to the rescue. She

crossed obstacles, avoided distractions and navigated the new layout. Finally, she arrived and gasped, “I know our table number.” Daddy said, “Me too.”

Farrah returned feeling foolish that Greg had already known the table number. ‘I’m *so* embarrassed,’ she lamented. Estelle apologized, but Farrah *still* felt bad. By this time, Greg had also returned and set about consoling her.

‘If Daddy didn’t know it was table 28, and you didn’t tell me, I would have said we were table “um, um, um”; and when the waiter came out, he would have been looking *everywhere* for table “um, um, um”; and he’d be asking people if their table was “um, um, um”; and they’d think he was silly and laugh at him; and he might cry and drop all of the dinners; and his boss might be cross at him and *fire* him!

‘And when he got home, he might tell his dad; and his dad might be cross that they had fired him, and ring the restaurant to complain; and the restaurant might be very upset, and not be able to serve anyone dinners; so the people might be annoyed, and all go home; so the restaurant would need to close; and without a restaurant, people mightn’t come to play golf at the club anymore; so they’d have to shut down the club, and bulldoze it, and build a carpark.

‘So, it was just as well that Farrah told Daddy that our table was 28!’

Daddy was good at long sentences.

The waiter hadn’t been fired and brought the food straight to table 28. It was delicious. Greg enjoyed his pepper steak, and nobly sacrificed his last bit of broccoli. Everyone knows how Scarlett *loves* broccoli! ‘What’s that saying? No good deed goes unpunished?’ quoted Greg, as Scarlett filled his hand with regurgitated vegetable matter. Um, um, um ....

Meanwhile, Farrah had decided that she was a dog and was crawling around the floor very nicely. ‘Farrah, can you pretend that you’re a person and sit up?’ suggested Greg, noticing the somewhat surprised expressions of their fellow patrons. This worked nicely but Estelle had been chuckling throughout and had now got hiccups. At this point Greg, who remains totally innocent in all this, demanded of Estelle: ‘How much have you had to drink?’ and stared accusingly at her glass of water.

Finally, the night concluded and we set off home again without even a peep from *Miss Smith*.

**Farrah:**

On Monday, Farrah was very pleased and excited to find her manners; which had gone missing some years previously at the old club. Perhaps they will need sewing on, as with Peter Pan's wayward shadow.



On Friday, Estelle bought Farrah some clothes from *Just Jeans* to wear to the school disco.

Farrah chose a denim skirt, and a white top with a boat neckline and  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sleeves.

Her new sandals completed the outfit.

Estelle and Greg thought their precious daughter looked absolutely wonderful.

**Scarlett:**

On Monday, the F.A.R.M. people came to visit Scarlett's school. They brought roosters, hens and chicks; ducks and ducklings; sheep and lambs; a cat and kittens; a calf; a rabbit; a piglet; and some baby goats. Scarlett met them all, whilst singing, '*Farmer Scarlett had a farm, ee aye ee aye oh!*' and '*Scarlett had a little lamb*'. Scarlett even patted some of them all by herself.

Scarlett's teacher Jenny only wished that we had a little manger. It would have been perfect with all the straw and animals.

On Tuesday, Scarlett's boyfriend Nicholas gave her a purple windmill flower.



Nicholas has been a bit smitten ever since she wore her 'Rose Red' party dress to the '*Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush*' show. '*I have to speak to that girl!*' he insisted to his teacher Allison, but when she brought him over he was struck dumb by her beauty.

In a recent music class, he refused to be seated unless it was next to Scarlett. 'Oh, Scarlett,' said Allison, 'Why must you be so popular?'

Sometimes Estelle teases Scarlett about her boyfriend, Nicholas; but Scarlett just laughs.

## Estelle's Editorial

Bullying...



## Upcoming Events

- Sat 22 Nov 1:00pm – Farrah to attend Callum Jones' Bowling Birthday Party
- Sun 23 Nov 1:00pm – Ronald McDonald's Magic Show at McDonalds Charnwood
- Sat 29 Nov 7:30pm – Jenny Shaw's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party
- Tue 2 Dec 4:40 pm – 6:00pm – Farrah to attend Amy Paterson's Kidzone Disco Party
- Wed 3 Dec 10:30am – 12:30pm – Scarlett to perform with Cranleigh Lunchtime Music Group at the National Museum of Australia art launch
- Fri 5 Dec 6:30pm – Gala Dinner and Drinks with Accenture at ScreenSound Australia
- Sat 6 Dec 10:30am – 2:00pm – Scarlett to attend Special Children's Christmas Party
- Mon 8 Dec 1:00pm – 4:30pm – Greg to sit PRINCE2 Practitioners Exam
- Wed 10 Dec – Scarlett to go on a school excursion to Cockington Green
- Thu 11 Dec – Carols Night at Farrah's school
- Fri 12 Dec 4:00pm – 7:00pm – Farewell for Mike Sainsbery in the Sensory Garden
- Mon 15 Dec – Christmas Carol evening at Cranleigh School
- Wed 17 Dec – Santa to arrive at Cranleigh
- Wed 17 Dec – Graduation Ceremony at Cranleigh
- Fri 19 Dec 2:30pm – 4:00pm – Governor General's Christmas Party at Government House
- Tue 23 Dec – Kristin's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday
- Tue 23 Dec – Estelle and Greg to rendezvous with former dance teacher Jason and partner Zoë from Brisbane
- Wed 24 Dec – Christmas Eve
- Thu 25 Dec – Christmas Day

## The Last Word

By Greg

The job market has quietened down a bit of late which is frustrating. Still, one perseveres and adds what polish one can in the meantime.

It is difficult attending work because I daren't start anything long-term. Also, there is very little incentive to improve things. It has been difficult to maintain a professional attitude in view of all this but I'm getting there. My boss is aware that I will be moving on and this is proving more of a challenge for him. He is trying to minimize disruption when I leave and so is giving tasks to others and is directly tasking my staff. It makes a more peaceful work life for me but he is finding that I contributed to most tasks (rather than just administered them). He is also tearing up the sense of team structure that he will need for the next guy.

When I moved on from NTS, it was the opposite extreme. I dropped the bombshell and departed two weeks later. That wasn't very neat either. I don't know. Suggestions please.

The family is a joy and we're enjoying each others' company. Life is, after all, family and people. Work, aside from work, really comes down to more people and trying to do what's best for them too.



**Favourite websites:**

- a
- b
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