

3 BEARS CHARITY AUCTION

MY YALLINGUP HISTORY WITH THREE BEARS

By Barry Fehlberg

BACKGROUND

I came to WA as a graduate geologist at the end of 1968. The years until 1986 were dominated by work in the field, well away from any beaches or surf.

In August 1986, Mt Lawley friends Mark and Ala Donaldson, invited myself and then wife, Terese, for a weekend at their newly purchased Yallingup beach house. The weather was perfect, the waves and beach were great, there were only a few folks around, and Caves House up the “Ghost Trail” was there as the local drinking hole. “How long has this secret being going on,” I asked.

So with a good mining boom to help things along, I bought land in Valley Road at the beginning of 1987, built our rammed earth cottage in 1988, and moved in for the summer of 1989. I have been holidaying there ever since.

SURFING BEGINNINGS

Close neighbours, Brian Felton, Ron Fussell and Laurie Roach took me under their surfing wing to teach this newcomer some tricks and etiquette. “Too old for a board” was the verdict, “you need a wave ski like us my boy”. And the hot spot for action was the fast and furious Three Bears. Brian Felton’s old Landrover wagon would groan with the load as a half a dozen of us made the coastal pilgrimage to Three Bears from Yallingup.

Most of the groaning however, came from myself, as Three Bears is unforgiving, a wave ski is unforgiving, and so were the other surfers when things went wrong. My memories of surfing at Three Bears are mixed with a little pleasure and much pain.



THE LIGHTBULB MOMENT

It was in late 1993, after buying a hotted up, flash Range Rover for the trip to Three Bears, that it struck me this would be a signature number plate to own. And so, in December 1993, after the necessary application and approvals, I obtained the right to display (and trade) the special plate bearing the character 3 BEARS.

There was almost universal scorn heaped on me by my surfing acquaintances for this action. "You are a crap surfer", or "You don't deserve to display this famous plate", or "who do you think you are?" were comments received. My answer was short. "Well, you guys have been here for years before me, any one of you could have got it a long time ago. But you did not, so eat your heart's out".

MOVING ON

That was 31 years ago. The plate has bought much pleasure to myself, daughters and wife who have driven my various cars with this display.

However, my Valley Road house is now being run by my daughters and their families. I have moved on a little, and my wife, Sandy, and I spend time at our rural location Rusty Junction just down the road.

I discussed the charity auction concept with Neil Jilly of Caves House, and he gave immediate support and offered promotion through Caves House. And so the opportunity now arises for the plate 3 BEARS to be owned by a new person or corporation.

Bid vigorously – it is for a good cause and there is only one 3 BEARS number plate!



ROAD TRAFFIC ACT, 1974.
ROAD TRAFFIC (LICENSING) REGULATIONS 1975.

CERTIFICATE OF RIGHT TO DISPLAY AND TRADE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS
MADE PURSUANT TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1974

BARRY FEHLBERG

HAS THE RIGHT TO DISPLAY AND TRADE
THE SPECIAL PLATE BEARING THE CHARACTERS

3BEARS

P.W. CUNNINGHAM, DIRECTOR POLICE LICENSING AND SERVICES CENTRE

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TRAFFIC BOARD.

DECEMBER 1, 1993