

Hi there, Richard Dee here.

Welcome to my August 2026 newsletter.

It's been a very eventful month. And nothing at all like I had planned. Just after I sent the last newsletter out, my internet started misbehaving itself. It was disconnecting randomly, sometimes for a couple of seconds, sometimes for a couple of hours. Also, the attached landline telephone stopped working. I called the engineers, but with an intermittent fault, it took them a long time to find it.

In the end they discovered a wire in the street was badly degraded, and they advised that it was beyond economical repair. Apparently, I'm one of the only a few in the street still connected to the system on it.

So I've had to take the plunge and get full fibre internet, even though I don't really need it. The connection I had has always been fast enough for streaming and everything else I do.
But, they did me a deal, so here we are.

It's been reconnected, I now have a fast, stable connection. Instead of the 10-12 MB download speed, I'm now running at 75MB, which is very noticeably faster.

Unfortunately, it hasn't increased my typing speed.

I'm now back online and trying to resume everything I was doing before. There has been a lot of catch up on.

On with the writing news.

I have managed to get on with a couple of novellas that will be going to my editor at the end of August, which I'm quite pleased about. One's a crime noir and the other one is a first contact alien story.

Here are the current versions of the covers.

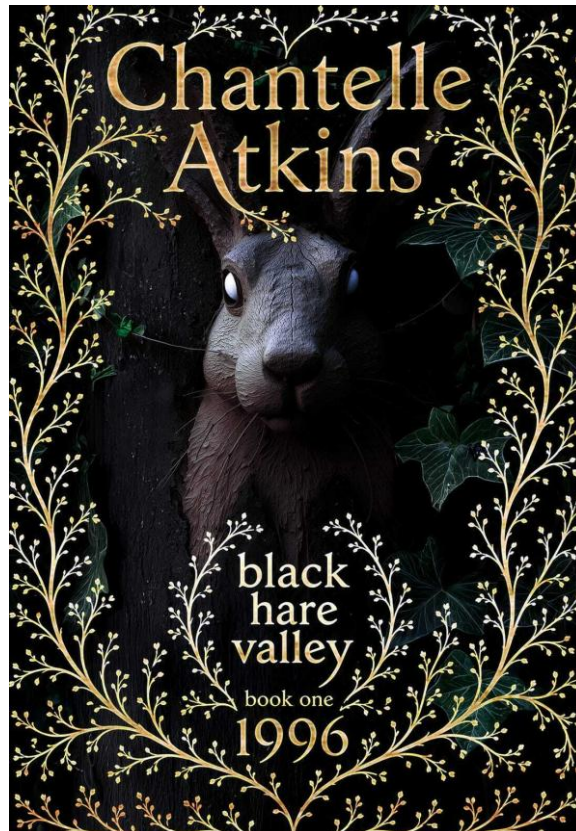


Other than that, work continues on the next Andorra Pett mystery, as well as her backstory and the usual posts that I've had to delay. Plus the short story ideas that just keep on coming.



What I've been reading.

My review of **Black Hare Valley. Book One, 1996. By Chantelle Atkins,**
is now live.



My Review of Black Hare Valley

Next up is

I don't know. I have several options but no decision yet. I have *The Story Spinner*, by Barbara Erskine and a couple of others to choose from.

Highlights from my Substack and website.

Here are a couple of posts that you might have missed.

Written in the Book. Short Story 152.

Murder Most Foul, Chapter One



Meanwhile, in other news.

As for what's happening in Australia, I know that George has been very busy with work and family. She sent me a thoughtful gift recently, a mug warmer for my coffee supply, but we haven't been able to talk much.



My middle daughter came down to see us for a few days with grandchildren and we had an exhausting time visiting quite a few local

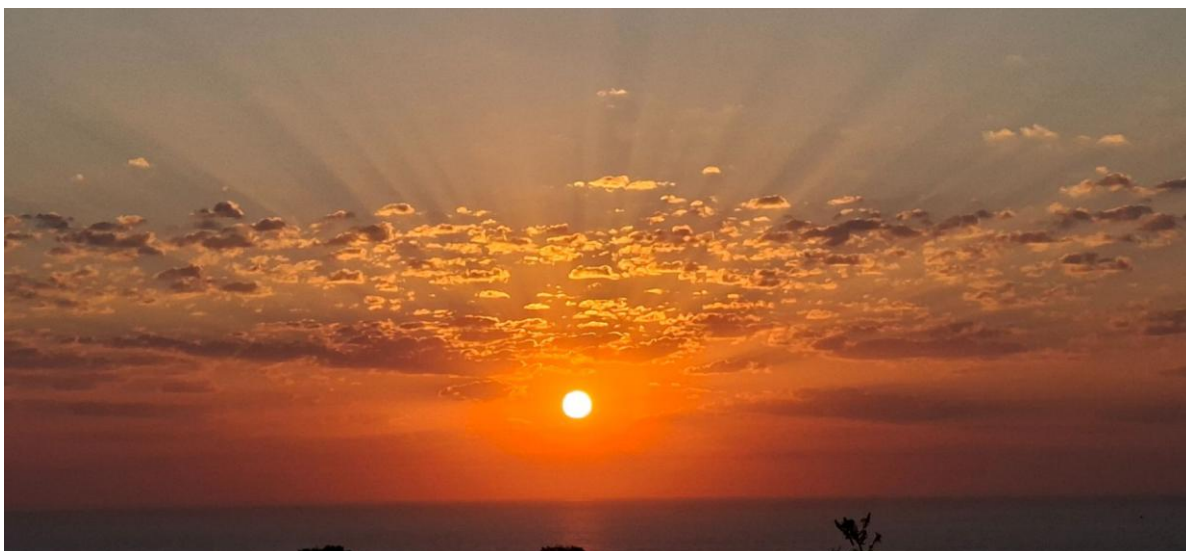
attractions, the beach, etc. My grandson made me this balloon dog, which I thought was pretty neat.



It was great to see familiar locations through their young eyes. and it helped to remind me just how lucky I am to live here.

My early morning walks now have been taken at sunrise. It's fascinating to see how it's so different every day. Here are a couple of sunrise pictures, taken on my phone at roughly the same sort of time of day.





We've had a flood in the house. One of the drainpipes from the bathroom upstairs started leaking. I could hear it dripping, but I couldn't find out where it was coming from. I started dismantling the plasterboard and water gushed out into the kitchen. It must have been leaking for a long time, but I'd only just noticed it.

Anyway, we got a plumber out, and he's found and fixed it. Now I'm waiting for everything to dry out so I can put it all back together. I suppose that means I'm going to have to decorate the kitchen as well.

As if that wasn't enough, my website also crashed. Perhaps it wasn't helped by the intermittent internet connection; I have no idea.

In the end, it was easier to just leave everything and fix it all when I had a proper connection.

I did use my mobile phone as a hub for important things, but I didn't have enough mobile data to carry on with everything. And I hate typing on the tiny screen.

We are now under a hosepipe ban, which means watering the garden is going to be a bucket job.

The local squirrel has been posing for pictures in my garden.



If you're interested in any of my old newsletters and blogs, you can now find these on my website by clicking the button below.

[Click here for The Archives](#)

If you want to ask me anything about my life or my writing, just hit reply.
I'm always happy to chat.

See you next month,

Happy reading.

Richard Dee.