

14 Gilchrist St.

Blayney 2799

20-11-79.

My Dear Phyllis & Ross

I was delighted to receive your lovely letter this morning, packed with interest as usual and thank you both so much. I have been worried about out correspondence because I wrote to you way back, whilst the mail strike was in progress to tell you that as well as losing my life's companion, I also lost my eldest son. That, just ten weeks later in more sudden circumstances that Georgie's passing, and it was a dreadful shock. I feel you never received that letter because I was so sure you would reply. He was here in the house with me, found about 11 a.m. on the 6th June, did a couple of little jobs for me, wound the chiming clock, and tested the amount of fuel in the oil heater tank, we then walked up the drive way together, he got into his car, saying he would go back to work at the school (he was the machinery mechanic) for a short while & would then go home for lunch, so I

waved him off as he drove away. Very shortly after, a friend called under the pretence that she was going down town and did I need anything. I answered "no thank you Rose, I have just arranged with Arthur to take me down town on Friday to do my shopping". In reality she had been rung by the head Sister at the hospital to come and stay with me, until some of my own family could come & tell me the news. He had only been back at school a few minutes, when he had a coronary occlusion & was dead in 15 mins. It was just too sudden. We have had more than our share of sadness, having lost nine relatives on one or the other side of the families, in eighteen months. And as well one of George's sisters who lives at Messina has had two strokes, one slight and one severe, and is now in a care home in Orange having therapy to try and get feeling back into her left side. Because of this trouble we have had Nancy & Hilton call in en route to Orange to see her and also Joy & Stan, another Sister who now lives in you know, fondest love to you both. Love

Canberra, came also to see the sick sister
 and stayed a night or two with me. I
 have a feeling they may be back again this
 week, so I'm hoping. Enough of my troubles,
 I sincerely hope you + yours are very well
 including Alys whom Ross mentioned had
 not been well, but hope she has recovered
 ere this. And dear Auntie Ett, what a remark-
 able age, I can quite understand her memory
 is not the best, I'm only 78 and mine is
 shocking, causes quite a bit of embarrassment
 at times. I really hope she is not suffering
 a lot of pain, and keeping reasonably well.
 Betty is naturally very lonely, but seems to
 cope quite well, she is very nervous driving
 her car + dodges the traffic all she can.
 My trouble is transport, but the neighbours
 are very kind + help out quite a lot. I had
 to sell a nice new little car, because I've
 never driven + too old to start new, but it
 pleased me very much because Dean bought
 it + it stayed in the family + I get a drive,
 in it occasionally when he is home, he is in the
 C. B. C. at Yowra just at present. Must love
 you now, fondest love to you both yrs. Eva.