

2/9 Kara St,  
Randwick 2031.  
16th October, 1984.

Dear Phyll,

Just a brief note while forwarding you a certificate for Charlotte Mason you said you would like. The searcher at Registry queried the person, as my application had place of birth as Bathurst, and this certificate shows the baptism in northern N.S.W. However, I was able to explain the situation for them, and they then supplied the document. Johnson's Stockyard Station + the Parish of Whittingham are up around Singleton, where the Masons were by then (16 months after her birth) living at Emu Creek.

I just about have all my whittened material + photographs ready for printing, so will start the presses rolling soon. I won't worry you or Ross re his suggestion for a Canberra friend, as our son-in-law here has a good contact I think may do the job.

Gladys is improving daily, + can now walk around a little - we've been over twice, and Connie is with her for a month, so all is well at Harbord. Hope you are both O.K. up there, + I'll contact you again in a couple of weeks.

Love from Don + self,

Russ

2/9 Kara St,  
Randwick 2031.  
15<sup>th</sup> July, 1988.

Dear Phyllis:

I finally got around to producing a second edition of the "Whitten History", which is just an amalgam of the old one, and the additional material people had sent over the years. You were always so keen and helpful, I'm sending this fresh "publication" to you as a complimentary copy. I don't intend circularising everyone again, but as the word gets around (like it did before) I'll be pestered for copies, so the price will be \$20, posted!

You didn't write back when I returned some photographs you lent me, so I hope you have none missing — let me know if there are any. Some old photos don't photo-copy too well, and when you make photo-copies of photo-copies, the result is often not too good.

Some enthusiastic younger Whittens can have a go at a printed publication later, maybe in conjunction with a reunion!

Hope all is well with you — after some bouts with these persistent viral infections we're pretty right here now.

Love to all,  
Russ.

Dear Phyll:

Many thanks for your note & \$2.  
Sorry to hear of Ross's complications, & I  
hope he is soon mobile again.

Gladys has a horrible wound on her thigh  
which isn't healing very well, although all  
her medics assure her that it will. If she  
gets permission, Rex is coming down to take  
her to Newcastle for a couple of weeks, as her  
voluntary aides are running out. She's had  
Connie, Mrs High & Marcia in succession!

That certificate for Charlotte was obtained early  
in my searches (when the ship list had them as Mann -  
I explain this in the story). I think the next few  
were born up at Emu Creek (Falbrook).

Ross is coming home to-day, so I've cleared the  
lounge room of Whitten Histories to let her in!

Most are completed, although now I have Joyce W. at  
Quiri so overwhelmed with the magnificence of my  
effort that she wants 18 more copies!! I have pleaded  
exhaustion, & told her I'll do her a few later.

Many thanks for your kind and willing help &  
interest right through - I feel that the worthy  
supporters we had will be quite pleased.

Love from all,

Russ

Dear : Phyll

With thanks for your interest and assistance, I am happy to say a passable script of the "Whitten History" is about ready to forward on to you. The cost of typewritten, printed books was beyond us, but I hope my handwriting is sufficiently legible for you from photo-copies.

Had we a wealthy sponsor, the ideal would be a professionally printed production, with many wonderful photographs of places, people and families which descendants have told me they possess. Maybe one day, before they are lost or thrown away, such a book may be possible.

In the meantime, please send me any corrections or additions you have, and I'll be pleased to forward them to all of you who have co-operated.

I hold just a few spare copies for anyone forwarding \$10. After that, it would be with great difficulty that I could assemble special orders.

My kindest regards to you all.

Russ Bell

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### Financial Statement

(Audited by the Leprechaun on the first toadstool to the left)

25 Interested Descendants paid for 30 copies = \$300

#### Expenses

	\$
Registry Certificates	97.00
Printing the History	83.80
Special Covers & Spines	33.00
Printing Questionnaires	6.40
Postages	49.90
Stationery	12.46
Trial photo-copyings	13.24
Maps and plastic covers	13.00
	<u>\$ 308.80</u>

P.S.

I regret sending this note to accompany the other prepared communication, but the cost of posting your History has become a problem. I want to protect the booklet from damage, and the best method appears to be the special, padded Australia Post envelopes. These cost 60c, and postages depend on weight and distance, but there will be a postage bill of \$50 or \$60.

You can see from the accompanying financial statement that we have no money left in Kitty!

Please realise that the postage of just this letter to you all costs \$10.50 (\$7.50 for stamps, 50c for envelopes, and \$2.50 for photo-copying).

To have good protection for your History, may I suggest \$2 be forwarded for your copy/ies, and I will then send on your packet immediately. I will much appreciate your help in this final matter.

Russ Bell

[P.S.S. It was hoped to allow the Taoiseach 1c per hour for his 250 hours of labour, but this will now have to be deferred until after the 1984 Budget!]

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126 Budget St  
Humboldt 2830.  
28. 5. 91.

Dear West Bank, I'm sorry I'm so

late in writing to you.

Faithfully thank you for your phone calls, especially the first one. It is chattering

to hear of the death of a much loved sister's brother. I don't know how long it has

been since you heard the great news. I was so glad to hear of the death of a

well-loved brother. I am sure you will be glad to hear of the death of a

well-loved brother. I am sure you will be glad to hear of the death of a

well-loved brother. I am sure you will be glad to hear of the death of a

well-loved brother. I am sure you will be glad to hear of the death of a

well-loved brother. I am sure you will be glad to hear of the death of a

well-loved brother. I am sure you will be glad to hear of the death of a

well-loved brother. I am sure you will be glad to hear of the death of a

well-loved brother. I am sure you will be glad to hear of the death of a

buried in the lawn cemetery about a month ago. The funeral was held at 10 o'clock on the 27th and

held at 10 o'clock on the 27th and

held at 10 o'clock on the 27th and

held at 10 o'clock on the 27th and

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Newspaper Edition

No. 110 "SOFT HUES"  
FROM AN ORIGINAL PAINTED WITH THE MOUTH BY

RECYCLABLE

POST OFFICE PERMITTED

on Monday 3rd. I have several  
 appointments with Jimmy's dentist  
 as I require some major work  
 on my ageing teeth. However I'll  
 give you a ring. Perhaps we could  
 meet in town & have a quick  
 cuppa or better still you both come  
 over to do this one morning.  
 Anyway, think about it  
 I felt so sad yesterday as Manning  
 blanks, some was here. Jimmy got him a sign  
 some books for me recently. I'll have a photo of  
 David Barron, Manning & all Clark & Jan taken in  
 suggestion library. Max & Helen Hope takes a  
 Judge went for a while to Qd. We all called him  
 "Woppy" Hope! (Some dope) his brother Alan was a nice  
 I'd guess you are gearing up to going to Canada.  
 There's a lot to be done before leaving home for such  
 a long time & we'd understand if we can't arrange a meeting  
 see a rest love to you both. Give you.

For Someone Special



126 Buljite St  
DUBBO 2830

6th December 1991

Dear Family & Friends,

*Phyl & Ross*

We think this is the 27th annual Gleeson letter, so anyone who has a complete set has the basis for a great soapie, we warn you that we hold the copyright and Lucy would probably like to get her big break by being the star. It's good to be here presenting the 28th, with lots of highs and lows in another action packed episode.

The aforementioned Lucy is currently in Europe, on a major drama excursion to a youth Drama Festival in Vienna. Also of course to Paris, London and Stratford on Avon before flying home via Singapore. Drama has dominated her last year at school, and she's applied for all the Drama schools, but is mindful that they like people to be a bit older so she'll probably find something to do in Canberra in '92. She and Jen will both be home for Christmas so we can hear all about the trip first hand.

The only one of the cast not to make it home this year for Christmas will be Margie, who will be attending Don's sister's 21st birthday party. To compensate, Marg and Rebecca made a lightning visit to Dubbo in October for a couple of days. It was lovely to see them; Marg is utterly exhausted by the demands of a restaurant in recession and drought-stricken Albury, but resigned to the fact that they probably won't sell for a while yet. Rebecca is a bright and sweet-natured little girl, with an expanding vocabulary.

The purpose of Marg's visit, and another by Michael at the same time, was to check up on Bill, who had had a fall and subsequently spent a few days in hospital. He's now walking with a stick, and confining his activities to some reading and cricket-watching with an occasional exercise session in the pool at Lourdes Hospital. Gwynn has added all the Gardening, Driving and Financial Management to her already impressive list of accomplishments. She's taken up Aquarobics so that she can be fit for all the above, and really enjoys her weekly workout. In her spare time, she is researching a story she wants to write about her grandmother, Charlotte Whitten, taking a load of wool from Lowestoft, near Wallabadah, to Maitland by bullock dray. We believe that she travelled with the youngest of her 13 children. Any Whitten historians out there who can offer more information?

Our other storyteller, Lib, has had the great news recently that she has won a major Australia Council Grant for 1992. This will mean that she can spend more time writing and less seeking speaking and lecturing engagements, although she will come to Dubbo for the School of Distance Education in April. She has two picture books due for release in February, and there's another in the pipeline. "Dodger" has done very well, winning the Children's Peace Literature Award for 1991. Lib has also been very involved in the fight for 'Nutcote', a battle which appears to have been won.

Euan had a couple of interesting trips this year. One to Central Australia, where he worked on the Aboriginal settlement at Utopia for three weeks, the other to New Zealand to visit his parents, Roma and Norm, in September. He took the girls; a great adventure for them, particularly their first experience of snow. They enjoyed meeting with their New Zealand family again, especially Jessie, who hasn't been there since she was a baby. They had an exciting return home, the plane had to turn around half way across the Tasman and go back to New Zealand, an exercise guaranteed to traumatise Lib and Gwynn who are not known for their confidence in aeroplanes.

Jill and Paul are going off overseas in April, to the United States for a five week holiday, inspired by a visit this year from American friends whom they first met in Perugia in 1977. This will be a short break in their busy routine of work, School and National Trust affairs. Next year they will have Brendan doing the HSC, so Paul's mother Kath will be out to keep house in their absence. Brendan has had a full year back at Dubbo High. He was one of the stars of the Combined High Schools' musical "Godspell", and has recently rediscovered cricket after a four year break, playing Indoor and Davidson Shield for the school and scoring 73 last Saturday in the local 2nd Grade. Patrick did as well as we all thought he would in the HSC and was Dux of the School. He's had a wonderful

*Margie  
absolutely  
played  
high to  
at all costs*

*I want  
to meet  
Jill and  
Paul  
before  
they go  
to  
the States  
he's the  
of his  
story*

first year at A.N.U. where he is doing Arts/Law and living in Burgmann College

In Lucy's absence, Jen has been catching up on reading and sleep, both of which suffered in the build-up to Lucy's departure. Jen has not had a good year with her osteo-arthritis, and is beginning to think that a knee replacement may be the best solution, although she is considered young for the operation. She's had a very literary year, attending lots of literary functions and meeting such luminaries of Australian writing as Tom Keneally, David Foster, Tim Winton and Druisilla Moodjeska. She loved listening to David Marr at lunch talking about the writing of Patrick White's biography, and Tim Bowden at dinner in Bowral. She also chaired the ACT Committee of the Australian Feminist Book Fortnight. Tuggeranong Town Centre library is now the third busiest in the ACT, and is certainly the most beautifully situated. Visitors are always given Jen's guided tour.

John succumbed to the family disease this year and bought a restaurant. Jill and Paul and Margie and Don can't believe it! It's actually a very successful little coffee shop/restaurant in downtown Canberra called Dante, and it's continuing to hum along despite the R-word. Maybe it doesn't matter in Canberra. He and Judy both left their jobs at Network Solutions with no regrets, and have restructured things enough to give themselves time for the other things they love. They managed a few quick trips to the snow, John is in training again for the Triathlon season and Judy is still finding time to do her pottery. They're even talking about other premises in Civic which would give them more room to move next year; the rest of us are just speechless with admiration.

Those of you who are ABC watchers will have seen almost as much of Michael this year as we have, although he and Cathy will be here for a few days at Christmas before they fly off for a short holiday in Thailand. They didn't buy the house we talked of last year, and are back on the trail again after a few months when they decided they couldn't bear to look any more. Both are working out of Parliament House, and leading pretty hectic lives although Mike manages to play social cricket and touch football and the odd game of tennis. He had the scoop of the year when he secured the only interview given by Neil Pickard before he went off to London, and yes, he did use his Dubbo connection to get it. (And yes, Mr Pickard was not amused, although those of you ex-Dubbo teachers who remember him probably will be, as we were.)

Bill's health has precluded much travelling this year, although we went to the Annual Bindi Club Ex-Students' lunch in Sydney and the Gleasons got together at Kincumber early in the year. The Whittens met for the Quirindi Primary School Centenary in March. Sadly, Gwynn's beloved sister, Connie died soon after this, and we returned to Quirindi for her funeral. We also lost Bill's brother-in-law Fred at the beginning of the year, and three great friends from our days at Young, Os Davis, Jack Bond and Jack Dillon. The death of Bernie Donahue, our friend and colleague from Glen Innes, who had suffered from Parkinson's Disease for some time, was another blow. We have such happy memories of our association with Bernie and his wife, Elva.

Visitors have helped to make up for our lack of mobility. It was particularly good to see Ken and Jan Reynolds, and Jan's mother, Megan, visiting from Wales, as the Reynolds' are returning to live in England in 1992. Also lovely to welcome Bill's nieces Judy and Jann and their families, Bill's sister Una, and Gwynn's brother-in-law, Jim Smith, on the last leg of a marathon trip around most of the country. And Auntie Joan made a lightning visit to deliver the Christmas pudding in person.

Lots of ex-teachers and students of Dubbo High have signalled their intentions to be here for the 75th Birthdays Celebrations in October, and we expect that to be a highlight of the coming year. As always, we look forward to seeing any of you if you are passing through. (And last year's warning to knock and ring loudly to make yourself heard still holds. Apologies to Digger and Jo Martin who tried and were unsuccessful - please try again next time!)

We send our warmest wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season.

*Rene  
Bill Gwynn  
Phyl thanks for your letter re  
Lorraine's donation. I wrote  
to Aditi to see if she  
letter from the Research officer  
(Mrs Stewart) who lives on Darby's prop*

*Michael was always the little boy that grew up  
to be a man. He was never other in his eyes.  
He never was a boy that grew up to be a man.  
He never was a boy that grew up to be a man.*



I'll photocopy it & send it  
on after Christmas.  
I know you will enjoy  
Christmas - with some  
family & your friends.  
all for now.

Much love Esuqun.

P.S. Beryl had an awful fall several  
months ago. Her daughter lives on an  
aracado farm near Mullumbimby  
& Beryl stepped off the verandah  
on to what she thought was  
a step (it was a shadow)  
& fell 3' on to a rockery!! need ed  
pay more. Nothing broke - just  
bruising. went back to Queensland  
packed in pillows. ds only now  
feeling well.

85 Bankerville

THE CANBERRA TIMES, Sunday, May 16, 1993 25

LONG-TIME Canberra resident Jenny Gleeson is leaving soon to take a job as user services librarian with the Gosford City Council Library. Gleeson has been active in Canberra's literary scene, serving as chair of the Women in Reading Seminar for the past two years, and as convener of the Lifeline Book Fair from 1986 to 1990.

Dear Phyll & Ross,

126 Bultje St  
Dubbo 2830

I was happy to receive your card with news of safe arrival. Soak up the sun & views you both ~~deserve~~ have earned your winter holiday. Many times over I'm sure Ross' shump will heal with the help of the sun. Do you put metholated spirits on it? Or have you got some special cream with "modern" antiseptics. Marge had a weepy navel when she was born & metho & sun cured it in no time. Michael & Sophie have a son, James William, born on the 18th July at George Washington University Hosp. with all the yoga Sophie has been doing she found it wasn't all that arduous. Her mother Celie is over here & let the young ones go out to dinner a few nights ago. She's also doing most of the cooking & Michael (to air for it) has been changing most of the nappies. He gets back to work this week - he has also bought a home video machine so I've no doubt we'll have a video soon of this wonder boy. Anyway it is a relief to know all is well. I hope Michael & Janet will be able to see them this time.

I remember wes telling me that granddaddy built his school so that his children would receive education & "know the law" I think he & grandma would be very proud of their young ones and all their achievements.

Sister Joan & Bill arrived last Friday. She had had to report to her doctor for the last time - she had a knee replacement 2 years ago. They decided to go home to Lane via Dubbo. We had three great days - then they left to go home via Quirindi. - Visited the graves and had 2 hrs with Bearyl & Fred over a cuppa. Bearyl has bounced back after catching her shoe in a mat or tripping while entering the newsagents. She

men flying into the shop & locals  
 who witnessed it said it was a  
 great take off & she would have  
 won a race with the flying start.  
 Fortunately she's always kept herself  
 in good nick so recovered fairly quickly.  
 John & Judy also came home for about  
 2 hrs. we had Bill home for the sun  
 lunch. He has lost more of course  
 since he's been in hospital hosp.  
 however we are all doing ok  
 best to keep him going including  
 the staff.  
 Jenny is coming home this weekend.  
 Mavis is a bank hol & Librarian's get  
 the holiday too. she comes via merreda  
 and Lennedso which cuts the distance  
 instead of going down through Sydney.  
 I often wonder if Richard & Jane Mason  
 went from Bathurst to Mudgee & down  
 to the Hunter rather than back up  
 stretched Mount York (that's the one the women  
 used to walk down) as the descent was so steep.  
 It wouldn't have been so arduous. The Blue Mts  
 must have terrified them after the gentle slopes of  
 their part of Ireland. much to be enjoyed & x x

POST OFFICE  
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 AUSTRALIA



126 Bultje St  
DUBBO 2830

8 December 1995

Dear family and friends

*Phyl & Ross*

I seem to have had a busy year travelling with a big trip to the States to see Michael and his family and lots of smaller ones - to Canberra, Lismore, Sydney, Taree and Quirindi. The highlight was the six weeks in America in April/May. I travelled with Kathleen McCann, Paul's mother, whose daughter Lorraine also lives in Washington, D.C.

Michael, Sophie, James and I spent four days in New York doing the tourist things - the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building (ground floor only!), Saks Fifth Avenue (Soph and I had facials), *Miss Saigon* on Broadway and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. After New York, I went off to Amish country (Pennsylvania) with Ken and Ann McKinnon (ex-Dubbo) where we stayed at a Mennonite farm. We drove on to Gettysburg and walked over the great battlefield, then to historic Harper's Ferry at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Harper's Ferry is where John Brown (of the famous song) was shot.

Back to the Gleasons in Washington, and we all took off for a few days in Charlestown, South Carolina, a city of beautiful civic buildings, untouched since the 17th century.

The piece de resistance of the whole visit was the 81st White House Correspondents' Dinner at the Washington Hilton. Bill and Hillary Clinton were guests of honour and the evening was done with great style. There were 4,000 people (Rupert was there, too!) and the food and entertainment were excellent. We sat with well-known American correspondent, Connie Hawn. I met Newt Gingrich, then just beginning his run for the Presidency, and then Mike, Soph and I were invited to accompany Connie as she tried to get closer to the President. I really didn't think they'd succeed - there were Security men everywhere - so I didn't follow, but once in front of the official party she was able to present them to him. They were ecstatic and I kicked myself!

Getting to know James was a delight. He's a happy bright little boy with a good sense of rhythm. I sang read to him and enjoyed being there as he began to talk.

On a sadder note, the year began with the death of Jim Rickwood, one of our dearest friends from early days in Dubbo. We all went to Canberra for the service and comforted Janet, who is almost like one of the family.

We were back in Canberra for the major milestone birthday of the year, which was Jen's 50th, which we celebrated with a party at the Canberra Labor Club for about 60 friends and relations. It was lovely to see some of Jen's old Glen Innes friends and Kerry Edwards and her husband, Rudi, out from Canada. Jill and Lucy made the speeches, I made the cake and the family's present was a magnificent floor-to-ceiling bookcase constructed in her Booker Bay home (and already overflowing).

Lucy has completed her second year at the Ensemble Theatre Drama School and is as enthusiastic about it as ever. She still works part-time at the Bay St Patisserie in Randwick and shares a flat in the inner city with an old friend from her Canberra days.

As I wrote last year we were preparing for John & Judy's wedding shortly before Christmas. It was a lovely happy occasion with lots of family and old school and university friends as well as new ones. They are now the proud parents of Amanda Gwynneth, born on October 6th - I drove down to join Judy's parents in welcoming her.

She has the Gleeson baby trademark of lots of hair, but apart from that seems to look like her mother. We're all looking forward to getting to know her better when they come for Christmas.

Lib and Euan and the girls will be here, too, taking time out from some major house renovations which have been in full swing since November. It has been no mean feat to fit them in - Euan has been overseas four times this year (he managed to catch up with Michael twice in Washington), and Lib is busy as ever with her writing and speaking commitments. "The Princess and the Perfect Dish" was launched in July at Luna Park and I was so pleased that among the family and friends present was the author Amy Witting, whom we knew 50 years ago as Joan Fraser, a teaching colleague at Young High School. Libby is to interview her over a luncheon at the club on continental level 27th Jan - during Festival of *1940s*

The Tovey girls are delightful - Amy has had her first year at Leichhardt High School - and they are all singers and swimmers and computer whizzes. They're looking forward to all the cousins at Christmas, especially with a new baby to play with.

Margie and Don will be here with Rebecca and Alex. This year Marg has had three days a week teaching at Murray High and has wound down her catering business, although Jill has plans to recall her for a project she has in mind. The children are lovely - Rebecca plays piano and loves performing; Alex has a wonderful vocabulary and can sing all of "Danny Boy" - Bill would have been impressed. *He even smiles a crooked smile like Bill*

Jill's project involves using her super new kitchen as a venue for cooking classes. She and Paul had been talking about this extension for a couple of years, and now it's complete it looks like something out of Vogue Living and she's very excited about picking up some of the threads of her old cooking life without the burden of a restaurant. Both the boys have had trips to Majorca. Patrick spent most of the year there and has come home with a clearer sense of purpose, intending to re-enrol in Psychology and Philosophy at ANU. Brendan has just gone off for the Uni vacation, after a successful first year at Southern Cross University in Lismore where he is studying Contemporary Music.

I had a lovely return to Quirindi in September for the 60th Anniversary of Quirindi High School. Dorothy Riches (Elsley) came with me and Joan and Bill drove from Taree. It was good to see Pearl Tanner, Elsie Taylor, cousins Beryl and Fred and teacher Kelsey Snowdon.

It was a big thrill recently to return to Dubbo High School for the dedication of the "Gleeson Room", a newly refurbished and relocated Staff Common Room. (The "Old Lab" of the 1960s). The new Principal, Jim Carey is very conscious of the school's traditions and his wife Liz is an ex-student from a long line of ex-students.

I also lost Julius, "Michaels dog" who had lived with us since we acquired him from Mike's Latin teacher, Marj, in 1980. He was a loveable creature but lately he'd become old and crotchety and needed constant medication. I do miss him. *(break a leg)*

Next year, I plan to do some more University of the Third Age classes (I did some of Jill's Local History ones in Term 2), stay fit (I'm in one of Jill's aquarobic classes), do some more guiding for the National Trust at Dundullimal, continue to be involved in Probus, maybe travel somewhere within Australia, entertain visitors to Dubbo (all welcome) and keep up with all the kids and grandchildren.

I'd love to see any of you who are coming this way. Have a safe and happy Christmas and my best wishes for the New Year. *Love Gwynn*

*Blanis has been in a private hosp at Kogarah & family have been worried then one of her doctors suggested taking her off her medication & trying something else & she went home a few days later!!*

*enjoyed visiting you both! much love G.*

*Do read her "change in the lightning" you would enjoy it.*

*all the family will be home except the USA connection Sophie's mother & sister are going over.*

*Jill Jen & I have booked for it.*

*The dog died on the Thurs & J & J's baby was born the next day so I went from grief to joy in 24 hrs!!*

126 Budget Street

Quebbo

28 30

Dear Phyll & Ross,

I'm sorry I wasn't 4.2.9e  
in when you rang. Thank you for your  
call.

Yes, the dust storm - mini tornado  
whatever was very very frightening.  
It was very hot all day and then late  
in the afternoon the sky started to  
change. I'm a great old one for looking  
up & I went out several times to watch  
the changing patterns. I actually saw  
it coming in from the west - a  
wall of brown dust then it hit  
swoy! the gums, dust, leaves and  
boughs of trees flying around,  
- a screen flew off my high  
summer window & landed on the  
side of the road. Across the road  
in Fildon Park people ran for  
shelter and I saw a tree fall.  
I actually several fell in the park  
& around town. I only had the  
screen - plus several big boughs  
off the silky oak, one of the gums  
and Chinese tallow. I managed to  
cut small branches off the big  
boughs & carry the whole lot around  
to the front where the council  
collected them. I've since sanded  
up leaves & the place looks  
normal again. There's been a  
lot of damage in the city however  
damage to cars, trees, buildings  
we have magnificent silver  
gums along the Macquarie  
I'd felt like crying when I saw  
them the other day bereft of  
leaves & big boughs. Comforting  
to know they will soon be  
growing more leaves & boughs.

We are all going to Albany  
on election day for Margie's

G R E E N P E A C E

10th birthday. We are having the birthday  
party at her home (we are all staying at a  
motel near the river) & next day



all going in for breakfast - lunch or brunch as it is called now. Marge & Don have two lovely kids, Rebecca & Alexander. Rebecca is 6 1/2 & Alex 2 1/4 they are bright lovely kids.

Jenny has been having some time off from work due to knee problems. Last week she had a cortisone injection in Sydney by a <sup>rheumatologist</sup> ~~orthopedic~~. They aren't very keen to operate at all & even though four years ago she had a knee replacement on the other knee. <sup>Earlier</sup> I had three days with her at Booker Bay when we came to Sydney & met Sidney at the State Library during lunches with her for the Festival of Sydney. Heard Whitney Otto speak the week he was "Seller" how to make an American Quilt. Sat in on a great session "Let's be Frank" those out front were Leonie Krainer, Jill Hudson, Frank Moonhouse & Jill Rowe.

It was interesting to hear Leonie Krainer & Jill Kitzen with their backs to the wall regarding the Mills Franklin award. The people in the audience gave them a hard time. Libby interviewed the author, Army Witting over lunch at the club & complimented.

It was very moving to hear the interview as Army Witting was our friend Jean Fraser on the staff with Bill at Young in 1945-48. The previous day Libby had been made Citizen of the year at Massachusetts. - a thrill for her & her family & the rest of the family too.

Libby's house is being altered so on the one hand I had these lovely literary sessions each day - & back in the afternoon early morning the banging was on at "Oxford at Peterham!!" was hard on the ears - however the alterations will be beautiful when complete.

Mitchell has just rung up. He's just back from Iowa - Sophie left soon after he returned. She's been doing free lance & has gone to Puerto Rico to do some work with the German equiv of ABC TV. When he gets back he's off to New Hampshire. Fortunately.

They have a good nanny. I guess Beth has had Gullons has



12/21  
Laker.

Phyll - Libby, Jenny & I presented our  
Christmas letters to Paul Brunton  
manuscripts Dept - Lake Library  
when I was down. 31 years was  
the longest family Xmas letter  
However we told him about the  
Kohnens letters so if you want  
yours preserved sent your  
copies to him.

John has joined his sisters  
in writing Xmas letters. No  
doubt Michael & Sophie will  
be next. You certainly started  
something.





4/ I rang Cheryl back after I  
had seen her in <sup>suggested the councillor</sup>  
Lenis is a lovely gentle soul  
I'd love her dearly. I hope she  
emerges OK. I thought Beth would be able to tell her  
how she felt. The loss is so enormous  
I couldn't try to explain. Russ & Helen  
were married 56 years which is a long  
time. I do not know her interests  
— however as you have told me lots of  
times I passed on to her — she comes  
from strong women on the Whitley  
side & her mother certainly was strong.  
— when Tony & Hilda came to town &  
stayed their mixed farm Durkie Hilda  
more than did her share. At Sunday  
played the organ in church morning  
I might. I have lovely memories of her  
& shall be in Canberra after the 9th March  
& shall ring.  
Keep well both of you  
Dearest love Guyan.

aga  
copy  
abb  
over lunch in me -  
morning to hear the man. in

126 Buetje St

Quabbin 2530

11th June '96.

Dear Phyll,

I thought I should write & let you know how Jen is & what I have been up to.

I've been over & back to the coast to Jenny about 6 times this year. For the past three months we have been together because she had to finally quit work & go on leave. She's been on crutches for 2 months. However the end is near. I have to take her back to Booker Bay (where she lives) on the 19th. She has to give some blood on the 20th at Blood Bank & then there are several things to tie up at the hospital including more blood on the 27th June & operation on the 4th July an historic day in more ways than than one. Jen was quite mobile for some weeks but is gradually being worn down. She's had several falls but laughs it off. I would have to give her 100/100 for sheer grit & determination. I think our past five Whitten women would agree. I'm keeping very well, had my flu injection some weeks ago &

have managed to keep free of colds  
mind you we've had some great  
Autumn weather with cooler weather  
creeping in only in the last few days.  
my Golden Rain tree looks great  
however the Chinese Tallow & Pistachio  
trees are losing Autumn leaves rapidly.

Last time we were at Teus, that is a  
fortnight ago, Libby came up & got us  
(I don't drive any more on freeways) & took  
us to her home in Rehensham for a  
few days. Sophie, Michael's wife & son  
James are out from America for a  
month - & they came across & had  
several meals with us & we were  
able to have a lot of fun with James.  
He is quite delightful - a big child -  
with masses of black hair & a fast  
growing vocabulary. They came out for  
Sophie's mother's birthday and are  
managing to see all her, Sophie's relations,  
as well as as many cousins as possible.  
I hope to see them Sunday week  
when they are celebrating James'  
second birthday (although his birth date  
is 18th July)

Libby is at present in Tarnworth  
attending a Nurseries Conference. She  
came out to Nether to address

an English Teacher's conference a few weeks ago & had two nights here with us.

Jill & Paul have just come back from 5 weeks in America. They flew to San Francisco & had about 5 days with friends, then flew off to New Mexico & drove around visiting Santa Fe which by all accounts is a lovely city - then on to Denver to visit a famous book shop - then they flew to Washington. They stayed with Mike & Soph - then they went on to Savannah & Charleston. Jill loved them both but particularly the former. - lovely squares & gardens. On returning to Washington they had 2 day trips away coming back to Washington. So they got to know James very well.

John & Judy & Amanda are fine. Amanda is now 8 months old & of course delighting her parents. Margie Leon & Co go to Nessa to escape Albany at this time so I will see them soon. I'm coming back to Leuko after I get Jenny who hospital. Margie is driving here for about 4 days & will stay

in the house & I'll be here for  
their second night. The kids are  
lovely Rebecca is 7.500 & Alexander  
a very talkative 2 3/4!!!

I haven't done very much  
this year really except help Jen.  
The garden is a mess but I  
can't worry about it too much.  
The trees are lovely & the lawns  
get mown. Fortunately bulbs  
and gladioli don't need  
much looking after.

I'll let you know how Jenny  
gets on to take her back to  
must go. nearest love to you both.  
Gwynn xx.

PS. Mike & Sophie took Jill & Paul to  
the White House Correspondents  
dinner (the one they took me to  
last year). They didn't meet the  
President however. There were  
lots of movie people there & Soph  
& Jill had their photos taken  
with Anthony Hopkins? Big thrill!

67 Jenny  
152 Webb Rd  
Barker Bay

2257

8. 8. 96.

Dear Phyll & Ross,

We've been at Barker Bay since the 12th July (Jen's birthday!) - so it is nearly a month. Jen had her knee op on the 4th (Jen's old school friend Lydia was here with her husband & they got Jenny in to hosp & sent me home in late June to have a rest. Anyway she's been making steady progress in a sense as the knee wound has knitted beautifully but she has been having spasms in this leg which have continued. She also had back pain - as from about May - & so isn't all that well. Last Fri she had an XRay which revealed trouble with some discs. - She hasn't been walking because of all this but is receiving physio on both legs & her arms & yesterday actually got into the hydrotherapy pool. Joy! - The pool is closed to day to save money - & tomorrow Jen has to be taken to Gosford West where she's to speak to a specialist regarding her back.

The operation from a Private  
Drops & North Shore. She intends  
to get further advice before

she has the op - however  
seeing that she's in pain when  
"they" stand her up, & that she  
cannot walk anyway it looks  
as if the operation will become  
a reality. She's just starting to  
look well too. I'll keep you posted.

In this area are dear friends of  
Bill & mine - he is a former school  
clerk & she Librarian at Leuthe High  
& they have been wonderful -  
reserving me for dinners  
& outings.

Last week I got a ride to  
Lance & had a week with Joan.  
Joanne spent me & I did have  
a good rest one day - Sunday  
- we had lunch at her Ross'  
home (he's one of the twins) &  
is in real estate at Old Bar.  
Anyway Ross has an old house  
(modern inside) plus 100 acres  
the land includes a native  
bush area & we went for a  
walk through wattle trees  
(out) & tea trees & other native  
flora. There is a pond in the  
middle of this with hyacinths.

Ross had two peacocks  
"Cissy & Nancy" (his the stake  
(semi P. cock)



member for Rabbo & Nancy's his  
wife (Andrew & Susan "died")  
- a few white rabbits and  
two horses. Do you know  
Ruth's daughter Jan's husband  
have a small farm out from  
Lance & they breed Heister cattle  
(these are the original Irish  
cattle - small boned) Jan is  
the sister in charge of infectious  
diseases at Lance Hosp. she is  
quite lovely. Has three daughters  
from a previous marriage.

- also Keith's daughter  
Sue lives on a farm at  
Kootinjal out from Tamworth  
& Jerry, Lou's son has a  
farm on an island in  
the Darling River at Port  
Macquarie so some of the  
Whitten grandchildren have  
gone back to the land.

How are you two - well I  
hope. Perhaps you are still  
at your winter retreat  
hope so because Canberra  
has been mighty cold.

Jerry has <sup>had</sup> lots of  
visitors from Canberra.

7/ Rosemary Follet & her ~~mother~~  
mother have taken a cottage  
at Pearl beach just south  
of Becker Bay & they are  
regular visitors to Jen.  
more are coming to see her  
at the weekend

She is now in the Rehabilitation  
Section at Wey Way Hospital along  
with old people recovering  
from strokes & broken legs & arms

— She continues to keep a diary  
& says she is going to write a  
best seller! Yesterday at her <sup>dinner</sup> table  
were two old men — one kept  
saying "I want to die" and  
the other old bloke was quite  
delightful — So there you are  
Life is never dull.

Libby & Guan & children were  
in N.Z. — Chris Church really  
for the last time — anyway  
Libby saw Lloyd one day. She  
was really pleased to have  
some time with him. They  
Lib, Guan & Gues went skiing  
one day — first time for the  
Gues so I think they will soon  
want more of that sport.

Well dear's no more. I've hardly  
been home this year but hope to go  
next week. Cheers & lots of love  
Esmerine + + + + over

Phyll - almost forgot to tell you  
- Joanie's Ross' marriage  
ended early this year - and  
recently he was asked by one  
of his friends if he'd consider  
taking a border - he said  
no at first - but then decided  
to as he was assured - the  
class in point - would go  
back to Hanington at weekends  
so anyway he met her &  
decided she could stay -  
but guess what her name is  
"Melissa Whitten" - great great  
granddaughter of Joseph -  
her father Don was the Whitten  
who ran the Botanical Gardens  
Restaurant in Cambridge. She is  
very attractive & doesn't look  
unlike Terry's Lucinda.  
So there you go. Her father  
has written on from Russell's  
"Whitten History" & brought  
their line up to date. I'll  
get it photo copied for  
you some time.

Love again  
Gaynor

126 Buetje St

Dub Dub 2830

26. 9. 96.

Dear Phyll & Ross,

Well, fancy you in hospital too! Hope all is well now. Can just all alys helping her father - much better than the blue nurse - besides it's nice to have one of the brood just on their own to talk to. Anyway, whatever; - I'm sure you both laughed your way through your problems -

Jenny is coming along well. She's losing weight, 13 kilos initially but it's still coming down slowly. She is having 2 hrs physio morning & again afternoon with an hour of occupational therapy on her left arm & fingers - damage done before the second op - Lucia is able to visit almost daily (Ensemble work shops in chandel at St Leonard's) & Libby & Euan get across when they can - John was up to a conference last weekend & called

9/ Jones + Jell is in Sydney attending  
national Trust board meetings  
& so she'll be seeing her.  
Jenny + her student friends are  
taking her in wheel chair, but  
high domed top to a cocktail  
party at Paul House. Gerry Peacock  
our state member is a former  
captain of Lubbock High. She + Jell  
(she was captain) organised the party  
to be held to-night. So should be  
a happy evening. Jenny has  
been in hospital 3 months + 3 weeks  
& the doctors + nurses at Greenwich  
think it will be good for her, <sup>as do I</sup>.  
Jenny's letters are happy ones. The  
doctors say she is ahead of where  
they expected her to be. She says she's  
exhausted at the end of the day,  
sleeps all night. This week she is  
hoping to stand up. up until now  
they have been building up strength in  
her arms + shoulders. I really  
can't see her getting out of hospital  
before middle November - but that  
will prove me wrong.

I read Manning Clark's autobio-  
graphy too + thoroughly enjoyed it -  
his mother was a strange lady -  
with her constant "Poor Man's"  
his cousins the Nopes were in Queensland  
for a while. Alan was a nice kid +  
Barbara a sweet girl - but the one who

became a judge we branded  
"Hokey Hokey" — some dope! — as it  
turned out. Joan's best friend in  
Laurie Gloria Berry was a cousin of  
Mannings too — her mother & Manning  
~~Manning~~ were first cousins. Her  
mother Pearl, was the Rev. Clark's sister.  
— small world.

I was in Sydney the father's day weekend.  
I'd gone down to care for his & Joan's  
graves while the parents went up to  
Laura for the weekend. Well — I thought  
the Tovey house would be blown  
away & his & Joan almost had a  
tree fall on their car, it reminded  
me of a lousy British film called  
"Quiet weekend" about an English  
couple who went to their cottage  
in the Cotswolds for a quiet  
weekend — & all hell broke loose.

Poor Owen & Beth. Clin glad I  
wasn't up there trying to get  
down — Clin not a good air  
traveller.

Muhad, Soph & James are  
holidaying in Miami — he'll be  
flat out when they come back  
with the run down to the elections  
— they'll be home second week of January.

John & Judy's daughter Amanda  
is one ~~been~~ I can't get down for  
her birthday but I told them I'd  
try later.

Margie, Alexander & Rebecca will  
be home on Sunday for about  
a week. Also Lib's girls are coming  
from Sunday to the Friday.

Lib's Jessica & Margie's Rebecca  
are like Connie & Beryl -  
cousing cousins. When they meet  
up they sleep together - play  
together & are just so compatible  
it is nice to see. They love my  
hall stand with its hats, scarves,  
walking sticks etc - but  
Jessica is nine in Nov & Rebecca  
almost 7½ - so I guess they  
have almost grown out of the  
hall stand!!

Well Phyll hope it is warming  
up in Canberra. It is here.  
My Jamarick with its soft dusty  
pink flowers is out as are its  
& other bulb flowers - the ornamental  
grape <sup>vine</sup> cut back & some boughs cut  
from some of the bigger trees -  
Irons mown. It was a mess when I  
arrived home. The deciduous trees in front,  
Golden Rain & Chinese Yallow are shaking.  
Dearest love to you both Gwynne.  
When are we WKM's coming home?

\* second wife  
I started to crochet a rug  
for Lucinda (she'll be 23 soon)  
in various colours & have  
finished it. It looks pretty good  
& rather Mexican - I've done  
2 rows of black in between the  
reds, golds, greens etc. I didn't  
use wool but acrylic 8 ply  
- wool-like skeins. So I thought  
I'd do one for all of them - so  
Amelia, his eldest is next. Do you  
crochet? I've also finished  
Amanda a thick jumper for next  
winter. ~~It's done~~ I'd also  
started Margie a thick blue jumper  
for her birthday in March.

Winters in Albany are similar  
to those in Canberra.

I had a luncheon last week.  
Jean Gowdie, whose husband  
was the Pres. minister when we  
came to Lubbo. (both from Rockhampton  
- they eloped!) he died several years  
ago. - Nance Enrie who was Bill's  
librarian - she's 90 now & had  
"heartly & shell driving". Margie's  
mother-in-law Aileen Cameron



—it's handy having the Cameron's  
& ~~the~~<sup>me</sup> in the city — & two old  
dear friends who live nearby.  
I didn't get a lot of trouble  
& we all had a good time when I  
think of the casual afternoon  
teas we used to have at Young  
I nearly pass out. My  
first visitor was Paddy Conroy  
(formerly a heavy at A.B.C.) whose  
mother & father were Rural bank  
people. I couldn't cook & Lord  
knows what I served up.  
She was a former nurse &  
always asked lost souls like  
nurses & teachers to her do's.  
no more. Guess your  
garden looks nice too.  
Gwynn.



The writer of this letter  
I've enclosed is the  
daughter of a former  
dear friend of mine.  
She & her husband were  
teachers & the husband  
was the rector at Leibo  
High when he died suddenly  
of a heart attack. Bill  
took his place. There are  
two girls in the family. Heather  
became a teacher, married & now  
lives at Cowra. Margaret  
also married & lives in Sydney.  
Each year Leibo High Ex students  
have a reunion luncheon held  
at the League Club in Phillip  
Street. Unfortunately I didn't  
attend this year as I was in  
Sydney on a journey at Boomer  
Bay from the 7th January  
until almost the end of Feb.  
(The luncheon is always held  
around about the 7th Mch)  
so once I arrived back home  
it was hard to shift, as you  
said on the phone Phyl it is  
a small world.

The rest of the brood are  
well. Maggie is teaching  
English & History at the second  
S.S. in Albury. The previous  
years she was at Murray High  
(3rd N.S.) & taught art & History  
(her degree is in Fine Arts & History  
but she was only teaching  
2 1/2 days a week <sup>after a year as teacher</sup> so left to take  
up a full time job.



she's got two lovely kids  
 Rebecca who plays piano  
 & recorder beautifully  
 & is doing well at school  
 & Alexander going on  
 four. - He's built like  
 Bill & John.

John & Judy & Amanda  
 will be home at the week  
 end, hopefully. Amanda  
 is a great talker & they are having  
 fun with her. Judy's mother is  
 in Budapest at present. Her  
 aged mother isn't well and she  
 has gone back to help her father  
 don't out some problems - she's  
 an only child. These poor  
 migrants who leave aged  
 loved ones are terribly torn  
 aren't they? She's the Hungarian  
 - Catholic side of Judy's family  
 the father's side Jewish -  
 Hungarian mostly ended  
 up in Nibler's ovens. - cousins  
 aunts - the father -  
 the mother & son got away  
 to Australia fortunately, later.  
 when Jerry went back to  
 see the surgeon at North  
 Shore recently he told her  
 he expected to see her in a  
 wheel chair! <sup>He was amazed at her recovery.</sup> Her recovery  
 actually slowed down  
 somewhat because this last

5/ operation on her back  
- threw her off balance  
once she started to walk.  
She's now under 13 stone  
- attends weight watchers  
& follows all their advice.  
She'll be back in Hubbo for  
the 80th birthday celebrations  
of Hubbo High <sup>July 28th</sup> so we expect  
to see her even slimmer  
fitter.

I sent away for Anthony  
& Charlotte's wedding certificate  
yesterday. so I'll send you  
a copy some time. I'm  
endeavouring to get  
something down about  
Mad for the family.

Cheers for now. Are  
you going north again?

Love to you both  
& the family  
Lynnm.

14 Woodside Grove,  
Forestville, 2087.

Friday, 7/3/97

Dear Gwynn,

Heather brought her Christmas cards and letters over from Cowra for me to read - and after reading your letter (which is so informative and interesting with your family news each year!), thought ~it really IS a small world~!

Your reference to ~catching up with the Whittens and Hohns on one of your trips to Canberra~ alerted me to my Auntie Gwen's (Miss Gwenda Colyer - Mum's first cousin - their mothers being sisters) copy of ~Old School Ties~ (September, 1996) received from the Old Girls' Union on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Cremorne Girls' High. As you will see from the front page, Phyllis Whitten was the very first pupil to enrol at the then Neutral Bay Intermediate High School.

Later in the article, I read where Miss Phyllis Whitten married Mr. Ross Hohnen - who I had met on several occasions back in the 60's when I worked as Sir Walter Scott's Private Secretary, during the time he was Chairman of the Decimal Currency Board - of which, Mr. Hohnen was also a member. (I had a lovely cartoon from ~The Sydney Morning Herald~ depicting Mr. Hohnen and Sir Walter - from memory, not related to their involvement in the Decimal Currency Board, but referring to their involvement in the Industrial Design Council of Australia. I know I had it at the time of Sir Walter's death some fifteen years ago, when I was looking through some ~treasures from the past~, but unfortunately, I can't find it today.)

Back to Aunty Gwen - she retired as Headmistress of Cremorne Girls' High School in 1964 - and I have attached a copy of schools at which she had taught - including Dubbo High in the War Years. She is now 87 and living at Lindfield Gardens Retirement Village - very much mentally alert - but she has had a leg amputated, suffers with diabetes, angina and is almost 100% blind. John and I see her every Monday and on other occasions. (When Alan Stevenson and his year celebrated their ~50 years since the Leaving Certificate~ back in 1993, Aunty Gwen was their only surviving teacher from Dubbo High, and she was invited to attend their reunion at Parliament House - but that was just prior to her amputation - and unfortunately she was unable to attend - but did send her wishes after which she received a lovely reply, signed by all who attended.

*you do not*  
*cut back on work from school*

It was so strange for me to read of Mr. Hohnen in the school newsletter - and it did bring me back to the period of the decimal currency changeover (leading up to February 14, 1966) and my association with Dr. Neil Davey, the Secretary, Peter Knox, Public Relations Officer, and other members of the Board. (I left the job early in 1967, just in time to move from our flat at North Sydney to our present home - and my first child, Andrew's birth! - He will be 30 in May.)

I have rambled on - but thought you might be interested in the foregoing - you will be too busy tomorrow, meeting up with your old friends, for me to take up too much of your time - so I felt a little note was more appropriate.

Heather arrived on Wednesday and is looking forward to tomorrow - hopefully we will have a good number from our years! Naturally I am looking forward to seeing Janet - and was interested to read of your and her proposed holiday - I spoke to her last at the time of Catherine Murray's death - Ken having been in our year at school and of course Catherine went through university with Heather. So very sad.) I will be able to meet Emma's mother, Anne, for the first time - Emma is a lovely girl and she and Stuart are a great couple!

With best wishes to you and the family - and I hope 1997 is a happy and healthy year for one and all.

Sincerely,

Margaret (Loda)

Then she enclosed a photo  
Copy of your article  
You certainly looked  
lovely as a teenager as  
you do now.

Don't bother sending these back Phyll

126 Beattie St  
Dubbo  
2830.  
6.5.97.

Dearest Phyllis Ross,

Justly, thank you for the phone call of a few days ago. It was good to hear your voice. I hope you are as well as you sounded.

I keep fairly well, so far I am able to get by without having to take medication (I did have a flu injection recently. I dashed having them when I was caring for Bill) & continue to do so. I haven't planned any trips while my Golden Rain tree is out in all its autumn dress. Mine is a magnificent tree. People come to look at it. Do you know anything about that variety? Firstly, it is deciduous. - so after the bare winter dress, new leaves shoot in spring, then about March tiny golden flowers form in bunches & stick out everywhere through the leaves. Then when they fall & dusty pink - coral coloured shells appear where the flowers have been. They stay, if there is little wind disturbance, for several weeks - the leaves turn yellow & a new look for the tree - then they gradually fall. The Golden Rain is the tree on the willow pattern plate & is supposed to only grow if there's a lot of love in the house!!

We had a big day at "Dundullin" I'll write that again "DUNDULLIMAN" our historic home a few miles out of Dubbo. Judge Barry O'Keefe & his wife were guests along with several other people. We dedicated a garden seat with plaque in honour of Prof. Mat Kelly a former Pres. of National Trust who died a year or so ago. He compiled the first video tracing the life of Dundullin. His sister Jennifer unveiled the plaque. Then we had another plaque to unveil. Martin DAVIES a young anthropologist who disappeared while on a visit to the ANTARCTIC a year or so ago. His parents unveiled this one which is in the iris garden.

Then we had a great afternoon tea of scones and lamingtons & dancing by an aboriginal group - the arable christians in the city & those sheff - legged Irish dancers which almost look as bad as the hine dancers! Michael Sophie & James have settled in to life in Los angelese. The other day Mike goes to work & someone said "What did you think of the earthquake?" "What earthquake?" "The registered 5!!" "I slept! I hope the "they" say is coming to that area doesn't go off while they are there. The baby is due in October & Sophie is doing some work for channel 10 you'll catch her with an American report on the "first at 5 news" on look for Sophie Scott. I did tell you Mike had moved to channel 7.

POST OFFICE PREFERRED ENVELOPE 114 x 162mm

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SAV SERIES

from the original by Joyce McPhee

Bottlebrush

From 1990's in the 70's



J.McPhee



(Cammie Wells's note)

her cousin Betty (W. 126 Beltje St  
McKenrow) who is an Dubbo  
Bills brother. He works on the 28304  
home but must have left 5. 11. 97.

Dear Phyll Ross West Beth,  
and also someone, firstly, I'm very  
sorry you have had to say well your  
old friend Nugget Coombes. He has  
accomplished so much in his  
long life, he will be remembered.  
Jerry was pleased to be invited  
to the service on Sunday and  
catch up family news with Phyll.  
I had a lump of mail had a  
couple of letters from Beryl in  
the last few weeks. In the first one  
she mentioned that a Mr Bowley  
(who works for the Packers) had  
bought "Woodstock" "Spring Park"  
Lons, Leeds and Bels land and  
was after "Lowestoft". In the  
second letter that arrived a  
few days ago she mentions that  
Mr Bill Wilson from "Lowestoft"  
was killed in a car accident  
while returning home recently.  
apparently he had a massive  
coronary. Her information  
regarding his news comes from

her cousin Betty Wilson (nee McKerrow) who is married to Bill's brother. He was on his way home but must have felt ill because he had taken off his tie and also removed his seat belt and was only a few hundred yards from his son's home on the Highway also called "Lowestoft" because it joins the old place over the mountain "Mt Emblem" anyway he had his massive coronary and ran off the road & hit a clump of trees. Apparently there was a car coming towards him so they were very lucky. He received massive injuries of course. Bill has been living on his own at "Lowestoft" since his wife died a few years ago. Graham, the son who owns the other land that joins has a big property so might let Cowley buy "Lowestoft" anyway I'll keep you posted. I'm sorry the poor old fellow met such a violent end.

Ben Yesterday I received a video from Michael and Sophie and of

course James & Sophie's mother Leticia too  
it looks as if the baby and Sophie  
received a wonderful care from  
the people at Cedars Sinai Med Centre.  
I'm leaving Australia on the 16th Nov  
for two weeks and am looking  
forward to the break although I  
realise there will be plenty to do  
with a new baby in the house  
we should be able to enjoy some  
barbeques etc.

I have been thinking of your  
Muhall - how has he been coping  
with the food problems and also  
the smoke from Indonesia?

Perhaps he has gone to some  
other island somewhere. Anyway  
remember me to him.

Beryl says Vic and his wife  
who live at Maryborough have both  
been ill but no talk of them  
coming back who N. S. W. Beryl's  
daughter & her husband & son live  
on an avocado farm in the Lismore  
area. They don't leave the farm at  
Xmas time because they pick a variety  
of avocado. Other farmers don't have them.  
Beryl's son who was a Shire  
Engineer was retrenched last

year but was able to find employment without leaving Sunnedah - which was good.

I'll keep you informed about "Loveskoff" all the best for now until the Xmas letter. I'm very sorry you have had love from your old friend. Muggot looks very accomplished so much in his long life, he will be remembered. Jerry was pleased to be invited to the service on Sunday and catch up family news with Phyll.

I had a couple of letters from Betty in the last few weeks. The first one she mentioned that a Mr Bowley (who works for the Packers) had bought "Woodstock" "Spring Park" Tom's, Lads and Beck's land and was after "Loveskoff".

The second letter that arrived a few days ago she mentions that Mr Bill Wilson from "Loveskoff" was killed in a car accident while returning home recently. Apparently he had a "massive" coronary. Her information regarding his news comes from

Gwynne Gleeson  
126 Bultje St  
DUBBO 2830  
ph 02 6884 8926

15 December 1997

Dear family and friends

*Phyll & Ross & family*

The year began with much excitement when Michael and Sophie and James came home from Washington after three years and then went back again - to Channel 7 and Los Angeles where Mike is head of the North American bureau. Recently I went to visit them in their home in the hills above the city - it was lovely to meet my new grandson Billy, who is placid and good. I was there for Thanksgiving so Sophie, Billy and I went to James' pre-school to see him, dressed as a pilgrim, help welcome the Indians to the meal!!! Soph cooked us all a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner the next day.

In February Lucinda graduated from the Ensemble Theatre Acting Studios. She was the best in her year and it was obvious from Hayes Gordon's congratulations as he presented her certificate that he agreed with her family that she was wonderful. Since then she's had some TV work, some theatre work at the Ensemble and appeared in a short film - we hope that 1998 sees the big break. Only 14 students graduated from an original intake of 35 so we know it was tough and we're all very proud of her.

In July I drove to Albury to have a week with Margie and Don. Rebecca was a guest Recorder player at a Conservatorium concert, then Don and I went along to the Eisteddfod to hear her the following week. She played very confidently and won 4 medals. She's also a swimmer and this summer she's in a theatre production at the Swimming Pool dancing in and out of the water. Not to be outdone, Alex is fast gaining water confidence too.

En route from Albury to Canberra I went to Young and sat out the front of our old house in Thornhill St and remembered good times - then on to John and Judy and Amanda and their visiting Japanese exchange student, Yumiko who cooked us Japanese food and showered me with presents. Amanda (2 in October) is a chatterbox who loves the Wiggles and Bananas in Pyjamas. John and Judy are flat out with their training business although concerned about the general depression in Canberra.

Marg joined John, Judy, Amanda, Libby, Euan, Jo, Jessica and Jenny in Canberra for the planting of the hands on the lawns of Parliament House - both Lib and Jen have been very involved in Reconciliation groups and the Native Title debate. They, with Jessica who is friends with one of his granddaughters, felt privileged to be part of Nugget Coombes Memorial service last month.

Jenny is still having physio and hydrotherapy but is back at work after 16 months. Towards the end of that time she was able to do some consultation work for Parramatta Library so eased herself back into the work force and back onto her round of literary events - the highlights this year were Bob Ellis, Robert Hughes and Gore Vidal.

In August I went to Sydney to mind the Tovey girls while Lib and Euan flew to Adelaide

*When the situation opened for the feast & they left out bits of dialogue he took his hat off & declared he wanted to be an Indian!*

for the Children's Book Awards - Lib was the winner in the Book of the Year for Junior Readers with "Hannah Plus One". Since then she has won the prestigious Lady Cutler Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature in NSW. She and Euan both had overseas trips this year - Lib to Denmark for a conference on Public Lending Right (she flew into London on the day of Princess Diana's funeral but didn't see Mike who was busy covering the event for Channel 7) and Euan to Mexico and Sweden for his research project.

Then back to Sydney in November for Jessica's big moment - the State finals of the Multi-Cultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition held at the Powerhouse Museum. She spoke with great poise and confidence and was runner-up in the Year 3/4 division - a terrific achievement. Amy, finishing Year 9 at Leichhardt High and Jo (Year 7 at St George Girls) are equally talented and interesting people.

A thrill for us all this year when my nephew Peter Davidson (son of my sister Joan and husband Bill) was the successful architect for the new Federation Square project in Melbourne. Peter is an old boy of Taree primary and High schools so the town also celebrated - he has been living in London for many years so it will be good to see something of him now that he has relocated to supervise the building.

Jill and Paul have had their usual busy time this year and are currently celebrating with Brendan the end of his degree. They travelled to Lismore in November for his last concert and were delighted with the professionalism of his performance and with his tribute to his Granny, Kathleen with whom he has lived for the last three years. He has been invited to join the teaching staff at Southern Cross University in 1998. Patrick has a couple of years to go in his combined B.A/B.Sc at ANU and is working hard and doing well - it will be good to have them both here for Christmas - the "big kids" (the boys and Lucy) are much loved and admired by all the others.

Paul was a big help when I recently experienced what seems almost like the obligatory break-in. I awoke to a light at the back of the house and confronted a young man who was clearly as shocked to see me as I was to see him. Fortunately he did a bunk rather than stay around to argue - I was lucky to suffer only a broken window, <sup>lock</sup> and a lost video machine. Needless to say I now have increased security and a sad awareness of how much the world has changed. *I'll tell you about the break in when I see you no great drama really.*

Despite this it's been a great year. Dubbo High celebrated its 80th birthday in June and it was lovely to see old friends from the days when Bill was Principal - Eddie and Anne Powter, Ken Murray and lots of the children's old friends. Janet and I didn't do the Indian Pacific - perhaps in 1998 - but I went to the United States and travelled all over NSW. I saw all my children and grandchildren and lots of dear friends. I am in good health and looking forward to having the whole family here over the Christmas period; I am very fortunate.

*Pop - Anne Ingram presented Libby with the Lady Cutler award and mentioned that they were both descendents from a great Irish family - Anne being a granddaughter of Anne Whitten (Rowland) & Lib being a great granddaughter of Anthony. Quite a unique occasion really.*  
*Thanks for your long letter Phyll. I'm exhausted from preparing for the Gleesons. Will guess I'll recover.*  
*This house is gradually looking like a hospital waiting for customers. They are mostly coming Xmas Eve Mike & Co on Boxing Day, all gay men. I'll be there to*

126 Budge St  
Quebec  
2830  
22.2.98

Dearest Phyll,

Well - thanks for your letter & news & photo copy of Lily Elliott's death certificate. You must have enjoyed your talk (over a cuppa no doubt) with Helen Fraser.

Phyll, Helen Fraser isn't correct when she mentions that our great grandmother (Paternal) was nee brought) according to Russell's history of the Whittens

Edward Whitten married Martha Lucas about 1820 or '21. Edward had a brother Robert living in the same area, Roseneau Upperary and another brother Anthony at Cloumel. The parents of Edward Whitten were William Whitten and Prudence Cley.

Russell also says that John Whitten married Margaret Lucas on 14/12/1857 their family was

- 1 Anne 1858 - 1877.
- 2 Elizabeth 1860 - 1863
- 3 Edward 1863 - 1930
- \* 4 Robert 1865 - 1914
- 5 Martha 1867 - 1928
- \* 6 Joseph Abraham 1869 - 1918
- 7 Margaret Jane 1872 - 1896
- 8 Frances Elizabeth 1876 - ?

Robert & Joseph married two widows named brought and they all

lived together in one house!  
(How terrible!!!)

\* John Whitten spoken of here  
was grandfather's brother  
born 1833 - died 1879.

Do someone who copied up  
names & dates - has got  
brought on the brain!! I've a  
look in Russell's book Phyll  
- you do have it?

Yes, no wonder Lily spent so  
much time at "Lowe's loft"  
Being the daughter of a previous  
marriage perhaps Edward  
Rowland was not very happy to  
accommodate her.

I found the names on the death  
certificate uninteresting to say  
the least.

Henry Whitten a cousin being  
the informant.

No he is listed as undertaker PAH.  
Liles a mason. Well there was  
a Liles mason - brother of Charlotte  
and then he married & had two  
children. So he must have been  
visiting "~~Faversham~~" then the  
witnesses are interesting  
because they all lived in Wallabadah  
& are mentioned in the book  
"Wallabadah" commemorating  
125 years of education in Wallabadah.  
Well to start with - Lily Willette  
died in 1902.  
So firstly Phoebe Barthgate was a  
pupil teacher at the school in 1881  
- Mr William Kent - he was a witness



The death certificate. —  
was Headmaster at the Wallabadah School  
from 1883 to 1897 & then retired & built a  
home on the Qatwindi road near the  
Gaspard turn off. He continued to teach  
Sunday School for many years after  
his retirement; & was no doubt through  
Phoebe Barthgate (her parents (her  
mother was Grandma's sister) ~~was~~  
a visitor to "Lovesloft" on occasions.  
The Usfellers were early shoe keepers  
in the nineties (they started off as  
blacksmiths) when for many Mr Usfeller  
retired in 1899. There have been Usfellers  
living in Wallabadah. A Mr Usfeller  
died a few years ago & he was over 100!!  
The other witness B. Jenkins too is  
interesting. Jenkins was Lionel's  
surname. Lionel who became  
Rep's father. So the B. Jenkins could  
be Rep's grandfather!!!

I have a school friend living in  
Wallabadah & shall endeavour to  
find out where Lily is buried  
in proximity to the Whitten graves.  
As Wallabadah was a smaller  
village then she probably is  
buried not far away from them.  
Isn't it amazing the information  
that can be gleaned from a  
death certificate & a check at work years  
ago. Yes, I agree with you. Lily's <sup>later</sup> life  
probably was difficult  
once she left Ireland. Poor  
Kid coming out on one of  
those 'cotton' ships - does no

I doubt the ship ran in to  
Shornun. She probably cried  
herself to sleep at nights watching  
her mother. I wonder how soon  
Anne Whetten came to Australia  
after her husband died?

Phyll I'll have a look on microfich  
Sometime & see if I can track  
down the son. I wonder if <sup>boy</sup> <sup>prepa-</sup> <sup>had a?</sup>

I wish Murr's children all the  
best in their move south. Perhaps  
you will see a bit more of them.

All ours are well. Lucinda  
was ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> understudy <sup>part</sup> at present  
at the Wang Theatre & is being  
interviewed for more work.  
Her father took her to Indonesia  
for  $\frac{3}{4}$  weeks holiday in Jan  
so they have been home 2 weeks  
thank goodness. They had a good  
time but it was an anxious time  
they got home. I think it is going

to be harder for tourists here soon.  
— hard enough for the people.

Lib's new book is being launched  
on the 19th March by Disher Kathleen  
O'Connor a nun!! I don't die of shock!

The book is called "Refuge" and has  
an East Timorese in it. Lib met  
this nun when she was researching  
the book — she had to have it true  
and as she had the E. Timorese in  
it had to find out if these people

would be allowed to stay in  
Aust. <sup>who had worked in E. Zimgr.</sup> Fisher O'Connor.  
They became friends. & Fisher O'C.  
asked him if she'd host a table  
when a luncheon was arranged  
for funds going to wards. Mary  
McKillop foundation (his rang  
me at the time & said she thought  
the nun thought she was a Catholic!  
no matter - & now the good  
fisher has consented to launch  
the new book from Gleeboks  
in Glebe. on the 19th as I said.

I'm going to Lismore on  
Fri with Gil & Paul. to see Paul's  
mother who is far from well.  
after three days in Lismore I'm  
going by train to Laree for  
4 days to see Joan & Bill -  
then onto Jen for a brief  
stay then onto Sydney to  
Libby before home on the XPT.

On the 14th March I'm flying to  
Sydney with Gil for an ex-  
students luncheon (Wubbo High)  
& then I'm staying on until  
the book launching.

We had a great Xmas.  
Muhall Sophie & boys flew to  
Wubbo on the Boeing Way.

I then had 14 people in this

1/2 house & Jill & Paul had 8 m  
trees. We ate lots of salads  
& barbecues. & had a happy  
time. It was as hot as  
hell but somehow we all  
managed without fights!

When I get down to  
Canberra in autumn I'll  
come & see you.

Hope your eye is ok. I  
have a cataract growing  
on one of my eyes. Apparently  
they are unavoidable.

I've just finished Ruth  
Cracknell's book & have started  
"Cold Mountain" about the civil war  
in America.  
Jill went down for the  
National Treasures dinner  
& met many of the treasures.  
including Gough, Jack Mundy  
(Saviour of the Kokoi & Wooloomooloo),  
Michael Kirby, John Nathan  
Ruth Cracknell is on. She  
said it was a great night.

Dearest love to you &  
Ross & the family & West & Beth  
Gwynne xx

126 Buetje St  
Dubbo

2830

Fri 1st.

nov.

Dear Phyll & Ross,  
Thanks for your phone call & I am sorry I haven't rung back - when I think of ringing it's too early in the morning or too late at night so I've decided to write.

Firstly to news of Jen.  
She came out of

Greenwich hospital on the 30th Oct (last Wed) & is resting for a while at Lib & Euan's at Pebersham. She's been in hospital just on four months. (She entered Gosford Hosp for the first op on the 3rd July.) She is walking with the aid of crutches & Lib & Euan who live in a grand old two story home - have her settled down stairs. Last Mon one of her friends came up on the 4th and drove Jen's car back to Sydney. So that solved a problem. I offered to go back to help her but after she's been at Lib's a few weeks she hopes to go back to Booker Bay (near Wey Wey, where she lives) she has to come back to Greenwich for physio twice a week but because she's now

an outpatient she has to get on  
that so the physio won't start for  
2 weeks. She has high praise for  
Greenwich Rehabilitation Hosp. She  
has been receiving 2 hrs physio  
morning & afternoon & an  
hour of occupational physio -  
5 hrs for a day for 5 days which  
has been marvellous. Lucinda  
& Libby, Guan & family & her city  
friends & Canberra friends have  
made regular visits to see her.  
I just hope she keeps well for a  
while now & look forward to  
the day when she is walking  
well again.

Michael, Sophie & James will be  
home on the 8th Feb. This Govt  
is not replacing him or the  
7.30 ~~pm~~ journalist Tony Jones  
they have closed the New York  
office & only will have Max  
Mitrnick in Washington. If you  
are able to watch the ABC next  
Wed 6th for the 7 o'clock news  
Michael will be broadcasting  
live from Washington on the  
elections.  
(Max replaced the manager of ABC, Peter Ryan - & now will  
have to do makes-rob as well as produce!!!)

They have had a great time  
in America but are ready  
to come home. They have a  
gracious apartment. 3rd +  
4th stories up so James is taken to the  
park for a game every day so he'll  
be glad to have his own back yard.  
To get to their car Mike climbs down the  
fire escape. (no back yard) you wouldn't  
want to come up with too many  
beens!! Anyway he hopes we'll have  
a job when he gets back the way  
the APSC is being cut about one wonder.  
so prepare yourselves for news from him rather than an anti-  
I had a week away in Albany  
recently. Alet turned three on the  
11th October - Rebecca is 7½ now  
Maggie, who teaches at Murray High  
(the third H.S. in Albany has been  
offered 5 days a week at North  
Albany next year - she's only  
had 2½ days at Murray and I  
nearly think it <sup>has been</sup> enough seeing  
Alet has been so young - the young  
ones however feel they have to work  
for their own reasons -  
including money!!

Libby's second daughter,  
Josephine, is going to St George  
Girls High next year. - Jessica the  
youngest will go into 4th class  
- she's nine on the 10th of this  
month.

4. Jenny's American pen  
friend from her years at  
Green Clunes - arrived in  
Sydney last night - Jen is  
going to have dinner with  
them to-night at their city hotel.  
I'm going on a cruise on the  
harbour to-morrow. Then  
Rob & Joan are hosting a dinner  
party early in the week & Susan  
& Chuck (yep, he's a chuck) are  
flying to Cairns & then Melbourne  
before flying home.

I hope you are ok again Phyll.  
we have to look after our health  
especially now we're over the  
"Plimsoll line." my health is not  
bad - I try to walk a bit, &  
exercise for my back in bed  
every day. Once a week I go to  
aqua-aerobics with Jill.

When is your little brother  
& Beth coming home? must be soon  
- they have been gone for some  
time.

Well, I'll close now until  
the Xmas letter.  
with dearest love to you both  
& thanks for your call.  
Lynne.



12 Bishop St,  
DUBBO 2830

On 18th December, 1993 Mum and Dad will celebrate 50 years of  
marriage.

We have decided to celebrate with an "Open House" weekend on  
18th/19th December, at their home, 126 Bultje St, Dubbo.

We hope that you can find the time to be with us at this busy time of  
the year.

Best wishes,

Jenny, Jill, Libby, John, Margie and Michael.

RSVP JILL  
(068) 82 3876

*Bill & Gwynne*  
1943 - 1993

