

90 Brown Rd

Harbord

19/3/73.

Dear Phyllis Here I am at least starting this after 15 months. I feel terribly ashamed to keep you waiting so long. I was going to do a stroke while on holidays. I was with Marcia, & all from the Saturday before Xmas Day, till the day after new years Day, you simply can't write letters of any importance while there. What with Marcia's voice, & the kids around me, & my brain old. No hope in 2dr for ~~the~~ 3 days & 2 nights, and visit Keith at baths, & Kitty has a little shop near the swinging bridge, Beryl & Charlie Barnett & stayed with Royce & Jean.

Well Keith at the baths looks awful, & has done since he had the stroke 3 years ago. He is really not fit to be manager of the baths. Anyone could be drowning & he would not know. He has the management from October 1st till end of March, & not one day away from it. He ~~is~~ is the only one in Quirindi with a bronze medallion for life saving. He will be 61 on 26th May, & looks years older than me. & I will be 70 in July.

Kitty has extra had high blood pressure, & bad heart. ^{she has 5 cysts at top of lung (cannot operate)} & smokes continually. ^{doesn't} ^{knows} where she goes & is terribly fat, which is against her, & violent temper.

Sue has a bad back. She had to come to Sydney last year with cramps in legs. It was discovered she has 1 or 2 cracked discs, she has lost 2 stone & has to ~~lose~~ lose 3 more stone, before they operate.

She has been really far too fat. Dr says she may have done the damage with her own weight, & then perhaps lifted something heavy. Her girls Debbie 12 & Kellie 11 have beautiful teeth. Kellie is the nicest girl.

Beryl looks well, ^{youngish} pleased to have Malcolm back from Vietnam, & Belie at home with her. Beccie in the solicitor's.

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11 have beautiful teeth. Kellie is the nicest girl.
Beryl looks well, ^{youngish} pleased to have Malcolm back
from Vietnam, & Belie at home with her. Cecile works
in the solicitors office of Thomas Hague & Park.
She has glorious eyes and an exceptionally good figure
Charlie Barnett lives alone. Pearl died last year,
she was blind from glaucoma, & was months & months

OVER

in hospital. First² in Danworth, & later in Durindi with a broken thigh or hip, suffering terrible agony, as it would not heal.

She was cremated at Beresfield (near Maitland)

Charlie went down, with Betty's husband, & family Beryl rang Charlie up the next day to see if she could do anything for him. She went to the house when she knew he was at home. He was chopping wood. He gets meals-on-wheels. He is 90 & does not wear glasses. He sings to himself while he is scratching about. I reckon his calmness & happy nature has kept him alive. When I got there he was singing Swaney River, "not His bye his hon the sparhawk". He has one fang in the lower jaw, which I reckon would be worse than none at all. He said "He is too hold to bother getting used to teeth".

May Porter who was Mrs ~~to I forge~~ Doolan, who I used to go & see regularly, passed away last year. One other sister married a Doolan too.

I think one sister is alive but, senile mentally to a degree. Sam lives with her. He still drinks rum. It must have been preserved, or pickled. Royce is 51. Jean works at hospital at night. 11 PM till 6 or 7 AM. Lynde is quite a young lady about 15. Has lost a lot of her asthma.

Frances is a charming child about 10 or 11.

She is as strong as Lynde is delicate, but gets very slight asthma, too, Jean also.

Now "Woodstock" has been sold, ^{at} ~~at~~ 21 dollars per acre, ^{at} ~~at~~ 2,112 acres, a bit over & rocky waste land. It will take a long time to finalise, \$44,000. The solicitor said, & a lot of money has to come out. for solicitors, sales tax, auctioneers, & other things, Royce said the sheep were sold at an average of \$8-80 each. line to see the money.

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I never thought I would ever live to see the money. It is a bit late in life to get it. (Maybe 6 months time) (more or less) I think I might hang out that long. My eyes are very crook, I reckon it could be from the fit tablets, as they calcify on the

3

kidneys a bit, & periodically I have to have
tablets to clear kidneys out. Away in the far
distance cataracts have just started in eyes

By the way a friend of Ross's, & his wife, adopted a
lovely little boy from "Bethesda" (Sallies hospital) at
Dulwich Hill or nearby. He even resembles the adopted
father, that you would never guess he did not belong
to him. He won't be 2 till a couple more months
suddenly screamed with pain. Got Dr - put him
in Childrens Hospital, ^{Wentworth} He passed 3 stones, they
gave him anaesthetic, to examine up the tubes, ^{with mirror} & there
are 2 more stones, kidney twice the size, & diseased.
He has to have it cut in about 5 weeks. I don't
know how they are going to keep him still, after the op
probably have to drug him a lot.

Well I have been burning off. & smoke has got
in my eyes. So I'll dive into bed. It is 7.30.

I have to go to a ladies' place to do some ironing
for her tomorrow, & for a couple of weeks, while her
daughter is holidaying in Melbourne. She has one of
her grandsons of the daughter, in New Guinea, with her
she is a young, bright & brainy 87, & mind
perfectly clear, & a beautiful skin, I have to
iron the boys' school shirts etc. But only till
Heather returns from her holiday
I can hardly see so cherish till next effort.

Wed. 21st 7.A.M

I'll do $\frac{1}{2}$ hour more letter. after early morning cups of tea.
Well I read through the letter, & discovered, you would
not know the Porters of Gasparde. I was so tired, I must
have thought I was writing to Gwynn. They were neighbours
to "Woodstock" as you go to the Gaspard Rd,
I had a good time going to see Damworth, relations, & friends,
& Gowrie. Poor old Gordon Whitten passed away some weeks
before Xmas. He was the "King of Gowrie" & my favourite cousin,
1 year younger than me. Long illness & nervous sugar
condition. not pancreatic, but same treatment.
I stayed with Melda (his wife) for a few days & 2 1/2
weeks with Alice Read.

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have thought I was writing to Gwynon. They were neighbours
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before I was. He was the "King of Gowrie" & my favourite cousin,
1 year younger than me. Long illness & nervous sugar
condition, not pancreatic, but same treatment.
I stayed with Hilda (his wife) for a few days & 2 1/2
weeks with Alice Reading. She came back with me 3 wks & 2 days
now yesterday I got a letter from David. He went to
England for 12 months working holiday. He stayed at Leeds,
& in their football team, 3 other boys went with him,
2 were brothers, but one returned home in 3 or 4
weeks. The cold was too much for him. (OVER)

In the note he said, "He had seen all he wanted to in London, before going to Leeds. (Has been gone 5 months) Boat to Singapore, & plane on. He has enjoyed the scenery, when going to play football at other places.

They take a coach when travelling to the different places. He does labourers work. not allowed clerical work. He said the working conditions are terrible, and wages low. They have a nice new flat, carpeted etc, I would hate to see the untidiness, as that is David's greatest fault. leaves everything just where he steps out, also wet towels on bed etc.

But the main thing he seems to have a good character. He said they can't save much money, as they travel about a lot. He said the work is monotonous & dirty. Food is very dear. (In a type retreat place).

In a months time, they are going to Scotland for a week. then going for a tour on 30th April for 9 1/2 weeks they go to France, Andorra, Spain, Monaco, Leichenstein, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Austria, West Germany, Holland, & Belgium.

He would like to see Norway, Sweden & Denmark & if he has enough money will go there for 2 weeks before coming home. He thought he would go back to Canberra. But Rex said he was told, David had to stay at Newcastle where he got his leave of absence from.

He says also, if he has enough money. he would like to go to Wales, Devon & Cornwall, I sent he having a lovely time. He was 23 in Dec.

Richard 17 in Dec. Is quite hard to manage. He has grown quite a lot. This is his last year at school. He has got in with a type of modern boys. So does no study, so as far as being a vet, well I think that would be impossible. His hair is down past his shoulders, & has a smallish face, & looks like a monkey peeping out of excess hair.

I tell him to tie it back, to let me see what he really looks like. He had a car, & a truck ran into him & ruined the engine. It was not Richards fault, & none of the 5 boys were hurt, thank goodness. Richard had practically stopped when the truck hit him. which was a great help. He must take after my father for bad temper.

Rebecca now 10 last Nov. is now picking up a bit at school. She was about bottom in 4th class. Did not get a pass in any subject, & 2 subjects no marks at all. (won't study)

Kathleen is in 3rd class. The best reader in class. When in 2nd class, she was almost top, & also captain. She is very tiny, & only looks 6 instead of 8. She has a much stronger personality than Becky. Independent & self-reliant

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personality than Becky. Independant & self reliant.
Becky is more affectionate, or at least shows it. But that
is not everything. Likes house work so gets imposed on a bit.
I think Marcia's voice has a bad effect on everybody. It gets
me down. She has been much better to me, since her
mother died. And asks my advice even, at times.
must get dressed & have breakfast (will leave till another time)

Thursday 4-30 5

Mavis' Auntie Mary Baker, passed away about 10 days ago. She would have been 103, had she lived about 3 or 4 weeks longer. She got a coronary in the end.

But she had wonderful health for her age, & never wore glasses, & made coat hangers till a short time back. Now I think I missed telling you what Nancy Wellham (Giles Moore's daughter) found out that Richard Mason (Grandma's father) died 13th January 1863 at Chain-of-Ponds.

name Richard Mason

Occupation Labourer 54 years old

cause of death Died from injuries from a fall from a horse
verdict of jury, Henry Glennie (Coroner)

Father's name Peter Mason farmer

Mother's name Grace Mason (formally Powell)

Description & residence of informant Jane Mason (wife)
E-mu creek

Buried at Church of England Cemetery, Dalbrook, by
Rev William Dove

His children were Phoebe 29 yrs
Grace 27 "
Giles 25 "
Eliza^{1st} deceased
Charlotte 21 yrs
Eliza 2nd 18 "
Jane 15 "
Richard & Anne 12 "
Fanny 9 "

All put names at later age
summarized (Stevenson Moore)
(Bathgate)
Mason
(Grandma)
(Whitten)
(Moore)
Richard Mason & (Moore Annie)
(Stretton)

Nancy went to the Lands Department, to look for E-mu Creek, in relation to Chain of Ponds.

The man said "It would be about 4 miles south of Chain-of-Ponds. They had the original grants of land, marked on the Chain-of-Ponds area, and Joseph owned a great deal of land in that area; Joseph owned the "Half Way House". Rex took me to see it. Used to be on the main road from out that way

The man said "It would be about 4 miles south of Chain-of-Ponds. They had the original grant of land, marked on the Chain-of-Ponds area, and Joseph owned a great deal of land in that area; Joseph owned the "Half Way House". Rex took me to see it. Used to be on the main road from out that way. There were people living on the ground floor ^{where we went}. Down under the building was a huge fire place, must have been where servants, & coach men slept. To the side are the stables where the Col: & Co changed their horses & drivers. There ~~are~~ is a building to the side-back which could have been the kitchen (OVER)

6
Gull of Hay, and old twisted beds, at present.
In the cement between that stone place & the main
building is a stone lid to a well. (full of water)
Uncle Joseph sold alcoholic drinks so the 4 brothers
had nothing to do with him.

A company has bought the area, the new road goes
around behind it, and you can't see it from the
road now. The buyers wanted to pull it down,
But council would not agree. The last I heard,
It was going to be lost in a lake, like the big
one up near Muswellbrook for electricity.
now in 2di paper it had some time back, a death
of Keith Whittens, He was a decendant of Uncle Joe
really called Keith Whittens-Dine, but they did not state Dine ⁱⁿ ^{mother}
Some people in 2di had bought ~~flor~~ ordered flowers
for our Keith's grave, & on ringing Kitty, found our
Keith was well & truly at the baths
now. I'll answer a few of the things in your Xmas letter,
but can't manage the lot.

I was very sorry that you had the sickness early that
year. I know what thrombosis is, but not the
"phlebitis" part. I'll ask my chemist.

Fancy at your age a major operation. I had both ovaries
removed at 37 & 10 months. Tumour on one ovary
& fibrous cyst, & adhesions on other.

And fancy Ross getting the ulcer. I have seen that happen
before, & they are very hard to heal.

It was nice for you to see Michael & Ep & Lucy sounds most
intelligent

What a dreadful thing to happen to Alys. It hit me
I can tell you. David had mild encephalitis in the
April of his 6th year. It did help him not to get a
scholarship for a high school teacher. But seems
O.K. in the "bustoms" which would not be so aggravating
as trying to teach MODERN BOYS & GIRLS

Did Stewart get married? Mavis has not told me
anything regarding his marriage, I hope if he is married,
that he, & her, have a very happy life together.

There is tons I could write about. but not so interesting
to you.

Major Peck. (Head of our Home League) ^{Salvation Army's manly.} has gone to her
brother in England for 12 months, so there is no
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to you.

Major Peck, (Head of our Home League) ^{Salvation Army manly.} has gone to her brother in England for 12 months, so there is no pianist for the Songster Brigade, & I have been asked to take her place. It is a bit of a tie. I have to go down 7 till 8 on a Wednesday night, & to both services on a Sunday. They only have a pianist who plays without music, & for the 4 parts, the music has to be played as written. I like doing anything like that, but my eyes are very bad even with the

special music glasses, some days I can see a bit better than others. according to glare etc. I have bi-focals as well.

I think the fit tablets, "Delantini" have a hearing on it. As they play up with my kidneys. Sometimes I wonder if I will end up with a brain tumour, I already have cataracts just starting. But as I will be 70 in July, I must expect to get something. I have lost a stone weight in 12 months.

Well they are building 3 story units all around here, & they will even come up to my fence, on one side. I have to get a fair bit of practice in as M^{rs} Hopley (the other pianist for Home League) & I are learning some new duets for a change. She has glaucoma & is allergic to the drops, or ointment, she is much younger than me. we both are three parts grey. She has rather a choppy heavy touch, where-as I have a smoother soft touch. If she has the bass, I have to play louder to smother her bass a bit. Sounds better if she plays the treble, I play more at treble than bass. As with her eyes, a lovely big house, Husband & 2 sons, I have more time, But I have to practice more than her. as my uptake is slow & memory nil. Still I like playing, & it is more interesting to play to an audience, than just at home alone.

As it helps you to do your very best. But I am a very nervous person, but have got accustomed to playing it Home League. I practically know everybody, & that helps.

Rex & Marcia still shout & argue the point. It would drive you mad. & bad for the children.

Mavis comes over every couple of weeks to see Daph. She picks me up & takes me out. Daph is up & down like a yo, yo. Just at present, much better than she was at Lmas, & not dragging her feet, & can hold her cup in her right hand.

... you mad. & bad for the children,
Mavis comes over every couple of weeks to see Daph
She picks me up & takes me out. Daph is up &
down like a yo, yo. Just at present, much better
than she was at Xmas, & not dragging her foot,
& can hold her cup in her right hand.

Gordon & Laura's girl Nina Pickering turned 17 last
week. Janis 3 children Rowina Ruth,
Meaghan Louise, and Debra-ann are lovely children
but, a bit too thick in the legs (over)

I do hope you can read this scribble. I am spoiling my hand writing by speed. trying to fit a letter in before my eye, or eyes, (left one worst) fail on me. Lawrie & Roma's boy John Charles was married ~~recently~~ recently, he is a school teacher.

I won't seal this up till to-morrow, in case I think of something

Mavis was telling me Adrian Bathgate ~~passed~~ ^{passed} away about 18 months, or 2 years ago. Mavis plays bowls with Earle's wife. I have not seen Earle since he was 2 years old. Don't know for sure Earle or Eale I think Earle

Cherrie for now. I do hope Alys continues to improve.

Love to you & Ross

From Glad.

Joy Woolnough passed away last September. (the Aunty who lived with me for 6 years) She was in a "Home" at Kippington.