

126 Beech St

Dubbo

2830.

6.5.97.

Dearest Phyllis Ross,

Firstly, 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 could.

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 bit of love in the house!

We had a big day at "Dundullinal" I'll write that again "DUNDULLIMATH" 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. Matt Kelly a former Pres. of National Trust who died a year or so ago. He compiled the first video tracing the life of Dundullinal. 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.

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Then we had a great afternoon tea of scones and lamingtons & dancing by an abnormal group - the arabic 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 someone said "What did you think of the earthquake?" "Well, there had been one during the night which registered 5!!! The Gleasons slept a sleep! I hope the massive one which 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 the look for Sophie Scott. I did tell you Mike had moved to Channel 7.

From the original by Joyce McPhee

Bottlebrat

on the way out

RAY SERIES

(3)



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 reepky at reubho
nigh when he died suddenly
of a heart attack. — Bed
took his place. There are

two girls in the family. Deather
became a teacher, married & now
lives at Cowra. & Margaret
also married & lives in Sydney.
Each year reubho nigh Ex students
have a reunion luncheon held
at the League's club in Phillip's
sheeh. Unfortunately I didn't
attend this year as I was in
Sydney on at Jerrums at Booker
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
H. S. in Albury. The previous
years she was at Murray nigh
(3rd N. S.) & taught art & history
(her degree is in Fine Arts & History
but she was only teaching
2 & 2 days a week ^{after a year and after a left} 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
sort 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 Hitler's ovens. - cousins
Aunts - the father -

the mother & son got away
to Australia fortunately, later.
When Jenny went back to
see the surgeon at North
Shore recently he told her
he expected to see her in a
wheel chair. ^{! He was amazed at her recovery.} 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 ^{June 28th} 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.

Where's for now. Are
you going north again?

Love to you both
& the family

.....

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 Auntie 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, Auntie 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.

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 (Todd)

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