



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

(Registered for transmission by post as a Periodical — Category "A")  
(Address All Association Correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth, 6001)  
Vol. 26, No. 236. JANUARY, 1972 Price 1c.

## EDITORIAL

### BRITAIN, THE E.E.C. AND US

With the successful conclusion on June 23 of the final round of negotiations in Brussels between Britain and the European Economic Community, there remains only Parliamentary consent to be won by Prime Minister, Mr. Heath, before Britain enters the Community.

One of the more difficult problems, if not the most difficult, which had to be overcome during the negotiations, was the question of New Zealand access. This was resolved by an offer by the Community and accepted by Britain that New Zealand have access for 71 per cent of the milk equivalent of its dairy products in 1977. New Zealand may not be very happy about this agreement, but no doubt is grateful that the concession made to her was not any less. It is only reasonable to expect, however, that when New

Zealand's access to the E.E.C. Market is reviewed in 1977 the percentage will be reduced.

New Zealand, being still so very dependent on the British market for the sale of her exports, has a case for special transitional arrangements which the members of E.E.C. could not deny if they wanted Britain to become one of their number. Australia's position is very different. Her export trade rests on a much wider base, both in commodities and spread of markets, than New Zealand's.

The extent or damage to the Australian economy as a whole caused by an immediate exclusion from the British Market could prove to be only marginal. On the other hand areas of primary production which it would very seriously affect some depend heavily on Britain for the

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## OUTING TO MANDURAH

### JOE AND HELEN POYNTON'S RESIDENCE

### SUNDAY, 20th FEBRUARY

### The Picnic of the Year

Turn off either at Orion Road or the new Mandurah Hotel  
and follow the signs

Bus leaves Perth at 9.45 a.m. for those who prefer this mode  
of transport

sale of their produce. Nevertheless it is obvious that all parties to the negotiations in Brussels considered that Australia was in no need of special treatment. The only safeguard for Australia in the agreement is the provision that the Community will take speedy and effective action to deal with any abrupt dislocation of trade in agricultural products.

The E.E.C. with Britain in it will be the largest market in the world. In a recent article in "The Australian Financial Review" Trevor Sykes pointed out that it seems inevitable that British companies would need to invest heavily to expand trade with Europe in competition with their rivals in the Community. In these conditions, Mr. Sykes argues, capital would be diverted from countries such as Australia and New Zealand

in the short term. The same situation would apply to Continental companies invading Britain or defending themselves against British companies. In the long term, other world influences may offset this short term loss of capital inflow.

Estimates of the effects of Britain's entry into E.E.C. on Australia and New Zealand, if she does in fact enter, are no more than just that—estimates. But regardless of the outcome, the present situation drives home a lesson which we should have learnt years ago. The day has passed when Australia and New Zealand can continue to lean politically and economically on Britain or any other country. Both countries must stand unsupported on their own feet but must develop increased co-operation between themselves.

## West Australian Whisperings

### Association Activities

#### DECEMBER MEETING

We had a wonderful roll up to our meeting held in Anzac House Basement on Dec. 7.

We played carpet bowls mixed pairs for trophies donated by Mr. Cliff McCormack and the major trophies were won by Dot and Gerry Maley and Jess Epps and "Sprigg" McDonald.

We have to thank Cliff once again for coming along and donating such very nice trophies.

This occasion was also used to get Sid Calcutt to come along and present to Joe Poynton the Mick Calcutt Memorial Trophy which he won last year. Sid was lavish in his praise of the way things are done on sports nights and expressed a wish to come along to the next night on which we conduct this trophy competition.

Joe, in a modest speech, thanked everyone and said how pleased he was to win this special trophy.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This most important meeting will be held at Anzac House Basement on Tuesday, March 7. Remember this follows on the Labor Day holiday on Monday 6th.

We do so want to have a big attendance so that members can hear first hand all that your Association is doing on your behalf. Don't be afraid to come along as if you can't accept a position on the Executive nobody will be offended, but, of course, we do like to see new faces on the Committee as this usually means new ideas for the future.

Make a special note of the date: **Tuesday, March 7, Anzac House Basement.**

### Committee Comment

Since last we published a "Courier" your Committee has met at Anzac Club on two occasions. Firstly on Dec. 21, 1971, and then on Jan. 18, 1972. On each occasion we had excellent attendances and much business was transacted.

Treasurer Ron Kirkwood advised that we were financially in a very sound position.

President Len Bagley advised that this year presents to children had been restricted to orphans, and that they had been delivered.

Bill Epps advised that initial preparation of the new Address Book was under way but that it would be some time before we could expect it to go to print.

Geo Fletcher advised that despite

a big fall of leaves and bark Kings Park area was in fair shape.

The Committee is still pursuing ways and means of duplicating our Honour Roll so that N.S.W. and Victoria can obtain Honour Rolls for their branches.

Because of the popularity of indoor bowls at our meetings it was decided to purchase another mat for usage.

It was decided to try and arrange an outing at Joe and Helen Poynton's Mandurah home in the near future.

As no replies had yet been received from Eastern States Branches it was decided to defer discussion on the running of another Mammoth Raffle until a later meeting when advice from the Eastern States would be to hand.

It was decided that letters of congratulation be sent to our members Harry Holder and Fred Gardener on their recent awards in the New Year Honours List.

Much discussion took place on the potential Safari to New Zealand in 1974 and it was decided that the views of members be obtained through the "Courier".

### **PROPOSED SAFARI TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND FEBRUARY-MARCH 1974**

At the Delegates Meeting held in Perth during the Jubilee Safari and after much discussion on future activities in the way of trips it was tentatively suggested that the next organised all States trip or Safari be held in New Zealand, possibly in February or March, 1974. These particular months were suggested as this is the best season weatherwise to see New Zealand.

It is impressed upon members that the above is at present purely tentative and is subject to all States agreeing on this arrangement or failing agreement some other venue is decided upon.

Some preparatory work has already been done on the New Zealand project and Len Bagley has been in touch with Travel Time International regarding costs and such like and various modes of transport.

The recommendation by T.T.I. is for air travel all the way from Perth to Perth. A package deal using air travel from Perth to New Zealand and return with full accom-

modation for a 15 day sojourn in New Zealand could be arranged at a cost of \$550 per person. This would be considerably cheaper for Eastern State members with the lesser distance to be covered.

It would be possible in this deal, if it were thought worth while, for a one, two or three day stop off at Sydney en route and a similar stop off in Melbourne on return. This of course, would mean extra accommodation costs at these points for participants.

The possibility of a sea trip to Sydney and then air to New Zealand has not been ruled out and enquiries are continuing to discover costs, etc. Sea travel would of course, extend the duration of the trip and it is realised that most people are restricted to a bare three weeks plus any public holidays available in the time span allotted.

The object of publishing this matter at this time is to try to obtain ideas from members as soon as possible regarding this or other safari ideas. It also must be realised that the time factor is important, because the proposed trip is only two years away and bookings for such trips have to be made well in advance.

Having read the foregoing would you please give the matter some deep and cogitating thought and then write in to Box T1646, G.P.O., Perth, 6001. and advise if you could be considered to be a LIKELY participant.

If you have any ideas on the subject of the 1974 Safari also advise us but please, please, make it soon.

Having regard to the wonderful times had on past events in which all States have participated, a wonderful holiday is an assured fact because we have that facility to get together so amicably and have a ball.

Your early reply would be most appreciated.

### **DAY OUT AT JOE AND HELEN POYNTON'S HOME AT MANDURAH**

A firm date of Sunday, Feb. 20, has been arranged for this picnic function and we thank Joe and Helen very much for making their venue available.

Helen is quite happy for people to arrive as early as they like, say around 10 o'clock. Barbecue fires

will be available but you must take your own food and meat as you desire. Drinks will be available for both adults and children.

There is a very good beach for the children to swim quite close.

If you are the nervous type about driving and drinking then a bus leaves Perth at 9.45 a.m., arriving at Mandurah at 11.30 a.m. and departs again for Perth at 6 p.m. The fare is only 75 cents each way. This could prove to be the ideal way to travel. We do not discount hiring a special bus if we can get enough takers.

To get to the Poynton Rancho: Turn off at Orion Road (about a quarter of a mile short of the new Mandurah Hotel), then turn left at the beach road, or turn off at the new Mandurah Hotel and turn right at the beach. Sign posts of the Unit colour patch will direct you to the property.

### Personalities

Our most sincere congratulations to Harry Holder on being awarded an M.B.E. in the recent New Year Honours List for his work for Ex-Service Men and Women. The honour is richly deserved as both Harry and Maisie have devoted their lives to the cause of ex-service personnel ever since the war and have done a magnificent job. I'll bet Maisie is a very proud lass and so would Harry's lovely mother be a proud woman too.

And again our sincere congratulations to Fred Gardiner on receiving a British Empire Medal in the same

award for his long efforts in the area of the Public Service. Fred retired in July 1971 from the Public Service where he was a top Super-Vising Technician in P.M.G. He worked long and strongly for the Postal Institute in many capacities and was President for a number of years. He also worked as Secretary, President and you name it for the Postal Technicians Union and was a Life Member of that organisation.

Our Association can feel fully proud that two of its members were so honoured.

In Perth in the new year from Porphyry was Ernie Hoffman. Had the great good fortune for him to call on us on Wednesday, Jan. 12, and have a good old wongie, then on Thursday we and Keith and Val Hayes were his guests at Park Towers where he did us most proudly. Keith and Hoffy were able to get together for the first time since 1946 so you will understand the chin wagging that went on. Hoffy looked in the absolute pink and glowing with ruddy health. He reported the Kalgoorlie Brigade in good trim.

Had Christmas greetings from countless dozens of the gang, many too many to publish here but thank you all very much for your kind thoughts.

The "Courier" wishes all its readers all the very best for 1972 and hopes that this year will bring you all you would wish yourselves. We as an Association, had a great year in 1971 with the Jubilee Safari and the Mammoth Raffle and we can only hope that 1972 sees us even more united than ever.

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**OUTING TO MANDURAH**  
**JOE AND HELEN POYNTON'S RESIDENCE**  
**SUNDAY, 20th FEBRUARY**  
**The Picnic of the Year**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT**  
**TUESDAY, 7th MARCH, 1972**

**Please be there and learn how your Association did in 1971 and what it intends for 1972 and later years**

# New South Wales News

This is a report, and not a letter.

We held our Annual General Meeting on Monday, Nov. 1. Present were (and this is from memory): Alan Luby, Jack Hartley, Alan Addison, Ron Trengrove, Bill Bennett, John Darge, Bill Coker, Tom Martin, Tom Fields, "Snow" Went, Mick Devlin, Cliff Paff and Paddy Kenneally. Apologies from Jim English and I think one other whose name I can't recall at present. Unfortunately I have not the minutes of the meeting so it's a memory job.

All positions were declared vacant and elections for a new Committee were held. It didn't take long. Alan Luby elected unopposed as President; Bill Coker, Mick Devlin and Alan Addison, vice presidents.

Tommy Martin, who was unanimously elected Returning Officer, ran the election according to "Hoyle". When it comes to procedure and protocol in meetings and debate Tom is second to none, after years spent on various boards and committees. He is a hard man to toss in debate as my many defeats at his hands testify.

He declared Bill Coker senior vice president, so Bill returns to the lists as a senior committee man once more.

Mick Devlin is a new face although he did fill the position of vice president when Don Murray resigned to take up a business in Coffs Harbour.

A new position has been added, Country Liaison Officer. Cliff Paff was the natural choice. He travels the country centres fairly regularly in his position with "Dairy Farmers Ltd." It's a good idea. Cliff will be able to make more personal contact with our country members and give them first hand information on the aspirations of the Association, news of the various members he contacts, and let them also know some of the difficulties encountered in keeping the Association afloat.

I was elected (shanghied would be a more appropriate word) to the position of Secretary-Treasurer. So may the good Lord help and safeguard the financial destinies of the N.S.W. Branch of the Association, because Paddy Kenneally is an aw-

fully weak kneed one when it comes to financial wizardry.

Ron Trengrove bowed out. He deserves a spell. He caught it hard and tough as the organiser of the N.S.W. and Queensland section of the Safari was laid squarely, and none too gently, on his shoulders, and in the opinion of all here he did a job of work of which he can be justifiably proud.

Poor Bill Bennett—I almost forgot him and I shouldn't as he has been re-elected Auditor for the next 12 months. I hope I never feel his wrath on official business.

From memory that's about the sum total of the proceedings, except for one item.

At the October meeting a notice of motion was accepted that it would be moved at the General Meeting that all N.S.W. members be requested to make a donation of \$2 per head to the Association (N.S.W. Branch).

This was dealt with and carried after some soul searching debate. On this I wish to elaborate further. With your permission, dear Editor, I would like it to be in the form of an open letter to our N.S.W. members.

Dear Fellow Members of N.S.W.:

Since its foundation this Branch of the Association has managed to survive, in the financial aspect, heaven alone knows how. I remember years ago we had a membership fee of 10/- or one present-day dollar. That was observed more as an exception than a rule. Anyway it just faded into the limbo of forgotten things and no one duly worried about it.

At some stage, usually an Anzac Day, we'd all kick the "can" to help kitty along, and instead of enjoying himself Jack Hartley would be raising the where-with-all to keep a bit of change in the treasury to help defray postal expenses and other items in the ensuing year.

Victoria came to light with the Melbourne Cup Sweep and invited us in on a pro rata basis. After expenses we got whatever profit was going on the tickets we sold, and quite frankly this was a lifesaver for us.

The Safari of 1968 posed more problems for us. We had to have finance as we were to be hosts, so we went into the sweepstake business ourselves, using the Sydney Cup for the sweep. We reasoned this was far enough away from the Melbourne Cup and the Kalgoorlie Cup (run by the W.A. Branch) to ensure success. To be perfectly candid, whilst it wasn't a financial loss, it wasn't such a hell of a great success either. I remember one year L. H. Litchfield won it. With his butts he forwarded a note that in the event of him winning we were to accept the prize money as a gift, and thanks to Litchfield's generosity, we managed to show a profit.

Last year was much the same. The number of members who returned the books they received without one ticket being sold, was appalling. The full books certainly spelt out a message of complete apathy on the part of the receivers. Frankly I believe it's an apathy arising from carelessness, and lack of thought. I do not believe that the men we knew in this Unit would behave in such a manner had they given the matter any consideration.

Remember, West Australia has for years carried the burden of the "Courier". We have made donations on an Association level. Many members have donated privately as well. However we must try and do more for them.

We need funds to carry on with postage and everything else pertaining to the running of this Branch of the Association.

So far the calls on the Association for assistance from needy members have been few. This fact I wish to make known. Any call for assistance has always come from another member, not from the person requiring it. Fortunately some

member always gets to know of another's needs, or temporary trouble, and gives us the information. As the years roll on more members or their widows are likely to need some assistance and we have to be in a position to render this help. We'll never do it on the profit of the Sydney Cup sweeps. They wouldn't keep the cocky in peanuts. Hence the appeal for a donation of \$2 per head and I hope we can keep it down to per annum.

We wish to point out that this is not a membership fee. Membership fees lapsed many years ago. West Australia officially abandoned Membership Fees some years ago, a move with which we in N.S.W. heartily agreed. As you were a member of the 2/2nd Commando Sqd., or Independent Coy., call it what you may, you are a member of the Association. That is the only factor for membership. Fees have nothing to do with it, and if you never give us a cent you remain a member and are entitled to any help this Association can give should you need it.

Furthermore there's a bloke in West Australia running a paper to keep us widely dispersed members abreast with all that's happening to fellows we all knew so well in our army days. The poor devil suffers badly from news malnutrition. Drop him a line, and don't just say, I'm not used to the pen, I'm going well, good bye. Tell him how bloody well or badly, you are going. Your lives can't be that uninteresting that you can't find something to write about. You may as well be dead otherwise. Surely to heaven there is some news you can give him even if it's only a ding dong fight with your wife. A fighting woman is full of interest.

Good night and God bless you all.

—PADDY KENNEALLY.

## RANDOM HARVEST

**PETER BARDON, of 6GN Radio Station and ABGW6 Television Station, Geraldton, W.A., writes:—**

First of all, let me say: "I told you, I told you. you smartee footie followers." I am, of course, referring to my prediction that both Geraldton Brigades and West Perth would go premiers. And what a

thrill I received when my son Ross won the toss for Brigades when playing his 100th League game and then went on to play a beaut game. We were 4.3 behind at the start of the last quarter and were kicking against the breeze—and we kicked 7.1, to win by seven points.

Now onto other things—and, of

course, people. There is no doubt about the solidarity and initiative of accountant/yachtsman Eric Smyth. Always a champion of the interests of other people, Eric received a great ovation from Geraldton rate-payers when he successfully moved at the Annual Meeting that the Town Council appeal against the Taxation Department's property re-valuations under a certain section of the Local Government Act—a section which most people, including Councillors, did not know existed. Our Council had not raised its rate—it had kept it at 5 cents in the dollar on unimproved capital values—but as a result of the re-valuations rates increased by up to 300 per cent.

Had a chat with Bruss Fagg, of Northampton, the other day. This R.S.L. stalwart was at an R.S.L. Regional Conference at the Geraldton Civic Centre, at which we were delighted to receive unanimous support for the Regional Annex of the Mt. Lawley War Veterans' Home that is to be built at Geraldton. Bruss wished to be remembered to all his old mates.

Nip Cunningham also sends his kind regards to you all. Nip and his wife, Mary, were certainly showing the young ones a thing or two during a jitter bugging session at one of Brigade's footie socials. However, Nip and Yours Truly reckon the game's crooked—neither of us won the big raffle in which we had \$20 tickets.

Haven't seen Eric Weller for some time but have had the pleasure of conversing with his charming daughter, Ann, a couple of times when walking to work. However, Eric and his wife, Margaret, are at Karatha, one of the new iron ore towns in the north-west where Eric is helping to erect further homes as a member of a Geraldton building firm.

The coming weekend will be a big one for Geraldton as we will be commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first air mail flight in Australia—between Geraldton and Derby. We'll be covering it on T.V. so no doubt some of you will be seeing it. I got a beaut story from a 2/28th veteran, Fred Mallard, who as a young 66 year old vividly recalled having seen one of the three aircraft involved in the historic airmail flight, crash on

"Murchison House" Station, with the loss of two lives.

Well, duty calls, so I must be off. However, let me say how pleased we all were when one of my brothers, John, was honoured by Pope Paul in being elevated to the rank of Monsignor, which entitles him to "The Right Reverend", in appreciation of his work as Administrator of the Cathedral Parish at Geraldton and also on behalf of the vast Geraldton Diocese, which is the biggest Catholic Diocese in the world.

Kind regards to all the boys.

**DOROTHY TRENGROVE, of 46 Hillcrest Avenue, Mona Vale, 2103 writes:—**

I would be grateful if you could publish this letter in the next edition of the "Courier".

When the visitors from N.S.W. returned from the West I was the recipient of a lovely gift in the form of a brooch featuring what Ron tells me is an "Ironstone", in a silver setting. This gift came wrapped with a lovely card bearing the names of all the ladies of the visiting party.

I have only seen two of the ladies to thank personally since their return and so thought that if you would publish this. I could in this way say "thank you" to each and everyone of them for their very thoughtful gesture expressed in such a lovely way—someone in the party evidently knew my obsession with lapidary and the collecting of gemstones and I am indeed very thrilled with this gift.

Being a lazy person when it comes to letter writing I hope you will all excuse me for not writing to you individually, but please take this as a very sincere "thank you" for the lovely thought. By the way, couldn't anyone have got rid of all that stone Ron had? It has mutilated one suitcase on the way home and looks as though it is eventually going to push the bottom shelf out of a coffee table—not to mention the fact that I am threatened with a plan to knock out part of a wall and substitute THAT STONE.

Once more thank you all for the lovely gift and I hope that all members of the 2/2nd and their families have a happy Christmas and enjoy good health and happiness in the coming year.

**JIM SMITH, of Green & Co. (Kieta) Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 68, Kieta, Bougainville, T.N.G., writes:—**

Being domiciled for the past 18 months in a part of the world which is still of some passing interest to most 2/2nd members, I guess it is high time pen was put to paper to tell you something about it.

Early last year at the age of 49 I found myself fed up with the "rat race" of a big city and was lucky enough to team up with an old acquaintance with reasonable interests in the territory who saw fit to appoint me manager of his Kieta, Bougainville company.

So on May 1 I found myself once more in the tropics looking after a retail and wholesale business operating in most things—general store in other words—with the addition of three work boats, an automotive workshop as well as real estate interests. We trade also in crocodile skins, cocoa beans, copra, trochus shell, etc., and in this regard our work boats are kept busy.

It's a busy life—working about 75 hours a week but this in itself keeps one quite fit and a darned sight more healthy than down south.

As you perhaps know, a 400 million dollar copper project will commence production at Panguna, 21 miles from Kieta about May next year. A few facts and figures may be of interest. Mining will commence with a daily intake of 80,000 tons of copper ore, stepping up rapidly to 85,000 tons. It's low grade deposit and only by mining massive quantities can it be made to pay.

The ore will be transported to the crusher in trucks carrying 100 tons per load and this plus a tare weight of 105 tons makes a sizeable vehicle. There are 36 of them and they cost \$250,000 each!

In the first year 150,000 tons of copper concentrate will be exported PLUS 500,000 ounces of gold.

After concentrating at the mine site water will be added to form a slurry and this will then be pumped in plastic pipes to the brand new port of Loloho. Water will then be driven off and the remaining concentrate shipped in bulk carriers.

A brand new town to accommodate 10,000 people is nearing completion at Arawa and workers will commute daily the 16 miles to Panguna. To make available the land

for the town site a plantation was bought and razed—at a cost of \$5 million.

Many Association members will perhaps remember Paul Mason, well known for his coast watching exploits on Bougainville. He's still here—managing the same plantation he did pre-war. A man of 72 now with failing eyesight. He was 49 when the Japs were chasing him all over this island. I often see him.

My wife and I were fortunate enough to be included in the guest list for a reception to the Duke of Edinburgh when he was here some six months ago. Truly a very wonderful, easy going person to talk to and a delight to meet.

My thoughts were with you at the time of the Safari and I do hope it all went off well. With "The Doig" whipping the cat plus many able "lieutenants" I'm sure no stone was left unturned in an effort to ensure the success of such a great event.

This is being written in the wheel house of one of our work boats on its way round the bottom end of Bougainville to Empress Augusta Bay—in fact close to Torokina. We have a good native skipper plus three crew and are carrying a swag of trade goods plus rice, meat, fish, lap lap, etc., to sell or sort of barter in exchange for copra, cocoa and trochus. Should be home in about four days.

Fishing is great with trolling lines seldom catching much less than 15-20 lb. Quite a change with nothing much to do in between villages but eat and sleep.

Enclosed is a cheque for the Association.

Would appreciate hearing from any of the old china plates and if anybody visits Kieta and fails to stay at my place LOOK OUT.

Cheers and kind regards.

**NANCE ROSE, of Box 165, P.O. Hillston, N.S.W., writes to Ron Trengrove:—**

Just a short note to say I posted your book to you today. Was cleaning out John's wardrobe and found it in the bottom of a drawer, and presume it belongs to you. So sorry about the delay, but in all the confusion whilst in Sydney I didn't even know he had your book.

Also John and I want to take this



opportunity of wishing you and all the folks the very best for your trip over to the West next week. You can be sure we'll be with you in "spirit" and thinking of your wonderful re-unions over there. How we would dearly love to be with you all, but fate has decreed otherwise, and at the moment I'm just so thankful John is recovering from his operation and can only count my blessings.

I wrote to "Mac" McCann at Ashfield the other day and asked him to ring you to say the Repat. have at last recognised John and he is getting 100 per cent pension at present, and I receive \$4.05 per week, which was a great boost to the morale, and the bank account! They back payed him from December (me too), so many thanks to all your wonderful folk down there who did your very best for us—we surely are grateful to everyone.

1971 just isn't our year I'm afraid—John was operated on in June for a lump in his side (which proved to be cancerous), and on the 9th August he was again operated on in Griffith, and his lymph glands were removed from under the armpit. He is still in Griffith Hospital, and improving every day I'm glad to say, and we hope to have him home by the end of this week. He had to have a skin graft and has certainly taken a "bashing"—am afraid I'd have given it away, but he has a wonderful fighting spirit, and although very weak is more like his old self again. I've been madly dashing back and forwards to Griffith and spend most weekends there to be with him—luckily Karen is boarding there and was able to visit her Dad every day, so that was a big help.

My eldest brother (52) passed away in May, and we had a rushed 800 mile trip to and from Mudgee, so you can see I've had a good excuse for not having written before.

Do hope Dorothy and the boys are 100 per cent, plus your bright self. We often think of you all down there—wouldn't like to hazard a guess as to when we'll hit Sydney again, but if and when we do, you can be sure we'll contact you.

All the best now, Ron, back to slavery, but John particularly asked me to drop you a note to wish you

well on the trip. I know his thoughts will be with you.

Love to Dorothy, regards to yourself and the boys, and best wishes for a safe return.

**PADDY KENNEALLY, of 28 Wilkins Street, Yagoona, N.S.W., 2199, writes:—**

I've had one fine weekend—making out my income tax. Yearly I scratch what's left of my curly locks, and wonder where the devil does the money go. I don't drink to excess, gave up gambling years ago (unless I can find a solo whist school) got no mistresses, and don't shower my wife with furs, diamonds, expensive outings, etc. The kids reckon the wages I give them wouldn't keep them in all day suckers, and at the end of each financial year I'm usually no better off than I was the one before—financially that is.

Then I start totting up the expenses, and find that the country is lucky I don't run it. It costs me a lot to make a bit, and I was awful ignorant of the facts of life. I used to look back at my grandparents on both sides, and look at the nine or ten they reared. I've only got four, and by gosh I never realised I indulged in luxuries until I looked at the budget for children. Just as well they give me plenty cause for fights, otherwise there would be no fun at all.

Our youngest is growing up. He went off on Saturday to sit for his entrance exam. for the Brother's school. Some of the boys said it was hard, some said it was easy. Gerald finished it in record time, and knowing Gerald that could be record low marks too. You should have seen him the night before. I thought he may be sitting for the High School Certificate. Swotting his head off, trying to get four years work done in two hours. Study rests lightly on his shoulders. Good luck to him. Ambition, aspirations, and a desire for material things will hit him soon enough. Let him enjoy his childhood for a while yet.

The more I see of ambition, the more convinced I become that as a prize it's in the booby category. It's so easy to be happy without a whole heap of "wants" and "wishes" which only give a man ulcers in trying to achieve and gratify them. I'll eventually get to the stage of living each

day as it comes, accept what it brings and finish up living to over 90, as three of my grandparents did, nine or ten kids, and all thrown in, and plenty of poverty to boot, plus a couple of rebellions.

Siren going hell for leather. Don't know whether it's police or ambulance. Either way it's trouble for someone, deserved or not.

We could do with about six inches of rain round here. A strange complaint coming from a city slicker, particularly one who depends on fine weather to earn his daily bread. The place is pitiable, dry and dead. Nora has the hose going on the lawn each day and nearly all day, not the same as a drink from the sky.

All is more or less peaceful on the home front. Can't get an argument going with Helen these days. She just goes off and plays a record or strums a guitar. A poor substitute for a good argument.

Michael wants to come out and work with me on his holidays. Wants to save a couple of hundred dollars. Reckons he's going to the West next year after he sits for the Higher School Certificate. Mentioned his own wages. He wants to save \$200 in the time it takes me to save 20. These young blokes don't sell themselves short when it comes to what they consider their salary. Of course equating the same in accordance to their ability in my particular type of hard labour is a cat with another tail. I told him he couldn't lose. If he misses out on money, he'll more than make it up in muscles. I'll charge him nothing for the body-building.

Sean was looking for work as well. He doesn't place as high a value on his labour as Michael. Poor old Sean finds that his growing family of pigeons eat further into his wages each week. If the pigeons flew without eating he'd be right.

I'm off. I must be off early in the morning since daylight saving smote us a man is going to work in the dark summer and winter now, and too damned tired to enjoy the extra hour of daylight we get in the evening. I used to be quite content with it in the morning.

**SYD JONES, of 40 Stanhill Drive, Chevron Island, Surfers Paradise, Qld., writes:—**

I wrote to you some time back

and evidently you didn't receive it, as under the circumstances your address became mislaid so I sent it c/- R.S.L. Club.

Dear Enid, my wife, died, watching T.V. with me last February. A clot of blood found its way to her heart and I thought she had just dropped off to sleep, but she had died. I rang doctor, police and ambulance, then tried everything one could try, but hopeless.

The shock rendered me completely blank and everything became all mixed up and I left everything to her relations to share. I have two sisters and families living on the Gold Coast. One on the Isle of Capri, and the other on Chevron Island, and they claimed me and here I am. I don't live with them. I have a flat of my own. Very modern and comfortable and central and in the first class locality, and it was the best thing I've ever done. I could never have lived in Tasmania any more.

I dropped to 9 st. 3 lb. but I'm pushing 11 stone again now, so I'm slowly getting back to normal, but, boy, I've suffered.

I have a living ambition to return to Timor. I feel I could do a lot for the people there who have done so much for us. I know I could teach them a lot. Being a T.P.I. no pay would be wanted, just live with them and teach them our ways where needed. It would make my life worthwhile and prepare for another attack should another war or any trouble occur.

I'm only telling you this to see what you think. You may be in the position to advise me on the matter.

How are things with you, Col? I'm longing for a letter from you. I'm sorry I've lost contact with you. You seem to tell me all I want to know in a few words.

Chevron Island is a lovely place to live. The climate compared with Tassy is perfect, and such nice people. Everyone is everyone's friend. They seem to have made a little god out of me. Of course I know what you'll think about that, but I can take it.

Well, mate, I hope this reaches you. It's my last hope. Give my kindest regards to all.

(Printed for the Publisher by "The Swan Express", 10 Helena Street, Midland, W.A.)