



## 2/2 COMMANDO **Courier**

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### CHRISTMAS TIDE

In Charles Dickens wonderful story "A Christmas Carol", the tight fisted miser Scrooge referred to Christmas as "a humbug — a time for finding yourself a year older and not a penny richer". Scrooge was a very unpleasant fellow who later changed his views, but sometimes I can't help but having a sneaking sympathy for his view point. With all the worry and flurry, with more expensive gifts, with increased postage costs, so one has to cut down on the time honoured custom of sending Xmas cards, with food prices spiralling — it's no wonder we hear the housewife say "I'll be glad when Xmas is over".

And yet — what does Christmas mean to us all? For some it is still the festival that marks the birth of the Christ — child, and the beginning of the Christian era and these people remember in their joyous church services and the singing of the lovely old carols. To others it is a family re-union time, when all members make a special effort to be together. For some it is an excuse for overeating and drinking. Others think the Day wasted if their quota of presents is not big or lavish enough, and for others — and I speak now of the people of the Third WORLD — there is nothing — no food, no shelter — no future.

But still, as Christmas draws near we all do what we have to do, and I guess for most of us it is a time of remembering our relatives, old friends and new, and at our age, remembering past Christmases and what they meant, finding pleasure in our grandchildren, and being thankful that we live in a free and opulent society.

Whatever Christmas means to you, the President and Committee of this Association wish all members and their families joy, happiness and contentment and a "merry, merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

### COMING EVENTS

7th DECEMBER —

XMAS GET TOGETHER, LOUNGE, ANZAC CLUB. BRING THE LADIES.

30th JANUARY (Sunday) —

MANDURAH OUTING, POYNTON RESIDENCE, 169 ORMSBY TCE., —  
MAKE IT A MUST. BRING YOUR OWN MEAT, SALADS PROVIDED.

1st FEBRUARY —

FILM NIGHT OF SAFARI, BRING THE LADIES AND MAKE IT A  
SUCCESS.

1st MARCH (Tuesday) —

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. MAKE THIS MEETING AND SUPPORT  
THE INGOING COMMITTEE.

## 1976 SAFARI

What a wonderful Safari for 1976! I feel entitled to say that, because we enjoyed it so much, even being the Host State, and very involved in the organising end of it. It was such a re-union of old friends, some not seen for thirty years, and with many new friends, everything seemed to go so well.

First day, Sunday 29th was meeting again day and folk arrived by different means of transport. Bill collected Tex Richards from the airport, not having seen him since war years. After dinner, with a few drinks and much reminiscing we went back to the Great Southern Hotel in town, where most of the visitors were staying, for the official welcome. There was much camaraderie and imbibing, with a nice supper provided by our many N.S.W. good cooks, as we were later led to believe, anyway.

Day two, Monday, was a tour of the historic Rocks Area, the very oldest section of Sydney Cove. Bill and I could not attend that day, but the visitors were looked after by Mick and Betty Devlin, who both did a sterling job throughout the Safari. That evening we joined about forty visitors and friends having dinner at the "Spaghetti Factory". It is a huge old bond store, styled as an old time restaurant, filled with memorabilia of by-gone days and quite fascinating to explore. It was a pleasant evening and seemed to be enjoyed by all.

Day three, Tuesday, was a bus tour of the Northern Beaches, and Pittwater Peninsular. It was a pity to be raining and spoiled many of the scenic views. A barbecue lunch was arranged at the Palm Beach R.S.L. Club, then later the group were brought to Bennett's for a smorgasbord tea. Considering the original idea was for "tea and biscuits", and we crammed sixty eight people into our not very large home, we did well, I think. The french doors were opened onto the front porch and the men gallantly stayed out there with their refreshments, and ladies played musical chairs in the lounge area. Another delicious spread was arranged by our ladies, and we had fry-pans and power points going full blast in nearby rooms, with willing hands at the urn, making tea and coffee. I must say thank you to all concern-

ed, there was not a drop of spilt food or drink and nothing broken, which was incredible, considering so many people.

Day four, Wednesday, was the re-union dinner and what a marvellous job Mrs. Darby and her staff at the Great Southern accomplished. An attractive decor of red and white, coupled with good service and a quite tasty dinner of seafood cocktail, half baked chicken and vegetables, followed by chocolate ice-cream cake or fruit salad, served with wines. It was especially good to see Paddy Kenneally and Mick Devlin receive Life Membership Badges. Also to meet again some of the widows of departed mates, namely Ruby Das Santos, Mavis Harris and Edna Olde. John Grant gave an interesting talk on his ship's involvement with the Timor campaign.

Day five, Thursday, quite a few visitors were taken on a tour of the Eastern Beaches, but mainly it was a free day.

Day six, Friday, 3rd September, we had a good bus load for a trip to Katoomba in the Blue Mountains, a very old and famous tourist area. We had intended to tour Jenolan Caves but it was too far and tiring for one day. It was a fine day, somewhat cold and windy, but we still enjoyed a good barbecue lunch, the chief cooks being Jack Hartley and Frank Sharp, with Maria Hartleys much enjoyed coleslaw to help it along.

Day seven, Saturday, 4th September. Free Day.

Sunday, 5th September, dawned fine and sunny, a perfect day for our cruise on Sydney harbour. We had a great crowd aboard and another superb lunch provided by the Anzac Day Caterers. Crisp salads with chicken and cold meats, followed by mouth-watering cakes, especially eclairs, you can tell one of my favourite subjects, can't you. We enjoyed happy community singing, aided by Don Latimer's trusty accordion and Dulcie's guiding finger on the suggestion sheet. I'm sure some of the men cursed not bringing their binoculars, for a closer look, as we passed Lady Jane's Beach, famous for acquiring an all-over suntan, there.

Monday, 6th September, was a bad day, weatherwise, raining and

cold which rather spoilt our trip to Kurnell, Captain Cook's landing place on Australia. We adjourned to a large shelter shed nearby Gunnamatta Bay and were able to spread our smorgasbord lunch on tables there, later we spent a couple of pleasant hours in the Cronulla club, warm and cosy, but none too friendly poker machines. I did hear that one W.A. lady did rather well on the machines at Palm Beach the previous week.

Tuesday, 7th September. Another free day.

Wednesday, 8th September, was a particularly nice day, thanks mainly to the efforts of Bob and Joyce Smith. We toured by bus through Gosford, on the Northern Expressway, to Tonkley R.S.L. Club, where we enjoyed yet another delectable smorgasbord lunch. From there we continued to Norah Head Lighthouse, which we inspected. All this was arranged by Bob, a lighthouse-man of old, and it was quite fascinating to learn how important these lights are to shipping. It was here that Len Bagley received on behalf of the W.A. Association a pennant, also impressive cuff links and tie-bar from the Tonkley R.S.L. committee. I can't vouch for this story but heard it on very good authority, the men missed a treat while inspecting the lighthouse. There was an actual striptease performed on the bus, very discreetly, of course.

Thursday, 9th September, we departed once again, for a tour of the Minchinbury Winery, on the Great Western Highway at St. Marys. Quite interesting to see how the wine is bottled and labelled. We arranged a barbecue lunch again, the weather was unkind to us. The wine tasting was popular, especially with the ladies, who rather enjoyed the sparkling burgundy.

Friday, 10th September was the last tour, this time down the South Coast, to the big steel works area of Port Kembla, passing through the city of Wollongong. Our morning tea bus stop was at the top of Bulli Pass, called Sublime Point, which has a magnificent view down the coast. Once again the unpleasant wind spoilt the day, but we made up for it by indulging in an enjoyable morning tea of fresh scones, jam and cream obtainable at the kiosk there. We continued on to Shellharbour Workers Club for a hot lunch and a little relaxing. There we were pleased again to meet Jim

Hallinan and Flora whom we have not seen for many years. They live at Huskisson.

Saturday, 11th September, was our last get together, with dinner at the City of Sydney R.S.L. Club, then later back to the Great Southern for more laughs and fun but sadness to think this good Safari was at last ended.

I must not finish before I've told a few stories I've heard of or witnessed, during this great time, which helped to make it the success, I feel. The only one I can mention the name, in case I am sued, concerned my dear Bill. Those good friends, Betty and Keith Craig, had taken their unit as usual at the Zebra Motel in town and dispensed tea and coffee and wonderful hospitality to many visitors and locals quite often. On one occasion, we were there with a group, including Coral and Bill Coker, who had to leave early. After a while, Coral rang to say she had left her hand bag and would someone bring it to the footpath and they would drive by and collect it. Bill volunteered and off he went with the long gold chain draped over his shoulder. In a moment I started to giggle, realising the picture he presented, so we all gathered on the balcony, and made rude remarks and gestures to him. When he returned Bill joined in the fun remarking "yes, I'm sure I could have made a few dollars if I had really tried".

Also who was the lady from the West, who started the Safari on a good note by locking herself in the toilet at the hotel and had to be rescued by the smallest lady in the group?

Now you wouldn't think a lady-like person such as Edith Luby would dispense wine in plastic cups to all and sundry, would you? Especially while hiding under the table with the bottle. This happened one night at the Great Southern, while waiting for the men to have a meeting, and it was a very nice drop Edith had brought along for the ladies to sample. I believe one N.S.W. gent was so anxious to get started one of our trips, he was later in much trouble, because he had donned his underpants back to front.

Of course we still don't know whether Snowy Went ever returned from the wilds of Katoomba. He generously offered to drive Shorty Stevens and wife back home there,

after the dinner at the Sydney R.S.L. Club, which is about 80 kilometres, one way.

I am sure Alan Luby is a first class Ambulance Superintendent but as a weather forecaster, not so sure. No doubt his method of wetting one finger and holding it to the breeze, would go down well with our Sydney Weather Bureau, they are wrong so often.

I must say it was lovely to see Jess Epps so well and fighting fit as usual, also to meet her very nice friend Ann Douglas. It was a shame to lose so many friends, early in the Safari, due to commitments, especially Elsie and Scotty Wares. I hope they enjoyed their

respective journeys. So ended a wonderful time after which I looked after my two grandchildren for ten days, which was rather hectic. I was glad to accompany Edith to a health farm for a short rest, but that's quite another story, maybe for the Courier.

In closing Bill and I were very touched with the many cards and phone calls we received personally from many friends, as regards our efforts for the Safari. Thank you all — JUNE BENNETT.

(June on behalf of the Association, I wish to thank you for the very informative resume of the 1976 Safari — Editor).

## WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS

### CLAREMONT

I received a phone call and a letter last week from Max Berman — Consul in Dilli at the time of the Dedication Ceremony. He is now in Canberra attached to the Dept. of Business and Consumer Affairs. Reduced staff ceilings and consequent reduction in the number of positions at his level, caused his move from Diplomatic Affairs after postings to Singapore, Tokyo, Dilli, Buenos Aires, and Paris.

Max has entered a short story in a newspaper competition and based his story on the Dedication Ceremony. First prize is \$2,000 and second prize \$700. Max will present half his prize money to unit funds for assistance to the Timorese if he should be lucky enough to collect a prize. One proviso is that the assistance must be given under some form of international supervision. Let's hope that Max becomes a prize winner and that we can become the intermediary in his generous gesture towards our old friends — the Timorese.

I know that many members will be pleased to hear that Max and his charming wife Shirley are both well and happy. Kind regards — John BurrIDGE.

### DONATIONS

The President wishes to thank the following for donations towards the publishing of the Courier:— D. Fitzgerald, L. Thompson, E. Bingham, T. Paull, M. Holland, A. Smith, J. Haire, H. Holder, J. Carey, A. Hillman, J. BurrIDGE, R. Aitken, D. Turton, R. Finklestein, J. Poyne-

ton, R. Kirkwood, A. Hodge, A. Cardy.

### ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday, 2nd October, 1976 at the Imperial Hotel, and thirty four members attended. This number was down on previous years as some members had not returned from the Safari and a few others were in hospital. From reports I have received a very pleasant evening was held and enjoyed by all.

The Chairman for the evening was Mick Morgan and he performed his duties in a very capable manner. The toasts were given as follows — The Queen, Doug Fullarton, The Unit and Association, Jack Carey, Our Visitors, Bob McDonald.

### SICK PARADE

A number of our members have been on the sick list and some have been hospitalised.

Len Bagley on his return from the Safari has been in hospital and underwent major surgery and at time of going to press is progressing slowly.

Doug Fullarton has been in Hollywood and had an operation for a double hernia, from reports he is now on the mend.

Jack Hasson is still being troubled with the broken heal, but has now got the plaster off.

Ken Bowden has now given away the crutches and is doing well, after his second plastic hip joint.

Bert Tobin from reports has again gone to hospital but have not got any details.

Scotty Wares after returning from



the Safari had a spell in Hollywood and still not 100%, but will improve.

Clarrie Turner's daughter Bethel had a serious accident in Darwin and had to be sent to Royal Perth Hospital for major surgery. I visited her this evening and happy to report that the operation was successful.

To all those on the sick list we wish them speedy recoveries.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

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COURIERS addressed to the following have been returned to the

Perth Box number so if anyone knows of their new addresses please notify the Editor and the future issues will be sent.

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#### CALCUTT TROPHY NIGHT

The Calcutt Trophy Competition which was to be held on Tuesday, 2nd November had to be cancelled due to a dire lack of members attending. This is a great pity as it is really held to honour one of the greatest supporters the Association have had over the years. Members who in previous years had won the trophy failed to make an appearance, and try to win a second one.

As Editor I am very sorry to perhaps have seen the last of so fine a competition.

## New South Wales News

As this is my first newsletter since the end of the 1976 Safari, I sincerely hope and trust that all participants made it safely and soundly back to their respective domiciles, and in so doing thought that the time and effort spent in joining the Safari well worth their while. The N.S.W. committee held one of their extra special democratic elections recently??, and have nominated June Bennett to be our official, acting unpaid correspondent and who in due course will give a complete resume of the happenings, humorous and otherwise during the Safari, and for my money it could not have happened to a nicer lady. We have no doubt that she will do an excellent job.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking each and all, who in some way contributed, no matter what, towards the success of the Safari 1976, with our special thanks to our Ladies who in the opinion of all, really won the day, with their help and co-operation in the preparation with the food stuffs required for the various outings, with quality and quantity of a very high standard. How they managed to supply and cook some of the goodies that appeared on the tables, at such

short notice is beyond me, thanks again ladies.

To our N.S.W. President and Committee go my personal thanks for the assistance given me, when at times I seemed to be running around in ever increasing circles, with a special pat on the back to assistant secretary Jack Hartley, and my wife Betty who was of great assistance to me during and prior to the arrival of our visitors. I would like to thank most sincerely those gentlemen of the W.A. and N.S.W. committee who were responsible for me being honoured and privileged, to be the recipient of life membership, along with my good friend Paddy Kenneally. Our final thanks go the Safarites, their wives, families and friends who travelled from every corner of Australia to take part, and I daresay it was this dedication and keenness that really got the show going. Their convivial company was most enjoyed as usual, especially members who have not been sighted in N.S.W. since the end of the war. We had two late arrivals who just missed the Safari by a few days, I refer to Charlie Sadler and his wife Mavis, who have been on the road since June '76, in their caravan. They

stayed a few nights at Ryde Caravan Park and Ron Goodacre and his wife Marge invited them down to their home, the night prior to their returning to W.A. Betty and I went over to meet them and spent a pleasant few hours together.

I am pleased to say Len that after a quick check of accounts we look like being on the credit side.

I have now only a few sundry debts to pay, and when this accounting has been resolved, we shall be in a position to discuss possible subsidy of hotel accommodation. I still have no word from Tom Snowden, who was up to the last week before the Safari a definite starter.

Thanks to you good people who organised the Safari Raffle. The old Sydney is not the same since all the crowd went home, and I have been finding it most difficult to unwind, and resume the normal work and domestic chores. Even at this early stage I look forward to the 1978 Safari. I have condensed this letter so as not to cut across the coverage that June Bennett has prepared, so I will close now.

Please convey our thanks to all in W.A., best wishes, Mick Devlin.

#### EPPING

Please find enclosed cheque, being money previously donated by Alan Cardy to the Timor Appeal, and it is his request to be transferred to the Courier donations. Would you please arrange to thank the following donors to the Courier and N.S.W. Assn. in the next edition, A. Cardy, J. Hartley, K. Brown, F. Otway, G. Vandeleur all ex donors to Timor Appeal. Would it be possible to send over 1/2 doz. Ladies Lapel Pins and 1 dozen Tie Bars for the life members coming up, as we intend to catch up on a few people who are due. If you could arrange this I would be most obliged and let me know the cost and we will be very pleased to reimburse the W.A. branch. — Mick Devlin.

#### GRIFFITH

I must apologise for my late contribution to the Courier, also that I was unable to meet anyone during the Safari.

I have just recently sold my rice farm and was busy arranging the clearing sale and shifting at the same time. I am now in some sort of semi retirement.

We had a very dry Autumn and winter this year, and it didn't look

as though it would ever rain but since the first week in October we have had 5 inches. I have not seen anyone from the unit for quite some time, but now that I have no ties I hope to move around, and hope to make it to the West one day.

Enclosed postal note as donation towards the Courier. My regards to all members and I hope that I am around to receive the Courier for years to come — Alf Hodge.

#### DUBBO

A few lines to you and some news for the Courier.

I do trust that you had a very pleasant finale to the Safari and your cruise went off to plan and that you enjoyed it. We were so pleased to see you both again and enjoy the pleasure of your company even though it was only for a short period.

The remainder of the Safari went off very well and we were all glad to relax at the end. It was lovely people and wonderful friendship that will never be forgotten.

After relaxing from the wonderful Safari I have found time to say "Hallo" again to all our good friends who participated and travelled so far to join us once again and take part in our fourth Safari. To those who could not make it we send our good wishes and do hope that next time the numbers will double or even treble. It is only by the hard work of the organising committees and the continued loyal support from our members that keeps the association pulsating. Keep your shoulder to the wheel boys, assist the association and keep these wonderful re-unions going and to those that have never attended one, boy you don't know what you are missing, so please make sure you make the next bigger than ever.

I would like through the pages of the Courier to personally thank Mick and Betty Devlin and the N.S.W. committee for the organisation and success of the Safari, which was carried out so nicely. I thank you Mick for a job well done. To all those nice ladies who toiled with the preparation of meals each day and made their homes available to entertain us I do say thank you. Special thanks to Alan Luby, Paddy Kenneally, Mick Devlin, Bill Bennett, Jack Hartley for providing entertainment for our interstate visitors.

Time is running out so until next

time I wish you all the best of health and a very pleasant Christmas and may 1977 be very kind to one and all, regards, Frank Sharp.

### YOUNG

I have been meaning to write to you for weeks and weeks, but you know how time seems to get away. It was really wonderful to see you all in Sydney, and to have so many wonderful outings together.

The Safari got off to a great start with the wonderful welcome evening at the Great Southern. The food was delicious and I am sure enjoyed by everybody. It was a wonderful feeling to be able to just walk in and talk to everyone, as if you had only seen them a few days before, instead of it being such a long time. I am sure that letters to the Courier help so much in this regard, as each one knows a little about the members and their families.

Of course everybody asked me if I had my two left slippers. Yes I have them still, and I haven't bought any more shoes or slippers the same — or should I say 2 right ones this time — so that they could be used. They are a wonderful reminder of a good trip to Perth, if ever one was needed.

As we were not staying at the Great Southern, Phillip, Keith and I went off to the Zebra, where we were staying, and found it very pleasing and comfortable. Next morning, we all wandered down to Rocks area, and around the sights, and of course we examined the Argyle Centre rather thoroughly. We walked around to the Garrison Church which had really beautiful stained glass windows, and is built on the lines of the Canterbury Cathedral. It was really good to see it again, as it must be 40 years since I had been there. Then back to the Argyle Tavern for lunch, where we met the 'Mayor of the Rocks' dressed in his period costume, and were served lunch by wenches in period costume too. After lunch we wandered off in various directions, and a group of us found a very delightful merry-go-round. We enjoyed our rides on that too, and I would love to see the film which Jack Fowler took, and also some of the Photos too. Jess Epps and I were the only two game enough to ride on the merry-go-round, so we had all the fun.

We finished up walking back to

the Zebra and having the usual cuppa and biscuits, and having a lazy evening.

Tuesday saw us on the bus early for a trip around the northern beaches to Palm Beach. The day was very drizzly, and I am afraid the beaches were not at their best, but the spirits in the bus and the talk was most enjoyable, and it was good to see Lois and Angus McLaughlin join us for the trip. They could only stay for a day or two, but it was good of them to drive so far for a few days.

We had lunch at the Palm Beach R.S.L. Club, which was a very good meal, and of course the folk played the Poker Machines for ages. I am sure quite a few of them won a couple of jackpots, but others lost their money.

Keith and I came home to the Zebra, and the rest of the party went on to June and Bill Bennets for dinner and then back. From all accounts it was a really great evening too. I am sure everyone appreciated the wonderful food.

Wednesday was a free day, when the ladies had the opportunity to have their hair done, and some shopping if they felt inclined, or just wander round and see something they particularly wanted to.

We had a quiet day, really, and we had Phillip's friend, Carol Ayers with us, and then of course we had the dinner. This was held at the Great Southern and was a wonderful meal.

It was really good to see the number who turned up, and to meet up again with some of the ladies who hadn't been able to come into town on the Sunday. The welcome to one and all was sincere and it was a privilege to be part of it.

It was also a great pleasure to see Life Membership Badges presented to Paddy Keanelly and Mick Devlin. I am sure they were very proud to receive them that night.

After dinner and a drink or two downstairs, we wandered home to the Zebra and had folk in and out for the usual cuppa.

Thursday saw the groups off, on a bus tour, but I was not part of that one. Friday we did go for a trip around the southern beaches, had afternoon tea on the way, and I really enjoyed that trip, as it was just long enough for me.

The weekend seemed to be upon us, and we had so much to think

about and remember. Of course we had Janette and Stan fly down from Albury to spend the weekend with us, and it was good to have the whole of the family together, for possibly the last time for a while, as Stan has been posted to Townsville, and he and Janette leave towards the end of October.

We all went to the Russian Ballet, on the Saturday evening, and Joan Darge came along with us. Elsie Wares, Joyce Smith and Joan's daughter went to the Matinee performance, and Scotty, Bob and Joan spent the afternoon with us, and had a meal in the evening, before Scotty and Elsie left on their cruise to New Zealand and the Pacific. We had a lovely afternoon just chatting.

The Ballet was something that I could never describe, it was unbelievable, and thoroughly enjoyable and exciting. We had wonderful seats, 4 rows from the front, thanks to Merv. Jones, who had arranged all that for us, before he and Marj. left for their Canadian Trip. Sufficient to say, as Phillip put it, if someone had told me a couple of years ago, I would think Ballet was wonderful, I would have told them what I thought, but it was really something that I will never forget.

Sunday dawned clear and bright, although a bit breezy. We arrived at the Quay, to meet up with folk from all over again, and the day trip on the boat was really wonderful. We ate, drank, talked and sang and danced and generally had a really wonderful time. For good fun, good comradeship and all out enjoyment, I am sure that we as a group would be hard to beat.

We had to rush off a bit as soon as the boat docked, as Janette and Stan had to catch the plane to Albury. Phillip drove them to the Airport, and then they found that there was a 'go slow' on, which meant that they sat in the plane on the tarmac for about an hour. Phillip was tired of the Airport that day, as Carol had to catch the plane to Melbourne at 6.30 the same morning.

Sunday night we had a group of 18 for tea in the Unit, and great was the talk, while folk sat on the floor, lounges, chairs or stools. It was good having a nice Lounge room and full kitchen, as we could cope with as many as liked to come along.

We had a wonderful view too

from the balconys, and of course a better one from the observation deck, as Lois McLaughlin and I watched a big fire in Oxford Street, from there one Anzac Day many years ago. Maybe you will remember Lois. After all we had eaten that day, we decided that we would do our exercises while up there, viewing the city at night. It was good too.

We had a couple of quiet days ourselves, whilst others went on bus trips to Mountains, Newcastle area, and a Picnic out to Kurnell. I thought that it would be best to have a bit of a rest, but joined in to go to the Spaghetti Factory for a wonderful dinner.

The visits to the Rocks, Argyle Centre, Garrison Church and the Spaghetti Factory are really getting back to our beginnings, as this was the first part of the settlement in Australia. Wonderful that we still have so much of it available for future generations. I hope that they will appreciate it all.

A visit to the Opera House was also arranged, and that is something that is worth seeing. We have all heard so much about it, and so much controversy about it, but to me, it is worth every cent they spent on it.

My next plan is, to go to a big concert there, or to an Opera — if I can't understand it properly, at least I will be able to listen.

Keith and I went to the pictures one Morning to see "The Slipper and the Rose", the story of Cinderella. This was really delightful family entertainment — a real fairy story, with wonderful colour and photography. If you enjoy a fairy story, you will enjoy this.

We went to the Minchinberry Wine Cellars by bus one day, and were entertained really well. We had Champagne for morning tea, and the most wonderful steaks barbecued, for lunch, that anyone could ask for, along with a variety of wines, both red, white and pink. The wind was cold and strong but the winery had a very nice dining area, where we were very comfortable. A tennis court was available, and tennis was played with bits of pailing, round sticks, and even hands. It was fun to watch, and I am sure they enjoyed the exercise too.

Back to the Great Southern, for drinks and a chat, and a chance to say goodbye to some of the folk,

we wouldn't see again on the trip, as we had to leave for Young next morning. Those that could came around to the Zebra again, and we had tea for about 15 or 16 I think. Another wonderful evening of talk together and the usual cupa. Coral Coker, left her handbag there that evening, and Bill Bennett took it down to wait for them to come along in the car. We were sure he would be picked up by the police, as he was so unconcerned standing there waiting around. We had a great laugh at him from 10 storeys up.

Of course it was sad to say goodbye to one and all, but friendships like we have can never be broken or lost in the rush of everyday life. It will be a short parting for us, and we will one day soon we hope, pick up from where we left off and just take up the talk again, as if it had only been yesterday.

The bus left on Friday morning for the South Coast, and I am sure that the trip was really wonderful, even though there had been such a bad storm down there the night before, and quite a lot of damage to homes, roads, etc. We left Sydney about 7.30 a.m. and had a good trip, although Phillip found it very hard to drive, as the wind was very strong. Yes! I had to nurse that confounded 'Bear' all the way home. It was too big to put on top of the things in the back, as it rolled around, so I finished up with it on my lap. Many a laugh I had from the Semi drivers on the way, as they could all look down into the car and see it. In one way, I was sorry to part with it, as it really was beautiful. Janette said when Phillip arrived at Wodonga on his way back to camp, he was lucky to leave with it, as she wanted to keep it, but no way, said Phillip.

From the Friday on the party began to break up, as some of the folk were on their way to New Zealand, before going back to West Aust. and some for a week or two with relatives and friends. It would be lovely to be back home again, but what a wonderful lot of memories that we will all have of our friends, who really enjoy each others company. To the men of the 2/2 in Sydney and their wives, I am sure I speak for each and everyone, who attended any or all functions, thank you for a wonderful Safari, for the organisation and the time and effort you all put into it. If our enjoyment was any indica-

tion of how much we appreciated it all, I am sure you too will be satisfied.

There were of course the funny incidents, which make a safari so much more enjoyable and it is good that we can all see the funny side of things that happen, and also laugh at ourselves. We did have a few chortles at the lady who accidentally locked herself in the shower, and the lady who rang the China Shop to order food for the Chinese Dinner. At last I was able to get a bit of my own back about that one. Never mind Betty, we at least with gether. The folk who like to sit on a name like that have to stick to lounge room, instead of chairs, and the floor of either the bus or a so I could go on, but I am sure you all experienced some of these little incidents, which make everything so much better.

Well Scotty, we were sorry to hear that you had been in hospital, and we do hope that you are now home and well on the way to complete recovery. It was good to hear that you had such a good trip, and you were both such good travellers. I am sure that you will have many happy memories too of your trip on the 'high seas'. It was really lovely to have you and Bob at the flat that afternoon, and I hope that you enjoyed your time with us, as we did enjoy your company.

Since coming home we have been very busy. Phillip has been back and forth quite often, and last week-end had the misfortune to blow a valve in his ute, but he took our car back to camp, and Janette took his ute down for him, and brought our car back for me. I was lost without my wheels. Cars are certainly necessary evils. Stan has left for Townsville, and has now been there for about 10 days. He would be a little bit settled by now. Janette hopes to go up soon. They are trying to get a flat, as they are 137th on the waiting list for a house. They are not supposed to, but Janette said hang it all, I'll be here for 12 months or more.

I have been playing a bit of golf, and have had a couple of small wins. This last weekend, I played to make up the number, so I said, with the Proettes. They certainly make you lift your game, and I came in with a 66 net, 4 under par, on the first day, and so lost 2 strokes, and then the second day, came in with a 69, 1 under par,

self two very nice prizes those two and lost another stroke. I won my-days, and it was good to play so well. I played with Betty Dalgleish the first day, and she was really lovely to play with, and the second day with Lally Ireland, from Sydney too, and she was a little doll. Gail Flynn from Perth won the Tournament, and I believe played beautiful golf.

Now I must away. Janette is staying with us at the moment, and is going to Wodonga tomorrow morning to pack a few more things, and bring them home, and to finish cleaning up the house. She will then wait until Stan comes back for her, and they will leave for Townsville. I hope next week that she will cut a lot of the fruit for me and I will make the Christmas Cakes. If she is good, I will make her one too. Keith is well, and so am I. Keith has

been working hard in the garden, and there has been plenty to do too, as we have had so much rain, but we will soon after plenty of roses to pick (I hope). The buds are coming along really well. I have been busy too dressing a bride doll for the Presbyterian Church Garden Party next Saturday. Keith has chosen the name for her, and she does look nice. At the moment she is sitting in the window of the Jewellers shop at Young, and is attracting a lot of attention, and they are selling lots of guesses in her name. I hope a lovely little girl wins her, or a grandmother, who will give her to her daughter.

Best wishes to you both, and thank you both for your very pleasant company in Sydney.

Best wishes to all,

Keith and Betty Craig

#### QUOTES TO REMEMBER

Husband, poring over bills, to wife: "This year I suggest we limit our gift giving to exchanging pleasantries".

Woman to friend: "I hate this time of year. You have to start thinking

of everybody as under five dollars or over five dollars".

to jewellery salesman: "I'm looking

Woman, examining diamond pin, for a Xmas gift for a husband who got me an outboard motor last year".

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Mitcham,

Sorry to have taken so long re these photos, they are not all written on the back, but guess your boys can sort them out. The first ones were taken at Foster by a chap called Youngie, and these have kept very well. The Timor ones unfortunately have faded but hope

they will be of some use.

It is two years today since my husband Kenneth died, just cannot believe it, but guess we were fortunate to have such a wonderful married life, but oh so short.

Cheque enclosed for the Courier.

Kindest regards to all,

Betty MacKintosh

Forty-five disabled athletes returned to Sydney from the 5th Olympic Games for disabled people in Toronto, bringing home 20 gold, 17 silver, and 6 bronze medals.

The youngest woman in the team Pauline English, daughter of our member Jim English, won a gold

medal for the 25 metre butterfly swimming event and a bronze in the individual medley.

From all members of the Association we extend to you our best wishes and hope that in the future you will still bring home the major prizes.