

86 What's-er-name St.
N.B., 1.5.80

Dear Pete,
It was great to get your long letter. Hope that the wedding went off without complications. We saddle up for Bill McHarris in a fortnight - Thursday 15th May to be precise. I think that Bob Jackson will be back for it, so we can check up on how you behaved yourself in Brisbane.

After an Indian summer with a couple of the hottest April days on record, the Melbourne weather is starting to live up to its true form. Still quite mild at about 15°-16° in the heat of the afternoon, but nice and brisk in the mornings and evenings. Bit of a fog this morning.

I am writing this to musical accompaniment. We acquired a Teac tape deck to go with the other bits in the family room, and I am in the process of recording our reel-to-reel and records onto cassettes. It's going to be a fairly long job, but in between jumping up to check on both tapes, wash dishes, etc. I am sitting at the desk in the family room hoping to get this letter written.

Business has slowed down a bit - thank goodness - but I am still very busy sorting out the problems which have cropped up over past months. The Matos shares seem to be picking up at 20c-22c, and even the Eagles are starting to look a bit better.

I have been invited to make a worthwhile contribution towards balancing the budget. The tax-man wants a reply on Monday, and his request is a bit hard to refuse. It hurts to have to pay out more than twice what we paid for this house, but I suppose it will keep a few more little public servants in jobs. Needless to say I have my tax bloke busy trying to think up a few legitimate schemes for the current year - otherwise I would be up for 3 or 4 times as much next time around. It's nice to have a really good year now and again, but the tax man sure knows how to take most of the pleasure out of it.

We received a card from Ian + Ronie in the same mail as your letter. It was written a couple of days after they arrived and came from a place called Revelstoke - British Columbia. They had then

Driven 700 Km and were going to head through the Rockies to Banff. They have hired a Chevrolet (whatever that is). I think that they get back this week-end. They left their car in Lydney, so we won't be seeing them on the way through.

Graeme seems to be putting in a real effort this year. Maths is still a mystery to him, but with a bit of luck he may scrape through. From all accounts he is doing well in the other subjects.

I think mum will have told you that we have engaged the services of Kaffy Hammond again. No sign of him starting yet tho. We won't alter the old place too much in case you can't find it if and when you head this way. Apart from ripping out and re-grading the drive, clearing out a few trees, building a bluestone fence, pulling out the shrubs and rebuilding the garden, new rocks, mower strips removing the lawn, regrading, resowing etc. etc. there is really not that much to do.

I yanked out the petunias last week-end and replaced them with clematis - thought you would like to know. The daffodils are just showing above ground, and I have planted a lot of pansy and other seeds, which I hope will turn into seedlings. They are in the propagating box, and with less traffic into the garage and less likelihood of someone switching off the current than in former years, they stand a reasonable chance.

Bowls has finished for the season. A few brave souls carried on until last week-end, but I gave it away at the end of March.

You missed a musical week-end down here a fortnight ago. Justin Merritt's birthday, which they again celebrated with the juke-box. This time after about 36 hours of non-stop compulsory listening I rang up and abused them.

Your elderly parents have taken to walking around the block each evening, and it's now time to go. The tape is also finishing. If we make it past the letter box I can drop this in as we go.

love,
Dad.