

86 Mountain View Rd
10-6-80

Dear Peter,

Knowing that you are again playing the Euphonium makes your absence from home easier for us to bear. Hope that the book arrived safely. It was good to get your letter!

There is a logical explanation for the state of this notebook. Ian and Rosemary visited us the week-end before last. In a burst of brotherly love, Graeme decided to wash Ian's car - to see if it was the same one he was driving last time we saw it. In removing the accumulation of twelve months dirt, Graeme managed to get some water in the boot. Also in the boot was Ian's Renault handboot. To prevent the shiny pages from drying into a solid block, your aging father ironed the pages dry between sheets of note-paper. It was a very successful operation apart from the fact that I can only find ironed note-paper to write this on.

I thought that you might like the full explanation in case you got the impression that our financial position was under-received. It has been a good year - quite embarrassingly so from a business point of view - in fact so good that we are able to afford an Australian holiday this year instead of heading for overseas places with lower standards of living.

We fly up to Cairns on 30th June, leaving Melbourne at 7 AM. We should pass over Emerald about 10 AM, and will look out for you. If your desk is near the window, and if you have a clean handkerchief, please wave so that we know it is you. We will be staying at the Irohic Villa Motel until the afternoon of 10th July, then flying a reciprocal course back home. We have our tickets and accommodation, but beyond that have no firm plans. We will probably hire a car and see something of the Tablelands and surrounding places, as well as Green Island. We have a hired Sigmar at the moment, but will probably dump it at Tullamarine on the way.

The weather here at the moment is an invigorating 6° overnight, rising to about 12° in the heat of the day - although snow is predicted and

I think that a cold snap is probably on the way. We are hoping² that bairns may be a little different.

I think that I mentioned to you on the 'phone the reason for us driving a signa at present. The Peugeot is slowly recovering, and we hope that it will resume its old familiar shape before we leave. We were clobbered by a Monaco in Thompson's road on the Saturday night that Jan & Rosemary were visiting. Fortunately they were not with us, but we received the best of attention when we got home. We were hit in the rear quarter, just aft of the passenger side back door, and spun around. I think that a better car would probably have tipped, however the protection fore and aft did not work too well sideways. Mum hit her head on the door pillar, and I got tangled up in the seat belt buckles - nothing serious. Mum has a bit of back-lash, which seems to be clearing up, and I collected a few bruises around the ribs. The worst part for me was that I had a bit of a cold last week and the sneezes brought tears to my eyes. It also hurt to laugh, but, being of a serious-minded nature, that was no handicap. We both went to Dr Keck in the following weeks - only really to establish that there had been some injury, in case there were legal proceedings later. He gave me a limited time to live - about 45 years. Mum also came through with flying colours.

I may have mentioned an interest in film-making, which those with suspicious minds might interpret as an interest in saving tax. The deal has been consummated as a W.A. limited partnership (you can do these things in W.A.). It is a thoroughly documented and researched scheme which we have had checked out by our tax consultants, and have also had Council's opinion. It is not an avoidance scheme, but a 5 year deferral scheme (in the meantime of course I can assign the interest, form a company, or go in another scheme as and if profits come from this one. There is a gearing effect which virtually gives four times the amount invested as a deduction. As I said, it has been fully researched even to being referred to the Federal Treasurer. If it is challenged, as it may be, it is likely to take four or five years for it to be sorted out, so it will hopefully have the same effect in deferring tax. At the moment, my 1979/80 tax bill looks something like BHP's net profit - unless some action is taken.

For the record, the films in which I have an interest are "Arthur" starring Dudley Moore, a 130 episode television version of the World Book's Childcraft Encyclopedia (made by the people who produced Sesame Street), and another television one whose name I can't remember at the moment. The T.V. ones have guaranteed viewing time on U.S. TV, as well as Australia. Some of the episodes and certain technical work will be carried out here. As yet I have not been asked to take a starring role in any of them. Quite frankly it doesn't matter if they are complete disasters. The amount subscribed is far less than the tax payable without them. The agreements, through the partnerships, contain guarantees from people like Warner Bros. that there will be sufficient profitability in the contracts to at least meet recoupment of capital in 5 years' time, so I might even get the money back and make a profit - but as I said before, that does not matter as long as the tax is saved.

Graeme still seems to be going very well at Swinburne. He has a test tomorrow, but the biggest test will come with the maths exam a few days before we head north. Graeme might not want me to say anything about his "friend" who has been here for a couple of meals. Seems very nice. I am not sure if he has told her about you, and I had ^{better} not mention anything about her. Very nice girl 'though'. Is there anything that you feel you should tell us?

Jenny and Bill have had a couple of weeks off. They headed via Metung and Auntie Rhonda's to Batman's Bay. On the way back - with a slight detour, they are headed for Bright, which they should reach tomorrow. Also on the way they were to call on Winifred and Rick in Canberra. Mum got a card from them on her birthday, but we have heard nothing further from them. The kids are of course with them, and ^{they} should all be back in sunny Melbourne for Sunday night's tea. Rhonda and Ed. incidentally have sold their Metung house at a good profit, and bought another in Metung. They plan to do this one up, put on a second storey, and sell it, then repeat the exercise ad. infinitum until the tax-man starts knocking on their door.

Mum is out tonight with the girls over at Auntie June
Hurley's place in Glen Waverley? Monday night is now a regular
outing to lower Templestowe and an art class. Mum only. I have absolutely
no hidden or latent talent in that direction, but mum seems to be
enjoying it immensely, which is good.

Rosemary and Jan were down a couple of weeks ago for Rosemary's
interview at the Mercy. She was accepted, and starts in August. Jan
of course will be there too.

I have now put electric power on in the glass house and have
some tomatoes and other things growing out of season, protected from
the weather. Last week-end I planted out four boxes of pansies - also
shibub in the glasshouse, so that we can have instant flowers in early
spring.

I started this letter with good intentions, but have since weakened
and have the T.V. on now with the night football - played every
Tuesday. I am not sure if these last sentences make sense, or
for that matter, if the rest of the letter does.

When I last wrote, whenever that was, I mentioned that we had
bought a tape deck and that I was busy recording some of our
old tapes and records. A sample of this work is being sent to you
separately.

As mum was going out she said to give you her love, which I
now do with my own. Hope we see you again before too long.

Dad.