

86 Mountain View Road
North Balwyn 3104
15th May 88 (Sunday)

Dear Lois & Peter,

I am writing this a little earlier in the day than usual in the hope that the rain will clear after lunch and allow me to attack the garden.

We have just returned from the State Bank Gallery (corner of Elizabeth & Bamber Sts). They are staging an art display this week and we took in three original Jure Roberts' paintings as part of it.

Whilst on artistic subjects, the world premiere of Crocodile Dundee II will be screened here on Thursday. It was originally planned that crocodile on the spit would be served to the first nighters after the show, but that brought an outcry from the animal liberationists. They will now be serving Vegemite sandwiches and party pies (not much meat of any sort in them.) I was ~~at~~ ^{a later} proposal to feed the animal liberationists to the crocodiles.

Thanks for the 'phone call on Mothers Day. I know that you celebrate it at a different time over there, and I wasn't sure if you would remember it or not. Mum was thrilled to hear from you both.

Australia's new Coliseum otherwise known as our new Parliament House was opened on Monday by the Queen (who has now returned to the U.K. Our Buckingham Palace guards will now return no doubt.) School children throughout the country were given medals to mark the occasion. I remember seeing something similar 50+ years ago for some reason or other - in fact I still have it as it will not fit the parking meters we have here. I suppose it is a good way for the Government to spend some of our money.

Talking of money, you will no doubt have noticed

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that the \$A has been and still is quite strong despite the efforts
of our Reserve Bank to sell it down. When we were over there
for your wedding we were getting around 60 cents U.S. for our \$A. It
is now around 77.5c U.S. Not quite 80 for our exporters and in-coming
tourists, but quite satisfactory for people who happen to have funds here.

I may or may not have mentioned that Melbourne had launched
a bid for the 1996 Olympic games. This has naturally been followed
by bids from Sydney and the other state capitals, but Melbourne is
considered to be the front runner because of the facilities already in
place, including our new tennis centre - which you will be able to see
or maybe even play at during your visit.

Jan, Ronie, Glyn, & Rachael will not be coming over today.
Glyn has a bit of a temperature and they don't want to take any risks
with their departure date coming up shortly. Both Glyn (piano) and
Jan (flute) had music exams during the week. They both passed easily,
but Jan's ~~was~~ examiner said that he really needed more dedication.
Perhaps he was not aware that Jan had one or two other calls on his time.
We spoke to Glyn on the 'phone this morning, so he is not very sick.

The others will be here as usual later in the day. We have adopted
your practice of buying rather than cooking meals for Sunday Tea, and
we have been doing that for some time now to save mum's time
or, even worse, to serve up anything I might concoct.

It was good to hear that Phil has been feeling better. Let's
hope that the improvement continues. We also hope, he is, that
your job problems get resolved - preferably without a posting back to
New Guinea. (There is always Australia France.)

It is exactly two months today until you arrive, and then
it must be our turn to visit you next year, all being well. However
we are not looking beyond your visit at present.

Love
Gene & Glyn