

Transcript of Mum's Letter

Supplied by Lyn MacDonald

Gorman House

Canberra ACT

27th April 1947

Dear Jean

It was a very pleasant surprise indeed to receive your letter. Thanks for your congrats. As I have had no appeals I'm home on the horse's back as they say. Of course a Gr. 3 is not such a feather in one's cap in Canberra as typists are very short and much in demand. Still I'm very pleased & am liking my work very much. I work for Mr MacFarlane - he's quite a nice old chap but a rotten dictator and an even worse writer (facts of which he is rather misguidedly proud). Actually though I don't get a terrible lot from him. The bulk of my work comes through one of the Assistant Secretaries (Mr Wheeler) (probably *Sir Frederick Wheeler, later Chairman of the Public Service Board and Secretary to the Treasury*) a very charming and brilliant economist. I must admit some of the Treasury screeds on economics, minimum prices, loans etc etc. are Greek to me but I suppose I'll get used to the terms. We are frightfully busy at work and I never have time to write letters at work unfortunately.

As you will see from the address on the top of this I am staying at Gorman. As a matter of fact I quite like it. I have been lucky here too as I managed to get a single room in the short period of 8 weeks. My room is quite large and looks out towards Mt Ainslie which means I also get the morning sun. I have bought myself a little wireless and have made some cream mosquito net curtains - in fact I've made myself quite cosy. The wireless is great company

Before I go any further I must say how pleased I am to hear about your "Alan John". Great news. It's good to know that you've been so well and I hope your back holds good and you have him without too much trouble. Nice idea having a baby at the same time as Marie. You'll be able to discuss your troubles together.

I was terribly sorry to hear about your sister's death. Having lost my own sister I know just what a shock & sorrow it must have been to you & your family. But must find it terribly hard - the kiddies will perhaps help to fill her life a little - please convey my sincere & heartfelt sympathy to your mother & father.

You must be just about fed up with the housing situation - it's such a slow business. I do hope you'll be able to find something downstairs to live as you'll find the stairs a dreadful drag with an infant.

Now to come back to Canberra - it of course is absolutely beautiful just now. The pin oaks and poplars are ablaze with colour. I never tire of looking at the mountains. I've bought my bike up and ride to & from work - it's a lovely ride on the nice sunny mornings.

Last Sunday (night) afternoon I (or we) drove out to the Cotter. I don't think I've seen anything more lovely. We left just about sunset & the sky was afire with pink & gold - fore warning about the winter I've I've heard about it from many people. They all tell me I'll be glad to go home in the winter. But it's got chilly in the evenings already.

I'm trying to get some leave to go home during May. I only came up here for 3 months but now that I'm staying here permanently I'd like to go home & collect quite a lot of odds & ends - books etc. etc. However, I suppose if the Victorian Strike goes on I'll be lucky to get there.

Well Jean I suppose this is all for now so I'll say Cheerio

Regards to Alan

Love from

Thelma