

Not Dated – Estimate around 1979

12 Booker St

Cheltenham

Melbourne 3192

Dear Warwick

It was very nice hearing from you and to know that Barbara and yourself are well, Mabel and I were delighted to get your letter

We are both well and enjoying very pleasant weather. We've had quite a mild summer, last week it was hovering around the hundred degrees mark, (98 to be exact) but throughout the summer it's probably averaged about seventy-five degrees. According to reports it has been a very cold winter in England. I felt really sorry for you all, especially people like your mother, she's an amazing woman to be able to stand up to it. When you see her, tell her she has my admiration and love. Mabel and I talk about you and all for hours, what with the brothers and sisters and relations I met over in England, I'm never at a loss to talk to someone. Every one of you made

my visit a very happy one and I brought home wonderful memories back with me. I would like to have spent more time in yours and Barbara's company, I think she's lovely. I only saw Lynette once, she's excellent company. She did say she'd like to visit Australia on her honeymoon, (that) wouldn't be a bad idea.

*Part of letter damaged/missing*

I was down at Lynette's (Ray's daughter) last Saturday, I usually drop in for a "hello everybody" and a cup of coffee and stay a couple of hours and have a chat with the kids, they're good company. Jeffrey, Lynette's husband, said that Raymond is expected back in two weeks so probably the next time I go down there I will see him. Although Steve and us keep in touch conversationally I don't visit him too

much, he lives about 56 miles from Melbourne (that was before we converted to metric measurements) I sometime send him a letter to say what day I would be there, if convenient for them to be home, it usually takes a whole day for a return trip.

Now, regarding our own progeny, Malcolm is still in Sydney, it looks as if (he) will get established there, he seems to prefer it to Melbourne. All being well, he will be home for a few days at Easter, we're looking forward to seeing him. He couldn't make it at Christmas, I don't think he had enough time from work to make the trip. He rang us up some time ago and told us he would be bringing a friend (girl). So Mabel is busy getting the spare bedroom ready and naturally Mabel is all agog wondering what she is like and I'm a little bit curious myself. The family will be complete next week so I will take a few snaps and I'll write to your mother after the holiday enclosing one or two.

Susan lives quite handy, we see her, Robert and their two daughters quite often, they have a house about a mile from here, Susan often leaves the girls with us and they love sleeping at Grandma's, and we don't mind having them, they are good company. We would like to see the family in a house of their own, but that will come later. Robert is in a good job, he is a joiner and a good tradesman and Susan does swimming instructing two or three days a week so they should get on well. The swimming is all the areas around, in heated baths and her pupils range from one to five or six years of age.

This is about all for now Warwick. Thank you again for writing, we really did appreciate hearing from you. Tell your mother I won't forget to write at Easter. Love to Barbara and the family and tell our Warwick we think of him and will be writing later.

Love from Mabel and me,

Gilbert.