



Hallo, Kids!

And how are all my young pals this month? Some of you are very lucky enjoying your holidays (or just finishing them) whilst some of the older ones, of course, have left school and gone past the days of holidays. One thing of which I do feel sure though and that is that you are all looking forward to the Summer Time. I know I am. I'm just sick and tired of this miserable cold wet weather.

Jean Flanders, who lives at Bowraville has written me asking if I can find some pen friends for her. Jean's hobbies are swimming, bike riding and collecting photos of film stars. When she gets older she would like to become a singer. With her long and interesting letter Jean also sent me a nice drawing. Well now, kids, how about some letters for Jean.

I also had a good drawing of a ship from Pete McKenzie, of La Perouse. Another nice letter and a drawing came from Richard Ballangarry of Auburn.

Sister Angela Ballangarry also sent in a nice drawing. Angela said she bet her brother 2s. she could win a prize (just missed out this time Angela, perhaps next time). Angela suggests we should have more painting competitions. What do you think?

Do you think these floods are going to leave us alone at last? Despite all the wet weather I had quite a big mail from Condobolin. It included some excellent drawings from Robert Reid, Alice Briar, Fay Sloane, Ernest Dargin and Merle Cummings. Thanks a lot, kids, they were all very nice, but just missed out on a prize. Send along some more and have another try.

Lloyd Nolan, of West Dubbo, also sent me some nice coloured drawings (have to brush up on your spelling, Lloyd). Lloyd is in 5th class at school and tells me he likes reading *Dawn*. He is also a keen gardener, so I wouldn't be surprised any day now to receive a nice big cabbage or a bunch of carrots.

And now I am really blushing. I just opened a very nice letter from Irene Roberts, of Cubawee, and found she had added a couple of kisses for me. Just the thing to make a real old fellow like me very happy. Thanks, Irene, for the nice letter and the nice drawing.

Irene tells me she has a very nice draught horse but he makes her very annoyed sometimes (not very often though) when he gets in the garden and eats the vegetables.

Neville Beale, of Walgett, also sent me a nice black and white drawing of some Indians. A very good effort Neville, but it just missed a prize this time. Have another try.

One letter, this time from Dawn Morris, of Bourke, had to come all the way through the floods. It eventually reached me, a little late and somewhat bedraggled, but intact all the same. Poor Dawn has had such a terrible time in the floods and even had to leave her home. Let's hope it's all over by this time...

Seventeen years old Gertie French, of Mallanganee, New South Wales, wants some pen friends, either sex, between 17 and 20. She promises to answer all her letters, so how about it, Pals? It does get very lonely in the country sometimes.

Pete



ROBIN HOOD.

A special prize to Mervyn Boney, of Urunga, for this fine black and white sketch.