



Hello Kids,

My word this year is slipping away, isn't it. Here we are in the fourth month already. (Did you get caught on April Fools' Day?)

This is the month we have the wonder Royal Easter Show in Sydney and also, more or less, the beginning of Winter with those cold days. Still we can't have all Summer, can we? Yesterday I had a nice little note from Helen Clarke of Cootamundra and some nice sketches too. Thanks Helen. Lets have some more.

I had some really excellent pencil drawings from Betty Black of Murrin Bridge Station and they win her a special prize. But please Betty will you do them in ink next time as they are so hard to reproduce in *Dawn* if they are done faintly in pencil.

A couple of very delightful colored drawings from Eileen Thomas of Wreck Bay, too. Just missed out on a prize this time Eileen.

By the way kids, Eileen is 14 years of age and wants some pen friends; how about it?

Well now look at this. The postman has just brought me in another letter from Betty Black but now I find she is in Ward No. 3, Thoracio Unit No. 4 of the Royal North Shore Hospital, St. Leonards. Poor Betty has had rather a bad time and may be in hospital for a good while. She wants some pen friends, from anywhere. So now kids do the right thing will you. Don't let her be lonely.

I have also had a nice newsy letter from Valerie Wenberg. Val is working with Mrs. Kingsley, the Grove, Cootamundra. She tells me she has taken over from Nada, who is now working for a doctor in Sydney. Valerie tells me she has some nice pets, including a very tame lamb, but as she lives some seven miles out of town she gets very lonely sometimes and would love some pen friends. She writes the most interesting letters so how about some mail for her.

I have had a nice letter from a young fellow named Brian, of Armidale Road, South Guyra. Unfortunately Brian hasn't given me the rest of his name. He was telling me all about going to the Guyra Show. He told me he was interested to see the Ferris wheel for the first time but it looked a bit too high so he didn't go on it. He saw the local champion, Colin Foot, in a bout with Alfie Sands, but, he tells me, Alfie was too good. Well thanks Brian, but don't forget the name next time.

I see a nice sketch here too from Kenneth Leonard of Coonamble. Let's have some more Ken, will you.

A nice sketch from Albert Dennison, c.o. Post Office, East Moree, and a rather lonely letter. Albert says "I have made the grade for High School with the help of the people of Boggabilla, and I'd like to thank those people and give them my word I'll try very hard, for their sakes and for mine. I feel lonely in Moree having nothing to do when I come home from school but just sitting round staring into space. I'd like something to keep me busy, like some pen friends from Dubbo or La Perouse." O.K. kids, what about some letters for Albert.

Richard Ballangarry, of the Railway Settlement, Auburn, is in third year at High School, but he reckons he has too much homework to do. However, he says he's determined to get his Intermediate Certificate this year. Good for you Richard. Homework is very tiresome sometimes but it is very necessary if we wish to succeed.

Richard sent me two poems and a nice sketch. A special prize to you too, Richard, for those poems.

Two more very nice letters have just come in.

The first is from Irene Roberts, of Cubawee, and was accompanied by a nice sketch. The second was from my old pal, Carol Donovan. Thanks, Carol, for that nice newsy letter.

You know kids, we often mention Nana Glen, but how many of you know where it is? Well here's a most interesting letter from 13-year-old Charlie Heron of Nana Glen Rail, and it will explain a lot of things. (Thanks very much for your letter, Charlie, and a special prize to you.)

Charlie said: "I was to have gone to Coffs Harbour High School this year but my father thinks I should wait till next year. My brother Ronnie and I and all