

1)

To Mrs. Knox, Belgium

From Mrs. Denholm, Box 129, Busselton, WA

29/9/1961

Dearest Mother, Lolo and Uncle Pierre,

I hope you had a nice journey and a good crossing. After some perfect days, here we finally had a storm – so the rain watered the garden well. Our sweet peas are in blossom, we are very impressed!

Thank you, Mother for your letter of the 22nd. I gave my letter to Nancy to take to Perth Post Office 15 days ago, but she arrived there only on Sunday afternoon, so late.

You all could give a hand to help Jacqueline, lucky her. I hope you had a nice celebration of Uncle Pierre's birthday.

Thank you also for Lady Masella's photo, it is very nice. I suppose that you now have the photos in colour? Now we would like some of you! I am going to ask Jean for it.

The sky should have fallen because Peter's father has written a letter! Peter has a new nephew, he is already 3 months old and his name is Peter too. The Denholm's hate writing, but I write to them only if they write to me.

Margaret River's priest left for he became the Archdeacon of Bunbury. We had a farewell gathering last Saturday and we gave him 20 pounds and a pipe. There was a young priest from Koree and he showed us photos in colour, projected on the screen. The photos were very nice and he was very interesting. It seems that the refugees' and the abandoned children's problem is really terrible, there are only a few Christians. On Sunday the same priest preached in the church. Later we went to the tennis club for the annual meeting and Peter was re-elected vice-captain and I, secretary and treasurer. I have never done this before, but it is time to learn.

Then we went to Phyl and Joha's place, they had just finished milking and we have had dinner there. She sells fresh, good eggs to us only for 31 cents per dozen, but instead of two dozen she gave us three !!! Peter is going to bring silver beet to her today, because they could probably meet in Busselton.

Peter's gone to fetch the big tractor from the big lorry. He is the only one able to drive this tractor and he takes care of it, while the other machines are badly kept. He is repairing the fences here.

I am working again two days a week with the twins, they keep growing up well.

1

On Wednesday evening we had a party in Busselton because Mrs. Pryor was naturalized, she was Ukrainian and she got married with an Australian. We had a lovely evening dancing, eating, singing, laughing, etc.

I made curried hard-boiled eggs. Here, every time we go to a party, dance, etc. the ladies usually bring a plate: sandwiches, sweets, biscuits, and so on and we have tea; this is what they call "supper".

I have cut Peter's hair again and this time I was more courageous, therefore he looks much better.

I received a letter from Cystal, her husband is being cured at S. Afrique, she doesn't complain much.

Our long week-end in Perth has been shifted to the next month because I haven't found a room for this week-end, it is the Show Week, and so the hotels are full.

Now Peter is back and he is bringing your letters. We are so very glad that you liked the photos so much, and L. and U.P. went out with J. and J. It's a shame that mum did not go with them.

Kisses from the two of us and regards to everyone

Lucie

2)

To Mrs. Knox, Piraeus, Greece

From Mrs. Denholm, Cape Naturaliste, Busselton, WA

12/4/1965

Dearest Mother,

These are our big news: John is able to sit by himself since yesterday and he keeps it every time. He is so happy about it and William and us too. Sometimes he falls but he is just learning.

I hope everything is fine with you and you did not have any storm. Do you feel relaxed?

I am very sad because the priest will not celebrate any Easter Mass in Dunsborough, but he will say four in Busselton! Usually D. church is full on Easter. There will be a service on Good Friday.

You would enjoy to seeing our two bandits in the bath together, they like it very much. I wash William first and then I leave them together for a short time. I cannot leave John alone because he could easily capsize. Then they have dinner together, William

requires a lot of help. This evening he should be hurry because the French classes start again. Three for Leaving by the end of the year as other five of us (unclear).

The big table is in the living room, as they are only three of them, I'll take the kitchen table and I'll cover it with the Indian rug.

We had a wonderful weather but today it is raining. There will probably be many mushrooms soon.

On Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Ross are coming, they will stay until Tuesday. Yesterday afternoon we went to Daphne, everything was ok.

The new bedroom is fine, it overlooks the back veranda. The living room has now sliding doors, so it got more ample-sized, before we had a double simple inside opening door.

One of my finger is aching again, a whitlow, this is fastidious, apart from that I am healthy.

I guess that Vicky is pregnant with little puppies for you, indeed she does that all the time when you arrive. Candy is in the sheds, she is catching mice, etc. and Peter gives her milk. We do not know if she is hiding kittens somewhere.

Meg is 73 years old, on Saturday we went to her to wish happy birthday and we brought a big watermelon, it weighed more than three kilos. Her five grandchildren were there together with two other kids and some elderly people, so that was all.

It is time to go for the nappies and later I am going to prepare some snacks for my two.

Kisses and nice trip from the 4 of us

Lucie

3)

To Knox family, Ealing, London, England

From Mrs. Denholm, Cape Naturaliste, Busselton

29/12/1965

R. 4/1/1966

N.B. – J.P. John

My Dears,

Thank you, Mother for your letter of the 14th. I am very pleased that J.P's smock is coming out. At Christmas the weather was really hot, almost 150 F° but J.P. did not get burnt. It is really too hot for staying in the sun. Now the weather is uncertain, it rains, 70

F°, I think it is too cool – I am wearing my big winter dressing gown, without fur, of course. With all this or just because of a microbe William started to cough and on Christmas day at 4 am. He had fever, but in the end he was not so sick to stay in bed. Now he is coughing and has a runny nose but he has no fever. So I am trying to do my work with the “wipe nose” and potty, etc.

J.P. is coughing right now and I have got a tickle! (T.N.: text in vertical position)

J.P. is very good at doing his pee, if I remember often the potty, pooh is more difficult.

Many thanks for the very nice wooden toys for the boys, they are lovely. William is enjoying the Noah’s Ark, and we have to identify the animals ad infinitum, John hasn’t been allowed to see his boat in action yet as with all this coughing I have avoided the beach. I can see I shall have to go in to stop the boat sailing off across the ocean on many occasion. Perhaps I can train Sally to retrieve it for us!

At Christmas H.M.S. Whitby spent some days in Bunbury, and we invited one or two of the crew to spend Christmas with us. In the end we had also the Perth Electrical Chief Officer, Brian Medway. After shopping I went to Bunbury with the children. In the evening we bought a Christmas tree, Brian and Peter decorated it while I was washing the kids and feeding them for dinner. We kept the tricycle hidden behind the coach until the end, and William was so delighted to have it. He is a little bit too young for riding it but he is trying to, and he is pushing it while J.P. tries to push it too and climb on it, which is rather forbidden by his brother! They had the books, the clothes and the sand shovels. I received two Anne’s dresses and a scarf, and some shorties (pyjamas) as well. Peter had the nice gloves and the matches, and Mum’s famous table for the two of us. Always spoilt, the four of us.

Finally Phyl and Johamia sent us an invitation for Christmas by mail, we accepted it unless they invited Brian too, so we had dinner there. They built a nice bathroom along the house and a very light long room; there is a new slow-burning cooker. They also have a great “fan”, Peter had already a sore back, but after sitting close to it his pain doubled! Since William wasn’t really fine and J.P. got hit on the head and had toothache, we had good reasons to get home not so late. Brian was the same age and very polite, he got along with all of us.

I am glad that Peter has somebody to get along with and Brian liked the kids, thus everybody had a nice Christmas. On Sunday we went to Dunsborough for the Mass and

after Peter brought Brian back, he explained what was happening nearby while Brian showed his boat to him.

Alan paid us and he took our little gas stove.

Lots of kisses and many thanks for the toys.

Love from us 4 to you all

Lucy

Notes in front of the Aerogramme:

If you haven't bought yet the Three Kings Day's* paper crowns for 1967, I had some left from 1966.

Thank you very much

*Translator's note: A special tradition in France that is celebrated the 1st Sunday of each New Year. The celebration is "La Fête des Rois" (Three Kings Day) and includes a king, a queen and a special cake. The *fève* (small object) is discreetly placed in the galette des rois prior to serving it. The person who discovered the *fève* was king for the day and selected his queen.

4)

To Mrs. Knox, Ealing, London, England

From Denholm, Cape Naturaliste, Busselton

31/10/1966

R. 5/11/1966

Dearest Mother,

Thank you for your letters of the 20th. I'm sorry to hear that you and Jacy are not better. What a life! Here, I can still feel pain in my bottom and sometimes in my leg, but it is not worse and I can do everything though I gave up horse riding. Yesterday evening I was tired, but I slept well and Peter did make the last pee with the boys before sleeping, in this way I could have gone to bed earlier. He has a lot of works at the moment, because it is shearing time. This year he has more than 1000 sheep, I guess more than 1200 lambs. There are two shearers and less people helping: only Big John and Percy and Peter, sometimes Alan, but he is now at the lighthouse, besides he is fishing, he is a farmer and he is living there. Big John, rich as he is, is saving money by not asking for more handymen. By doing so, he has to work harder too, but Peter instead is doing the same work, but he has to do it by himself. Percy is not getting younger, only Peter is

able to ride and fetch the sheep in the meadows and he is the only one able to work with the machine that compresses the wool in big bags= "bale". They started on Wednesday p.m. and they haven't finished yet.

The shearers work from 8 am. – 5 pm., but Peter leaves at 7.15 and comes back at noon for a half hour or a quarter for lunch and the evening at 6 pm. The same on Saturday and ½ Sunday!

The weather is getting better, it is nice in the sunshine, but the wind is still cold – from the South Pole.

Here, after all we are on the beach close to the stores and my two kids are wearing swimsuit, but also their jackets and shirts, they are splashing in the water with buckets and an old beer box, they are watering the beach. This morning they used the rinsing water for watering the garden.

The two little smocks have been delivered, they fit wonderfully and are in fact, very nice. Thank you very much. W. has opened the packet very quickly and he was so happy. I hope you took note of I owe you. Thanks again.

It's a pity that you can't see the children, they are so happy to stay in the water, because it's the first time that the weather allows it.

On Thursday we went to Mariam, she is nutty! She is working again, she only had a 15 days' leave – her decision. Also, she has a woman coming two hours a day (6? per hour), she is doing well and she takes care of the two kids. We think that she is short on money, that's probably why she run back to work. The baby is getting better since he was born, his head is setting. Despite the total anaesthetic the doctor needed a half hour to pull out the baby! His name is Timothy. Michael is able to walk some steps by himself.

I am sorry that Ms. Souade (unclear) is writing nasty things to you, she and Tinpot are ridiculous and pusillanimous, they brought enough blush to you and they shouldn't really wait for any present, drat it! I know they used to be your friends and how hurtful it feels, and I'm sorry.

I guess I already told you that Peter had cleaned the walls and the ceiling in the kitchen and the dining room while we were away and he repainted the wardrobe and two chairs. I would like to give another coat to the wardrobe, but I have my Christmas letters to write.

W. speaks very little French, just a few words, but he understands very well, J.P. a bit less, for I am speaking less with them because I am forgetting French too.

On Saturday we went to Dunsborough for the School Day, I brought eggs, marmalade, cakes, some books, toys and I gave fruits and vegetables as gifts. They gathered £100.

Kisses to all of you from all of us

xxxx

Lucie

5)

To Mrs. Knox, Ealing, London, England

From Denholm, Box 16, Greenhills, WA, 6380 (RECEIVED 2/1/1968

Boonmul, **26/12/1967**

Dearest Mother,

I hope you all had a very nice Christmas. For us it was our first Christmas spent at home. We always used to go to Phyl and Joha's. On Sunday the Mass took place here in Greenhills and we invited to our place the priest and the young man who played harmonium noisy enough despite the great escape going on and he had to pump more and more.

We had our turkey cooked the day before, since the weather was too hot, I had to cook it in the cool of the evening, we also had a good bottle of wine, and the priest brought us another one.

Talking about the bottle, I realized I did not give you any present for Christmas. I am so sorry, I had so much work to do and I am so badly organized, this year the organization was much worse! If it pleases you, Jean might give you a bottle of white wine and a red one, I will pay him back.

Dear John would you do that for your addled little sister, let me know how much please?!

Yesterday, Monica and I went to the Mass in York, while the men were delivering the milk. They came back with a black kitten, Sooty, for the kids' big pleasure! Now William has a nice new bike, the smallest size, it used to have two additional small wheels, but then it looked like a tricycle, so I took them off. He is able to ride alone and he is very happy with it. J.P. is not able to ride this bike, and there are many discussions about who has to ride it! They also got books, colour-pencils with a sort of scratch awl which

they like a lot, a Treasure Island game, where we have to turn an arrow pointing out a number from 1 to 6 and according to that we get forward. In the end, Christmas was a marvellous day for them and a great pleasure for us to see them, except that they woke us up at 5 o' clock shouting about Santa Claus dropping by and about the apples gone from their stockings and sweets, nuts, etc. replacing them.

Later W. told me that Santa Claus had put the decorations on the tree and a windmill on the top. Our silver star looks like the local windmill-wheel! I went to the villa with them to seek for a branch.

Peter really had a lot of work and we were all very tired. The inspectors are always punctilious and boring. We have too much sheep and they are too old and there is not enough water – nice situation!!

On Friday all of us drove Richard back home and we had some shopping in Perth.

Happy New Year and I wish you all Good Health. We hope to see you again here in '68.

Xxxx

Lucie

6)

To Mrs. Knox, Ealing, London, England

From Denholm, Box 16, Greenhills, WA, 6380

Greenhills, **19/01/68**

Dearest Mother,

The Post Office has been on strike for a week, so no news from us. I am wondering how you are doing with the stomach pain, Auntie with the flu and Lolo with his move. When the courier gets back to work I will send you the photos.

Luckily, Monica has left, because it is too hot now, 45°C/113°F in York. One of the candles became so soft that it completely curved. We were drinking liters and liters of all sorts of liquids and I bought salt pills, because I started to have cramps, to become very tired and the salt helps to prevent these things in the hottest days.

Finally the heat wave is over now! A new record heat since '33. It has damaged the fruits and vegetables.

On Saturday we went to Moore River, North of Perth, near to where we were last year. The place is nice, but the house is really small, three small bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room, and a wash house, a W.C. and a bathroom, they all are very small and modern

and the house lies in the dunes like in Coxyde (TN.: Belgium), there are no other houses.

The next neighbor is within one mile and after that there is nothing until a big road about three-four miles distant, but that is also without houses surrounding it. Poor Trevor is there, alone, harvesting the oats which has grown so badly that it isn't worth to harvest and the soil is so lumpy that the machines break. Our Council is completely nutty, it is all about spending money on buildings. Trevor is sick with this and he is leaving. Another man from another property left too without saying a word, just leaving a notice on the table! The Whites from York have soon to move to Wandering, far from everything, in a little modern house. In York they are staying in a big house close to the city. The Council gave to Bob O.'s place a new fellow, Bob has bought all of our old ewes.

There is this guy then, Frank, who thinks a lot for himself, but it seems like he is not planning big things since he has never had much success.

Eventually Frank wants to live in the Whites' house, so the Whites have been kicked out of their home. The Council wants us to move to Moore River and farming the Boonmull house to save money! So this evening (22/01/68) Peter is going to say that he is leaving for real. We have just gone to visit a farmer who is living in Dangin, only five minutes from Quairading, eastwards from here. It means 100 miles from Perth for us, but this people are nice, they are good farmers, they have four kids, 8 boy, 4 girl, 2 boy, 1 boy. The house is quite big and old, very ample-sized with a verandah and it was cool even if today was a hot day. When it will be nicely laid out, it will be fine. William has only seven miles to travel to arrive to school and the bus drops by there. We have a P.O. within two miles and stores etc., a swimming pool, tennis club etc., etc. within seven miles. Quairading is growing up with nice big houses.

Your letter of the 8th has just arrived!

Good luck!

Xxx

Lucie

7)

To Mrs. Knox, Ealing, London, England

From Denholm, Dangin, WA, 6382

29/01/68 (Received 5/02/68) ----- written 7/02/68 (**the mother's note**)

Dearest Mother,

Thanks for your letter of the 17th.

We have moved. Today is Australia Day, holiday, so we had to move on Friday and the same man of the last removal came, except this time he brought another young man with him. It's a big company. The house is old, but the rooms are very big (NB: plan drawn in original letter).

We can put our bed along the wall with one of the book shelf and the commode with the two cupboards on the other side. Painting is necessary everywhere, the ceilings are dark green! We have three men who are putting electrical wires in the house for the S.E.C., current of 240 Volt, which will arrive in a short time.

Therefore we could have an electric fridge and electric tool. Meanwhile we have a 12 Volt engine for the lights, the first evening it did not work, so we had to use our old Woolstar lamps! The landlord's house is the same distance from Woolstar and the Suttons.

Their kids are a little bit younger than ours and they are Brett (boy) 8, Nicola (girl) 4, Lindsay (boy) 2, Rohan (boy) 1, and our kids are delighted to have someone to play with.

William takes the bus with Brett to school in Quairading, 7 miles.

Peter goes with the landlord, Brian Johanson, he is one of the Johansons' cousins, Boonmull's owner. Mrs. J. is nice, but there's not much she can do with four kids.

On Saturday Judy Wilson who comes from Woolstar visited, and she is a nurse at St.Thomas, as she arrived she helped me to tidy the house, she's David's sister, who had danced the Scotch reels with us. She will stay three weeks and she'll go back to London by ship. She's very nice, it's a shame she hasn't got married yet.

Harry Piggin lent us his van for transporting Estralita. Our neighbors were very sorry, seeing us leaving, but all of them were talking about that the nutty Council.

I am very sorry about Auntie and Anne, there is no ending for this. And you and your tummy. What a life.

Thank you for the three Ladybird books, the Christmas money from you and Pierre arrived too.

Xxxx

Lucie

8)

To Mrs. Knox, Ealing, London, England

From Denholm, Dangin, WA, 6382

14/02/68

Dearest Mother,

Thank you very much for your letters, the 29th from Chaville and the 4th and 7th from Ealing. Chaville did not last for a long time, I understand that it isn't easy – what a life!

I hope Madeleine will find something suitable for her mother, it is better if she stays alone and calms down. She sent us two wonderful books, one is for cutting the coloured adhesive paper and pasting it into shaped pictures. William likes it very much, the other is in cardboard, we just press with our fingers to cut it – J.P. is doing it, so Judy built a windmill model, it required a lot of patience. It is 16" high, I will take a picture of it!

Quairading and Dangin are East of Perth and York, 150 miles from Perth. Yes, we wrote to the Delholms.

Jean was very bothered since she has missed you at the station. You are special at escaping before we meet you, you could have waited a little, because it is really annoying to make a trip for nothing.

I'm glad that the poor Mrs. Faure passed away gently, I wish Auntie could do the same soon.

There is no need to worry about us, we hope we will be very happy here. Peter gets along well with the landlord, Brian, and I'm fine with his wife, Judy. She is very glad to have someone to speak to, she used to teach domestic science before marrying. The children are very happy, they are forming a famous band, rather ours and Brett and Nicola are going together. Lindsay is little and stays with the baby. They all like riding horses, bikes, so we can go for a ride! The poor Estralita is in the sheep yard, because she is eating a lot in the meadow and she is too fat.

Peter wanted to look after the sheep and study how to grow wheat. Going back to the Espcissis will not work, because Mrs. E. has never liked him and things will always turn out badly. We did not have a contract with the Council and they paid us weekly, so we could have left with one-week's notice.

Yes, I will wait before painting. The new heater for the hot water has just been delivered, it is the same model as in Cape, we will have hot water in the kitchen, the bathroom and

the wash house. We should have ironed with your old irons, on the gas, the oil iron did not work for a longtime, and yours did well. I had them cleaned with beeswax and salt.

The Matchs arrived and thanks a lot, the last issue from the 6th of January.

William is fine now and this week he is going to school without crying. He started to work, to write 'A a', to study the phonetic pronouncing, to count and to colour and to draw houses, apples etc. He receives milk.

Judy Wilson is leaving on Saturday, she will visit you on her way back. I hope you can greet her, in order to get news from us in person.

The furniture has not been ruined. Thanks for your tip for William in your letter, he was very happy about it.

Thank you for the Christmas gift money, I am transferring it, such a pity the devaluation.

Kisses to everybody from all of us

Lucie

9)

To Mr. & Mrs. Richer, Garches, France

From Denholm, Dangin, WA, 6382

Dangin

7/03/68

My Dear Lolo and Uncle Pierre,

I am out of my mind because of all our emotions and I don't really know if I have already thanked you for the money you sent to the children! Well, I prefer to thank twice rather than running the risk of saying nothing.

I used this money with another gifted amount for buying a Venetian blind for the car back window, because when we are going to Perth, toward the west, in the very early morning the sun is beating and it's the same when we're coming back. I realized that when my cousin, Monica was here, because I used to sit in the back seat. The kids will enjoy it and thank you very much – mostly because after the move our petty cash decreased! Now we are waiting for the electric current, therefore it means we can buy a new fridge! We have ordered a big one with two doors, because we need here a big one, mainly because we don't go shopping every day and it is hot for a long time. I used to have a 32 Volt electric mixer and I sold it to my neighbor after her house was burnt down, and I bought a new 240 Volt one. Once we had this kind of things, we miss them

if we have not got them anymore! It is very practical for making ice cream, butter, omelets, cakes, etc. I will be glad to use again my electric iron, because I am actually ironing with mum's old irons warmed up on the gas.

I am wondering how your move is going, if you have reduced your belongings for moving to the new flat. It is not very pleasant to leave our belongings, anyway once you'll be settled your life will become easier, I hope.

I hope that Uncle Pierre's hernia was restored for good and all, and you are not too bad. Do not try to do too much.

Poor Mum, I am wondering about her examination results.

Kisses from all of us and thanks again

Lucie

10)

To Mrs. Knox, Ealing, London, England

From Denholm, Dangan, WA, 6382

6/03/68

Dearest Mother,

Thank you very much for your letters of the 28th and the 1st, they all arrived yesterday. Monday was holiday, the **Labour Day**.

I am glad you had your X-rays, you are getting the result today. If you like Peter's father's advice, he says, he can help you for sure. He has been retired recently and he was a good doctor so he knows great specialists. Judy Wilson is coming on the 21st too, her brother, David is a doctor and he knows everybody at the St. Thomas. You will tell this to Jean. Finally if there is a treatment, I hope, you will undergo it and if it is too expensive for you we could help you financially. They took some inside bits to examine under the microscope.

Well done for getting over it with a glass of Dubonnet. (T.N.: is a sweet, wine-based aperitif)

Thank you very much for the money sent for Easter, it seemed to me crazy, you should save money for your ticket. It seems to me that your fasting has a strange date too. We have just had Ash Wednesday, that is the beginning of Lent, and it was on last Tuesday, the 27th that we ate crepes. What a pity you were not with us, you could have tried one, but without lemon, because I forgot to buy it and the Johansons had not got any. Now I

have got the lemons, but not the crepes, so I can start again! William likes it a lot and he can eat 4-5 of them.

A stud is when good quality - good blood line – males are kept for breeding and they are sold for a good quality reproduction.

Yes, the milk and the cream are good. The chicken problem is still unsolved. I would much more prefer that they took their chickens, but they did not buy any. I hope they will give us some grain for it at least. We do not like very much chickens and feathers, but we like eating them and we also like eggs!

I hope that Maggy got over her germs. Here the pink eye microbe is still around, it is circulating in William's class, one of his eyes is a little bit red, but there is no more pus.

J.P. is reciting 'Twinkle, twinkle little star', he learnt it because W. is reciting it at school too.

Meg's sister is expecting her third child in July. There're only boys from Charlie's side.

On Sunday we all went to visit the Reedy's in Baardec N.E. from here. Bill worked too hard, he's very nervous and he should leave his farm. The farm belongings and the surplus house are on sale from today.

Anne is a physio and they have three kids. They will move on Friday, they bought a house in Perth.

We bought a 3 ft. bed with mattress to W.

Kisses from all of us

Lucie

11)

To Mrs. Knox, Ealing, London, England

From Denholm, Danguin, WA, 6382

Danguin, **13/03/68**

Dearest Mother,

Thank you very much for your two letters of the 6th and 8th. the last one was delivered in only four days! I'm very happy and relieved to hear your news, that it is a colitis and not a cancer, and you should be even happier! Are you coming to visit us this year? Or are you giving up until next year? I am not betting on seeing you for several years still, thus William should go to school, and I would not like to leave the children alone.

Talking about the eyes, they are completely fine (TN.: see letter 10 about the pink eye microbe), but the flies are annoying.

I am wondering if they gave you a precise diet to follow. You should have a low-residue diet, eat: fruit and vegetable juices, meat, liver, kidney, brains, etc. eggs and milk products, sugars.

Don't eat: Green vegetables. Fruits with skins and pips. Brown bread. Wholemeal cereals. Raw vegetable.

In moderation: root vegetables and potatoes, white bread, cornflour, semolina, macaroni. Sieving foods reduce the residue, mashing does not. I have already told you all this, but I'm saying it again!! I'm wondering how the removal went. I suppose they used a big truck and they got everything at once, in this way it was not very difficult and the men should have packed everything very well. Luckily, we went to visit them last year – in their flat it would have been impossible. Finally, I hope that they will be fine and happy over there. I hope as well that Madeleine will find a home soon.

Here everything is happening at the same time on the farm. We have problems with a bore (sort of well) (190 ft. deep pipe), on which they've been working on for more than two weeks. The superphosphate should be distributed on the fields. The sheep should be 'crutched' tomorrow. Today five men are working here for the electricity, they said that tomorrow we will be connected. I hope so! On Monday evening the five of us went to the circus in Quairading and it was very nice. The clowns were funny, there were four beautiful elephants, lions, ponies, dogs, acrobats, etc., etc. The kids liked it a lot, and what an excitement during the days before.

Your cushion and your vinyl arrived, thank you very much. It is very nice, your vinyl – I hope you are happy about it. It is easy to look after.

I hope in May J.P. can go to Kindergarden two half days per week, and then I could practice the physio again. The Dr. would like that.

We have the S.E.C.!

Post strike next week!

12)

To Mrs. Knox, Ealing, London, England

From Denholm, Dangin, WA, 6382

Dangin, **21/10/68**

15

Dearest Mother,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 13th that we found here yesterday evening after got back from Perth, and thanks to Tom and more likely Jacy for the nice letter, too. I thought that we had agreed with J. and J. to stop with sending presents! The shipping cost is getting higher and here it is very difficult to find something to send, and our kids anyway have a lot of games. Peter has bought an electric train last week-end with a board 6'X4' and the rails are built in the shape of a circle and with a crossing over. (See drawing in original letter).

We replied to an advertisement about a 17 year old young man selling his installation which was very looked after, even the shipping boxes look undamaged. He is a very careful person, and I believe we had a great opportunity. Yes, we have the Lego bricks and we can now build a train, but it is really expensive to have a nice installation, and the metal ones are steadier – so crazy. I hope that our two will love it, and obviously Peter has been thinking about it for a longtime! Other crazy things: I bought two metal stools for the kids, it is swivel, going up and down, they like it very much, I also bought sandals for the two of them and a Ladybird book: “The Elves and the Shoemaker” for W. as a reward for his reading improvements. He is reading “The three little pigs” from the same series, Grade I, Easy to read. The car was full of these things, on the top, the big train board was on the roof. Don and Laure Hardwick lent me an old bike, they do not use it. It's supposed to be a life-long lent, but I could not bring it with me this time.

John spent the night at the Rudy's, William didn't want to. Peter and I went to a posh restaurant, a good and expensive one. First time since we have the boys! Later we picked W. up and went to sleep in the motel (they asked about you).

Once we were back, John vomited in his bed and Peter was sick as well and so was I. The only sick out is W. he only ate toast for lunch. We had curry at the Morsley's for lunch, and W. didn't eat much. The men ate fish and chips on the way back, but not me! At least the cook had a day off today at dinner, so we slept, and then we had a cup of Oxo!

On Saturday we had dinner with the Aarduicks and we went to greet Papa and Nono, on Thursday she was 73 years old. They are going well.

I went to the hospital to see Molly Fyfi again, this time she had a swollen belly like for the quads, and they did not know why! She was very happy to see me.

What can we do with the chicory? The little plants are fine, we covered them for blanching and they died, it is too hot?? So what should I do now?

The earthquakes are now getting better, but it grows from time to time, nothing as bad as last Monday. Anyway I cannot stand it.

Could you invite Mr. and Ms. Biny for a week-end when J. &J. have left? There are trains.

Kisses to everybody from all of us

Lucie

13)

To Mrs. Knox, Ealing, London, England

From Denholm, Danguin, WA, 6382

Danguin, **24/11/68**

Dearest Mother,

I'm wondering where you are, maybe I'll get your letter tomorrow.

The builder arrived on Tuesday and all the cracks were cemented and plastered, the new glass door has been settled and the outside walls were re-cemented. The only remains are the white ants. Finally, it looks much better. He did not even work one and a half days, he spent half day at the Johnsons and he slept here. Luckily he is a nice young man. The same that Harry Piggins had, he comes from York. (The Piggins came for W.'s birthday, he had a sore back.)The lino has not been bought yet, but we still hope! Our door has not got the lock yet, as the one I bought is 6" wide and the wood door is only 4" wide!

J.P. told me to ask you to come back on next Saturday! "I like Grandma". He is so red despite the sun cream and even though he never goes outside without shirt.

Our horse, Sandy has not arrived yet. The Stricklands bought one at the same place and he will pick both of them up on Wednesday probably. Midland slaughterhouses are now on strike, and he would like to take some animals there at the same time, the bull included. The big one has already been given, so we are giving the small one, which breaks all the fences!

On Friday I had a lot of patients, so many that I had go back on Saturday too! Yesterday I worked as a hairdresser too, hence my men are shaved, and luckily the weather is nice today.

17

The colour photos you took when you were here are really nice.

Yes, the news about the taxes isn't funny! Please, say thanks to Lolo for her letter. I hope that Uncle Pierre will finally be fine after his operation.

The Earthquakes are getting better, we only had a few.

Your letter arrived to the Post Office on Monday. I hope your journey went well. I hope that Dr. Jantet has been able to stop your bleeding – that isn't good. Are you still taking your pills?

Lolo is really marvellous to keep doing her shopping like she is always done.

On 11th I have an appointment with the hairdresser in Dangin. Her baby is two months old, she is nice, but she is growing up slowly.

I will write to Uncle Pierre to thank him for the £2.

Kisses to everybody from all of us

Lucie

14)

To Mrs. Knox, Ealing, London, England

From Denholm, Dangin, WA, 6382

(I have just received yours of the 18th)

Dangin, **28/12/68**

Dearest Mother,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 16th that I have received only this morning!

I'm sorry to hear that Jean is always running, here life is not so hasty.

On Monday I went to the dentist in Perth with the kids, no holes, but he scrubbed my teeth! After Papa and Nono's golden wedding the Moodys had a Champagne Lunch! A firm supplied the food and everything – it was nice. There were the Ross' friends, their same age, except for us and the Moodys, about 20 people totally. J.P. conquered one of the waitresses and he had all he wished!!! In the end, it was a wonderful party and P. and N. enjoyed it a lot. The French consul, his wife and Lulu, another French lady came too, half of the word was speaking French! Nono received two pairs of stockings and she will write to thank and pay me for them. The four cardigans arrived long time ago, I thank you again and again for them!

The house renting - not yet decided – will start on the 6th of January. It is about 18 km north of Perth and 18 km from the ocean.

We had a swelter Christmas, 100-107 F° in Perth, after all, everything was fine except for the heat. Peter had some days off on the 25th and the 26th, the four of us went to the swimming pool every evening. On the 25th we went to the Mass and to Mrs. Adamson's, the organist and then to the Strickland's (Helen) for a few drinks.

The harvest machinery breakdowns keep going and it has not finished yet! Peter works until very late. Jess sent a telegram, saying that they will arrive soon, on the 2nd. I have already checked and I have enough bedding for host them. Mrs. Mackinson offered to bring blankets, but thanks to you I have got enough of them.

Yes, yesterday William washed the dishes and prepared the breakfast by himself!

Tomorrow we'll have the six Piggins + Auntie, and the five Stricklands for afternoon nibbles and supper.

The two oldest daughters attend the same school in Perth, so they will meet each other, both of them like horses too.

Well, with this and Jess' arrive, I have a lot to do, and I have also two patients in the hospital, I went to visit them yesterday, but not on Tuesday.

I hope that you all had a very nice Christmas. Here the kids are very happy with their water pistols, colouring books, pencils, books, Lego bricks and metal puzzles – all these things the day before and a stocking in the night. Their joy and excitement was huge and we were almost exhausted!

I hope that Diana had a nice trip and she's enjoying herself. The house should feel quit empty without the daughters around.

The MacKinsons went to the city's swimming pool with the kids while I was giving treatments to my two patients and doing my shopping – It was very kind of them. Mrs. Mack swam too.

Happy New Year and have a good health above all, and please come back to visit us.

Kisses to everybody from all of us

Lucie