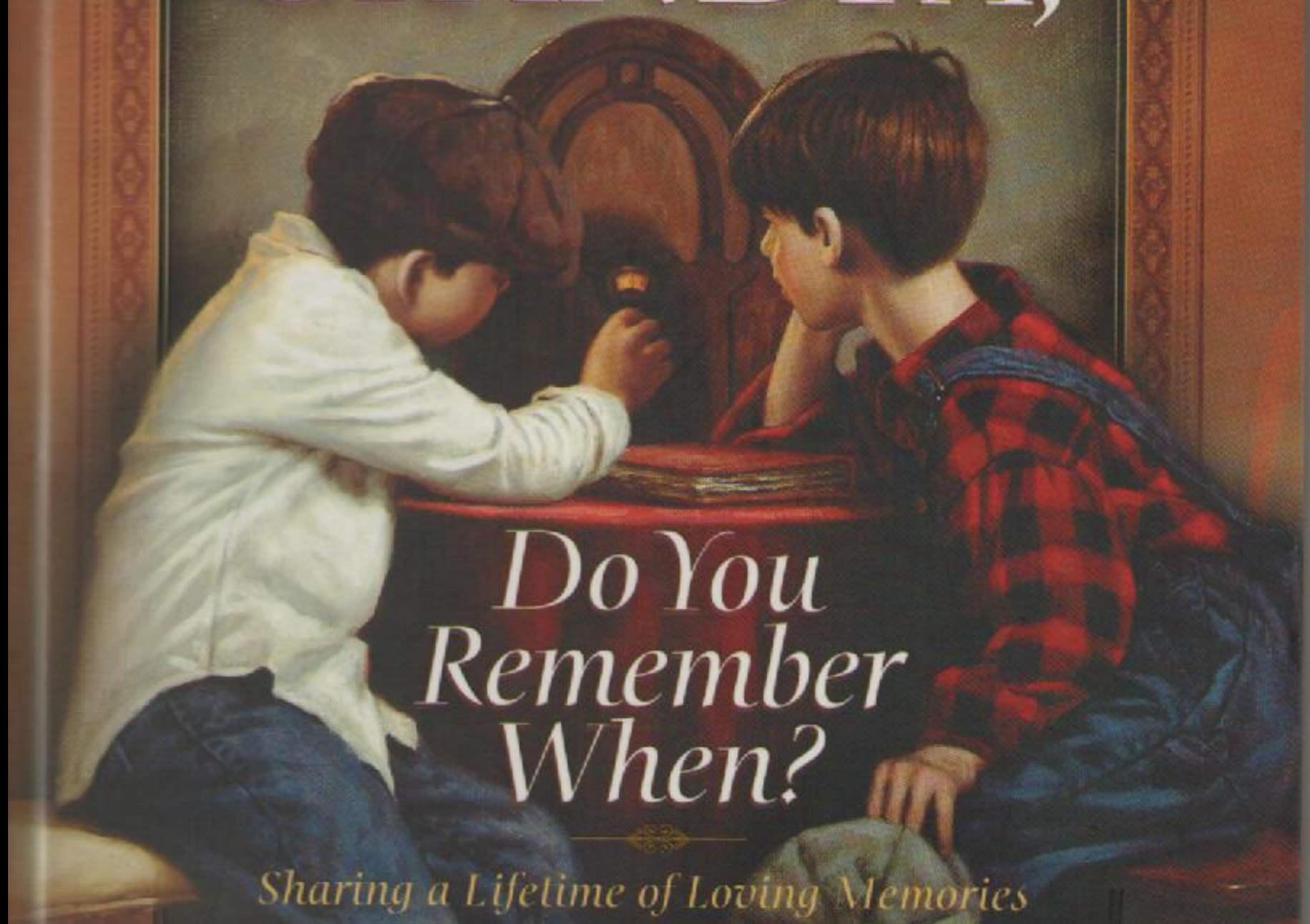


• A KEEPSAKE JOURNAL •

# GRANDPA,



## *Do You Remember When?*

*Sharing a Lifetime of Loving Memories*

PAINTINGS BY  
**Jim Daly**

## Our Family Tree

Grandpa, what were the names of your grandma and grandpa?

Your parents? May & John CLARKE / Violet & Wycherly PRESCOTT  
Belle & Jack CLARKE

How many brothers and sisters do you have? 1 Brother

What are their names and ages? Douglas Keith CLARKE  
born 21<sup>st</sup> April 1925 (At the time of my writing)  
this he is 82

When were your children born?

Janet Robyn 28.10.60

Matthew Charles 2.6.62

Where does our family come from originally? All the above were  
born in Australia. Prior to that we have English & Scottish  
Backgrounds.

Share a family story that was told to you as boy.

My Mum told me about holidays she had  
spent as a young girl with her family relatives  
at their whaling station down at Eden about  
100 years ago. Nanny & I went down about 15 years  
ago to have a look at what was left of ~~the~~ it in  
Twofold Bay. We also found some of my relatives  
and lots of stories of whaling and little whale boats.

## Your Early Days

Grandpa, when is your birthday?

19<sup>th</sup> October 1928

Where were you born?

At Dulwich Hill (Sydney)

How did your mom and dad pick your name?

'Barry' was a fashionable name at that stage and 'John' was I guess after my Dad

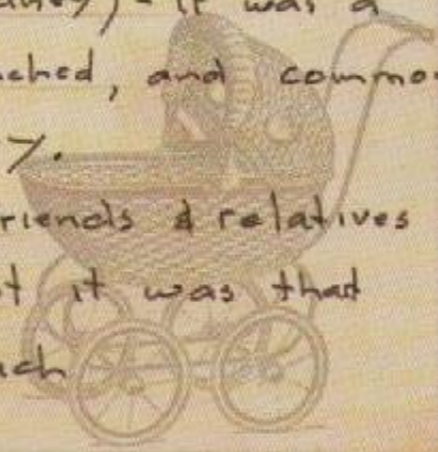
Who was ~~president~~ when you were born?

PRIME MINISTER

I don't know - I was too young to remember  
Perhaps you can find out for me? (1928)

What was your childhood home like? Up to the age of 11 my home was at Maroubra (Sydney) - It was a brick with tiled roofed, semi-detached, and common at that stage of Australia's history.

It was a happy home - lots of friends & relatives visiting us. The best thing about it was that it was very close to the Beach



## Life as a Child

What did you love most about being a child? Well it was NOT school work but going to school was O.K. because of all the play mates.

What is one of your favorite memories about your mom and dad? Camping holidays in a 1927 Chevrolet with the running boards full of gear and a luggage carrier on the back. Great to see new areas and meet new experiences.

Did you have chores to do each day? Gardening - a bit of housework - shopping errands - feed the chooks.

What were your favorite or your least favorite foods? Favourite was tomatoes that I'd helped to grow - Worst was carrots, cabbage & brussels sprouts - But we learned to eat them all. It was Depression time and food was not to be wasted.

Did you have a favorite movie or show? "Hi! Ho! Silver" was a serial film shown at "Saturday Arvo Flicks" which we were allowed to attend each month. 6 pence (5 cents) admission and 1 1/2 mile walk each way to the junction.

How did you like to pass the time during a free afternoon?

Marbles, Kite flying, Billy Carts, Tops and Cards and of course scavenging timber & rubbish and old tyres to build a huge bonfire up on the Hill for Cracker Night.

What was the best place for you to play as a kid?

No doubt about this. It was the Beach or an old Rock-pool at the southern end of the Beach.



## School Days

My first day Mum took me by bus to Kindergarten at the Maroubra Junction. My very first mate of any consequence

Grandpa, do you remember when you were a schoolboy? was an aboriginal boy (Jimmy Blair) - we met on that first day and remained staunch mates for three years - Then Jimmy died. He loved oranges and even though he'd been told not to eat the skin he persisted in doing so. He broke his arm and needed an operation. He wasn't game to tell his Mum or Doctor about an orange he had earlier and under

Where was your first school? the anaesthetic he was sick and the orange skin stuck in his throat and choked him. His father was an operatic singer and I still remember him.

Who was your best teacher? In 4<sup>th</sup> Class it was a Mr Keithhead. He was President of the Gould League of Bird Lovers and from him I learned a love for birds and animals (as well as the usual school things)

What were your favorite and least favorite subjects? At High School it was my Maths teacher. (on my very first day he gave me 6 cuts with the cane for being inattentive) After that we got on OK and he gave me a

Did you go to college? What did you study? rich understanding of ~~maths~~ maths and turned it into an interesting science. Maths & Chemistry I liked best - English the least.

What kind of activities were you involved in throughout your school years?

Soft-ball . PT . Rugby Union & Rugby League . Swimming & Life saving



## Animal Friends

Grandpa, did you take care of animals when you were growing up? Animals always have been part of my life.

Dogs - Cats - Rabbits - Birds - Goldfish - Silkworms - Chooks - Tortoise - even a blue-tongued lizard with the boy next door on a piece of string under his house.

What pets did you have as a child? What were their names?

I really can't remember all their names, there were just too many.

If you could've had any kind of pet as a kid, what would you have chosen? Without a doubt it would have <sup>been</sup> a dog.

You can make a "friend" of a dog. It would probably have been a Border-Collie, black with a white bib and I'd call her Bonnie.

Did you let your children have pets?

Yes we did. Ask your father.

Ask him who "Hammer" and "Nail" were.



## Time for Everything

What is your favorite season of the year, Grandpa? Spring for it's new <sup>growth</sup> ~~grass~~ (and now that I'm old it is nice mild <sup>weather</sup>.)

Did you visit your hometown later? How had it changed?

Yes. Maroubra is unrecognizable with it's new multi-storied Buildings.

The activities I was allowed to do are no longer possible but they are great memories.

Which years of your childhood are most dear to you? At the age of 11 we move to a new Housing Estate at Bexley Nth.

When did you first think about your future? It was World War II time - I was becoming a teen-ager, growing up and learning new responsibilities.

Those first 11 years were the most dear. The next 10 years become <sup>the most</sup> exciting, adventuresome and formative of my life

It was in this period that I started to think about the future.

## Great Outdoors

When you played as a child, what was your favorite outdoor activity?

Bike riding & Tennis - One of the Church men started a Tennis club for our Youth Fellowship - He was a Stipendiary Magistrate in the "Court" and his attitude of justice and fairness rubbed-off on most of us. Not only that, but he was a good coach and tennis became the game of my choice. Can you recall the landscape that surrounded you as a child?

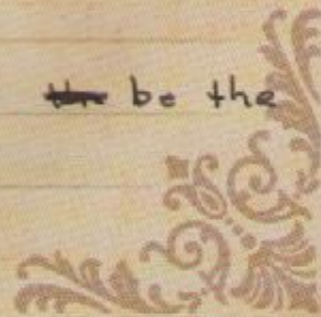
Yes. Across our ~~road~~<sup>road</sup> was a poultry farm which led down into a gully and a creek. Here lived my mate "Chic" and we had great fun in a couple of caves. Did you ever make a fort in the woods? A trail in the meadow?

A tree house? and damming-up the creek - Friendly wars with the kids on the Bexley Side of the creek. Occasionally we pinch a few pieces of fruit from an old man's trees down in the gully but he soon stopped that with his shot-gun & salt petre.

If you could show me one special place in nature, where would it be?

For my youth and early adult years it would have to be "the Blue Mountains" in the Katoomba Area.

For my adult experiences it would ~~be~~ be the desert area of Central Australia





## Faith Traditions

Did your family go to church when you were a boy? At

Maroubra I went to Sunday School and then at Bexley North all the family became involved with the building of a new church - "Holy Trinity".  
What was your favorite prayer for bedtime and mealtime? The one I remember most "Hush! Hush! whisper who dares, christopher Robin is saying his prayers" etc  
We always said a Grace before our evening meal.

What is your favorite verse or memory from church? It is my Confirmation Text (1 John 5:4) written by John about 60 years after Jesus death. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (K.J.V) or in a modern version - "It is our faith that gives us victory over worldly things."  
What is your prayer for me, Grandpa?

At my Confirmation, the Bishop placed his hands on my head and prayed this prayer, that I pass on to you.

"Defend O Lord, JASON, with your heavenly grace that he may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until he comes to your everlasting kingdom." Amen



## Good Times

Tell me about a time when you were really happy. As a boy it was digging in the beach and finding some money. As a youth it was any time spent bushwalking. As a young man it was Our Wedding Day

What hobbies or activities have brought you joy over the years?

At your age I liked making model planes from balsa wood covered with tissue paper and a big elastic band as a motor - Sometimes they even FLEW. Share with me a story from your life that still makes you laugh.

As a Scout Master at Berry I took all the Troop out one Weekend to try to live-off-ground. We found a few wild berries, trapped a couple of birds, caught about 4 rabbits and lots of eels. There's nothing worse than burned eel, but "waste not - want not" we had to eat as if we enjoyed them. YUK !!!

What do you think is the key to happiness?

Being satisfied with what you have - Giving your best effort to reach your goal, enjoying your successes but not letting any failures get you down



## Take Me Out to the Ball Game

What games did you and your friends play? Marbles at School -  
Make-believe Hockey with broomsticks and tin  
cans at home in the street - Softball and Rugby  
Union & League at High School then Tennis

Did you have a favorite toy?

Not that I remember

As your children grew up, what games did you play with them?  
At Berry on the Dairy Farm we played a bit of  
Tennis on the old Court and canoed on the Creek.  
(until your Grandma ran over the canoe)  
Do you have a fond memory of attending or participating in a

sports event? I was lucky enough to be in Helsinki  
for the 1952 Olympic Games and saw some of the  
Australians competing in Athletics - Rowing & Cycling.  
Not actually sporty, but about 1972 at the Berry  
Agricultural Show we won the blue ribbon for our  
3 year old cow in milk and your Dad won a blue  
ribbon with his Pekin Bantams.

What game do you hope I learn?

Whatever gives you pleasure.  
For a good balance find an  
individual sport and also get  
involved with a team sport.



## The Gift of Friendship

Did you have a "best friend" growing up? <sup>Not anyone in particular but plenty of good mates.</sup>

It was not until I started work that my life-long <sup>friendships began.</sup>

Were you shy or outgoing? Serious or funny?

I consider myself to be outgoing and ~~at~~ funny.

Everyone else may think otherwise.

What quality do you think is most important in a friend? Someone

you feel happy just to be with - Kind & Trustworthy -

and reliable as a mate.

Share a story about a good time with friends. <sup>Too many to pick from. But here goes.</sup>

Bushwalking - Katoomba - Narrow-neck Peninsular - Four of us (me and my special friends Ken, Frank & Willie - We've been walking for a couple of hours from K. Station and it's pitch black, we've been singing songs at the top of our voices to pass the time and to take our minds off our heavy packs as we trudged along the bush track when sparks appeared around the lead man's shoes. We all had bob-nailed boots on and must have been walking over some flinty ground. This kept us amused for the next half-hour until about midnight we decided to stop for the night and pitch the tent. Four men in a 3 man tent won't fit, so we spread the sides out wide and got into our sleeping bags. We didn't want to go to sleep so we played some silly verbal games until we all nodded off. We'd had a wonderful time. About 4 a.m. it poured - we'd pitched our tent in a shallow depression and Corral Swamp started to flow right under us and head for the water-fall over the escarpment to Megalong Valley - (Continues on Page 22)

## Tell Me About Grandma

I was keen on photography - had my own dark room and covered the Baptism of a friend's son. Your Nanny also Grandpa, do you remember when you first met Grandma? knew that same person and was present at the Baptism. When I delivered all the photo's to my friend, I asked her "Who" this good looking sort in this picture". She lives next door. Come and meet her. What did you do on your first date?

We went to a "drive-in". No! I don't remember what we saw.  
How did you propose? I forgot. I remember going home and waking my Mum at 1a.m. and telling her I'd asked Val if she'd marry me.

When and where did you get married? What did you like most about your wedding? 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1959 - Methodist Church at Hurlstone Park (Sydney) with Reception at Ashfield. Most memorable thing was the Perpetual Grin on our faces

What have you loved most about your shared life?

Our compatibility despite our many differences

Share with me some special memories you have about your life with Grandma. The Birth of our 2 children - the building of our first home at Lugarno and getting it to the stage where we could move in -

Our decision after much heart searching to go dairy farming, which would not have been an easy decision for your "Nanny" to leave Sydney & head for the Bush.



## ~ Your Young Family ~

What did you do for a living when you started your family?

Fire Protection Engineering Draughtsman.

Did Grandma work? What did she do? Primary School

Teacher specializing in Deaf & Handicapped Kids.

Where was your home, and what was it like? 22 Booyong Ave - LUGARNO

Two-storied split-level Brick and Fibro House

What made my ~~mom~~<sup>aunt</sup>/dad laugh when they were my age? Some of the silly card games we played - I guess they also laughed behind our backs at some of our actions.

How did you spend time together as a family? Nothing better than finishing milking early on Sat/Sun driving to Fish Co-op at Nowra and getting a feed of prawns to eat on the banks of Shoalhaven River.

What are your fondest memories of raising a young family?

Watching them progress at School - helping them with their animals - Your Dad & your Auntie Jan climbing up a huge tree in our cheek yard at Berry.

Friends & Family Parties with them at Denman.



## Being a Grandpa

Grandpa, do you remember when I was born? Yes. ~~the~~ your Mum & Dad were in South Africa at the time. We had been over to see them earlier and they told us you were on the way. So it wasn't a surprise when your Dad rang us with the news. What were you doing when you heard the news?

We ~~was~~ were away on holidays in the Caravan but I can't remember just where we were at the time.

How is being a grandparent fun for you? It takes me back to my own childhood days and all those memories. It reminds us of raising our own children.

What do you like to do with your grandchildren?

Talk with them. Watch them play games or perform at their sport. Hear of their school reports. Try to beat them at card games, but it's getting harder now.

What do you want your grandkids to know about you? A lot of it is in this book. Some accounts of adventures I have had, I have given to your Dad to keep for you. Stories of travels around Australia plus photos are in albums that Nanny keeps of all our trips together.

## Hope and a Future

Grandpa, do you remember what you dreamed about accomplishing? Have you done it? I do not dream but I remember having lots of sleepless nights about building our first home, (At Lugarno). At the time it seemed like a big task to take on - but yes we made it.

What have you enjoyed most about your work? As a draughtsman it was the companionship and social activities with others in the office - As a farmer it was the country life.

On your birthdays, when you blow out the candles, what wish comes to mind? Now that I'm older (79) I wish to be able to enjoy another year of pleasant living. One year at a time is enough.

What are your wishes for me, Grandpa? For all your grandchildren?

No 1 is that you learn to love & respect your Parents and those you meet along life's road.

No 2 is "Enjoy yourself at whatever you tackle."

What are three things you still want to try, see, or do in your lifetime?

We have done so many things and had so many adventures that there is not much left to want.





## Life Lessons

What have you learned that you want to pass along to me?

Early in life I learned that  $2+2=4$ . After that that  $2 \times 2=4$ , then that  $2^2=4$ , then that  $\sqrt{16}=4$  and I'm still learning that I don't know everything.

Who gave you some of the best advice ever? What was that advice?  
A great friend, who was Catechist at my Church at Bexley North, had a framed quotation on his study desk. He said look at that and remember it.

It read "I ONCE COMPLAINED 'CAUSE I HAD NO SHOES.  
THEN I MET A MAN WHO HAD NO FEET."

Which trials made you stronger?

Carrying a heavy rock sack down a steep hill - (My knees used to turn to jelly.)

What do you want me to know when I am choosing a career or life path? Don't jump too quickly -

Consider the implications and the future -

Talk it over with God and take Him with you.

What do you hope that I will learn early in life? One of our Prime Ministers said "Life wasn't meant to be easy"  
I think that's correct but it doesn't mean we should not enjoy the experience.

## Inspiration

He was an Electrician and taught me a few things  
**G**randpa, did your father teach you a special craft? things  
 about electricity. In school holidays I would sometimes  
 go to work with him and learn the now "useless"  
 art of rewinding coils for electric motors.

Did you enjoy painting, drawing, reading, or writing as a boy?  
 Pencil drawings I liked to do, and reading  
 all the series of "Biggles" books.

Was there a color you liked most of all? BLUE  
 What kind of music or scenery inspires you? Modern "Pop Music"  
 is enjoyable when it has a tune & words that  
 you can sing-a-long with. Good Choir and  
 Orchestral Music transports me to a different world.

What do you treasure most?  
 Life and Health - Love and Friendship.  
 Yet more than that is an ability to  
 accept what comes my way and to  
 proceed with life from there.



## Traditions to Build On

Grandpa, do you remember when you and your parents celebrated family traditions? We always tried to make Birthdays a time to celebrate together.

Did you start new traditions when your children were born? One was a Christmas Tradition - All Presents were placed on the floor around a Christmas Tree with much feeling & squeezing trying to work out what it was. Next morning there was just a small ~~the~~ Christmas Stocking on the kids Beds for them. All the big presents had to wait until we came home from Church.

What legacies did your parents or grandparents pass along to you?

The enjoyment, on big occasions, when the family & friends got together round the piano (pianola) and sang our hearts out. Some solos. Some everyone.

Is there a tradition you hope I will share with my children someday?

I hope your life will be such that you are surrounded and supported by relatives and friends such as I was, and you learn the importance and enjoyment of "togetherness".



## Happy Holidays

How did you celebrate Easter, <sup>Empire Day</sup> ~~Thanksgiving~~, and Christmas?  
 EASTER:- To church in the morning to give thanks for the message of Life after Death (Christ's Resurrection)

EMPIRE DAY:- Half a day off from School and then home to put the finishing touches to our Bonfire and as soon as it was dark letting off all our "Crackers"

Which holiday is your favorite? Christmas is nice with all the exchanging of presents but my favourite is Easter. That usually meant a day at Sydney Royal Easter Show, and that was magic.  
 What do you like to do now during the holidays?

Easter & Christmas are still special Religious Days for us and then if possible it's nice to spend some time with family members

What was your first <sup>Wed. Aniv.</sup> ~~(Thanksgiving)~~ with Grandma like? (NOT SURE - BUT WE THINK)

We got home from work, went into Sydney, had dinner at one of our favourite cafes and then joined the queue to get some of the cheap seats up in the "Gods" to see a Spanish Dance Troupe.

Did you ever receive or give a gift that was extra special? Yes. In 1951 MY MATE KEN & I left work to hitch-hike round the world for a couple of years. We had paid our fare over to England and all we had after that was 30 Pounds each. During the next year My Mum & my Dad separated. After a while I finally heard from Dad by letter from Cairns and was able to write to him again of the life that Ken & I were enjoying. His next letter included a 100 Pound Note. I only just had time to write & thank him before I got back to Australia - A month later we heard of his accidental death at Cairns.

## Changing Times

Grandpa, do you remember when there weren't computers

or cell phones? Yes, I do. I recall when no home had a refrigerator and very few had a radio. Before radio we had what was called a wireless. So called because it had no wires to the electricity and no battery.

I remember making my first "Crystal Set". Try it yourself. What are the best changes that have taken place during

your lifetime? Electronic equipment and Household Machines have made life much easier.

Medical advances have made life healthier.

What do you miss about the old days? Now, in my older years, I don't think I miss anything. We have all we need. In general to-day, the pace of life seems more hectic and demanding and I'm happy to miss out on that aspect.

In what way was your childhood a lot different than mine? We didn't have the same safety problems - As children we had much greater freedom.

How was it similar? We played similar games & activities.

We learned to love & respect parents.

We had Birthday celebrations and and grew older each year in the love of God.



## Sharing Between Generations

Do you have something special that belonged to your mother or father? A small red leather bound book of poems of Adam Lindsay Gordon. It was very dear to Mum and was given to her by an Aunt who was like a second mother to her.

Tell me a story about our family, Grandpa. I think I've told you enough about "my mob" in this book - Don't forget there is another side to your family. Ask you Mum to help you write to, and ask, Grandpa, some of these questions.

Where do you keep photographs or images from your lifetime?

What is your favorite photograph? Many records of our Australian Travels are in Albums in our Linen Cupboard. I guess my favourites would be of Ayres Rock (Uluru) because to me it symbolises many aspects of Australia.

Did you ever keep a journal? What did you like to record? Yes. When I was in Europe for 2 yrs with my Mate Ken. The only section left is my description of the Coronation Procession. That, and various logs of our Bushwalking I have given to your Dad.

Memories are special family treasures. What memories about your parents, children, and life do you want to share with me? I've mentioned quite a few already. I was 15 or 16 before I got my first bike. It was still war time. My Dad was working at Vesta Batteries about 10 miles away. Petrol was hard to get and our Cards for Petrol were not enough to get Dad over to Leichhardt every day for work. He bought a push bike and being an electrician he rigged up a little electric motor on the back wheel, hung 3 small batteries on the cross bar with a loose wire that he held on the metal of the handle bars - That's how he got to work without petrol - After 6 mths he had a big black gas bag fitted to the roof of the car - Then I was given the bike which by then had little bits of electric welding all over the handle-bars

# A Letter from Grandpa

Grandpa, what would you want me to know most of all?

"Big Bell" Farm  
Kangaroo Valley  
28<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2007

Dear Jason,

I am writing this letter in the middle of our family Christmas Holiday. You & Angie with your Mum & Dad - your cousins Kristie, Jonathon, Matthew, Lyn, Sarah, <sup>Melissa & their</sup> ~~and~~ Mum (Auntie Jan) and Dad (Uncle Kevin) and last of all Nanny & me. It's been good that we could all get together and have fun together. I think also of your grandparents and cousins in South Africa, and of what a Party we could have if we all got together. WOW!!! I Hope you enjoy this book. Lots of Love from you Pop. "God Bless"

— " — " — " — " — " — " —  
continued from Page 11. None of the water got over the cliff - The westerly wind blowing up the valley came up the cliff and blew all the water back over our Heads like rain coming down - We called this the "Up-hill-Waterfall" - look for it if you get up to that area.

The experiences you have had are your own greatest  
treasure, well worth the remembering and retelling...



*Ray Mungo*

*I share these memories with my dear grandchild,*

JASON



*Love,*

from POP

*Christmas 2007*

