

Annie Whitworth

Australia Diary

October 1984 – January 1985

## October 1984

### Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Slept for about 2 hours on the plane, lovely. They sprayed the plane before they let us off at Sydney. Saw Sydney Harbour Bridge. Flight held up again. Steering trouble. Gave us vouchers for refreshments. Eventually left 2 hours late. Had a lovely view of Botany Bay. Arrived Melbourne 10-30am . Journey roughly 2 hours. Should have landed 9-50am. Had to place all our belongings on a long table, dog handler came in with dog(?) Like dog sniffed all luggage tow or three times, looking for drugs.

Frank, Joyce and David were waiting for me. Both of us wondering if the other knew about Kenneth. Both of us relieved to know we each did. Terry had phoned Frank. Lovely to see them. They look no different to when I saw them last. Did not take in the surroundings, much too busy talking but first impressions much the same as home. Met with the rest of the family, Ann, Stephen, Damon, Shane and Melissa. 9 years, 5 years 11/2 years. Gave me a lovely welcome. Anne brought me some flowers. A happy day touched with sadness about Kenneth. Can't really take it in with being so far away.

### Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Relaxed did nothing, everybody out.

### Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup>

Same again.

### Friday, 5

Anne at home today went to Prahan in afternoon with her and the children, another suburb of Melbourne. Went with Joyce to shop to Myers Melbourne a big department store.

### Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup>

Everyone at home today. Joyce has a bad cold. Frank off at 6-00am to play golf. Lazed about. Frank home for lunch. He took me on a run down the coast, St Kildar Brighton and Ellwood where they used to live. Very nice. A lot of yachts in the bay. Also wind surfing beach not bad,

### Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup>

Frank off to golf at the crack of dawn. Lazed about till lunch time. Then went to Sherbrook forest, Dandenong, with Steven and family. Joyce and David. Frank stayed at home to sleep. Beautiful cafés give Devonshire Teas around Dandenong. Had a barbeque at night. Very enjoyable day.

### Monday, 8<sup>th</sup>

Everyone at work and school. Disaster. Broke glass shelf. Sat in the sun on porch near Jasmin tree. Lovely. Go in to put on steak.(?)

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup>

Joyce day off. Lovely spring day. Went on tram to the city. 2 dollars TICKET LASTS ALL DAY. Went to shrine, a tribute to the second world war to the dead. Beautiful place. Went to the botanic Gardens. Short walk from the shrine. Lovely place. . Trees flowers and plants. Lake with black swans and cygnets. Had lunch at café. Then went to new arts centre and theatre. Caught tram back home. Got off tram at E...wick to buy Xmas cards.

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup>

Cold and showery today. Not been out.

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup>

David's birthday today. Went into K Mont with Joyce, Stephen and Anne.

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup>

Lovely day. Did not go out.

Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup>

Anne had three children staying over the weekend. Went with Frank, Joyce and David to Southern Cross for dinner. Very good, had trout. Went to cinema to see Indian Jones. Was like a penny horror from my childhood. Treat was from Frank and David for Joyce's birthday.

Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup>

Lovely day. Anne and Steven took the children out at 8-00am. After lunch, Joyce, Frank, David and myself went to Arthurs Point. Drove round the coastline stopped a Mornington, small seaside town. Plenty of fishing. Road to Arthurs point hairpin bends. Beautiful view of the bay from the top, could see Melbourne in the distance. David and myself came down in the chairlift. Met Frank and Joyce at the bottom. Enjoyed it immensely. Anne had cooked dinner.

Monday, 15<sup>th</sup>

Anne stayed home. Melissa not well. Went to park in the afternoon. Joyce's birthday.

Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup>

Cold today went into Melbourne with Joyce , changed ticket to 28/1/85.

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup>

Still cold and windy.

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup>

A little warmer.

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup>

Anne not working. Went into city. Sunny and windy.

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup>

Anne and Stephen went away for the weekend. We went to Ellwood. Booked for Camelot, 30 dollars. Lost a dollar on Gaulfield Cup.

Sunday, 21<sup>th</sup>

A lot warmer today. Joyce's friend paid a visit. (Peggy). Sat in garden

Monday, 22<sup>st</sup>

Lovely today. Sat in garden. In the afternoon went to post office. Posted letters to NZ and UK

Tuesday, 23<sup>nd</sup>

Booked for Odd Couple. Joyce and I went to the city, visited Fitzroy Gardens, saw Captain Cooks Cottage, had lunch. Lovely day.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

Cool again today.

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup>

Sunny and Windy

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup>

Lovely sunny day. Damon birthday party.

Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup>

Lovely day. Went to St. Kilda and city for wool for Franks cardigan. Sunbathed.

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup>

Dull, cold and drizzly. Went to Maroonda Dam. Lovely, similar to the Lake District. Then went to the nature reserve at ??? saw koala, kangaroos etc

Monday, 29<sup>th</sup>

Cool again and cloudy. Went to the theatre to see Jack Klugmar in 'Odd Couple' with Joyce and two friends, Anne Helen. Very good.

Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup>

Sunny but cool. Went to Carnegie with Joyce and children. Anne working.

Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup>

Lovely day, sunbathed.

## November 1984

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup>

Beautiful day, 26 deg, finished ????. sunbathed in the afternoon.

Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Showery and dull. Went to Glass Ware Party with Joyce and Anne

Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Cloudy, dull. Went to dinner to Maureen O'Grady's at Dandenong

Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup>

Cloudy and cold. Went to a barbeque to Betty's daughter's Eileen and June. Came home for dinner.

Monday, 5<sup>th</sup>

Still cloudy and cool. Frank on holiday today. Saw Richard Harris in Camelot at theatre. Very good.

Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup>

Melbourne Cup. Great day for Aussies. Something like Ascot for fashion. Day starts with champagne breakfast. Black Night won. Sunny and cool wind. Everybody home.

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup>

Beautiful day. Sunbathed, 26 deg.

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup>

Beautiful day 26 deg. Went into city 9-30. Botanic Garden, walked along Yama River, then to Fitzroy Gardens. Visited State Parliament Buildings and China Town. Then back home on tram.

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup>

Sunny day, very hot, around 32 deg.

Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup>

Cloudy. After lunch went onto the Demcenong (?) to Mt. Dandenang Observatory, then Rhododendron Garden Festival. Beautiful blooms and Gardens. Sun came out and it was warm. Thunderstorm around 7-30pm.

Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup>

Cool and changeable. Went to Caribbean Market in afternoon set in lovely gardens. Market something like home. In the evening went to Remembrance Service at Shine. Very lovely and impressive. Kept fine.

Monday, 12<sup>nd</sup>

Wet and thundery, cool.

Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup>

Sunny and cold. Went into city with Joyce and Shane. For zippy and Joyce posted her mum's present.

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup>

Wet and Cold.

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup>

Cold and drizzle.

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup>

Lovely hot, hot and sunny. Anne went to Adelande (?)

Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup>

Lovely day. Start of 150 years birth of Victoria. Went into city for fair. In the evening Joyce went with to cinema with Steve and David to see 'Ghost Busters'. I stayed home with Frank.

Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup>

Beautiful Day. After lunch went to Alan and Joan's at Bayswater. Then went to view Show Houses which range from 38,000 D to 81,000 D plus cost of the land which could cost from 9,000 D upwards depending where built. Met Joan's sister Betty and husband.

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup>

Cloudy day and cool.

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup>

Joyce and I went on a cruise down the Yama River (4 D). Lovely day

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup>

Sunny and cool.

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup>

Sunny, breezy and cold.

Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup>

Wet and cold. Going into city. Went to Cooks.

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup>

Lovely day. 18 deg. Went to Ellwood and Brighton Beach. With Joyce and Tammy.

Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup>

Beautiful day. Went down south to Lorne. Lovely views surf beach. Went thro' Anglesey, passed Torque along the coast road called the Great Ocean Road.

Monday, 26<sup>th</sup>

Hot and Sunny.

Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup>

Dull humid day. Went into city.

Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup>

Lovely day, sunny. 23 deg.

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup>

Changeable, sunny, cloudy.

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup>

Same as yesterday.

## December 1984

Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup>

Lovely day. Voting day. Labour re-elected with a smaller majority. Joyce went to staff Christmas dinner.

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Lovely morning. After lunch went to Mitchleton Winery, then to Chateau Winery (nice), cold and wet.

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Cold and showery. Frank on holiday.

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup>

Cold and rainy. Visited Joyce's friend Mary at Ellwood.

Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup>

Cold and wet.

Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup>

Dull to start, sunny but cold in the afternoon, around 20 deg. Visited Arts Centre. – theatre and concert hall etc, lovely. Doggy came too.

Friday, 7<sup>th</sup>

Sunny and warmer.

Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup>

Lovely day with cool wind. Went to Trot meeting at Moobee in the evening. Very cold.

Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup>

Lovely day, 24 deg. Went to Victoria Market. North of city. Went to dinner at Lake View restaurant with Joyce, Anne and Stephen for their 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup>

Cold and wet. Sunny afternoon and warmer. Went to ????. Joyce made Aussie citizen, brass band, councillors, and MP there. Sworn in. Also allegiance to Queen. Had supper

Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup>

Dull and warm. Went into city with Joyce.

Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup>

Sunny and windy. Frank's birthday, Joyce's friend Connie came for dinner.

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup>

Sunny morning then cold and wet.

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup>

Wet and stormy and cold. Freak storm around the bay.

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup>

Went to Bentleigh for wool, fine and a little warmer.

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>

Beautiful day, lazed in the sun.

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup>

Beautiful day 26 deg. Went to Mary's in the evening.

Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup>

Went into city with Joyce and Anne.

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup>

Nice day. Went into city for Joyce and Frank's Christmas presents.

Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup>

Cold and wet. Had a haircut.

Friday, 21<sup>st</sup>

Mark ran got say that Gail's mum died the previous week. A sad day.

Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup>

Beautiful day, 26 deg.

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup>

Beautiful day, 26 deg. Went to Warburton on upper Yama Reservoir, lovely, scenery, no one there.

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas eve, stated nicely but cloudy and rain at tea time, spoilt our candle light carol service. Children getting excited. Joyce came home sick.

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup>

Christmas day. Children up at 5.45. Weather miserable wet and cold. Children had loads of presents. Stephen and Anne gave me leather handbag, Joyce and Frank a wallet and purse. Lynn brought Tammy over in the morning. Joyce a little better. Had pork for lunch and Christmas pudding. Ham for evening dinner with salad. A very enjoyable day.

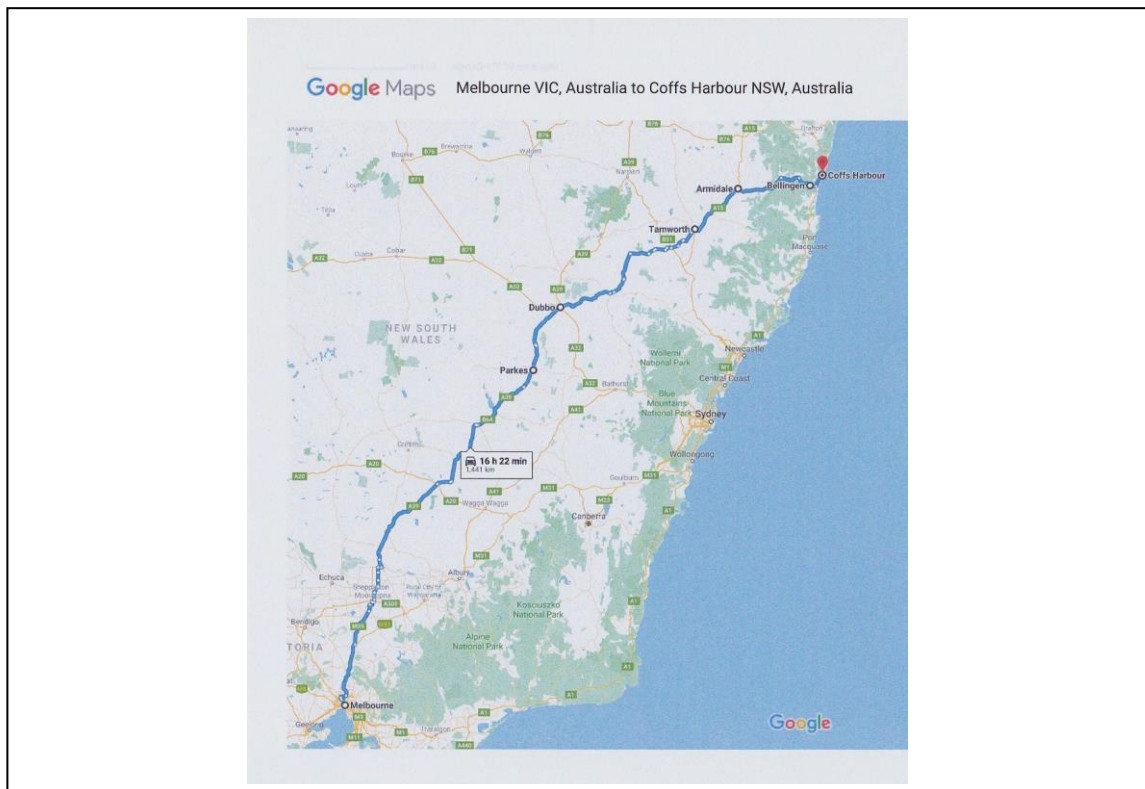
Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup>

Boxing day up at 6 am ready for early start at 7-00. Wet and cold still. Drove out of it in about 2 hours into lovely blue sky and hot sun. Scenery very flat and uninteresting. Stayed over night at Parkes in Spanish Lantern Hotel.

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup>

Left at 8-00am, good weather. Scenery still flat until after lunch. Passed the bush fires still smouldering near Dubbo. Had lunch between Dubbo and Tamworth.. Scenery getting better with trees and hills. Tamworth a farming town. Then on to Armadale which nestles between the mountains. Over the top to Bellingen, a lovely place. Stayed at the Bellingen Valley Motel.





Friday, 28<sup>th</sup>

Left about 9-00am. Short drive to Coffs's Harbour. (1hr). Beautiful scenery over the mountains and forest. Came down a series of hair pin bends to Coffs's Harbour. Pity I was raining. And misty. Visibility about 10 yards. Shopped in Coffs's Harbour then went to Frank's favourite place, Ex-service Club – Poker Machines – then on to Island View Chalets where we were staying about 5 miles from town. Lovely place and beach.

Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup>

Went to the beach in the morning and to Poker machines in the afternoon, came back for dinner then bed.

Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup>

Rained heavy all night and till about 10-30 then cleared , sunny and very windy. Went into town. J & F & D went to the club. I walked to the harbour. Joan, Alan, Betty and Keith called in the morning. Came home for dinner. Frank not well.

Monday, 31<sup>st</sup>

New years eve. Frank still not well, he stayed in bed. Joyce, David and I went to Wooloolda beach about 15 km north. Went to dinner disco with Alan, Joan, Betty and Keith at Park Beach bowling Club. Frank stayed home.

## January 1985

Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup>

New Years Day sunny and breezy. Frank still not well. Went to the ex-services club for dinner.

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Beautiful day, 28 deg. Sunny with lovely breeze.. Went to the Big Banana Planation on tractor train. Went onto beach in the afternoon.. Had dinner at the club.

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Cloudless blue sky. Went to Bellingen Valley and over the mountains to Dorrigo National Park plateau. Saw my first snake. Beautiful wooded hills and valleys.

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup>

Sunny, 26 deg. Went to Graffton, small inland town. Had lunch with a river Clarence. Then on to Yamba. David and /frank fishing and caught about 40 small fish.

Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup>

Hot and sunny, 30 deg. Went down the coast to Urunga. Frank and David fished. David caught a bream 2 lbs. I had it for dinner.

Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup>

Watched I day cricket in the morning then went to Sawtell. Beaches beautiful with rugged rocks. Watched Life Boats Saving Boats race, also surfers race. Called surfers carnival.

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup>

Hot cloudless day. 30 deg. Went to Yamba again fishing, watched dolphins playing in the channel, about 100 yards away. David and Frank caught fish but not big enough to eat.

Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup>

Warm and sunny with cloud. Went into Coffs's Harbour for shopping, looked around for fishing. Teatime thunderstorm with hailstones nearly as big as golf balls. Came down nearly horizontal. Lasted about 2 hours. Poor horses running around the field.

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>

Lovely hot day, cloudless sky 31 deg. Went to Urunga for fishing. David caught two big enough for tea.

Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup>

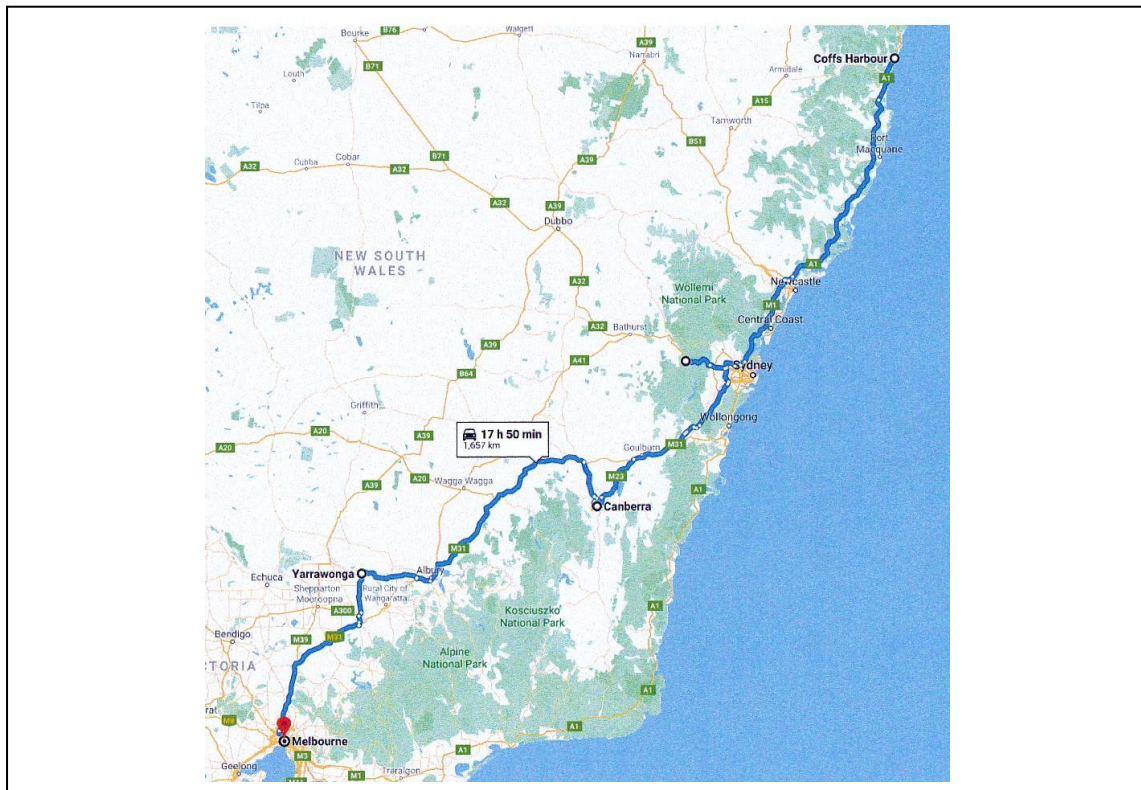
Hot again around 27deg. Stayed around Coffs's Harbour, visited Alan and Joan.

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup>

Went to Urunga fishing again, lovely day.. Caught a lot but only one big enough to eat.

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup>

Lovely hot day, around 27 deg. Had a last look and walk on the beach. It really is beautiful here. Also had a last spa bath.



### Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup>

Left around 9:00 am very hot. Drove down the coast, scenery not bad. Went through ..... Went round Sydney. Got caught in a traffic jam, bumper to bumper for 1 hour though road repairs. Lots of car pulled over with over heating, it was a very hot day. The traffic was slow around Sydney. Did not have a motel. Finally, 8:30 found one at Katoomba. Family room, not bad.

### Monday, 14<sup>th</sup>

Hot again. Left Katoomba around 8:30 am. Went to the Blue Mountains. Went to the Skyway Cable Car, drop of about 100 feet. Then went on the scenic railway down the tree clad gorge 1350 feet long down to the valley 750 feet below. Walked through the bush for a lovely view of the mountains. Had breakfast in a restaurant with a revolving floor. Then carried on through the Blue Mountains up to Canberra. Stayed at Motel Kythera on the outskirts.

### Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup>

Hot in Canberra. Awoke to the news that there were bush fires in Victoria and the roads to Vic were closed. Melbourne was surrounded by bush fires and it had been 42 deg. Also they had had a severe storm doing damage to houses and boats. Left the motel to visit the war museum and Houses of Parliament. Went up the post office tower. Wonderful view of Canberra. Left Canberra about 2:00 pm. Saw smoke from bush fires. Journey very hot with warm north wind. Arrived at Yarrawonga Border Golf Club around 7:30 golf Club love, situated by Lake Mulwala. Dead trees, lots of them in the lake. Had dinner at the RSL club. Then back to golf Club to bed – tired.

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup>

Left about 9:30. For home. Has a good journey. Saw no fires. Arrived home about 1@00 pm  
Love day nice and cool.

Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup>

Sunny, cool. Bush fires still burning at Bright and about 4 other districts.

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup>

Sunny and cool again, 20 deg. Stephen knocked the laundry wall out. David, ??? went into the city. I stayed home and had a lovely hot bath.

Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup>

Lovely day, 20 deg. Went to Tammy's party. She was 2 on the 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. She got lots of presents . Met Lyn's parents who came from Manchester. Had Barbeque at home in the evening. Damon at Gerry's. Sri Lanka beat Aussies.

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup>

Joyce on Holiday. Cool.

Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup>

Went to Port Melbourne with David and Joyce. Cold.

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup>

Went into city. Cool.

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup>

Nice day 22 deg. Sunny. Went to the Concert Hall to see Pirates of Penzance. Very good indeed.

Friday, 25<sup>th</sup>

Lovely day. 22 deg. Went into Melbourne for duty free. Melissa's birthday (2)

Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup>

Lovely day today, 27 deg. Alan, Joan, Billy and Keith came to dinner (Melissa birthday party)

Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup>

Morning warm and sunny. Afternoon dull. Had barbeque.

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup>

Last day, lovely and sunny 23deg. Lazed around. Left about 5:15 pm. Met Stephen, Ann, Lynn and Bill at the airport. Sad to see me waving me off. Spotted F, J, Shane and Tammy from plane. Flight very good. 2 hrs 40 mins arrived at 12-35 am Tuesday. At Christchurch. Vicki and Koos met me.