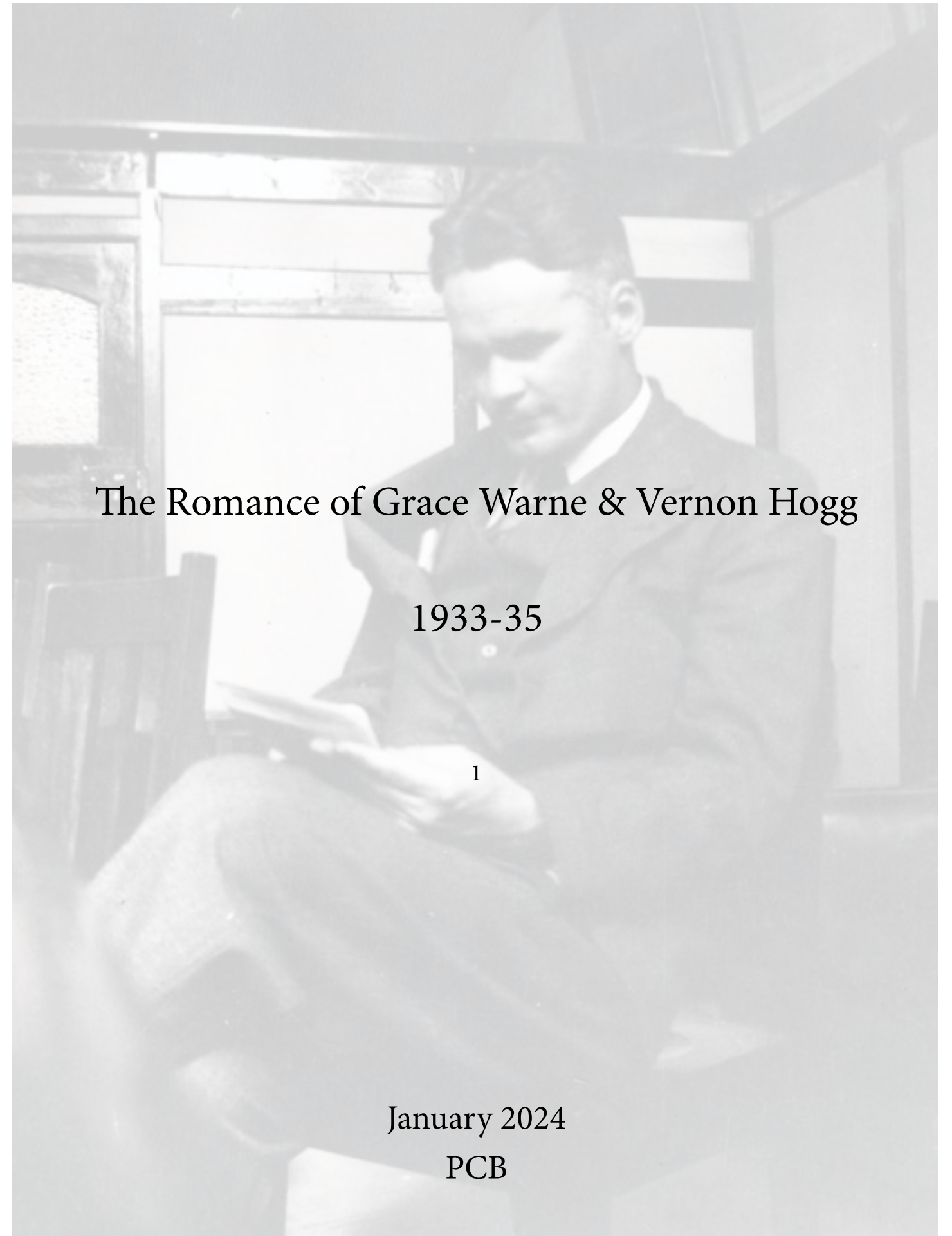


Love Letters



The text and images of this publication are shared freely, however, all publishing and ongoing rights belong to the family of Vernon and Grace.



# The Romance of Grace Warne & Vernon Hogg

1933-35

1

January 2024

PCB



For Barbara Clare Botsman

## Without such love we would not exist...



Passion burned brightly through the hot summer nights and cold winters of 1933/35. Grace Warne and Wilfred John Vernon (Vern) Hogg were head over heels in love. When Vern was posted as a Principal of a small school four hundred and twenty kilometres away in the small town of Walwa on the Murray River, it seemed the end of the earth.

Letters became the life force that connected them both. Waited on eagerly every week, if no letter turned up in the post then the disappointment was palpable.

The urgency of being together was heartfelt. Love was blind to whatever was happening in the world. At this tumultuous time there is little in these letters of politics, of the Depression and of the tumultuous events in Europe though Grace and Vern were to become passionate environmentalists and stalwarts of the anti-war movement in the 1960s and 1970s. The only thing that mattered at this time in their lives was love.

The letters were kept faithfully in a “Remember” box. Grace died nine months before Vern, and the letters were by his bedside. They were together for over fifty years.

To have known love like this is a great blessing. The letters are a reminder of something beyond words and even life itself. *Non Omnis Moriar* (Not all of me will die) was the monogram on some of Vern’s letters to Grace and it has proved to be true in so many ways.

Should these private letters be made public? There are many notes from Grace and Vern and their daughter Barbara that are very instructive, as if they knew that at some point something might happen, though the letters may have been their last consideration. Vernon notes the shyness of Grace in one letter and both did not like the limelight. No doubt to have these letters published while they were both alive may have been too much. But the joy of these letters and the unique way they convey simple values from another time is something that Grace and Vern would have approved of. It is in keeping with the way they lived. I can imagine Grace’s cheeky smile at the

thought of current generations putting aside their phones and dating apps to read her beautifully written letters. She was a feminist and an environmentalist and a supporter of Aboriginal rights and yet she was also an adoring partner.

Love was everything that made all things right. Each letter glows with devotion, adoration and simplicity. Love was for life. The modern world was held at bay by dreams of a simple life and pleasures: being together, a house and a family in a cocoon of love.

It was not a mirage. Grace and Vernon lived, worked together and were inseparable all their lives. They were seminal and inspirational for four generations of their family and beyond. Outwardly they appeared conventional, but they were always something special, unique, wonderful and modern about them. Heterosexuality and the nuclear family with all its traps sure, but wrapped up by the power of an abiding love.

Vernon was ten years older than Grace. He probably first met her with her sisters at the Matrons Ball, Mansfield on Sept 15, 1925. Vernon’s program, (see opposite) faithfully kept in the box with the love letters, shows his dance partners penciled in. He danced with four of the six Warne sisters, “Grace” is written next to the third dance, the Fox Trot. She would have only been ten years old. In one of her photo albums Grace suggests that she met Vern while a nurse. Perhaps Vern made the connection to the Mansfield Dance after their 1930s romance.

In the summer of 1933 Grace was a Nurse at Madeleine Private Hospital, Parkville. Nursing was never something Grace enjoyed. More than anything else she wanted to be with Vern. Vern was a young teacher at the mercy of the Victorian Department of Education being posted from country school to country school, enduring white-ant infested residences, he was intent on securing a good house that he and Grace could live in and be together.

The beauty of these letters comes from their under-stated sensuality and longing at a time when seeing a show on Friday night, tennis (Saturday) and cricket (Sunday) were all the entertainment on offer and probably all that most could want.

‘Going to the city’ was something Grace and Vernon loved to do all their lives. In their latter years it was something of a rite, Vernon would walk up the laneways from Flinders St Station for chocolates and freshly baked cookies from the basement at Myers, stop in at Fletcher Jones perhaps and Grace would go wider afield up the tram lines to North Carlton and Brunswick doing a prowl of op. shops for her son, daughters, grandson and their friends, always coming up with amazing bargains and sought after fashion items never out of date. Friday night movies in country theatres were mandatory and often Vernon would take his daughter Barbara who had a life long love of cinema and the moving image.

Grace’s letters are wonderful, partly because of their rhythm. In 1933/34 Grace would write weekly and then post the letter the next day. Her closest post office was the Carlton North Post Office at 546 Rathdowne St and she almost always (except when letters were entrusted to her brothers!) made the mail the day after her night-time writing. Vern’s letters are more enigmatic but equally passionate.

The great love that is expressed in these letters was a primary reason why the generations that followed Grace and Vernon had successful, happy, adventurous and joyful lives. Those of us who are alive and breathing in Australia in 2024 are invariably spoiled. We have so many things, privileges and capacities. Grace and Vernon lived simply, loved devotedly and unilaterally and they carried successive generations forward. These letters are a glimpse into another time and place. A great love was flourishing that would bind us in our families and in our world. We owe so much to the angels of the past. This volume is an attempt to say thank you and to acknowledge the miracle that was Barbara Botsman. Love is the foundation of all that is good.

*Non Omnis Moriar*

PCB January 2024



Tom Summerhayes Warne (fourth from left), Jimmy Watson and friends, picnic, Princes Park 1920s

## Growing up with the Princes

The name Warne is synonymous with cricket in Melbourne. But 100 years before Shane Warne made his debut for Victoria, his distant great, great uncle was a legendary figure. Tommy Summerhayes Warne was a great batsman, he was a useful “trundler” with an effective googly and he represented Victoria and Australia. He held the record at Carlton for the most runs made in a season from 1898 to 1984. Most of all, though, Tommy was a hero for creating Princes Park, then a garbage dump in between the suburbs of North Melbourne and Carlton, as a first class cricket and football arena in the centre of modern Melbourne.

When Tom first began the task he was told by many groundsmen of the era it was impossible and to quit. For many years Princes Park was known as Tommy’s “cow paddock” and over three quarters of a century, Warne groundsmanship made Princes Park a famous and formidable stadium. Tom gave James Watson the right to sell beer at the ground creating the foundation for him to establish his famous Lygon St wine bar, and when he died Jimmy paid for Tommy’s spectacular funeral procession down Lygon St to the Melbourne General Cemetery and the film is still held in the University of Melbourne archives.

Tom and his wife Alice brought up their twelve children in the residence inside the grounds at Princes Park. The boys went on to become champions in their own right playing cricket all over the world. In this environment a string of famous characters came through the Warne household and Princes Park. Bill Woodfull was captain of Carlton before and after the famous Bodyline series in the 1930s. Grace also recalled that her father found the young Doug Nicholls in the Victoria Markets and brought him home to live with the family. Later events at Carlton in the football club led to Doug moving to Northcote and Fitzroy but he left with much of Tom’s knowledge about curating football and cricket grounds. Grace was a great supporter of all Aboriginal causes and she was deeply moved by Aboriginal environmentalism which I believe came partially from Doug and she often talked about him in her later life.

Grace also recalled “the razor gangs” that made life perilous crossing Princes Park in the 1930s. On occasion her father took her to the boxing at The Stadium (later Festival Hall) and she recalls the crowd howling at patrons to sit down, except for one man who stood unchallenged, the notorious gangster, “Squizzy” Taylor. There were mishaps too. On the evening of Saturday 9 April 1932 Grace acquired a dislocated thumb and facial lacerations when she was struck by a hit and run driver on Royal Parade while waiting for a tram.

Life was not all beer and skittles living, as a young woman, with the Princes of Princes Park. Her father Tom called Grace by her first name Sheila. But this was never her preference. Swept off her feet by the intellectual, mature Vernon Hogg, she was forever known to her family as Grace. For all who knew her she brought a special grace to life and living and as so many of the letters here show, she was Vern’s everything.<sup>1</sup>



Tom Warne. Princes Park, c1900s

<sup>1</sup> ‘Girl Struck by Car’, *The Argus, Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957*, 1932, April 11; ‘James Watson Films’, <https://www.carltonfc.com.au/news/129413/tribute-to-tom-in-film>; ‘Tommy Warne - Eighteen Years of Play’, *Herald (Melbourne, Vic. : 1861 - 1954)* (Melbourne, Vic., 1910); ‘Tommy Warne - Victorian “Sport” Abroad’, *Sporting Life : Dryblower’s Journal (Kalgoorlie, WA : 1905 - 1906)* (Kalgoorlie, WA, 1906); ‘Tommy Warne Made Wickets and Records’, *Sporting Globe (Melbourne, Vic. : 1922 - 1954)* (Melbourne, Vic., 1944); ‘Tommy Warne’s Birthday’, *Referee (Sydney, NSW : 1886 - 1939)* (Sydney, NSW, 1922); ‘Veteran Tommy Warne Surprises the Youngsters’, *Referee (Sydney, NSW : 1886 - 1939)* (Sydney, NSW, 1917).

## Vernon Hogg

Wilfred John Vernon Hogg, son of Daniel and Clara Hogg, was born at Eaglehawk at 9am on the 10th July 1904.

He was educated at Eaglehawk and Ampitheatre primary schools before going on to Bendigo High School. Vernon's father died when he was ten years old of "the miners complaint" – the term used to describe silicosis, tuberculosis and a variety of lung diseases associated with poor ventilation in mines.<sup>1</sup> He was the highly respected and liked manager of the New Moon United and Consolidated Gold mines.<sup>2</sup> It must have been a very difficult time for Clara and his family to watch their father waste away from the deadly disease at home.

His father's death meant that Vernon went to live with his Uncle in the Ampitheatre area. These things were rarely mentioned. But Vern would sometimes relate stories of paper being laid on the floor of their shelter as a wake up call against intruders intent on stealing gold. Rabbit hunting and fishing were part of daily life. Vernon always maintained he could go far under the ground but was afraid of heights.

Though he never talked about it, his father's death and the frailty of life in the mines instilled in Vernon a determination to advance in life and to provide stability for his family. It was a steely fabric of his being, and it also gave him a quiet understanding of people who endured adverse circumstances in life.

Vernon completed secondary studies at Bendigo High School. He started teaching at the age of 17 at Mordialloc and entered Melbourne Teachers College in 1923 where he completed his Trained Primary School Teachers Certificate. He completed his Bachelor Commerce from University of Melbourne in 1935 after completing his Diploma of Education, A.I.I.S, A.C.I.S., and M.R.I.P.A.

He was Principal at Boorolite, Beeac, Underbool, Macedon, Panmure, Bridgewater, Sebastian, Murchison, Maribryngong, Melton, Cobram, Port Fairy and Walwa and also taught at Central Brunswick Northcote Boys High, South Brunswick, Merri, Ripponlea and Albert St, North Carlton prior to his marriage to Grace Warne on the 3rd June, 1934.

After his marriage he was Principal at Meenyan, Clunes H.E.S, Whittlesea, Tatura, Orbost and Glenroy. In 1969 he retired as Principal at Glenroy and became a writer for educational magazines. Vernon was an active member of cricket, tennis, football and badminton teams throughout Victoria.

In the late 1960s Vernon and Grace were active in the anti-war movement and could be seen in the advance guard of several of Melbourne's moratorium rallies.

Wherever he was headmaster he left a legacy most often which he did not want acknowledged with one exception<sup>3</sup>.

He was a loving father to Barbara Clare (November 1935), Joan Marilyn and Geoffrey Vernon and a cherished grandfather.



Vernon, Uncle Din and family fishing circa 1920, Eaglehawk

1 See Beris Penrose. "The State and Gold Miners' Health in Victoria, 1870-1910." *Labour History*, no. 101 (2011): 35–52. <https://doi.org/10.5263/labourhistory.101.0035>.

2 1914 'OBITUARY.', *Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918)*, 28 March, p. 7. , viewed 25 Jan 2024, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article89871275>

3 See Grace's handwritten note at the end of this book on a subject close to her heart.



Vernon's father Daniel Hogg, (far left), Uncle William Hogg (next) and workers New Moon Consolidated Gold Mine, Eaglehawk, Victoria c1910





Vernon, Melbourne Teachers College, 1923 3rd from Right, third row from the top

## The Letters

Written between 1933 and 1934, 110 letters tell a poignant story; the final two very moving letters are written in December 1935.

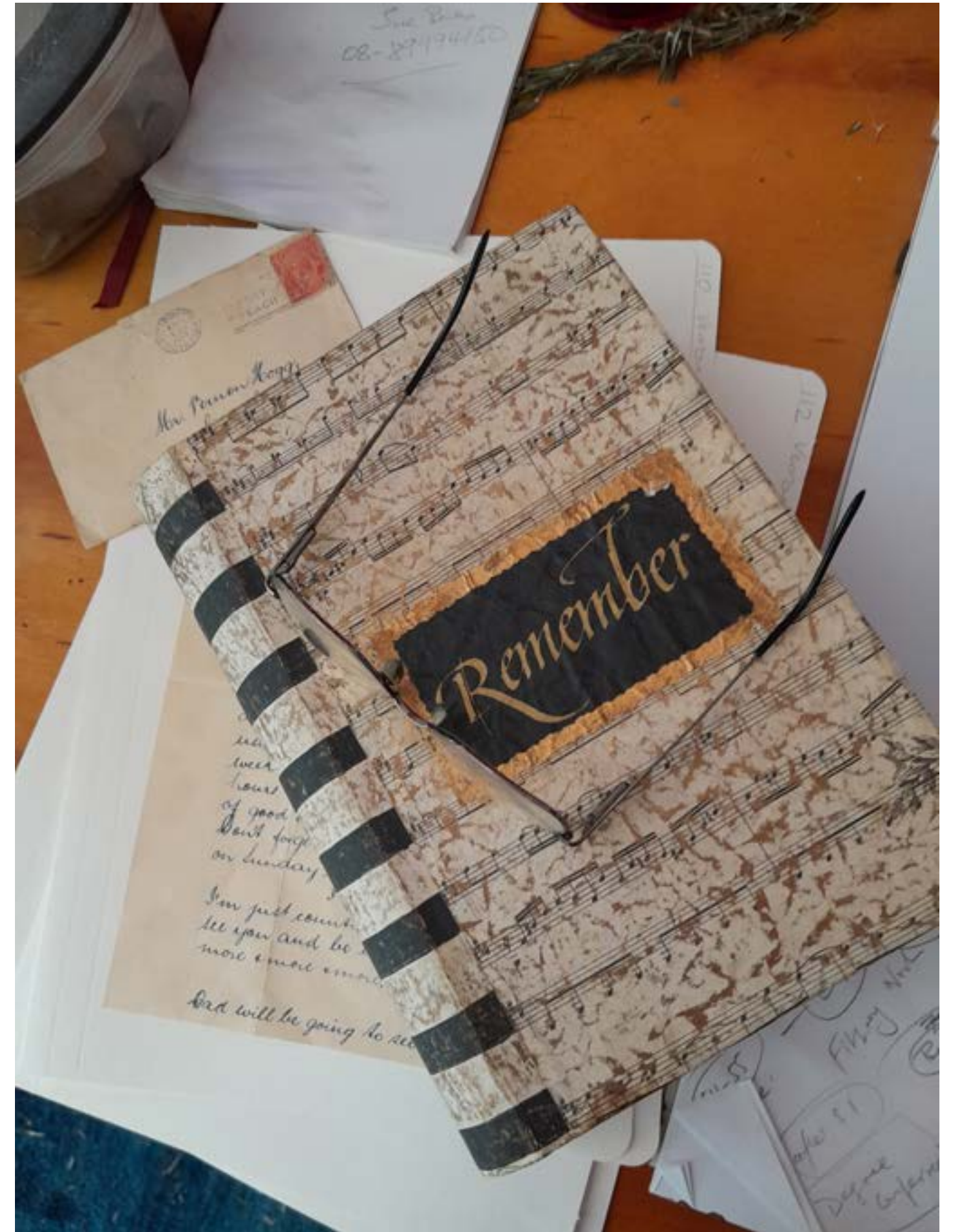
Vern wrote 70 and Grace 40 of the letters that were found. Unfortunately Vern never put dates on his letters and many of the envelopes were lost. Grace's letters were lovingly kept by Vern in their original envelopes and only a few were detached from their envelopes.

When the letters were taken from the box that they were lovingly kept in, they were taken and put into acid free folders in an archives box carefully marked in the order they came from the box.

All Grace's letters were on the top, still in their envelopes, a few were separated from their envelopes, and Vern was probably regularly reading them after Grace passed away in 1984.

The task of ordering the letters in the sequence they were written is difficult. Grace did not often write dates, Vern invariably did not. But Grace faithfully posted her letters the day after she wrote them and we can then work out the days and dates of her letters fairly well. It is a much more difficult task with Vern's letters, made even more difficult by the fact that the Walwa post stamp did not have a date, so even when we have his envelopes, it is harder to work out the dates they were posted.

We have done our best to order them, consoled by the fact that even as stand-alone letters they convey something very special and sacred.





My dear Vern,  
I would just love to know  
where you are and what you are doing.  
I guess that you would be feeling tired after  
your journey, and how I wish that I were with  
you to help you, to do anything in the world  
for you and to love you always, as you know  
I've been thinking of you every  
minute since last night, I love you Vern.  
When I think of you being so far away, dear  
I could cry. I hate to think that you'd be  
lonely, I'm missing you tonight and for you  
only, I live. Something you told me the other  
night makes me feel that you are thinking  
of me always. Far away only in miles  
but not in thought.  
Darling, I'll have to finish  
and post this now goodnight and I  
hope you are being well fed and looked  
after. I'm thinking of you.  
Yours always  
Grace

My dear Vern,

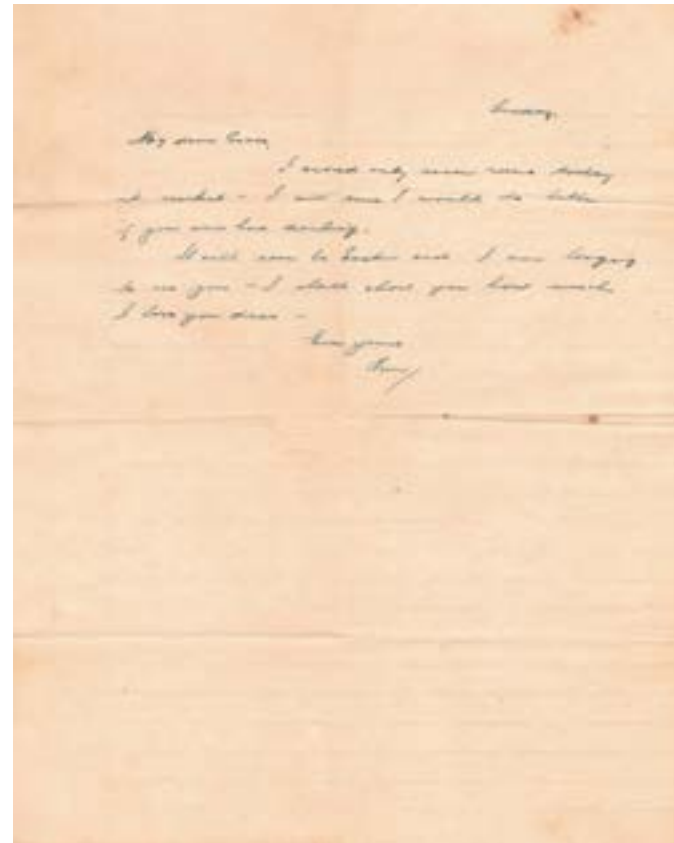
I would just love to know where you are and what you are doing. I guess that you would be feeling tired after your journey, and how I wish that I were with you to help you, to do anything in the world for you and to love you always, as you know.

I've been thinking of you every minute since last night, I love you Vern. When I think of you being so far away, dear I could cry. I hate to think that you'd be lonely I'm missing you tonight and for you only, I live. Something you told me the other night makes me feel that you are thinking of me always. Far away only in miles but not in thoughts.

Darling I'll have to finish and post this now goodnight and I hope you are being well fed and looked after. I'm thinking of you.

Yours always,

Grace



Sunday (April 1933?)

My dear Grace,

I scored only seven runs today at cricket - I am sure I would do better if you were here darling.

It will soon be Easter and I am longing to see you - I shall show you how much I love you dear -

Ever yours,

Vernon



Vernon (3rd from Right Back Row) Bendigo Junior Cricket Team



Sunday (9 April 1933?)

My dear Grace,

I have been trying to find a way into Albury<sup>1</sup> on Thursday night so that I could catch the early train to Melbourne on Friday. So far I have not succeeded. If I can't find a way to catch the early train I shall arrive in Melbourne very late and shall call over and see you on Saturday afternoon. I do hope though that I can find a way in to Albury so that I can see you on Friday night.

Ever yours           xxx

Vern

<sup>1</sup> The closest connection to the Melbourne train.

Tuesday

My dear Grace,  
I didn't write on Friday or Saturday night because there was no mail away from here. I received two letters from you on Thursday and one on Friday. I was glad to hear that you were nearly well again. I wish I were there to nurse you. Dear, even if we have to live in a tent I want you with me so don't consider the nursing. I want you dear - tonight is one night that I miss you terribly. I love getting your letters dear. I am doing everything I can to get a new residence here as well as having the school moved into the township. Last night I interviewed a man about a free site for the school in the township - so far there has been no definite decision but as soon as I get the land I shall ask for a new residence. I am getting the local doctor up to the school residence to have a look over it and perhaps condemn it.

residence in the township first. If only we can get the school and the residence in the township this spot will be worth staying in for three years. I am trying to get a sport close to a creek where I can catch black fish, perch, bream, cod, catfish and an odd trout. I shall see that you don't go hungry. Just imagine us sitting on the bank of the creek with our fishing rods in our hands - of course I shall put the worms on the hook for you.  
Darling I love you more and more and I want you with me.  
Ever yours,  
Vern

X xxxx xxx

have no definite decision but as soon as I get the land I shall ask for a new residence. I am getting the local doctor up to the school residence to have a look over it and perhaps condemn it.

The climate here, dear, is wonderful and I am becoming quite brown and energetic. I haven't felt better for three years. Dear, would you ask your father to have a yarn to Mc Rae, as soon as possible, about the state of the residence and the moving of the school into the township. I am having a meeting of some of the parents during the week to find some way of collecting money to have the school moved. When I have the site for the school, I shall report to the dept. but I want the

Tuesday

My dear Grace,

I didn't write on Friday or Saturday night because there was no mail away from here. I received two letters from you on Thursday and one on Friday. I was glad to hear that you were nearly well again. I wish I were there to nurse you. Dear, even if we have to live in a tent I want you with me so don't consider the nursing. I want you dear - tonight is one night that I miss you terribly. I love getting your letters dear. I am doing everything I can to get a new residence here as well as having the school moved into the township. Last night I interviewed a man about a free site for the school in the township - so far there has been no definite decision but as soon as I get the land I shall ask for a new residence. I am getting the local doctor up to the school residence to have a look over it and perhaps condemn it.

The climate here dear is wonderful and I am becoming quite brown and energetic. I haven't felt better for three years. Grace, would you ask your father to have a yarn to Mc Rae, as soon as possible, about the state of the residence and the moving of the school into the township. I am having a meeting of some of the parents during the week to find some way of collecting money to have the school moved. When I have the site of the school, I shall report to the dept. but I want the residence in the township first. If only we can get the school and the residence in the township this spot will be worth staying in for three years. I am trying to get a sport close to a creek where I can catch black fish, perch, bream, cod, catfish and an odd trout. I shall see that you don't go hungry. Just imagine us sitting on the bank of the creek with our fishing rods in our hands - of course I shall put the worms on the hook for you.

Darling I love you more and more and I want you with me.

Ever yours

Vern

X xxxx xxx



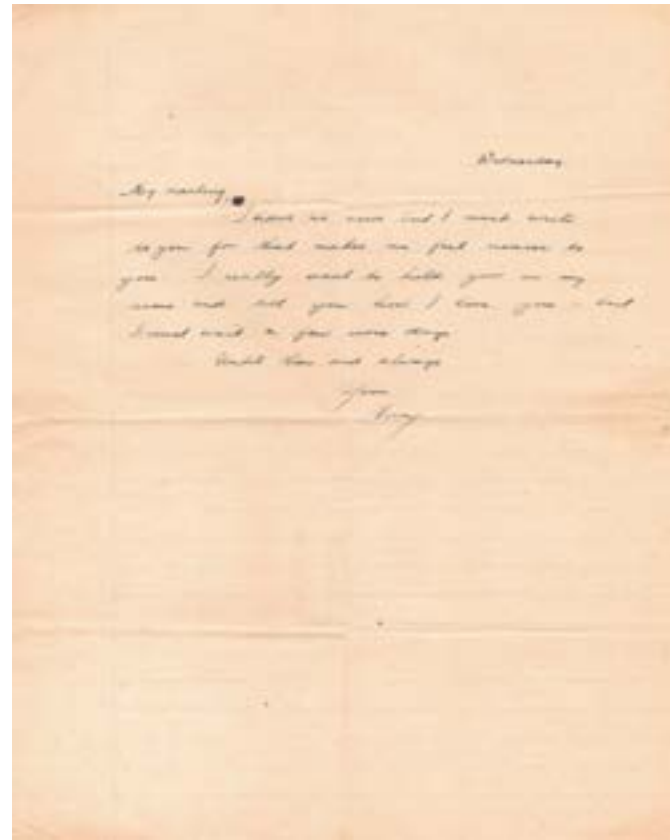
Thursday (5 October, 1933?)

My dear Grace,

I received your letters today. I feel that I must a description of Walwa go for the time for I am thinking only of you. It was wonderful to hear again that you loved me as I love you - always.

Yours only and always,

Vern.



Wednesday

My darling,

I have no news but I must write to you for that makes me feel closer to you. I really want to hold you in my arms and tell you that I love you - but I must wait a few more days.

Until then and always

Yours

Vern





Friday (6 October, 1933)

Friday,

My dear Vern,  
 Now I can start writing this letter, as my noisy brothers have at last departed. They always want some favor at the wrong time.  
 I am glad to know that you arrived safely at Kalwa after the inconvenience about the bus. I can imagine how awful it must have been. I am sure the Dept. shall like the unexpected bill. By the way the garden and the white ants seem interesting. I can't imagine the Dept. being so generous as to build a new residence, Vern where you could be happy. I would love to be with you. I would not want anything or anyone else in the world only you always and nothing will change my love for you ever. I miss you terribly dear and I wish you weren't so far away from me.  
 I went to the baths a few nights ago, it was good. Clare<sup>1</sup> and I are going tomorrow afternoon. The cricket matches start tomorrow. Vern hopes to do well with the Colts.

My dear Vern,

Now I can start writing this letter, as my noisy brothers have at last departed. They always want some favor at the wrong time.

I am glad to know that you arrived safely at Walwa after the inconvenience about the bus. I can imagine how awful it must have been. I am sure the Dept. shall like the unexpected bill. By the way the residence and the white ants seem interesting. I can't imagine the Dept. being so generous as to build a new residence, Vern where you could be happy. I would love to be with you. I would not want anything or anyone else in the world only you always and nothing will change my love for you ever. I miss you terribly dear and wish you weren't so far away from me.

I went to the baths a few nights ago, it was good. Clare<sup>1</sup> and I are going tomorrow afternoon. The cricket matches start tomorrow and Vern hopes to do well with the Colts. You will be surprised to know that I had a letter from Mavis and she is quite well. The letter was brief and I couldn't gather where ever she had been for the holidays. I think I'd better stop now, as I want to go to bed, and think about you darling.

Yours always,

Grace

PS

If there is anything I could do for you, dont forget to let me know dear, as you are the only one I want to do anything for.

G

You will be surprised to know that I had a letter from Mavis and she is quite well. The letter was brief and I couldn't gather where ever she had been for her holidays. I think I'd better stop now, as I want to go to bed, and think about you darling.  
 Yours always,  
 Grace.

PS  
 If there is anything I could do for you, dont forget to let me know dear, as you are the only one I want to do anything for. G

<sup>1</sup> Sister, Clare Sylvia Besanko (nee Warne), (1918-1990).



Monday

My dear Grace,

I had no idea that the school residence was as bad as it really is. Perhaps you will get some idea of the state of it when I tell you that the junior teacher who boards there leaned a broom up against the wall and it went through both walls the inside and out. It would be quite impossible to live in and it would ruin new furniture. Would you ask your father to mention the fact to McRae as the district is quite good and we would be very happy here. New residences at present are being built and there is a good chance that we shall get one but it must be in the township. I am doing my best to have the school

moved into the township.

I received quite a pleasant surprise today when your parcel arrived. It was so thoughtful of you dear. I wish you were here to share the chocolate with me.

Did you collect the racket, Grace? I suppose it was not fit to play with. (It is a Prosser "Association").

All my love

Vern

Monday (9 October, 1933?)

My dear Grace,

I had no idea the school residence was as bad as it really is. Perhaps you will get some idea of the state of it when I tell you that the junior teacher who boards there leaned a broom up against the wall and it went through both walls the inside and out. It would be quite impossible to live in and it would ruin new furniture. Would you ask your father to mention the fact to McRae as the district is quite good and we would be very happy here. New residences at present are being built and there is a good chance we shall get one but it must be in the township. I am doing my best to have the school moved into the township.

I received a pleasant surprise today when your parcel arrived. It was so thoughtful of you dear. I wish you were here to share the chocolate with me.

Did you collect the racket, Grace? I suppose it was not fit to play with. (It is a Prosser "Association").

All my love

Vern

Wednesday (11 October, 1933)



racket (I had to look in your letter to see how  
I'd spell racket) but I know that you love me,  
although I'm not brainy like my future  
husband. I imagined the racket to be worse,  
by what you told me, but I've had a few,  
a hundred times worse than it. The stringing  
is rather good and fairly tight.  
Are the new courts at Walwa nice? and  
is Miss Everard a good player? Her sister is  
very good. The NSW teacher is I believe  
related to a lady who was in the hospital  
having about her 10th child. She happens  
to be Winsome Thomas' relation too, and is  
also a friend of Greta's.  
On Sunday, our yard was swarmed  
with bees. There were two hives on one of the  
trees. Some chap from the club cut them  
down, and cealed them, not very securely in  
a couple of boxes. There are still a few dozen  
stray ones about. I think I'm about the only  
one that hasn't been stung. They always  
seem to catch unnecessary things at our  
place. The greyhound now he bees! I'm just  
waiting to see what the third will be.

Wednesday

My dear Vern,

I got both your letters yesterday  
and one today. I love getting them. I am  
feeling much better today, and am glad to be  
able to write a few more lines than last night.  
I hope my brother posted the letter. It was  
raining heavily when I gave it to him, he  
may still have it in his pocket.  
It is good to know that Walwa  
is a nice place. I have not had much of an  
opportunity to mention to Dad about seeing  
Mr. McRae as I haven't been up the last few days,  
but will let you know soon. It's disappointing  
about the residence, but perhaps if I were to  
do some training at Fairfield or somewhere  
we could wait for awhile. It might be better  
for you, then you may be able to do as you said  
get a transfer to a school with a residence.  
I'd do anything for you dear, and I'll love  
you always. I'd do anything to make things  
easier for you.  
I forgot to mention about the

Vern, it is wonderful to know that you are  
doing all you can in Walwa, as you say, for  
me, I love. I miss you and how I long to  
be with you always.  
I'll write soon.  
Yours ever,  
Grace

My dear Vern,

I got both your letters yesterday and one today. I love getting them. I am feeling much better today, and am glad to be able to write a few more lines than last night. I hope my brother posted the letter it was raining heavily when I gave it to him, he may still have it in his pocket.

It is good to know that Walwa is a nice place. I have not had much of an opportunity to mention to Dad about seeing Mr. McRae as I haven't been up the last few days but will let you know soon. It's disappointing about the residence, but perhaps if I were to do some training at Fairfield or somewhere we could wait for awhile, it might be better for you, then you may be able to do as you said get a transfer to a school with a residence. I'd do anything for you dear and I'll love you always. I'd do anything to make things easier for you.

I forgot to mention about the racket (I had to look in your letter to see how I'd spell racket) but I know that you love me, although I'm not brainy like my future husband. I imagined the racket to be worse, by what you told me, but I've had a few, a hundred times worse than it. The stringing is rather good and fairly tight.

Are the new courts at Walwa nice? and is Miss Everard a good player? Her sister is very good. The NSW teacher is I believe related to a lady who was in the hospital having about her 10th child. She happens to be Winsome Thomas' relation too, and she is also a friend of Greta's<sup>1</sup>.

On Sunday, our yard was swarmed with bees, there were two hives on one of the trees. Some chap from the club cut them down, and cealed them, not very securely in a couple of boxes, there are still a few dozen stray ones about, I think I'm about the only one who hasn't been stung. They always seem to catch unnecessary things at our place the greyhound now the bees, I'm just waiting to see what the third will be.

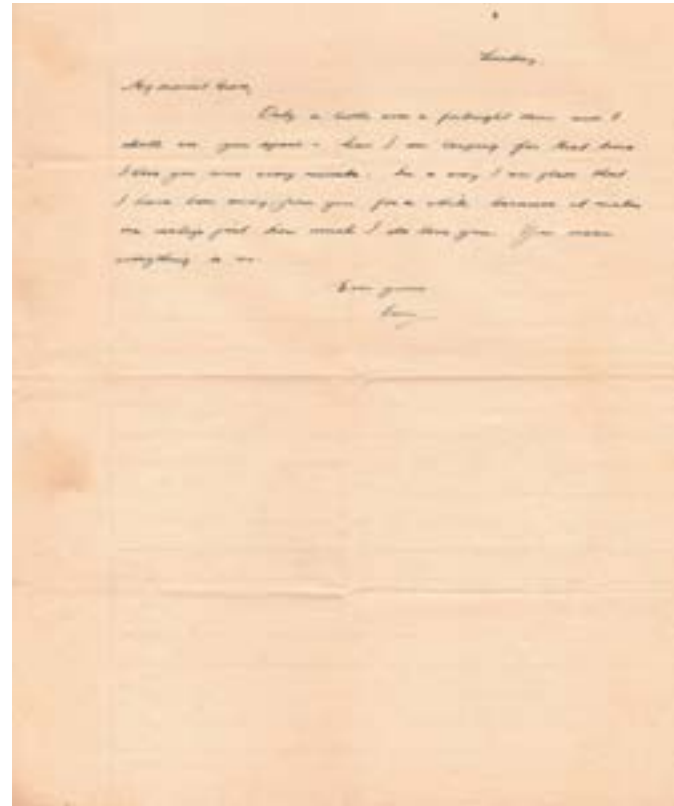
Vern, it is wonderful to know that you are doing all you can in Walwa, as you say, for me, I love, I miss you and how I long to be with you always.

I'll write soon,

Yours ever,

Grace

<sup>1</sup> Sister, Goretta Alice Mary Warne, (1904-1976) was a stenographer at the Pelman Institute of Mind and Training. Office Manager, St Vincents Hospital. She was a dear friend and secretary to Dr. Anthony Lavery, a great humanitarian.



Sunday (April 1933)

My dearest Grace,

Only a little over a fortnight dear and I shall see you again - how I am longing for that time I love you more every minute. In a way I am glad that I have been away from you for a while because it makes me realise just how much I do love you. You mean everything to me.

Ever yours

Vern



Wednesday

My dear Grace,

The meeting last night was quite a success and the parents agreed to buy a block of land for a new teachers residence. The next hurdle is to get the Educ. Dept. to build it. You did not mention in your last letter dear, whether you had spoken to your father about seeing Mc Rae. All my love always

Affectionately yours,  
Vern

P.S. I am playing in the Walwa A tennis team next Saturday.

Wednesday

My dear Grace,

The meeting last night was quite a success and the parents agreed to buy a block of land for a new teacher's residence. The next hurdle is to get the Educ. Dept. to build it. You did not mention in your last letter dear whether you had spoken to your father about seeing Mc Rae. All my love always

Affectionately yours,

Vern.

PS I am playing in the Walwa A tennis team next Saturday.



Friday,

My dear Vern,  
I feel that all I want to do,  
is to write to you, I love you more and I am  
thinking of you always.  
I've just been up Sydney Road,  
I saw this book and thought that you  
might like it although I know you have  
lots to read.  
Still I'm lonely for you, Vern  
and wish we were having this Friday night  
together, as we used to.  
Yours always,  
Grace

Friday (13 October, 1933)

My dear Vern,

I feel that all I want to do is to write to you, I love you more and I thinking of you always.

I've just been up Sydney Road, I saw this book and thought that you might like it although I know you have lots to read.

Still I am lonely for you, Vern and wish we were having this Friday night together, as we used to.

Yours always,

Grace



Walwa  
Victoria

My dear Grace,

I got up yesterday morning at 4.15 a.m. and caught the 6.30 train. I reached Wodonga and found there was no bus to Walwa. The service is rather complicated & I picked the wrong way so could not get through without hiring a car. This I did and it cost £4.5/- The dept. will get a shock when I send my bill in. Walwa itself is a rather nice little township but the residence is terrible and ~~is~~ should be burnt down. I am going to ask the Dept to build a new residence. I shall tell you some more about it tomorrow. Just at present I want to tell you only that I love you and will always

love the white ants in the residence cannot eat my love for you if the dept refuses to build a new residence I may apply for a transfer to a school with a residence for I wouldn't call the place near the school a residence. Thought I may go to see "The Chance of a Night-time" and the "Sleeping Cardinal" at the Walwa Theatre which is next door to the Coffee place. I want you to go with me. Once again I want to tell you that I love you

Yours ever  
Vern

P.S. I shall write another long letter tomorrow.

Walwa

Wednesday (20 September, 1933)

My dear Grace,

I got up yesterday morning at 4.15 a.m. and caught the 6.30 train I reached Wodonga and found there was no bus to Walwa. The service is rather complicated I picked the wrong day so could not get through without hiring a car. This I did and it cost 4 pounds 5 shillings. The dept. will get a shock when I send my bill in. Walwa itself is a rather nice little township but the residence is terrible and should be burnt down. I am going to ask the Dept to build a new residence. I shall tell you some more about it tomorrow. Just at present I want to tell you only that I love you and will always. Even the white ants in the residence cannot eat my love for you. If the dept refuses to build a new residence I may apply for a transfer to a school with a residence for I wouldn't call the place near the school a residence. Thought I might go to see "The Chance of a Night-time" and the "Sleeping Cardinal" at the Walwa Theatre which is next to the Coffee place. I wish you were here to go with me. Once again I must tell you that I love you.

Yours ever

Vern

P.S. I shall write another long letter tomorrow.

**Holland's -Talkies!**  
Present an All British Program.  
High Class and Widespread Appeal

**"THE CHANGE OF A NIGHT TIME"**  
**"THE CHANGE OF A NIGHT TIME"**  
A sparkling Musical Farce  
by Rex. Gordon.  
Wally Stone (Patrolman)  
"THE CHERRY WAY"  
Marilyn Wilson, Marie Wilson,  
Professor Murray in  
**"THE SLEEPING CARDINAL"**  
A Comedy Opera in 3 Acts  
All for General Exhibition.  
SERIES THE SEVEN  
"THE FIVE"  
AND HOLLAND'S Grand Orchestral

**Fodder Conservation**  
All the Fodderists and Dairy Farmers  
will be interested in the F.P.D.  
during the LATEST REVIEW of  
FODDER CONSERVATION which will be  
shown by

**Border Talkies**  
at  
WALWA—Monday, 18th Sept.  
BARKLY—Tuesday, 19th Sept.  
TALLAHAYTA VALLEY,  
Wednesday, 20th September.  
TALLAHAYTA (Public Hall)  
Thursday, 21st September.  
WOODSIELE—Saturday, 23rd Sept.  
BIRDALE—Monday, 26th October.  
MIVVA NIVVA—Tuesday, 27th October.  
TALLAHAYTA (Public Hall),  
Wednesday, 28th October.  
BIRDALE—Thursday, 29th October.



Thursday (12 October, 1933?)

My dear Grace,

I expected a letter from you today and was very disappointed after I didn't get one. Darling I look forward to your letters. I am breaking all records in letter writing by writing to you almost every day. I love you more and more every day dear and I want to be with you and near you.

Lovingly yours,

Vern





Sunday,

Darling,  
I was disappointed to think that you thought I was neglecting you. Naturally you would when you didn't receive my letter on Thursday. I meant for you to get one then, as I always think to write to you before doing anything else dear, and so I should, because I love you, more than anything else in the world, I want to be with you and near you always.

I've found out before that it is not a good plan to trust brothers to post letters, this time it was necessary, yet Cliff insists that it was posted on Tuesday night when I gave it to him, however, I hope it reached you eventually. I look forward to your letters too, Vern, and I know that you have been awfully thoughtful in writing to me so often. I feel that I want to be with you always, you're the only one in the world that I want to do everything for. I am only interested in you and without

you darling, I haven't any desire to go anywhere, not even to play tennis with anyone. I only want you.

I love thinking of you and of the future when we shall always be together. You + I and some day  
(It is good to feel ambitious)

Tonight I miss you Vern, I want you.  
All my love ever,  
Grace

Sunday (15 October, 1933)

Darling,

I was disappointed to think that you thought I was neglecting you. Naturally you would when you didn't receive my letter on Thursday. I meant for you to get one then, as I always think to write to you before doing anything else dear. And so I should, because I love you. More than anything else in the world, I want to be with you and near you always.

I've found out before that it is not a good plan to trust brothers to post letters, this time it was necessary, yet Cliff insists that it was posted on Tuesday night when I gave it to him, however, I hope it reached you eventually. I look forward to your letters too, Vern, and I know that you have been awfully thoughtful in writing to me so often. I feel that I want to be with you always, you're the only one in the world that I want to do everything for. I am only interested in you and without you darling, I haven't any desire to go anywhere, not even play tennis with anyone. I only want you.

I love thinking of you and of the future when we shall always be together. You + I and some day  
\_\_\_\_\_ (It is good to feel ambitious.)

Tonight I miss you Vern, I want you.

All my love, ever

Grace



Grace with brothers? Cliff? Frank? Vernon? circa 1925 Princes Park  
50



Thursday.

My dear Vern,  
I wish that you were here, tonight is wonderful, and I'd love to be with you and near you.

All this week I have missed you terribly I've felt as if I'd love to be your wife, to do anything for you, and to look after you. I'll do anything darling, anything you want me to do for you, I love you more than anything else in the world. I have to tell you over and over how much I love you as it is always in my thoughts.

Yours ever,  
Grace

Thursday (19 October 1933)

My dear Vern,

I wish that you were here, tonight is wonderful, and I'd love to be with you and near you.

All this week I have missed you terribly I've felt as if I'd love to be your wife, to do anything for you, and to look after you. I'll do anything darling, anything you want me to do for you, I love you more than anything else in the world. I have to tell you over and over how much I love you as it is always in my thoughts.

Yours ever,

Grace



Friday (20 October 1933)

Friday.

My dear Vern,

Tomorrow night there is a dance at the Preston Town Hall, of course, Ida + Pat are interested as it is in aid of the Church, I am unpopular, as usual, because I am not going. I don't care about them, I only want you to love me always. These days I cannot understand people that are mad about dances + parties. Vern, why do they want the school right in the township, one half a mile does not seem far away.

Darling I love going to bed thinking of the future, when I'll be with you, and thinking of what a wonderful husband I'll have.

Your future wife,  
Grace

My dear Vern,

Tomorrow night there is a dance at the Preston Town Hall, of course, Ida + Pat are interested as it is in aid of the Church, I am unpopular, as usual, because I am not going. I don't care about them, I only want you to love me always. These days I cannot understand people that are mad about dances + parties. Vern, why do they want the school right in the township, one half a mile does not seem far away.

Darling I love going to bed thinking of the future, when I'll be with you, and thinking of what a wonderful husband I'll have.

Your future wife,

Grace



Monday.

My dear Vern,

I can't describe how much I miss you, but as the days pass I feel that I want you and miss you more and more.

I love to think about the time when you shall be my husband and when we'll be together always.

Darling, I love you

Grace

Monday (23 October 1933)

My dear Vern,

I can't describe how much I miss you, but as the days pass I feel that I want you and miss you more and more.

I love to think about the time when you shall be my husband and when we'll be together always.

Darling, I love you,

Grace



Wednesday.

My dear Vern,  
Tonight I am wondering what you are doing, I hope that you are thinking of me. Are you still feeling homesick darling? I hope that you are not, as I would not like you to feel as lonely as I do at times.  
By the way 27 is what I call a decent score. My brother Vern's<sup>1</sup> scores in the last two matches have been 0 and 1.

We had a letter from Frank<sup>2</sup> the other day, he is getting on well, and expects to play against the Australians in England next year.  
Darling, I love you and want you and I'm longing for the time when I'll be with you and near you always.  
Ever yours,  
Grace

Wednesday (25 October, 1933)

My dear Vern,

Tonight I am wondering what you are doing, I hope that you are thinking of me. Are you still feeling homesick darling? I hope that you are not, as I would not like you to feel as lonely as I do at times.

By the way 27 is what I call a decent score. My brother Vern's<sup>1</sup> scores in the last two matches have been 0 and 1.

We had a letter from Frank<sup>2</sup> the other day, he is getting on well, and expects to play against the Australians in England next year.

Darling I love you and want you and I'm longing for the time when I'll be with you and near you always.

Ever yours,

Grace



Vernon W. Warne, Princes Park, c1933

<sup>1</sup> Grace's brother Vernon Warren Warne, (1911-1976), was a regular Carlton cricketer, he played with Bill Woodfull in the Carlton teams of the 1930s.

<sup>2</sup> Grace's brother Frank Belmont Warne, (1906-1994), played first class cricket on four continents in a 95 game career from the 1920s to the 1940s. In 1933 he was playing with the English county cricket team Worcestershire.



Friday

My dear Grace,

I have just finished writing several essays, but before going to bed I must have a yarn to you. I can picture you sitting on a chair near me knitting - I wonder what it is! I saw in the paper where your brother had made those huge scores you mentioned in your letter. I am glad you think 27 is a good score. I hope I can get a few good scores next year when you are here.

Ever yours  
Vern

Friday (26 October, 1933?)

My dear Grace,

I have just finished writing several essays, but before going to bed I must have a yarn to you. I can picture you sitting on a chair near me knitting - I wonder what it is! I saw in the paper where your brother had made those huge scores you mentioned in your letter. I am glad you think 27 is a good score. I hope I can get a few good scores next year when you are here.

Ever yours

Vern



Thursday

My dear Grace,

I know I shall like the socks when I receive them. I hope you cold is better now dear. If you were in Walwa it would soon get better as we have had wonderful weather up here. I am going to get a letter of introduction to the richest man about Meeniyan - he owns hundreds of acres of land I believe. I can't tell you how much I am looking forward to the time when we shall be together in Meeniyan. This will be one winter that I shall like - I can picture ourselves now sitting near a log fire and later perhaps a little baby at our knees.

Always yours

Vern





Tuesday

My darling,

It was a pleasant surprise to receive the socks today. I wish you were here so that you could put them on. I am counting the minutes dear until we are together. I get more lonely every day and now that winter is here I don't like Walwa. I love you dear. Olivia Barbara are beautiful names.

Always yours,

Vern



Sunday

Dearest,

The socks were perfect. I shall have a wife who can make cream cakes, can knit, can look after me, and do all kinds of things and I shall always love her. I Walwa on May 25th - then we shall have a busy week but a wonderful week.

Your husband to be

Vern







Monday.  
My dear Vern,  
I haven't much news,  
only dad is going to see Bill Woodfull  
when he comes to cricket practice  
tomorrow night, about where + when  
is the best to see Mr. Mc Rae. so  
I hope to have some news for you  
soon.  
Darling as the minutes  
pass, I love you more + more.  
I miss you + I want to be with  
you always.  
Grace.

Monday (30 October, 1933)

My dear Vern,

I haven't much news, only dad is going to see Bill Woodfull<sup>1</sup> when he comes to cricket practice tomorrow night, about where + when is the best time to see Mr. Mc Rae<sup>2</sup> so I hope to have some news for you soon.

Darling as the minutes pass, I love you more + more. I miss you + want to be with you always.

Grace

---

<sup>1</sup> William Maldon Woodfull OBE (22 August 1897 – 11 August 1965) was an Australian cricketer of the 1920s and 1930s. He captained both Victoria and Australia, and was best known for his dignified and moral conduct during the tumultuous bodyline series in 1932–33. Trained as a schoolteacher, Woodfull was known for his benevolent attitude towards his players, and his patience and defensive technique as an opening batsman.

<sup>2</sup> James McRae, Director of Education, Victoria, (1933-1936) and Carlton cricket and football stalwart. <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mcrae-james-7443>



Wednesday,

My dear Vern,  
The nights are lovely here now, I wish that you were here so that we could be together. I am trying to get into form by practicing tennis against the concrete wall in the front. I've had all early nights lately, I would much rather have late ones with you, if only you were here. Darling it seems ages since you went away. I love you and I'm missing you more than ever. I loved the first paragraph of your last letter.

All my love  
Grace

Wednesday (1 November 1933)

My dear Vern,

The nights are lovely here now, I wish that you were here so that we could be together. I am trying to get into form by practicing tennis against the concrete wall in the front. I've had all early nights lately, I would much rather have late ones with you, if only you were here. Darling it seems ages since you went away. I love you and I'm missing you more than ever. I loved the first paragraph of your last letter.

All my love,

Grace



State School,  
Walwa,  
2nd Nov, 1933

My dear Grace,

The local member of parliament opened the Flower Show today and he is going to help in having a new residence built and the school moved into the township. I am now anxiously waiting to hear what Mr. Mc Rae had to say to your father. It would be wonderful to have a new house for the two of us and our thoughts of a third.

There is a concert tonight - I wish there was a picture show instead for I don't like concerts.

I shall love you always, dear

Vern

State School

Walwa

2nd Nov, 1933

My dear Grace,

The local member of parliament opened the Flower Show today and he is going to help in having a new residence built and the school moved into the township. I am now anxiously waiting to hear what Mr. Mc Rae had to say to your father. It would be wonderful to have a new house for the two of us and our thoughts of a third.

There is a concert tonight - I wish there was a picture show instead for I don't like concerts.

I shall love you always, dear

Vern



Sunday

My dear Grace,

I ought to be glad and I  
and you can see to have a walk  
with me still we shall have many  
walks together next year I am still  
eating the Chocolate you sent me.

All my love always  
Vern

Tuesday

My dear Grace,

Tonight is perfect and I wish you were here to have a walk with me. Still we shall have many walks together next year. I am still eating the Chocolate you sent me.-

All my love always

Vern



Thursday

Thursday  
My dear Vern,  
Today I received your letter,  
and I would love to be with you too.  
I have quite recovered from the fever and  
felt that I had to write, as there isn't one  
minute that passes without I think of you  
Vern. I often wonder what you are doing,  
and if you are being well cared for.  
I'd hate you to feel as lonely as I do some-  
times dear. I do not like being away from  
you. I miss you more as the days pass.  
My only wish is to be with you always.  
I'd love to be with you now. I'd show you how  
much I love you. I'd do anything for you.  
Since you have been away -  
In the nights I only want to go to bed  
and think about you dear, the only one  
I'll love always.  
Yours ever,  
Grace

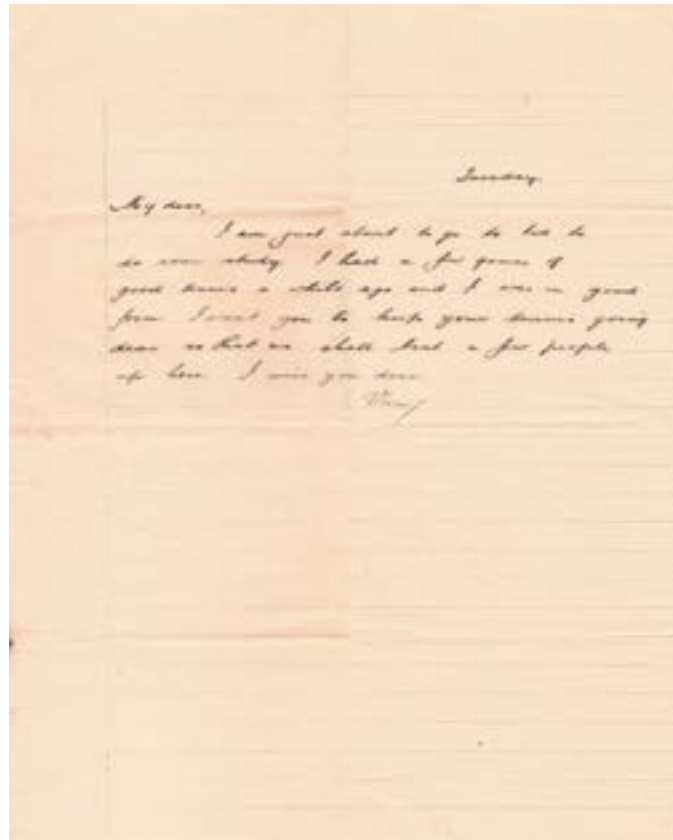
My dear Vern,

Today I received your letter and I would love to be with you too. I have quite recovered from the fever and felt that I had to write, as there isn't one minute that passes without I think of you Vern. I often wonder what you are doing and if you are being well cared for. I'd hate you to feel as lonely as I do sometimes dear. I do not like being away from you, I miss you more as the days pass. My only wish is to be with you always. I'd love to be with you now. I'd show you how much I love you. I'd do anything for you.

Since you have been away - In the nights I only want to go to bed and think about you dear, the only one I'll love always

Yours ever,

Grace



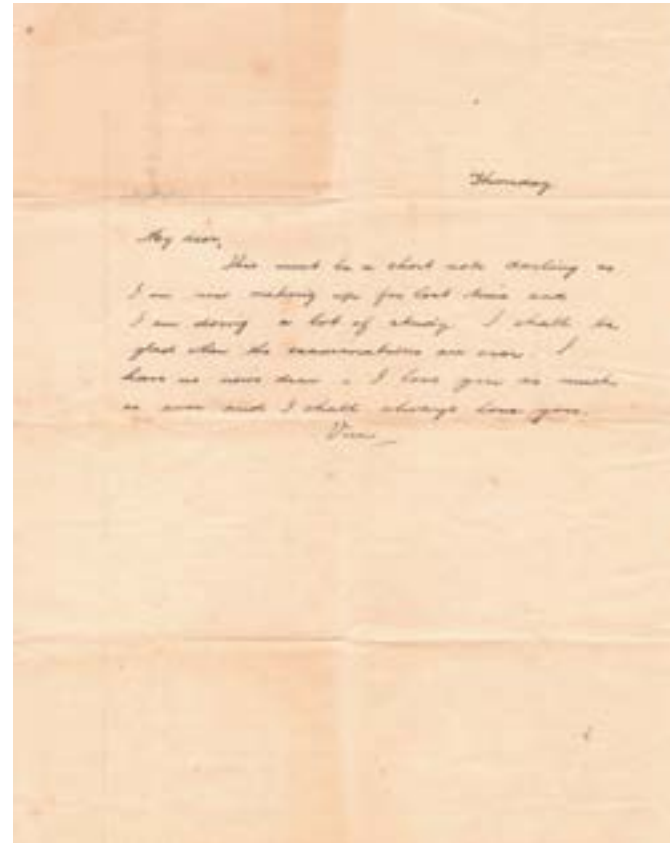
Tuesday (October 1933?)

My dear,

I am just about to go to bed to do some study. I had a few games of tennis a while ago and I was in good form. I want you to keep your tennis going dear so that we shall beat a few people up here. I miss you dear.

Vern

x



Thursday (26 October, 1933?)

My dear,

This must be a short note darling as I making up for last time and I am doing a lot of study. I shall be glad when the examinations are over. I have no news dear - I love you as much as ever and I shall always love you.

Vern



Corryong

My dear Grace,  
I look forward to receiving your letter darling  
and I love you just as much now dear as I did  
when I first came to Walwa - in fact I love  
you more. My examinations start in a fortnight  
dear and I shall be in Corryong. I hope that  
when I come back from a week in Corryong I shall  
have a lot of mail waiting for me. If I do  
not write during that week dear remember I shall  
be loving you and wanting you all the  
while. I want to pass the examinations so that  
I can have more time with you.  
All my love  
Vern

Thursday (2 November, 1933?)

My dear Grace,

I look forward to receiving your letters darling and I love you just as much now dear as I did when I first came to Walwa - in fact I love you more. My examinations start in a fortnight dear and I shall be in Corryong. I hope that when I come back from a week in Corryong I shall have a lot of mail waiting for me. If I do not write during that week dear remember I shall be loving you and wanting you all the while. I want to pass the examinations so that I can have more time with you.

All my love

Vern



Friday

My dear Vern,  
Last night I went to see the Squatter's daughter at Hoyts. I liked it you would have too. I was wishing that you were with me. I love you, and I missed you.

How did you get on at tennis on Saturday did you win? I've been persuaded to play on Sunday at a club in Brunswick, by Isabel Heffey, she teaches at Moreland. A few years ago we both used to get up at 5.30 every morning for weeks and play tennis for a couple of hours. I imagine not realizing the waste of good energy, since I have realized. Don't forget to tell me how many you score on Sunday darling, I love to know.

I miss you Vern terribly, I'm just counting the days until I'll see you and be with you. I love you more & more & more, always  
Grace

Dad will be going to see Mr. Mc Rae next week.

Friday (3 November 1933)

My dear Vern,

Last night I went to see the Squatter's Daughter<sup>1</sup> at Hoyts, I liked it you would have too, I was wishing that you were with me. I love you, and I missed you.

How did you get on at tennis on Saturday did you win? I've been persuaded to play on Sunday at a Club in Brunswick, by Isabel Heffey, she teaches at Moreland. A few years ago we both used to get up at 5.30 every morning for weeks and play tennis for a couple of hours. Imagine not realizing the waste of good energy, since I have realized. Don't forget to tell me how many you score on Sunday darling, I love to know.

I miss you Vern terribly, I'm just counting the days until I'll see you and be with you, I love you more + more + more, always

Grace

Dad will be going to see Mr. Mc Rae next week.



<sup>1</sup> The Squatter's Daughter is a 1933 Australian melodrama directed by Ken G. Hall and starring Jocelyn Howarth. One of the most popular Australian films of the 1930s, it is based on a 1907 play by Bert Bailey and Edmund Duggan which had been previously adapted to the screen in 1910.



Sunday.

My dear Vern,

Tonight I feel like writing a long letter, but I can't express all that I would like to say to you. I am sorry, I know that you will be disappointed to hear that I haven't any news about Mr. Mc Rae<sup>1</sup> dad<sup>2</sup> could not find time to get away, but his intentions are good for sometime soon. I'll keep him up to his promise this week.

My cousin and I played tennis at the exhibition courts yesterday we only stayed for one set, as you know what type of players frequent public courts especially Sat. afternoon. We had a nice romp around in the gardens outside chasing after the ball. It did not take us long to get wise (that reminds me that I've got another wisdom tooth) we ended up at Times Theatre<sup>4</sup>.

I have decided not to play anymore, until you come down. Of course,

as you know how liable I am to change my mind, this good weather tempts me at times.

Last night I went to bed early and thought about you all the time I know that I'll always love you darling and do anything you want me to. I am always thinking how wonderful it will be to be with you again as it does seem ages since we were together. How I will love being your wife.

Darling I want you to tell me if you still love me now as much as you did before you went away.

Always yours  
Grace

Sunday (5 November 1933?)

My dear Vern,

Tonight I feel like writing a long letter, but I can't express all that I would like to say to you. I am sorry, I know that you will be disappointed to hear that I haven't any news about Mr. Mc Rae<sup>1</sup> dad<sup>2</sup> could not find time to get away, but his intentions are good for sometime soon. I'll keep him up to his promise this week.

My cousin and I played tennis at the Exhibition courts<sup>3</sup> yesterday we only stayed for one set, as you know what type of players frequent public courts especially Sat. afternoon. We had a nice romp around in the gardens outside chasing after the balls. It did not take us long to get wise (that reminds me that I've got another wisdom tooth) we ended up at Times Theatre<sup>4</sup>.

I have decided not to play any more until you come down. Of course, as you know how liable I am to change my my mind, this good weather tempts me at times.

Last night I went to bed early and thought about you all the time I know that I'll always love you darling and do anything you want me to. I am always thinking how wonderful it will be to be with you again and it does seem ages since we were together. How I will love being your wife.

Darling I want you to tell me if you still love me, now as much as you did before you went away.

Always yours,

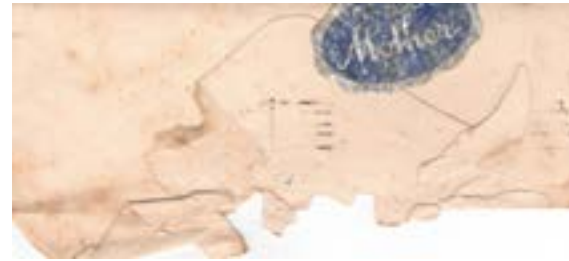
Grace

1 Victorian Education Department housing officer

2 Grace's father, Tom Summerhayes Warne, (13 January 1870 – 7 July 1944) played 46 first-class cricket matches for Victoria between 1895 and 1912. He toured New Zealand with the Australian team in 1909–10. <https://www.espnccricinfo.com/cricketers/tom-warne-8312>

3 Tennis Courts, Exhibition Gardens, Melbourne

4 283 Bourke St, Melbourne



Tuesday (7 November, 1933)

Dear Vern,

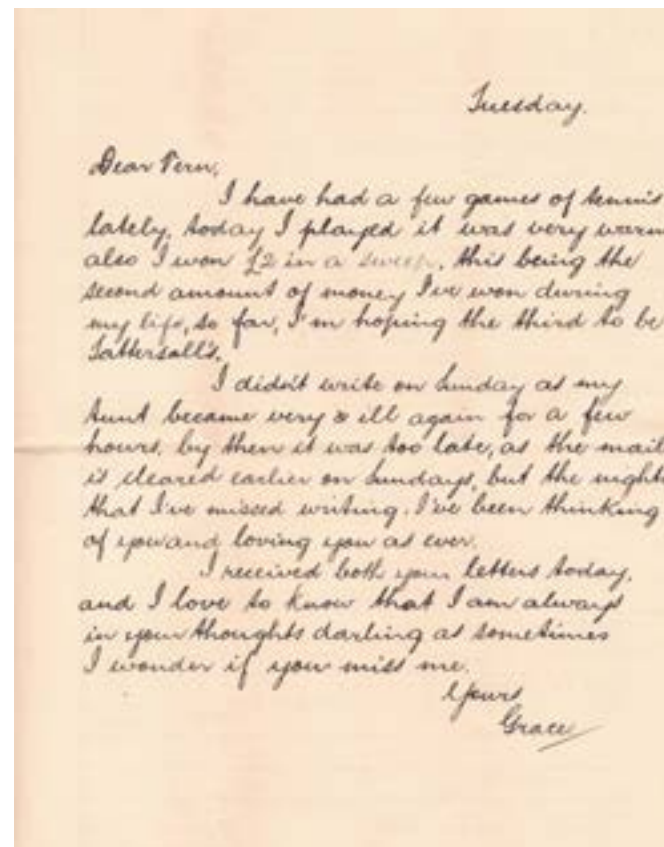
I have had a few games of tennis lately, today I played it was very warm also I won 2 pounds in a sweep, this being the second amount of money I've won during my life, so far, I'm hoping the third to be Tattersall's.<sup>1</sup>

I didn't write on Sunday as my Aunt became very ill again for a few hours, by then it was too late, as the mail is cleared earlier on Sundays, but the nights that I've missed writing, I've been thinking of you and loving you as ever.

I received both your letters today, and I love to know that I am always in your thoughts darling as sometimes I wonder if you miss me.

Yours

Grace



<sup>1</sup> A regular Tattersalls lottery ticket was purchased from this time.

Wednesday,  
My dear Vern,  
I am glad that it is a lady's privilege to be able to change her mind, as yesterday I broke my vow, and played tennis with Ida. She beat me 6-4 in the first, I won 6-4 in the second and third sets. I felt rather pleased, as she has been playing tennis four days in the week. I am going to play a lot, so that you shall be able to tell me that I've improved.  
Greta was home today

And sends her regards.  
I miss you more darling as the time passes, tonight I feel terribly lonely more than other times and I want to be with you and near you.  
All my love, always,  
Grace.

Wednesday (8 November 1933?)

My dear Vern,

I am glad that it is a lady's privilege to be able to change her mind, as yesterday I broke my vow, and played tennis with Ida. She beat me 6-4 in the first, I won 6-4 in the second and third sets. I felt rather pleased, as she has been playing tennis four days in the week. I am going to play a lot, so that you shall be able to tell me that I've improved.

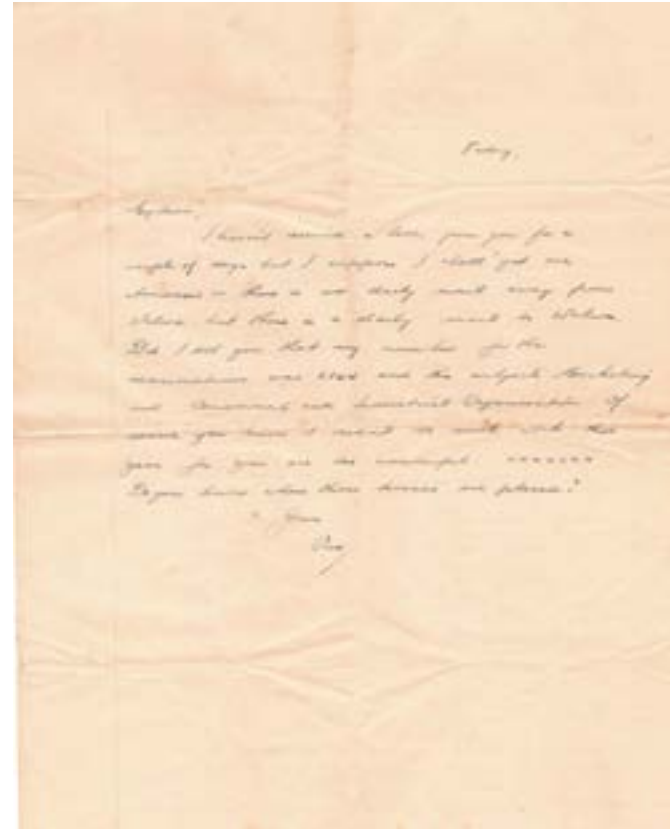
Greta was home today and sends her regards.

I miss you more darling as the time passes, tonight I feel terribly lonely more than other times and I want to be with you and near you.

All my love, always,

Grace





Friday (10 November 1933?)

My dear,

I havent received a letter from you for a couple of days but I suppose I shall get one tomorrow as there is no daily mail away from Walwa but there is a daily mail to Walwa. Did I tell you that my number for the examinations was 2744 and the subjects Marketing and Commercial and Industrial Organisation. Of course you know I didn't do much work this year for you are too wonderful. xxxxxxxx Do you know where these kisses are placed?

Yours

Vern

**UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE.**

**December Annual Examinations, 1933.**

General and Special Pathology, with Bacteriology—Obtained Honors: Nos. 2720, 2726, 2740, 2742, 2749, 2751, 2752, 2755, 2760, 2762, 2765, 2769, 2780, 2781, 2782, 2783, 2784, 2785, 2786, 2787, 2788, 2789, 2790, 2791, 2792, 2793, 2794, 2795, 2796, 2797, 2798, 2799, 2800, 2801, 2802, 2803, 2804, 2805, 2806, 2807, 2808, 2809, 2810, 2811, 2812, 2813, 2814, 2815, 2816, 2817, 2818, 2819, 2820, 2821, 2822, 2823, 2824, 2825, 2826, 2827, 2828, 2829, 2830, 2831, 2832, 2833, 2834, 2835, 2836, 2837, 2838, 2839, 2840, 2841, 2842, 2843, 2844, 2845, 2846, 2847, 2848, 2849, 2850, 2851, 2852, 2853, 2854, 2855, 2856, 2857, 2858, 2859, 2860, 2861, 2862, 2863, 2864, 2865, 2866, 2867, 2868, 2869, 2870, 2871, 2872, 2873, 2874, 2875, 2876, 2877, 2878, 2879, 2880, 2881, 2882, 2883, 2884, 2885, 2886, 2887, 2888, 2889, 2890, 2891, 2892, 2893, 2894, 2895, 2896, 2897, 2898, 2899, 2900, 2901, 2902, 2903, 2904, 2905, 2906, 2907, 2908, 2909, 2910, 2911, 2912, 2913, 2914, 2915, 2916, 2917, 2918, 2919, 2920, 2921, 2922, 2923, 2924, 2925, 2926, 2927, 2928, 2929, 2930, 2931, 2932, 2933, 2934, 2935, 2936, 2937, 2938, 2939, 2940, 2941, 2942, 2943, 2944, 2945, 2946, 2947, 2948, 2949, 2950, 2951, 2952, 2953, 2954, 2955, 2956, 2957, 2958, 2959, 2960, 2961, 2962, 2963, 2964, 2965, 2966, 2967, 2968, 2969, 2970, 2971, 2972, 2973, 2974, 2975, 2976, 2977, 2978, 2979, 2980, 2981, 2982, 2983, 2984, 2985, 2986, 2987, 2988, 2989, 2990, 2991, 2992, 2993, 2994, 2995, 2996, 2997, 2998, 2999, 3000.



Sunday,

My dear Grace

I had your letter forwarded on to me while I was at Corryong. They cheered me up. I must go again next week for a couple of days. Until then dear, I shall in my imagination kiss you here, there and there - especially there. When I reach Corryong I shall read over one letter in particular - the one you wrote last week.

Yours  
Vern

Sunday (19 November, 1933?)

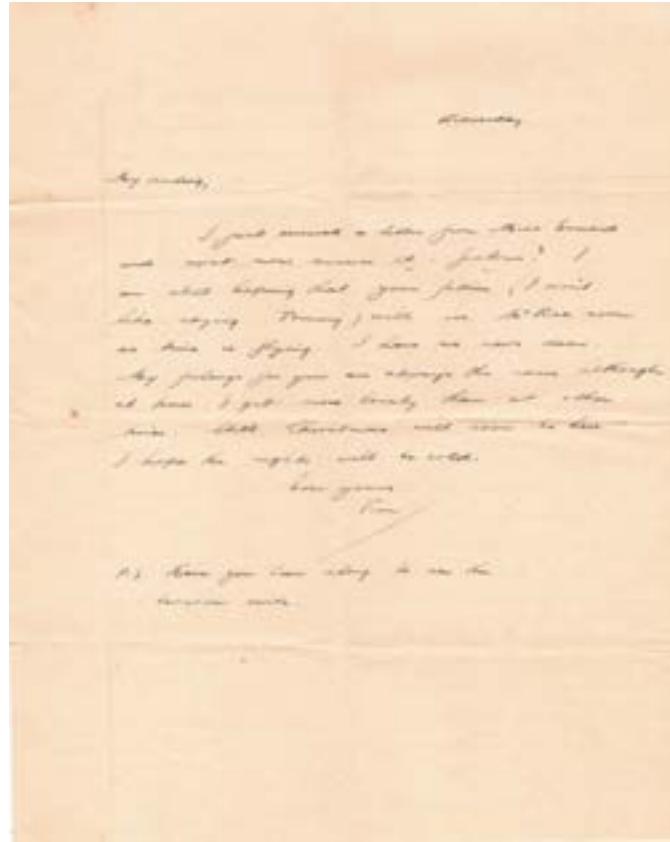
My dear Grace,

I had your letters forwarded on to me while I was at Corryong. They cheered me up. I must go again next week for a couple of days. Until then dear, I shall in my imagination kiss you here, there and there - especially there. When I reach Corryong I shall read over one letter in particular - the one you wrote last week.

Yours

Vern





Wednesday

My darling,

I just received a letter from Miss Everard and must now answer it. Jealous? I am still hoping that your father (I don't like saying Tommy) will see McRae soon as time is flying. I have no news dear. My feelings for you are always the same although at times I get more lonely than at other times. Still Christmas will soon be here I hope the nights will be cold.

Ever yours

Vern

P.S. Have you been along to see the bedroom suite:





Friday.

My dear Vern,  
After wasting a day or so in bed, I am feeling better. Darling I have passed the stage of being jealous and I am not a scrap jealous of anyone in the world I would not care if you received forty letters every day from Myra Everard.  
I have not been to see the bedroom suite, I'd rather wait and see it with you, darling as I know I'll like it.  
Some friends of ours know every inch of Walwa, I think they go there every year.

Do you remember you met the girl, Betty Duckett, one night at the hospital, when you were waiting for me.  
I am always thinking of you and loving you more + more every minute.  
Yours always  
Grace

Friday (24 November 1933)

My dear Vern,

After wasting a day or so in bed, I am feeling better. Darling I have passed the stage of being jealous and I am not a scrap jealous of anyone in the world. I would not care if you received forty letters every day from Myra Everard.

I have not been to see the bedroom suite, I'd rather wait and see it with you, darling as I know I'll like it.

Some friends of ours know every inch of Walwa, I think they go there every year.

Do you remember you met the girl, Betty Duckett, one night at the hospital, when you were waiting for me.

I am always thinking of you and loving you more + more every minute.

Yours always,

Grace



Tuesday.

My dear Vern,  
 I have thought how unreasonable my letter must have read, but darling I didn't mean to hurt you. When I wrote I wasn't feeling well, I guess I felt irritable and didn't mean what I wrote. I hated more, then to think that I wouldn't hear from you for a week. I love you and miss you, now that I am better I realize that you will have a lot to think about, when you are at Corryong. I don't expect you to write.

Vern I do trust + understand as I always will.  
 I love you + love you  
 as always,  
 Grace.

Tuesday (28 November, 1933)

My dear Vern,

I have thought how unreasonable my letter must have read, but darling I didn't mean to hurt you. When I wrote I wasn't feeling well, I guess I felt irritable and didn't mean what I wrote. I hated more, then to think that I wouldn't hear from you for a week. I love you and miss you no that I am better I realize that you will have a lot to think about, when you are at Corryong. I don't expect you to write.

Vern I do trust + understand as I always will.

I love you + love you,  
 as always  
 Grace



Thursday.

Darling,  
Tonight I feel as if  
I want you more than ever,  
I do miss you terribly, darling  
I love you and I'll do anything  
in the world for you, always.  
All my love,  
Grace

Thursday (30 November, 1933)

Darling,

Tonight I feel as if I want you more than ever, I do miss you terribly, darling I love you and I'll do anything in the world for you, always.

All my love,

Grace





Monday (4 December, 1933?)

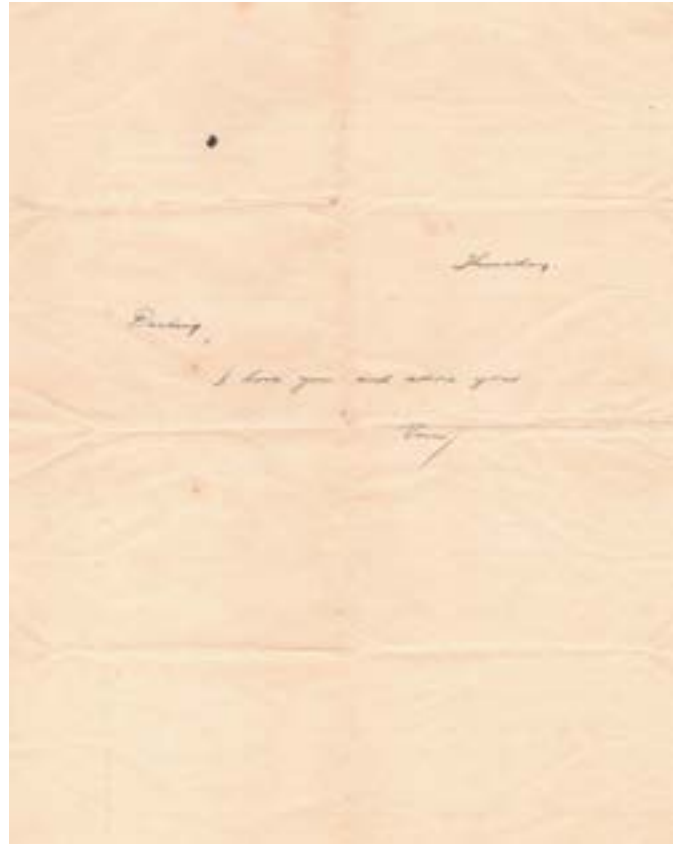
My darling Grace,

I am glad to hear that you were feeling better and had got over the stage of being jealous. I think I remember Betty. Dear, I love you as I shall always love you. Tomorrow I go to Corryong but I shall find time to think of you - I wish I had you with me at night. I miss those wonderful nights we spent together.

Ever yours

Vern





Thursday

Darling,

I love you and adore you.

Vern



Friday.

My dear Vern,  
I haven't any news.  
I am thinking of you every minute and wanting you and loving you more + more. I feel that you are thinking of me too. Darling I want you to tell me that every little bit of you is mine.  
Lovingly,  
Grace.

Friday (1 December, 1933)

My dear Vern,

I haven't any news. I am thinking of you every minute and wanting you and loving you more + more. I feel that you are thinking of me too. Darling I want you to tell me that every little bit of you is mine.

Lovingly,

Grace



(December 1933?)

My dear Grace,

I am feeling tired so I am going straight to bed. When I am comfortably in bed I shall put out my arm and wish that you were lying on it because x xxxx xxx

Vern



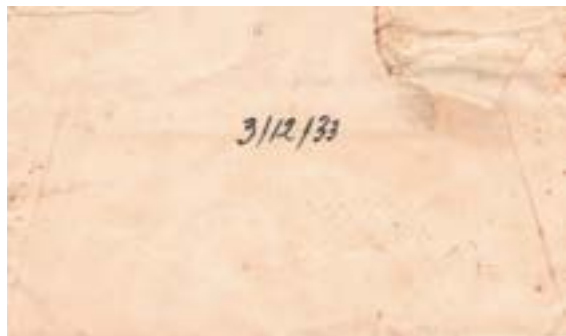
Tuesday

My dear,

I should like to kiss you all those places - I guessed right - but there are other places too - for example x x x x x not only once, but dozens of times. Tonight I am doing it in my imagination.

Yours Vern

P.S. Would you like to go to America?



Sunday.

My dear Vern,  
I received your letter yesterday, which gave me a little surprise and I loved it. Darling I adore the little diagram of kisses and the place I'd like best is x x there and there. Did you guess right?  
It has been very warm here lately, but the nights are lovely. I long for you. I wish that you were here now, darling, I want to

kiss you, and tell you how much I love and adore you, how I will always do anything you want me to do always, darling. My love,  
Grace

Sunday (3 December, 1933)

My dear Vern,

I received your letter yesterday which gave me a little surprise and I loved it. Darling I adore the little diagram of kisses and the place I'd like best is x x there and there. Did you guess right?

It has been very warm here lately, but the nights are lovely. I long for you. I wish that you were here now, darling, I want to kiss you, and tell you how much I love and adore you, how I will always do anything you want me to do always, darling.

My love,

Grace



Thursday.

My dear Vern,  
 I received two letters from you this morning, the one marked Sunday is slightly overdue. It must have been delayed somehow. I am looking forward to seeing you more than anything else. It seems a year darling instead of a few months, since you have been away.

It is bad luck about the residence and it seems the best plan to wait until things are more settled. In the meantime I am going to do Fairfield. I know two girls that are there now and they like it well. I am going to see the Matron a day next week, the last time I saw her she was visiting Sr. Maddern and she told me then, that if at anytime I wanted to do the training there, to see her. Having my uniforms, etc, and having been accepted there before, are two big advantages and my chance of getting there a few weeks after applying is almost sure. It will be wonderful experience. By the time I finish there we shall know how things stand about the residence, etc.

Darling then I'll be 21 I imagine it must be a great feeling. Will you give me the key of your heart when I am 21.

All my love,  
 Grace

Thursday (3 December, 1933)

My dear Vern,

I received two letters from you this morning, the one marked Sunday is slightly overdue. It must have been delayed somehow. I am looking forward to seeing you more than anything else. It seems a year darling instead of a few months, since you have been away.

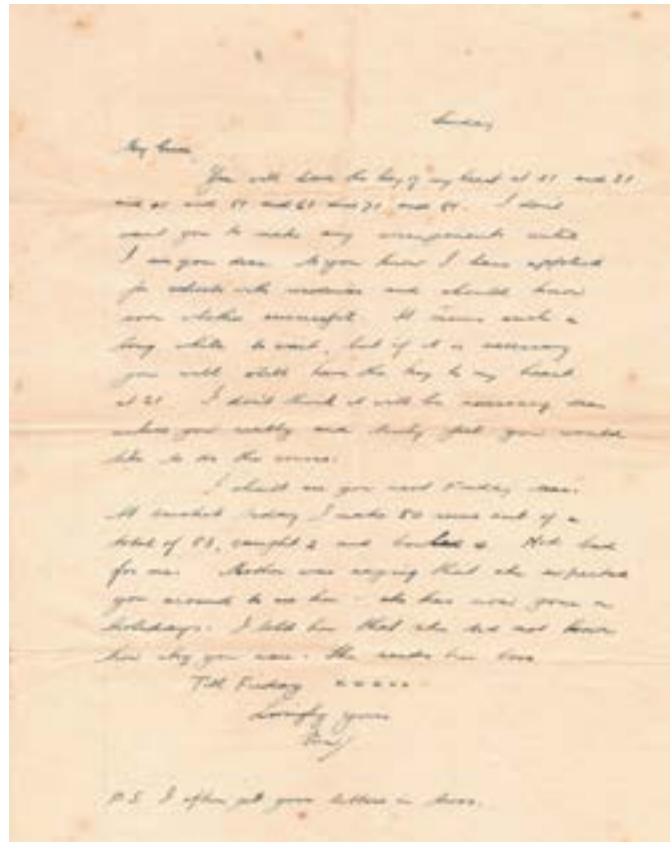
It is bad luck about the residence and it seems the best plan to wait until things are more settled. In the meantime I am going to do Fairfield. I know two girls that are there now and they like it well. I am going to see the Matron a day next week, the last time I saw her she was visiting Sr. Maddern<sup>1</sup> and she told me then, that if at anytime I wanted to do the training there, to see her. Having my uniform, etc, and having been accepted there before, are two big advantages and my chance of getting there a few weeks after applying is almost sure. It will be wonderful experience. By the time I finish there we shall know how things stand about the residence, etc. Darling then I'll be 21 I imagine it must be a great feeling. Will you give me the key of your heart when I am 21.

All my love,

Grace

<sup>1</sup> Grace started off her working life as a nurse at Sister Maddern's Madeleine Private Hospital, Parkville. Fairfield Hospital in Melbourne was central for the treatment of infectious diseases. It had 6000 beds for Spanish Influenza after the 1920s and only a few years after this letter an epidemic of poliomyelitis occurred in Australia, 1275 polio patients were admitted between 1937/38, most were less than 14 years old, 140 had respiratory paralysis and 106 required respirator treatment in an iron lung. Seventy seven of these patients died and many were permanently disabled.





Sunday (10 December 1933)

My Grace,

You will have the key of my heart at 21 and 31 and 41 and 51 and 61 and 71 and 81. I don't want you to make any arrangements until I see you dear. As you know I have applied for schools with residences and should know soon whether successful. It seems such a long while to wait, but if it is necessary you will till have the key to my heart at 21. I don't think it will be necessary dear unless you really and truly feel you would like to do the course.

I shall see you next Friday dear. At cricket today I made 50 runs out of a total of 83, caught 2 and bowled 4. Not bad for me. Mother was saying that she expected you around to see her - she has now gone on holidays. I told her that she did not know how shy you were. She sends her love.

Til Friday xxxxx

Lovingly yours

Vern

P.S. I often get your letters in twos.

Sunday (10 December, 1933)



Darling,

I was disappointed when I didn't hear from you yesterday, but I guess I will survive over the weekend, reading over + over the lovely letters you have written me.

I am glad that you don't like parties. Last night I went to a twenty-first birthday party with the intentions of putting in an appearance which I did and suffered it for a while and disappeared. I came home and went to bed and thought about you darling. I know that you are the only one that I will ever love, and I only want to be with you. I love + love you, thinking of you every minute and I want to tell you again darling that I miss you and want you more than anything else in the world.

Every little bit of my love is for my future husband, always,

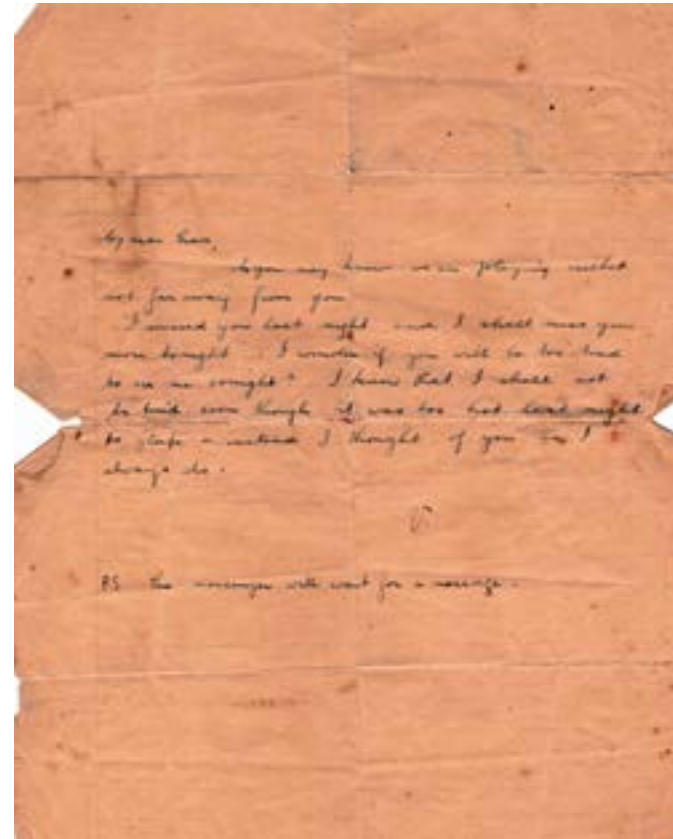
Grace

Sunday.

Darling,  
I was disappointed when I didn't hear from you yesterday, but I guess I will survive over the weekend, reading over + over the lovely letters you have written me.

I am glad that you don't like parties. Last night I went to a twenty-first birthday party with the intentions of putting in an appearance, which I did and suffered it for a while and disappeared. I came home and went to bed and thought about you darling. I know that you are the only one that I'll ever love, and I only want to be with you. I love you + love you, thinking of you every minute and I want to tell you again darling that I miss you and want you, more than anything else in the world.

Every little bit of my love is for my future husband, always.  
Grace.



My dear Grace,

Do you know we are playing cricket not far away from you.

I missed you last night and I shall miss you more tonight. I wonder if you will be too tired to see me tonight? I know that I shall not be tired even though it was too hot last night to sleep - instead I thought of you as I always do.

V.

P.S. The messenger will wait for a message.



Monday

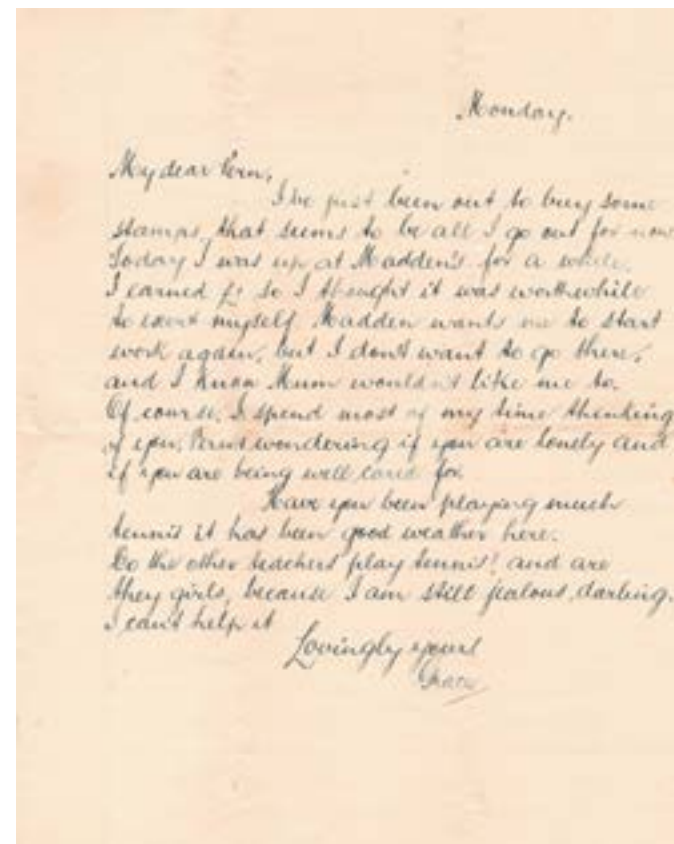
My dear Vern,

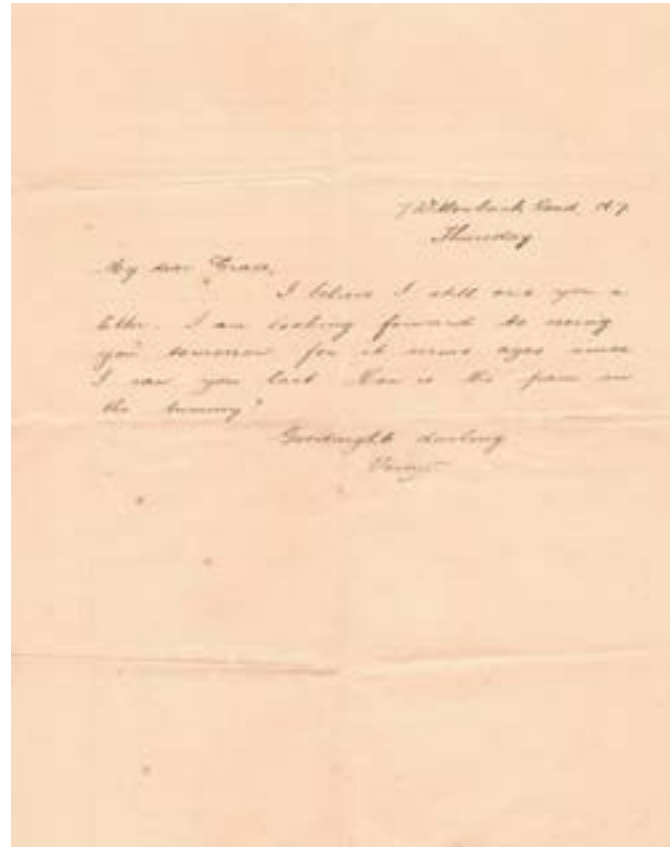
I've just been out to buy some stamps, that seems to be all I go out for now. Today I was up at Maddern's<sup>1</sup> for a while, I earned 1 pound so I thought it was worthwhile to exert myself. Maddern wanted me to start work again, but I don't want to go there, and I know Mum wouldn't like me to. Of course, I spend most of my time thinking of you, Vern wondering if you are lonely and if you are being well cared for.

Have you been playing much tennis it has been good weather here. Do the other teachers play tennis? And are they girls because I am still jealous darling, I can't help it.

Lovingly yours,

Grace





7 Willowbank Ave, N. 7. (Fitzroy North)

Thursday

My dear Grace,

I believe I still owe you a letter. I am looking forward to seeing you tomorrow for it seems ages since I saw you last. How is the pain in the tummy?

Goodnight darling,

Vernon



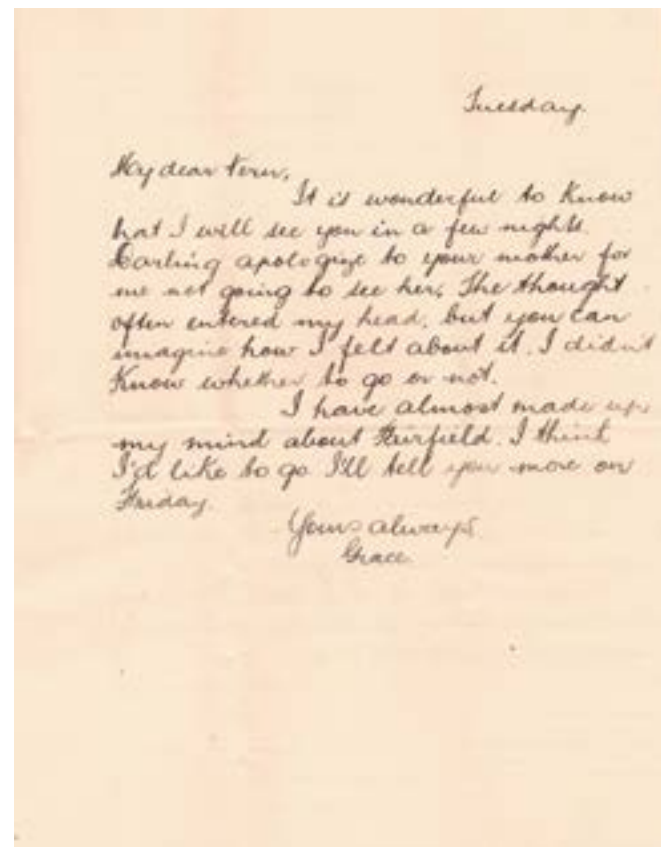
Tuesday (19 December, 1933)

My dear Vern,

It is wonderful to know that I will see you in a few nights. Darling apologise to your mother for me not going to see her. The thought often entered my head, but you can imagine how I felt about it. I didn't know whether to go or not.

I have almost made up my mind about Fairfield. I think I'd like to go. I'll tell you more on Friday.

Yours always,  
Grace





7 Willowbank Rd, N.F (North Fitzroy)

Saturday (30 December, 1933)

My dearest,

I want you tonight Grace - don't stay away from me for too long. I wish now that I had had several more hours with you last night. Next time I shall not wait for you to ask me miss my train for I shall make my watch stop - and then I shall think only of you, as I am doing now. I wish I was seeing you tonight as I want to tell you that I love you more every minute.

Vern





Thursday

My dear,

I realize that you are getting tired of being home with nothing of interest to do. It would be quite all right dear for you to work in Collins Street. I know it would make you happier. I have no definite news, but I am afraid that my last application will not be successful as I pick out only the best school. I want a place with a good residence so that we can admire our furniture and be happy together. If you went to Collins Street you might be able to have two or three or four months at least. I want you to be happy dear and you might learn how to look after me better. You will not be bound down to any definite time there and I am going to try and get a position with a good residence.

Ever yours

Vern

P.S. I would be glad if you would send me the Gazette.

Thursday

My dear,

I realize that you are getting tired of being home with nothing of interest to do. It would be quite all right dear for you to work in Collins Street. I know it would make you happier. I have no definite news, but I am afraid that my last application will not be successful as I pick out only the best school. I want a place with a good residence so that we can admire our furniture and be happy together. If you went to Collins Street you might be able to have two or three or four months at least. I want you to be happy dear and you might learn how to look after me better. You will not be bound down to any definite time there and I am going to try and get a position with a good residence.

Ever yours

Vern

P.S. I would be glad if you would send me the Gazette.





Wednesday  
31.1.34

My dear Vern

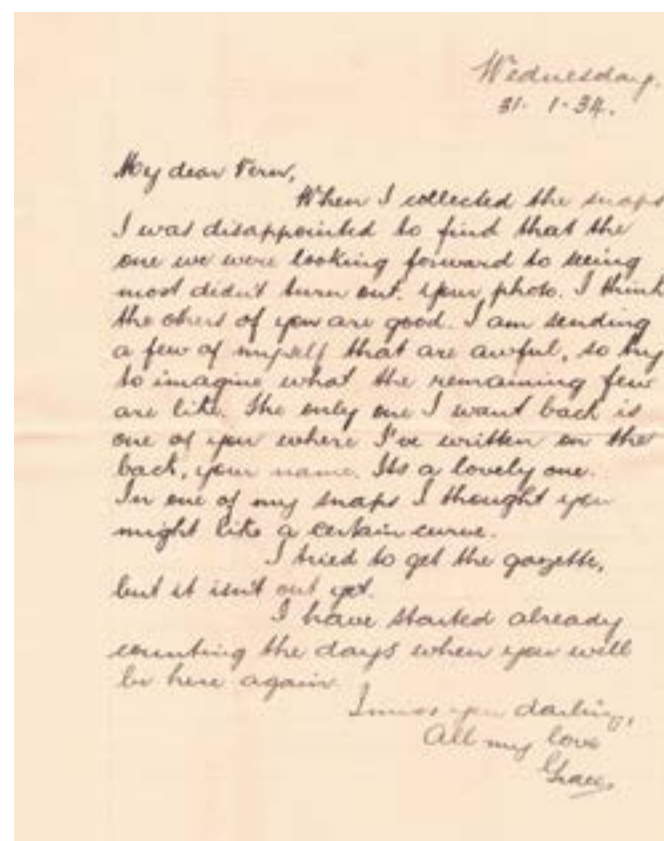
When I collected the snaps I was disappointed to find that the one we were looking forward to seeing most didn't turn out. Your photo. I think the others of you are good. I am sending a few of myself that are awful, so try to imagine what the remaining few are like. The only one I want back is one of you where I've written on the back, your name. It's a lovely one. In one of my snaps I thought you might like a certain curve.

I tried to get the gazette but it isn't out yet.

I have started already counting the days when you will be here again.

I miss you darling,

All my love  
Grace





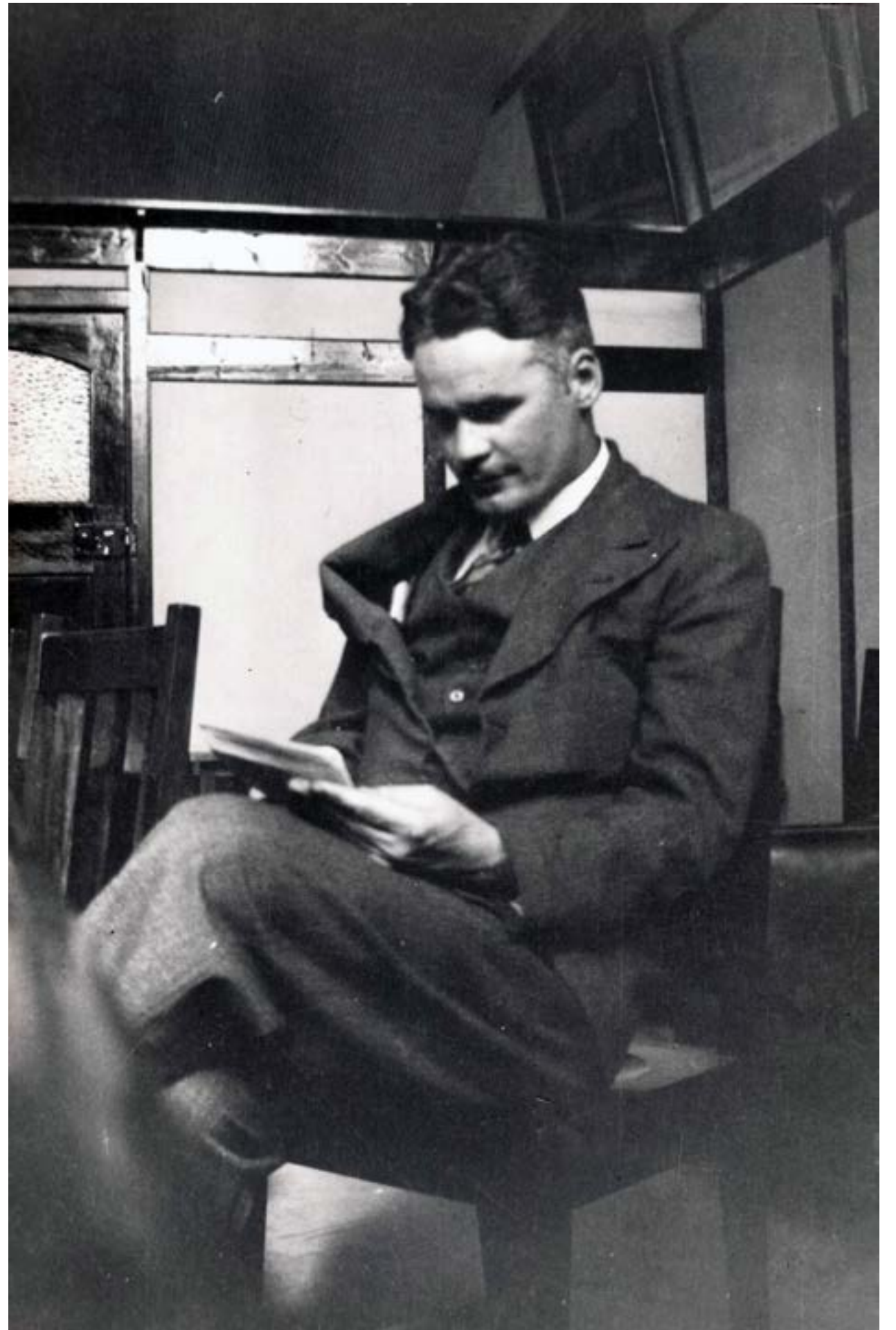
Grace, "Snaps", Princes Park, 1934



Vern, "Snaps", Princes Park, 1934



Grace, "Snaps", Princes Park, 1934



Vern, "Snaps", Princes Park, 1934



Grace, "Snaps", Princes Park, 1934



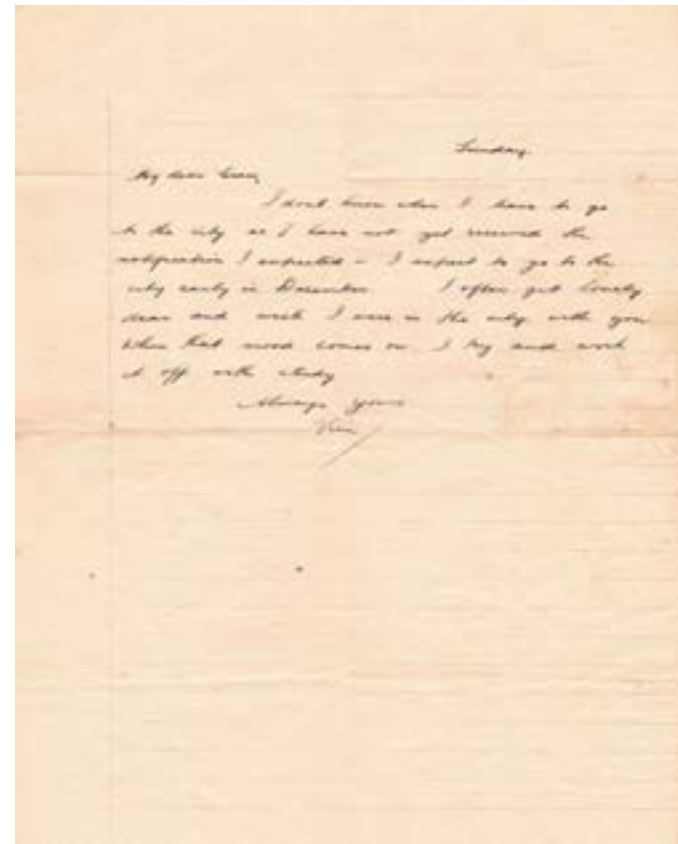
Vern, "Snaps", Princes Park, 1934



Grace, "Snaps", Princes Park, 1934



Tom Warne, Vern, "Snaps", Princes Park, 1934



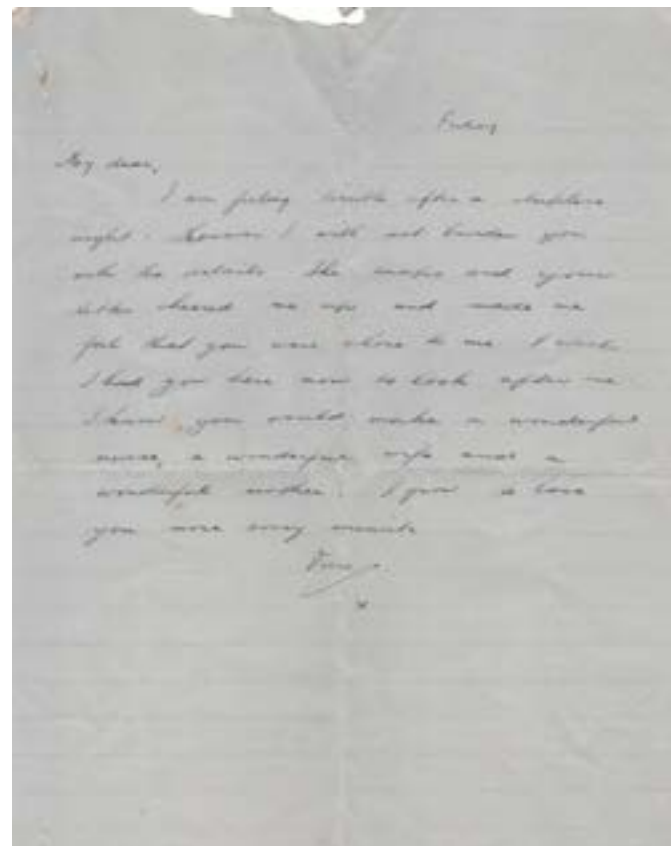
Sunday

My dear Grace,

I don't know when I have to go to the city as I have not yet received the notification I expected - I expect to go to the city early in December. I often get lonely dear and wish I were in the city with you. When that mood comes on I try and work it off with study.

Always yours,

Vernon



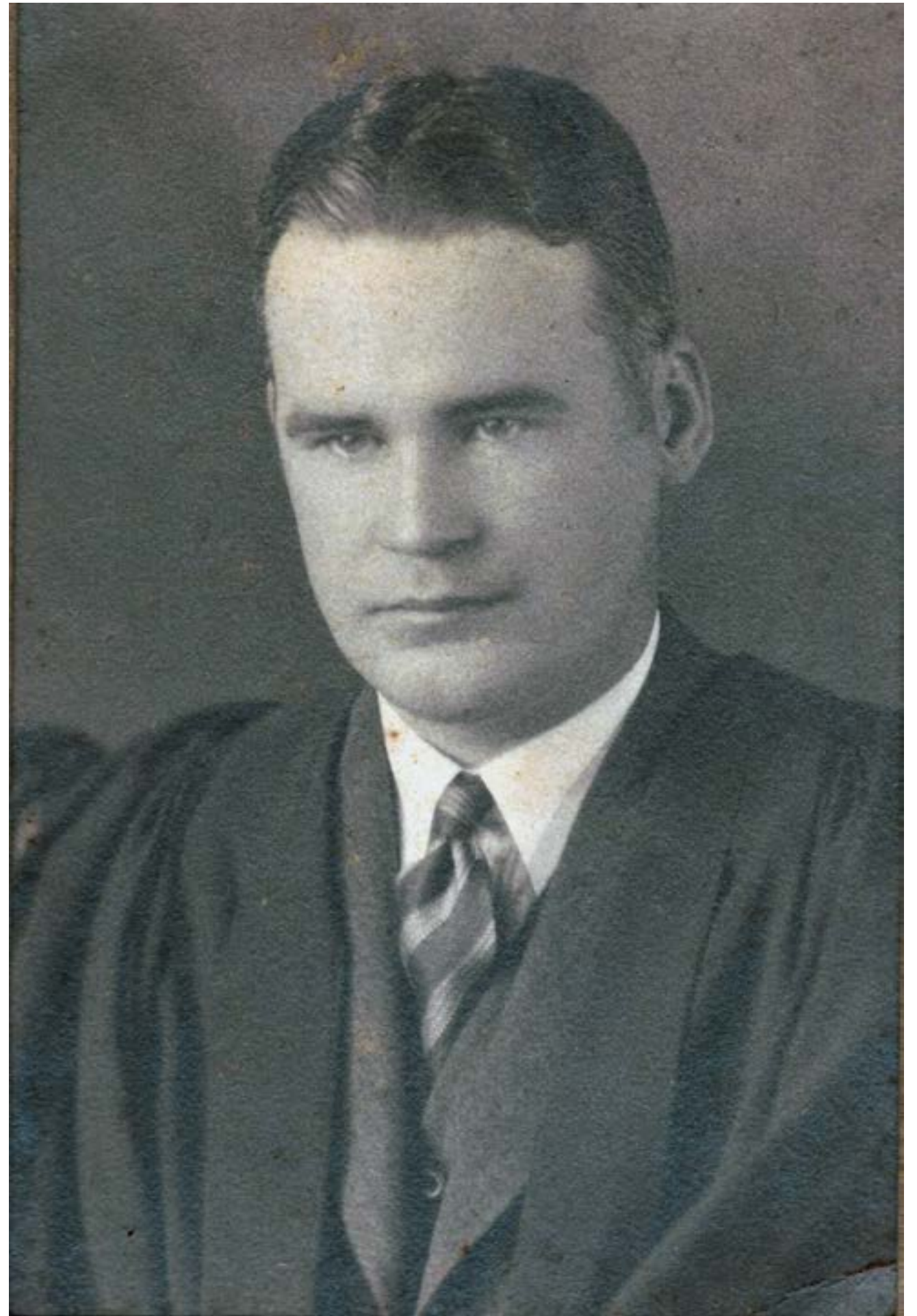
Friday

My dear,

I am feeling terrible after a sleepless night. However I will not burden you with the details. The snaps and your letter cheered me up and made me feel that you were close to me. I wish I had you here now to look after me. I know you would make a wonderful nurse, a wonderful wife and a wonderful mother. I grow to love you more every minute.

Vern

x







Damaged letter Grace from Vernon. (1934?)



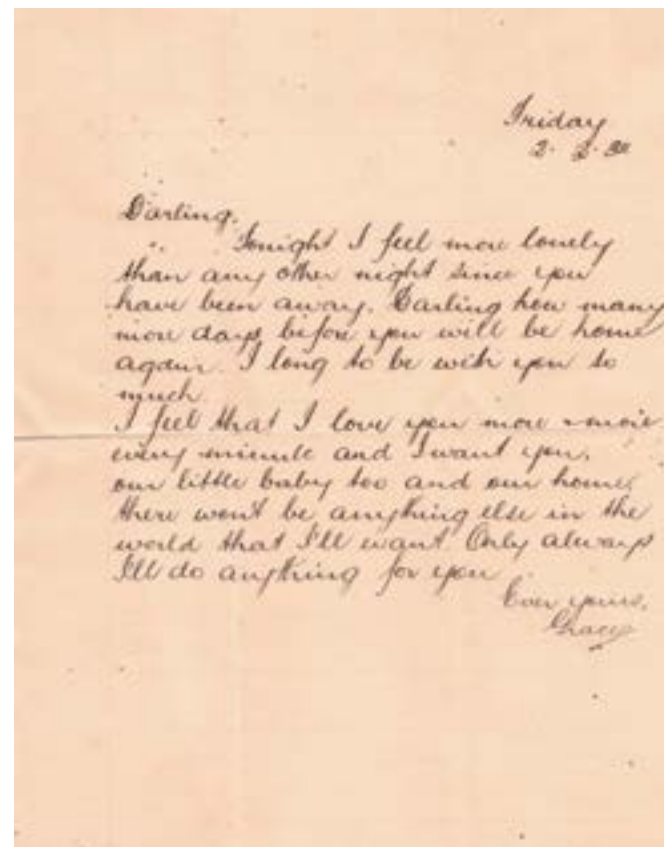
Friday  
2.2.34

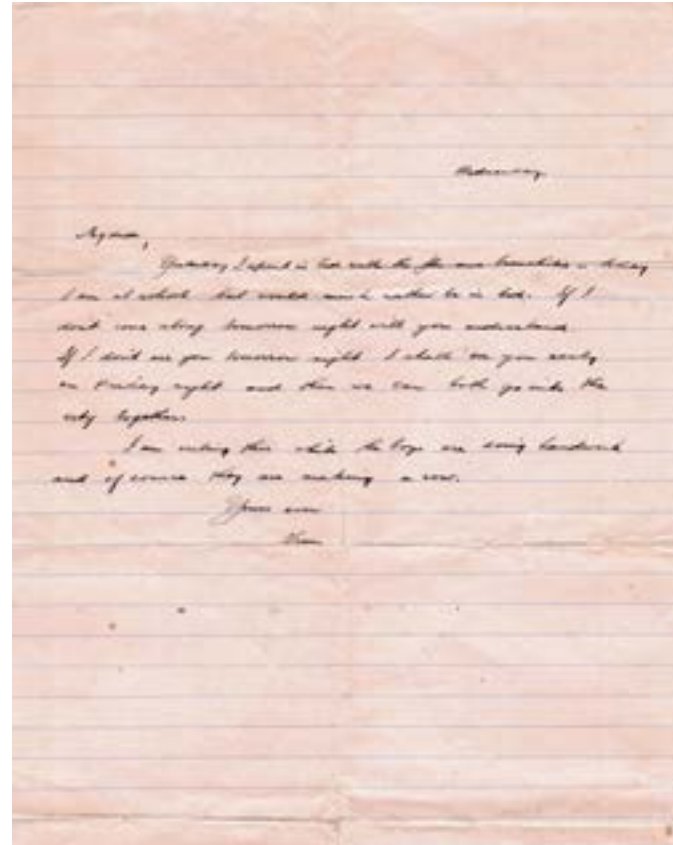
Darling,

Tonight I feel more lonely than any other night since you have been away. Darling how many more days before you will be home again. I long to be with you so much.

I feel that I love you more + more every minute and I want you, our little baby too and our house, there wont be anything else in the world that I'll want. Only always I'll do anything for you.

Ever yours,  
Grace





Wednesday (12 April, 1933?)

My dear,

Yesterday I spent in bed with the flu and bronchitis<sup>1</sup> - today I am at school but would much rather be in bed. If I don't come along tomorrow night will you understand. If I don't see you tomorrow night I shall see you early on Friday night and then we can both go into the city together.

I am writing this while the boys are doing handwork and of course they are making a row.

Yours ever,

Vern

<sup>1</sup> Flu was a recurring worry. "The Spanish Flu" caused 50-100 million deaths after WWI. This was a time when there was no vaccines or anti-biotics. The discovery of influenza "virus" was only a couple of years old.



Wednesday  
7. 2. 34.

Darling,  
Are you feeling better now? Last night I only had time to write a few words, as I wasted the night hearing scandal of the hospital, but I was thinking of you darling all the time and I wanted to tell you how much I love you. Sr. Hancock<sup>1</sup> called in, she is working at Madeleine again, and seems she is one too good for Thomas. It seems to be worse over there now. I'm glad that I am missing.

Tonight I'm going to the baths with Gretta Pickett<sup>2</sup>, afterwards she is coming over to see the cabinet. I've just thought that I'll have to put that nice blue bowl, somewhere to be seen. I'm waiting for Ida<sup>3</sup> to come back from Sorrento to see the cabinet. I love showing it off. When Pat<sup>4</sup> sees it I bet that he will try to make one like it for Ida.

The place you are thinking about applying for seem to be alright. I don't care where darling.

All my love,  
Grace

Wednesday  
7.2.34

Darling,

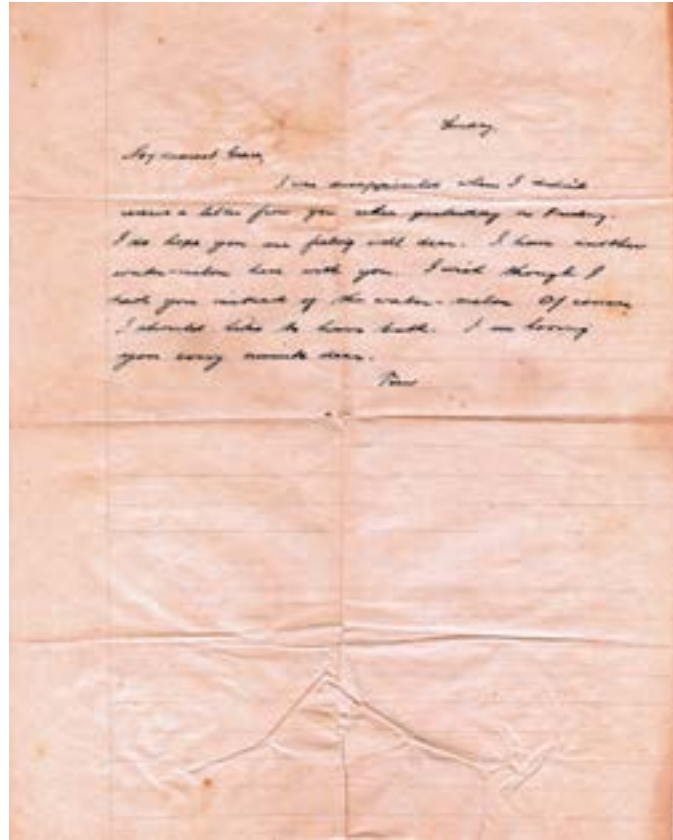
Are you feeling better now? Last night I only had time to write a few words, as I wasted the night hearing scandal of the hospital, but I was thinking of you darling all the time and I wanted to tell you how much I love you. Sr. Hancock<sup>1</sup> called in, she is working at Madeleine again, and seems she is one too good for Thomas. It seems to be worse over there now. I'm glad that I am missing.

Tonight I'm going to the baths with Gretta Pickett<sup>2</sup>, afterwards she is coming over to see the cabinet. I've just thought that I'll have to put that nice blue bowl, somewhere to be seen. I'm waiting for Ida<sup>3</sup> to come back from Sorrento to see the cabinet. I love showing it off. When Pat<sup>4</sup> sees it I bet that he will try to make one like it for Ida.

The place you are thinking about applying for seem to be alright. I don't care where darling.

All my love,  
Ever  
Grace.

1 Hancock, Neta Irene, Registered Nurse, Sister Maddern's Madeleine Private Hospital, Parkville  
2 Cousin, Gretta Sawers, (nee Pickett), (1913-1996)  
3 Sister, Ida May Vines (nee Warne), (1900-1987), trained primary and infant teacher.  
4 Brother-in-law, Patrick Joseph Vines, (1901-1969), Pat and Ida made their home at 7 Grange St, Preston.



(January 1934)

Sunday

My dearest Grace,

I was disappointed when I didn't receive a letter from you either yesterday or Friday. I do hope you are feeling well again dear. I have another water-melon here with you. I wish though I had you instead of water-melon. Of course I should like to have both. I am loving you every minute dear.

Vern



Saturday night

My dear,

I have just finished eating another water-melon and I feel rather sticky. I have been chosen in a district team to play cricket 50 miles away tomorrow so I am writing this letter tonight because I suppose I will be late when I arrive home.

I am applying for the following schools Emerald, Hepburn, Harcourt, Springhurst, Melton, & many others. I am sure you will not forget for me when you are in writing as I should like to hear I am hope I get one of these schools and then we can write soon and you can report me.

Ever yours  
Vern

Saturday night

My dear,

I have just finished eating another water-melon and I feel rather sticky. I have been chosen in a district team to play cricket 50 miles away tomorrow so I am writing this letter tonight because I suppose I will be late when I arrive home.

I am applying for the following schools Emerald, Hepburn, Harcourt, Springhurst, Melton,

Ever yours           xxx

Vern



Friday  
9.2.34

My dear Vern,

Today has been terribly warm. I am glad that you like the hot weather. I can't imagine what it must be like at Walwa<sup>1</sup>. Its no wonder that you have taken to eating water melons.

I miss you, I want you, darling I'll love you always.

Grace

Friday  
9.2.34.

My dear Vern,  
Today has been terribly warm. I am glad that you like the hot weather. I can't imagine what it must be like at Walwa. Its no wonder that you have taken to eating water melons.

I miss you, I want you, darling I'll love you always,  
Grace

<sup>1</sup> Walwa ("a place of waters") is a town in north east Victoria, Australia. The town is located 1 kilometre from the Murray River on the former Murray Valley highway between Wodonga and Corryong. In 1933/34 it would have seemed very remote from inner city Melbourne.



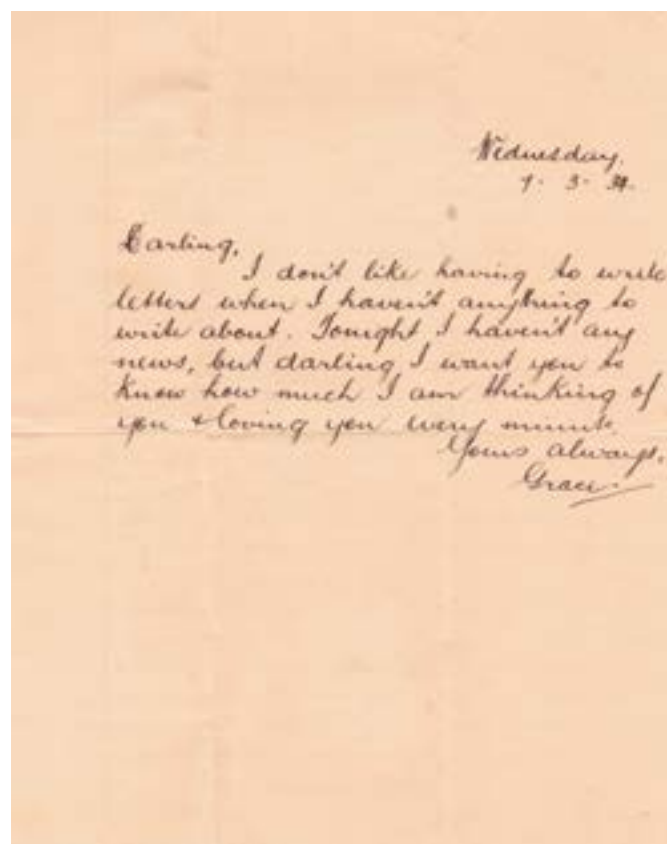
Wednesday  
7.3.34

Darling,

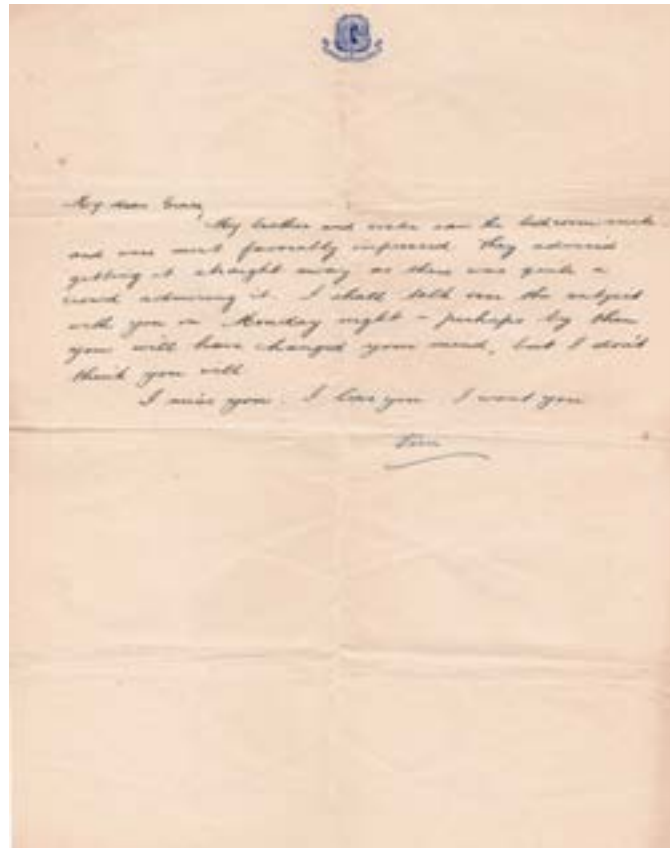
I don't like having to write letters when I haven't anything to write about. Tonight I haven't any news, but darling I want you to know how much I am thinking of you + loving you every minute.

Yours always,

Grace







( January 1934?)

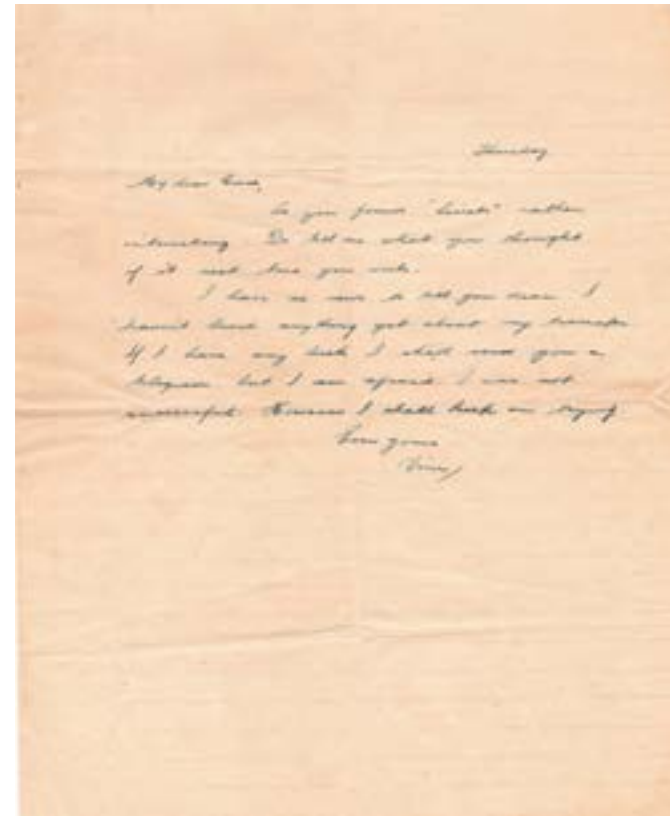
Non Omnis Moriar  
(Not all of me will die)

My dear Grace,

My brother and sister saw the bedroom suite and were most favourably impressed. They advised getting it straight away as there was quite a crowd admiring it. I shall talk over the subject with you on Monday night - perhaps by then you will have changed your mind, but I don't think you will. My cold is improving so I should be able to have a night and tomorrow night I do hope the weather is fine - the paper says we are to have some wretched weather.

I miss you. I love you. I want you.

Vern



Thursday

My dear Grace,

So you found "Secrets"<sup>1</sup> rather interesting. Do tell me what your thought of it next time you write.

I have no news to tell you dear. I haven't heard anything yet about my transfer. If I have any luck I shall send you a telegram but I am afraid I was not successful. However I shall keep on trying.

Ever yours

Vern



<sup>1</sup> Secrets, 1933 starring Mary Pickford and Leslie Howard. Secrets is a 1933 film directed by Frank Borzage and starring Mary Pickford in her last film role. The film is a remake of Secrets (1924), a silent film starring Norma Talmadge, which was based on a 1922 play of the same name. Wealthy banker and shipowner William Marlowe and his wife Martha have their hearts set on marrying their daughter Mary to English aristocrat Lord Hurley. However, Mary has other ideas. She has fallen in love with John Carlton, one of her father's clerks. When Mr. Marlowe finds out, he fires John. John decides to go west to make his fortune, then return for Mary, but she insists on going with him. They elope.



Thursday

My dear Grace,

This is the first time for ages that I have been able to rest my writing hand on a table for there have been a number of visitors here lately and I have written my letters to you in my room. Surely you don't think that I think every girl loves me - I I do think it, it is because you have taught me to. The impression I got from "Secrets" was that a man could still love his wife yet admire other girls but not love them in the manner that he loved his wife - every though on the surface it might appear otherwise. I wanted you to see "Secrets" so that you could see how his wife realized that his love was still the same even though there was a mild flirtation which jealousy on the part of a wife might have widened into mis-understanding etc.

However dear this is not a sermon but just an explanation of what I saw in the picture.

Lovingly yours,  
Vern

P.S. Mrs. C. Russell, 7 Willowbank Rd, N.F. (North Fitzroy)

Thursday (April 1934?)

My dear Grace,

This is the first time for ages that I have been able to rest my writing hand on a table for there have been a number of visitors here lately and I have written my letters to you in my room. Surely you don't think that I think every girl loves me - I I do think it, it is because you have taught me to. The impression I got from "Secrets" was that a man could still love his wife yet admire other girls but not love them in the manner that he loved his wife - every though on the surface it might appear otherwise. I wanted you to see "Secrets" so that you could see how his wife realized that his love was still the same even though there was a mild flirtation which jealousy on the part of a wife might have widened into mis-understanding etc.

However dear this is not a sermon but just an explanation of what I saw in the picture.

Lovingly yours,

Vern



Non Omnis Moriar  
(Not all of me will die)

Sunday (May 1934?)

My Grace,

I am keeping my promise and writing you a short note. Can you read between the lines - if you can you will see how much I love you - you will also see how much I miss you tonight.

Yours

Vern.



Darling it must be terribly warm in Walwa, down here it is hot enough. I hope it keeps up for a while as on Tuesday I am taking Clare + Dot down the bay to Sorrento we are going to spend the day with Ida.

Last week Greta Pickett bought a bathing costume the same as mine, she christened it at the bath the other night. The only thing she didn't like about hers was the skirt. It was awfully long. I remembered you saying that and thought to myself that there isn't

Sunday

11.2.34

My dear Vern,

I hope that you notice that I'm still using the scribbling block, but I forgot to buy more. My memory hasn't improved a scrap, even though, I have had lots of early nights. Darling when we are married it is quite likely that I'll forget to prepare your meals, and forget to wake up in the mornings. Of course I know you wouldn't disturb me when you would be hurrying to the Coffee Palace for your breakfast. Would you?

Darling it must be terribly warm in Walwa, down here it is hot enough I hope it keeps up for a while as on Tuesday I am taking Clare + Dot down the bay to Sorrento we are going to spend the day with Ida.

Last week Greta Pickett bought a bathing costume the same as mine, she christened it at the baths the other night. The only thing she didn't like about hers was the skirt. It was awfully long. I remembered you saying that and thought to myself that there isn't much that you don't know, even about girls bathing costumes.

Yours ever  
Grace

always x xxxx xxx

Sunday.  
11.2.34.

My dear Vern, I hope that you notice I'm still using the scribbling block, but I forgot to buy more. My memory hasn't improved a scrap, even though, I have had lots of early nights. Darling when we are married it is quite likely that I'll forget to prepare your meals, and forget to wake up in the mornings. Of course I know you wouldn't disturb me when you would be hurrying to the Coffee Palace for your breakfast. Would you?

much that you don't know, even about girls bathing costumes.

Yours ever  
Grace

always x xxxx xxx

Madeline  
Monday.  
My dear Vern,  
I regard the person who receives my letter, very lucky as letter writing bores me, but somehow this one seems different. I'm interested, the reason is just because its for you Vern. Words fail to tell how I've been thinking of you since I saw you last. I am just wondering how and where you are and only wish you were within a quarter of an inch. I know you are broad-minded for at the present moment I am in bed. I chose the baby that looked most like you dear, but much to my disappointment I didn't have to do night duty

or bath the babes either. Of course, Vern you can imagine how much I wanted to look after that certain one. All the others have just been nice, but this one is an extra, and he's got me thinking just about him and I'll say its only one in ten thousand that could make me do that. Darling, Friday will be the night I'll wait for you, as I start night duty tonight and Friday will be the first opportunity.  
Lots of love  
from  
Grace

Madeleine<sup>1</sup>  
Monday (12 February, 1934)

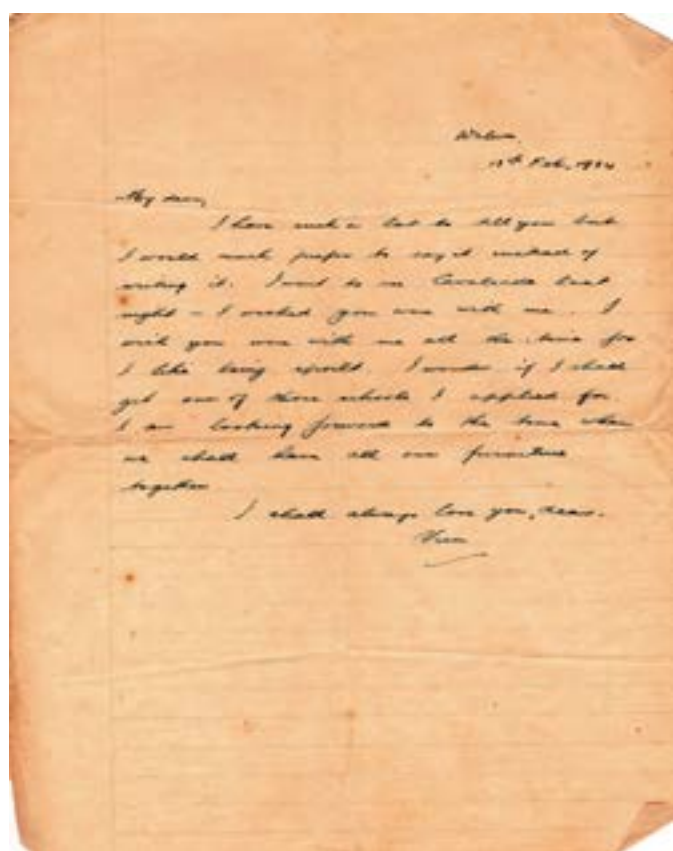
My dear Vern,

I regard the person who receives my letter, very lucky as letter writing bores me, but somehow this one seems different, I'm interested, the reason is just because its for you Vern. Words fail to tell how I've been thinking of you since I saw you last I am just wondering how and where you are and only wish you were within a quarter of an inch. I know you are broad-minded for at the present moment I am in bed.

I chose the baby that looked most like you dear, but much to my disappointment I didn't have to do night duty or bath the babies either. Of course, Vern you can imagine how much I wanted to look after that certain one. All the others have just been nice, but this one is an extra, and he's got me thinking just about him and I'll say its only one in ten thousand that could make me do that. Darling, Friday will be the night I'll wait for you, as I start night duty tonight and Friday will be the first opportunity.

Lots of love  
from  
Grace

<sup>1</sup> The 'Melbourne Lying-In Hospital and Infirmary for Diseases of Women and Children' opened its doors to the poorest and most needy women in 1856. In 1858, the 'Lying-in Hospital' was relocated and opened in Madeline St, North Melbourne (now known as Swanston St, Carlton). Now the Royal Women's Hospital and Royal Children's Hospital.



Walwa

13th Feb, 1934

My dear,

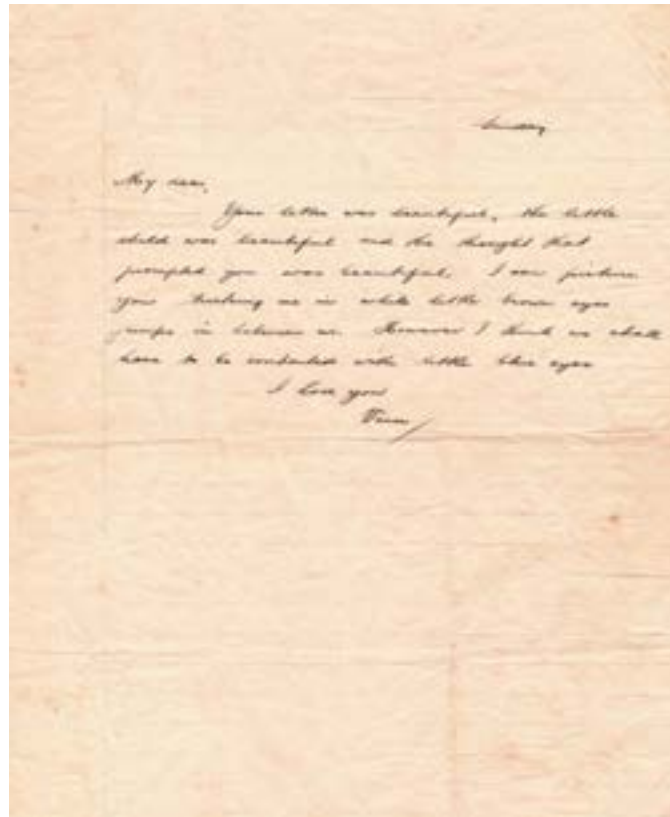
I have such a lot to tell you but I would much prefer to say it instead of writing it. I went to see Cavalcade<sup>1</sup> last night - I wished you were with me. I wish you were with me all the time for I like being spoilt. I wonder if I shall get one of those schools I applied for. I am looking forward to the time when we shall have all the furniture together.

I shall always love you dear

Vern

---

1 Cavalcade, (Fox Studios), 1933, Noel Coward <https://youtu.be/rtg7dFeu-20>



Sunday (18 February, 1934)

My dear

Your letter was beautiful, the little child was beautiful and the thought that prompted you was beautiful. I can picture you tucking me in while little brown eyes jumps in between us. However I think we shall have to be contented with little blue eyes.

I love you

Vern







Wednesday  
21.2.34

Darling,

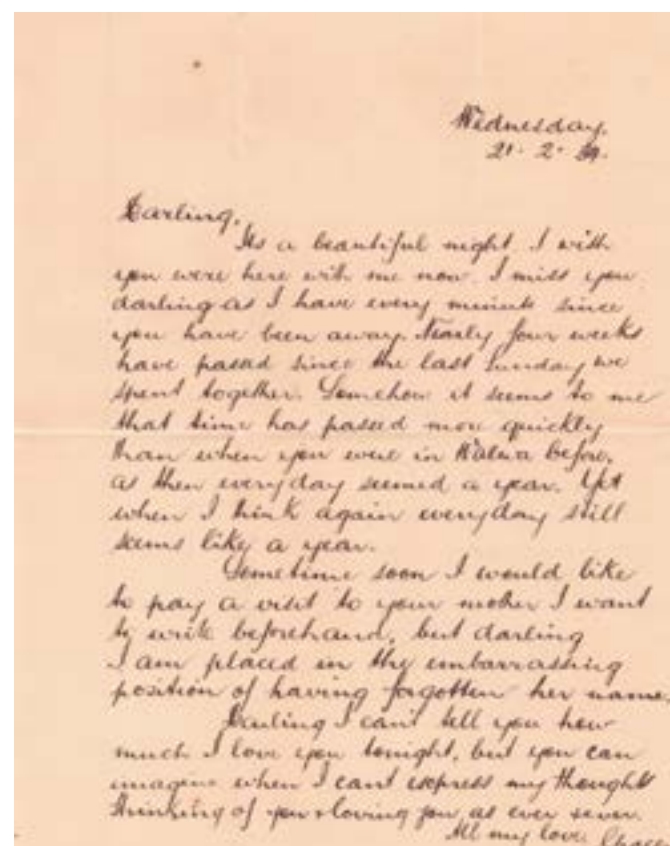
It is a beautiful night I wish you were here with me now. I miss you darling as I have every minute since you have been away. Nearly four weeks have passed since the last Sunday we spent together. Somehow it seems to me that time has passed more quickly than when you were in Walwa before, as then every day seemed a year. Yet when I think again everyday still seems like a year.

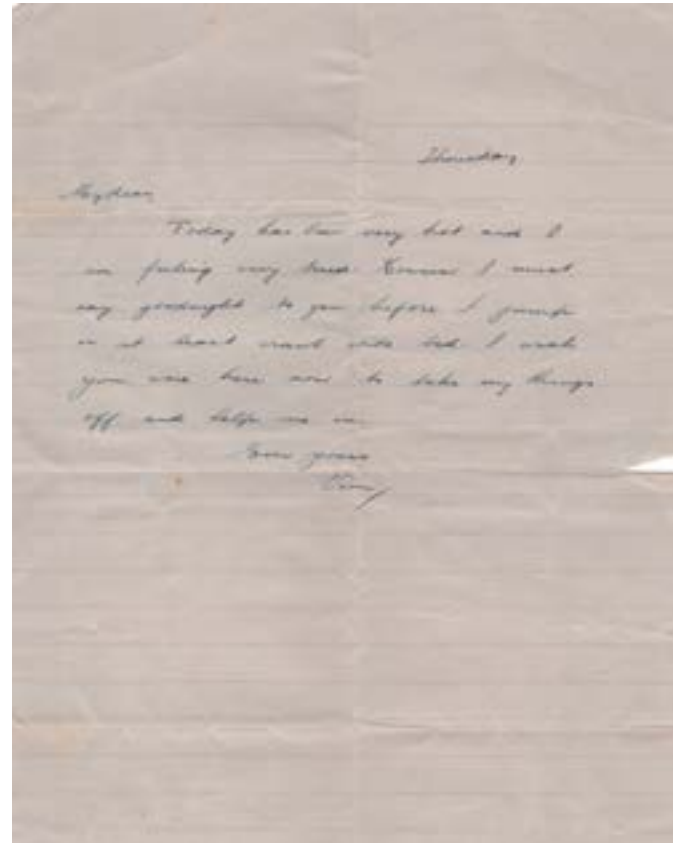
Sometime soon I would like to pay a visit to your mother I want to write beforehand, but darling I am placed in the embarrassing position of having forgotten her name.

Darling I can't tell you how much I love you tonight, but you can imagine when I cant express my thoughts thinking of you + loving you as ever + ever.

All my love,

Grace





Thursday

My dear,

Today has been very hot and I am feeling very tired. However I must say goodnight to you before I jump or at least crawl into bed. I wish you were here now to take my things off and help me in.

Ever yours

Vern



Wednesday

28.2.34

My dear Vern,

I have neglected you darling, not having written last night I went to a Runners Carnival which happened to be awful, like any other Carnival. I went with Greta Pickett, who was interested, however, the race she particularly wanted to see was the very last, so you can imagine how boring it was.

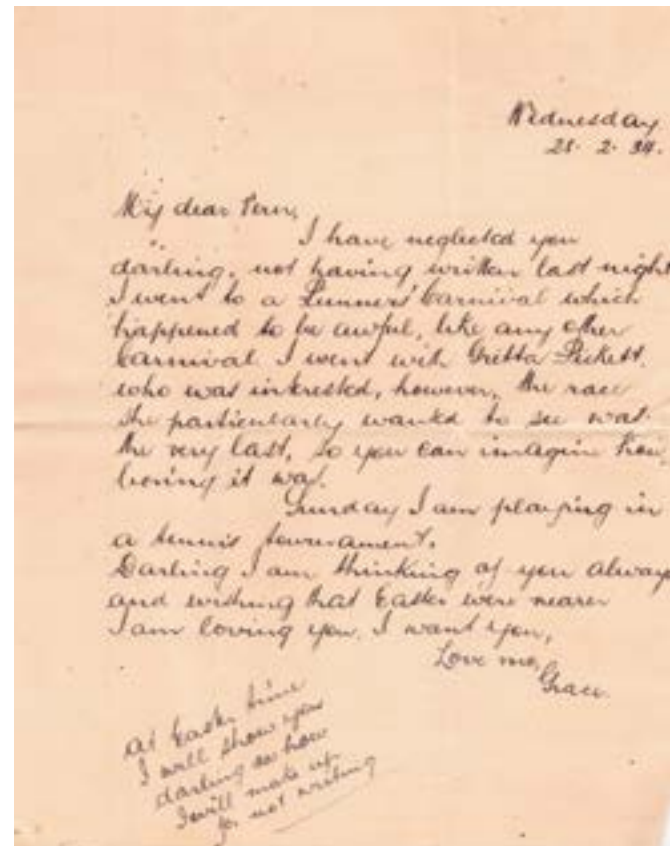
Sunday I am playing in a tennis tournament,

Darling I am thinking of you always and wishing that Easter were nearer I am loving you, I want you.

Love me,

Grace

At Easter time  
I will show you  
darling how  
I will make up  
for not writing.



Thursday  
1.3.34

Thursday  
1.3.34.

My dear Vern,

Your long letter to hand I liked it and I love you I wish that it was Easter so that I could tell you and show you darling really how much.

Tonight they are giving Woodfull a presentation and a party at the club there seems to be hundreds of men passing by here tonight.

I wish that you were here now. I often feel miserable, possibly because I am lonely and want you do you get lonely sometimes darling and feel that you want me? Every minute you are in my thoughts Vern and I often imagine darling how wonderful it will be when we are married and so near to each other.

All my love darling  
and  
Ever yours  
Grace

Darling,

Your long letter to hand I liked it and I love you I wish that it was Easter so that I could tell you and show you darling really how much.

Tonight they are giving Woodfull a presentation and a party at the club there seems to be hundreds of men passing by here tonight.

I wish that you were here now, I often feel miserable, possibly because I am lonely and want you do you get lonely sometimes darling and feel that you want me?/  
Every minute you are in my thoughts Vern and I often imagine darling how wonderful it will be when we are married and so near to each other.

All my love darling

and

Ever yours,

Grace

## Carlton's Farewell To Woodfull

MILTON Cricket Club will tender a send-off to their skipper, W. M. Woodfull, who is also Australia's Test captain, in the pavilion on Thursday evening, March 1.

### WOODFULL WELCOMED

Entertained by Carlton Cricket Club.

#### Anonymous Gift of £10 10/-

A tumultuous welcome was given W. M. Woodfull, Australian XI captain, on Saturday evening, when he was entertained in the local pavilion by members of the Carlton Cricket Club, of which team he is captain. The concert hall was packed, and when Woodfull entered, accompanied by the president (Mr. F. Williams), those present rose in a body and cheered. He was obviously pleased and much affected by the warmth of the welcome. Apologies were received from Canon Hughes, president of the V.C.A., and Mr. V. Y. Richardson, captain of "The Rest," who both had prior engagements. Among the official guests were Mr. Clem. Hill, the well-known international left-hander; Messrs. T. Wain and B. Barnett, members of the Australian eleven; and Mr. C. L. Badcock, a member of Richardson's team.

Proposing the toast of "Our Guest and the Australian XI," Mr. Williams said members of Carlton club were delighted to have Woodfull back among them again. (Applause.) It did not seem so very long ago he had joined the club. During the years which followed he had reached the top of the cricketing ladder, had led two successful Australian teams to England and had proved the most popular captain that had gone abroad. (Cheers.) In addition to gaining the respect of his opponents and the cricketing public in England, he had the admiration and affection of every member of his team. (Loud applause.) During the tour of the 1920 team and of the team that had just returned there had never been the slightest rumor of desertion. (Hear, hear.) He congratulated the guest upon the success of the last tour, and expressed his regret at his determination to retire from big cricket. Nevertheless, he hoped Carlton would have the benefit of Woodfull's leadership in peasant cricket for many years to come. (Cheers.)

Alderman Sir W. Erskine supported the toast. Woodfull had the wonderful knack of inspiring his team, with the result they were all eager in the fray and everyone was a trier. He agreed with the president that as a leader Woodfull had few equals, and they were all pleased to have him back in Australia. (Applause.)

Mr. C. Hill said he was delighted to be present to do honor to such an outstanding cricketer and leader as Woodfull. (Cheers.) Australia was lucky in having Woodfull as captain during the unfortunate happenings which occurred on the occasion of the tour of the last English team. (Hear, hear.) Woodfull retained his gentlemanly manner throughout, and although some of the incidents that happened "made one's blood curdle," he refused to be stampeded into trouble. He never spoke truer words than when he said, "One side is playing the game and the other is not."

words than when he said, "One side is playing the game and the other is not." (Loud applause.)

Mr. J. McRae, Director of Education said he was more than pleased to be present to welcome his old friend and colleague W. M. Woodfull. (Applause.) His cricketer friends held him in high esteem, but not more so than his colleagues in the department. (Cheers.) When Woodfull was attending the Teachers' College he promised to be a brilliant test

player, and had he practiced seriously would have been a member of the Davis Cup team. (Hear, hear.) However, he had taken up cricket and had proved an ornament to the game in Australia and also in England. (Loud cheers.) By his retirement Australia was not only losing from the field a great cricketer, but also one of the finest gentlemen who ever played the game. (Prolonged cheers.)

Complimentary references to Woodfull and his career were also made by Messrs. J. Howlett and W. Kelly (of the V.C.C.) and Mr. D. Cross (president Carlton Football Club).

Before he rose to respond, Woodfull has handed a cheque for £10 10/- from an anonymous donor.

Woodfull received a remarkable demonstration. It was some minutes before he could speak. He said it was worth while having been captain of the eighteenth Australian XI, to have received such a truly wonderful welcome home. He was particularly grateful to his Carlton friends for the warm greeting they had given him that night. (A Voice: "You deserve it, Bill," said Cheers.) In England he and his team mates were well treated and splendidly received in all counties of England, and also in Scotland. (Hear, hear.) The centenary had been most pleasant, and there had been little or no friction. He paid a high tribute to his colleagues who gave him so anxious moments. As had been said, they were all triers, and were could not be expected of any team. (Applause.) On the voyage home his heart was with Carlton, and he eagerly awaited any news he could obtain regarding the going of the "blues" on the football field. When he heard that the team had not gained a place in the final tour, he consoled himself with the thought, "Well, the team has such a wonderful record, it can afford to be out for one season." (Laughter and applause.) Concluding, Woodfull again expressed appreciation of the warmth of his welcome, and to his anonymous friend for his generous gift.

Other toasts proposed were those of the V.C.A., by Mr. J. A. Bell, and responded to by Mr. J. A. Howlett; The Victoria, by Mr. P. A. Triplett, and responded to by Messrs. C. Hill, J. McRae, D. Cross and W. Kelly.

The concert was entertained by items from Messrs. P. Chapman (chorus), Victor Hertz (solo) and Stevenson (double bass).



(2 March, 1934)

Darling

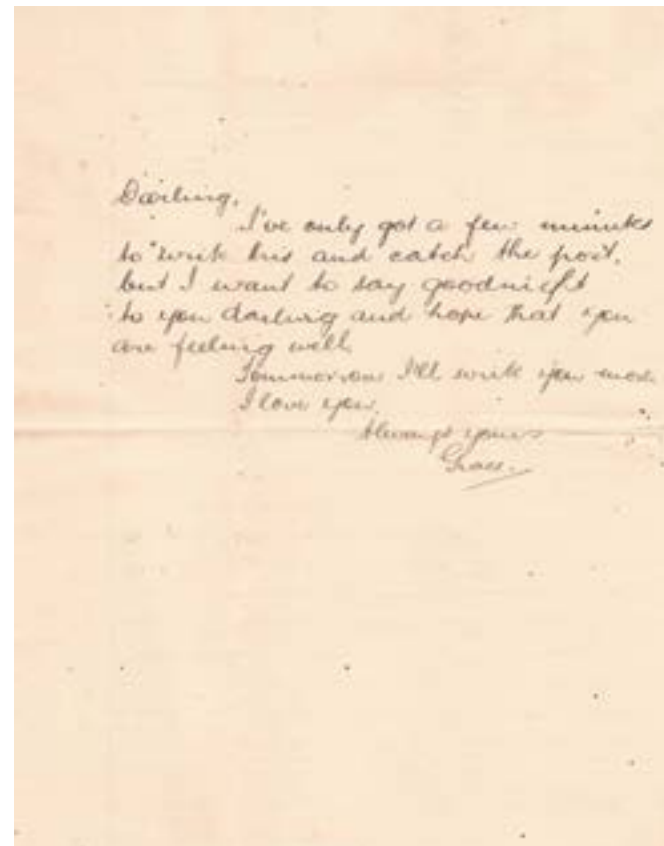
I've only got a few minutes to write this and catch the post, but I want to say goodnight to you darling and hope that you are feeling well.

Tomorrow I'll write you more.

I love you.

Always yours

Grace



Sunday

My dear,

It is very hot just at present. We played cricket in the heat today and were beaten and I am feeling very tired. I was successful at bowling and scored 6 and 13. The perspiration is now dripping from me. I must not let my drops fall on the letter. I adore you dear and am longing to see you. Don't make any arrangements for the week end before Easter as I may obtain to have my degree<sup>2</sup> conferred then - So far they have offered me without pay but I must go back to Walwa for a couple of days and then return to Melbourne again at Easter. I don't like that arrangement as it will cost me between 20 and 30 pounds and I want to put that into the home. I must get the Union to help me - I want to stay in Melbourne until Easter I have already written twice and each application has been refused. Don't be surprised if I drop in on you in the day before the degrees are conferred Friday 23rd (April). Of course I don't know what I shall do at present, as I shall have over a thousand miles to travel altogether.

Sunday (11 March, 1934)

My dear,

It is very hot<sup>1</sup> just at present. We played cricket in the heat today and were beaten and I am feeling very tired. I was successful at bowling and scored 6 and 13. The perspiration is now dripping from me. I must not let my drops fall on the letter. I adore you dear and am longing to see you. Don't make any arrangements for the week end before Easter as I may obtain to have my degree<sup>2</sup> conferred then - So far they have offered me without pay but I must go back to Walwa for a couple of days and then return to Melbourne again at Easter. I don't like that arrangement as it will cost me between 20 and 30 pounds and I want to put that into the home. I must get the Union to help me - I want to stay in Melbourne until Easter I have already written twice and each application has been refused. Don't be surprised if I drop in on you in the day before the degrees are conferred Friday 23rd (April). Of course I don't know what I shall do at present, as I shall have over a thousand miles to travel altogether.

I love you and will always love you dear.

Vern

again at Easter. I don't like that arrangement as it will cost me between 20 and 30 pounds and I want to put that into the home. I must get the Union to help me - I want to stay in Melbourne until Easter I have already written twice and each application has been refused. Don't be surprised if I drop in on you in the day before the degrees are conferred Friday 23rd (April). Of course I don't know what I shall do at present, as I shall have over a thousand miles to travel altogether.

I love you and will always love you dear.

Vern

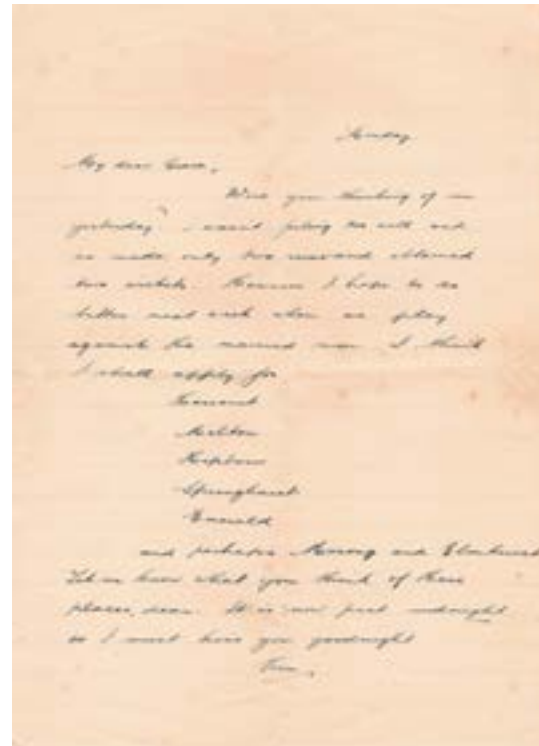


Vernon, (2nd row fourth from left) Melbourne University Graduate

1 Melbourne had its hottest March day in 33 years in 1934 the temperature reached 101.6 degrees <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/10916825>

2 Wilfred John Vernon Hogg, Bachelor of Commerce, conferred 24, 1934 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article243317828.3.html?followup=4937ed7ca8657a89d9a394d1fac0a134>





Monday

My dear Grace,

Were you thinking of me yesterday? I wasn't feeling too well and so made only two runs and obtained two wickets. However I hope to do better when we play against the married men. I think I shall apply for

Harcourt

Melton

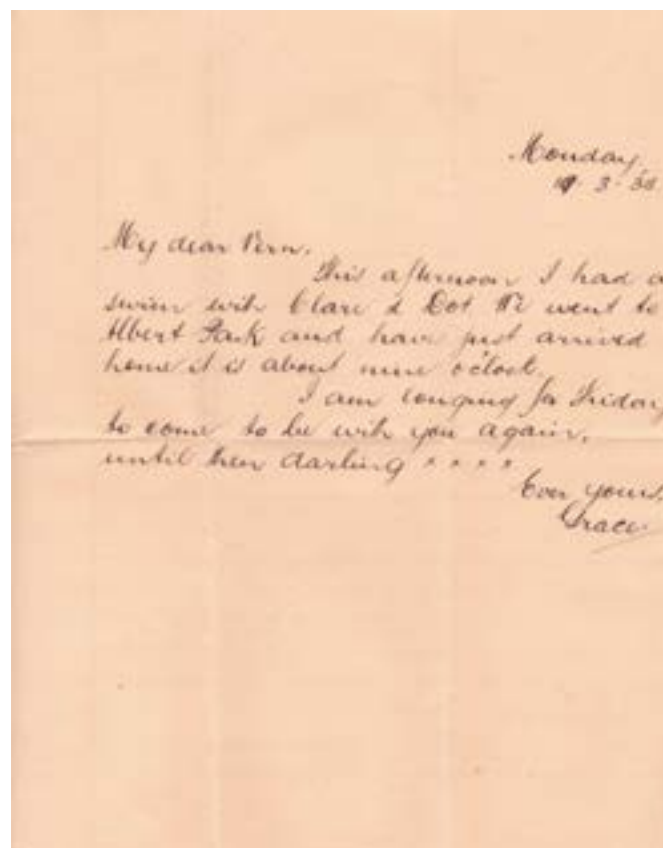
Hepburn

Springhurst

Emerald

and perhaps Marong and Elmhurst. Let me know what you think of these places, dear. It is now past midnight so I must kiss you goodnight.

Vern



Monday  
19.3.34

My dear Vern,

This afternoon I had a swim with Clare<sup>1</sup> + Dot<sup>2</sup>. We went to Albert Park and have just arrived home it is about nine o'clock.

I am longing for Friday to come to be with you again, until then darling x x x

Ever yours,

Grace

---

1 Sister, Clare Sylvia Besanko (nee Warne), (1918-1990).  
2 Sister, Dorothy Davis (nee Warne), (1920-1994).



Sunday

My dearest,  
I did enjoy reading your last letter. I like to hear you say how much you love me for I love you dearly. I am longing for Easter to come - even though I may have only two or three days with you. However I am trying to get some extra leave but I may not be successful.

Vern

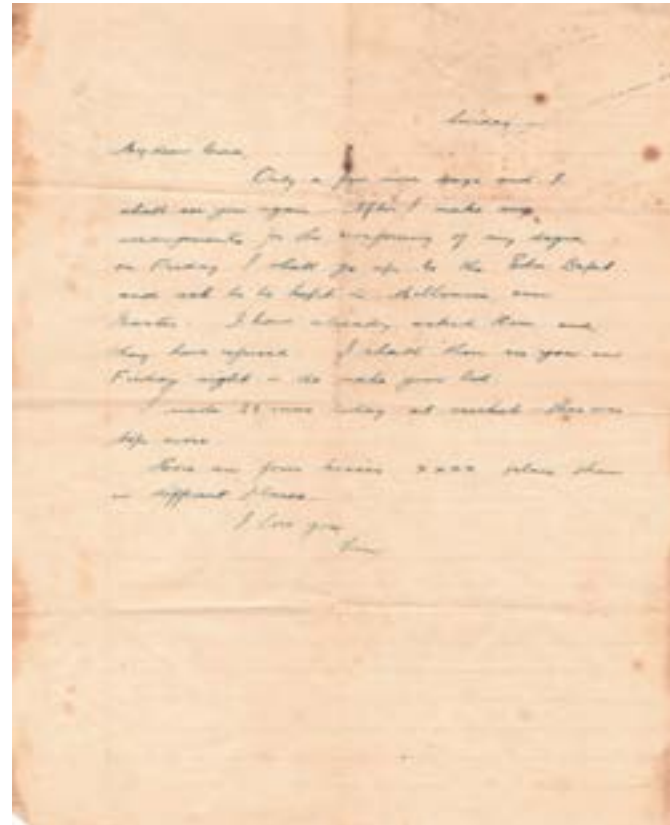
Sunday (April, 1934)

My dearest,

I did enjoy reading your last letters. I like to hear you say how much you love me for I love you dearly. I am longing for Easter to come - even though I may have only two or three days with you. However I am trying to get some extra but I may not be successful. Until then and always

Vern

x



Sunday ( April 1934)

My dear Grace,

Only a few more days and I shall see you again. After I make my arrangements for the conferring of my degree on Friday I shall go up to the Educ. Dept and ask to be kept in Melbourne over Easter. I have already asked them and they have refused. I shall then see you on Friday night - do make your bed.

I made 23 runs today at cricket - that was top score.

Here are four kisses xxxx place them in different places.

I love you

Vern



Wednesday,

Darling,  
Yesterday afternoon Clare collected  
at the post. She forgot to give me the  
letter, so it wasn't until this morning  
that I received the lovely unexpected surprise.  
I do appreciate the thought and love  
what was in it.  
It's freezing cold here tonight,  
I wish that you were here darling.  
It's a wonderful night to be in bed.  
Goodnight darling  
All my love always,  
Your Grace.

Wednesday (4 April, 1934)

Darling,

Yesterday afternoon Clare collected the post. She forgot to give me the letter so it wasn't until this morning the (sic) I received the lovely unexpected surprise. I do appreciate the thought and love what was in it.

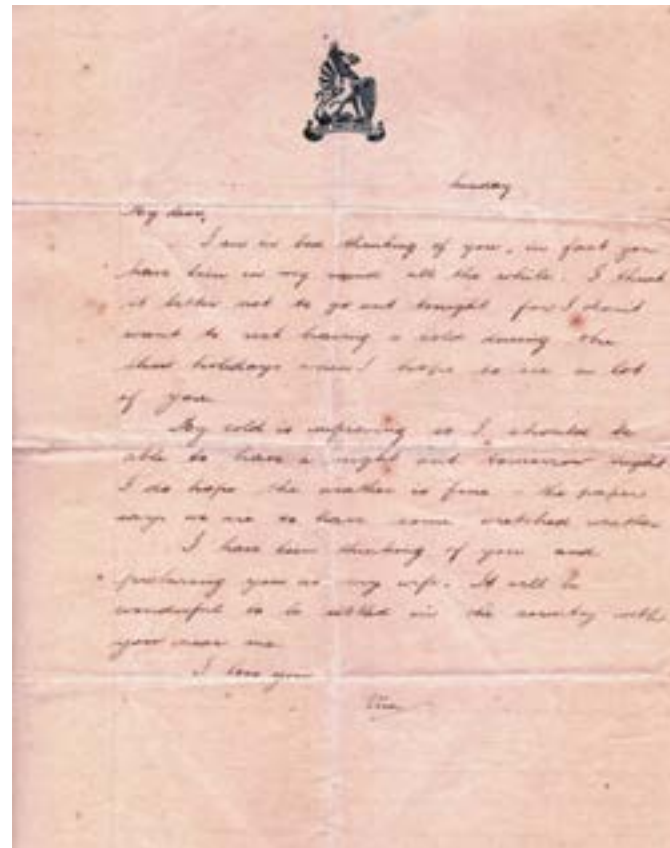
It's freezing cold here tonight I wish that you were here darling. It's a wonderful night to be in bed.

Goodnight darling

All my love always

Yours

Grace



Non Omnis Moriar  
(Not all of me will die)

Sunday (1934)

My dear,

I am in bed thinking of you, in fact you have been in my mind all the while. I think it better not to go out tonight for I don't want to risk having a cold during the Show holidays when I hope to see a lot of you.

My cold is improving so I should be able to have a night and tomorrow night I do hope the weather is fine - the paper says we are to have some wretched weather.

I have been thinking of you and picturing you as my wife. It will be wonderful to be settled in the country with you near me.

I love you,

Vern

Thursday

My future wife,  
I have had quite a lot of time  
to do some thinking and of course I  
kept thinking of you. Each thought  
of you makes me love you more and  
more.  
I decided to go in for the puzzle I  
have enclosed - if it is just a case of  
adding figures I should have as good  
a chance as anybody - there is a catch  
in it for most people will fail to  
add in the large numbers 1 and 7.  
Today makes my third day away  
from work. I am feeling ever so much  
better now. All the members have  
a touch of flu home here, but the  
toughest of germs caught me.  
I hope to see you at Carlton  
at 20 to 8 on Saturday night (that  
is if I don't pay you a surprise  
visit before then).  
Your future husband,  
Vern  
P.S. My solution for the puzzle is 618

Thursday (17 May, 1934?)

My future wife,

I have had quite a lot of time to do some thinking and of course I kept thinking of you. Each thought of you makes me love you more and more.

I decided to go in for the puzzle<sup>1</sup> I have enclosed - if it is just a case of adding figures I should have as good a chance as anybody - there is a catch in it for most people will fail to add in the large numbers 1 and 7.

Today makes my third day away from work. I feeling so much better now. All the members have a touch of flu home here, but the toughest of germs caught me.

I hope to see you at Carlton at 20 to 8 on Saturday night (that is if I don't pay you a surprise visit before then).

Your future husband

Vern

P.S. My solution for the puzzle is 618

---

<sup>1</sup> Vernon had a life long love of mathematics and puzzles. In his retirement he produced numerous mathematics textbooks with puzzles that frequently featured the names of his children and grandchildren.

25 May 1934

FOR QUICK SERVICE USE THE TELEGRAPH. PLEASE TURN OVER.

RECEIVED TELEGRAM

The first line of this telegram contains the following information to the addressee:

Office of Origin: *Spencer St Rail*    Words: *11*    Title: *11*    No. *11*

Remarks: *Just arrived see you tonight*

To: *Grace Warne Cricket Ground*

POST OFFICE  
5 MAY 1934  
DUBLIN

*Vern*  
*May*

Spencer St Rail

Grace Warne  
Cricket Ground

Just arrived.

See you tonight.

Vern.

VV

NOTE: The standard time for the Eastern States of America, Eastern Time, and London is half an hour in advance of the standard time for Irish Standard, and one hour in advance of the standard time for Western Australia.

<p>When sending CONGRATULATIONS or messages of SYMPATHY...</p> <p><b>SEND A TELEGRAM!</b></p> <p>It carries with it your personal and warmest wishes.</p>	<p><b>A TELEPHONE COSTS YOU</b></p> <p>NOTHING to install NOTHING for returned calls 1d. to 1/6d. for each hour of use</p> <p><b>APPLY TO-DAY</b></p>	<p>THE PROMPT DELIVERY OF YOUR CORRESPONDENCE IS IMPORTANT TO YOU - THEREFORE...</p> <p>Address it fully and plainly. Give the P.O. Box No. when writing to a private box-holder. Use the Postal District No. followed by the word "Victoria" when writing to an address in the city or suburbs of Melbourne. Pay the correct postage. Post it early.</p>
<p>When using a QUESTION or answer to a QUESTION...</p> <p><b>SEND A REPLY-PAID TELEGRAM</b></p> <p>It establishes intimate contact and is a convenient way of receiving a prompt reply.</p>	<p>Apply to-day for a special rate for replies from the Country!</p>	



In the State of Victoria. In the Commonwealth of Australia.

FOURTH SCHEDULE, ACTS Nos. 1036 and 1044. FORM B.

### CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE. [B.]

For the Parish or Church District *North Fitzroy* Diocese *Catholic*

No. in Register (1)	When and where Married (2)	Name and Residence of each Party (3)	Profession, Trade, or Occupation of each Party (4)	Children by such Marriage (5)		Bridal Wreath (6)
				Male (a)	Female (b)	
233	2 June 1934	<i>John Thomas</i> <i>John Thomas</i>	<i>Bachelor</i> <i>Plumber</i>			<i>Caplain &amp; into Carlton</i>

Description (7)	Age in years (8)	Parent of each Party (9)		Parent's Name (10)	
		Paternal (a)	Maternal (b)	Paternal (11)	Maternal (12)
<i>Witness</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>J. Simpson</i>	<i>J. Simpson</i>	<i>David Toff</i>	<i>Grace &amp; John</i>
<i>Witness</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>W. Carlton</i>	<i>J. Carlton</i>	<i>James &amp; Kate</i>	<i>John &amp; Dorothy</i>

We declare that the above is a true statement of the particulars relating to each of us respectively; and that Marriage by *Dispensation* was solemnized between us in the day and at the place mentioned, according to the rites of *The Catholic Church*.

Signature of Groom *J. Thomas*  
Signature of Bride *Sheila Thomas*

Signature of Minister of the Gospel *J. H. Jones*

*J. H. Jones* being *Minister of the Gospel* do hereby certify that I have this day duly solemnized Marriage between the above-named parties, after notice (had been dispensed with by permission of *Eng. J.P.*) and after declaration, duly made as by law required (and with the written consent of *John & Kate* & *John & Dorothy*).

Dated this *2nd* day of *June* 1934

Signature of Minister, Government Agent, or Registrar of Marriages *J. H. Jones*

Vernon and Grace were married at St Brigids Church, North Fitzroy on the 2nd June, 1934.

Carlton Cricket Club.

May 21<sup>st</sup> 1934

Dear Sheila -

My warmest  
wishes for the very  
best of Health, Happiness and  
Prosperity.

Your loving father  
J. S. Stone



Wawa  
Tuesday

My dear Grace,  
Do not be surprised if I send you a telegram about my being successful in obtaining a transfer One of the Classifiers (those who attend to transfers) sent me a telegram today asking me for fuller details about the condition of the school residence that shows that they are closely considering my application - I would be the senior applicant. It would be wonderful to spend the winters (and the summers) with you darling I may get my transfer and have to move at May. Shall send you more news later. xxxxxxxx  
Vern

Wawa

Tuesday

My dear Grace,

Do not be surprised if I send you a telegram about my being successful in obtaining a transfer. One of the Classifiers (those who attend to transfers) sent me a telegram today asking me for fuller details about the condition of the school residence that shows that are closely considering my application - I must be the senior applicant. It would be wonderful to spend the winters (and the summers) with you darling. I may get my transfer and have to move at May. Shall send you more news later. xxxxxxxx

Vern



Thursday

My dear Grace,

I had the Public Works Inspector along today to see the school residence and he was disgusted with it. He said it was the worst in his district. I expect to get a transfer within the next few days. If you ring up the Teachers' Union they will tell you what school I have been transferred to. If you find out early would you send me a telegram. There is not much chance of a new residence here. I am getting quite thrilled at the prospect of soon having a wonderful little wife to look after me.

Ever yours

Vern



Sunday

My dear Grace,

I received your telegram yesterday. I was thrilled to hear of the transfer. I do hope the winter is not very wet as I have heard so much about Gippsland. Merrigan has the best residence in South Gippsland.



The plan looks very nice. The residence was renovated last Christmas. There is no electric light so we shall have to buy an Aladdin lamp. There is a P.E. Bath and Bath heater.



Tuesday

My dear Grace,

I do hope you are feeling quite well again. I am so cold at present that I can't control my writing - I have just left a nice warm fire.

You are in my thoughts always dear - I sit down and plan our home every spare minute. There are steps leading to both front and back doors. There is a store-room underneath the house at the back.

I want you and love you every minute darling. If only you were here with me so that I could show you - you will make a perfect wife and I shall try to make a perfect husband for you and a perfect father for our children - I do hope they are lovely like you.

All my love  
Vern

Tuesday

My dear Grace,

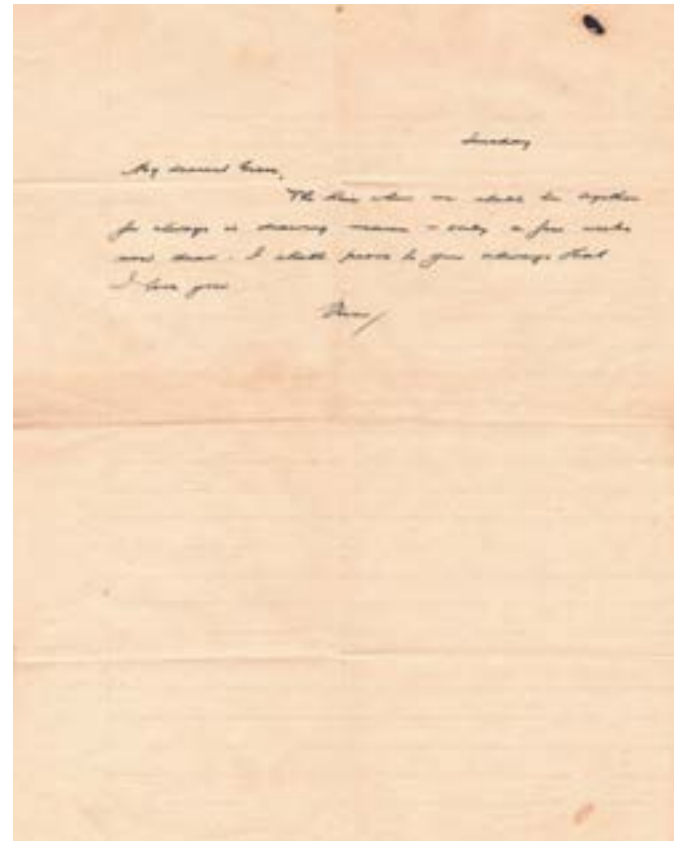
I do hope you are feeling quite well again. I am so cold at present that I can't control my writing - I have just left a nice warm fire.

You are in my thoughts always dear - I sit down and plan our home every spare minute. There are steps leading to both front and back doors. There is a store-room underneath the house at the back.

I want you and love you every minute darling. If only you were here with me so that I could show you - you will make a perfect wife and I shall try to make a perfect husband for you and a perfect father for our children - I do hope they are lovely like you.

All my love

Vern

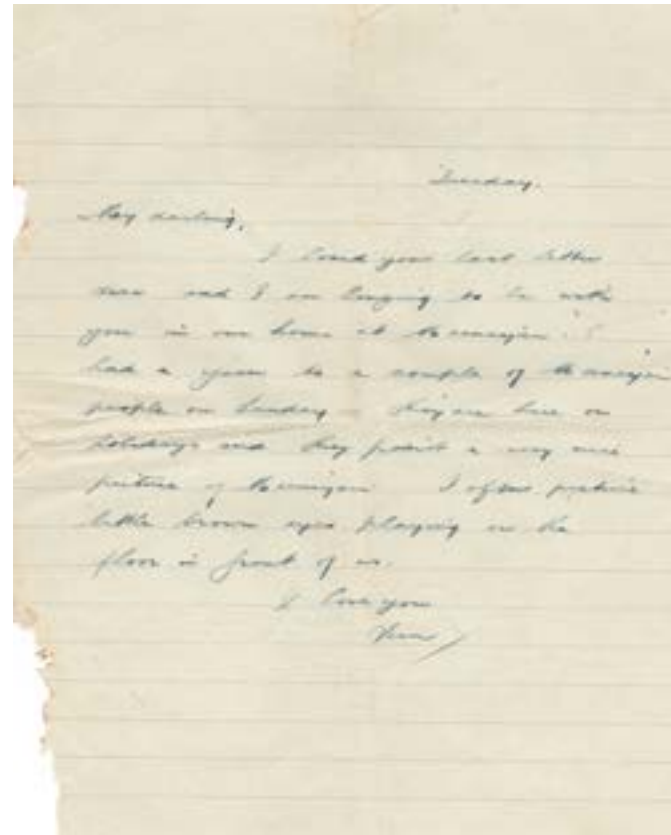


Tuesday (1934?)

My dearest Grace,

The time when we shall be together for always is drawing nearer - only a few weeks now dear. I shall prove to you always that I love you.

Vern



Tuesday

My darling,

I loved your last letter dear and I am longing to be with you in our home at Meeniyan. I had a yarn to a couple of Meeniyan people on Sunday - they are here on holidays and they paint a very nice picture of Meeniyan. I often picture little brown eyes playing on the floor in front of us

I love you

Vern



Meeniyan

My dear Grace,

I have just arrived back from fishing  
 I was on bank of the river when we  
 shall soon be fishing on the Tarwin River -  
 in about mid June back and hungry and  
 I shall prepare a dainty tea for you my  
 wife when I shall always adore.

Yours  
 Vern

P.S. I understand there are steps leading to  
 our house in Meeniyan - did I tell you  
 about it yesterday?

Wednesday

My dear Grace,

I have just arrived back from fishing it made me think of the time when we shall be fishing in the Tarwin River. We shall walk home tired and hungry and I shall prepare a dainty tea for my wife whom I shall always adore.

Yours

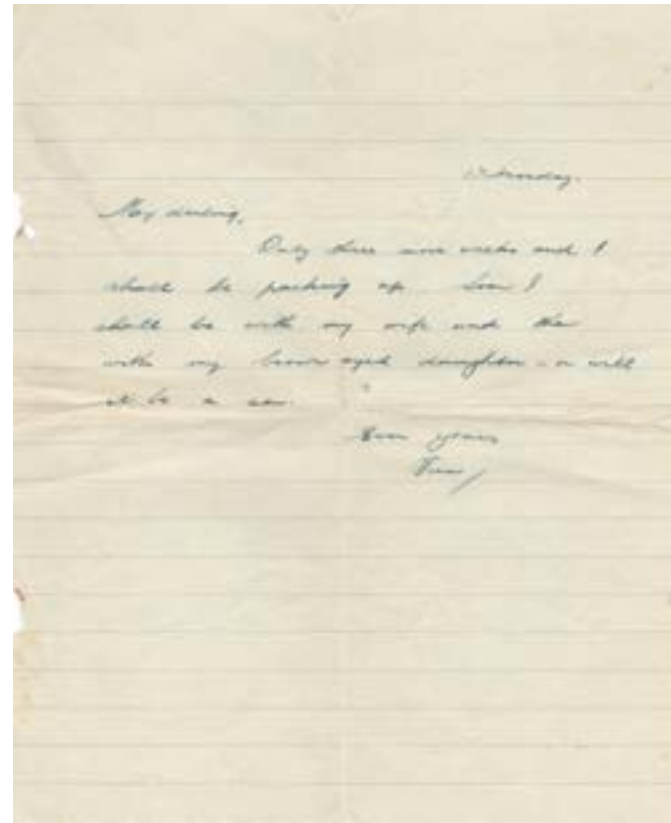
Vern

PS I understand there are steps leading to our house in Meeniyan<sup>1</sup> - did I tell you about it yesterday!



<sup>1</sup> Meeniyan is a small country town on the South Gippsland Highway between Leongatha and Foster, Victoria. .





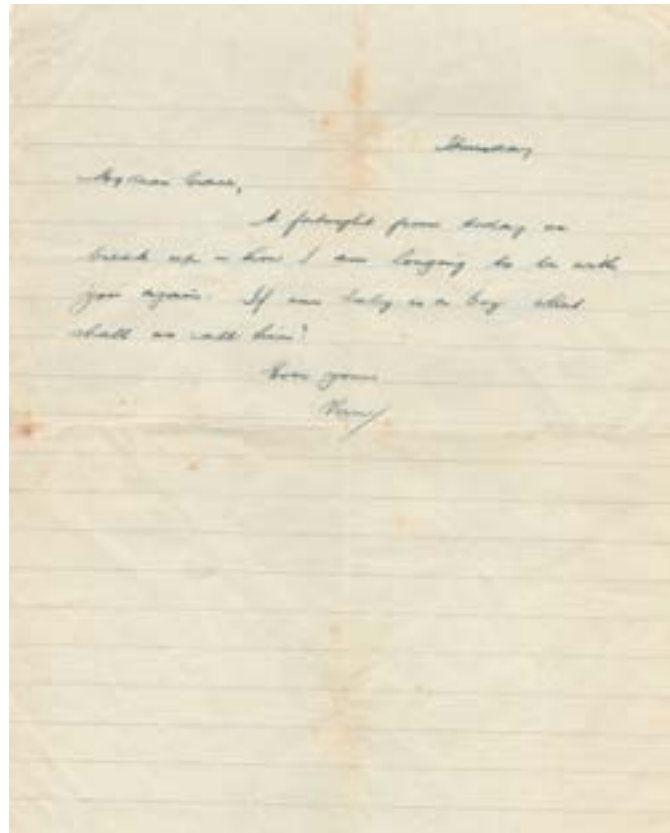
Wednesday (November, 1934)

My darling,

Only three more weeks and I shall be packing up. Soon I shall be with my wife and then with my brown eyed daughter - or will it be a son.

Ever yours

Vern



Thursday (November, 1934)

My dear Grace,

A fortnight from today we break up - how I am longing to be with you again. If our baby is a boy what shall we name him?

Ever yours

Vern



Received two letters from you today. I loved getting them darling. I was sickened at the thought of the blow flies + the cheese <sup>break the cheese dish</sup> guess you were too at seeing them. Barbara<sup>1</sup> cried a lot during last night I had to nap about 20 minutes today I feel rather fagged. Bill called for us yesterday and we got home safely. The Nuns pinned a little holy medal on Barbara's dress for good luck so I'll keep it for her always. We made a bed out of the big case that I took to hospital for Barb. She seems very comfortable in it too. She sleeps first at the side of my bed and I got a little torch today that will save me getting up + putting a the light when she cries. I hope she will be better tonight. She didn't disturb anyone, but I was worried in case she was keeping everyone awake but no one heard a sound. Darling I miss you so much I want you ever so much, last night too I was scared the thunder + lightning were awful. I did long for your arms when I was in bed on my own. Barb is fast asleep now its about 5.30, at 7 I'll have to give her her next meal. Its pouring rain here just at present.

Darling don't you think we will have a gorgeous holiday with our baby. I do. I think why she cried last night was because at the hospital they wake the babies at 2 o'clock to give them a bath so she hasn't got used to new habits yet. I hope that's what it is anyway. I love you trillions darling + Babs billions.

xxx Kisses from Babs to daddy.

Grace

(11 December 1935)

I am longing for tomorrow week

Dear Vern,

Received two letters from you today. I loved getting them darling. I was sickened at the thought of the blowflies and the cheese (break the cheese dish) guess you were too at seeing them. Barbara<sup>1</sup> cried a lot during last night I had to nap about 20 minutes today I feel rather fagged. Bill called for us yesterday and we got home safely. The Nuns pinned a little holy medal on Barbara's dress for good luck so I'll keep it for her always. We made a bed out of the big case that I took to hospital for Barb. She seems very comfortable in it too. She sleeps first at the side of my bed and I got a little torch today that will save my getting up + putting the light on when she cries. I hope she will be better tonight. She didn't disturb anyone, but I was worried in case she was keeping everyone awake but no one heard a sound. Darling I miss you so much I want you ever so much, last night too I was scared the thunder + lightning were awful. I did long for your arms when I was in bed on my own. Barb is fast asleep now its about 5.30, at 7 I'll have to give her her next meal. Its pouring rain here just at present.

Darling don't you think we will have a gorgeous holiday with our baby. I do. I think why she cried last night was because at the hospital they wake the babies at 2 o'clock to give them a bath so she hasn't got used to new habits yet. I hope that's what it is anyway. I love you trillions darling + Babs billions.

Love from Grace

xxxx

xxx Kisses from Babs to daddy.

1 Barbara Clare Hogg was born on November 26, 1935.

Thursday night

Darling, I have just returned from  
ringing you up. It is so thrilling  
to talk to you over the phone. Tonight  
though I was told to finish up  
not by Mc Laurin but by somebody  
in Leongatha or Melbourne. After  
ringing I found that the P.O. is  
not open on Saturday night  
unless a special opening fee is  
paid so I don't think I shall  
trouble Mc L. even though he  
was kind enough to hint that  
he might forget the extra.

I had a game of tennis this  
evening and after playing  
poorly in the first set warmed  
up into excellent driving form  
against the new banker and  
Cripps.

Alexander called in for 5 minutes  
yesterday to pick up some notes  
from me.

Tomorrow is Young Farmers Day  
at Dumbuck and I intend going  
to see how things are worked.

Does Babs cry much now? I still  
can hardly realise that we have  
a daughter.

Being able to ring you up  
makes me feel so near to you  
and I don't feel nearly as  
lonely as I used to because  
we are parents.

Do write to me every day  
darling for I look forward  
to your letters.

Your loving husband  
Vern

x for Babs.

Thursday night

Darling,

I have just returned from ringing you up. It is so thrilling to talk to you over the phone. Tonight though I was told to finish up not by McLaurin but by somebody in Leongatha or Melbourne. After ringing I found that the P.O. is not open on Saturday night unless a special opening fee is paid so I don't think I shall trouble Mc Laurin even though he was kind enough to hint that he might forget the extra.

I had a game of tennis this evening and after playing poor in the first set warmed up with excellent driving form against the new banker and Cripps.

Alexander called in for 5 minutes yesterday to pick up some notes from me.

Tomorrow is Young Farmers Day at Dumbuck and I intend going down to see how things are worked.

Does Babs cry much now? I still can hardly realise we have a daughter.

Being able to ring you up makes me feel so near to you and I don't feel nearly as lonely as I used to because we are parents.

Do write to me every day darling for I look forward to your letters.

Your loving husband

Vern

x for Babs.



Vernon and his students at Meeniyah Primary School





I would like this to be known in case of  
In a few years time if the Broadmeadows Council imagine  
that the native trees in the grounds of Heathcote Road State  
School, Glenroy were supplied by the Council now, from their  
project to plant a million native trees - I should like to point  
out that they were supplied & planted by now retired  
Principal Mr. V. Hogg during his years of work both  
in this aesthetic and the administrative. ~~to~~ converting  
literally "a mud heap" into grounds of great beauty.  
Mr. V. Hogg also supplied a central library.



Love letters and early  
correspondance between  
my mother (Grace Warne) and  
my father (Vernon Hogg.  
There is a mention of me (Barbara)  
somewhere before I was conceived

From  
The Enchanted Rainforest  
by Rex Maxon  
©1924



I didn't turn out to have  
brown eyes and hair, quite  
the opposite.