

*Hello Kids—*

Writing to me from Green Hills, via Kempsey, Valerie Hoskins sent along a pencil drawing entitled "The Birth of Jesus Christ". Valerie said "I think only for The Lord Jesus Christ, we wouldn't be celebrating Christmas at all. I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year." Thank you very much indeed, Val. Also two nice coloured sketches from Valda Toomey of Queen Street, Pilliga. Thanks, Valda.

A special prize this month to Melva Kennedy of the St. Columbans Seminary, 57 Braeside Street, Wahroonga for her two sketches; these will appear in *Dawn* later. Melva would like some pen friends from 15 to 20 years of age. Her hobbies are swimming, horseriding, modern music and dancing. How about some letters for Melva.

Also a brief note from Mary Button of 93 McIntosh Street, Forster, enclosing some photographs. Mary is one of those who sat for her Intermediate Exam. this year and I sincerely hope she passes. Thank you for your note, Mary.

Pat Galway of Moulamein Road, Barham, sent me some nicely coloured drawings. They just missed out on a prize this time Pat, but send some more will you.

Also had a very nice letter (the second one lately), from my pal Charlotte Nicholson of Moulamein. Charlotte told me all about the recent Ten Town Talent Show. Seems to have been a wonderful success. Pam Dickson, whose address is c.o. Post Office, Green Hill, Kempsey, is 15 years of age and wants some pen friends between 15 and 18 years of age. Pam's hobbies are swimming, cycling, dancing and collecting film star photos. Well kids, how about a bagful of letters for Pam?

I also had a nice sketch "In a tight spot", from 13 year old Matilda Williams. Just missed a prize Matilda, but better luck next time.

Robert J. Baxter, c.o. Mr. J. Lawler, Beulah, Victoria, who is 18 years of age, would like a girl pen friend about the same age. How about it?

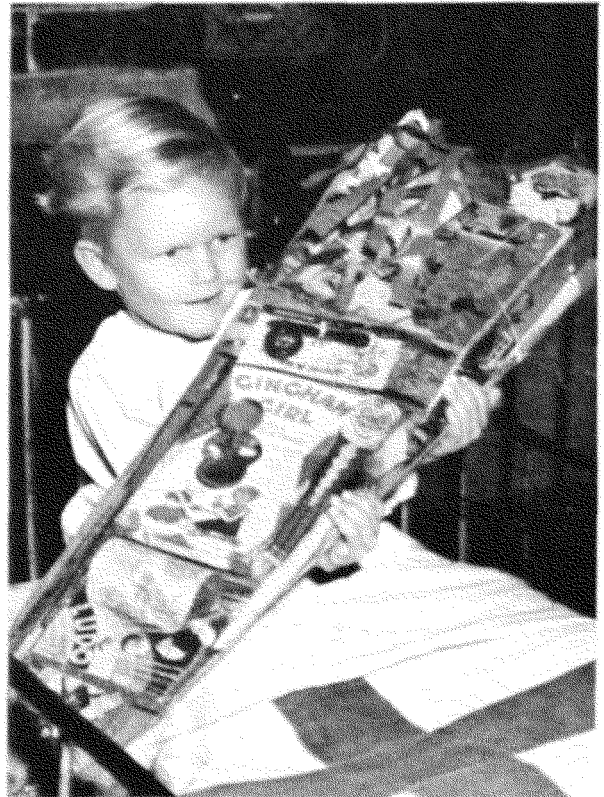
Well Kids, this is the big month we have all been looking forward to and it is my sincere wish that each and every one of you gets everything he or she is hoping for. But if we do miss out on some things, lets just reflect for a moment to consider the many wonderful

things we do have in this glorious free country of ours, and then we will realise just how more fortunate we are than thousands of other people throughout the world.

A happy Christmas and a very prosperous and eventful New Year to you and yours and may God bless you all.

Your sincere pal

*Pete*



Although he is a patient in the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Michael will not miss out, as Santa Claus always makes sure that he visits the hospitals first of all