

Hamilton High School,
Parvis St.,
HAMILTON HILL, 6163.
WEST AUSTRALIA. 1 Dec.

Dear Friends,

Christmas greetings for 1978. It's 35 degrees C. with a hot sun and a cool sea breeze from the Indian Ocean. Everyone's heading for the beaches. It's strange sending my third annual Christmas letter from the sandy shores of West Australia, a place so different from Canada. However, the year's been a good one.

Firstly, my eight week trip through South East Asia last Christmas was enjoyable. Following a flight from Perth to Kuala Lumpur, I met up with a friend and travelled by public transport down to Singapore, then back through Malaysia to Penang, Bangkok and Chiang Mai to the Burmese border. The highlight of the trip was a five day trek in the Golden Triangle through the primitive hill tribes people. Opium poppies were in full bloom, the women were bare breasted and we slept in small bamboo huts over the gunting pigs. Leaving my friend in Bangkok, I travelled with a pretty Chinese girl whom I had met the year before in Auckland. We spent a challenging four weeks struggling overland in monsoon rains through Sumatra's rugged volcanic terrain and stinging jungles. Deck class on a rusty, crowded tramp steamer got us to the greenness of Java, 'rice bowl' of the world. From there a train took us in third class 'comfort,' to the popular tourist haven of Bali.

My job as curriculum coordinator has proceeded well. Hired to aid an innovative school in introducing curriculum change, my role has been to assist the staff in completing a needs assessment to determine priority curriculum needs. A variety of solutions put forward to solve the major needs are now being implemented. I've also done some publishing on my role and on the needs assessment procedures.

My Master's Degree in Education has been completed with much work on the dissertation entitled "Developments in Curriculum Planning at a Perth Metropolitan High School." Further studies in a Ph D programme in Education will be keeping my nose to the grindstone.

Concurrent with university studies has been some hard work to obtain a pilot's licence. I've now obtained about fifty flying hours with some terrible landings in the process, but have obtained a private pilot's licence. My eventual intention is to share the rent of a small plane to fly around Australia with calls at the remote aboriginal settlements. Anyone interested?

This year, I've established a good friendship with Janet, a Melbourne girl just returned from an overland trip through Africa and a trip on the Trans-Siberian railway. Janet's working as a computer programmer.

My plans this Christmas include hitchhiking to Sydney, then flying to New Guinea to spend a month trekking in the highlands. Conditions there are said to be as primitive as along the Burmese border.

I'm looking forward to seeing my brother George and his wife Pat who are flying to Australia for six weeks prior to a three month overland trip through Asia to England. George is presently practicing medicine in Vancouver with the help of Pat, now a four year trained nurse.

My parents are also flying out in Feb. for a six week visit following a car trip through the Southern United States. It's great to see them again. Brother in law Ken has completed a M. Ed and is busy assisting sister Margaret in raising two active boys, David and Chris.

I consider myself fortunate to have been remembered by some old friends who have finally written this year. Keep up the good work. I hoped to get back to Canada for a visit in the next couple of years.

Merry Christmas
Donald Fugh.

