

Dear Anne,

Thank you so much for your phone call. A pleasant surprise on a Sunday afternoon, opening a window which I felt was really closed as you will see from the enclosed letters.

As I mentioned the early 60's did not have the restrictions of visas etc. and unless one was in contact with fellow Australians living overseas the changes occurring in relationships between 'home' and 'the old country' passed you by. How I missed the weekly Newsletter that Australia House issued, when I first arrived in the U.K., as a source of information and which may have highlighted these changes.

1974 and the necessity of a new passport prior to a family visit to Australia, brought home to me that I should have recorded Catherine and Ian as my adopted children for Australian purposes. This had arisen during conversation with the passport office when I collected my new document and hence no written record. I was told that unfortunately it was now a little late due to further incoming changes between the two countries regarding the freedom of travel.

The question of any descendant rights either Catherine or Ian might have with regard to entering Australia did not arise again until 1984/5 when Catherine wished to pursue her ambition to go to Australia. Again conversation with the passport office revealed that such children had to be under 21 years old and she had passed that benchmark in June 1984. Her application for a working visa was successful but I knew Ian would fall short of the requirements and wrote immediately - the brief reply is with the enclosed. Sadly I have not a copy of my correspondence.

The other letters are self explanatory.

The tireless efforts of Southern Cross Group are absolutely tremendous and any contribution my case may make in the quest to broaden a way of life for overseas adopted children and their link with Australia is willingly given, mundane though the story may be.

With my best wishes.

Beryl.



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