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31 July 1987

The
Australian
Bicentennial
Authority

88 George Street
Sydney NSW

GPO Box AUS 1988
Sydney 2001

Phone (02) 236 1988

Telex AA 121988

FAX (02) 234 6761



**200 UNSUNG HEROES AND HEROINES PROGRAM
LETTER TO PARTICIPANTS**

I would be pleased if you would accept the enclosed Certificate of Participation as a small gesture of appreciation for your involvement in the 200 Unsung Heroes and Heroines Program.

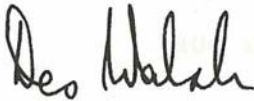
As you may know, this national venture, under the slogan "200 Greatest Stories Never Told", attracted just over 4,000 nominations from all States and Territories. The selection panel, with the assistance of a small team of researchers, has been reading the stories assiduously and aims to have a short-list drawn up by the end of August this year.

We intend to advise you before the end of this year as to whether or not your entry has been short-listed. It is not intended, however, to announce publicly the final list until the second part of 1988. The announcement will coincide with the publication of a commemorative book which the Authority intends to commission.

I have been asked a number of times what will happen to the stories which are not selected for the final 200. You will be pleased to know that the National Library of Australia has agreed in principle to accept, for permanent preservation, all the material submitted under this program as a special acquisition for the Library's Australian collections. Thus, whether or not your story is one of the finalists, you will know that it has been given a special place in the nation's historical records. I do understand that some people may have personal or family reasons for not wishing the material they have submitted to be generally available to researchers and if you have any such concern I would ask you to let me know as soon as possible.

I trust you will appreciate that with over 4,000 certificates to send out, we cannot guarantee that each and every one will arrive intact. It is also possible that some names on certificates might not be reproduced accurately. If you have any problem with the certificate, please drop me a line and we will be happy to issue you with another one.

Yours sincerely,



Des Walsh
Executive Officer
200 Unsung Heroes & Heroines

Enc: Certificate of Participation



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200 UNSUNG HEROES AND HEROINES

Dear Participant



We know from many of your comments that you have already received a Certificate of Participation to thank you for your involvement in the Unsung Heroes and Heroines Program. No doubt many of you have been wondering when you would finally hear of the status of your nomination.

We received more than 4000 entries and it has been a long, exhaustive, but inspiring process to give them fair consideration. This is why our selection panel has taken some months to reach its final decision. Don't be too disappointed that your story was not one of those finally selected. We wish that we could publish all the wonderful entries received, but sadly that's not possible.

Instead we are offering you the possibility of making a permanent contribution to our national heritage. If you would like to donate your story to the National Library of Australia please sign the attached Consent Form. These forms have been supplied by the Library but we would like you to return the forms to us (by 18 December 1987) and we enclose a Freepost envelope.

You are under no obligation to donate your submitted material to the Library but we believe that by doing so you will be making a major contribution to the permanent human heritage of Australia.

There will be many questions you will need answers to in relation to this proposal from the National Library and we enclose the questions we think you will ask and our answers.

Thank you again for being involved and for your patience while we selected the stories. When the first of our 200 stories is published early in 1988 we hope you will enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely

Wendy McCarthy

2nd December 1987

Wendy McCarthy
General Manager Communications

QUESTION AND ANSWER SHEET

WHY SHOULD THE SUBMISSION BE DONATED TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY?

We have received over 4,000 entries from all over Australia for this program. We consider that not only the 200 stories selected for publication but all entries received should be preserved for future generations.

WHAT WILL THE NATIONAL LIBRARY DO WITH THEM?

If you decide to donate your story, it will form part of the Bicentennial Unsung Heroes and Heroines Collection. This will be deposited in the Library's Australian Collections which contain many unpublished papers from both famous and unknown Australians. The Library is responsible for the permanent preservation of this material.

WHO WILL USE THIS MATERIAL?

The manuscript material in the Australian Collections can only be used by researchers with a Library Ticket or those with special permission. If you want to restrict access to your own material, you can note this on your Consent Form the Library is legally responsible for safeguarding the privacy and rights of donors of material.

CAN I HAVE ACCESS TO MY OWN MATERIAL?

Yes, you can use or obtain copies of your donated material.

HOW WILL MY MATERIAL BE USED?

The Unsung Heroes and Heroines collection contains the sort of information about people, places and events which future researchers will use to re-write our history books. It is likely that historians will use the whole collection, not just individual stories, to assess our historical values.

WILL RESEARCHERS BE ABLE TO PUBLISH MY DONATED STORY?

No, not without your written permission.

WHO OWNS COPYRIGHT?

You do, for your original story. Researchers need your written permission before the Library will allow them to reproduce this. Copyright in such things as diaries, letters and photographs remains with the originators of these documents or descendants. If you are writing a family history and are confused about the copyright law, you can get advice from the Australian Copyright Council at 22 Alfred Street Milsons Point, NSW 2061.

WHEN WILL RESEARCHERS BE ABLE TO USE MY MATERIAL?

The Australian Bicentennial Authority has asked the National Library to restrict all access to the donated material until June 1989. The only people who can use it before that date will be the donors themselves or members of The Australian Bicentennial Authority. If you want to restrict access to material after that date, you can fill in the Restricted Access part of the Consent Form.

CAN I ADD FURTHER INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTS TO MY SUBMISSION?

Yes, you can write to the Director, Australian Collections and Services, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600. You should do this after March 1988 when the collection will have been transferred to the Library.

HOW DO I DONATE MY STORY AND ANY ADDITIONAL MATERIAL TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY?

Just fill in the enclosed Consent Form and return it to us in the Freepost envelope. This will be kept in a special file by the Library and they will have to check your Form before allowing anyone to use your material.

WHAT IF I HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO DONATE MY STORY TO THE LIBRARY?

We realise some people have already responded to our earlier letter but we now need these people to formalize their agreement by signing and returning the Form.

DO I HAVE TO DONATE MY STORY TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY?

No, you are under no obligation at all to donate but we hope that you will want to make this contribution to our national heritage. If, for personal or other reasons, you prefer not to donate you can be assured that your story will not be transferred to the National Library by ticking the appropriate box and returning the signed Form to us in the enclosed envelope.

WHEN DO THE CONSENT FORMS HAVE TO BE RETURNED?

Whether or not you give permission for your story to be donated to the Library, we would like the signed Forms returned to us by the 18 December 1987 so that we can organise the transfer of all this material to Canberra.