Hello, Kids,

And how are all my young friends this month? I’m very happy to be able to say that many more of my mates from all over the State are beginning to write and send in their drawings, paintings, stories and photographs. That’s what we want. Keep it up.

I had a very nice letter from young Pat Clark (12) of Moree. Pat goes to High School and hopes one day to be a teacher. She told me in her letter that she is a Girl Guide and has just passed her tenderfoot test. Indeed, she sent me along a drawing of a Guides’ picnic. Very nice, too. Pat wants some pen friends in Walgett, Boggabilla, Gunnedah or Brewarrina. How about it, kids?

Writing from Erambie, Bruce Merrit told me he has a long way to go to school but he likes it just the same. Schooldays are grand times, Bruce, aren’t they?

Margaret Cruse of Muttama wrote me one of her usual interesting letters. Incidentally Margaret is an admirer of Harry Penrith, our recent ‘cover boy.’ I certainly agree, Margaret, Harry is a great athlete.

Nancy Bolt of Cabbage Tree Island wrote telling me all about the wonderful holiday she had, and Darcy Baker and Max Munro of Caroona wrote a joint letter telling me about the new boys’ club that Mr. Towers had started on the station, with plenty of boxing tournaments for the lads. They say it’s great. Max sent along a drawing, too.

As usual, this month I had some fine drawings from my gang up at Boggabilla . . . Tom Binge, Stan McIntosh, Barry Stacey, Eric Craigie, Neville Binge, Don McIntosh, Doug McGrady, Geoff Prince, Henry Binge, Lloyd Dennison, Fred Binge, Hayden Haines, Hilton Wightman, and Kevin Binge, Albert Dennison and Allen Stacey.

I also had drawings from Harry Bolt, Barry Marlowe and Vivienne Anderson of Cabbage Tree Island, and Glory Leonard of Coonamble.

This month I also received some splendid paintings from Julie Rhodes of Cabbage Tree Island, Alice Bundock of Woodenbong, Peter Whitton, George Perry and Don Adams of Kinchela, Barry Sampson of Caroona, and Margaret Eggins and Betty Mundy of Cootamundra.

This month’s special prizes go to Hilton Wightman and Kevin Binge of Boggabilla and Margaret Eggins of Cootamundra. Congratulations to you three and better luck next time for all the others. I have some mystery presents which I have been sending out to my young friends who write in to me, so don’t be surprised if one just turns up in the post one day.

Be sure and get your copy of Dawn next month because it is a special Coronation issue to commemorate the coronation of our beautiful young sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II.

I still haven’t published a short story from one of my young friends. How about it? I’m sure some of you must be able to write an interesting yarn. And now until next month, once again I’ll say cheerio to my young friends everywhere.

All the Best until next month.

Your sincere friend,

Pete