
GOOD ADVENTURE



HOME THOUGHTS FROM AUSTRALIA



NIGEL AND TONY CROWTHER

To our Mother

Typeset, designed and published by
ARC Design, Morella Cottage, The Street, Patching,
West Sussex BN13 3XF UK Tel: 01903 871238

Text Copyright Nigel and Tony Crowther

ISBN
978-0-9955696-0-7

Nigel and Tony Crowther have asserted their right to be the joint authors of this work. No part of this publication may be produced, transmitted or stored in a retrieval system in any form or by any means without written permission of the publishers.

A catalogue record of the first edition of this book
is available from the British Library.

Printed in Great Britain in November 2016
by Impressions, 93 High Street, Somersham,
Huntingdon PE28 3EE Tel: 01487 843311

GOOD ADVENTURE



HOME THOUGHTS FROM AUSTRALIA

NIGEL AND TONY CROWTHER

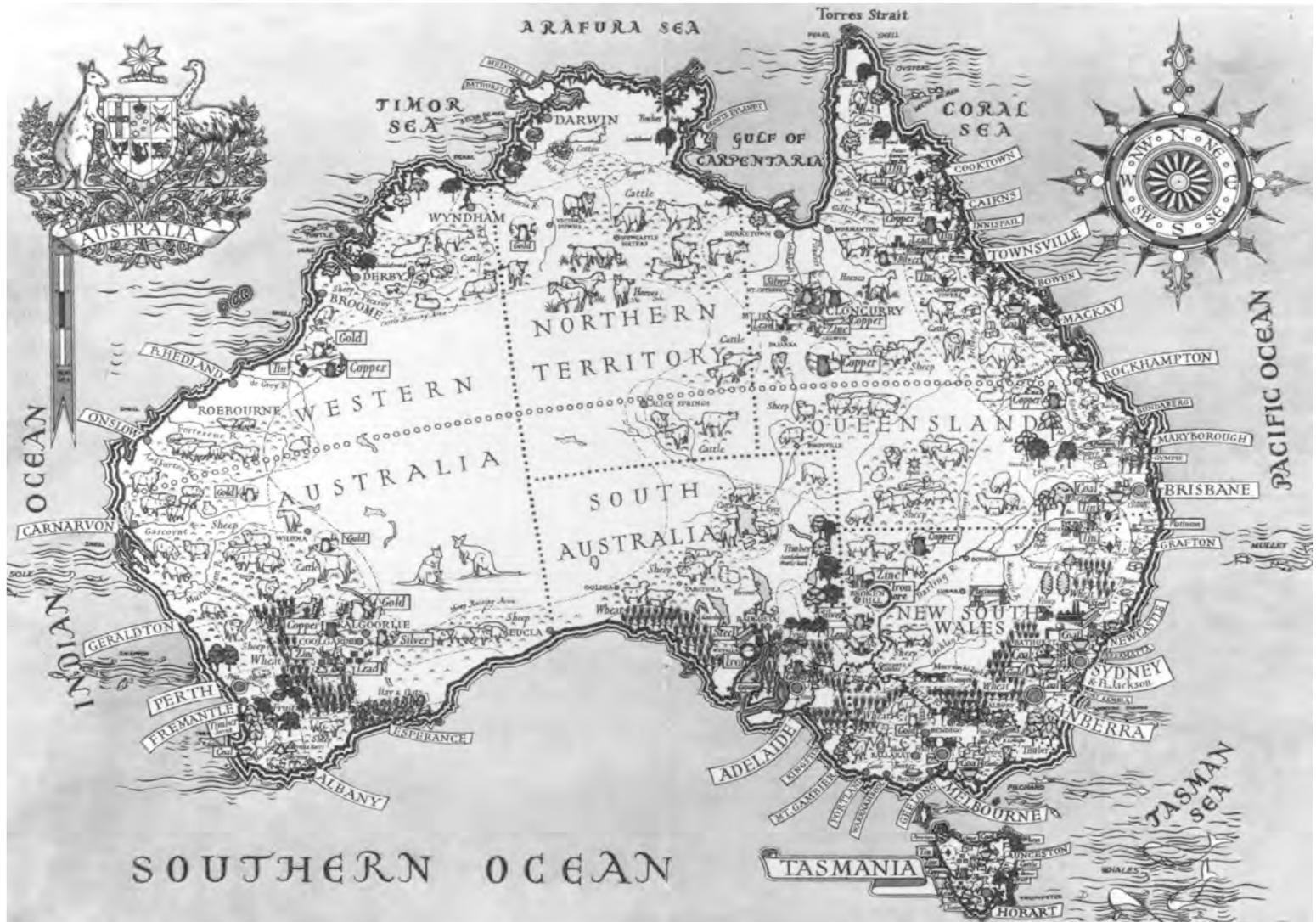




CONTENTS

PREFACE	1
INTRODUCTION	3
OUTWARD BOUND	17
BONEGILLA & WILLIAMSTOWN	53
NUNAWADING	123
THE DECISION	187
HOMEWARD BOUND	223
THE CONCLUSION	243
POSTSCRIPT	255
INDEX	259
ILLUSTRATIONS	269

GOOD ADVENTURE





PREFACE

In the very middle of the twentieth century, a father, mother and their two sons emigrated to Australia on the assisted passage scheme, leaving behind them post-war England, rationing, the poverty and hardship of suburban Manchester - and their grieving family. They began the “Good Adventure” which was to last three years. They experienced a five week voyage through four seas and three oceans, calling at mysterious oriental ports in times before the opening up of the world to easy modern travel, and took up their new life in the land “down under”.

Whilst life was very different from the depression of England in 1950, immigrant families were obliged to accept the harshness of hostel dwellings. Human spirit being what it is, adaptability and buoyancy were constantly in evidence; true British grit pulled most families through the difficulties, and this story is one of the many tales of determination to survive and enjoy life to the full in the face of adversity. Like many families however, this family found that although prospects in Australia were better than in England, the sadness of leaving behind their families was too much to bear. They returned within three years of leaving.

Forty years on, the two sons from that family made what was to them the most amazing discovery when an uncle produced from a chest of drawers in his Manchester flat a bundle of old air-mail letters. These were all the correspondence the mother had sent back to her family. She wrote every other day, then weekly, then periodically, but always she wrote as she spoke - plainly, honestly and vividly. Reading these letters brings back such memories, but of a different life, experienced by a family in a different age.

That family was mine. My mother sadly died prematurely in her late sixties in early 1981, but amongst the legacies of love and memories, she has unwittingly left this graphic record of our early family life. It is in her memory that my brother and I decided to put together these letters which are complemented by all the original photographs, postcards and paraphernalia sent along with the letters. Although I was too young to remember, my brother Nigel, five years my senior, has always possessed the most extraordinary memory as well as remarkable literary ability. His narrative has provided anecdote and continuity, but the letters literally speak for themselves.

