

7 RONAN ROAD  
LA LUCIA 4051

19 November 1990

Dear Richard and Rene → *Natalie* → *Jessica*

Last year at around this time (a shade earlier in fact) I was threatening to talk Cheryl into doing this years letter. As you will see, despite my continual procrastination, I am lumbered with it again. Cheryl says its because I do it so much better than she, and I once again fall for that so you have had to wait a little longer than usual.

As years go, and they do seem to go quite fast, this has been a good one. At the time of last years letter my own position with Sage Computing was in flux with the appointment of a new CEO and many changes on the horizon. Believe it or not the same has happened this year. But more of that later. My position last year changed dramatically as I took on a new role from 1st December. Instead of running the Durban branch of the company I became the National Payroll Services Manager. This meant that I was responsible for the development and marketing of our payroll services on the bureau. I refused to leave Durban and after a few months during which time I took the drastic step of resigning we reached a sensible compromise which allowed me to stay in Durban but take on the Head Office position from here. I must say that I have enjoyed the job but it has meant an enormous amount of travelling - I am away most weeks for at least a day and that becomes very disruptive. A significant repositioning of the company has taken place in the last few weeks including the appointment of a new CEO and whilst initially my position seems unlikely to change, watch this space.

Cheryl continues to work apace at her home-based business which is now becoming quite busy. A recent development during the course of the year is her involvement in the timeshare rental business. She administers a business which lets out timeshare units rather than the owner spacebanking them. Her other interests remain so she is kept occupied. During my flirtation with a career change I looked seriously at joining her business and developing the computer side of it. Whilst it was exciting it was high risk with the state of the South African economy and we are both relieved that it didn't become necessary. Cheryl has also recently joined Toastmistresses and seems to be thriving on it.

The children are growing and developing at an alarming rate! Ryan will be 8 in a few weeks and Lauren is just over 4. They are both doing extremely well at school and constantly bring home gold stars et al. Ryan is becoming extremely computer literate and now has Mums cast-off in his bedroom as her business warranted a new PC this year. A recent visit to Ryans teacher elicited the information that he has a superb wit, steps out of line often but doesn't object to being batted back in. They advise us not to worry as his outgoing attitude (in our day they called it precocious) will serve him well in the future. Lauren is changing school at the beginning of the year to bring her closer to Ryans school. They get on really well together and Lauren

has become much more even tempered. Ryan teaches her a lot of the things he has learnt and has recently tried to teach her to play chess! Mum and Dad were keen students as well.

You will undoubtedly have heard of the New South Africa and no-one could have imagined the changes throughout the world and certainly in South Africa since this time last year. I must say that we do seem to have a good political leader at last in F W de Klerk and he has made significant changes. Many more are on the way and we are now going through the most difficult transition to a post-apartheid society. The dismal economic backdrop is having a severe effect and the unemployed who are of course largely black are becoming more and more violent, both towards themselves and to anyone that gets in their way. The black leaders do not have enough control and a solution is needed to the ANC vs Inkatha struggle although I couldn't begin to imagine what it might be. There will be more troubled times ahead but the potential for the country is huge - we can only hope for more compromise on the part of all involved.

My Lions activities have continued and I have decided to once again pursue becoming the District Governor (I had to pull out a few months before taking office last time) and this time have the blessing of the CEO. If all goes to plan I shall win the election in May 1991 and then be inducted as Governor in Spain in 1992. I am at the moment still the National Treasurer and also hold several positions on national committees. It has been good fun but hard work and quite difficult to stay on top of with all the travelling of the past year.

A positive side-effect of the travelling is that I get to Port Elizabeth regularly and am able to spend time with my mother and fix up odd things around the house etc. Some months back Cheryl's mother deteriorated to the extent that we had to bring her up to Durban. Despite our efforts we have not been able to place her in a suitable home and so she is staying with us for the time being. Cheryl takes a fair bit of strain from this arrangement but there is no alternative. Fortunately, our house alterations some years back provided a fairly self-contained room at the opposite end of the house to our bedrooms so at least she, and we, can get away from each other easily.

So, another year flashes past us and if the scale of changes continue who knows what the next twelve months may bring. I trust you are all well and have had a satisfying year and on behalf of us all in sunny South Africa, wish you a peaceful festive season and a jolly happy new year.....

Hope this letter finds you all well.

All our love

Tony, Cheryl, Ryan  
& Lauren