

This is a very stupid letter
but October always drains
all my energy physical + mental.
So excuse it.

Alice Springs
Nov 2nd 1966

Dear "Abulla"

My writing will be even worse than
usual as after opening probably a thousand
(since ^{my} 1930 travels in Cen Aus) "small camp pie"
named "WHAMS" which are almost my only "meat"
item of diet) - today I cut the tops of my
right thumb in opening one.
(The very first one to ^{ever} have cut me!)
So the thumb is sore + bandaged.

I hardly know where to begin: - I think
with your mother's (surprise) letter. I had
only expected her to send a message through you.
(re views of Cen. Aus). So glad she liked them.

And I am so pleased she did write - as her
letter confirms what I had guessed already -
that you + I have at least one precious
"belonging" in common. Our respective mothers
mine was a darling! + I am sure you
think yours is too.

It must have been lovely to have
been together for two fortnights in Austria
+ Cornwall. And even better to find her well.
(Please thank her for her letter when you
write to her.)

I am utterly delighted to have received
my first NEW YEAR'S greetings from you! (And
from Austria.) They are truly lovely reproductions
of, in most cases, ^{flowers} naturally new to me.

I am going to show them to the (ex Austrian)
husband of a friend of mine. His mother died there
lately (He's a naturalized Australian now.)

I shall get him to tell me about the pressed
flowers too. I can recognize Heather + a buttercup!

October 9 to the

October - the

various flora have loved it.

3. The latter seem to be ^{growing} in every country ^{as well as coming to it.} (I have one from Finland - gathered by a young farmer (who at a Diet Conference in Stockholm (she is in Cancer Research Institute Melbourne - doing research into the relationship of diet to cancer.

~~Part (as an utter ignoramus)~~ - I think Cancer is related to emotions! (Sensitive people seem most prone to it. The "light-strung" - or tender-hearted. (My mother died from it, - in duodenum.)

But I am getting away from your truly delightful flower - presents, calendar & pressed ^{ones}

(You can grow, say that is ONE person) can cross off my Xmas + New Year remembrance list!!). I also had Xmas wishes (through her

daughter) from one of my two dearest women friends in N. Tor. (since 1930!) But she now lives in Tasmania. ^{to about 1944} + always wrote me a (yearly) letter

^{it being} in Tor. (for Christmas, too!). But it made me very sad this year. Last year she had a "delightful" (probably far too exciting + strenuous) holiday in N. Aus. (where her son-in-law's brother is manager of M.M.A.) But on her return to Tasmania (near Exton) she had a paralytic stroke + can neither walk (unaided) nor talk (in spite of a speech therapy course having been tried in Launceston).

She was one of the first A.I.M. Nursing Sisters at Oodnadatta - before the Railway was built to Alice Springs. It seems an exceptionally cruel ending to so useful + honourable a life. (She is Mrs. Glass née Ida Martin. Lives with her married daughter + son-in-law + 3 grandsons. I think it is a mixed farm (belonged to her bachelor brother - formerly) -

Margery - her daughter writes to say her mother's remaining cheerful!
"Concentrated Courage" is my feeling about her!

I have got for her a lovely flowers of Australia Calendar. One year I sent her a reproduction of Robert Johnston's "Sandhills" + also a little

Thornby
via Exton

3. (Wedding-cake) box of Red Sandhill Sand!
At that time, she wrote to say she longed for the Centre's Red Sandhills! - So was delighted to receive "a sample" of the actual sand, and my (late) friend's painting of them (a reproduction).

For about 2 weeks

"I have been what yachtsmen (I think) call "Under the weather". - But for a different reason.

We have had most horribly humid heat + as I can only just "make it" - when the heat is dry - I have only been "carrying on" by will-power. (And of course worries had to come at that very time, too.)

So do excuse my not having written before now, to thank you for the flowers, both for natural + colour-photos.

I wonder did you meet this man ^{at} ^{of} ^{the} ^{enclosed} of B? Rhee. What you thought of him? But this

I think - (to try to get you to visit "The Allas", in the near future) I had better try to find an aborigine with suspicious symptoms!!! for you to examine! It seems the only way!!!

Have you met a "major" Carey at Grove (next it) Welfare Settlement? He is a contemptible snob - in my opinion (Anglo-Indian "Pukka Sahib" in his own opinion.) He used to be the Superintendent at Amoojuma. (Don't tell him I enquired.)

Have you got your chain-mail armour "out" - ready for the Fed. Election. We'll need it!

I do admire old "Tiger" Brennan. (I think he would make a good "Ombudsman"?)

Thank you for remembering to be such a nice Yabiyala to me - when you (were with your mother, + could hardly ^{have} had time to think

4 of "Down Under", dwellers.

Am so very pleased you contacted Traci in Sydney. Hope you had a dinner together?

She is always thinking of others. (I call her "the Society Saint"!) I think her relations impose on her?

Do give me your true (off the record) opinion of Acting Admin Atkins?

He wrote me a (surprising) nice letter recently asking me to write to him a private letter (as to my Reserve affairs) "worry" (as he had been unable to come over to Reserve)

I wonder what it was worth: just an empty gesture? Or real?

(Anyway I chanced his meaning to be helpful → & wrote un-inhibited things! About Sweet (Wks) & Weyer (& others).

(So I may be "liquidated"!!!)

You will have to take "a rest-cure" — after wading through this. (But the hot weather will probably prevent a repetition of such length — anyway.

Good luck with whatever your aims are (now) & for the finding of a (super-girl) home-maker for yourself too.

(Fortunately tribal custom will not require me to call Yabbula's wife that too!!!)

You must, however let me know, at once when she materializes — (if she has not already done so??). I shall be jealous when there is someone who can say "not another letter from that octogenarian"! But it has been good to have your friendship (& surprising) (O. P. Yabbula.

P.S. The wild flowers, this year have been more lovely + in more profusion than I have ever known them.

And on three occasions, (different), women have driven me out of town (10 miles on "old Adel. Rd" ~~at~~ once) to see them + to gather roots + seeds of some for the Reserve. They were a miracle of beauty (after 8 years of almost continuous drought.)

And Johnny Yan'naviliyi (the gardener here) brought some to sow.

Also Jimmy Yarran'puniyi sent me seeds. (I have known him since 1933!) from Yuendumu.

No need to write until you feel in the mood. — Except about Asst Admin Atkins (if you can spare time for that?)

Qill.

I just dread "the Christmas season" — now, + wish I could be like an opossum + hide in a tree trunk — until it is over!

Some people think I am "lonely".

I am NOT, at all.

And too many people "remember" me!

(I need a Secretary !!!)

Sometimes
between
60 + 80.

P.S.

Dr. Eliza Turner, last year, as the
(Pediatrician) ^{Melbourne} previous one
had a slight "Stroke" — (when
walking in Melbourne)

They cut something at
back of her neck — & she
is (apparently) quite alright
now.

Would that help my
dear Tasmanian friend. I'd
like to? — Anyway to be able
to speak — (even if not walk)

If so, I could suggest Margery
(her daughter) would see a
Specialist in Launceston or
Hobart.

In terrific haste
—
Oliver Pinks