

Nelson St

Woolahra

2 April

My dearest Nancy

We got back here a week ago, had a smooth trip across, but poor Nell was sick all our day. It is nice to be back & see old friends again, but Sydney seems awfully hot & steamy after Tasmania. We are staying another 10 days, in order to have time for what we want to do. Gen is most anxious we should give up leaving at Wamboral, which everyone seems to think very inaccessible, - & says if I can find a cottage near here to suit me he will buy it & let me live in it at a nominal rent. I am very much inclined to consider it, for Nell's sake. Also for my own - to be near the grandchildren & this is greatly added to by some Miss Dolly Adams has told me. I met her at a Native & she said Maria had written that she wants to come out & that (possibly) you may all come about the end of the year. It made Nell & me very glad to hear of such a possibility & of course I pictured great things - & much joy over our reunion, & having you & little

Brian was us again. But you don't say any  
thing about it in your last letter. I have had  
2 letters from you, sent on from Beaumont, so  
you began addressing more earlier than  
Phyllis. Now came from Mrs. Neil last week  
so she has evidently written to Robert. There  
seem to be changes ahead - for she does not  
know what they will be doing. Not likely  
they will come here. But there is just a  
possibility they may go to N. Zealand, if  
anything good offers there. You will know  
by now that we have again got a Kitchener's  
Govt. Takau was badly beaten in the late  
elections. So everyone is feeling more hope-  
ful for the future state of Neil's estate, & indeed  
a change was badly needed. I am hoping to  
meet your friend Mr. Bartholomew next week.  
He wrote & asked me to let him know when  
we were in Sydney, as he wants to arrange  
to meet us some where for tea, & to tell us all  
about little Brian. Dolly also told me that  
she thinks Brian the sweetest & most inter-  
esting child she has ever known. It fills  
me with joy to hear of him! I went into an  
estate agents office in Neil's street - his name

is young - & in the course of my counselling him  
about a cottage, he said he had known John  
at Salisbury, & was with him until a ~~week~~  
John crossed to France - & he - Captain Young -  
crossed a week later. The spoke of John most  
recently - said he was the finest man - in  
every sense - that he had ever met. Good to  
the core, a grand leader & influence for good  
on all round him, & in every sense a thorough  
gentleman. The spoke of John's life as a bright  
example & a standard for good, & of his big  
heartedness & blindness & kindness and  
courage. Strangely enough - when I was at  
Eldridge (yesterday) Edith also had come  
across a man who knew John when he was  
on No. 70's station. This man was just a  
working man - but he said John was beloved  
by every one - high & low - on the station &  
of how true & good & straight & fine  
he was - "a real gentleman" he called him, &  
spoke of how fine a rider he was & of his  
keen remembrance of him looking grand  
on horseback, & with his bright-bowery smile  
& kind word for everyone! He ended up -

"Oh - but every one loved him". I know you will  
be glad to hear these tributes. John lives in the  
hearts of so many - & every where he went he  
seems to have been just a bright influence for  
good, & to have made others happier & left an  
enduring remembrance of some goodness and  
radiance. I want little Brian to be just such  
another. And from all accounts - he is!  
I hear Fred is away - motoring - or would  
have tried to see him while in Texas.  
There isn't any news to interest you, that I  
can think of.

I am just going round to Neyman's to  
lunch - Guy is an enormous success in  
his profession - they have a dear little  
family. Little John is "Pebble" now, & is  
a proud member of the 4th Cricket team!  
There are 47 boys at his school! Leonard  
looks delicate - to me - but his Mother says  
he isn't. Catharine is a beauty & so good &  
happy.

Lots & lots of love darling, & kisses  
to Brian from  
Grammie