

Letter from (Dr) James O'pui
half
to his sister Louisa Reynolds
Boraki (Breston)
Easter Monday.



Dear Louie

I arrived at my destination but I am not particular whether I ever ride in a train or a coach again as I have had enough to last me for some considerable time. I got to the Sydney Express 1/2 hour before starting time then had to tip a porter 1/- to get a seat & many stood in the corridor to Albany although two trains left. I travelled with the University cricketers & so did not want for agreeable company. We arrived in Sydney 2 hours late reaching there just before one o'clock and as there was no boat for Richmond River I had to "train it" again & left at 5 o'clock for Tentersfield by the Brisbane express. There was nothing startling to relate on the journey except a good view of the Parāmatte and two fellows approaching on to the 6th on the golf links just near Petersham but we flew past so quickly that I could not get a decent view of their "top of

Swing" + so can't say whether they were "round
the first parkers" or not. After travelling all
night reached Teunterfield at 10.30 next day
but I had a fairly decent sleep in the
train + so felt pretty well. Then at 11.30
we left by coach for Baxino 86 miles
distant. The first 50 miles was just
beautiful. I imagined that I was going
to strike some flat country "like up at the
Murrumbidgee" but was surprised to
find it very mountainous + not unlike
the coach drive to Lorne at many parts
The road equalled that of the Warrnambool
to Melbourne and follows the Cataract River
for the greater part of the distance. The country
is beautifully green with thick forest
+ you meet at intervals the real Australian
bullock teams of the "Bullstus". I am
not exaggerating when I say that the
first 50 miles was quite as interesting
a drive as Lorne but not quite so pretty.
We started through country not unlike
Sassafras coach road + mounted up +
up till we travelled for about 20 miles
along a huge ridge about a

high as ³¹ Mount St George at Lorne & here
I saw one of the most magnificent sights
I have ever seen. The road winding
along this ridge looked over the Cataract
River below which opposite was a range
as tall as those at Warburton. At the
pinnacle of the highest point was a
huge rock the exact shape of a human
head & shoulders & being in proportion
to the size of the mountain you can
imagine it was fairly big. Then there
was a big waterfall not unlike the
Splitters & quite as high to the side of
this big rock. The whole made up
a landscape view I have never seen
equalled for grandeur anywhere but it
was not equal in effectiveness to the
Cumberland at Lorne although on a scale
about ten times as great. For miles you
could see this rock on "Wellington Lookout"
as it is called & there is no doubt it was
on grand ~~height~~ "height". Then the moon started
to rise & my back felt cracked & tired
& I took no more interest in the

scenery except at intervals when we crossed
the Clarence River or pulled up at some
out back Pub to change the horses & have
a cup of tea. Needless to say I didnt sleep much
& reached Cairns in the brightest moonlight
at 3 am. I then learned that the Coraki
coach left at 5.30. So I made a little
inspection of the township for half an hour
& then curled myself up on the Post Office
steps & went to sleep till the coach
went at daybreak. We reached Coraki
at 9 am. & I felt as though I had had
quite enough travelling for many a long
time. I had not been in bed for 3 nights
& hadnt washed my face for two days
& had ~~for~~ been out of trains & coaches for
only 7 hours since I left Melbourne
& I landed here with only a few shillings
out of £12.10. It was rather unfortunate
that the boat was not available but I
am coming home all the way by steamer
as 1st class tickets from Sydney are inter-
changeable with the Steamers to Melbourne
However I dont wish for any 110 miles




coach drives again in a hurry. The one thing I
 did have was beautiful weather all the time
 fine warm moonlight nights - ideal
 travelling conditions. In fact in Sydney it
 was so hot that I found myself walking
 along the shady sides of the streets & keeping
 out of the Sun as much as possible. I did
 not have much time for sight seeing in
 Sydney & took a walk along the Circular
 Quay. All the launch boats were just packed
 with Excursionists being Good Friday & as
 all the war ships were in for the races
 and the motor boats flitting about. The
 harbor looked very gay. Jim was very
 pleased to see me and he got away this
 morning for Brisbane at 4.30. He did not
 have much time to take me about but he
 introduced me to a few leading citizens
 and we went for a musical evening to some
 very nice people named Jaggers across the
 River. I was smiling to

myself & thinking of Will as Jim led off with
the "Yeoman's" and followed it up with the
"Deathless" in real good style. Unfortunately
the Fagers are leaving for America Japan
& England on Tuesday taking a very nice little
Sydney girl away with them. They are only a
young married couple so that I will
miss their company. At their place I met
a Mr. Pockley brother of Dr. Pockley of Sydney
& also brother to the Sydney Tennis player
He has a bonzer little motor launch and
as his wife is away for a month's holiday
we are having some motor trips on the
Richmond including an all day one
next Sunday. We went for a short spin
last night in the moonlight but I was
too tired for anything so we got back
early & went to bed. The Richmond is a
fine stream navigable for 75 miles & at
Lismore it is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide. Lismore is a
fine up to date town running near medical
Dr. Mueller the leading man there
knocked out £3500 last year.

Poverty is ⁴practically unknown here
& there is no doubt it is a good place for
money. Boraki has a main Street facing
the river & is a scattered little place
with dairy farms dotted here & there
about the river which winds round
the town like a crescent. It is well to
do place has a telephone Exchange & is
in communication with ~~the~~ Lismore
& four other neighbouring towns
there are two medical men here a dirty
drunken old coon named McDonough
Jim Cahill. I think it will not be long
before Jim has nearly all the practice
here. For the ~~last~~ 9 months he has been
here his takings (by his books) have
been at the rate of £690 a year (this is
private of course) including a guaranteed
£210 from lodges the rest being private
practice. I think he will be making
£1000 easily in about 3 years time as
he is well liked from what I can gather
& has been very successful so far

only the old people sticking to McDermott who
is about the poorest sample of a medical man
one could meet but he has the qualification
of being old out of date dirty drunken &
ignorant - qualities which people here are
beginning to shun are not much good
when compared with Jim Cahill's spruce
and clean manner. I think he has done
very well for the short time he has been
here. He has told me a few incidents about
old McDermott that would fairly make
your medical hair stand on end & Jim
never consults him on anything whatever
In fact Mac is agreeable to sell out for
£250 but wants £1000 for his villa
residence & ground - quite another story.
There is no doubt that two fellows keen
and hard working could get a monopoly
of the medical work here & do most of
the surgery as they have a beautiful
little hospital with 16 beds and an
operating theatre only waiting for some
one with brains enough to give
Jim a hand to make sleep it. as all
old Mac could cut would be his thickly
smelling breath as he!

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over his half bottle of whiskey a day and it
is common talk here that his wife won't
sleep with Mac.  because he gets
drunk and wets the bed so she
goes out occasionally. Apparently she
went out once or twice too often for old
Mac was made ~~into~~ recipient of a
little son with a face like a blank-check
book. Just about that time a bank
official left Coraki but Mac regards
the little lot as all his own.
The climate here is real semi-tropical
- rain in summer fine in winter. It is
very muggy & close since I came here
- sort of place that you get clammy all
over if you walk quick & get that
sticky feeling round your neck where
your collar touches the skin. I've got
that sort of feeling that a change ought
to occur but it won't apparently. It
rained heavily this morning but when I
got up there was no sign of it the rich
soil absorbing the moisture almost
+ 1. 11. This crash

this place so that I am ¹¹⁰¹¹¹¹very pleased
I brought it. I was playing tennis
this afternoon & was unfortunate
enough to slip over on the grass &
tear the knee of the trousers but it
can be easily mended. People here wear
those white helmets & I use one of Jim's
that looks just the thing. Even in
Sydney all the policemen were wearing
white trousers when I passed through.
Regarding the tennis I was playing
on a private court owned by some
people named Jabaley. The old man
owns nearly all Coraki worth having
and all the family have been round the
world. There are 6 of them including
3 girls - about three uninteresting
a trio as one could wish to meet.
You would think they had never
been "five miles from Ashmiden" but
they hold it in vast quantities &
they need a huge amount to make
up for "other" deficiencies however
the son has ordered a new motor
launch from Sydney & we expect
it up next week so I shall be

present at ^{the} "opening run" up the
Richmond so I have two motor launch
friends going now to a good Tenure
court.

this is a hot shop for mosquitoes
they nearly bite you to bits. Most
people cover the beds with mos-
quito nets especially those who
live near the river. I suppose
it is a result of the extreme moist
state of the ground for the tendency
here is not to have trouble from
too little rain but from too much
so that the growth tends towards
rankness rather than dryness.

I shall be here a month altogether -
3 weeks longer + a ~~month~~ ^{week} when Jim
comes back + I will send some
D. Cards to Marie when the shops
open after the holidays
him keeps a very nice housekeeper
a woman about 45. She is a bit dis-
tasted with his scanty appetite and
seems quite delighted at the prospect
of my entertaining a chop or some
steak for breakfast. She reminds

me of mother in ⁽¹²⁾ many ways & is
very delighted to see you "eat up" what
she cooks. She is also prone to
having "half heads" with the woman
next door discussing the prospects
of the weather for washing day etc.
Well I think I have told you all
at present & I am afraid I shall
have to pay extra postage but I
thought I might as well tell
you the lot while I was at it
I am going out to an evening at
Yabeley's & will "make it right"
for Will with one of the girls
if he likes. They went across to
Christ church Exhibition for the tennis
tournament & there is no doubt about
their "holding it" in goodly quantity
but you can't imagine how dull &
"Jorgensen-like" they are in spite of
their trips round the world. Well
... really all at last ... better