



25

270 Post Office Place,  
Melbourne,

189

My dear Spencer,

I have been turning over the  
Noa question in my mind since  
our pleasant evening at your house,  
& have had a talk with Hawitt  
about it. The conclusion we  
have come to is that the Pirauru  
custom seems to be a restriction  
of the Noa ~~people~~<sup>category</sup> - i.e. that the  
Piraurus are a certain number of  
women allotted out of those who  
have that qualification. It seems  
to me that the Noas must include  
every woman in the tribe. This does  
not allow the fact of group-marriage.  
It, however, needs further inquiry, &  
I think it might be well to get  
written to make special inquiry.  
If a man has a Noa all his  
tribut sisters must have the

Non qualification I want  
him - i.e. must be his possible  
Nona - & I expect you will find  
that it is from these his Picares  
are selected.

I got from my wife the  
other evening ~~the~~ letters I wrote  
to her from England when I went  
home to the British Ass. They  
are all arranged in order under the  
consecutive months. I looked up  
the August letters for the name  
of the Oxford Don who said he was  
"on the other side of the house," &  
whose name I could not remember.  
It is Gardner, & I think he is  
Professor of Greek Archaeology. At  
all events he is a very fine fellow.

Kind regards to Mrs Spencer, & my  
young friends - especially to the  
younger who honoured me by taking  
me to see her magnificent possessions. I give  
over her incredulity about the fairies.  
Please tell her & her sister that the next  
chance I have I will tell them the story of  
Brother Mike, <sup>& the little fairy,</sup> which our old nurse used to  
tell us in the furphy days, & which a sister of  
mine has published. <sup>Therefore</sup> Yours truly,  
it must be true. Lorimer Fison