

Oenpelli
June 12 1914

Professor Baldwin Spencer CMG.
University
Melbourne

Dear Professor

I am sending you in this letter a list of Marain totems and descriptions of their use. I hope that they will reach you allright. At the same time I am sending you (64) sixty four copies of rock drawings, on bark, I have numbered them all, and written out their names as near phonetically as I can (you will have to put the spelling in the proper form) and I hope that you will be able to understand their meaning. The totem drawing of a stick about 5 feet long, you mentioned in your november letter, is a CHOO-NARA, (a yam) It was brought to Mr Cahill while I was away from home. It belongs to The Koo-LOO-ROO-CHEE people. Old Harry is one of the tribe. Their country is about thirty miles ENE from here. You will notice a name of a red kangaroo among the painting, named BUR-RAR-KER, I think it is a new kind, I have had boys out hunting for one for a good while, but have had no luck so far. I will get one as soon as possible, and send it along to you. They are very scarce here & only live on the high ranges. I expect The Lone Hand here at the end of this month, and will then ship you the items mentioned in the list. This letter & my mail in general, I am sending overland to Burundi, by Romula. You may get this long as the Lone Hand reaches here. I will put the shipment in E.V.V. Brown's hands & he will forward it along to you. I will also instruct Brown to wire you when he ships them. I have been away from Oenpelli for nearly six weeks, at Darwin & on the way to and from Burundi. I waited for His excellency arrival at Darwin and I am glad that I did so, he has made an order.

and is allowing me a certain sum of money to run the Campelli. He has also instructed Mr Carey to get me some cattle so I will be able to do something with the place.

I have time about July 10, to go to the Woolner reserve & shoot Puffins until the end of September. Mr Cahill and Ruby go with me. A caretaker will be sent to look after the place until I return.

Your letter 9.4.14 came duly to hand.

Mr Cahill & I

have read it over & over again. By jove I would have liked to have been on a trip like that. Yes I can just fancy the difference between London & Campelli. Campelli is ahead of London in one thing - we have more room to get about in; and not so much crushed here. We who live in the bush can hardly bring our minds up to see things as they are in London & it would take us all our time to even imagine the crowds in the streets of London. It is without doubt the most wonderful place in the world & may one day have the luck to take an all round trip. How would it pay to take a lot of natives to the old country and tour the provinces, giving corroborations & lectures etc. I am thinking of a trip south next year. Mr Cahill Ruby & myself, expect to be in Melbourne about August next year. I expect to be able to get away for a trip about then. Should the cattle arrive at the end of this year, I will have everything ready - just at the present time, things are not looking too well, my food for the natives has almost ran out & all the natives have to go away for food. I have only a few furs; that I cannot do without. I have had no boat here since last October, but things will be all right shortly. I am getting a nice little cottage up, and hope to have it finished by the time the ladies arrive. That is, if I can get the galvanized iron by next boat.

Should the ladies arrive that you mentioned in your letter, you can be sure that we will do our level best for them, you will have to explain that we are a rough crowd here, and are a bit backward in etiquette.

Anything that we have at Oenpelli is always at the service of yourself or any of your friends.

I am of the same opinion as yourself with regards to D. Lindsay and have always had that opinion of him. Once there was an editor of a newspaper named Mayhew ^{at Darwin} & he wrote of Lindsay as a backyard explorer & I think that fitted him to a, T. and as a commissioner, he was about equal; as an ~~explorer~~ explorer.

We will shortly have a good lot of pawpaws, a good number of young trees are looking well. We have three Kumquats trees in bearing. The fruit is very small; but makes most refreshing drinks, when used as a lemon squash. We have also some Custard apples, Pineapples coming on. Our vegetable garden is a bit backward yet, but is looking promising - Beans, tomatoes sweet potatoes are just ready for cooking, so we are fairly well off. You should see the heaps of sugar bags that the bush natives bring along for sale. I buy it for the working crowd, & also use it with Parozoin, as a cough cure. It is very effective. The natives make Oenpelli a kind of a general hospital. They come in all directions for medicine & while I was away at Darwin Mr. Cahill had twenty seven patients in one day; for medical attention. Any that are very bad, are kept here and looked after, until they are well enough to hunt their own food. You remember one little short old man Jimmy, he used to take leading parts in the Muriaim - His wife got cramps in the stomach one night & was unable to get up in the morning. The old man came straight in to the Station (he was camped about 18 miles away)

for medicine. He said that an evil spirit had
walked on his wife during the night & that she was
nearly dead. I gave him a small bottle of medicine
to ease the pain & told him to carry her in. They got her
here nearly dead, and in a few days, she was well again.
That settled that tribe. Now if any of them fancy that they
are sick, they come along for medicine. Sometimes
it is Liniment rubbed in, at other times a dose of
Epsom salts, but the favourite medicine, is, Cough
cure, composed of Wild honey & Benzoin. The faith that
they have in it, is simply marvellous. About four days
at the most & they are all right again, from any
kind of cough. When at Darroin I went out twice
to Carlin Beach; Godfrey seems to get on very well
with the natives & he seemed to like being out there;
The place was very clean & things in general seemed to
go along nicely. The boys were working at different things.
Some of them were working at a dinghy, putting new planks
in it. Others were making galvanized iron tanks; and
all seemed happy.

I am pleased to say that we
are all in good health at Oupella. Mrs Cahill
& Ruby join me in hoping that this will find
you well. Kind regards from us all
Yours sincerely
Paddy Cahill.

P.S. I tried to get you some records of the Kili-ba^{or Wait-ba} corroboree,
but the cylinders, that I have, are too hard to take again
after being cleaned. The recorder will only cut in
the softest part. So if you can send me some
blanks, I will get the corroboree for you.
Yours
G.B.