

Esperance
April 1st 1896

My Dear old Love

Here I am again my own but really I do not know what I am going to talk about.

The "Yaralla" is going away tonight and I am sending this by her I see the "Flinders" coming across the bay and I fancy she has a little message for me but I doubt I will receive it before the "Yaralla's" mail closes. If I do I will let you know in a p.s.

We are having glorious weather here now, the rain appears to have cleared off for a while. I thought I would have been able to run off a photo of the Office for you dearest but Mr Foy

has taken his camera away for a few days. You know mine is up at the Norseman I suppose I will get it down some day I have written twice for it but Mr Smith the person who has charge of it is away at Coolgardie just now.

Now my own after working hard to finish the plans etc for the Municipal Buildings and sending them in good time, the matter has been deferred for a fortnight owing to two of the Councillors being absent – one being in Adelaide – If it had been a month instead of a fortnight I most certainly would have taken a trip round with a certain gentleman who is leaving tomorrow and may possibly call at 'Maida' that is if he goes as far as Melbourne. A fortnight

is too short a time but never mind at no very distant date I hope to be with you for a week or two if not more I do wish I could come and stay 6 months in Melbourne Cis I have been trying to devise some scheme by which I could do it but failed miserably. However I must leave it for fate to decide.

Well Cis Easter is drawing near I do hope you will have a happy jolly time. They are to have a Sport's meeting here on the Monday a concert at night apart from private social functions. I have been trying to get an Easter card for you Cis but cannot get one in town. In fact there is very little obtainable here except for requirements of everyday life.

I was forgetting to tell my little girl what I was doing last night – Well after the Council meeting was over Mr Edwards (the Chairman) asked me to up and have some supper with him while they were sitting in Committee (the Council) I mean. I thought I would while away the time with a game of billiards. After which I found to my disappointment that the Chairman had gone home but having left a message for me to follow on. Well I went down at about 11.15 rather a nice time for calling & found a nice little party of five including the Chairman and his wife. Well we ate and drank and then played Euchre and yarned until after gone 6'Clock. It was a glorious night (or rather morning) and as I looked up at the moon I thought she looked beautiful & I fancied my little one in sweet repose.

Au revoir for the present my own.

From your loving Ray

From top of first page - horizontal

My dearest Cis. I have just received your lovely letter with beautiful violets. I am awfully sorry that I disappointed you dearest I know that it has been done wrong in not coming over to my own but dearest it was you alone that kept me here. We must look ahead pet. do you understand me Cis I must leave you or miss the mail there are 3 x on each of my enclosed for you.

Kind regards & love to all
From Ray

From top of third page (inverted)

I will write you again tomorrow by the Flinders
Au Revoir
Ray

I will let you know when to expect me.
Your own Ray