

STERTON
TASMANIA
JAN 11
96



Miss D. Leake
"Rosedale"
Campbell Town
Tasmania

L.19/P.21

Dunrobin
Jan 6th/96



Dear Miss Dolly

I have been blowing myself up right & left, for not answering your letter before & now your New Year Almanic ^{turns up} and makes me feel quite ashamed of myself; Thank you ever so much for the Almanic, it is awfully pretty and is a grand idea for a New Year Card as it is useful for the whole year - I spent rather a quiet ^{Xmas} up here this year but made up for it ~~so~~ on New Year's Day at Oakbank, a station about 50 miles from here, three

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of us drove down on the Tuesday & after a pretty drive, mostly along bush roads, with several spells for lunch, smoke etc, about 5h.m we arrived at Cahband where Mr. E. Duffet lives, he is a very jolly fellow of about 33 & as his Mother & Father are away on a trip to England, we had Bachelor Hall & a very lively time. On New Year Day we drove 3 mi hand to the Heywood Races, a little country meeting at which there was plenty of fun. Duffet gave a big luncheon party which appeared to be the chief event of the day, coming home our team had a bit of a bolt, caused by a man who had managed to get very merry, galloping alongside the leader & trying to put his hat on the horse's head to the accompaniment of his a jolly good fellow

however our horses soon left him behind & the driver managed to pull them up before anything ^{more} serious happening than having his hands knocked about a bit with the strain of the reins, after that we fixed the reins on the single rings of their bits & got home in grand style - That night things hummed properly at Oakbank, we got to bed about 1.30 and the rest of the night was spent in being pulled or pulling other fellows out of bed, the latter part of the game being by far the best fun - One very fat chappie came in for a rather rough time as he was chased round the house inside & outside, through windows & doors, until he had not a run left in him, then we collected all the mattresses, blankets pillows & sheets & anything else that came handy & piled them all on top of him making a heap more than half way up to the ceiling.

about 9 next morning we discovered the
heap in the same old place, so
set to work in a regular blue
funk to dig him out, expecting
to find him more dead & than
alive, but much to our relief we
found he had somehow managed
to wiggle out under the bed & ~~had~~
had & bagged somebody's else's bed
who had been unable to find it
himself, there we found his calmly
snoring but soon spoilt his time
with the water jug, after that
we made ~~at~~ start for home & ar-
rived there towards evening in A.I
style - I must remind you of your
photo in the Jacket & Sailor's Hat,
of which you were getting some
more copies & were going to send me
one, Please Do Not Forget It, as I
should like one awfully & hope you
will send it when you answer this
scrawl - I suppose you will go
to Hobart for a certainty this
season, anyway I wish you a

rattling good time, I notice
by the Papers several boats are
to be in Hobart this summer
so that ought to help to liven
up things a little. — I

have not quite forgotten all
about Dorothy, does she
still call your old gardener
"Stars"? that is about all I can
remember about her. I spent
my 95 Xmas with two fellows
to Youngman & J. Graham, we
had it all to ourselves, now
they are both engaged, at
least were, for Youngman
was married today & the
other fellow is to be soon.
so you may guess they did not

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ask me to put in Xmas with them this year; it is really surprising how little you see of a fellow when he gets engaged, although Youngman only lives a few miles away from here, it was a regular business to catch him at home, the last time I managed it, he was measuring his rooms for new carpets, so I joined in & we finally wound up by painting a stained strip ^{for a border} all round the room next the wall, we thought it looked grand, but I am rather doubtful what his wife will say, when she turns up & see our work, anyway I feel safe for a couple of months at least; as she is hardly likely to kick up a row up

with anything her husband as
had a hand in before that time.
now I am sorry we took 3 ft
off our carpet measurements
all round, but our stained
work looked very grand until
it dried & then it went very
patchy, and looked as if it was
laid with the measles, we also
tried to varnish a chimney piece
but it looked worse than ever,
so we went fishing instead,
& had about the same luck.

They had a Lake & Glower
Fair up here last month
in aid of the English St.
Church. they cleared over
£ 70. but sold buttonhole for
1/6 to 3/6 & everything on the
same scale, I gave a small

strawberry & cream party, which was rather good fun as the we ate they stall out & had to fall back on cherries & milk, which were offered at half price, the parson is a very straight laced chap & would not allow any raffles or brand pies, but he did allowed Mrs Jarley Wasworks after a big barny; as this scrawl is getting as slow as the old Lake Fair was - it is time it was shut up. Please remember me to your Mater & all Hoedale folk & the Jack & Mrs Jack when you next see them. Wishing you a Jolly New Year if it is not too late yet.

sincerely
 Matt Seal jr