

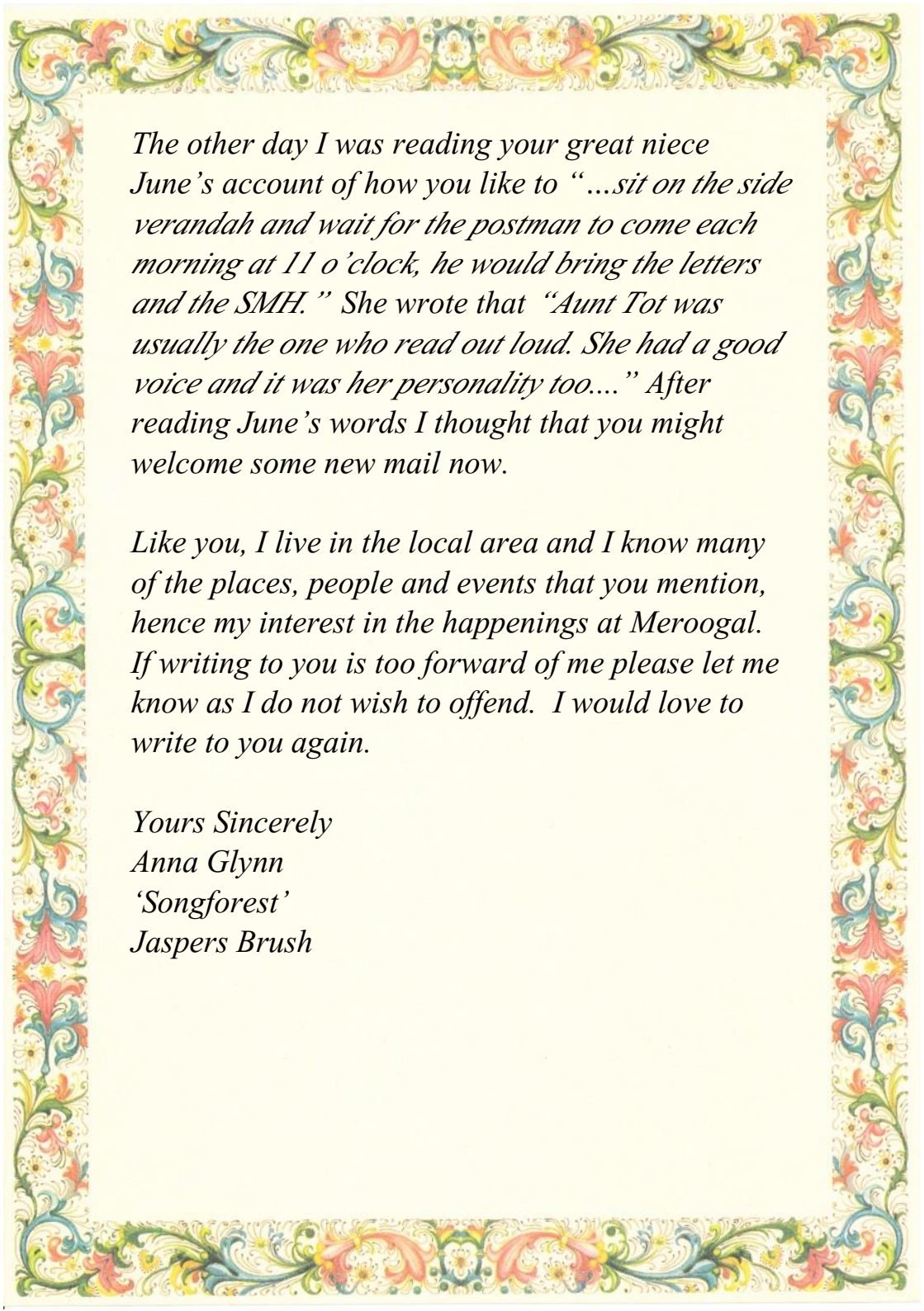
17 June 2014

Miss T. Thorburn
'Meroogal'
Nowra

Dear Tot

I am taking this opportunity to be so bold as to introduce myself to you. I have been spending some time at Meroogal and enjoying many of the things that you probably love about the place too.

More importantly, I also want to deeply apologise that I have been reading your diaries. I know that this is very presumptuous of me and could be construed as quite rude, but I love your everyday stories. If I am now in this honest state of confession I must also tell you that I have been reading your books and playing the records at Meroogal too. I have even made copies of some of your pianoforte music and attempted to play it...my playing skills are very poor though!



The other day I was reading your great niece June's account of how you like to "...sit on the side verandah and wait for the postman to come each morning at 11 o'clock, he would bring the letters and the SMH." She wrote that "Aunt Tot was usually the one who read out loud. She had a good voice and it was her personality too...." After reading June's words I thought that you might welcome some new mail now.

Like you, I live in the local area and I know many of the places, people and events that you mention, hence my interest in the happenings at Meroogal. If writing to you is too forward of me please let me know as I do not wish to offend. I would love to write to you again.

*Yours Sincerely
Anna Glynn
'Songforest'
Jaspers Brush*

20th June 2014

Miss T. Thorburn
'Meroogal'
Nowra

Dear Tot

Just sitting here in the winter sun writing to you as three glorious king parrots land on my verandah. It makes me think of your diary entry on Saturday 28th January 1893 "Sid shot parrots & a curlew went to Nowra in the afternoon & to tennis..." I am kind of glad that Sid is not here today!

After my visit to Meroogal last week, when I looked at your obviously well-loved sheet music for H.M.S Pinafore, I went to the Nowra Library. Well that was a serendipitous thing to do as they had some old vinyl records that they were giving away. Guess what - H.M.S Pinafore was sitting there waiting to go to a good home. It has come home

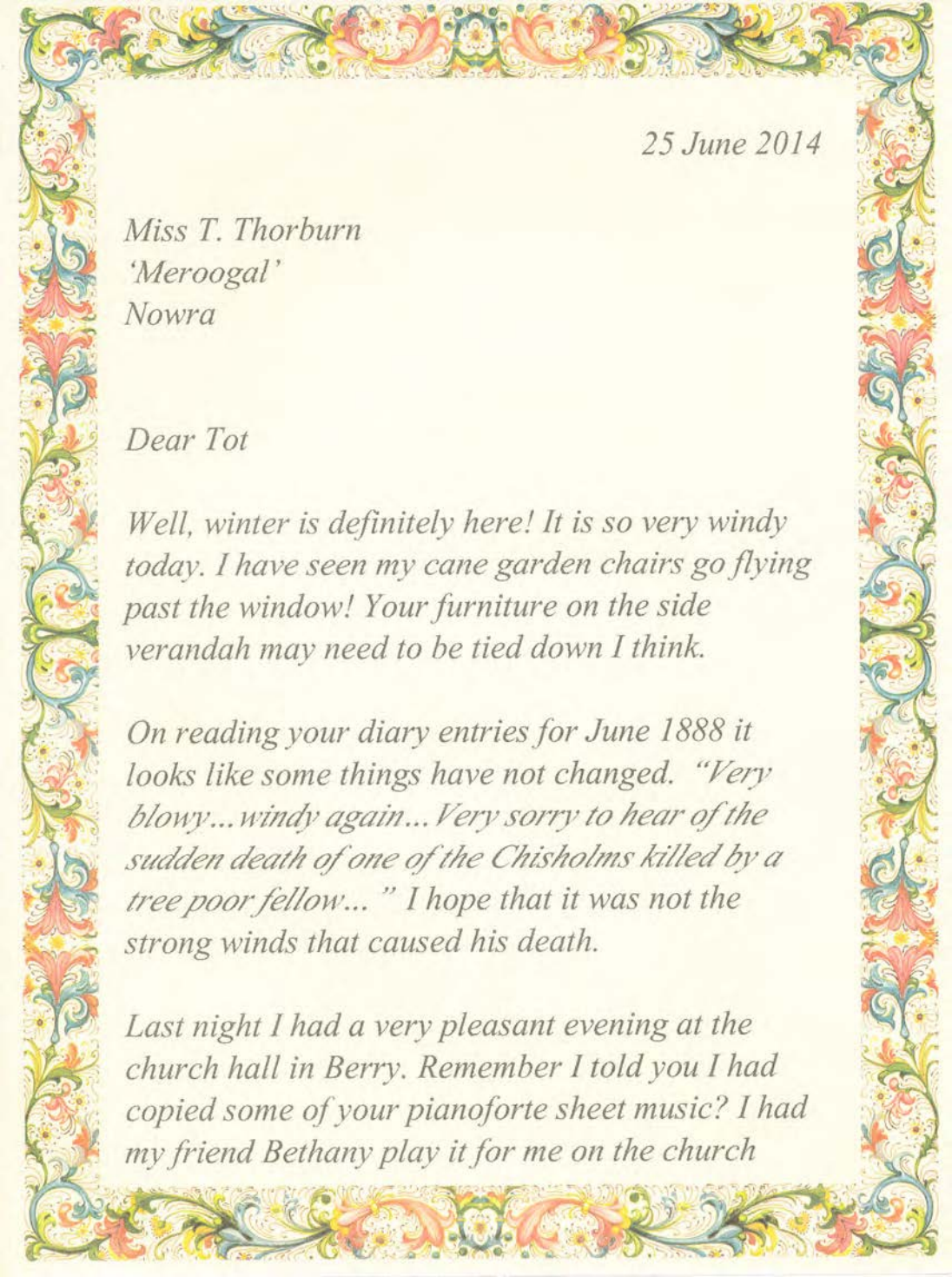
with me and I will now think of you and Meroogal whenever I play it.

Does the postman blow a whistle when he delivers the mail to you? I love to get mail too but our letter box is one mile away so I do not even know what our postman looks like.

I have included a cutting from this week's South Coast Register which I thought you might enjoy. Meroogal will be having an archaeological dig for children in the next school holidays. We can imagine together their squeals of delight when they unearth some treasures in your garden!

As I haven't heard from you I am hoping it is all right to continue writing.

*Yours Sincerely
Anna Glynn
'Songforest'
Jaspers Brush*

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25 June 2014

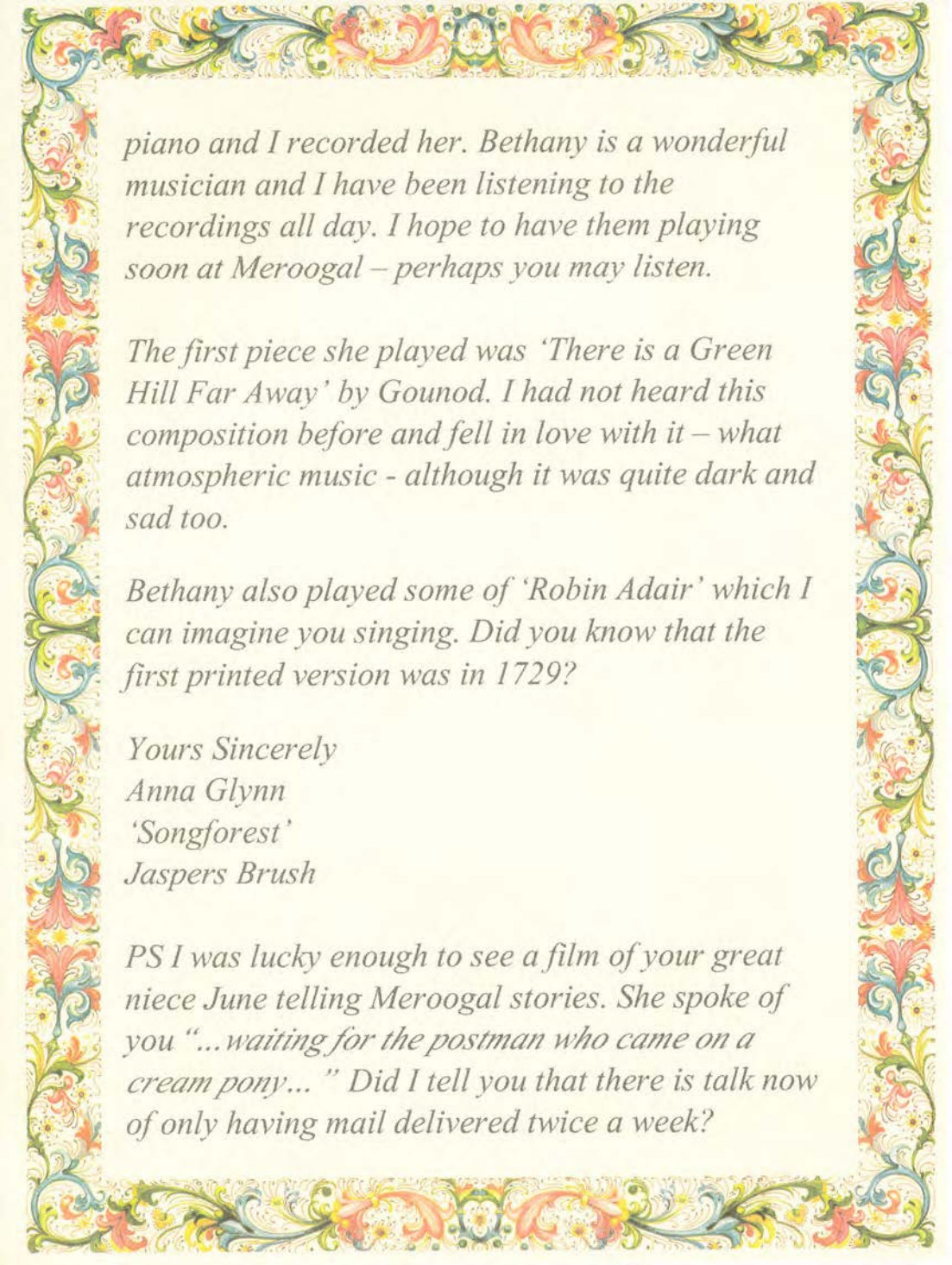
Miss T. Thorburn
'Meroogal'
Nowra

Dear Tot

Well, winter is definitely here! It is so very windy today. I have seen my cane garden chairs go flying past the window! Your furniture on the side verandah may need to be tied down I think.

On reading your diary entries for June 1888 it looks like some things have not changed. "Very blowy... windy again... Very sorry to hear of the sudden death of one of the Chisholms killed by a tree poor fellow..." I hope that it was not the strong winds that caused his death.

Last night I had a very pleasant evening at the church hall in Berry. Remember I told you I had copied some of your pianoforte sheet music? I had my friend Bethany play it for me on the church

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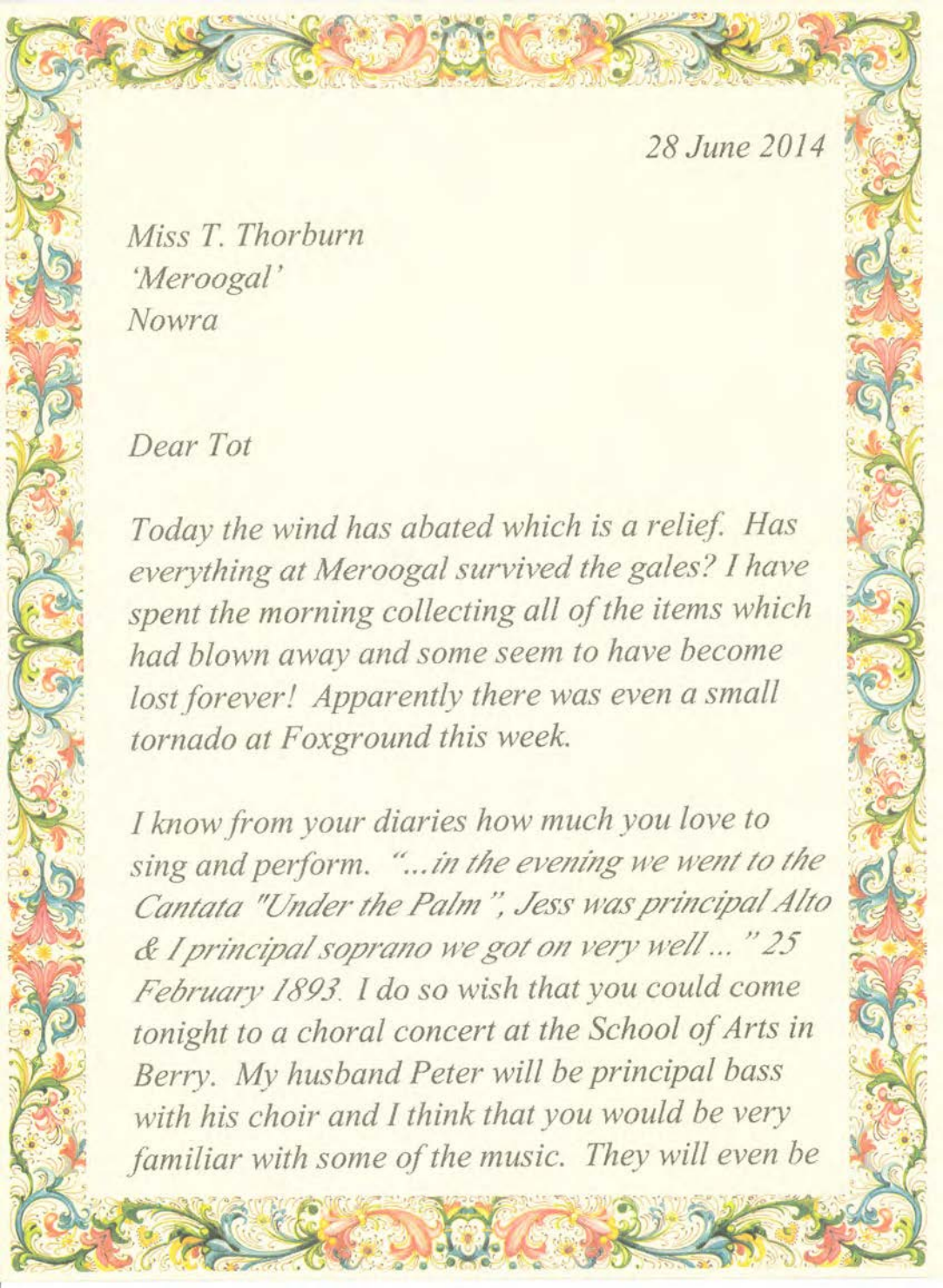
piano and I recorded her. Bethany is a wonderful musician and I have been listening to the recordings all day. I hope to have them playing soon at Meroogal – perhaps you may listen.

The first piece she played was ‘There is a Green Hill Far Away’ by Gounod. I had not heard this composition before and fell in love with it – what atmospheric music - although it was quite dark and sad too.

Bethany also played some of ‘Robin Adair’ which I can imagine you singing. Did you know that the first printed version was in 1729?

*Yours Sincerely
Anna Glynn
‘Songforest’
Jaspers Brush*

PS I was lucky enough to see a film of your great niece June telling Meroogal stories. She spoke of you “...waiting for the postman who came on a cream pony...” Did I tell you that there is talk now of only having mail delivered twice a week?

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28 June 2014

Miss T. Thorburn
'Meroogal'
Nowra

Dear Tot

Today the wind has abated which is a relief. Has everything at Meroogal survived the gales? I have spent the morning collecting all of the items which had blown away and some seem to have become lost forever! Apparently there was even a small tornado at Foxground this week.

I know from your diaries how much you love to sing and perform. "...in the evening we went to the Cantata "Under the Palm", Jess was principal Alto & I principal soprano we got on very well ..." 25 February 1893. I do so wish that you could come tonight to a choral concert at the School of Arts in Berry. My husband Peter will be principal bass with his choir and I think that you would be very familiar with some of the music. They will even be

performing Fauré's Requiem in its entirety. I saw that you have a gramophone record of some of Fauré's music. I hope you don't mind that I have taken the liberty of playing and recording it. I had not realised that Fauré composed the beautiful tune "Clair de Lune".

I will record some of tonight's concert for you and play it at Meroogal.

*Yours Sincerely
Anna Glynn
'Songforest'
Jaspers Brush*

*PS Fingers crossed that the concert this evening goes well and it is not like your unhappy evening!
"...I was very busy went to see Mrs. McKay in the afternoon Annie Foster & I went with Alec to a concert at Terrara Mr Bruce & Mr McLean from Berry were there we enjoyed ourselves in spite of the wretched performers." Tuesday 25 July 1893*