



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1904-01-01

## Letter from John Muir to [Family], 1904 Jan 1.

John Muir

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Sydney January 1<sup>st</sup> 1904

Dear wife & family  
 Happy New Year  
 & every thing good to  
 you. Little did I  
 think when I left  
 home that the New  
 Year would find  
 me so far from  
 California  
 It is midsummer  
 here with very warm  
 weather & of course  
 it is not easy to  
 realize that this  
 is a genuine New  
 Year's day - I spent  
 Christmas in a grand  
 wild ferny Eucalyptus

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Forest 60 or 70<sup>[2]</sup> miles from  
Melbourne, & today I'm  
going a little way into  
the Blue Mountain Forest  
about Mt Victoria. & now  
could holidays be more  
delightfully celebrated  
by a California tree lover,  
if only you could be  
with me. But how long  
it is since I even heard

from you. <sup>[33]</sup>



Yesterday in  
the botanical  
Gardens I found  
a new *Aurucaria*  
(new to me) the one  
from New Caledonia  
named for Captain  
Cook. It is even  
more beautiful  
than the exelera  
from Norfolk Island.  
The Bidwell species  
grows in great forests  
not far from Brisbane  
& I hope to see it in  
all its glory of  
wildness.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month  
I intend to sail for  
to New Zealand for  
a month's visit to the  
strange forests.

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Geyars, glaciers Jerry Fiords  
 etc. returning to Sydney via  
 Tasmania, & sailing thence  
 for Singapore March 2<sup>d</sup> &  
 thence to Japan & thence to  
 San Francisco direct, an  
 awful long way but it  
 seems best & my health is  
 so much improved you  
 will hardly know me  
 Give my hearty New Year  
 greetings to everybody ever with  
 Yours John Thun