



To Our Young Readers.

Our young readers are cordially invited to enter our wide circle of Cousins, by writing to

COUSIN KATE,
"The Weekly Graphic,"
Shortland Street, Auckland.

Cousin Kate is particularly desirous that those boys and girls who write should tell her whatever interests them to tell, about their games, their pets, their holidays, or their studies. Their letters and Cousin Kate's replies will appear in the "Weekly Graphic," on the Children's Page.

All Cousins under the age of fourteen are accounted Junior Cousins, all above that age Senior Cousins. Cousins may continue writing until quite grown up, and after, if they wish to do so; for we are proud to number among our Cousins some who have passed out of their teens.

A Badge will be sent to each new Cousin on the receipt of an addressed envelope.

COUSINS' CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Cousin Kate,—I hope you will accept me as one of your "Graphic" cousins! I am sixteen years of age. We are having very fine weather at Lower Hutt at present, but I do not think it will last. I work at the Gear Heat Company, in the engine room. Please, will you send me a badge, and what price will it be? I think I will now close. With love.—From Cousin ROY.

[Dear Cousin Roy,—I am always pleased to welcome my cousins, and you, of course will be a senior one. I hope you will be a good correspondent. The only badges we have are ribbon ones, and those we give to you. They make pretty book marks. I am sending you a red one. With love.—Cousin Kate.]

± ± ± Onga Onga.

Dear Cousin Kate,—I was very much interested at all the letters in the "Weekly Graphic" from your little cousins. I am eight years old, and am in standard II. I am going up to Auckland soon, and I might call and see you. I when next you write, please, do tell me where Onga Onga is. I have never heard of the place before. With love.—Cousin KATE.]

[Dear Cousin Cecilia,—I am very pleased you want to be a cousin of ours, and when you do come to Auckland, I shall be very pleased to see you. I when next you write do tell me where Onga Onga is. I have never heard of the place before. With love.—Cousin Kate.]

± ± ± Motunghoa.

Dear Cousin Kate,—At last our fine weather has ended. It started to rain here last night, and has been raining off and on all day. I expect the grass will start to grow again after this. In the hot weather the grass was all brown and dry, and the cows were going down and in milk, but I expect they will come up again after the rain. Is it raining in Auckland today? Most of our grapes are ripe now. Such a lot of sparrows' nests have been seen since last year, and we have had about 14 or so young sparrows that have been in the nests when they blow down. We brought them in and fed them on boiled rice, until they were able to fly, and then they flew away and left us. The young birds have swarmed in months; don't you think so, Cousin Kate. Mother, father and grandma did not get home from the Te Aroha show until a quarter past twelve. It has stopped raining for a bit now, and is blowing hard. When grandma goes back to New Plymouth I am going for a holiday with her. There were three in Hamilton yesterday and today. They did not have a very good day for them, but it was very good. We have such a lot of miniature sun flowers out now, and they make a lovely show. Is not Uncle Jim and Dot great. We have a weeks' run around our house, and it is getting quite tame. Every morning it comes to the kitchen window to be fed. Have you ever seen a week, Cousin Kate? I will tell you what it is like. It is a bird about as big

as a hen, and its feathers are black, with brown stripes. It has very small wings, fairly long legs, and a long beak, which it uses to dig up the earth with. It cannot fly, but it can jump very high, and can run fast. It has a small tail, which is always moving up and down. The wren is very fond of eggs and young chickens. It also catches mice. We have a little black pup named Sam, and he is a very playful little fellow, and runs away with anything he can get hold of. There are a lot of rabbits around here, and I think they are pretty little things. Don't you think it is a pity they are so destructive? They are all busy making paper boats to-night. Well, dear Cousin Kate, I must stop now, or this letter will be too long to print. Hoping you and all the cousins are well and happy, with tons of love.—From Cousin LENA.

[Dear Cousin Lena,—I am sure the cousin will enjoy your letter, for I did. I like to read about farm life, and the many interesting things that happen. I have never seen a wren, and I had no idea they were so large. I did like to read about the wee sparrows, and the way you treated them; perhaps better than they deserve. Most people would have killed them. We have had a little rain, but now the weather is lovely. With love.—Cousin Kate.]

± ± ± Auckland.

My Dear Cousin Kate,—Just a few lines to let you know that I received your letter on Friday, and I wish to thank you very much. We are having some very hot weather up here in Auckland. We find it quite a change after Taranaki. I would not like to go back and milk down there again. It must be very nice to have letters from all your wide circle of cousins. I would very much like to see my brother from Sydney. I have not seen him for three years. I suppose he will be back to see us very soon. I don't think I can tell you any more news this time, as it is getting very late, so I will draw to a close, hoping to hear from you soon. With best love to all the cousins and yourself.—I remain, your loving cousin, KTHEL.

[Dear Cousin Ethel,—I am glad you liked the badge. You, of course, would find this much better than Taranaki. I often wish we could have a touch of that cold wind which blows over Mt. Egmont. That would freshen us up a bit, and we sadly need that in Auckland. With love.—Cousin Kate.]

± ± ± Mapua.

Dear Cousin Kate,—It is quite a long time since I wrote to you. Our school started three weeks ago, but we have only been going a week, as we were staying at Devonport for a fortnight. We went over to Auckland nearly every day. It is the first time we have visited Auckland since Fleet Week. We enjoyed our visit very much, especially the bathing. We bathed here, but the water is very dirty. You know that notice that was put in the "Graphic" to children who would like to write to children in England. Well, I wrote, and got the address of a girl called Ada Hinde (or Hild). I have received a letter from her, and have written twice. The last time I wrote to her I sent her the Christmas number of the "New Zealand Graphic," because it had such a lot of New Zealand views in it. When we were in Auckland, the smoke from bush fires was pretty thick. We did not get away

- MILK FOOD No. 1.**
From birth to 3 months.
- MILK FOOD No. 2.**
From 3 to 6 months.
- MALTED FOOD No. 3.**
From 6 months onwards.

from it when we came home, because fires were all round us. We went down to see the P. and O. boat that came in. I must close now, with love.—From Cousin ALLISON.

[Dear Cousin Allison,—I was so pleased to hear from you again. I can well believe that you enjoyed your holiday, and the bathing must have been delightful, after the muddy water of your river, but in hot weather, muddy water is better than none. It was a nice idea of yours to send the Christmas "Graphic" to that English girl. I am sure she would like it. I am glad you like writing and receiving letters. Write again some day soon. With love.—Cousin Kate.]

Pakawan.
Dear Cousin Kate,—I was very pleased to get your letter. My mother and father, and my two sisters have gone to Wellington, so Nancy cannot write to you. I am in the second standard, and my sister is in the first. I hope you are getting on all right. I am staying at Parawanu. I came over in the boat from Nelson, and I was very sick. Then I had a long drive of eight miles to get here. We live close by the beach, and my cousin and I go on paddle in the water after the fish. We catch a lot of them, and take them to the house. Then we cook and eat them. I cannot think of very much this time. So I will end with a riddle. Why does the flag fly in New Zealand? With love.—Cousin EDWARD.

[Dear Cousin Edward,—I hope Nancy will write when she comes back. We have had a nice lot of rain, but the weather is due now. It must be a miserable thing to be sick, and you must have been very tired when you arrived at your journey's end. Fancy catching fish like that. Do you spear them, or how do you catch them? I can't think why the flag flies. Tell me. With love.—Cousin Kate.]

± ± ± Wellington.

Dear Cousin Kate,—May I become one of your cousins? My age is 12 years and 2 months, and I am in the sixth standard. Please send me a badge. I have a pet cockatoo called Jackie. If a dove sits on one side of a river, and a haystack on the other, how would it get across to it? With love, Cousin CYRIL.

[Dear Cousin Cyril,—I am delighted to have a new cousin, and a boy especially. We have so few boy cousins who are good correspondents. Most of them are busy with beggars, so please try and be one of the exceptions. I can't guess the riddle, perhaps, because I am another donkey. With love.—Cousin Kate.]

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