

Alisa (Panett) Kopu's letter to Joel Bradshaw dated 31 May 1976.

Handwritten original transcribed in italics. (See image below.)  
Retranscribed, glossed, and translated by Joel Bradshaw in April 2016.

*Yes, tolou.*

Yes, tolou.

yes, friend.

Yes, friend.

*wambi anam letter ima ipisa woja wai*  
wa-ambi anami letter i-ma i-pisa woja wai.  
1s-get 2sGEN letter 3s-come 3s-find 1s FIN  
'I got your letter that came to me.'

*woja amamas bamo iu*  
Woya amamas bamo i-u  
1s rejoice big 3s-become [= for, because of]  
'I am very happy for

*uloḡoni binga Numbami beleja wai*  
u-loḡoni biḡa Numbami beleya wai.  
2s-hear talk Numbami no.more FIN  
you've already learned to understand Numbami.'

*ipai woja amamas bamo anoma*  
I-pai woja amamas bamo ano-ma.  
3s-make 1s rejoice big true-ADV  
'It makes me very happy.'

*Yes, Joel wapisa Mr Peter ije Town NSW Bank*  
Yes, Joel, wa-pisa Mr Peter i-ye Town NSW Bank.  
yes Joel 1s-find Mr Peter 3s-lie town NSW Bank  
Yes, Joel, I found Mr Peter in town, at the Bank of New South Wales.'

*woja watamu lawa wanga na to*  
Woya wa-tamu lawa wanga na to  
1s 1s-join people canoe of then  
'I accompanied the boat's crew, then

*mawasa Bank te mapisa E ije Town*  
ma-wasa Bank te ma-pisa e i-ye Town  
1xp-go bank then 1xp-find 3s 3s-lie town  
we went to the bank, where we found him in town.'

*wembi lawa teteu ndi poto*  
i-ambi lawa teteu ndi poto  
3s-hold people village GENPL photo  
'He had the photos of the village people

*manu Masta Peter wembi ije teteu Numbami na*  
manu Masta Peter i-ambi i-ye teteu Numbami na.

WH Master Peter 3s-take 3s-lie village N. REL  
that Master Peter took in the Numbami village.'

*iki majango ije Top Town*  
I-ki ma-yaŋgo i-iyē Top Town.  
3s put 1xp-see 3s-lie Top Town  
'He showed them to us downtown.'

*wai ta i lawa taon na tawiti*  
Wai ta i lawa taon na tawiti  
FIN that 1xp people town of sad  
'After that, we town people felt nostalgic for

*lawa teteu to lawa goija ma ta bamo anoma*  
lawa teteu to lawa goiya ma ta bamo ano-ma.  
people village with people great ADV that big true-ADV  
the village people with the elders, very, very much.'

*Mr Joel, ungo uwosa gutu kote te*  
Mr Joel, u-ŋgo u-wosa gutu kote te  
Mr Joel 2s-say 2s-go island not then  
'Mr Joel, you said you didn't go to the island so

*wango Sawanga ningewe aija nuosa*  
wa-ŋgo Sawanga ni-ŋgewe aiya nu-wosa  
1s-say Sawanga FUT3s-carry 2s FUT2s-go  
I told Sawanga to take you

*mo i-paka te ipai ikana*  
*mo i-paka te i-pai ikana?*  
or 3s-happen? then 3s-do like.that  
or what happened that he did like that?'

*Well bro tawiti kote wali mou*  
well bro tawiti kote wali mou  
well bro sad not worry none  
'Well, bro, not sad, no worries

*ingo lawa inasa Ia na*  
iŋgo lawa ina-wasa iya na  
COMP people 3pFUT-go fish for  
because people will go for fish

*wa aija talaim nuki ijabae totoma*  
wa aiya talaim nu-ki iyabae toto-ma  
and 2s try FUT2s-put snapper with-ADV  
and you try to drop [a line] for snapper along with them

*ingo aija nuwatoŋi ingo niu tutu aija.*  
iŋgo aiya nu-watoŋi iŋgo ni-u tutu aiya.  
COMP 2S FUT2s-watch COMP FUT3s-become expert 2s  
so that you will watch so that it will make you expert.'

*Kansol na nan̄gi nēja eta utamu e*  
 Kansol na, nan̄gi nēja eta u-tamu e  
 Counsel the 1SGEN friend that 2s-join 3s  
 'The Counsel, my friend that you're [staying] with,

*amula mungo beer na*  
 amula mu-ŋgo beer na  
 2du 2p-say beer of  
 you two spoke of beer,

*ma sese woya wa-u tupe te*  
 masese woya wa-u tupe te  
 but 1s 2s-become short then  
 but I came up short so

*wayaŋgo binga bia wai*  
 wa-yāŋgo biŋa biya wai  
 1s-see talk beer FIN  
 I had seen the beer message [but]

*waki iwa kote.*  
 wa-ki i-uwa kote.  
 1s-put 3s-go.to.you not  
 I didn't send it to you.'

*Yes Joel Peter iŋgo lawa Laikos tiki bani de e kote.*  
 Yes Joel Peter i-ŋgo lawa Laikos ti-ki bani de e kote.  
 Yes Joel Peter 3s-say people Rai Coast 3p-put food to 3s not  
 'Yes, Joel, Peter said the Rai Coast people didn't give him food.'

*kate iwesa indo teteu Boja*  
 Kate i-wesa i-ndo teteu Boja.  
 so 3s-go 3s-stay village Bonga  
 'So he went and stayed at Bonga.'

*kate ipi waŋga tema ka MV Sago te iwesa Madang wai*  
 Kate i-pi waŋga tema ka MV Sago te i-wesa Madang wai  
 so 3s-rise vessel one like MV Sago then 3s-go Madang FIN  
 'So he boarded a boat like MV Sago, whereupon he went off to Madang.'

*ili êpi Balus ima Lae*  
 Ili i-pi Balus i-ma Lae  
 then 3s-rise airplane 3s-come Lae  
 'And then he boarded an airplane to come to Lae

*su kula kula iu lua koe matana*  
 su kulakula i-u luwa koe matana  
 on work 3s-become two yon early  
 last Tuesday.'

*ipeka wai te ima su kapala*  
 I-peka wai te i-ma su kapala  
 3s-drop FIN then 3s-come to house  
 'He got off and then came to [my] house,

*ima balalaja de woya*  
 i-ma balalaya de woya  
 3s-come appear to 1s  
 he arrived at my place.'

*iseja woya iu anami na te*  
 I-seya woya i-u anami na te  
 3s-ask 1s 3s-become 2SGEN GEN then  
 'He asked me about you, whereupon

*wango ulapa bola wa uso ia beleja wai*  
 wa-ŋgo u-lapa bola wa u-so iya beleya wai.  
 1s-say 2s-kill pig and 2s-spear fish no.more FIN  
 I told him you had already killed pig and speared fish.'

*u kole Numbami na te wai*  
 u-u kole Numbami na te wai  
 2s-become man Numbami of one FIN  
 'You had already become a Numbami man.'

*ta imomola ta bamo anoma*  
 Ta i-momola ta bamo ano-ma.  
 that 3s-laugh that big true-ADV  
 'At that he laughed and that mightily.'

*Wa Peter ingo ena asowa alu natu*  
 Wa Peter i-ŋgo ena asowa alu natu  
 and Peter 3s-say 3SGEN spouse 3du son  
 'And Peter said that his wife and son

*a inama aito inami Boŋa*  
 a ina-ma aito ina-mi Boŋa  
 maybe 3PFUT-come 3tr 3PFUT-dwell Bonga  
 may come and the three of them live in Bonga.

*ingo teteu Boŋa Bua wa wuwu ta maja anoma*  
 I-ngo teteu Boŋa buwa wa wuwu ta maya ano-ma  
 3s-say village Bonga betel and pepper that bad true-ADV  
 'He said Bonga village [has] areca nut and pepper plants in great abundance.'

*ingo tina wija anoma itabiŋa tai giligili*  
 I-ngo tina wiya ano-ma i-tabiŋa tai giligili  
 3s-say water good true-ADV 3s-near sea shore  
 'He said the water is very good, it's near the seashore.'

*Tako abo Joel woja tae [wija]*  
Tako abo Joel woja tae [wija]  
Okay goodbye Joel 1s belly [good]  
'Okay, goodbye, Joel. I'm happy

*ulojoni biya Numbami belea wai.*  
u-lojoni biya Numbami beleya wai.  
2s-hear talk Numbami no.more FIN  
you already understand the Numbami language.'

*Panett Kopu*

*Goodbye Abo Aijako*  
Goodbye Abo aiya-ko  
goodbye goodbye 2s-DIM  
'Goodbye, goodbye, dear old you.'

Co/ MKBOSI TRANSPORT

P.O Box 1126

LAE

31/5/67

Dear Joel.

Yes Tolou. wambi anam letter ~~na~~ ima ~~na~~  
 ipisa woja wai, woja amamas bamo <sup>ingo</sup> iu ulononi binga  
 Numbami beleja wai. ipai woja amamas bamo anoma  
 Yes Joel. wapis ~~pet~~ Mr Peter ije Town N. S.W.  
 Bant, woja watamu Lawa wanga na ~~to~~ mawasa su  
 Bant te mawasa & ije Town. Wembi Lawa teteu ndi  
 POTO manu master Peter wembi ije teteu Numbami na,  
 iji majango ije Top Town. wai ta & Lawa Taon  
 na, tawiti Lawa teteu <sup>(na)</sup> to Lawa goja <sup>(na)</sup> ta bamo  
 ta bamo anoma. ~~pet~~ mu Joel tango uwosa qutu kote  
 te wango sawanga ningewe aija nuosa mo ipakate  
 ipai ikona. Well bro tawiti kote wali mu ingo Lawa  
 inaga Pa na ~~e~~ wa aija talaim nuki <sup>nukun fis</sup> ifabae totoma  
 ingo aija uwajango <sup>muwaji</sup> nuwatori ingo nui tutu aija.  
 Kansol na nangi <sup>muwaji</sup> naga eta utamu & amule mungo beer  
 na ma sese woja ~~set~~ ~~te~~ ~~woja~~ wau tupe te wajango  
 binga bia wai waki isa kote. Yes Joel Peter  
 ingo lensa Laikos tiki bami de & kote. Kate ~~na~~  
 iwesa indo Teteu ~~na~~ Bona. Kate iji wanga tema  
 ka ~~Sergo~~ MV Sergo te iwesa Madang wai <sup>na</sup> epi Bolus  
 ima Lae ~~su~~ ~~last~~ ~~tu~~ Kuala Kula iu lua ko matana  
 ipeka wai te ima su Kepala ~~na~~ ima balalaja de woja  
 iseja woja iu anam <sup>long yow</sup> na te wango itapa ulapa  
 bola wa ~~uso~~ ~~us~~ ia beleja wai. u kole  
 Numbami na te wai ta imomola ta bamo ano  
 Na Peter ingo ena asowa ~~de~~ ~~na~~ Nateru <sup>ai</sup>  
 inama aito <sup>inami</sup> inami. Bona ingo Bona Teteu Bona Bus  
 wa usuwa ta maja ano <sup>inago</sup> ingo fina wija ano  
 itabina Tai <sup>sharaha alele</sup> gi gili gili.  
 wija ~~iu~~ ~~ulononi~~ ~~binga~~

Toko Abo Joel woja Tee ulononi binga Numbami beleja

wai

PANEIT Kopu

Goodbye. Abo Aijako

iwani te iso uli ije dabola

Col. M. B. ...

JOEL -  
MABOSI NUMBBAM  
MOROBÉ PROVINCE

*[The main body of the document contains several paragraphs of handwritten text, which is mirrored on the reverse side of the paper. The text is largely illegible due to the bleed-through and the cursive handwriting. Some words are circled in red ink, and there are various other markings and corrections throughout the document.]*

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