

(Letters from Australia written by Elizabeth Marchesi-Hester (1862-1947), wife of Salvatore Adolfo Marchesi (1853-1921), to her brother in law Joe Marchesi (1842-1920), emigrant (to Australia), who returned to Poschiavo. The letters were found by Milena Rossetti-Marchesi in the Mulino di Aino property where Giuseppe and Adolfo were born. The spelling and punctuation are unaltered to retain the flavour of the correspondence.

PERIODO 1911-1919

**St. Kilda
Dec 31/1911**

Dear Joe
has Dolph was riting you a few lines I though I would rite a you a line. You will see by the above adress we are away from home, as Dolph has been so ill for a long time he has been ordered away down to the sea & I am glad to say he is much better it is his lungs the Miners Compliant he is suffering from but he is a lot better since we came down. I took a furnished room & the use of the kitchen to do my own cooking for him. I have my only boy with us for a change we go in bathing every night & it is lovely, we see Ellen & Jackie very often they come out & go down to the beach & we have a great time Jenny looks well after her trip home why did you not make a match with her when she was there you wont get the chance again some one els will have her but I think she is a ent out old maid by the time you get this letter we will be home so wishing you a happy New Year I am your ever loving Sister in Law
E. Marchesi

**South Heathcote
August 12/1912**

Dear Joe
I am writing a line to you in Dolph place as he is two ill to rite he has had another bad turn in fact he has not got much better since we were in Melbourne sometimes he was better than others but he took another bad turn about a month ago, & he is still the same he is very weak & can't eat nothing and it is such bad weather. We have had a terrible winter cattle & sheep dying in hundreds. We only lost one cow. But Joe Shurun [*Shurm?*] lost 7 head of cattle. Poor old Harrie Jones is dead he lived to 88 years. all the old people are nearly all gone Mr & Mrs Van Stavern are alive yet Mr Van came over to see Dolph yesterday. Dear Joe I suppose you have heard Mrs Giuliani is dead she died in January Dear Joe you know Eddie Hall she married a Mr Cade of Heathcote a Crown land Inspector she died & left a little Daughter it was a terrible blow to Mrs Hall she is well. Harrie is married & got 3 children. Mrs Hall don't keep the Hotel now she gave it up. Heathcote is verry quite there is next to nothing doing. & everything is so dear. I here from Ellen very often she rites very regular. My Father is still alive & living 11 miles out of Melbourne he has a Pig Farm. You would not know the old place if you where to come back again. things have changed the last few years, I am quite well myself also my daughters all that is home 2 are married & 2 single & one Son he is the youngest he is nearly 14 but he is going to School one of my Girls is working in Mr J.J. Farleys store Sales & Millenery. Dear Joe I think I have told you all this time hoping you are well. if Dolph does not improve soon he may be gone by the time you get this letter Father Odee says it is only a matter of time with him so with best love to you from Dolph myself & Family. I am your Aff. Sister in Law E. Marchesi

Note: - The son referred to was Adolfo Frederick Marchesi 1899-1974.

**South Heathcote
Oct 28 / 1912**

Dear Joe
I am answering your letter I got today & I was so glad to here from you & that you are well. I am glad to say that Dolph is a great deal better at the time of writing but since I rote to you he has been verry ill but God has been good & spared him to us a little longer. the Doctor says it is only a matter of time with him but with care he may live for some time but we can't tell when he takes a turn. Dear Joe it is a cruel dessese (*disease*) some lingers for years & some it takes away very quick it is the Miners Compliant it is all in the lungs. But poor Dolph he bears it well & never says a word he can't do anything he is only able to walk

about the house. it is a great blessing we have a small family I have only 3 one boy the Babie he is 14 years old & 2 girls at home 2 is married & one is a Millener & Sales at J.J. Farleys store & one a dressmaker at home it is a great help I can't tell you when poor Dolph can do no more work we have to count our pennies I can tell you. I have 2 cows milking & I make a good bit of butter & plenty egges & that is a great help. Things are verry dull here rain is wanted verry bad in the country & for the crops & grass. if it don't rain soon the crops will be a failure we only lost 1 ...[?] but some lost all they had it was a terrible winter & it looks ... [?] if it will be the ...[?] year if rain don't soon come. Dear Joe it would put 10 years on to your life to take a trip out here again you would not know the place again. & all the old people are gone. Old Mr & Mrs Van Stavern are still alive but verry feeble & often ask after you. Joe St..[?] is still in the same place but old Harrie Jones is dead I look after him till he died. it is verry dull here nothing doing not any of the mines are working only Costerfield there is 2 mines out their Antomy [*Antimony*] mines are verry rich one of my Son in Laws work out there & is doing well. Dear Joe did I tell you in my last letter that Eddie Hall is dead she was married & left a little daughter it nearly killed Mrs Hall & she has not been the same since it was through ...[?]. Dear Joe I have no more this time hoping you are well & hoping to here from you soon. Dolph send his love to you & axcept the same from me I am your ever-loving Sister in law E.
Marchesi rite soon

P.S. I often here from Ellen she has shifted to N.S.W. but she is coming down at Xmas & she is coming up to see Dear Dolph that is if he is alive he has been twice ammonited (*anointed*) by the Priest he is so good. good by & God bless you. E.M.

South Heathcote
Feb. 3 1913

Dear Joe

I am answering your last. We were all glad to here from you & that you were well we are all so glad to get a letter from home & from them we know, dear Joe I am glad to tell you that Dolph is a great deal better than when I rote last that is if he will continue. but we never can tell when is turns comes on & I dread the winter to come on he has a little cough, You said in your letter if he was able in a little while to take a trip home Dear Joe he will never be able to do that he would die before he got home therefore I must keep him here & do all we can for him & keep him with us as long as we can dear Joe I feel it terrible to think in time we will have to part but we must pray to God to restore him to so a while longer. You pray from [?] him also the girls are so good. I must tell you a little news we have sold Mundy [?] Gully Mine & we sold the Old Battery in front of the home we got £15- for what was left & for Munday Gully they got £ 205- there is no mining doing here now only Costerfield & there is a lot of men working & they are sending tons of Antomony to England it is a man in England that owns the mine. since I rote to you old Mrs Van Stavern died at a great age the old man & the lame boy is alone now they live in the same place. All the old people are nearly all gone we have had some verry sad deaths here laity, all my family are all well, Joe Shurun [?] is still on the hill he is looking old but well he wishes to be remembered to you. Mrs Hall is looking verry old since her daughter death it has quite broke her up, dear Joe did I tell you in my last letter that Mr. Giuliani has been verry ill he rote for Dolph to come down to Bendigo but Dolph was too ill himself he is going down when he feel well enough to see him. Poor old man he is like yourself left all alone. Dear Joe I would love to see you again but I supose it can never be so we must be contented to see each other in the Next Life I have no more this time we all send our best love Adolph also & axcept my best love from your ever loving Sisterinlaw. E. Marchesi

P.S. rite soon & let us know how you are & dear Joe I ask you to say a few prayers for Dolph as we all do here so good by & God bless you E.M.

Adolph wishes to be rembered to all his frends at home this is his message. E.M.

South Heathcote
Oct 13 / 1919

Dear Joe

I am writing a few lines to you hoping you are well I am sorry to tell that Dolph is verry ill again & he ask me to write a line to you we have had the Doctor & he said he could do no more for him. I had to send for all my children that was away. Poor Dolph he has gone to a shadow we are doing all we can for him & giving him as much nurishment as he can take but he takes so little & can't sleep at night. & the Doctor

gave him a draft & it took no affect on him. I have two of my daughters home with me looking after Dolph. One is married & living 150 miles from home & has a son. Well dear Joe Heathcote is the same old place but all the old people are all gone. Old Mrs J. Hall is still alive & in bad health. I have not had a letter from Mrs Hechle for a long time & I have wrote 3 letters & got no answer I got a paper a few week ago. I have been expectin a letter to say she had left England she has had a trying time while the war was on. it is a god send it is over.

But it has made a great change in the living & food lime [?] but we are not two bad. We are milking 4 cows & making all own butter it is only 1/6 a lbs & egges are 1/- a doz & meat is 18 a lbs & mutton I get it from private people for 5 £ a lbs & lovely meat. Heathcote is verry quite no mining doing only at Costerfield the Antomy & it is a big mine I have one son in law working at it. My son Fred is clark in Kitchens & Sons the big soap factory in Melbourne he is coming 21 & will be a bigger man like Dolph. I have Kittie home the single one all the rest are married. We all hope he will soon get better. Well I have no more hoping to give you better news next letter. Love to you from all I am your ever-loving Sister in Law.
E. Marchesi

P.S. Dolph sends his love to you & all.

Lizzie rite soon