Since I rec’d thy letter of 4th Octo? I have been think’d how to obt pour? for my own knowledge of the Aborigines was very small indeed. When we came to this Country in 1829 & located on the ourselves in the District of Oyster Bay the tribe of Aborigines was considered held to be a very dangerous one, the tribe either altogether or in sometimes in a body at other times in separate parties travelled from Pitwater or rather Kangaroo Pt up to the NE corner of the Island & in their journeys served the opportunity of attacking & killing every one whom they found alone & unprotected. Our first experience of them was on settling at Kelvedon-Francis Cotton his Wife & Family were residing at [illegible] Ko Statn & Kelvedon- 6 miles to the Sth was being prepared for our future residence – 3 men were ['beginning to clear' written above line] employed on clearing a small piece of Land, ['with a lagoon fronting it' written above line] fronting on a lagoon & having a small creek on each side, it was thick with trees, the men lived in a Hut on the creek side. Whilst taking their breakfast they noticed the Bullocks running towards the Hut as if frightened by something but ['no further notice was partook' written above line] it passed off unnoticed as having gone to their work, they placed their muskets at the but[sic] of a tree that they were going to cut up for burning & commenced lopping off the branches when Jones looking off his work observed the natives [illegible crossed out word] sneaking up on them. he called out to Flache[?] “grab the juices[?]” but it was too late, the Natives [illegible got hold of the Guns the men were so prostrated by the sudden appearance of the Blacks that they could not defend themselves & soon 2 of them were speared ['the 3d escaped' written above line], but swimming thro’ the Lagoon the Blacks had to go round a distance before they could again overtake them. One of the 2 escaped the other go on to the beach & all but one of the Natives gave up the pursuit, he however was more determined follow’d along the beach & every now and then throw’d his waddie at him, the man however kept his eye upon the Black & dextrously[sic] avoided the weapon & on reaching the end of the Beach the Bl acknowledged gave up the pursuit - Fl. as was usual was going to the workmen when he was met by Jones, who said-prayed him to make haste back for the Blacks were coming & they had killed Rogers (the one on the Beach Rogers however was soon found & Received Med. & Attent’d & Constables were sent-dispatched at once to the Spot, but so wary were the Natives that hav’d stripped the Hut of everything, both provisns & blankets & they had disappeared & could not be traced any where, they took also 2 Kangaroo Dogs - one of these returned in a few days hardly able to crawl from fever and spear wounds he however eventually recov’d the other dog most likely remained with them - Any-Where they found a chance they attacked & so stealthily[sic] Did they make their attacks, that persons were not aware of their being in the neighbourhood [illegible] it was only by knowing which way the tribe was travelling that persons were warned of their approach hearing of a murder committed in one place was a warning to others to be on their guard & no one was safe to travel with a Gun, a Gun not to fire upon them for that would have been certain death they knew you could only fire once without reloading & would leave the oppor-[line break]tunity of rushing upon one with their spears & waddies - It is said they were not aware of the necessity of reloading but thought the Gun would “pop-pop” as long as the person pleased - :They learned to be periodical in their visits confining themselves chiefly to the Sea coast & not going far inland - Hunting Kangaroos with their dogs & obtaining also opossums - The women would dive in the Sea after shellfish but it seems they never caught other fish no fish bones having ever been observed at their fires, & perhaps they may have had a prejudice against eating them as the Aborigines of Sth Austl had against eating the native currant a fruit wh grows so
abundantly in the Barossa & other Ranges, & wɔ can be eaten by Europeans ad libitum without any unplea- [line break] sant effects but wɔ when the Natives saw the Europeans collecting said “plenty people die [illegible]” in Adelaide” - They visited in the season the ‘Lagoons for Swans Eggs –

GA Robinson