

Darwin Harbour
Mar 22. 1906

W. A. Harding Esq.

Dear Sir

Very sorry to inform you
that the "Flora" is on the beach between the
Trap house and the juncing and Spamer
says he will need assistance to get her off
The Keel is off her and the rudder smashed
It seems the anchor chain broke
She is in a very dangerous position if comes
to blow out of the south

Yours Truly
James Stirling

Copy of letter from Mr. J. Stirling re wreck of cutter "Flora"

March 26th '07

Dear Sir,

As I had no word from you up to this morning I went out to see the cutter & took W. Biggs along with me. She is standing straight up & we put an anchor out which will keep her from getting further up on the beach unless it blows extra hard I think if the tide had risen other 12in. today we would have got her off; but as it is low tides just now we were defeated, however we took all the ballast out of her. I am sure if the Samson had been there she would have pulled her off quite easy as at high tide there was about 3ft 6in of water at her stern.

W. Biggs is sure there is very little the matter with her; some of her false keel chewed off & the plate at the top of her rudder sprung, also a few of her copper plates a little ragged.

I dont know whether you intend to send the Samson to assist her or not. But if if were sure it wasnt going to blow from the south she would be safe enough as she will float before many days as the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ tides will be high about the end of the ~~month~~ week.

However if the Samson is not away before you get this & you can let her go I think it would be safest as she is in a dangerous place & the quicker she is off the better. I dont know how she has got on the beach as they have all the anchors, Spamer says he picked up the one he lost. But my opinion is they had only one out & whenever she began to drag it through the kelp it got choked with the kelp & therefore would not hold. Of course that is only my theory & I may be wrong. If they get her off & W. Biggs thinks she is not fit for the work I have told Spamer to try & get her

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back to Darwin.

Therefore McCall will either have to cinch his fence or let it lie where it is, for unless you compel me I wont send the Cutter back there again.

Would you please send out 12lbs of 1in. metal nails the first chance as Biggs says he will require them for the cutter if she gets back to Darwin which I hope & trust she will

yours truly,

(signed) James Stirling.