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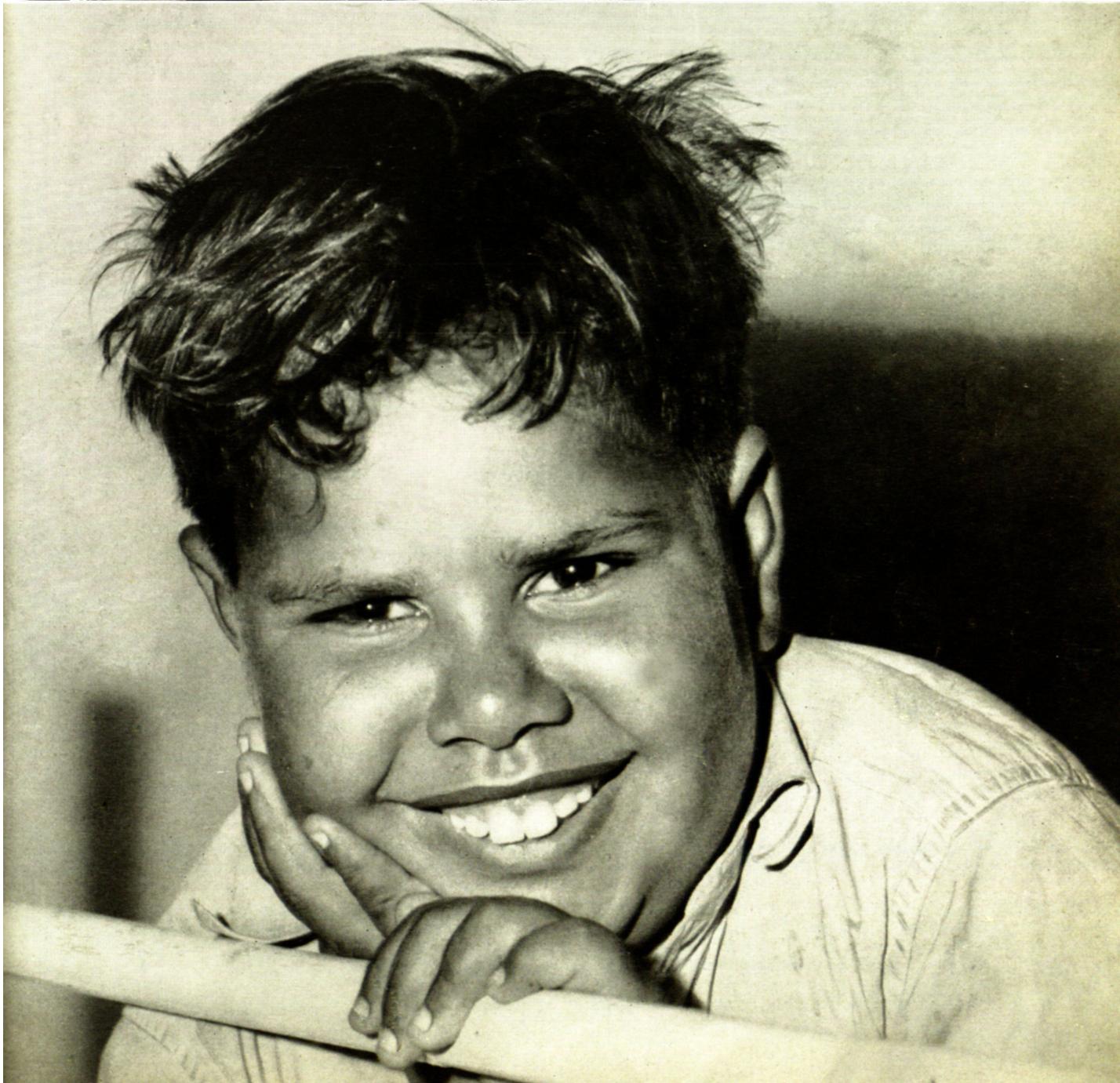
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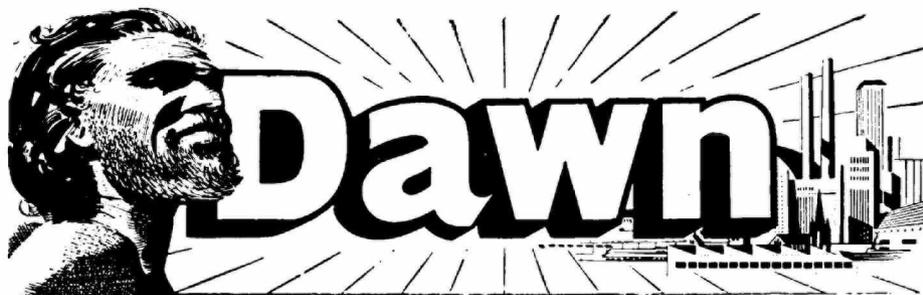


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A MAGAZINE FOR THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF N.S.W.

APRIL, 1960





Our Cover . . .

Bernie Wilson, photographed at the recent Summer Camp bears a remarkable resemblance to the late Albert Namatjira. Perhaps Bernie, too, may one day be a great artist.



"DAWN"

is a monthly magazine produced by the N.S.W. Aborigines' Welfare Board for the Aboriginal people of New South Wales.

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A Guardian Angel among the Humpies . . .

2,000 Aborigines Call Her Friend

By Patricia Riggs

SISTER D. O'Brien, of Kempsey, is the first woman welfare officer to be employed in the field by the Aborigines' Welfare Board.

It is an experiment that has more than justified itself in improved health among aborigines and in a growing awareness among them that they must shoulder their own responsibilities.

She "adopted" her charges—in the zone between Newcastle and the Queensland border—two years ago, and she is one person aborigines call "friend".

A pile of unironed clothing, heaped in a corner, first drew Sister O'Brien's eye.

Her lips pursed and the frown cut deeper across her broad forehead as she quickly scanned the rest of the room.

Here, a chunk of bread; there, soiled garments, torn papers, the refuse of living.

A fire set in an old stove made brief shadows on the soot-grimed wall. Steam hissed from an iron pot, black with its years.

Sister O'Brien grunted thoughtfully, looked keenly at the thin, dark-skinned woman, patiently holding a chubby babe in her arms.

Then she spoke. "How long do you think you can go on like this? You're ill, you know . . ."

Sister O'Brien's deep voice scolded mildly, over a bottom lip pugnaciously thrust out of her round face. Now and then she ran a pencil through her grey hair, firmly disciplined in a flat bun, plaited high across her neck.

Squalor

As she talked she pounded tablets to powder between two spoons, pausing now and then to baby-chat to the child solemnly regarding her across the barrier of her mother's shoulder. She chuckled heartily as the child snatched the spoon and greedily devoured the contents.

"No chance for worms with that appetite for pills." Grinning broadly, Sister O'Brien turned to a table, one of the three pieces of furniture in the dismal room.

Methodically, she counted pale green tablets from a giant-sized bottle before returning her attention to the woman.

"You know what to do with these. Three more this afternoon. Six tomorrow. A dose of salts."

The woman nodded wearily.

"Now, about yourself . . ."

For 30 minutes, the brisk voice advised, assured, concern lightly masking sympathy. Coins of light, filtering through cracks in the weatherboarding, showered over the group, yellow emphasis on despair and wretchedness.

Progress

So she talked, this god-mother to 2,000 aboriginal mothers and children, cajoling maternally until she extracted a final promise to keep a medical appointment she would make.

Leaving the mud-coloured house, its three doors gaping wide on to a narrow verandah, Sister O'Brien told me the facts: "She's killing herself with worry. Her husband has cleared out and she is too sick to work. She has a bad heart and eight children to worry about."

Although this trip to Bellwood aboriginal reserve (partly supervised by the schoolteacher who lives in nearby Nambucca Heads, North Coast) was a routine visit to administer worm treatments to children, it was also an informal advisory clinic for dark-skinned mothers, beset by drunken sons or husbands and cursed by a poverty born of apathy and indifference.

For two years now Sister O'Brien has been travelling thousands of miles a year to visit her charges living in huts and humpies on settlements and reserves buried on the outskirts of white communities between Newcastle and Queensland.

Her task of advancing—even by a fraction—the unhappy condition of her "family" is an all-consuming labour.

The results are not imposing statistics; they are gains in health, in responsibilities newly acquired, in a slow, fumbling reach for the prize of assimilation and self-confidence.

It took Sister O'Brien 12 months to win the confidence of the people she serves so well; a full year to state her creed of health and hygiene in opposition to dirt and ignorance.

A double-certificated nursing sister, her medical background is well-coated by good practical common-sense and a rich sense of humour.

She combines friendliness with firmness and tact in handling her charges, mitigating shyness, reserve and suspicion with forthright honesty and a type of buffoonery that stretches beyond the barriers of environment.

In the last 12 months, she has personally supervised the immunisation of 1,500 children against whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus. She has seen to it

that they have all been X-rayed for T.B. She has begged clothes from her friends and has given her own to down-at-heel mothers.

She has bullied this organisation or that into supplying layettes and clothing for babies and children.

Tenacity

Her fight for basic amenities such as water, garbage and sanitary services has awed her colleagues, although it has so far failed to loosen Government purse-strings.

It is this tenacity of purpose which impels her to direct action, such as driving a sick child countless miles to make sure it receives proper medical attention.

Or pursuing (successfully, too!) unco-operative parents who "go bush" rather than face her medical line-up on "worm day".

She has tracked down errant husbands who lay aside their responsibilities and leave wife and family to fend the best way they can. She finds foster homes for infants whose parents are unable or unwilling to care for them.

In a year, Sister O'Brien will travel 20,000 miles.

She will visit each hut, home or humpy at least four times annually, handing out 200,000 worm tablets and making sure the children take them. She will shave "dirty" heads, treat suppurating dermatitis, sores, and a thousand and one wounds filled with infection.

She works a 12-hour day on the road. More, when the emergency arises. Carrying her bag, her medicines and her notebook, she walks, drives or rows to duty in wet weather or fine.

Twice, capricious currents in the Clarence River have overturned her boat as she rowed to an island settlement there.

She has dug her car from red bog more times than she can count.

—*With acknowledgments to "Sun Herald"*.

Bright Country Carnival

Murrin Bridge Float

Murrin Bridge was very well represented in the recent Lake Cargelligo Procession.

Prizewinner in the historical section was the very well arranged "Assimilation" float from Murrin Bridge Mission Station organised and entered by the people of this Mission Station under the supervision of Mr. John Redmond and Mrs. Redmond—this float showed the blackfellow of the early days of the habitation of this country by whites complete with war paint, spears and boomerangs—while other aborigines depicted the move towards the assimilation of the two colours so that at the front of the float there were some junior footballers and followers of other sports, also some not so dusky folk were entertaining with their dance music and had quite a few guests. Those on this float decorated with mountain greenery, etc., included:—

Corroboree Section: Willie Webster, Peter Whyman, Billo Johnson, Ken Johnson and Leo Black.

Hula Girls: Zetta Clark, Fay King, Laurel Doyle, Kay Harris, Mary Taylor and Maureen Taylor.

Nurse: Miss Shiela Parkes.

Mother and Child: Mrs. Brigit Johnson and son, Rodney.

Footballers: Terry Whitton, Clarrie Taylor, Ted Johnson, Artie Clark, Michael Johnson and Ralph Johnson.

Boxing Boy was Alfred Harris.

Schoolgirls: Merle Kelly, Fay Williams and Yvonne Williams.

Returned Soldier was Bill Whitton.

Musicians were Mrs. Aileen Luck, Harry Plunkett, Fred Brier, Alf Naden and Thomas Clark.

Remember Me?

I'm Johnny, the boy who was the ideal student at school and whose parents had the ideal attitude towards my schooling. Now that I have completed my school days you may like to hear my impressions as I look back.

I remember my teachers as being most helpful and enthusiastic and certainly most patient as they seemed to be forever fighting a "paper war". They always had to be attending to roll books, mark books, record cards, correspondence returns, new enrolments, absentees, the sick, and the maimed and many other matters not concerned with teaching.

Added to this they had to mark the exercises done by the pupils. This alone must have taken hours of work, for at no time was I ever in a small class.

I always had too much company, ranging from as many as fifty-four others crammed in a classroom designed for thirty. For the teachers to keep up with marking was indeed a prodigious task, let alone maintain discipline under such conditions.

I remember that ancient school building, the cold classrooms in winter, the stifling rooms in the summer, the archaic seating, the inadequate lighting, the absence of suitable playing space, the shortage of text books, the absence of many amenities ranging from an Assembly Hall down to toilet paper in the toilets. I remember the untiring battle of the P. & C. Association to raise money to provide some of these amenities and the unselfish work of its members to provide essentials not provided by a Government committed to the advancement of education.

I know there is development in some areas but as yet generally, it is as it was in my days of school; the gaining of an education is bound up with being one of the "survivors of the fittest"!

—*With acknowledgments to the "North-West Champion"*.

Famous Australian Poems

The Lights of Cobb and Co.

By Henry Lawson

Fire lighted; on the table a meal for sleepy men;
A lantern in the stable; a jingle now and then;
The mail-coach looming darkly by light of moon and star;
The growl of sleepy voices; a candle in the bar;
A stumble in the passage of folk with wits abroad;
A swear-word from a bedroom—the shout of "All aboard!"
"Tchk tchk! Git-up!" "Hold fast, there!" and down the range we go:
Five hundred miles of scattered camps will watch for Cobb and Co.

Old coaching towns already decaying for their sins;
Uncounted "Half-way Houses," and scores of "Ten-Mile Inns;"
The riders from the stations by lonely granite peaks;
The black-boy for the shepherds on sheep and cattle creeks;
The roaring camps of Gulgong, and many a "Digger's Rest;"
The diggers on the Lachlan; the huts of Farthest West;
Some twenty thousand exiles who sailed for weal or woe—
The bravest hearts of twenty lands will wait for Cobb and Co.

The morning star has vanished, the frost and fog are gone.
In one of those grand mornings which but on mountains dawn;
A flask of friendly whisky—each other's hopes we share—
And throw our top-coats open to drink the mountain air.
The roads are rare to travel, and life seems all complete;
The grind of wheels on gravel, the trot of horses' feet,
The trot, trot, trot and canter, as down the spur we go—
The green sweeps to horizons blue that call for Cobb and Co.

We take a bright girl actress through western dusts and damps,
To bear the home-world message, and sing for sinful camps,
To stir our hearts and break them, wild hearts that hope and ache—
(Ah! when she thinks again of these her own must nearly break!)
Five miles this side the gold-field, a loud, triumphant shout:
Five hundred cheering diggers have snatched the horses out:
With "Auld Lang Syne" in chorus, through roaring camp they go
That cheer for her, and cheer for Home, and cheer for Cobb and Co.

Three lamps above the ridges and gorges dark and deep,
A flash on sandstone cuttings where sheer the sidlings sweep,
A flash on shrouded wagons, on water ghastly white;
Weird bush and scattered remnants of "rushes in the night;"
Across the swollen river a flash beyond the ford:
Ride hard to warn the driver! He's drunk or mad, good Lord!
But on the bank to westward a broad and cheerful glow—
New camps extend across the plains new routes for Cobb and Co.

Swift scramble up the sidling where teams climb inch by inch;
Pause, bird-like, on the summit—then breakneck down the pinch;
By clear, ridge-country rivers, and gaps where tracks run high,
Where waits the lonely horseman, cut clear against the sky;
Past haunted half-way houses—where convicts made the bricks—
Scrub-yards and new bark shanties, we dash with five and six;
Through stringy-bark and blue-gum, and box and pine we go—
A hundred miles shall see to-night the lights of Cobb and Co.!



PRAISE FOR LAKE PLAY CENTRE

While at Lake Cargelligo recently, Mr. E. Magee, of Bathurst, who is group organiser for the National Fitness Play Centre Movement, told the "Lake News" that this was his second visit to this centre in a few weeks and it was good to note the big improvement in the play centre here compared to the first few days of starting.

The Dept. looks on the Lake centre as one of the best in the western area and he expressed appreciation to those who helped to make this possible. Mr. Magee was particularly happy about the way the aboriginal children from Murrin Bridge had been invited to the play centre and had been transported in regularly. It was good to see this assimilation so successful.

Mr. Magee was very impressed with the work done by those at Lake Cargelligo including the supervisor-in-charge, Mr. John Russell, supervisor Mr. John McLean, and two very efficient young ladies in Miss Val Clarke and Miss Coralie Hann.

Mr. Magee also expressed thanks to local residents who had assisted the working of the play centre, including Messrs. Alex Wood, Bill Parler and John Redmond, assistant manager at Murrin Bridge Mission Station. The play centre finished last Friday after three weeks duration at Lake Cargelligo and must be considered most successful in every way.

• • • •

NANCY BOLT

Nancy Bolt of the Aboriginal Station, Cabbage Tree Island, who formerly held a bursary from the Board and passed her Intermediate Certificate at the end of 1957, has now entered the Ballina Hospital as a trainee nurse.

• • • •

MOONACULLAH RESERVE

Moonacullah Reserve, situated on the Edwards River, near Deniliquin, being one of the oldest reserves in the State is in the process of being shifted during the coming year to Deniliquin, where it is understood the Board will be providing homes for the lucky people. Recently the Station truck from Murrin Bridge with Albert Johnson and Bill Whitton aboard removed a considerable amount of equipment back to the Station. Another trip there is in view and Roy Harris and Rudolph Johnson will be helping out.

MURRIN BRIDGE

It is the first time in the history of Murrin Bridge that all girls above the age of sixteen years have been employed. Five girls, Zeta Clark, Mary Taylor, Irene Williams, Roma and Esther Johnson are very fortunate in obtaining employment at the Leeton cannery. All credit goes to Mr. S. Lambeth, Aborigines Welfare Officer, whose untiring efforts made it possible for the girls to be placed in employment. It is believed that the girls are receiving excellent wages (and no doubt eating some of the delicious fruit from the beautiful Riverina area!).

Mrs. Mona Moore, a most respected resident of Leeton, has been exceptionally kind by providing board and lodgings at very reasonable terms. This is most gratifying, as in previous years accommodation has been next to impossible to arrange owing to the large influx of workers to the area during the canning season.

Miss Betty Black has obtained employment on a large station at Roto and from all accounts she appears to be quite happy there. Lorraine King and Jeanette Ferguson have settled in at Temora, working for Mrs. Hodson. From reports received the girls are buying up big as regards clothing. Emrose Clark has obtained employment with Mrs. Harper of Bethungra and it is felt that her stay there will be a happy one as Mrs. Harper is a particularly charming lady.

Mrs. Agnes Johnson and Mrs. Nancy Biggs, two of the oldest and most respected women on the Station passed away and the loss has been a great blow to the residents of the Station. The tragic loss of baby Riley has been a severe blow to their doting parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willy Riley. Baby Riley died at Menindee. The burials took place at the Murrin Bridge cemetery.

* * * *

GRIFFITH

The Board has accepted tenders for the erection of four cottages at Three Ways. Naturally, there is a considerable amount of speculation as to the future lucky tenants. Work is plentiful in this beautiful area and aborigines are requested to contact Mr. S. Lambeth, Area Welfare Officer, Leeton, before proceeding there.



OUR ROVING CAMERAMAN

THE aboriginal people in this State are scattered over a wide area, so far apart that many of them may never meet, but the magic camera can bring to us intimate glimpses of these people and enable us to become better acquainted with each other.

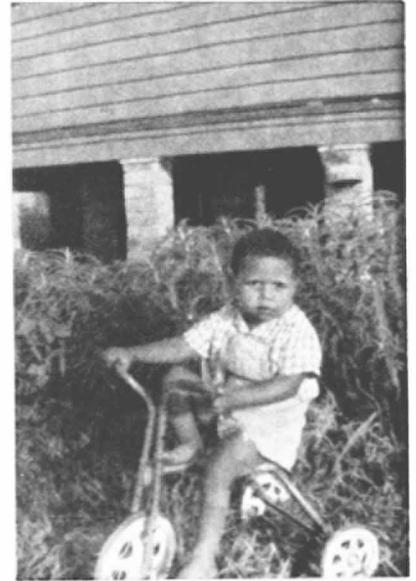
If you have photos at home, similar to those you see published in *Dawn*, send them along and thus add to, and maintain, the interest in your fellow men and women.



We would like you to meet Jill Gardiner of Tingha



This coy little lass is Marilyn Blair of Tingha



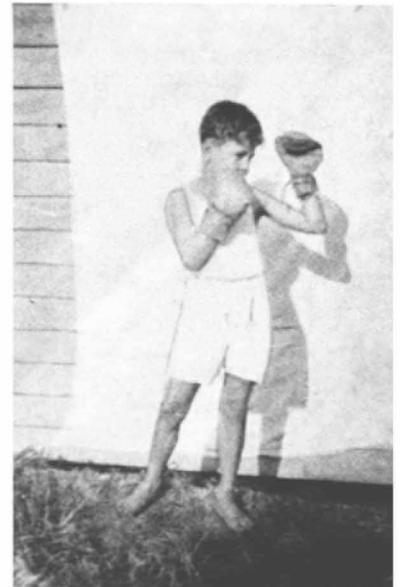
This young cyclist is Dennis Moran of Murwillumbah



Pretty Doreen Harris of Wilcannia



Two pretty sports girls, Eileen Moxon and Sandra Ferguson



Meet the Champ. Tommy Callaghan of Kyogle



The pieman. Henry Bolt of Cabbage Tree Island



Bruce Bolt of Murwillumbah will have to watch that waistline



Richard Kapeen of Murwillumbah



Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Briggs and their Sunday School class at Wreck Bay



This happy couple is Irene Ferguson and Richard Kapeen of Murwillumbah



Lena Gardiner of Tingha has a big smile for the Cameraman



Young Mister Martin Ballangarry of Bowraville

HOME



HINTS

Timber Care

Don't store seasoned timber in leaking enclosures. Provide some dry, well-aired shelter in which seasoned timber can be held off the ground and protected on top and sides from the weather or other hazards.

• • • •

Don't risk breakage by exposing the tongues or grooves of flooring or the important edges of other milled products in situations where damage is possible. They should be placed where construction is not progressing and out of traffic-ways.

• • • •

Don't allow ends of machined boards to project far out of stacks. They may become permanently warped and are a danger to workmen passing by.

• • • •

Don't deliberately shut seasoned woodwork in rooms where brickwork or plastering is proceeding or has been recently completed. Provide the maximum ventilation consistent with protection from the weather.

• • • •

Don't allow the surfaces of flooring or fittings to become dirty or wet. While other trades are working spread some loose material, such as dry sawdust, over the surface or else apply a sealing coat of a type that may be removed during the final sanding operation.

• • • •

Don't hold weatherboards in a block stack for long periods. If supplies of timber reach the site long before use, the timber should be strip-stacked.

• • • •

See that frames that are to be built into the work are temporarily braced against deformation before delivery.

• • • •

Don't unload in the rain, if avoidable. Provide a cover for the seasoned timber while rain is falling.

• • • •

Don't stack or lean seasoned timber against new brickwork. The timber is likely to take up moisture from the brickwork.

Paint Brushes

Here are a few hints on the care of paint brushes:—

Don't overload the brush by dipping it completely up to the metal top. Surplus paint will accumulate at the heel and soon work up over the handle. Dip the brush only about one-third the length of the bristles.

• • • •

Never jab or force a wide brush into corners, narrow openings or other hard to get at places. Edge bristles will start to curl and snarl the shape of the brush if you do this. Always use a small brush or an old one to reach hard to get at places.

• • • •

Never paint narrow surfaces by holding the brush edgewise. This causes the bristles to "finger" and the brush to wear off at the corners, resulting in a streaky paint job.

• • • •

Never rub the brush hard against the surface you are painting. Grip the brush lightly and apply paint with a steady even stroke, painting with about one-half the length of the bristles. Using the whole brush only tends to wear down the bristles at the sides.

• • • •

Never place a brush in water to keep it soft and pliable. Water causes bristles to swell and finger, and to become flabby, as the pigment seals in the moisture and keeps the brush from drying out satisfactorily. And, finally, never stand a brush on end.

The Possums, The Man, and The Tree

An Aboriginal legend from
the Richmond River, N.S.W.

As told by: The late Mr. Lyle Roberts

To: Mildred Norledge

There was once a tree growing and well did it grow. It had on it much fruit which the black possum is very fond of, and many were the possums that lived in this tree.

Now this tree was the Djurabil (totem) of a young man, and no one could go near it and get the possums except the young man himself. But it so happened that the uncle of the young man wondered where and how his nephew could always get a possum whenever he wanted it. So the uncle bethought he would watch where his nephew went . . . This he did . . .

For many days and many nights he wondered why he should not go to the tree, and get a possum whenever he wanted it, as did his nephew—Get a possum from the tree that was the Djurabil of the young man.

Then, one night when his nephew was sleeping, the uncle got up and quietly left the camp and went to the tree in which there were many possums. He began to talk to the possums—by making the sounds that the possums make when they talk amongst themselves. But the possums, when they saw him, knew straightaway that he was not the young man, for they had seen him coming, and when he came near to the tree one of the possums said :—NING WOO NAH (which means "be silent") and silent the possums were.

Now, because none of the possums would come to the uncle of the young man when he talked to them, he picked up the tree and carried it away with the possums in it as well. Far, very far, did he walk, carrying the tree. He came to the river and this he crossed, taking the tree with him ; the tree in which there were many possums.

The nephew of the old man awakened, and found that his uncle had gone from the camp. "This is strange", he thought, "that my uncle should go away from the camp in the night. He is not doing that which is good, going away like this at night—I know he is doing that which is wrong. I will seek him and find him."

So the nephew set forth from the camp to seek and find his uncle whither he had gone.

It so happened that while the uncle of the young man was carrying the tree one of the possums jumped out of the tree, as the uncle was passing by the hill, and when the nephew passed by the hill the possum came to him, for it knew him.

Now when the possums in the tree beheld that the nephew was following his uncle they began to make a noise, for they knew him—knew that he was coming to the tree that was his Djurabil.

And as the uncle again came to the river he began to cross it. But his nephew was now there too, for he had come close to the old man and he was very angry. So great was his anger that his uncle had pulled up the tree which was his Djurabil, he grabbed hold of the tree and forthwith drowned his uncle then and there.

To this day can be seen the place in the ground where the tree was growing—the tree which was the Djurabil of the young man—and where the uncle pulled it up. You can see that he did so by the shape and the depth of the hole. See that there—there was once a tree growing, a tree in which the black possum liked to live.

This is the story of the possums, the man, and the tree.



Mathew James Fisher, a former champion boxer and horseman. In his prime Mathew was also a champion platelayer for the Railways Department

DID YOU KNOW . . .

by Scio



With the inclusion of Hawaii as the 50th State of the United States, by vote, America takes on added stature as the "melting pot of the world." Of the islands' 600,000 population, only three per cent is pure Hawaiian.



Fine cultured pearls and natural pearls are often indistinguishable, except by means of X-ray.



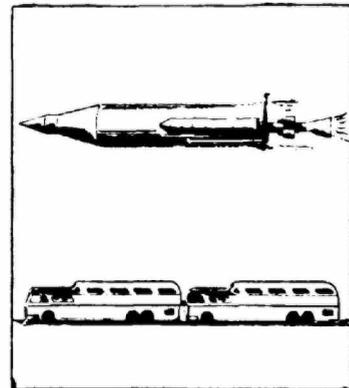
The body of the Electric Eel, which attains a length of 10 feet, contains three sets of natural "batteries" with which it electrocutes its prey. The Electric Eel is capable of swimming backward as fast as he can forward, and can detect objects in complete darkness.



The first magnet known to man, the lodestone, was magnetized by lightning. Primitive compasses utilizing lodestone were used nearly 5,000 years ago. It wasn't until almost 4,000 years later that man discovered metal could be magnetized by contact with lodestone. Today permanent magnets are magnetized by a number of electrical processes.



As a result of processes developed in the United States, a ton of industrial coal will yield 145 pounds of "by-product" chemicals which find their way into more than 200,000 products never associated with coal, from rain-wear to lipstick. Many well-dressed American women are literally clothed in coal smoke, which of course has gone through many chemical changes.



The Atlas satellite, recently launched by the United States (Dec., 1958) was the largest man-made object in the sky at that time. It weighed between 8,500 to 8,700 pounds and was as long as two passenger busses. From the device, President Eisenhower's voice broadcast "Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men Everywhere." His voice was the first from space.

Welfare of Aborigines Policy

The Northern Territory

THE POLICY of the Commonwealth Government with respect to aborigines in the Northern Territory is to promote and direct social change amongst them in such a way that, whilst retaining connections with and pride in their aboriginal ancestry, they will become indistinguishable from other members of the Australian community in manner of life, standards of living, occupations, and participation in community affairs. It is important for the success of this process of assimilation that Australian citizens should be ready and willing to accept aborigines in the wider community as fellow citizens in all respects; it is equally important that aborigines should be encouraged to detach themselves from their present position of group separateness and solidarity and become merged as individuals in the general community.

The legislative basis for this policy is contained in the Welfare Ordinance 1953-1957. This Ordinance makes adequate provision for the care and welfare of aborigines, but, in so doing, does not distinguish them on the grounds of either colour or racial origin from other persons or groups in the community standing in need of special care or assistance. Aborigines who are considered capable of managing their own affairs without Government assistance, therefore, are not under any measure of control, under the provisions of the Ordinance, either by the Director of Welfare or by any other Government authority. In other words, they are fully entitled to enjoy equivalent privileges, and to accept the same degree of responsibility, as other citizens.

For aborigines who still stand in need of special care and assistance under the Welfare Ordinance, the provisions of a Wards Employment Ordinance have been designed to provide assistance by way of vocational training and in placement in suitable employment; the Ordinance also aims at ensuring that they receive wage justice in every-day employment.

This Ordinance was finally drafted during the year under review and was introduced on 1st October, 1959. It is an important feature of the Commonwealth Government's programme and policy, particularly as most aborigines have to be trained to *work* regularly and consistently after the European pattern, and must also be conditioned to adopt traditional European incentives to work. Whilst this is taking place they will be assisted to acquire specific occupational skills which, it is expected, will fit them to take their place side by side with other Australian workers in the general run of jobs available, and to enjoy similar working conditions.

Promoting changes in the aborigines' diet and eating habits is a very important factor in achieving their assimilation. A variation in diet is expected to bring about major improvements in health, and the adoption of European eating habits should have the effect of making aboriginal people more acceptable in the community generally. To this end, catering and food services have received much attention in the welfare programme during the past few years. Two Catering Officers have been appointed, one working in the northern division

and the other in the southern division of the Territory. On Government Settlements, communal feeding is being introduced to ensure that all residents on a settlement will be adequately fed, as a means of inculcating European tastes in food, as a means of training people in regular eating habits involving the use of European eating utensils, and finally as a means of training cooks, some of whom will find employment on pastoral properties, in stock camps, and elsewhere.

Whilst it is not the policy of the Government to isolate aborigines in reserves, it is Government policy to establish settlements—operated either by the Government or by Christian missions—to serve as training centres in social change for aborigines. In these establishments, emphasis is laid in the first place on indicating the advantages, benefits and responsibilities of community living; then on instruction in the skills and techniques necessary for a successful life within such a social pattern.

Consonant with this aim, schools for aboriginal children have been established using special techniques and working to a primary-level curriculum of general subjects (English, arithmetic, social studies, nature study, physical education, arts and crafts, and health and hygiene). The curriculum and syllabi are, however, left sufficiently flexible to allow for variations to be made should such a course of action appear desirable. Canteens have been developed on all settlements and mission stations and these are serving to reinforce some of the work done in schools in oral and written English and in simple arithmetic. In addition, the canteens are serving the very useful purpose of allowing people to use their small amount of cash in such a way as to bring maximum satisfaction to them under conditions in which they receive good value for their money. Furthermore, through this medium they receive training in handling money and in developing some awareness of the value of money.

It is recognised that unless womenfolk are trained to keep house in the European way they are unlikely to be fully acceptable in the European community. Special emphasis has been laid on this, and during the year two

Survey Officers commenced an investigation of the needs of aboriginal women, with a view to determining a training programme aimed at motivating them to want the sorts of things a European woman wants and to achieve standards of home life, hygiene and comfort sought after by European housewives.

POPULATION

During 1958, 448 recorded births of aboriginal children and 272 deaths of aboriginal people occurred in the Northern Territory. Both of these figures include stillborn births. As against the previous year, because of an improvement in initial recording work, there were only a few deaths which it was not possible to identify with complete accuracy. The task of re-checking census data was begun during 1958, and has necessitated a revision of previously published population figures as at 31st December, 1956, and 31st December, 1957. The revised population figures up to, and including, the position at 31st December, 1958, are shown by the following table:—

| <i>As at</i> | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 31-12-56 .. | 7,793 | 7,485 | 15,275 |
| 31-12-57 .. | 7,954 | 7,644 | 15,598 |
| 31-12-58 .. | 8,310 | 8,008 | 16,318 |

On 13th May, 1957, those aborigines who were considered to be in need of special care and assistance were declared to be wards under the Welfare Ordinance 1953-1957. The number declared to be wards at that time was 15,276. With the checking work carried out throughout 1958, it was possible to reconcile the number of aborigines declared to be wards with the number of the aboriginal population as at 31st December, 1950.

GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS AND CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

There are 13 Government settlements and 14 mission stations caring for aborigines in different parts of the Northern Territory; of these, 11 settlements and 11 missions are on proclaimed aboriginal reserves. Those not so located are at Delissaville, on the western shore of Darwin Harbour (this settlement occupies land specially set aside for aborigines by Government action), and at Borroloola (the ration and control depot on the Gulf of Carpentaria, which occupies a temporary site on Crown land); also the mission stations at Hermannsburg, Santa Teresa, and Daly River, all three of which occupy land held on lease in the name of the religious body concerned.

The Government settlement at Papunya on the Haasts Bluff Reserve, reported last year as being under construction, was completed during the year and is now occupied by natives transferred from the former Haasts Bluff Settlement site. The old site, with its few buildings, is being used as a pastoral property under Government control, where aboriginal stockmen may receive training in the proper methods of handling cattle.

Amoonguna, also reported last year as being under construction, is expected to be ready for occupation early in 1960, at which time the Bungalow Settlement on the outskirts of Alice Springs will be closed down.

The main purposes of these establishments are—

- (i) to bring natives together into a community and to teach them the habits and skills of living in such a community;
- (ii) to provide welfare services fitted to their needs and to their stage of social development;
- (iii) to provide the means whereby training may be given, particularly to children and adolescents;
- (iv) to introduce the general concept of "work" as a worthwhile aim in life;
- (v) to develop in the younger and middle age-groups an attitude that the settlements and mission stations are there to provide health and educational services for their children, so that the latter may be prepared for a future life as adults living in a wider community than the tribe;
- (vi) to provide a temporary home wherever necessary for wards in transit.

There are six Christian missions working amongst the aboriginal people of the Northern Territory. Four denominations, viz:—Anglicans, Catholics, Lutherans and Methodists, operate full-scale mission stations.

HEALTH

Generally speaking the health of the aboriginal population throughout the Northern Territory during 1958-1959, continued to show improvement.

An outbreak of influenza assumed epidemic proportions along the north Arnhem Land coastline and several deaths were recorded. Elsewhere the onset of the infection caused isolated severe cases of illness, the most serious of which were brought in by aerial ambulance for hospital attention.

Infant welfare was given a high degree of priority and clinics organized on settlements and missions throughout the Northern Territory were supervised by trained Nursing Sisters. Another Nursing Sister, skilled in this particular field, maintained a continuous inspection service moving from place to place in accordance with a pre-arranged schedule.

Surveys for hookworm were again performed during the year. Much of the laboratory work was performed by a full-blood aborigine, who had previously received training at the Darwin Health Laboratory.

A few more cases of leprosy were detected. Some of the people concerned were brought to East Arm Leprosarium; others remained under treatment at their normal place of residence.

RESERVES

There are 17 aboriginal reserves in the Northern Territory; the area covered is approximately 67,000 square miles in extent.

No new reserves were added to the existing number during the year under review, but as at the 30th June, 1959, action was in hand to declare as a reserve the area occupied by nomadic groups in the Lake Mackay-Lake MacDonald region on the West Australian border, and extending to the north as far as the 21st parallel.

N.S.W. STATION STATISTICS FOR 1959

| Station | Area in Acres | Population on Stations | Ration Recipients | Births | Deaths | Marriages |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Boggabilla | 457 | 256 | 24 | 14 | 4 | 1 |
| Brewarrina | 638 | 137 | 41 | 6 | 1 | .. |
| Burnt Bridge | 106 | 263 | 38 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Burra Bee Dee | 473 | 44 | 8 | .. | 1 | .. |
| Cabbage Tree Island | 125 | 131 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| Cowra | 31 | 127 | 24 | 8 | 1 | .. |
| Jervis Bay | 100 | 144 | 8 | 7 | .. | 1 |
| Moree | 55 | 322 | 18 | 12 | 5 | 3 |
| Murrin Bridge | 937 | 257 | 62 | 15 | 5 | 4 |
| Quirindi | 220 | 172 | 2 | 7 | 1 | .. |
| Roseby Park | 66 | 113 | 8 | 6 | .. | .. |
| Tabulam | 490 | 168 | 21 | 14 | 5 | .. |
| Taree | 51 | 219 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Walgett | 337 | 249 | 41 | 16 | .. | 1 |
| Wallace Lake | 341 | 120 | 7 | .. | 3 | 2 |
| Woodenbong | 126 | 167 | 18 | 6 | 4 | .. |
| Totals | | 2,889 | 344 | 124 | 36 | 16 |

CONDOBOLIN

A very pleasant opening took place at Condobolin when the keys of the four new and beautifully-painted cottages were handed to four very fortunate families at the Murie settlement by Mr. S. Lambeth, Aborigines Welfare Officer. If one could only see the happy smiles on their faces. The proud tenants are Mr. and Mrs. Brandy, Mr. and Mrs. Merritt (2 bedrooms), Mr. and Mrs. Wighton, Mr. and Mrs. Newman (3 bedrooms). Mrs. Ingram of the reserve has been granted £2,000 by the Aborigines' Welfare Board to build a house in town. Plans and specifications have been prepared and in the near future tenders will be called.

Residents of the reserve at Condobolin are to be congratulated on the well-kept gardens, which help to beautify the place. Mr. Rogers, the popular teacher at the reserve has left to teach the natives of New Guinea.

It is felt his stay there will be a particularly pleasing and exciting one. The new teacher at the reserve, Mr. Howes, appears to be quite happy there.

Lois Gooligong, a winsome and attractive lass from the Murie has been employed for the last four years at the Royal Hotel, the leading hotel at Condobolin. Mrs. P. Lumby, wife of the owner of the hotel has been very pleased with Lois' work and in appreciation has made her the head waitress there. Mrs. Lumby is to be congratulated for her realistic, yet sympathetic approach to the aborigines.

Chris Brandy, daughter of popular Jack Brandy, is employed at MacArthur House, Parramatta. From all accounts Chris seems to be quite happy there. She received her initial training at the Royal Hotel.

N.S.W. RESERVE STATISTICS FOR 1959

VALE EDWARD MURPHY

Walgett loses an identity

Mr. Edward Murphy, affectionately nicknamed "Pop" and one of the best-loved aborigines in the district, passed away in the Walgett District Hospital recently.

His correct age is not known. Some say he was 80, others 90 and could even have been 100 years of age. He had resided on the Walgett Station for many years and was one of the original residents of "Red Hill", the first aboriginal settlement in Walgett.

The Walgett Church of England was filled to capacity for the funeral service conducted by the Vicar.

Now "Pop" has gone and with him has passed a good slice of the history of the early aborigines of the Walgett district. It is known that he was initiated according to tribal lore. He would talk of such things as initiation ceremonies only among those closest to him. What stories he could tell and what an amazing sense of humour he had even to the last!

What manner of man you ask that he was? I will tell you. He was a "big" man—not in stature or build but "big" in everything that he did and thought. He loved the children and it was a delight to see him putting them through the sets at the dances. And what a wonderful tap dancer he was! Ah, yes, Walgett Station is the poorer in the passing of a man like Edward Murphy.

I quote his own words after a passing: "The wind and the rain come to sweep our footprints off the earth". Yes, the elements may do just that "Pop" but the memory of your presence amongst us will live on.

Deepest sympathy goes out to all his children, grand-children, great grand-children and relatives. May his spirit rest at peace with those of his forefathers.

| Reserve | Area in Acres | Population | Ration Recipients |
|------------------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|
| Balranald | 142 | 50 | .. |
| Bellbrook | 96 | 110 | 11 |
| Bourke | 34 | 68 | .. |
| Bowraville | 36 | 61 | 5 |
| Brungle | 12 | 76 | .. |
| Coff's Harbour | 6 | 72 | 8 |
| Condobolin | 16 | 18 | 2 |
| Coonabarabran | 20 | 28 | 6 |
| Coraki | 10 | 86 | 2 |
| Cubawee | 24 | 106 | 3 |
| Cumerogunga | 200 | 80 | .. |
| Dubbo | 18 | 49 | .. |
| Forster | 19 | 85 | 19 |
| Goodooga | 80 | 185 | 16 |
| Gulgambone | 52 | 322 | .. |
| Karuah | 50 | 48 | 2 |
| Kyogle | 28 | 5 | .. |
| La Perouse | 6 | 191 | 2 |
| Moonahcullah | 232 | 85 | .. |
| Nambucca Heads | 70 | 92 | 4 |
| Peak Hill | 7 | 26 | .. |
| Tibooburra | 100 | 2 | .. |
| Tingha | 15 | 18 | .. |
| Ulgundahi Island | 44 | 38 | 3 |
| Uralla | 100 | 31 | .. |
| Walcha | 107 | 57 | .. |
| Wellington | 100 | 77 | 9 |
| Wilcannia | 75 | 294 | 40 |
| Yass | 9 | 27 | .. |
| Totals | | 2,549 | 132 |

WE NEED A PHILOSOPHY

A letter to the Editor

The Editor,
Dawn.

As a regular reader of *Dawn* may I say our early Aussies appear to have need of Trained Philosophy.

Anyone that thinks at all is some kind of a Philosopher, but a Trained Thinker will seek—

1. The *True*, including knowledge of all subjects.
2. The *Beautiful*, and its expression in Arts.
3. The *Good*—morals and such.
4. A *Sense of Worth and Values*.

Then we learn to interpret life and its experiences: this is the task of Philosophy, in brief outline.

May God bless all our early Aussies.

—R.B.

STUDY COMES FIRST

Robert Bellear, a Murwillumbah High School student, who won a Board bursary some time ago to enable him to pursue his studies, is a very keen sportsman.

Nevertheless, when he recently found he had to curtail some of his sporting activities to concentrate on study, he did not hesitate, for, like a lot of other intelligent young men in all parts of the world, he realised that a good education is most important and that it opens up the way to all manner of wonderful opportunities.

He had to discontinue playing with the Murwillumbah Football Club and reduce the time spent as a cadet lifesaver with the Brunswick Surf Club.

Robert's ambition is to be a survey draughtsman in a Government Department or a Surveyor in a similar Department, either the Department of Lands, Agriculture, Public Works or Conservation.

Readers will join in congratulating Robert on his wise decision and in wishing him every success.

BRUNGLE

It was noted that all houses were painted with paint supplied by the Board, giving the place a very pleasing appearance. Most male residents are engaged removing underwater obstacles from the Tumut River, for which they receive excellent wages. The remainder are employed at Tumut Ponds harvesting the millet crop.

There are seven aborigine children attending the Tumut Intermediate High School and the Board is assisting them by providing school uniforms and paying the bus fares. The principal, Mr. Gollan, speaks highly of the children attending his school and appreciates the way in which they mix with the other children and the manner in which they look after their uniforms.

MURRIN BRIDGE

Mr. H. J. Green, our Superintendent, visited Murrin Bridge and was gracefully received by the residents. While there, Mr. Green visited the doctor and the matron of the Lake Cargelligo hospital. The next day he left for Condobolin, where he inspected the four new cottages and visited the residents of the reserve and Murie settlement.

It is regretted that Miss M. Kinnear of the Murrin Bridge school has left. She has been teaching at aboriginal schools for over forty years, and it is certain that she will be missed by one and all. Mr. P. Wilding is the new school teacher and it is hoped that his stay here will be a pleasant one.

Miss Angelina Johnson has found employment with Mrs. Holstein, who resides six miles from Lake Cargelligo.

Most of the able-bodied men of the Station are at present employed on various jobs on Stations in the area.

A LETTER FROM QUEENSLAND

Writing to the Editor, Mr. Ken Stewart, of Yungaburra, via Atherton said:—

“ I have much pleasure in presenting this letter to the Members of the Board staff and the aborigine people in New South Wales. I have been a subscriber to *Dawn* for the last eighteen months and it has given me a great deal of pleasure and interest.

I must say that the coloured people up here in Queensland and North Queensland are well behind in efforts such as yours, so press on with the good work.

I am a Minister myself and I am proud to be able to spread the word of God from day to day. We need more coloured ministers today in Australia of all denominations so we might show the white people that we can be independent.

Good luck to you all in N.S.W.”

MOREE

It is most pleasing to note the very lovely little home that Mr. Frank Vecchell has just built for Eric and Jeanette Kinchela on their own block in Thompson's Row, East Moree.

This proves what can be accomplished when a couple work together and save together. We do heartily congratulate Eric and Jeanette for their industry and foresight, and wish them all the very best in the days that lie ahead.

It is also gratifying to see the way Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Duncan have been able to procure a building block in Chester Street, East Moree. Kevin is a very keen and consistent carpenter in the regular employ of Building Contractor, Mr. Arthur Pritchard, also of Moree. Later when Kevin is able to raise a loan, he plans to build his own home with the assistance of one of his white work-mates.

DEATH NOTICES

At Armidale on 16th February, 1959, the death occurred of well-known aboriginal resident of East Armidale, Mr. Oliver Natty, at the age of 46 years.

At Armidale, on 19th February, 1960, the death occurred of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Reg Vale of Bellbrook, Horace Lewis Vale, aged 1 year. Mr. and Mrs. Vale had moved to East Armidale Reserve, where the death occurred.



The boys at the Summer camp soon found a nickname for Bill Hammond. And what do you think it was? Why Yul Brynner of course

BOARD ELECTION

In August, 1960, it will be necessary to conduct an election for appointment of aboriginal members of the Aborigines Welfare Board.

The term of appointment of the members elected will be three years. All persons of aboriginal blood over the age of twenty-one years who have been resident in N.S.W. for a period of six months will be eligible to vote. In order to vote it is necessary for an aborigine to first of all apply to have his name placed on the roll of electors.

With a view to compiling as complete a roll of electors as soon as possible, an invitation is issued at this stage to all eligible aborigines to enrol. This is being specially featured in *Dawn* this month in order that all field officers may have as much time as possible to have the roll completed.

A new roll is being compiled and an application for enrolment is required, irrespective of enrolment for a previous election.

A supply of application forms has been sent to each Station. A form should be completed by each person desiring enrolment and returned to the Board's office. The form may be returned independently by the person desiring enrolment, but it is suggested that they be handed to the Station Manager.

WALLAGA LAKE



Mr. E. J. Andy, better known as "Boy", the Station handyman at work. He milks 5 to 6 cows daily. About 2 gallons of milk go to children at the school and the remainder is shared out to the residents. "Boy" has only just received his Certificate of Exemption



Pride of the Station herd is "Ray", the bull. He comes from pedigree Jersey stock. He is an amiable fellow and has full run of the Station

A little of the scenery can be seen in the pictures so that a few words might be said to give a fuller description of the area surrounding the Station.

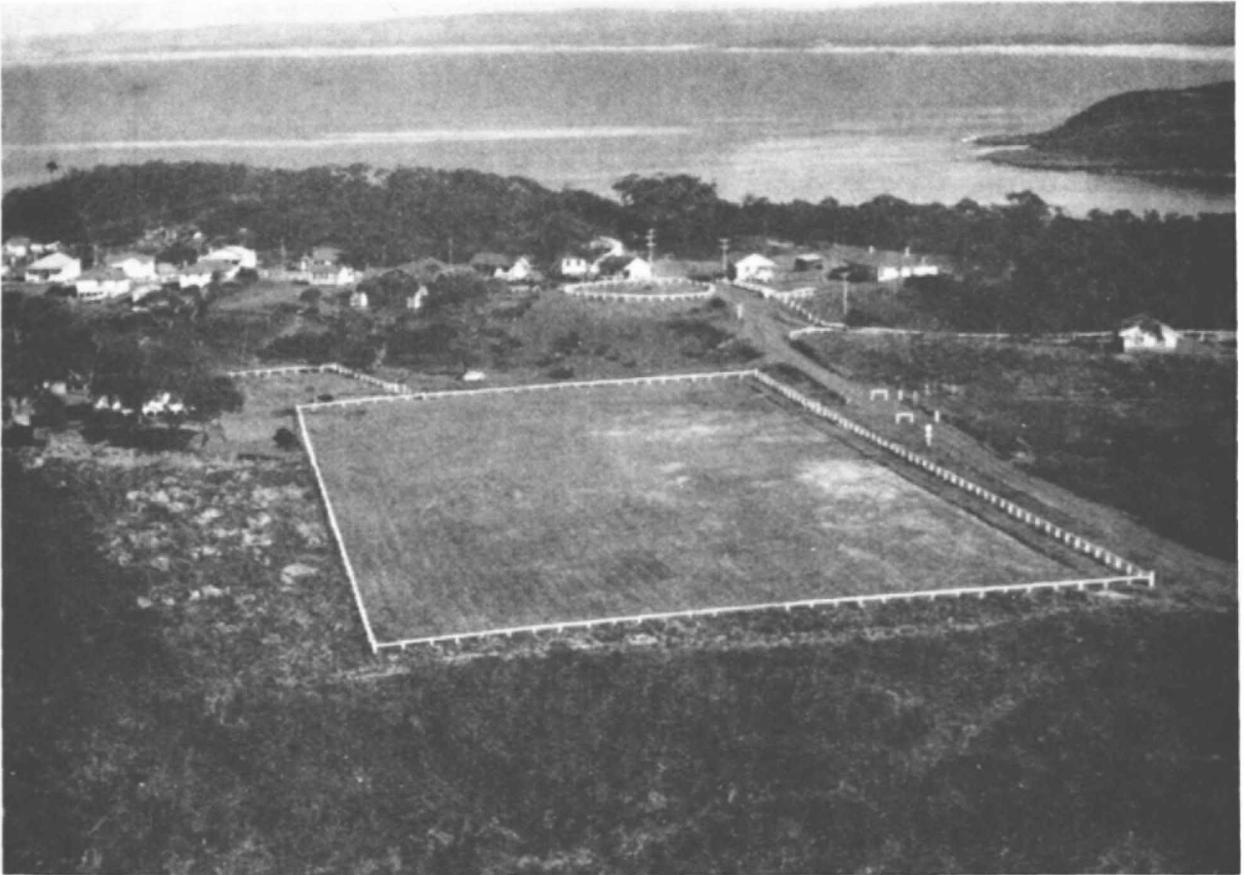
In the background of the picture of "Ray" can be seen the western reaches of the beautiful Wallaga Lake. We are bounded on three sides by the lake, the east, south and west. North of the Station rises the majestic Mt. Dromedary, 2,271 feet high. The Station supply comes from a reservoir near the top.

Farther to the east and no more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away lies the Pacific Ocean, whilst to the south can be seen the town of Bermagui. This town is known for big game fishing and was often frequented by the world renowned author and big game fisherman, Zane Grey. A fair-sized fishing fleet operates there and, in the season, big hauls of tuna and salmon are often caught. In the far distance to the west are a number of mountain ranges, The Snowy Mountains, Monaro Range, Muniung Range, South Coast Range to name a few and, on a good clear day in winter, snow can be seen on Mt. Kosciusko.

Visitors to the Station describe the scenery as the best on the South Coast.

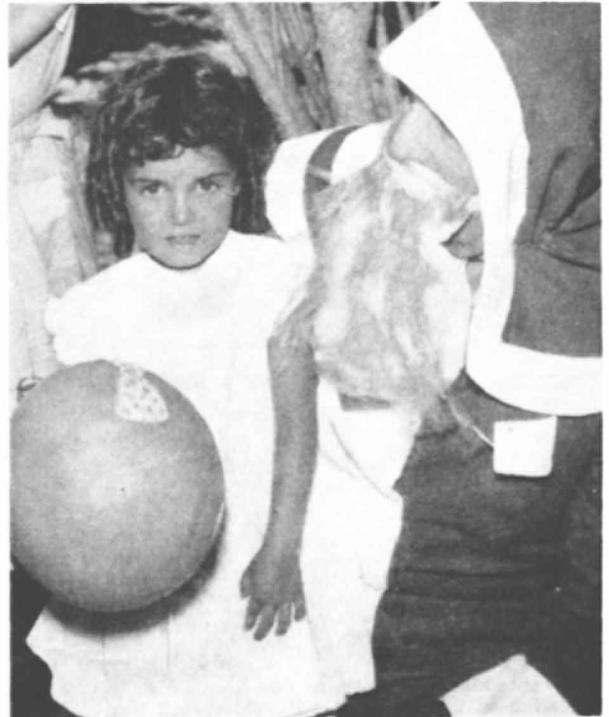


"Boy" washes out the dairy



An aerial view of Wreck Bay showing the sportsground

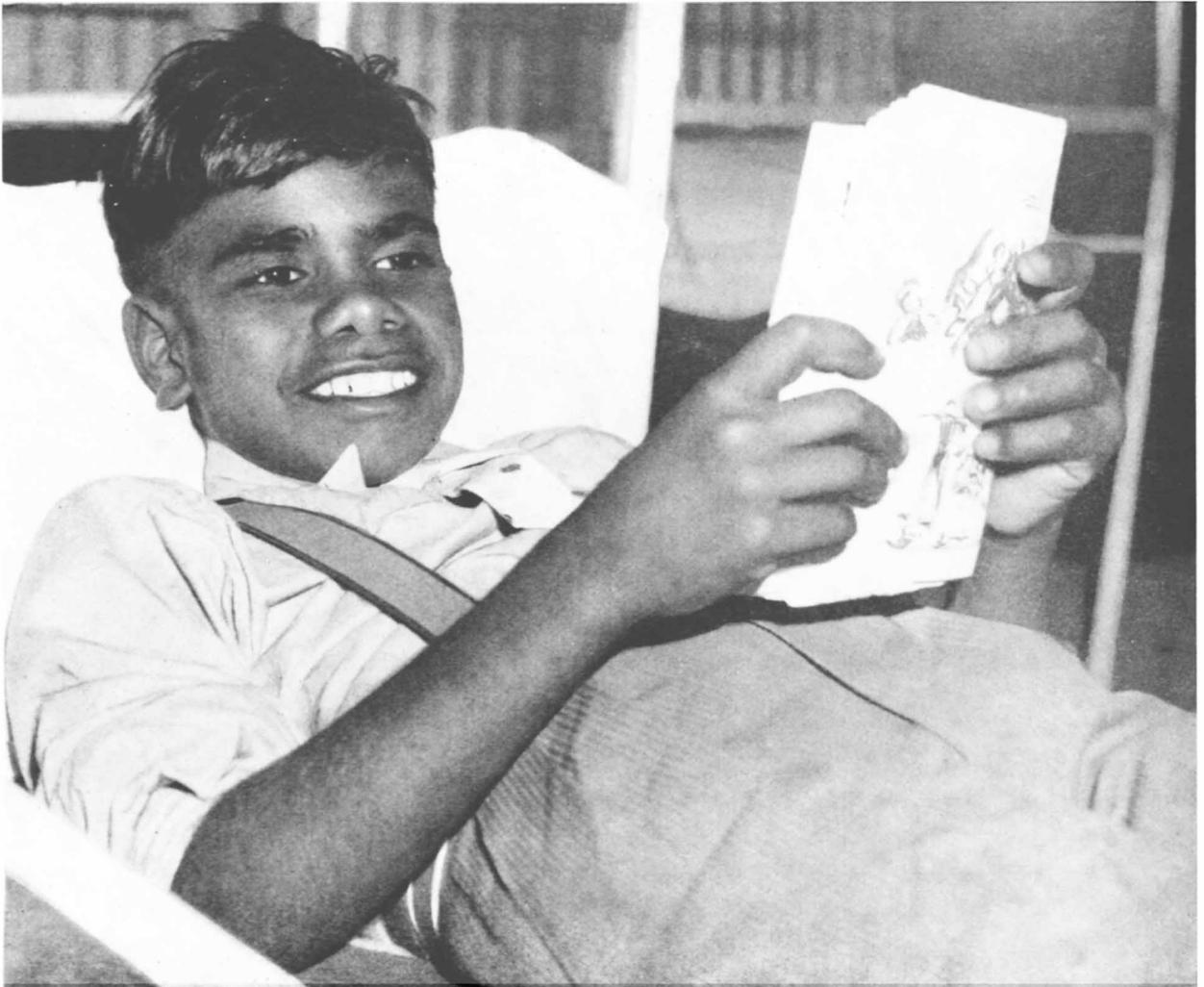
~~~~~  
Right :— →  
Five-year-old Yvonne Roberts of Cubawee with Santa Claus



~~~~~  
Below :—
Some of the cattle at the dairy



With Our Roving Cameraman . . .



A big smile from Ralph Johnson, from the Murrumbidgee, as he obviously enjoys himself during a leisure moment at the recent summer camp



Lawrence Mundy, Stan Dixon and Gerald Moore have fun on Summer Cloud Beach, Wreck Bay



Mr. and Mrs. D. Priestly photographed at the Bega Park Memorial Gate



Woodenbong children at the Education Department Play centre at Lismore. Here we see Patricia Currie, Jenny Bavea (Lismore) and Carmel Page, spinning their hoops



This very late picture (but better late than never they say) shows Mrs. Attwood, President of the local Country Women's Association with Santa Claus and the children at the Cubawee Xmas Party

WRECK BAY ROUND UP

Babies, babies everywhere. New-borns recently arriving at the Station include another boy for Mrs. Amy Williams, the sixth in a row, a girl to Mrs. Cynthia Foster, Cheryl Ann, Mrs. Arthur McLeod also arrived with a girl, Donna, making a total for the year past of eleven. The Matron of the Station, Mrs. Yates, surprised everybody and brought home twins. The Station vehicle has now been renamed the Stork Special and from what is heard about the place, will be in action again in the near future. Mrs. Ronnie Ardler and Mrs. Joseph Dixon are expecting new additions.

The Christmas party at Wreck Bay (sorry the news is so late readers!) was a huge success, £35 being added to the Aboriginal Welfare Board's allotment by the Station Social Club. Reg McLeod filled the part of Santa to perfection, in spite of an extremely hot day. After the laden tables had been lightened considerably (and this did not take the seventy-odd children long), and five gallons of ice cream consumed, each child approached Santa for collection of his or her present. It is always a delight to study the faces of the very young when approaching Santa, the best effort being put on by baby Vida Brown.

After the festivities, Dr. Hillyard Smith distributed the School prizes awarded by Headmaster, Mr. Gersbach, and this proved a very satisfactory finale to a happy day.

Success of the party was due to stalwart workers like Mrs. Timbery, Mr. Bill Ardler and Mrs. Millie Moore, who throughout the year were prepared to battle for funds. These were raised in many ways, film nights, jumble sales, euchre parties and a mammoth Christmas hamper raffle, the contents of which were donated by Station people, lucky winner of same being Mrs. Bertha Ardler. The net result of all this good work being that after the Party was paid for, the Social Club still had a credit balance of £20 with which it is anticipated to purchase sporting equipment for the Hall.

Several film evenings were held over the holiday period, including a full length western procured in Sydney. It played to a packed Hall and so many of the audience wore Cowboy suits complete with guns, that it would have been mighty unhealthy for any Indians that night.

With quite a lot of the painting programme on Station buildings unfinished and money short, it was decided to paint the Hall and Treatment Room, using Station labour under the direction of the Manager. If successful, then the balance of the work would then be undertaken by

the same method. Early in December work commenced with Joe Dixon and Hec McLeod being the chosen two men for the job, supplemented at times by the Station handyman, Stan Mundy. By February, both buildings were completed bar finishing touches to the Treatment Room, which is being prepared as a Doctor's surgery for the Station Medical Officer. Much valuable equipment has been supplied for same and it was felt that the Room had to be well furnished. Final figures on costs, etc., are not yet available, but it would be safe to say a big saving has been made, a pleasant effect made and technically a good job done. Hec and Joe are to be commended, here's hoping about the rest of the work.

All in all, it's been a hectic time for workers around the Bay of late. Together with the painting, serious work was commenced on the tennis court under construction. A bulldozer was needed to repair flood damage, the water ruining several weeks hard toil when it washed away many tons of filling. Commonwealth Works Department made available the dozer, also a cement mixer which really toiled, as did the workers who attended. Reg McLeod and his boy Ian, Cyril Roberts, Terry Foster, Kenny Ardler, Darcy Johnson, Billie Chatfield, together with many others slaved over the mixer during the heat-wave and laid 58 tons of concrete then surfaced same. Twenty-four tons of sand were carried to the site from Station sources by the Station vehicle as a way of cutting the cost of the court.

Fred Freeman was voted the best shovel man by the gang, but as nothing has been seen of Fred for at least a week, it must have drained away too much energy. Early erection of the surrounding fence is anticipated and work is being carried on filling the edging with gravel preparatory to bituminising. From an area that before was but nothing, a tennis court is now taking shape to add to the amenities at Wreck Bay.

With the fishing industry very poor on the Station beaches, quite a few family men were forced to seek employment where it could be found. George Brown, Barry Moore, Arthur McLeod and his two boys Les and Vic, Joey Brown and Andy Williams successfully obtaining jobs at Wollongong on the Water Board. Although this means seeing their families only on the weekends the men consider it worthwhile, to provide for them.

Flash. What's all this about the biggest snapper being caught by Stan Mundy, only to jump out of the boat, taking line, reel and nearly Stan himself?



Hello Kids,

Well Easter, with its holidays, and hot cross buns has passed us by once again and by this time we are all back at school or work once more. The mention of school reminds me of a very interesting conversation I had the other day with Professor Elkin, Deputy Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board. He was telling me he had quite a lot of money in trust to provide funds for aboriginal scholarships at the University. I know we are all terribly keen to see some young aboriginal man or woman carry on his or her education to the University and then finish up as a doctor, a dentist, a lawyer, a chemist, or some other fine profession of that nature.

What a wonderful thing this would be for every aboriginal person in Australia to see one of their own people in such a position. If you are at High School, here now is a marvellous opportunity for you to see if you can pass the Leaving Certificate with marks good enough to admit you to the University.

If you are keen and you want some help, see your Station Manager or your Area Welfare Officer, or write to the Secretary of the Board. Any one of these will be only too pleased to help you. As I have often told you, there is perhaps nothing as important as education for it unlocks the doors to all manner of wonderful opportunities and breaks down all kinds of class and colour prejudices.

Well, now to have a look at the mail.

After many months of silence I have just had another letter from Gloria Flanders, Racecourse, Bowraville.

Gloria tells me she is sorry summer is almost over for she doesn't like the winter at all. She also told me of the floods they had around Bowraville. As if the floods weren't bad enough I believe they left behind them a nasty crop of snakes. (Nothing I hate more!)

Gloria would like some pen friends about 17 or 18 interested in singing, dancing and rock 'n roll. How about some letters for Gloria, kids?

I also had a letter from a Victorian lass, Lindy Wild of 654 Centre Road, East Bentleigh, Melbourne. Lindy also wants some pen friends so how about it.

Well, kids, I guess that's about all for now but I must remind you once again about some more drawings, paintings, letters, etc.,. You can easily win yourselves some nice prizes, so how about a try.

All the best for now,

Your sincere pal,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pete".



Mrs. Sylvia Walford of Brewarrina holding her nephew Ken Conelly and with her sons Max, Kevin, Noel and Don Brown of Yass



Cabbage Cultivation

The most widely grown of all green vegetables and so well known that very little description is necessary. What is perhaps not quite so widely understood is that freshly-cut cabbage from one's own garden are possible for many weeks and that the choosing of varieties to be planted at the right time is a most important factor in growing them successfully. When this is done, Cabbage proves one of our most easily grown vegetables.

Requirements

The aspect of the cabbage bed will largely depend on the positions available, but they require a sunny, well-drained spot. If the soil has previously been deeply dug for other crops, there will be no need for further deep digging. Land which has not been used for some time, however, should be thoroughly dug over some weeks before planting and, for preference, trenched in the usual manner. If it has not been limed within the previous twelve months an application up to 8 ounces per square yard will help to put it in better condition. This can be applied when the land is dug or at least three weeks before the inclusion of manures in the soil. Ready mixed fertilisers suitable for this crop are available, but for those who prefer to mix their own, the following has been found satisfactory: 1 lb. blood and bone, 1 lb. superphosphate, 2½ oz. sulphate of ammonia, 1½ oz. sulphate of potash. This is distributed at the rate of 2 ounces to the square yard. If ample rotted animal manure is available the fertiliser can probably be dispensed with altogether or used at half the suggested rate. An "ample" quantity would be a 4-inch layer dug into the soil.

When to Sow

In temperate climates the sowing season extends roughly from December to July, and in most districts, cabbages are most easily grown from a mid to late summer sowing, or from an early spring sowing, thus maturing in temperate weather. In inland areas, late spring sowings are also possible if there is fertile soil and ample moisture. This means the heads mature in the hot weather. In very cold climates they must be sown early November or December for them to mature by winter, but the time of this sowing is somewhat governed by the period taken for maturity of the variety grown. Where winters are mild (*i.e.*, free, or practically free from frost) they can be successfully headed right through to late spring from winter sowings. Most home gardeners are seeking the early varieties of cabbage which are more easily grown and occupy the ground for

a much shorter time. They are also ample size for the average household. Sowings of these early varieties are possible in the spring, so that plants are ready before the hot summer. Further sowings are started in the late summer for maturity before mid-winter.

How to Sow

Prepare seed beds or boxes making certain that seedlings are not too crowded, first sowing sparsely and then thinning out or even pricking out into small beds before finally transplanting. Crowded seedlings are usually "leggy" and soft, and when transplanted need considerable care. Generally, they receive a check from which the plants never fully recover. Covering for the seed after sowing should be about ¼ inch sifted loam or leaf mould. Under favourable conditions germination can be expected in from 7-10 days.

Cultivation

Keep cabbages and surrounding beds weed-free by regular, shallow cultivation of the surface. This is best done when the weeds first appear. If neglected, considerable damage can be caused to the root system of the plants because of the deeper cultivation necessary to pull large weeds, and plants are often badly checked.

Seedlings can be transplanted when 3-4 inches high, although many gardeners find they achieve far better results by leaving them until they are 6-8 inches high or more, and then planting the seedlings very deeply. Spacings are as follows:—

Small varieties—15 inches between rows with plants 12 inches apart.

Large varieties—20 inches between rows with plants 18 inches apart.

Once established, water regularly in dry weather, usually once a week, when they should have a thorough soaking. Give liquid manure, fortnightly and as they commence to head-in, weekly. Allow about 1 quart of this to each plant. A dressing of fertiliser mixed as above, or sulphate of ammonia, 1 teaspoonful to a plant, will ensure they keep growing.

Cabbages are ready for picking when the heads fail to yield to pressure from the hand. Left longer than this they are likely to burst or split, although some varieties, such as Yates' Select Succession, are capable of standing longer than others.

Cabbages usually "run to seed" because they are sown out of season.