



# DAWN

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

APRIL, 1952

Printed at the G.P.O. Sydney for  
distribution by post as a periodical.



## QANTAS HOUSE





**THE BOARD**

*Chairman*

Mr. A. G. Kingsmill  
(Under Secretary and Permanent Head  
of Chief Secretary's Dept.)

*Vice Chairman*

Professor A. P. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D.  
(Emeritus Professor of Anthropology  
at Sydney University)

*Members*

Dr. J. J. Donnellan, M.B., Ch.M., D.P.H.  
(Metropolitan Medical Officer of Health)

Mr. C. L. Leon  
(Aboriginal member)

Mr. J. T. Purcell  
(Chairman of N.S.W. Housing Commission)

Mr. V. J. Truskett, B.A.  
(Assistant to the Director-General of  
Education)

Mr. F. S. Windsor  
(Deputy Commissioner of Police)

Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A.

Mr. E. J. Wright, M.L.C.

*Superintendent* ... Mr. H. J. Green

*Secretary* ... Mr. J. D. Giblett

*Welfare Officers*

Armidale	...	Mr. D. G. Yates
Bourke	...	Mr. N. R. Luschwitz
		Miss H. Southwell
Dubbo	...	Mr. H. S. Kitching
Kempsey	...	Mr. E. H. Arthur-Mason
		Miss D. M. O'Brien
Leeton	...	Mr. S. Lambeth
Lismore	...	Mr. E. J. Morgan
		Miss M. Wishart
Moree	...	Mr. S. Preston Walker
Sydney	...	Mr. L. N. Briggs
		Miss A. M. Fleming
		Miss C. J. Robison

*Editor*

Andrew G. Henderson  
Chief Secretary's Department

*DAWN*

is a monthly magazine produced by  
the N.S.W. Aborigines Welfare Board  
for the aboriginal people  
of our State

**IN THIS ISSUE**

	Page
The Board and the Aborigine .. ..	1
High Honours for Bursary Winners .. ..	4
Police Bursary goes to aid Hillston Fund for our Patricia Ann .. .. .	5
Blind Boy from Wahroonga School going to London .. .. .	6
Writing Quest is on again .. .. .	7
Simpson and His Donkey .. .. .	8-9
Outback Children see Giant of the Air ..	10-11
Destination Barrier Reef (continued article)	14
Crossword Puzzle .. .. .	15
Household Hints .. .. .	15
S.M. says Board "Very Tolerant" in Eviction Bid .. .. .	16

*Our Cover . . . . .*

"Snap" goes the Dawn camera as this happy group from La Perouse Public School point skywards to the glistening face of the Qantas skyscraper in Sydney. The children were in the city to visit a special exhibition of aboriginal art. The kids had a great day.

# THE BOARD AND THE ABORIGINE

A Special Feature by Mr. A. G. Kingsmill,  
Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board

I have been asked to outline the role of the Aborigines Welfare Board in relation to the care of aborigines in this State.

First I might explain that the Board is a corporate body set up by State Parliament to promote the interests and welfare of aborigines and shelter them from exploitation and injustice.

The Board's charter is the Aborigines' Protection Act—first passed in 1909 and amended several times since.



**Mr. Kingsmill meets Freddie Bugg, a shy visitor from Coff's Harbour, who joined the La Perouse school children on their day at Qantas House recently. Freddie was brought to Sydney by the Aborigines Welfare Board for specialist medical attention**

For its work the Board is dependent on funds provided by Parliament.

Its eleven members are paid no fees. Aboriginal members, however, receive out-of-pocket expenses for attending Board meetings. They are also paid the same travelling expenses as other members when the Board makes inspection tours.

The Board, as constituted, brings to its counsels recognised experts in various fields of human relations.

Its members include Professor A. P. Elkin, the eminent Australian anthropologist who was recently honoured by the Pacific Science Congress at Honolulu.

This 1961 gathering of world scientists in Hawaii awarded the Herbert E. Gregory medal to Professor Elkin for outstanding contributions to Pacific science.

A lifelong champion of the rights of the aborigine, Professor Elkin has been a Board member since 1940 and is Vice Chairman.

Other Board members include a leading educationist and health specialists.

Following the report of a Parliamentary select committee in 1937 the Aborigines' Protection Act was overhauled in 1940 and again in 1943 when it was substantially modernised.

The Act now specifically charges the Board to assist aborigines to become assimilated into the general community.

The 1943 amendment provided for the addition to the Board of the aborigines—one full-blood and a second full-blood or a part aborigine. They are nominated and elected by the aboriginal population.

The question is frequently asked, "How many aborigines are there in N.S.W.?"

A recent Board survey shows there are only 235 full aborigines in the State. The rest of the native population is made up of 6,600 half-caste and 6,763 of lighter caste.

Out of this total of 13,598 some 5,442 are housed on stations and reserves.

About half of the remaining 8,156 live independently of the Board in a more or less assimilated state. The balance are scattered through the State, many living in groups on the fringe of settlements.

Another question which frequently crops up is, "What is an aborigine?" Some want to know just exactly what kind of people are the responsibility of the Board.

In answer we might quote the legal definition of "aborigine" in this State.

It says "any full blood or half-caste aborigine who is a native of Australia and who is temporarily or permanently resident in N.S.W."

Although the specific obligation of the Board is limited to half-castes and higher, it is given a discretion by the Act to assist any people with an admixture of aboriginal blood.

A substantial number of the Board's tenants in homes on stations and reserves are somewhat less than half-caste.

Some of these people would have no more claim on the Board's resources than members of the white community.

Because of the difficulty in distinguishing the half-caste from the lesser mixed bloods and the risks of discrimination these people have been permitted to remain on settlements. They sometimes occupy homes which could be better used for adversely housed fringe dwellers.

At one station, built since the end of World War II and consisting of 31 houses, the majority of families are predominantly white.

This is only one aspect of a complex situation which is being attacked energetically by the Board.

In this State the health, housing and education problems of aborigines and part-aborigines are basically those of the general white population. But they are aggravated by special difficulties which many aborigines have in adapting themselves to conventional housing and obtaining regular work with adequate pay.

When houses have been provided for them, many refuse to use them properly.

At one station inspected recently by Board members the manager complained that continuing damage to houses was a constant nightmare. More than 100 windows were broken in a year.

None would deny that the houses at Box Ridge are old and need work done to them. But at no time during the airing of complaints recently was it mentioned that Box Ridge houses were repaired in 1955.

Despite this slow appreciation of the obligations of citizenship, the Board is having success with its scheme of assisting assimilable families to move closer to towns.

The Board favours individual town houses but sees no disadvantage in groups of houses being located where they will ultimately be absorbed by the townships.

In the years since the war 207 new homes have been built on stations, 80 on reserves and 38 in towns. The total cost was £725,458.

In addition, other aborigines have been settled in Housing Commission homes and pay rent like other tenants.

It is expected that by June, 1962, the number of completed houses will be increased substantially.

The training of aborigines for suitable employment and establishing them in towns is a major aspect of the Board's assimilation policy.

The aborigine is encouraged to buy his own home and since a scheme of repayable advances was introduced in 1955 loans approved for this purpose total more than £45,000.

The response has been good and with few exceptions these proud home buyers have faced up well to repayment responsibilities. One aborigine's town house and garden at Nambucca Heads is a showplace.

One of the most practical efforts has been that of the Christian Youth Council—a body affiliated with the World Council of Churches.

During the last two Christmas vacations this group has built homes of Housing Commission standard for selected aboriginal families at Coff's Harbour and Kempsey. The land and materials were provided by the Board. Plans are already being laid for another centre this year.

Successes like these in a welfare programme strewn with frustration give great encouragement to the Board and its officers.

The Board recently took stock of its policy with a view to hastening progress in this direction.

It called together all welfare officers for a two-day conference. The officers include men and women whose districts range from Tenterfield to Tocumwal and La Perouse to Broken Hill.

Most of these officers have lived among the aborigines for years and know them well. All are cast in a heroic mould, as they well might be, to fit them for an occupation fraught with disappointment.

The conference met under the chairmanship of Superintendent H. J. Green (a former welfare officer) to formulate ways and means of stimulating the programme.

The only specific Board matter they were asked to discuss was my own minute suggesting an all-out drive to move as many willing families as possible closer to big industrial centres where employment is possible and where young people can be encouraged to take up useful trades.

The most important recommendations emerging from the conference were:—

- The purchase, where possible, of large roomy houses in towns. These need not be new, the advantage being that they could be purchased in many cases for less than the cost of building new smaller homes.
- The provision of special units for aged aborigines to relieve overcrowding on stations.
- The transfer of assimilable aboriginal families to industrial areas.
- Encourage all suitable light-caste aborigines to leave stations and fend for themselves. This would make accommodation available to adversely housed people living away from stations and reserves who are still unfit for assimilation into town housing.
- Foster social mixing of aborigines and townspeople through local civic and welfare organisations.
- Close down as far as practicable all aboriginal schools, retaining only those where stations or reserves are too far from ordinary school facilities. (This policy is already being implemented by the Education Department.)
- Implement a system of adult education for aborigines.
- Transfer outlying stations and reserves, where practicable, to sites closer to town or to town building sites.
- The placement of bursary winners in hostels, where necessary, so that in pursuit of education the child will have greatest opportunity for success. The approval of parents would have to be gained in these cases and the child would have to be willing.

I am pleased to report that the Board has since endorsed all recommendations.

The subject of adult education has been discussed with the Department of Education. The Housing Commission has been approached with a view to accommodation suitable for aged aborigines in special units now being built.

The Board long ago realised the obvious need to resite some of its reserves and stations.

The need was further emphasised during a recent inspection tour of the North Coast and Northern Tablelands when Board members had the opportunity to compare two settlements almost side by side.

At one place the Board saw a beautifully laid out station with 18 modern homes in a sylvan setting by a river.

The neat little schoolhouse, recreation hall, modern treatment room and other out-buildings were part of a first-rate set-up served by a full-time manager and a matron.

At first glance it would pass for a well-equipped holiday centre.

A closer inspection, however, showed that many of the homes contained scant furnishings of the most primitive kind and the man of the house was out of work. There were few jobs to be had close to the station.

The other settlement, in stark contrast, was an unsupervised reserve.

It had been erected by the aborigines themselves.

The huts were reasonably well constructed.

One sensed immediately a feeling of well-being and independence.

The key to this situation was the existence close by the little reserve of one of the few asbestos mines in Australia.

The men were in regular jobs at the mine and the manager expressed complete satisfaction with their work and general demeanour.

This tiny aboriginal group is enjoying the dignifying experience of permanent employment which is not one scrap less important than housing.

The apathetic attitude of so many aboriginal families towards their own advancement can only be dispelled by natural opportunities for employment, recreation, social mingling, participation in religion and full access to the normal simple pleasures of the rest of the community.

Obviously this cannot be achieved overnight. It calls for a long programme of work involving correct administrative and planning methods.

It concerns human beings and their mental and moral processes.

It will not be achieved by uninformed or misleading assertions on "rights" for the aborigines.

It will depend on sustained, sympathetic understanding—and the right kind of practical assistance with the ultimate objective of getting them to stand firmly and squarely on their own feet as members of one community.

Even at the end there will doubtless be some small groups left untouched by it all who will need the continuing administration of some welfare authority.

The ideal of assimilation can be achieved gradually, I am sure.

To forsake it or despair of its ultimate success is to remove any real hope of improving the lot of the aboriginal people.

# High Honours for Bursary Winners

Three Aborigines Welfare Board bursars passed the 1961 Leaving Certificate, the highest number to succeed in any one year.

The success of the bursars—two boys and one girl—drew wide press, radio and TV publicity when the results were announced last January.

The three who passed were:—

- David Kerin, 18, from the Northern Territory, a pupil of St. Pius X School, Chatswood, and living at St. Edmund's School for the Blind, Wahroonga;
- Michael Bryant, 18, from Nambucca Heads, a pupil at St. John's College, Woodlawn, near Lismore;
- Patricia Davis, 17, from Casino, a pupil at Casino High School.

Armed with this valuable qualification, all three are now taking a further step towards careers for themselves.

Michael Bryant has begun a two-year course at Wagga Teachers' College, training to be a teacher.

Patricia Davis on April 30 embarked on a career in the N.S.W. Public Service when she joined the Department of Health. She is a clerk at the Institute of Clinical Pathology laboratories at the Lidcombe State Hospital, in Sydney.

The story of David Kerin's courage in overcoming grievous handicaps to win high educational honours is told elsewhere in this issue.

Michael Bryant won B's in English, Ancient History, General Maths and Biology. Glen Innes Apex assisted with his bursary.

Patricia Davis had B's in English, Geography, General Maths, Home Economics and in Biology.

David Kerin, blind since he was four, had A's in English and Oral French, and B's in Modern History, Latin and Physics.

A fourth bursar who sat for the 1961 Leaving Certificate examination failed by only one subject. But filled with determination, he is studying again this year for a second attempt.

The Aborigines Welfare Board now has 20 bursaries current in secondary schools all over the State.

Of these, eight have been sponsored by outside organisations and are being administered by the Board.

Three of the bursars will sit for the Leaving Certificate in 1962.

The bursaries have been granted in all years from first year upwards to the Leaving Certificate standard.

Up to the end of 1961, a total of 75 bursaries had been granted by the Aborigines Welfare Board since the scheme started in 1946.

## RETIREMENTS

Mr. Michael Sawtell, a member of the Aborigines' Welfare Board for 15 years. Mr. Sawtell, who is well known throughout the State, has been succeeded by Mr. J. T. Purcell.

Mr. E. Colin Davis, foundation editor of *Dawn*, who has also relinquished his interests in the timber industry to concentrate on a country property, Rossmore Stud, Bringelly Road, Rossmore.

We are sure *Dawn* readers will wish them well.



Eleanor Towney, Rose Winwan and Veronica Day  
of the Singleton Bible Training College

## Pin-up Scholarship Girl . . .

# POLICE BURSARY GOES TO AID HILLSTON FUND FOR OUR PATRICIA ANN

The people of Hillston feel a natural pride that one of their star students, Patricia Ann Williams, has become the N.S.W. Police Department's first pin-up bursary girl.

For it was the people of Hillston themselves who first recognised Patricia Ann's talents and ambition and launched her on an advanced scholastic career at the Presbyterian Ladies' College, Croydon.

The headmaster of Hillston Central School, Mr. A. T. Duncan, who is the girl's "education guardian", brought Patricia Ann's early attainments under the notice of the Aborigines Welfare Board back in 1959.

As a result, the Board awarded Patricia Ann a bursary in 1960. She followed this award with a brilliant pass in the Senior Primary Final—a special examination set up by the Education Department to encourage children to aspire to higher education.

The shy, unassuming country girl went on to greater success last year when she gained her Intermediate Certificate with passes in six subjects—General Mathematics, History, Geography, Business Principles and Art.

In addition to her scholastic achievements Patricia Ann, during the year, was:—

- Elected school captain.
- Took charge of the school's banking fund.
- Became president of the Junior Far West Group, and
- Figured prominently in the running of the school library.

It was then that the Hillston headmaster recommended that Patricia Ann (then only 14) be given a chance to repeat study for the Intermediate Certificate at a specialist school.

The people of the district rallied in support of Mr. Duncan's suggestion. A fund of close on £700 was raised by Presbyterian Church workers, and private gifts and family contributions of £150 came from the girl's father and brothers.

Of this amount £200 was needed for essential school clothing and accessories when the girl was enrolled as a boarder at the Croydon P.L.C.

It is estimated that the girl's schooling over the following three years, when she will proceed to the Leaving Certificate and probable matriculation, will cost £500 a year.

At the beginning of the year the Darlinghurst Police Social Club decided to award three-year scholarships worth £300 to two aboriginal children selected by the Aborigines Welfare Board.

This scholarship will be known in future as the N.S.W. Police Aboriginal Scholarship Award and will be made each year.

It was perhaps natural that such a brilliant student as Patricia Ann Williams should become the first to receive a scholarship which will mean £50 a year for three years towards her education.

*Dawn's* picture (by courtesy of the *Sydney Morning Herald*) shows the retiring Commissioner for Police, Mr. Colin J. Delaney, making the award to Patricia Ann at a special presentation ceremony.



# BLIND BOY FROM WAHROONGA SCHOOL

## GOING TO LONDON

Big and husky, with the build of a footballer, David Kerin, a part aborigine who has been blind since he was four, is to go to London, England, later this year to start a three-year course in physiotherapy.

David will be 18 this May. He comes from the Northern Territory, but he has spent most of his life in schools for the blind in Sydney.

Now having mastered braille, the system of punchmarks in stiff paper by which blind people read, David has qualified for his trip abroad by passing the 1961 Leaving Certificate.

To do this, he gained A's in English and Oral French, and B's in Latin, Modern History and in Physics.

David was one of the first pupils at St. Edmund's School for the Blind, Wahroonga, when it opened 12 years ago. The principal, Brother Adams, says David has been an excellent, above-average pupil.

David already in his short life has amassed some impressive "firsts".

He was the first aborigine boy at St. Edmund's. He is believed to be the first blind boy from a N.S.W. school to go to London for the physiotherapy course under the Royal Institute for the Blind. He is the first blind aborigine to pass the Leaving Certificate in N.S.W.

Details of his success, and of his education, were sent to the Royal Institute for the Blind in England, and in March he was accepted as a pupil for the course in physiotherapy.

He is due to leave Australia about October on the sea voyage to England.

David is pleased with his success in face of adversity but is shy and reluctant to talk about it.

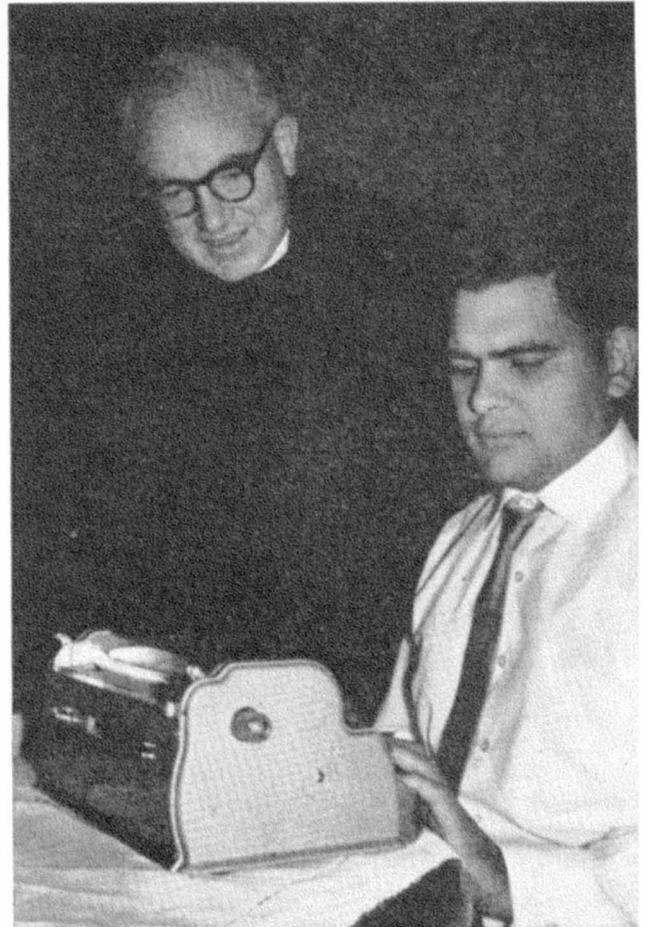
"I'm looking forward to going to London," he said.

"I don't know how I'll like the cold weather, but I suppose I'll get used to it."

David, the youngest of a big family, had a grim start to his life. But through sheer hard work, and with great help and care from his educators, his fellow pupils both blind and sighted, and from outside friends, he has already won fine achievement.

Living with his family in Alice Springs in the Northern Territory in 1949, David suffered an attack of conjunctivitis in both eyes.

He was flown to Darwin for treatment, and at one stage it was thought he would have to have his eyes removed.



**The Principal of St. Edmund's, Brother Adams, advises David Kerin on the use of the Braille Machine**

In Darwin, Father Flynn, who used to be an eye specialist, arranged for him to go to Melbourne and then to Sydney, where he came under the care of the Dominican nuns of St. Lucy's, Homebush.

After two years there, when he was six, David went to St. Edmund's, and has stayed there ever since.

He got straight into a study of braille which he had mastered by the time he was 10.

Braille is a system of writing, using abbreviations and contractions not unlike shorthand, by which blind people can read any text, book or even music. A machine like a typewriter punches indentations on a hard paper, and by passing his fingers over the raised punchmarks, a blind person can read.

There are standard textbooks written in braille for blind children, but as the children advance to higher grades the textbooks change frequently. This poses serious problems.

In David's case, his textbooks in English, Latin, French, Economics, History and Physics for the Leaving Certificate were prepared by voluntary effort.

The work on this was done by the Catholic Braille Writers' Association, with help from the Royal Blind Society.

In some important cases, however, the staff of St. Edmund's sat up late on many nights preparing special texts for David next day.

David himself worked to 10.30 every night in the last term before he sat for the Leaving Certificate.

When sitting for the Leaving, David had the same time as all others in which to do his papers. The questions were in braille and he dictated his answers to a boy in a class lower than his own.

Encouragement and direct assistance have come from all quarters.

When David suffered his affliction, the North Australian Workers' Union in Darwin organised the raising of £400 towards the expenses of his education.

At St. Edmund's, however, the Christian Brothers are supported by St. Vincent de Paul Society, and no charge is made on boys whose parents cannot support them at the school.

The £400 raised in Darwin for David was invested in bonds for him, and now is available to help pay the cost of his study in England.

The Aborigines Welfare Board granted him a bursary in his last two years of schooling at St. Edmund's, and for several years paid £1 a week towards his maintenance.

A Sydney businessman, who had been threatened with blindness, contributed £8 a month over two years to St. Edmund's for his use.

For the last two years, David attended St. Pius X School at Chatswood while still living at St. Edmund's.

Mixing with sighted boys at St. Pius's, David gained much of the knockabout confidence that children get in normal living and playing together. His mates at Chatswood, too, helped him a great deal in his studies.

Standing 5 ft. 9 ins. and weighing nearly 13 st., David is confident and sure in his manner. At St. Edmund's he played cricket and football, and he swam—sport playing a big role in preparing blind persons to mix easily in a world of sighted people.



## Writing Quest is on Again

The National Aborigines' Day Observance Committee writing quest will be held again this year. Closing date is June 20, 1962.

There has been a slight change this year. There are two new subjects in the section for essays and there will be a different distribution of prizes in sections which have an unexpectedly high entry and where the work is exceptionally good.

There will be a first prize of one guinea in each section, with additional prizes of 10/- and 5/- according to the merit of the entries.

All prizes will be posted for distribution on Aborigines' Day, July 13 next. Winning entries will be published in *Dawn*.

Aboriginal or part aboriginal people of all ages are eligible.

There are no entry forms, just write your age, name and address at the bottom of the page you submit.

Write an essay about "The happiest day I can remember" or "What I would like to study at a University".

Section 1. Up to 10 years.

Section 2. 10 to 12 years.

Section 3. 12 to 14 years.

Section 4. 14 to 18 years.

Section 5. 18 years and over.

WRITE A SHORT STORY on any subject you choose or tell us a story that has been told to you about the Aboriginal people. This can be true or imaginary.

SECTIONS FOR STORIES: Under 14 years and over 14 years. (Age will be taken into consideration.)

### POETRY:

Can you remember something beautiful or strange?

Something that made you feel happy or sad or afraid?

Do you remember listening and thinking about sounds?

Is there something you see or do every day that you would like to tell about, like a secret? Of course!

Then just think about it, remembering, and soon you will want to write a poem. Your poem can be just as short or as long as you wish.

SECTIONS FOR POETRY: Under 14 years and over 14 years. (Age will be taken into consideration.)

Send your entries to: Mrs. E. Speight, 32 Albuera-road, Epping, N.S.W. Mark your envelopes N.A.D.O.C.

# Testament of Courage

# SIMPSON

*Simpson and His Donkey have been the subject of articles over the years since the first story of their gallant exploits came out of Gallipoli. The articles have usually been of a controversial nature.*

*In this short account by Mr. C. Francis, you will read contradictory reports on Pte. Simpson and his donkeys which are contained in officially recorded statements.*

*None of these things matter now. This article, reprinted from "Reveille", the voice of the R.S.L., is purely a testament to the man's supreme courage.*

**Private John Simpson is an almost legendary figure in the history of Australia at War. He was a man who, by his selfless devotion to duty and deep compassion for the wounded, in the brief time allowed to him, set a standard of unostentatious bravery and self-sacrifice that has captured the imagination of all who have read of his deeds.**

Born John Simpson Kirkpatrick (he chose to enlist under the name of John Simpson) in County Durham, England, on 6th July, 1892, he enlisted at Blackboy Hill Camp, Western Australia, on 25th August, 1914, in the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

Of stocky build, the possessor of a carefree and cheerful nature, his qualities were kindness and courage. Passionately fond of animals—every dog was his friend in camp—he even managed to take a young possum with him on the trip to Egypt. It seemed quite right that he would later seek the assistance of an animal in his work of saving life.

Simpson was the second man ashore from his boat at the landing at Gallipoli. The first and third men of "C" Bearer Section were killed. Because of the heavy casualties suffered by the section on that first day and the loss of equipment, it has been suggested that this is the reason Simpson got the idea of commandeering a small donkey to assist him on his errands of mercy.

Various reasons have been given to explain the presence of these animals at Anzac Cove—the carrying of water, the testing of water (it is a well-known fact that donkeys will not drink impure or poisoned water) and even the highly-coloured explanation that a number of them were to be turned loose with lighted faggots on their backs and lanterns round their necks to frighten the superstitious Turks in the darkness. The most likely version is that put forward by members of the 16th Battalion Machine Gun Section, in that two donkeys were purchased by the battalion at Lemnos for the purpose of carrying

gear and ammunition. One of them, it is said, was recognised as being the donkey commandeered by Simpson.

## WHICH NAME?

Again there is some confusion about the name of the donkey used by Simpson. "Murphy", "Duffy", and "Abdul" are three of the names by which the animal was known. It has been said that he operated with two donkeys. Simpson himself was known by various nicknames, one of which was "Murphy"—this, no doubt, arising from an incorrect assessment of his accent. There are conflicting reports on the manner of his death and widely varied are the numbers mentioned of wounded men he brought to the safety of the dressing station on the beach. None of these conflicting reports, however, alter the fact that he was a supremely brave man motivated by no other desire than to help his comrades when they were so desperately in need of help. The terrible conditions of those early days were such that, at a later date, blurred reports must inevitably have resulted. The main aspect, on which all are agreed, is that during the short period of his service on Gallipoli, Simpson behaved with almost superhuman bravery, carried a great many of his wounded comrades to safety and earned the admiration of all who saw him at work.

The shortages of bearers and equipment after that first day were so great that Simpson (Kirkpatrick), acquiring his small donkey, assumed a free hand and ran his own casualty-clearing service from Shrapnel Gully (later renamed Monash Valley) to the beach ambulance stations. For 25 days—he was killed on 19th May—he worked untiringly in his dedicated role, completely oblivious of the heavy machine-gun fire, bursting shrapnel and deadly sniping down the Valley administering to his comrades. He would give the slightly wounded man first aid, loosen the equipment of a dying man and for the leg wounds and those who had enough strength and presence of mind to hang on he would carry on his donkey.

# and HIS DONKEY

## MEDICAL HISTORY

The profound impression he made on those who saw him at work is evident in the following extracts from the Official History of the War of 1914-18; Colonel A. G. Butler, the medical historian, wrote:

“A stretcher-bearer of the 3rd Field Ambulance, of quiet disposition, enlisted as ‘Simpson’ and had obtained a small donkey, and with this animal (known as ‘Duffy’) he for many hours daily traversed the Valley, bringing down in this way an extraordinary number of cases. When warned of the extreme danger that he ran, he would always reply, ‘My troubles!’ On May 19th, at the same spot as General Bridges, Simpson was shot through the heart. No Cross of Bronze has marked his valour, but in the memory of his brief service he gained a monument more enduring. ‘Simpson’ has been selected for mention because the quality of his courage and the nature of the service in which he lost his life are typical of those demanded of the stretcher-bearer, who must carry his case undeviatingly, without haste, but without rest, through long periods of exacting and dangerous toil. Conduct such as his, and the high standard set from the first in the rescue of wounded, gained for the stretcher-bearers what they desired—not a halo of sentimental eulogy, but the confidence of the men who fought and comradeship on terms of equality with them.”

And Dr. C. E. W. Bean has this to say:

“One bearer there was whose name has become a tradition in Australia. A number of donkeys with Greek drivers had been landed on April 25th, for water-carrying. The Greeks were soon deported, and after the first days the donkeys ceased carrying and fed idly in the gullies, till they gradually disappeared. Private Simpson of the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance, was seized with the idea that one of these might be useful for moving men wounded in the leg.

On the night of April 25th he annexed a donkey, and each day, and half of every night, he worked continuously between the head of Monash Valley and the Beach, his donkey carrying a brassard round its forehead and a wounded man on its back. Simpson escaped death so many times that he was completely fatalistic; the deadly sniping down in the valley and the most furious shrapnel fire never stopped him. The Colonel of his Ambulance, recognising the value of his work, allowed him to carry on as a completely separate

unit. He camped with his donkey at the Indian mule-camp, and had only to report once a day at the field ambulance. Presently he annexed a second donkey. On the 19th May, he went up the valley past the water-guard where he generally had his breakfast, but it was not ready. ‘Never mind’, he said. ‘Get me a good dinner when I come back.’

He never came back. With two patients he was coming down the creek-bed, when he was hit through the heart, both the wounded men being wounded again. He had carried many scores of men down the valley and had saved many lives at the cost of his own.”

## GENERAL MONASH

Colonel (later General) John Monash, at that time Commanding Officer of the 4th Brigade, in a letter dated 20th May, 1915, to H.Q., New Zealand and Australian Division, wrote as follows:

“I desire to bring under special notice for favour of transmission to the proper authority, the case of Private Simpson, stated to belong to “C” Section of the 3rd Field Ambulance. This man had been working in this valley since 26th April, in collecting the wounded, and carrying them to the dressing stations. He had a small donkey which he used to carry all cases unable to walk.

Private Simpson and his little beast earned the admiration of everyone at the upper end of the valley. They worked all day and night throughout the whole period since landing, and the help rendered to the wounded was invaluable. Simpson knew no fear and moved unconcernedly amid shrapnel and rifle fire, steadily carrying out his self imposed task day by day, and he frequently earned the applause of the personnel for his many fearless rescues of wounded men from areas subject to rifle and shrapnel fire.

Simpson and his donkey were yesterday killed by shrapnel shell and inquiry then elicited that he belonged to none of the A.A.M.C. Units with this brigade, but had become separated from his own unit, and had carried on his perilous work on his own initiative.”

The story of Simpson is to a large extent the story of all stretcher-bearers. Unsustained by the hot-blooded heroism shown by men in violent action; unable to retaliate, with only the often meagre protection afforded by a red cross flag, these men calmly exposed their lives to danger to save their comrades and so built up the tradition of unselfishness and cool courage that is a feature of their service.



# Outback Children

Eighty aboriginal boys and girls had the thrill of a lifetime during the 1962 summer camp in January when they were shown over Australia's biggest and most glamorous commercial aircraft, the Boeing V-Jet airliner. Australia's overseas airline, Qantas, took the children on tours through its hangars at Mascot, Sydney, and showed them over the giant airliner, which flies round the world from Sydney.



# see GIANT OF THE AIR

The V-Jets can carry up to 126 passengers, and they fly at a cruising speed of 570 m.p.h. This visit, the highlight of the annual summer camp at La Perouse, was organised by the Randwick Lions Club in co-operation with Qantas. A full round of entertainments and sight-seeing was arranged for the children during their stay in Sydney. A full story of the summer camp, with pictures, will appear in the May issue of *Dawn*.

**ON OPPOSITE PAGE:** Top, Qantas first-year apprentice Barry Bolmes lifts nine-years-old Ernie Johnson from Griffith up on his shoulders for a closer look at a turbofan engine of a V-Jet. **BELOW:** Most of the children had never seen a big aircraft, and first stop for them on their tour was at one of the work bays in the hangars where Qantas engineers were preparing a V-Jet for flight.

**ON THIS PAGE:** Fabric worker Mary Orrell shows four of the small guests how to adjust a seat belt in a V-Jet. The two girls leaning over the seat are Patricia Green (Brewarrina) and Joan Williams (Wilcannia). Seated are Florence Hall (Collarenebri) and Christine Brown (Mungindi).





**ABOVE:** Apprentice Barry Bolmes escorted one small group over the jet base. Seated in the engine pod of a V-Jet are 12-year-olds Clem Dodd (Walgett) and Donella Waters (Bogabilla).

**RIGHT:** Miss Mary Orrell, presents airline pins to four of the girls seated in the V-Jet.

**OPPOSITE:** A group of the 80 children cross the tarmac to board the V-Jet. The Randwick Lions Club, which organised the tour, each year takes children who attend the summer camp on an outing in or around Sydney. All pictures in this series are by Qantas.





## DESTINATION—BARRIER REEF

*continued from last Month*

As we began moving southward a breeze blew Les' hat into the water. I was in the pit and so was he when it happened, so we circled and went back. He told me to get ready to grab the hat as it went by. I crawled out of the pit and leaned over to grab it, but the wash from the bow of the boat would push it out of reach, so I suggested I try hook it in with my foot. Once again we circled and headed for the hat. I stuck my foot out, trying to reach it, but the force of water pulled me from the boat. I hung on desperately to the stern, as I was being towed along by the boat, my two feet being in the water. I dared not let go and I couldn't pull myself clear. Les rushed to the cockpit and threw the engine out of gear, then came and pulled me in. He laughed at me and once again we tried getting the hat. This time I used a pole with the gaff tied to it, and at last succeeded in getting his hat. I couldn't help laughing over the incident later, but at the time it didn't seem funny at all.

About an hour later we were fishing about 40 feet from the reef wall when Les had a look under us. The boat was in about 30 or 40 feet of water and everything was clear. Just below us and under the boat was a grey nurse shark 12 to 15 feet long. I thought how lucky I had been that it wasn't around when I was being towed along in the water when I had tried to get Les' hat. It followed the boat for about 20 minutes, then went out to sea.

We anchored that afternoon about 2 hours before sunset, and all had a swim. Then, as the tide was out, we decided to go for a walk on the reef. When the tide is out, miles and miles of reef are clear of the water.

We took the dory and went to the reef where we picked up some shells and got some clams to cook for tea. To get clams we used a knife. When they were open a quick stab and slashing of the two muscles would do it. After severing the muscles the shell could not close and we would pull them apart to get the meat out.

Our supper was curried clam meat, which isn't too bad, although clam is inclined to be a bit rich.

Supper over, and dishes washed, we prepared the fish for icing down in the ice box. This usually took about an hour, as firstly we had to crush the ice, then put the fish in the box in an orderly fashion, just like sardines in a can, then a fine layer of crushed ice would have to be put on them lightly before the next line was commenced.

Most of the other islands along the great barrier reef have coconut palms growing on them. They had been planted not only for scenery, but to supply anyone who was shipwrecked with food and water, especially the islands with no water on them. Several islands have goats running on them.

Next morning as we prepared to get under way we noticed a great flock of terns, diving at the water. They were chasing small fish known to fishermen as "bait". These birds must come a long way to feed as there was no land in sight. We fished our way south again, going along the reef and didn't do too good as the second ice-box was only three-quarters full, so that put the idea of pulling into the Island resorts right out of our heads. After all, we did come out to fish, not to cruise around on a pleasure trip. During the last couple of days we just managed to fill the last ice-box, and decided the next day we would head for home. Les didn't think another day's fishing would be wise as the fuel was almost exhausted.

We rested the next day as we headed for home, and didn't waste too much time on the last reef. About 10 or 11 o'clock that morning, I was steering the boat, and we were sailing in deep water. No land or reefs were in sight, and the sea was calm. The next minute I saw, just in front of the bow, a huge shape leap into the air, followed by others. They were porpoises. I left the wheel and walked to the forehead deck to watch them. They were all shapes and sizes. The biggest would be about 8 or 9 feet and there were a few babies among them, about 3 or 4 feet long. They would just swim in front of the bow and when it looked as though we would run over the top of them, they would dive and come back hurtling themselves clear of the water. The biggest would leap about 10 or 12 feet from the water. I had to keep rushing back to the cockpit to check the compass and keep the boat on the desired course. They followed us for miles before leaving us.

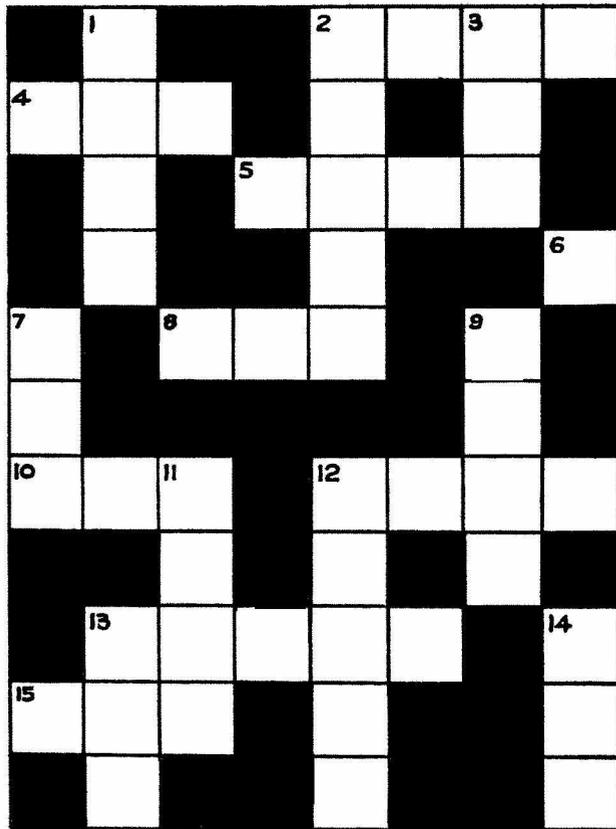
Most of the afternoon Les and Bill slept to prepare themselves for the first night watch at the wheel, about 3 o'clock that afternoon. Still no land in sight and a storm began to brew. The wind got stronger and clouds covered the sky. Just on dusk I went below and woke Les, as I saw an island on the horizon. Les cooked tea that night, it consisted of fish. This was the first and only meal of fish we had all the time we were at sea; fishermen do not believe in eating the catch as they say it is eating the profits.

About 6 o'clock Les took over the wheel after identifying the Island. Bill and I went to our bunks and by this time, the boat was rolling, as huge waves lashed at the sides. However, it didn't take me long before I fell fast asleep. Les was to have awakened Bill after he had finished his (Les') watch. The next thing I remember was Bill shaking me and waking me up. I woke and said to him, "What time is it?" He said, "It's two o'clock and it's now your turn."

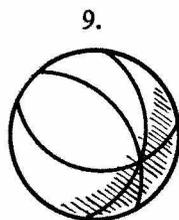
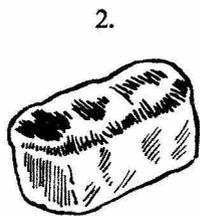
When I went on deck again I noticed we were on a course travelling south-west. Bill said, "After about an hour, you should see the flashing light on your starboard, that will be Penrith Island lighthouse."

*to conclude next month*

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

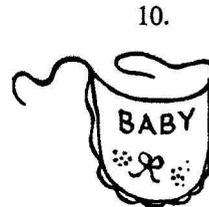
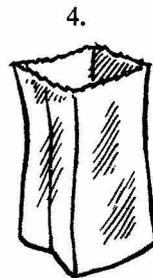


THE FIRST LETTER OF EACH WORD IN THIS PUZZLE IS "B"  
DOWN



1. Noise made by a dog.
3. Club used in playing baseball.
7. Nickname for Robert.
11. What fire will do.
13. Furniture used to sleep in.
14. A busy insect, maker of honey.

ACROSS



2. An infant.
5. A vegetable.
6. The second letter of the alphabet.
8. Before it opens, a flower is a ---.
13. A small stream.
15. Nickname for Benjamin.

## CAN YOU HELP US ?

We want very much to locate the writer of this letter which was sent to our Counsellor a few months ago. We have lost the envelope which had the name and address of the person who kindly sent us the letter, part of which is printed below. If you have written this letter or if you are the person who has helped to bring this man to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ please write and tell us. We shall be most grateful.

We are quoting only that part of the letter which is not confidential.

Dear Sir,

I am very glad to receive your letter again . . . On the 27th of May, 1957, a friend of mine from Seminary came to see me and preached Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection. From then on, he often referred me to some portions in the Bible to read. Through him I began to recognise Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

Now I beg you to direct me to know more about God and to help my family so that they too may be saved. May God bless you.

## Household Hints

**DISSOLVE** A little camphor in the water when cleaning windows and mirrors. Flies will not rest on them after this treatment.

**MAKE BRAISED** oxtail go further by cutting a pound of shin of beef into matching chunks. Cook with the oxtail and you'll have a plentiful dish.

Solution on page 16

## Dodged Rent for 10 Years . . .

# S. M. says Board "Very Tolerant" in Eviction Bid

It is with some regret that the Aborigines Welfare Board reports that a total of £63,855 is owed in rent by tenants of homes on Stations and Reserves.

This was disclosed in the recent case of Mr. Horace Saunders, who left a house on the Taree Aboriginal Station after the Board was reluctantly forced to take action to recover rent which was outstanding for a period of more than ten years.

Mr. J. Scott, S.M., who granted the order to eject Saunders, said, "he knew of no more flagrant refusal by a tenant to face up to his obligations".

There had been no suggestion that Saunders had never been in a position to pay rent for the cottage.

"The Board has been very tolerant over the years in dealing with Saunders," the Magistrate said.

Unhappily the eviction aroused some controversy. Purfleet residents took sides in the matter—some for and some against.

Perhaps the most pertinent comment at the time came from a well-spoken aboriginal woman who is reported to have publicly "deplored" eviction as a "disgrace to the aboriginal race".

The woman, who clearly had deep feelings on the matter, added: "I am not afraid of anybody but if a man isn't prepared to pay for a roof over his head then he is not fit to live under it."

Other tenants claimed it was just as "dishonest" to fail to pay rent as it was to fail to pay grocery bills and taxi fares.

After the court case the Board made a special appeal to all tenants financially capable of paying rent to be regular with payments and avoid the possible discomfiture and humiliation of being forced to leave their homes.

The rental charged on good type houses built since the war is very low—17s. 6d. a week.

If through unemployment or illness a tenant is temporarily unable to pay rent he should advise the Manager or Welfare Officer of the facts.

In these cases all tenants of the Board are assured of every consideration.

Where a tenant fails to meet his obligations for no good reason the Board must give consideration to making the home available to some adversely housed family which needs a home and is prepared to make every attempt to pay rent.

---

### SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN	ACROSS
1. Bark.	2. Baby.
2. Bread.	4. Bag.
3. Bat.	5. Beet.
7. Bob.	6. B.
9. Ball.	8. Bud.
11. Burn.	10. Bib.
12. Broom.	12. Bell.
13. Bed.	13. Brook.
14. Bee.	15. Ben.

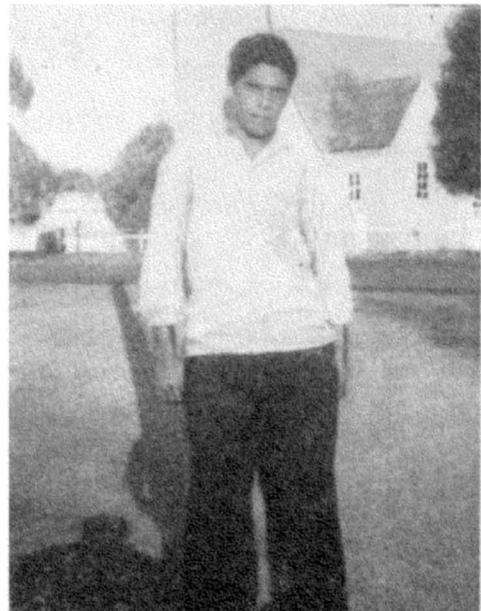
---

*"An army must have generals to lead it, but if the only men in it who have the mark of greatness are generals, it will win few victories."*

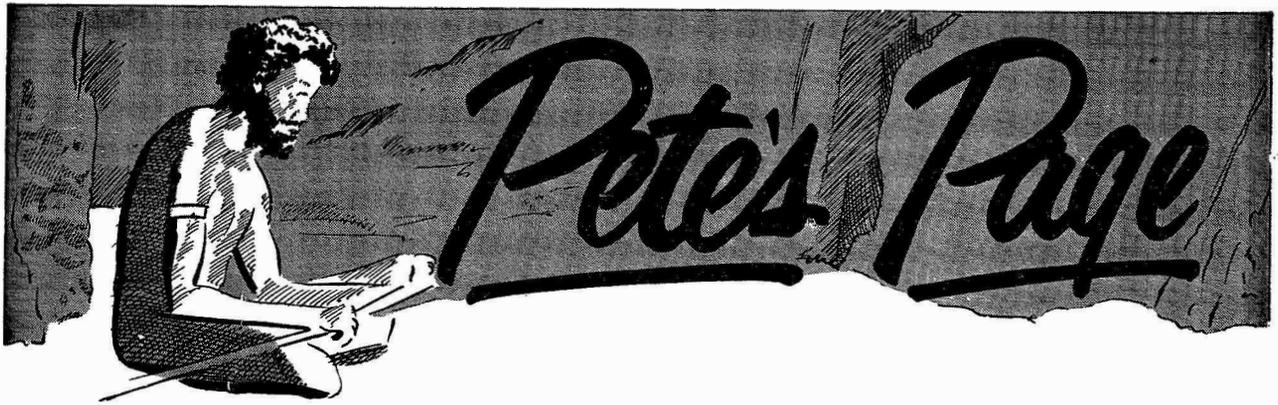
—Field Marshal Lord Slim.

*"The fountain of contentment must spring up in the mind; and he who has so little knowledge of human nature as to seek happiness by changing anything but his own disposition will waste his life in fruitless efforts and multiply the griefs which he purposes to remove."*

—Dr. Samuel Johnson.



Eddie Walker of Box Ridge



Hello Kids,

You will all have read with pride in this issue the success story of three young aborigines at the Leaving Certificate examinations held last year.

One of the candidates, Michael Bryant, was granted a scholarship by the Education Department and is now at a Teachers' Training College studying to be a school teacher.

Patricia Davis from Casino is in Sydney where the Aborigines Welfare Board has placed her in employment as an office assistant at the Institute of Clinical Pathology laboratories at Lidcombe.

David Kerin, who is blind, plans to go on to the Royal Blind Institute in London to study physiotherapy.

The success of these three young people shows what can be done by our children and the Board is proud to have been able to assist them by way of bursaries.

In N.S.W. every aborigine has the right to the best in education in the same way and on the same level as any other child.

They take the same lessons and the same opportunities are given for them to progress to Leaving Certificate standard and even higher.

Despite these chances we still find many children being encouraged by parents and others to leave school as soon as they reach 15.

Parents who might skip reading our page should be reminded that the Board will help keep children at school, particularly where kids show promise of reaching Intermediate Certificate standard.

The Board assists with fees, text books and uniforms. Bursaries awarded by the Board and other interested groups are intended for this purpose.

The days when aboriginal boys leaving school were able to find only casual jobs on station properties or farms in the country and dead-end tasks as unskilled labour in towns are fast disappearing.

The Public Services—both State and Commonwealth—as well as large city firms and banks are only too anxious to employ boys as clerks and apprentices provided they have reached Intermediate standard.

There are also expanding opportunities for girls in the business world, the nursing profession and other responsible tasks.

That is why education is so vitally important today. The rewards are great and parents would do well to keep in touch with headmasters and teachers who have the interests of their children at heart. The teachers are only too willing to talk over the progress of their pupils and advise on prospects for the future.

In a special message to our page the Chairman of the Board (Mr. Kingsmill) has stressed: "There is room at the top for the aborigine child through education. Let us see more of our students in the teachers' colleges, public services and universities".

I'm sure most parents will back the Board to the limit in that aim but so much is up to you kids. I for one reckon you have what it takes. Let's have more success stories.

Your sincere pal,

### *Back Cover Caption . . .*

**Clem Dodd, 12, of Walgett (left) and Donella Waters, 12, of Boggabilla sit inside the jet engine air intake for a close look at a V-Jet.**

