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# Dawn



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

December, 1954





## OUR COVER

This is the month of Christmas, the time of Goodwill and Good Cheer, and it is only appropriate that our cover should be one symbolising the youth and happiness of our modern times.

To each and everyone, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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"DAWN" . . . .

*is a Magazine Published by the Aborigines Welfare Board for the Aboriginal People of New South Wales*

Editor : E. Colin Davis, J.P.



Mr. M. H. Saxby



Mrs. I. English



Mr. J. W. Mullins

## Christmas Messages . . .

I DESIRE to convey to all our aboriginal friends, my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

No doubt you will be planning many festivities at this time of the year, both in your homes and in the various schools and Stations. It will, of course, not be possible for me to attend them all, much as I wish to do so. I would like you to know, however, that I will be with you in spirit and I do trust that the Christmas Season will be a time of happiness and rejoicing for all.

New Year resolutions are, too often, quickly forgotten, but let us all firmly resolve, by mutual goodwill and co-operation, to work in the coming year for the benefit and happiness of one another.

With all good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

M. H. SAXBY,  
Superintendent.

“PEACE ON EARTH—Goodwill to all men”—the message of Christmas that has endured the ages and is as inspiring today as on that first Christmas morning, nearly 2,000 years ago.

I do not, therefore, feel that those words are unfitting as my Christmas message to the aboriginal readers of “*Dawn*”. Only by extending goodwill to our fellows may we expect goodwill in return and an acceptance of true fellowship.

I trust that during the festive Season you will enjoy the happy family reunions which form such a great part in the Australian way of life. True, it is a custom that has come to us from what we term the “Home Country,” but nevertheless we have accepted it here and I think it epitomises, very definitely, the message of Christmas which I have chosen.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

J. W. MULLINS  
Secretary.



**Santa Claus has to travel through many countries as he goes about distributing all his gifts, and he always finds Australia one of the warmest.**

**And what do you think he does very early on Boxing Day? Well, he gets a couple of friends and goes to the nearest beach for a paddle. And do you blame him?**

## *Christmas Message*

*from* IRENE ENGLISH

DEAR PEOPLE,

Once again the Christmas Season is upon us with its festivities and rejoicing.

From the Dawn of History, Christmas week has been celebrated.

In ancient times it was the occasion for gladness because the sun had turned in its orbit and was once more approaching nearer the earth with its promise of warmth and a new Spring.

Today we celebrate it as the anniversary of the birth of Our Lord, which was also hailed with great rejoicing and with the promise of better things.

For whatever reason it has been celebrated, it has also been a time to forget enmity and differences between people and to extend goodwill to our fellows.

And so I ask you to practise this spirit of good fellowship to one another, not only now but throughout all the days of the coming year.

What a wonderful place this old world would be if such a pleasant relationship could be maintained, not only here but amongst all nations and peoples!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

# THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE

## *Colour Prejudice Must Go*

- AS it has often been pointed out, the objective of the Aborigines Welfare Board is the ultimate assimilation of the aboriginal people into the general community. Welfare Officers endeavour to supplement the work of Station Managers, whose duty it is to educate and encourage the aborigines in the attainment of acceptable standards of living and social behaviour. They act as liaison officers between the administration, the aborigines, and the members of the community.

The effectiveness of their work can be seen, firstly in the improved relationships between aborigines and the Board, and secondly in the decreasing degree of prejudice manifest in the white community.

Before the appointment of Welfare Officers, the vast majority of aborigines had little contact with the Board and regarded it merely as an administrative body in the capital city, responsible for their control and direction. The advent of the Welfare Officer has given them a more personal contact and helped them to understand that the Board exists rather for their help and encouragement than merely to control.

It is regrettable that a measure of prejudice still exists in some quarters against these people. It varies from a blind, unreasoning intolerance based upon extremely superficial judgment, through mere apathy, to active antagonism. However, progress is noticeable in the attitude of the white population towards the dark people, and as feelings of understanding and tolerance replace ignorance and antipathy, the aborigine is found to be responsive, and is encouraged to make his own effort to bridge the gap.



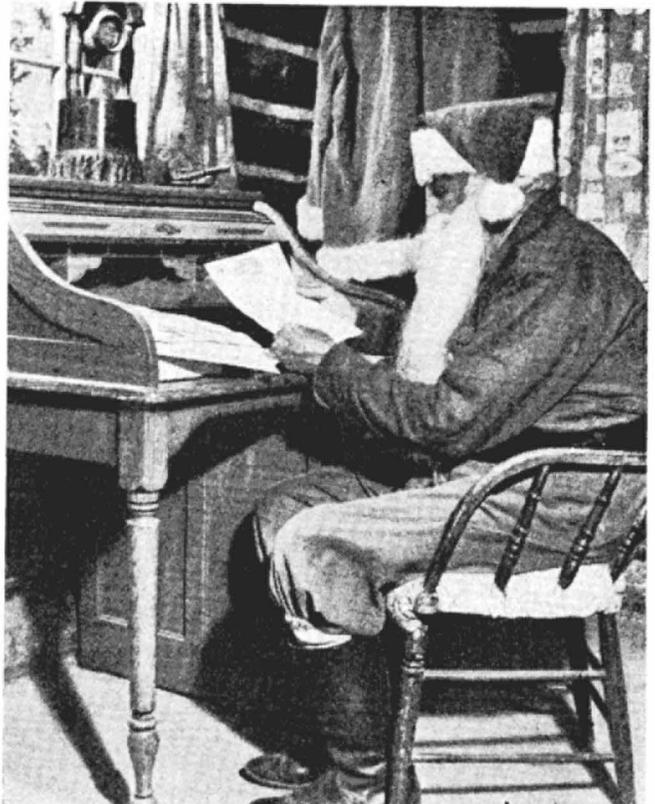
The policy of the Board, strongly supported by the Education Department, of enrolling aboriginal children in the ordinary public schools, is paying dividends, and is regarded as a potent factor in the elimination of prejudice, the results of which will probably not be fully experienced until the present generation of children reach maturity. The benefit of training aboriginal girls in domestic science is even now bearing fruit which will be seen more fully when they become homemakers in the future.

All Welfare Officers have been active in securing the maximum amount of work for aboriginal workers and report pleasing results in their endeavours to obtain employment in work of a permanent character, in skilled or semi-skilled occupations, rather than in unskilled seasonal work.

It is considered that the improvement of the "job status" of aboriginal workmen will not only improve the economic stability of the home, but will act as an excellent morale builder. Employment has been found with the Railway Department, public works, saw-mills, factories, as well as regular pastoral work. A number are contractors on their own account.

It is not easy to wean the aboriginal from casual seasonal work, catering as it does for the tendency in many to lead a nomadic life and offering opportunity for high wages and free spending for all members of the family.

*[Continued on next page]*



**As Christmas Day draws near Santa Claus's mail is getting heavier and heavier. Here we see him at his desk somewhere at the North Pole reading some late letters from boys and girls throughout the world.**

# BOYS WIN MEDALS

## Life Saving Award

Two South Coast aboriginal boys have been awarded lifesavers' bronze medallions.

The boys, Bill Hughes, 16, and Bill Dixon, 17, are members of the Bermagui Life Savings Club.

Far South Coast Life Saving Association secretary A. H. Bown said the boys are the first aboriginals to win a bronze medallion.

Mr. Bown said both were as "keen as mustard".

He said the boys were excellent mixers and took a prominent part in the club's activities.

They compete in all the carnivals, and Bill Dixon is the standard-bearer for the march past team.

Both boys compete in the surf races and were in the Bermagui R. and R. team which won last year's championship on the south coast.



Neta Boyd, of  
Woodenbong, with  
young Arthur  
Bundock.



## THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE—continued from page 5

Close attention has been given to the supervision of families living in sub-standard accommodation off Stations and Reserves. Many of the homes of these people afford only the barest minimum of accommodation and little effort is made to provide even the meanest comforts of home.

The appointment of a trained nurse as lady Welfare Officer to work particularly among such families will, it is hoped, in time effect no small measure of improvement.



During the year the Board arranged with the Department of Public Health to inaugurate a medical survey of aboriginal populations in various centres, particularly in relation to the incidence of worm infestation. This was found to be high and appropriate treatment has been commenced and preventive measures devised.



●These two very charming young lasses are Una Nean of Caroonia and her sister Vera. They are both looking forward to a visit to the city in the near future.

## OUR MISSING PEOPLE

### CAN YOU HELP ?

We are still trying to locate the following people who have amounts standing to their credit with the Board's Trust Account :—

- CLARKSON, Kathleen (or son, Colin Clarkson).
- COMBO, Douglas.
- HILT, Lola.
- JOHNSON, Harold.
- KAY, Percy.
- LOAF, George.
- MURRAY, Melda.
- WAITES, Roy.
- WELCH, Raymond.

Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of any of these people, please advise the Board as soon as possible.

X-ray examination was conducted in a number of centres and results were gratifying. Cases of T.B. discovered proved to be surprisingly few. In appropriate cases, admission to hospital was arranged.

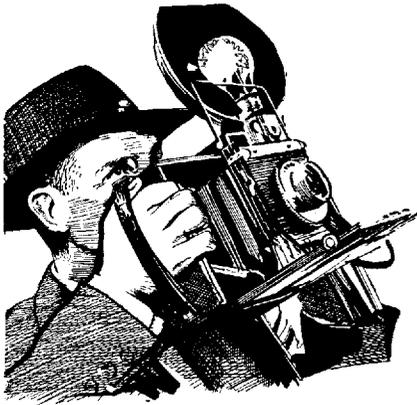
The interest on the part of the aboriginal people in community activities is increasing, and their support of local hospitals, ambulance and other civic organisations is reflected in their growing acceptance in the community.

It is the constant aim of the Board and its officers to impress upon aborigines the vital necessity to make their own contribution toward the goal of assimilation.



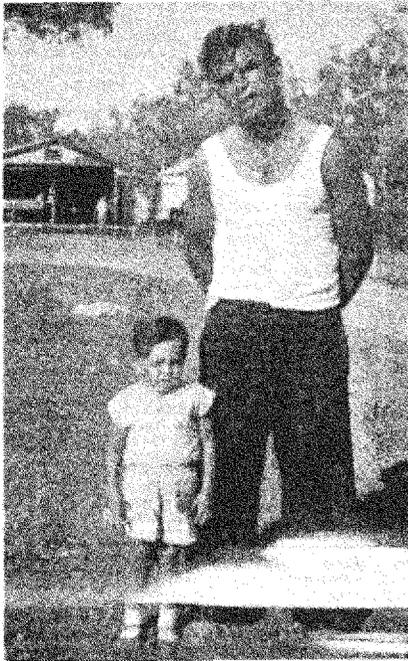
Peace on Earth, Goodwill to men . . . Goodwill to men of all colours, of all classes and of all creeds. Let us do unto others as we would have them do unto us so we may make not only Christmas Day, but every day, a happy one for all

# 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



Doug McGrady of Boggabilla and his son . . . a real chip off the old block!



Andy Harvey of Coffs Harbour made sure his canine friend was well in the picture.



This charming bride, now Mrs. Tom McGrady of Boggabilla, was formerly Miss Mary Armstrong.



Jack Walker of Tabulam with the bride he had just given away, Susan Williams.



Three young ladies from Woodenbong . . . Gertrude Williams, Valmai Williams and Lucy Briggs.



The young lady hiding in the flowers is Malvena Williams of Guyra.



These two young ladies took advantage of a nice sunny day to take baby for a walk.



A group from Boggabilla . . . Don McIntosh, Beatrice Water, Ian McGrady, Mrs. Carstairs, Bert Prince and Isabel McGrady.



Kinchela scholar and athlete, Harry Penrith being inducted as prefect at Kempsey High School.



Doreen Wise of Swan Hill thought the park swing was grand.



Henry Murray and George Binge of Boggabilla and a few of their boxing trophies.



Another little girl from Swan Hill, Kathleen Wise.



Players and spectators waiting for the Carona bus to Manilla.



Members of the Boggabilla School athletic team which won the major cup at the recent P.S.A.A. sports at Moree.



*Be Careful with . . .*

## **Your Children's Hair**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARENTS**

The hair of children is liable to get in an unclean condition owing to infection by small insects known as head lice. These insects live on the head, and their eggs, commonly called "Nits," will be found as whitish specks firmly glued to the hair, especially about the nape of the neck.

The condition is likely to spread wherever children play together, so that even clean children of the most careful parents may become infected, but with proper treatment and a little trouble it can be got rid of readily. It should never be neglected, as it may lead to the formation of scabs and sores on the head and enlarged glands in the neck.

#### **DIRECTIONS FOR CLEANSING THE HAIR AND KEEPING IT CLEAN**

It is not sufficient to get rid of all living parasites from the head, the eggs or nits also must be completely removed from the hairs, as any live nits will hatch out in about eight days and so keep the trouble going.

To cleanse the hair the following directions should be carefully carried out.

1. Take equal parts of Eucalyptus oil and Olive oil—mix, and thoroughly saturate hair and scalp at night with the mixture. Wrap the head in a towel and leave it so for the night. Next morning wash the child's head with hot water and soap and remove all traces of the oil. After thoroughly drying, saturate with vinegar, separating hair and strands, and brush with a stiff brush. Repeat the process twice a week for a fortnight. (If preferred, Kerosene and Olive oil may be used instead of the diluted Eucalyptus mixture—see caution this page.)



2. In case of boys and troublesome cases in girls the hair should be cut in order to make treatment easier and more thorough.

3. To remove nits from the hair, comb frequently with a fine tooth-comb, preferably made of metal, dipped in vinegar. Finally "shampoo" the hair, using borax and soap powder, or soap with a solution of borax, two teaspoonsful to a pint of hot water.

4. Hats and caps of the children which will most likely be infected at the same time as the hair, must be disinfected. This may be done by prolonged baking in an oven—scorching may be avoided by wrapping the article in a newspaper.

After doing this the hats and caps should be lined with some washable material such as calico, linen, etc., during the treatment of the head mentioned above.

5. Treatment with D.D.T.—In persistent cases of pediculosis, it is suggested that 10 per cent. D.D.T. powder should be used.

Oily preparations of D.D.T. should NOT be used.

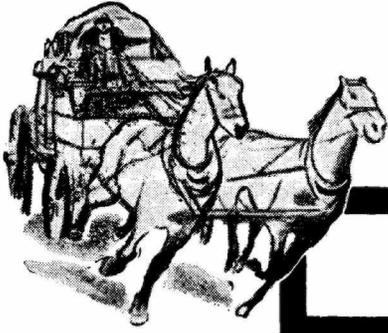
The powder should be shaken into the hair from a perforated container about four times in ten days, and combed through the hair on each occasion. Avoid getting the powder into eyes or nose. The head should be washed on the fourth or fifth day, and at the end of the treatment. Hats and the upper portion of clothing which cannot be boiled should be dusted with the powder.

Steps should be taken to remove nits as described in paragraph 3. If reinfection takes place the full treatment should be repeated.

6. Combs and brushes may also transmit infection. These should be cleaned by soaking in hot phenyle solution, a tablespoonful to a cupful of water, or a solution of cyllin, a teaspoonful to a pint. Each child should be provided with its own comb and brush and should use no other.

7. Children should be cautioned against exchanging hats and caps, as this helps to spread infection.

**CAUTION.**—Kerosene is inflammable, and must not be used near fires or lights.



## *Along the Mail Route*

With the first coming of spring, flowers are much in evidence at Caroona. Mrs. Alma Saunders has a very lovely show, and there are many others that are a credit to the gardeners.

The children from the Caroona Station school went to Willow Tree to take part in the District School Sports.

They were not very successful in the events, but should do much better next year, now they have had the experience. However, everyone had a very good time.

Drought conditions still prevail at Walgett, but there's always a few fish in the river!

During the month of September, Mr. Bray, the Plants Officer, visited Walgett Station.

Mrs. Maria Boney, of Brewarrina, is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Whitford at the Walgett Aboriginal Station.

At the P.S.A.A. Meeting held at Moree recently the Boggabilla Aboriginal Station School team were tops when they won the cup for the Junior Schools. It was a remarkable effort, considering it was their first time participating in such a public event. The boys and girls were even more excited when they received a congratulatory telegram from Mr. Saxby.

At the sports meeting the Boggabilla children were ever so smartly dressed. The parents had undergone considerable expense to get their children uniformly attired. They were a credit to their School and Station.

Patty Prince is to be especially congratulated for her fine display. She won the coveted blazer badge. It was a shame that she tripped and fell to lose the hundred yards race when she was well in the lead. Owing to this mishap, Patty missed out on being selected to represent in the Schools Athletic Meeting in Sydney. Don't be down-hearted, Patty, you will certainly get there next year.



**A group of happy Boggabilla youngsters.**

The vegetable garden will benefit greatly by the two inches of rain which has fallen at Burra Bee Dee in recent weeks. Residents are anxiously counting shoots as they appear in the potato patch. A little more volunteer labour would keep those weeds down.

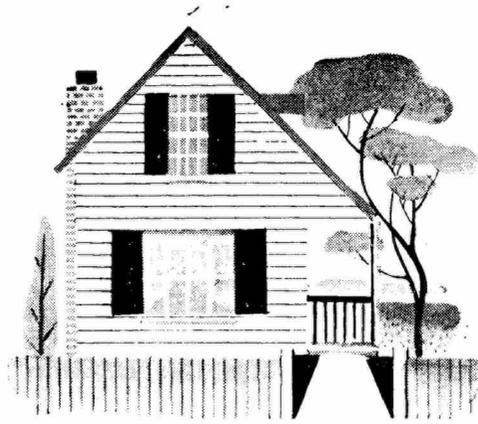
Old friends will part shortly when the dairy herd at Burra Bee Dee is disposed of. However, it says much for the people of the station that they require so little help with rations that the herd is no longer considered necessary.

Mrs. Grace Waters and Mrs. Grace Binge, of Boggabilla, have both undergone operations in the Goondiwindi District Hospital. They were both missed very much on the station, but it was not long before they returned, feeling a 100 per cent.



**Some of the champion girl athletes from Boggabilla.**

# HOME



# HINTS

To mend a small hole in a saucepan, use a press stud. Put the peg end through the hole from the inside and the hollow end on the outside. Press together.

When cooking on a wood stove, rub saucepans with greased paper on the outside, and you will get rid of the blackness without any labor when washing up.

When rice has been burnt through overcooking, take off the fire, place a wet towel over the saucepan lid, and allow to stand for 10 minutes. Do not remove the saucepan lid until ready to serve. Then the rice will be free of any burnt taste.

A piece of painted linen or sugar bag placed along the inside of worn spouting and given a good thick coat of paint will last a long time, plugging small holes or cracks through which the water drops.

When glass has been broken and is scattered about the floor, use wet blotting or newspaper to pick up the fragments.

A drawing pin pushed into the heel of a shoe serves as a good emergency protector until the heel can be repaired.

Housewives who wear spectacles while working in kitchen or laundry, should wipe over lens with a piece of dry soap to prevent the steam passing over without leaving the usual smear. Any kind of soap will do but the cloth used must be perfectly dry and clean.

Scale fish with a dessertspoon instead of a knife. It is easier and the scales do not scatter about so much.

To save ice, make a sling of two or three thicknesses of butter muslin and fasten it to the ice box with small tacks. Place the block of ice in the sling being sure that it does not touch anywhere.

For that hard to clean rubber floor do not use soap and water. A cloth dipped in kerosene will remove all dirt and black marks with very little rubbing. The floor can then be polished, if wished, in the usual way.

## Flower Pedestal For Lawn or Porch Improvised From Sewer Tile.

Standing a length of sewer, or drain, tile on end provides an attractive, durable flower pedestal for use in the yard or on a terrace. A large tile may be filled with soil and used in the manner of a flower box, while a smaller size may be used to support a flowerpot, the rim of the pot resting on the end of the tile. A coloured or a clear, glossy finish can be had by applying a coat of enamel or lacquer.

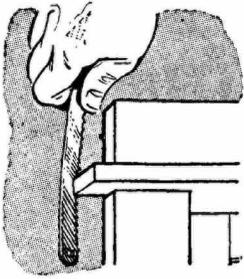


Into a badly burned saucepan pour a little olive oil. Heat it gently and let stand for an hour or two. Pour away the oil and clean the saucepan as usual. The stain will have disappeared.

A simple and speedy method to clean and restore the new look to a tapestry brick hearth, rub over with a clean cloth that has been dipped in vinegar.

# HELP YOURSELF

## WALLPAPERING AROUND WINDOW SILL



To do a neater job and save time when wallpapering around window sills, use a hacksaw blade to make a saw cut between the projecting portions of the sill and the wall. Then the paper can be slipped behind the sill instead of being cut to fit around it. Be sure

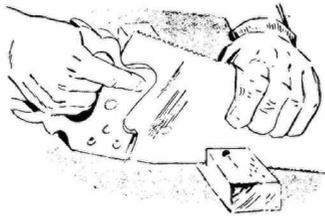
to hold the saw blade tightly against the wall while cutting.

—◆—

Glass tumblers can be separated by putting the bottom one in warm water and pouring cold water in the top one.

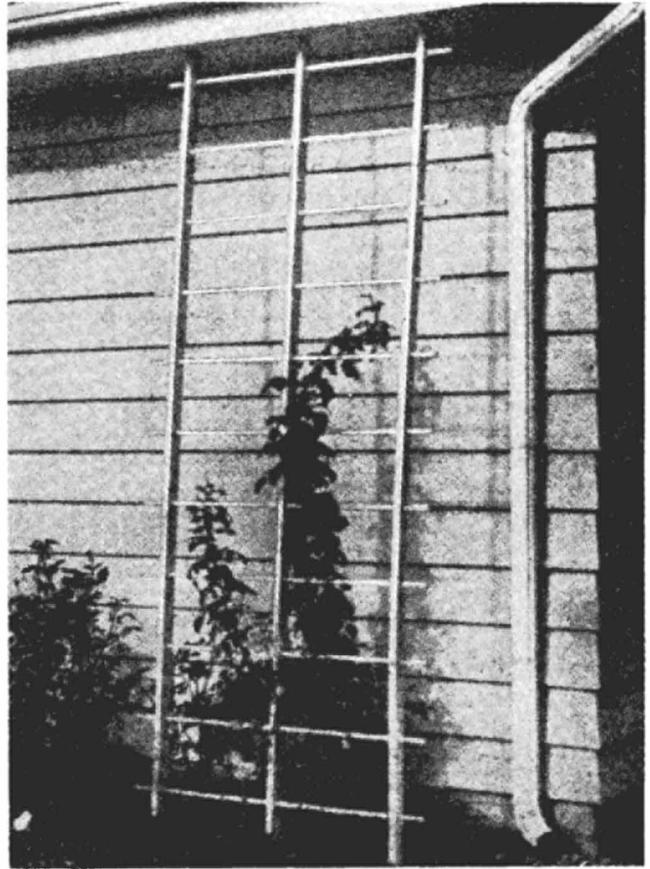
## TEETH FILED ON BACK EDGE OF SAW BLADE USED FOR CUTTING NAILS.

Teeth filed on the back of a handsaw blade will come in handy for cutting nails embedded in old lumber. However, for best results, the teeth should be filed at right angles to the blade and must not be set. When a nail is encountered, simply reverse the blade and cut through it. If desired, the section where the extra teeth are cut may be hardened.



## Painting Outdoor Furniture

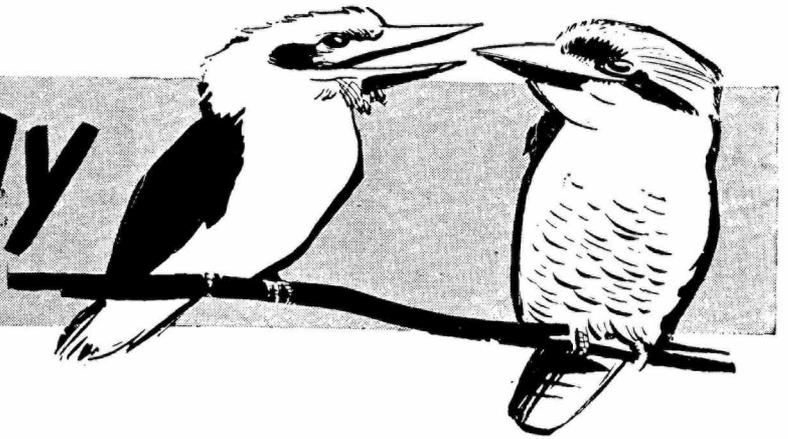
Before painting outdoor furniture, apply a coat of shellac to the surface. This will keep the resin in the wood from bleeding through the paint, and the latter will retain its original colour throughout the summer. If you apply weatherproofing compound to swings and lawn furniture, keep the weatherproofing from streaking or running by binding it to the wooden base with a thin undercoat of shellac.



## QUICKLY CONSTRUCTED TRELLIS

Because of the simplicity of its design, this sturdy trellis can be built in only a few minutes. It is particularly suited to climbing roses planted near a house, garage or other building. The three upright members are lengths of 1 x 2-in. stock which are clamped together and drilled at 8-in. intervals to receive the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. dowel cross members. The lower ends of the uprights are set into the ground, while the upper ends are attached with angle brackets to the overhang of the roof.

# THEY SAY



The Boggabilla Station Boxing Team recently visited Ashford, and returned victorious, bringing with them beautiful cups. Congratulations to Henry Murray, George Binge, Mervyn Jerrett, Neville Binge.

Some excellent football was witnessed at Boggabilla when the Station team played a visiting team from Yetman. Despite the fact that Boggabilla lost 8-6, the team is to be congratulated. Weight for weight, the Yetman team was twice as heavy.

Lloyd Dennison of Boggabilla is to be congratulated on his fine effort of completing a very fine vegetable garden for his old father, Charlie Dennison. Similar congratulations to Mrs. Susie McGrady, Mrs. Alice Haines, Mrs. Leila Dennison, Mrs. Troutman and Mrs. Ruby McIntosh.



Henry ("Tape") Murray of Boggabilla compares stances with fellow champion George Binge.

Allan McKenzie, husband of Madge McKenzie of Walgett, is in hospital at Dubbo and we hope he will have a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Dennis (senior) of Brewarrina recently visited their sons and families at the Walgett Aboriginal Station.

We regret to learn that Susie, wife of Dudley, senior, had to undergo a major operation, but she is well again, and was very pleased to see her grandchildren at Walgett Station.

The hornets are plentiful at Walgett, and one poor wee lass, Elaine Ward, was stung on the nose, and suffered considerable pain until the sting was treated.

The current hero at Walgett, in the opinion of the little ones, is Panda, the Station cat, who, the other week, tackled a six-foot long brown snake. The snake, which was on the lawn at the Manager's residence, seemed to be winning, when Jack Whitford stepped in and killed it.

Snakes are plentiful just now, and again all children have been given lessons on what to do for snake-bite.

The swimming season is on again at Walgett and instruction has been given in life saving, the method shown by Mr. Walker, the drill instructor, who visited the Station school a few weeks ago.

At another sports meeting at Goondiwindi, the Boggabilla Station were again to the fore. Seventy-five per cent. of the prizes went to Boggabilla. Even the Manager won the Putting the Shot event! Victor Dennison did exceedingly well in winning the 440 yards open event. Victor came away with an enormous cup. Congratulations, Victor.

As a finale to the Goondiwindi Sports Meeting, the Boggabilla Aboriginal Station Women's Football Team beat a Women's team from Goondiwindi in a very decisive manner, the score being 13 to nil.

The residents of Boggabilla Station have expressed a desire to convey to Mrs. Somers, through *Dawn*, their heartfelt sympathies at the sudden demise of Mr. John Somers.

# THE ABORIGINES IN THE EVERARD RANGES

## *A New Policy for Tribal Natives*

By

MICHAEL SAWTELL

*Well-known Lecturer, Author and Traveller, and  
Member of the Aborigines Welfare Board.*

I recently did my annual tour of the Inland, a thousand-mile tour of the desert north of Lake Eyre.

A good deal of the time I was the guest of Mr. Walter Kidman, who is the Managing Director of Kidman Estates, and Mr. Ernie Kempe, who is the General Manager of Macumba Station out from Oodnadatta—the largest cattle station in Australia. It is 15,000 square miles in area.



Typical desert country around Oodnadatta.

I went out with Mr. Jack Hanney, the mailman, for a 600-mile round tour west of Oodnadatta.

This took in Everard Park Station, which is right on the border of what I consider is one of the most interesting aboriginal reserve in Australia.

This Reserve is in the Everard Ranges, in the extreme north-western corner of South Australia.

Actually it is very large, for it takes in the three States, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

I was unable to travel over the actual reserve, but I know that class of country, and I was fortunate enough in Oodnadatta to meet Prof. Cleland, the Vice-Chairman of the South Australian Aborigines Protection Board, and Mr. Bartlett, the Chief Protector, or, whom we would call in New South Wales, the Secretary.

I had the pleasure of having a long talk to these two gentlemen about aboriginal welfare, and they also gave me some reliable and most interesting information about the Everard Ranges Reserve.

The Everard Ranges are a most peculiar formation, and not a bit like what we ordinarily call ranges, for there are no hills, valleys, divides or creeks. These strange ranges are great piles of red rocks on slightly rising ground and extending for many miles. The tops are completely bare, but when the rain pours off these bare tops, it runs down into deep crevasses in the rocks, in which grow all kinds of vegetation and trees.

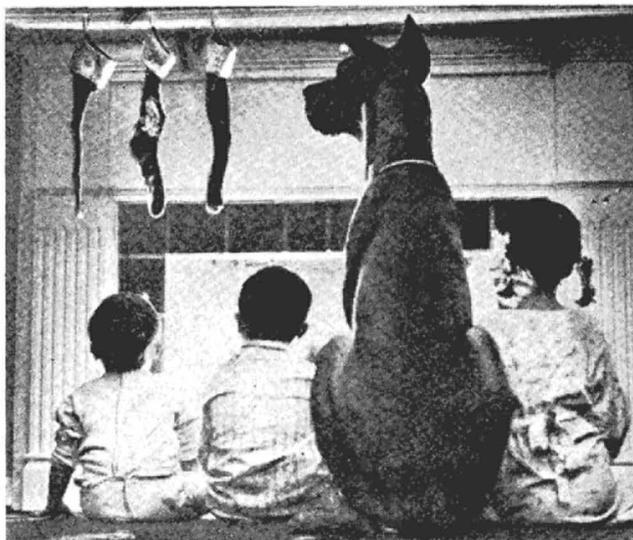
There are soaks in crevasses at which the wild animals and bush aborigines drink.

The McDonnell and the Musgrave Ranges are much the same kind of formation, and so also is that huge bare monolith, Ayers Rock.

On the Everard Reserve, the Aborigines Board of South Australia is trying out a policy with bush tribal aborigines, a policy I think most sensible people will agree is practical.

The Board is allowing the aborigines to become detribalised in their own slow, easy and natural way. It does not interfere with the bush aborigines native tribal or marriage laws, which is most important. Of course, circumstances favour the Reserve, for it is isolated. It is really one of the most isolated parts of Australia. It is 200 miles west of either Alice Springs or Oodnadatta. No white men wish to go there, for there is no mineral in the Everard Ranges, and no crocodiles or buffaloes to shoot.

[Continued next page



**A fellow never knows . . . there MIGHT be a stray bone or two about!**



This young fellow insisted on feeding one of Santa's reindeer (?) but all of a sudden he was rather doubtful about the whole idea.

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### *The Aborigines in the Everard Ranges—continued from page 15*

The bush aborigines on the Everard Reserve are more or less influenced by the Ernabella Mission, which is about 70 miles north of the Everard Reserve. Some years ago, whilst I was visiting Ernabella, I saw a real old bush aborigine all done up in red ochre. This real old aborigine of the desert could not speak a word of English. I just wonder what he told the tribe about what he saw at Ernabella.

The bush aborigines on the reserve now live well. Gone are the days when bush aborigines hunted their way across the country with the women carrying the load. They now have camels and donkeys to carry all their baggage. They now make a good living at dogging and they arrive at a station or at Ernabella with £50 worth of dog scalps to buy food. They may also apply at any of the adjoining stations for government rations. The wisdom of this slow detribalisation policy is seen in these figures. There

are, I was told, 400 aborigines on the reserve and 116 young babies, which is most remarkable. That means that the aborigines are holding their own, and that the birth rate is not decreasing, because the mothers are being well fed. A young aborigine mother has a tough time, for she has to hunt her food from the day the child is born. The aborigines have lived in and around the Everard Ranges for centuries and their assimilation into our civilisation may take generations, but that does not matter. We hope that they will learn our way of life gradually, so that when they do leave the reserve they will be morally strong enough to resist the white man's vices.

Constable Thompson of Oodnadatta told me that there is not the slightest hope of any aborigine getting liquor there, for he said, "The real bush people are not the class of people who blackmarket booze to aborigines."

# SUCCESSFUL COWRA FUNCTION

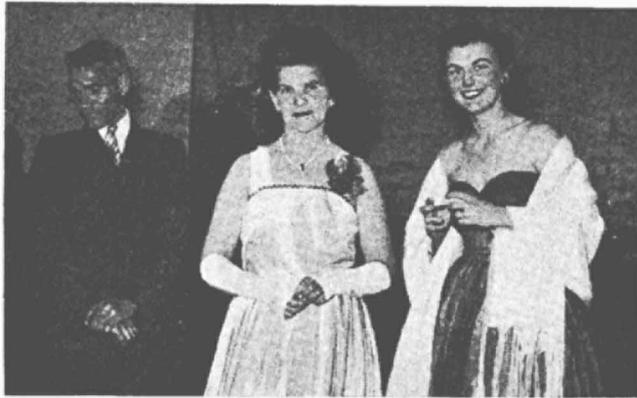
## BELLE OF THE BALL WAS BEAUTIFUL

One of the most successful functions of the year was a Show Ball which was held in the Hall of Cowra Aboriginal Station recently. The brightly decorated hall and the excellent refreshments served were a credit to the members of the Progress Committee. The hall was packed with visitors, some coming from as far as Sydney and Narrandera.

Highlight of the evening was the selection of the Belle of the Ball. This proud title went to Mrs. Alec Christian who looked charming in a pink satin gown. Mr. Hughes, the Transport Officer, and his wife, who did the judging, found it very difficult to choose the Belle from the big number of charming contestants.

In between dances, Josephine Moynihan, Doug Williams, Mrs. Gordon Young, Misses Eva Bell and Olive MacGinness sang popular songs. Mervyn Williams did an impromptu act which nearly brought the house down with laughter.

All present enjoyed themselves immensely, dancing to the music of Harry Tompkins, Roy Carroll, Alec Christian, Fred Freeman and Gordon Simpson.



Mr. and Mrs. Christian and one of the judges, Mrs. Hughes, wife of the local transport officer.



The music makers, Roy Carroll, Fred Freeman and Harry Tompkins.



Two of the many guests, Johnny Williams of Cowra and Paul Merina of the Northern Territory.



The Ball in progress. So many people attended the function that it was impossible for everyone to dance at the one time.



Miss Florence Wedge, one of the finalists in the Belle of the Ball contest.

● IT IS quite easy to realise how difficult it was for the judges to select the winner →

## The Board and its Policy

### Some Barriers Still Remain

1954 is rapidly drawing to a close, and it is interesting to look back on the Board's achievements.

During the year, the Board has pursued its policy, formulated in recent years, of the gradual assimilation of the aboriginal people into the general life of the community.

Education, better housing, regular employment in skilled or semi-skilled occupations by those capable of undertaking such work, and social welfare work by a team of trained Welfare Officers have been the chief means used throughout the year in the implementation of this policy.

Some barriers to the attainment of this objective still remain. They lie in the apathy and lack of initiative on the part of a great number of aborigines, and the prejudice of the white community and its reluctance to fully accept them. It can be said that the efforts of the Board are bearing fruit, and there is evidence on the part of not a few aborigines of an awakening to their responsibilities and a conscious effort towards self-help and a determination to establish themselves as acceptable members of the community. Toward these, there is a perceptible lessening of that prejudice which has for so long characterised the attitude of members of the white race towards the aborigine in Australia.

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## Additions to Board Staff

### Speed-up in Maintenance Work

A number of changes took place in the personnel of Station staff which was, however, maintained at full strength.

The staff of Welfare Officers was increased from five to six, and the Public Service Board approved the appointment of a lady Welfare Officer with nursing qualifications. It is anticipated that she will take up duty early in the new year. This will materially strengthen the corps of Welfare workers and provide a much-needed service, particularly to mothers and adolescent girls.

The Public Service Board also approved the appointment of a Building Maintenance Officer and a Plant Engineer. These appointments will enable much-needed maintenance and repair work to be regularly undertaken.

## Disappointments in Housing Scheme

### Many Fail to Meet Obligations

The Board was able to complete the rebuilding of the Moree Station, and eight additional homes were erected there.

Towards the end of the year, commitments were entered into with the Housing Commission for the erection on town sites of six houses in Yass. These, when erected early next year, will be allotted to worthy aboriginal families. The Board also purchased a number of allotments in other country towns and will build on these in the coming year. It is hoped that funds will be available for the erection of some 50 houses.

During the year, an amount of £9,500 was granted by the Treasury to enable the Board to make advances to selected aborigines by way of loan, to enable them to purchase a home or erect a home on land they may already have acquired. Applications for such loans are now being considered.

Improvements and repairs to dwellings on other Stations have been effected and improved water supplies installed at some Stations and Reserves.

Since the War, the Board has completely rebuilt eight Stations, providing two and three-bedroom houses of modern design. For these, rentals of 15s. and 17s. 6d. per week are charged, in agreement with tenants. This is not regarded as being an economic rental, but as a means of inculcating a sense of responsibility and preparing aborigines to accept their obligations in the community.

While a few have regularly met their commitments, the response generally has been disappointing. The aboriginal people must realise that if they are prepared to accept the advantages, benefits and privileges of assimilation, they must also be prepared to accept its responsibilities.

They must give, as well as take!



Mr. Alex Christian, Harriet Perry, an ex-Cootamundra girl, Laurie Perry and Mrs. Ethel Christian at the Cowra Ball.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

## More Children attend High School

It is the policy of the Board that, wherever possible, aboriginal children should receive their education in the ordinary Public Schools of the State. With this in view, the aboriginal schools on two Stations, viz., Taree and Burra Bee Dee, were closed and the children enrolled at the local Public School.

Where it has been possible to merge the children into public schools, it has been found that they are not only well accepted by white children, but that they invariably hold their own and, in some instances, outstrip the white pupils in educational attainment and sporting ability.

This is a valuable contribution in the process of assimilation, giving as it does to the dark children a degree of confidence in their own ability which could not be gained by continued segregation.

Secondary education is available to any aboriginal child of the requisite standard, and as an encouragement, the Board awards a number of bursaries each year. During the year four were so awarded. There are now twelve current bursaries held by aboriginal pupils attending High Schools.

At the close of the year there was a total of 85 children attending High School.

It is worthy of mention that a number gained the Intermediate Certificate during the year and one boy is now studying for his Leaving Certificate examination.

A young lady who gained her Intermediate Certificate is now undergoing training at Young District Hospital for the nursing profession, and a boy is apprenticed at the Government Motor Garage as a motor mechanic.

At Walgett, the only remaining Station where the duties of Manager and Schoolteacher are combined, a teacher's residence will be erected shortly and these duties separated. This will enable greater oversight to be given to the functions of management and teaching, with resultant benefit to both children and adults on the Station.



Mr. Reg Berry of Sydney, playing marbles with some of the Boggabilla children.

## FOSTER PARENTS ARE NEEDED

### Many Children Await Homes

On the application of a parent or guardian, aboriginal children will be admitted to wardship of the Board, or may be committed by a Children's Court to the care of the Board. Neglected children may be committed to a Children's Home constituted under the Aborigines, Protection Act, for the reception, maintenance, education and training of wards.

The Act also authorises the boarding out of a ward in a selected foster home and the payment of an allowance to the foster parent, in addition to which the foster parent is entitled to claim Child Endowment and to receive further benefits such as medical and dental expenses.



Action to remove a child from its own home is not taken until all efforts to rehabilitate the home have proved unsuccessful. This is important part of the work of Welfare Officers.

The best substitute for a child's own home is a foster home, with competent and sympathetic foster parents. Failing this, the only alternative is a Home under management of the Board's own officers.

Difficulty is experienced in securing an adequate number of suitable foster homes and, for this reason, the Board maintains two Homes for wards, one at Kinchela for boys and one at Cootamundra for girls.

When a ward reaches school leaving age, he or she may be placed in employment, under prescribed conditions, which secure for the ward a proper standard of living and care and adequate remuneration.

All wards in foster homes and employment are visited regularly by Welfare Officers to ensure that the provisions of the Act and Regulations are observed by foster parents and employers.

## YOUR COPY OF "DAWN" - - -

### Pass it on

When you have finished reading your copy of *Dawn* pass it on to some friend or relative who does not get a copy.

Better still, send the name and address of anyone you know is not receiving a copy to the Editor, *Dawn*, Box 30, G.P.O., Sydney, and it will be added to the regular mailing list.

This is YOUR own magazine and you are invited to write to it . . . to send in your photographs, your poems, your stories and your letters.

# STATION POPULATIONS

## Some Interesting Statistics

The following statistics on Stations and Reserves provide some interesting figures:  
Stations.

Station.	Area.	Population on Station.			Rations Recipient			Statistics.								
								Births.			Deaths.			Marriages.		
		1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Bellbrook ...	96	135	128	108	9	10	12	4	8	4	1	...	...	2	...	1
Boggabilla ...	457	254	210	239	49	19	33	10	10	10	2	3	2	2	1	3
Brewarrina ...	4,638	153	143	147	28	34	33	6	9	7	2	7	2	...	1	2
Burnt Bridge ...	613	274	294	319	22	31	51	14	15	14	4	3	6	2	...	...
Burra Bee Dee ...	473	61	59	62	5	...	15	4	4	2	...	...	...	2	1	1
Cabbage Tree Is. ...	125	156	150	155	20	21	29	4	4	3	...	3	2	...	1	1
Cowra ...	31	145	124	141	18	3	7	5	2	1	...	1	1	2	1	2
Jervis Bay ...	100	127	161	166	25	11	...	7	6	2	6	2	...	3	2	1
Moonahcullah ...	232	63	90	64	1	...	3	1	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Moree ...	200	281	283	281	30	21	51	15	15	3	7	5	...	3	1	...
Murrin Bridge ...	937	207	214	218	42	40	53	9	11	3	2	2	3	2	3	1
Quirindi ...	220	147	170	181	...	2	...	8	5	4	2	...	...	4	1	...
Roseby Park ...	66	106	94	101	9	6	6	6	...	2	1	...	1	2	...	...
Tabulam ...	53	108	130	129	...	18	25	...	6	6	...	2	1	...	...	1
Taree ...	51	226	220	244	21	20	22	12	10	14	1	6	4	...	2	1
Walgett ...	337	139	152	151	24	25	32	9	5	8	1	...	3	2	1	1
Wallaga Lake ...	341	72	153	147	13	16	22	6	...	5	5	...	5	1	...	1
Woodenbong ...	126	173	171	155	13	26	32	5	3	5	5	...	6	6	...	2
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>2,903</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>2,968</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>

### Reserves.

Reserve.	Area.	Population on Station or Reserve.			Ration Recipients.		
		1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
Balranald ...	142	49	49	53	...	...	...
Bourke ...	34	32	35	25	...	...	...
Bowraville ...	36	136	137	140	...	4	29
Brungle ...	357	62	40	34	...	5	7
Collarenebri ...	50	134	146	121	...	3	...
Condobolin ...	16	191	70	66	6	7	11
Coraki ...	10	60	59	62	4	9	2
Cubawee ...	24	88	85	86	...	...	...
Cumeroogunga ...	2,600	46	55	45	...	...	...
Darlington Point ...	25	57	20	71	...	...	...
Dubbo ...	18	52	57	46	...	...	...
Forster ...	19	62	79	87	...	...	...
Goodooga ...	80	98	90	110	1	...	1
Goolagong ...	80	21	27	...	...	...	...
Gulargambone ...	52	72	58	74	...	...	...
Karuah ...	50	62	73	56	2	5	2
Kyogle ...	111	14	15	24	...	2	...
La Perouse ...	6	160	186	157	...	3	1
Macksville ...	20	10	4	...	...	...	...
Mungindi ...	100	110	122	60	2	5	...
Nambucca Heads...	70	106	79	76	...	...	...
Pilliga ...	150	30	27	25	5	...	...
Rye Park ...	140	8	9	3	...	...	...
Tibooburra ...	100	2	12	10	2	...	...
Tingha ...	15	80	65	46	...	...	...
Ulgundahi Island ...	44	40	36	24	3	...	3
Uralla ...	100	11	13	7	...	...	...
Walcha ...	107	38	37	36	5	4	5
Wellington ...	100	180	52	42	31	24	38
Wilcannia ...	75	239	254	192	3	8	...
Yass ...	9	59	64	42	2	2	3
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>2,309</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>102</b>

# BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE BOARD

## All Enjoy the Same Privileges

Assistance is provided to indigent aborigines, whether or not residing on Aboriginal Stations or Reserves. It consists of rations, blankets and clothing.

The weekly scale of rations has been approved by the Health Department and consists of:—

Item.	Quantity.
Flour ... ..	10 lb.
Sugar ... ..	2 lb.
Tea ... ..	4 oz.
Jam ... ..	12 oz.
Dripping ... ..	1 lb.
Potatoes ... ..	2 lb.
Onions or Dried Peas ... ..	8 oz.
Baking Powder ... ..	4 oz.
Rice ... ..	1 lb.
Oatmeal ... ..	8 oz.
Powdered Whole Milk ... ..	12 oz.
Soap ... ..	4 oz.
Meat ... ..	4 lb.

Children under fifteen years of age receive half the above ration with the exception of milk, in which case the same is issued to adults and children. In the case of meat, children over the age of nine years also receive 4 lb. weekly. Where raw milk is available, the issue is at least one pint per head per day.

On some Stations where a community garden exists, issues of green vegetables are made as available.

All Stations have treatment rooms where minor ailments or accidents receive attention. Cases beyond the capacity of the Matron are referred to local doctors or hospitals. Drugs, dressing, etc., are issued without charge, irrespective of whether the patient is indigent or not.

Aboriginal patients are entitled to exactly the same hospitalisation as ordinary individuals, and are subject to the means test imposed by hospitals regarding ability to pay. If able to pay, aborigines are expected to do so. They are urged to avail themselves of Medical, Ambulance and Hospital Benefits Schemes, and many have joined.

Christmas cheer is provided every year for the aged, infirm and destitute aborigines, a practice which has been in existence over a long period of time. Special grants are also made to the aboriginal schools to assist in providing funds for the organisation of breaking-up functions. These functions are usually a highlight of local social activity; local interested persons and organisations assist in the finance and arrangements for the parties, their co-operation being further demonstrated by their attendance at the functions. So far as the aboriginal children are concerned, not only the school pupils but also the younger children participate in the parties and the visit of Santa Claus. The boys at Kinchela Home and the girls of Cootamundra Home also have a very happy time at Christmas. They are not forgotten and their Christmas parties and dinner are outstanding events. At the Homes, too, local friends and organisations assist to give the children a pleasurable time at this time of the year.



Tommy Combardello, of Boggabilla, loved by young and old.

## ABORIGINAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS

### Vital Statistics

There is no reliable up-to-date information as to the exact number of aborigines in New South Wales, but the recent census, when figures are complete, will supply this. It is estimated that there are about 12,000 aborigines in the State at present, very few of whom are full bloods.

However, statistics available reveal that, of the total, whatever it may be, 2,968 are resident on Stations and 1,810 are on Reserves.

The remainder comprises a goodly number who either rent or own their own homes and are virtually assimilated into the community and many who have erected shacks on the outskirts of country towns. Many of these are in receipt of good wages and it is a matter for regret that they display little initiative in improving the conditions under which they live.

It is the constant aim of Welfare Officers to endeavour to persuade and encourage such to use their resources more wisely and to move of their own volition in the direction of establishing themselves in decent living conditions.

## WELFARE OFFICERS BUSY

### Many Visits and Interviews

With the responsibility of looking after almost 12,000 aborigines, spread all over our large State, the Board's Welfare Officers, too few in number, have a very busy time.

Figures from the Annual Report of the Aborigines' Welfare Board, showing the number of visits and interviews give some indication of this.

For the six months ending June 30, 1954, they were:

Supervisory home visits ... ..	1,107
Wards of the Board ... ..	152
Neglected or uncontrollable children	168
Stations or Reserves ... ..	398
Police ... ..	306
Schools ... ..	173
Enquiries re employment ... ..	380
Affiliation or maintenance ... ..	225
Public authorities ... ..	328
Voluntary Agencies ... ..	99
Attendance at Court ... ..	46
Miscellaneous ... ..	2,051
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>5,433</b>



Irene Wise, of  
Swan Hill

### Expulsion Orders.

Although the Board has wide powers in regard to the residence of aborigines on its Reserves, it very reluctantly approaches the matter of expelling or refusing admission to any particular aborigine. The attitude adopted over the last few years of avoiding expulsions as far as possible, has proved to have had a very good effect. The issue of a stern warning and follow-up by a Welfare Officer has, in most instances, proved effective in the improvement of the conduct of the person concerned. During the year only three Expulsion Orders were issued, but five were cancelled.

## COOTAMUNDRA GIRLS' HOME

### A Veritable Haven for Many

This Home is a compact block of buildings within the Cootamundra town boundaries. A small dairy herd, vegetable garden and orchard are maintained, together with some poultry, which supply the Home with fresh milk, vegetables, fruit and eggs, to some extent.

The number of inmates at the beginning of the year was 49. There were four admissions and eleven discharges during the period.



Girls of school age attend the Public Schools in Cootamundra, a number being enrolled at the High School. One girl who obtained her Intermediate Certificate has commenced her nursing training at the Young District Hospital.

The health of the girls throughout the year was good. Medical and dental attention to all girls was given twice during the year.

The girls attend the local churches of their particular denomination, and the Church of England Minister attends each Thursday evening for prayers and singing.

They participate in the general sporting activities of the local school, going to other towns to play sports. The tennis court at the home is popular, as also are vigaro and basketball. Week-end hikes and picnics are arranged. Pictures were shown twice during the year, and musical and games evenings were given the children by different societies from the town. The local picture show manager admits the girls free and the children attend when suitable pictures are showing. In season the girls attend the local swimming baths.

Improvements and repairs to buildings were effected during the year, outdoor showers and basins were installed and the dining room louvred. A servery unit and new sink were nstalled.

A pleasing feature of this establishment is the homely atmosphere and excellent esprit de corps. The Home is held in high regard in the district and no difficulties are experienced in securing satisfactory placement for girls who have completed their training. Old girls frequently visit the Home and the Christmas period is always a time for reunion. The Home has proved a veritable haven to many unfortunate girls.



*A Very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy and Prosperous  
New Year to all "Dawn"  
Readers!*



# Kinchela is a Model Home

## Boys are happy and well trained

Kinchela is a home for male wards near Kempsey, on the bank of the Macleay River. It comprises 44 acres of good dairy land on which is maintained a dairy herd and poultry farm. The buildings are of a simple



design and comprise dormitories, dining room, recreation room, kitchen, laundry, ablution block and the usual out-buildings and school. A

swimming pool is on the property, but this was damaged by flood during the year and is at present out of use. The number of inmates on 30th June, 1954, was 51, compared with 57 the previous year. During the year there were three admissions and nine discharges.

The general health of the inmates has been of a high standard, and a complete medical examination was conducted in January. A dentist visited twice during the year and gave attention to inmates. Where necessary, hospital attention is given at the Macleay District Hospital in Kempsey. Surveys were also made for tuberculosis and worm infestation.

Forty-three inmates attend the Public School situated in the Home grounds and four attend Kempsey High School for higher educational training. Of the four boys attending Kempsey High School, one is in fifth year and sat for the Leaving Certificate Examination this year, one is in second year and two are in "opportunity" first year class.

The Public School boys competed in the Public Schools Amateur Athletic sports day meeting held at Kempsey, and although not placed in the winning schools, created much pleasurable comment by their demeanour, dress and cleanliness through the day whilst in the full public view.

Insofar as the High School Sports were concerned, one boy emerged as Senior Athletic Champion for Kempsey High School. Two have represented the High School in the First Grade Rugby Football team, First Grade Cricket team and have travelled to many towns throughout the State with such teams. These two lads have been billeted with white people whilst on such visits and all reports have been most favourable concerning their behaviour and sportsmanship. One boy represented Kempsey High School in swimming championships held at Taree.

The school choir won first place for the third successive year in the 1953 Kempsey Eisteddfod—small school choirs section—and the professional judges are quoted as saying "their singing qualities were most professional and of a very high standard."

No effort is spared to keep all boys actively interested and engaged in some form of recreational pursuit, a balanced programme being maintained as far as is possible. Most boys take part in cricket and softball during the summer season and rugby and soccer

football during the winter seasons. Every inmate has been taught to swim and this particular form of recreation is actively followed at all available times during spring, summer and autumn.

Boxing is a favourite form of sport amongst practically every boy, and many boxing competitions are held in the Home recreation hall. Indian club swinging is taught to senior boys. Gymnasium work is of a very high standard and a gymnasium display was held for members of the Kempsey Rotary Club on their annual visit to the Home at Christmas 1953.

A number of lads are members of the Smithtown Rugby Football Club and the end of the 1953 season saw their team major and minor premiers of Group 3, New South Wales Country Rugby Football League.

Six lads are members of the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club and take part in all functions of that Club. One holds the bronze medallion for life saving and five have passed their proficiency test. During the Surf Life Saving carnival season, one boy won every beach sprint (100 yards) throughout the season. The boys would each be qualified to sit for the examination for their bronze medallions except that they are not qualified by age.



**Claude Mercy, of Coff's Harbour, an ex-Kinchela boy. Claude wants to contact Herbie Simms, Ronnie Hart, Harold Stewart and Bennie Gordon.**

Amateur Hour competitions throughout the district have received entries from boys at the Home. During the past six months one boy has won all four competitions he has entered for.

A 16 mm. Cinevox Film Projector supplied to the Home provides a weekly film show to all inmates and staff, and this form of entertainment is very popular with boys of all ages. High-quality films are obtained from such well-known film companies as Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Pty. Ltd., Warner Bros., First National Pictures Pty. Ltd., Columbia Pictures Pty. Ltd., R.K.O. Films Pty. Ltd., etc.

In addition, selected senior boys attend at Kempsey "Mayfair" Theatre at intervals throughout the year. The Manager of the Theatre permits these boys to sit with their white companions from the Football and Surf Life Saving Clubs in any priced seats, thus eliminating the humiliation suffered by other aboriginal residents of this particular area who are forced into a segregated enclosure at the front of the cinema.

Firm friendships have been made between white and coloured youths, thus breaking down to a degree the obvious prejudice existing in this area. There is a growing consciousness amongst the white community that prejudices must go and that friendship must be given and extended to the lads, providing opportunities whereby they will be enabled to take their place quite naturally in their midst on discharge from the Home environment.



Inmates receive training in general dairy farm duties, including the use of farm machinery, training in milking and butter making, vegetable gardening, fencing duties, horse riding and general farm maintenance. Younger inmates perform domestic duties and general cleaning duties throughout the Home area. With the increase in the number of poultry now kept at Kinchela, additional training is given in the care of poultry. Except for work-boys, all duties are rostered, no inmate spending more than one month at any particular task.



A fine black and white drawing by John Ridgeway, of Burnt Bridge.

Regular religious instruction is imparted by visiting clergy.

During the period under review, special attention has been given to the production of vegetables and the training of inmates in this particular sphere. Unfortunately, adverse climatic conditions experienced during the whole year, with attendant plagues of both black beetles and caterpillars, have militated against a successful season. Very bad drought conditions were experienced during the first portion of the year, followed by cyclonic rains and local flooding in February. Taking the above adverse conditions into consideration, the results, as shown hereunder, could be classed as most satisfactory, although the total yields were far below expectations. Details of the vegetable yield are set out hereunder:—

Beans	...	...	...	89 lb.
Beetroot	...	...	...	516 lb.
Cabbage	...	...	...	366 head.
Carrots	...	...	...	156 lb.
Chokos	...	...	...	60 lb.
Cucumbers—long	...	...	...	70
Lettuce	...	...	...	343 head.
Parsnips	...	...	...	20 lb.
Potatoes	...	...	...	40 bags.
Pumpkins	...	...	...	312 head.
Rhubarb	...	...	...	457 lb.
Spinach	...	...	...	631 lb.
Tomatoes	...	...	...	323 lb.

Total retail value of vegetables produced is estimated at about £263.

Surplus livestock was sold and yielded £233.

Production obtained from the dairy herd for the period under review was as follows:—

Total milk produced	...	...	...	9,139 gals.
Total milk consumed by inmates and staff	...	...	...	5,533 gals.
Milk separated	...	...	...	3,603 gals.
Butter produced	...	...	...	1,803 lb.

Egg production amounted to 286 dozen eggs for the year's period.

Farm production in the matter of fodder for stock is listed hereunder:—

Product.	Acreage.	Estimated Production.	Estimated Value.
Lucerne hay...	1 acre	30 tons	£26 per ton.
Saccalene ...	1 acre	35 tons	£10 per ton.
Maize (corn) ...	1½ acres	55 bush.	17s. per bushel.

The total value of products from the farm during the year is estimated at about £3,830.

# Relief from Summer Pests

## MURDER THAT MOSSIE

Mosquitoes, flies and slamming screen doors getting you down? If that's the case we have the answer.

According to the National Pest Control Association of America, a single pair of flies, beginning in April, could produce 191 septillion offspring by August. The number written out looks like this: 191,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. Judging by this figure it's easy to see why the Department of Agriculture reports that the number of flies and mosquitoes is fantastic.



Modern medicine has reduced harmful effects of the many dangerous diseases carried by flies and mosquitoes, but nevertheless they are a source of aggravation in suburban and rural areas.

Slamming screen doors, the second of the warm weather annoyances, are the result of high-tension springs used to keep doors shut and bugs out. Pneumatic door closers insure quiet closing and will provide relief from nerve-grating slams.

The homemaker should use a push-pull catch to insure firm latching of the screen door. These catches are equipped with a push-button locking device.

A few helpful hints, as listed here, will aid the homeowner in combating these pests.

Mosquitoes can best be controlled by sprays and covering breeding areas.

1. Use a 5-per cent. DDT spray on porches and on both sides of screen doors.

2. Repellents should be used on skin and clothing.

3. Screen all windows and doors with 16-mesh-to-the-inch screening materials, and equip each screen door with air-liner door-closer and push-pull catch to insure quiet, certain closing.

4. Keep water from accumulating in tin cans, eaves troughs and street gutters.

5. Screen open cisterns; cover cesspools, septic tanks and rain barrels.

6. Empty bird baths or chicken-watering pans at least once a week. Treat standing water in pools or ponds with larvicides.

7. Stock ornamental pools with goldfish or top minnows.

Flies can be controlled with similar methods.

1. Use space-sprays or insect bombs in the house, and residual sprays on screens, porches and garbage cans.

2. Fly traps, papers, poisons and swatters can also be used in the homes.

3. Play safe with close-mesh screens on doors and windows. Hang screen doors to open outward and equip each with a door-closer and catch.

4. Spread manure thinly on fields and lawns to prevent flies breeding. Store manure in fly-tight boxes or pits, and treat it with borax, calcium cyanide or superphosphate.



This young lady believed in having a heart to heart talk with Santa Claus.

# COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES

## Aborigines May Benefit

### Child Endowment.

Aboriginal mothers in New South Wales are not in any way precluded from the payment of Child Endowment, but in some cases it is found necessary for the Board to administer the Child Endowment on behalf of the mother who might be considered incapable of applying the money for its proper purpose. It is pleasing to note, however, that the number of such cases has decreased over the years; whereas the number of cases administered at 30th June, 1951, was 148, the figure was reduced to 62 at the end of the year under review. This indicates clearly that aboriginal mothers have taken advantage of the opportunity to improve their living conditions and home methods sufficiently to warrant their being regarded as suitable cases for direct payment.

### Maternity Allowances.

The Board does not now administer Maternity Allowances as a general procedure. Formerly it was the practice to provide a baby outfit to expectant mothers, have the Maternity Allowance paid to the Board, deduct the cost of the baby outfit and pay the balance to the mother. The discontinuance of this system requires that the mother should make her own arrangements for the clothing of her baby, and during the year there was not one single instance reported where the mother had not proved equal to this responsibility.

### Pensions and Unemployment Benefit.

The Unemployment Benefit is paid to aborigines on the same basis as the ordinary individual, namely, to the genuinely unemployed. This payment is made irrespective of the applicant's caste or place of residence. In this instance it is apparently recognised by the Commonwealth that the worker, when employed, pays a Social Service Tax irrespective of his nationality and, when he is unemployed, he should have the benefit of his contributions.

The position in regard to pensions, however, is still unsatisfactory. Towards the end of the year, the Commonwealth did liberalise the conditions of payment to the extent that, on certain Reserves which are not under resident supervision, those entitled to a pension may now claim if they are also in possession of an Exemption Certificate. It is the opinion of the Board that there are few cases of aborigines in this State in which there is any justification for questioning their right to Social Services merely by reason of the fact that the applicant is an aborigine or caste aborigine.

This view has been approved and strongly represented by the Government on more than one occasion, and the suggestion by the Commonwealth that a Certificate of Exemption is regarded as a prerequisite to the granting of a pension, is disturbing. The Commonwealth has been requested to clarify its attitude to the question whether a Certificate of Exemption is a necessity to eligibility for a pension.



Ron Knox, of Boggabilla, with a big Murray cod from the Barwon

## EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES GRANTED

### Many Seek Independence

The issue of an Exemption Certificate is intended to indicate that the holder is ready for assimilation. It will be appreciated that the acute housing position existing over a period of years is a factor which compels an exempted aborigine to remain in his aboriginal environment.

The issue of a Certificate of Exemption is determined after careful enquiry into the applicant's background, mode of living and general character. The issue of a Certificate, therefore, cannot always be made solely for the reason of qualifying an applicant for a pension. There are certain factors which, whilst disqualifying an applicant for an Exemption Certificate, should not necessarily disqualify him for the payment of a pension.

Fifty Certificates were issued during the year under review and a comparison with previous years is as follows:—

	1951-1952.	1952-1953	1953-1954.
Granted	... 51	60	50
Deferred	... 2	...	2
Declined	... ..	3	6
Cancelled	... 1	1	3

# Foods . . .

## AROUND THE WORLD

A WISE CHOICE  
IS NECESSARY

### ARTICLE No. 5

*The second of a series of Articles by  
Mrs. GWEN MOORHOUSE, of Nowra*

So we sailed on to Naples in southern Italy, where I first set foot in Europe—Naples set on the shores of a beautiful bay with Mt. Vesuvius towering behind it; that mighty mountain which nearly two thousand years ago erupted so violently, pouring vast quantities of molten lava and ash down upon the ancient city of Pompeii about 20 miles from Naples, completely burning it and all its people in one night.



To-day the remains of this once beautiful and prosperous city of a few thousand people are being slowly unearthed and we can wander round the ancient streets looking at the remains of the temples, homes and arenas (where sports were held); we can also see the tools and implements this old civilisation used—the pots and pans—even loaves of bread have been found, preserved in their coating of solid ash.

Even some of the people themselves, and their animals—found where they were so suddenly buried by the eruption of that formidable mountain.

Italy is a land of contrasts—both in scenery and the way of life of its peoples. About 70 per cent. of the food of Italians is wheat or grain in some form or other—macaroni and spaghetti mainly, instead of the rice of Eastern people. The Northern and central people of Italy are chiefly farmers, consequently fruit and vegetables are grown and used extensively; not much meat is used, but cheese and eggs which are also body building foods are eaten in considerable quantities; and goats milk is very popular. In southern Italy, where fishing is one of the chief occupation, fish is eaten extensively and we know this too, is one of the good PROTEIN foods for building our tissues.



But then again there are the poorer classes who live almost exclusively on “minestra” which translated means “soup”; it is made of vegetables with meat stock.

Amongst these classes there are many undernourished people.

Although the average Italian eats plenty of vegetables—their essential food value is destroyed by the method of cooking. The cooking of the dish is begun in early morning—beans often serve as a basis—later on vegetables are added—then the macaroni and still later the fat. Now these vegetables are so important to our bodies due to the vitamins and minerals they contain. We have seen how necessary vitamins are—the numerous functions they perform; also the mineral, calcium, which builds good bones and teeth. There is another important mineral, iron, which is necessary for the formation of the red compound in our blood, Haemoglobin, which transports the oxygen we breathe from our lungs to all parts of our bodies. If we do not cook vegetables properly, a great deal of these precious vitamins and minerals are lost . . . some are destroyed by heat, others are dissolved in the cooking water. So to preserve these precious substances—the rules for cooking vegetables are:—

- (1) Wash vegetables well under fresh running water, DO NOT SOAK.
- (2) Cook quickly in smallest amount of boiling salted water (have water boiling first then pop vegetables in).
- (3) Do not use soda in cooking.
- (4) Keep lids on saucepans to cook quickly—when cooked, drain and serve immediately.
- (5) Use vegetable water for soups, sauces and gravies for some of these minerals and vitamins are in the water.

To ensure we obtain these essential nutrients we should eat EVERY DAY:—

- (1) 1 serving of green or yellow vegetables.
- (2) 1 serving of RAW vegetables.
- (3) 1 serving of potato.

Our best vegetable friends are salad greens, spinach, carrots, cabbage, potatoes, young beetroot and turnip tops—to a lesser extent green beans, peas, pumpkin.

# A RELIGIOUS CONVENTION

## *A Promise Kept*

by

Professor A. P. ELKIN

Vice-Chairman, Aborigines' Welfare Board

Some years ago I had promised Mr. Frank Roberts Snr., of Cubawee that I would come to a Convention. At last, I was able to keep my promise in a month or so ago.

Flying to Evans Head, I was met by the Area Welfare Officer, Mr. Morgan, who took me first on a brief visit to the folk at Coraki Reserve, and then to Cubawee where I met several of those concerned with the running of the Convention, especially Mr. Frank Roberts. The organization was indeed a credit to him and to all who worked with him. This applied to the provision of meals and camping facilities (for those visitors needing the latter), and to the actual conduct of the meetings.

I attended the meetings (and services) on Saturday night (October 30) and on Sunday morning and night (October 31). Actually there were three meetings a day, at 6 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and on Sunday, a big afternoon for the children. One leader conducted the preliminary congregational singing and appeals for witness. The singing, to the accompaniment of a small orchestra, went with a fine lilt in good revivalist style. In addition, local and visiting choirs (with their Aboriginal conductors) rendered hymns.

At some stage Frank Roberts took charge and made the announcements, as well as emphasizing the spiritual purpose of the Convention. However, he kept the atmosphere natural, and was not humorless. He also welcomed the visitors from the various centres, including on the Saturday night, myself, as Vice-Chairman of the Board, Mr. Morgan (Welfare Officer) and Mr. Malcolm Calley (a member of my staff). I was very pleased to accept the invitation to respond, and to be able to commend the Convention and the religious and moral purposes expressed by it. Mr. Morgan also replied. Another who spoke was Mr. Soper, a missionary from Cundalee in Western Australia, where he works amongst a tribe of full-blood Aborigines whom I knew in 1930.

### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

A special guest speaker was then asked to address each meeting. On two occasions this was a Nauruan, who has been trained in the Strathfield Bible College for missionary work. Many Nauruans come to Australia

for higher education. One was trained in Sydney to assist in scientific research into the upper air currents. This preacher's sermons were well constructed, and appealed to the reason, while not neglecting the emotions. They were thoughtful and well delivered.

On the Sunday morning one Aboriginal "brother" preached in a Lismore Church, and in the afternoon the Pastor and a group from that Church visited the Convention. Some Lismore people contributed towards the expenses.

In addition to those who stayed at Cubawee with friends or in the tents, a bus-load came from Tabulam on the Saturday and on the Sunday bus-loads from Tweed Heads, Woodenbong and Cabbage Tree Island, as well as a car load from Coraki. Indeed on the latter day there were 370 adults at Cubawee and very many children.

Such Conventions must do much good. The moral and spiritual principles inherent in the Bible reading, preaching, praying and singing do not fall altogether on thorny or stoney ground, even though some regard themselves as pagans, and others will not listen, and some may not be sincere. Moreover, the meeting together of so many from different places expresses and emphasizes the unity of background and purpose, and strengthens the feeling of "belonging together". This is very useful and significant in the process of assimilation. And perhaps most important: the religious movement and the Conventions are being organized and conducted more and more by the Aboriginal people themselves. This reveals real power of social service, a feeling for order, and an aspiration towards moral idealism and spiritual discipline.

I have come from the Convention with strengthened conviction that the Aboriginal people can, and will, work out their assimilation for themselves. The rest of us will help where we can, especially by removing obstacles. Above all, we will give them the respect which is due to human personalities and Australian citizens.

Thus encouraged, I went on my round of visits to Woodenbong, Tabulam and Cabbage Tree Island.

## CAROONA NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor of Carooona are being congratulated on the birth of a son, Darryl.

Congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. Austin who have a baby daughter, Rosemary.

The Carooona football club has given a set of guernseys to the school football team. The youngsters will look very smart when they play their school matches next year.

Carooona recently had a visit from Mr. Harris, son of a former manager. Mr. Harris was there as a boy, but left Carooona over thirty years ago. The only thing he remembered from the old station was the olive trees round the manager's house. He met an old friend in "Grannie" Sampson, and they had quite a yarn about old times.

A Junior Farmer's group has been organized at the School, working with the school at Carooona. It is starting with vegetable growing, and expects to do a lot of other things later on.

A Progress Association has been formed at Carooona with Mr. Bill Johnston, President, Mrs. Mary Porter vice-president, Mr. A. R. White, the headmaster of the school, secretary, and the Manager as Treasurer. The first steps have been taken towards putting on a Xmas party for the children.

The new Association has a big list of things it wants to do for the station, including getting a film projector for the school, making a playground and sports ground for the children, re-fencing and cleaning up the cemetery, and many other smaller matters. They look like being busy people for a long time.

Mervyn Allan and Roy Sampson of Carooona collected two more cups from the Police Boy's boxing night at Quirindi recently.

## Moree People at Work

### The Residents are Keen

With the aid of the labour of the Moree residents themselves, the football oval has been completed. It was fenced and the fencing has been painted. Posts have been erected on the field and it will be ready for play next season.

Other work noted at Moree is that the recreation hall has been decorated with lights and also the proscenium.

During the weekend, residents have the use of the Station truck and have commenced the gravelling of their yards. This will be a great improvement when the work is finished. Most of the cottages now have gardens established and many of the people are growing their own vegetables. In fact, a considerable amount of work has been completed around the houses under Mr. Reynolds' direction and that of the Station Council,— spare time work which does the residents great credit.

The Teenagers' Club meets every Tuesday night, and the Boys' Club on Thursday night.

Generally dances are held for the Hospital, Ambulance and Far West. The first dance netted £24.

Moree is well fortified against the hotweather. Nearly every home has its own refrigerator.

## BITS FROM BOGGABILLA

The Boggabilla Boxing Team recently visited Moree to participate in a tournament there. A team of four, comprising John Binge, George Binge, Neville Binge and Mervyn Jerrett returned to Boggabilla, victorious.

John Binge knocked out his opponent, Geo. Jenkins; Geo. Binge won on points from Johnson; Mervyn Jerrett knocked out Jim Cannon of Warialda, and Neville Binge won his bout on points against Jenkins. Congratulations, boys!

Following their success at Moree, a team of six visited Bingara to participate in another Boxing tournament. Here again the boys excelled themselves, and returned with five beautiful trophies. John Binge and Mervyn Jerrett again knocked out their opponents, while George Binge, Neville Binge and Henry Murray won their bouts on points. Stan McIntosh was unfortunate to lose a well fought-bout. In this tournament at Bingara, the main fight of the evening was between the local hero, Henry Murray and Burns of Bingara. Burns had never lost a fight and held a terrific reputation. Henry Murray very cleverly outboxed Burns. Special congratulations to Henry.

In the midst of heavy flooding, Boggabilla Aboriginal Station was not deterred. A double wedding was performed by the Vicar of Boggabilla. The Vicar and other guests were rowed on to the station by boat! Double weddings are not common nor do Vicars solemnise matrimony while surrounded by swirling flood waters!

The couples, Mervyn Jerrett and Daphne McGrady, and Mervyn Richardson and Kathleen Dennison made lovely pictures of brides and grooms respectively. Daphne wore a beautiful dress of white chiffon and was attended by two bridesmaids and two flower girls. Kathleen wore a beautiful dress of white embossed organdie. She was attended by three bridesmaids and three flower girls. The whole ceremony presented a colourful scene. The reception was held on the station, and each couple had expensive two-tiered wedding cakes. This auspicious occasion will be remembered by all who attended. A lot of work was devoted to making it a grand affair.

All the residential cottages on Boggabilla station have now been repainted. There is plenty of variety and individuality in the colour scheme.

Tom Duroux, a well-known figure on Boggabilla station, has had a long period of illness, during which time he has been in receipt of Social Service Benefits. However, he is now well again. He is returning to work with Doyles Estates, where he has been in regular employment for many years. He is happy to be back at work and the Boggabilla town cricket team will also be happy, as Tom is a member of their club. Tom is dying to hold the willow and to handle the cricket ball again.

# Pete's Page



Hello, Kids,

Well, here it is at last . . . that very important occasion we have all been waiting for . . . Christmas Time. I don't suppose I will get many letters or drawings from most of you for a good while now because you will be too busy enjoying your school holidays. Never mind, we'll make up for it next month.

Our Superintendent, Mr. Saxby, was telling me the other day of a little fellow from Taree who has been very lucky lately. He is Percy Dumas, a pupil at the School for Blind Children, Wahroonga.

The authorities at the school arranged for some of the children to attend a school camp at Narrabeen for a week last month. Percy was included in the party, and the school very generously paid all the costs of his holiday. No doubt Percy's parents will be very grateful for the opportunity given Percy to join his schoolmates at their annual camp and for the kindness extended to him while he has been attending the school.



Mary Cochrane,  
of Burnt Bridge

Holiday time at Boggabilla!  
Don McIntosh,  
Henry Murray,  
Eric Craigie and  
Clarence Haines  
go for a drive in  
the dray.



I suppose many of you will be thinking of leaving school now and taking a job somewhere. That is only natural, but I would ask you to think very carefully before you do that. If you have the opportunity of staying at school a little longer, perhaps going on to High School, the Leaving Certificate, or even perhaps the University, take my advice and jump at the chance.

One of the most important things in the world today is a good education and the door is open for you everywhere if you are well educated despite the colour of your skin. Think carefully.

We are going to announce a big Essay competition soon and I hope you will all have a try to win some of the prizes.

This month a special prize to John Ridgeway of Burnt Bridge for his fine racehorse sketch.

Well now, boys and girls, I suppose I had better get out of the way and make room for old man Santa Claus.

So wishing you and all yours a very, very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year with all the good things you want,

Cheerio,

Your Sincere Pal,



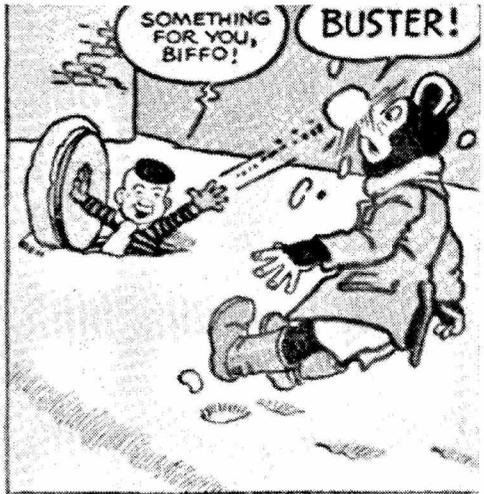
# Biffo the BEAR



HM-I'LL HAVE TO LOOK OUT FOR SNOWBALLS FROM BUSTER TODAY!



CAN'T SEE BUSTER ANYWHERE-AND I DON'T WANT TO, EITHER!



SOMETHING FOR YOU, BIFFO!

BUSTER!



BUSTER SEEMS TO HAVE GONE HOME! AH! THAT'S A FINE SNOWMAN!



HERE I AM AGAIN, BIFFO! TAKE THAT!

SPLASH!



NOW TO GET ON WITH MY DELIVERIES FROM THE BAKERY.

BALLOONS ALL SHAPES MADE TO ORDER

BAKERY HO! BUSTER!



LATER STILL  
AHA! IT'S MY TURN NOW!

BIFFO WITH A HUGE SNOWBALL! HAVE A MINCE PIE, BIFFO! MERCY!



HELP YOURSELF-BUT DON'T THROW THAT SNOWBALL AT ME!

MUNCH!



GUST OF WIND!

I'M FULL-AND YOU'RE FOOLED! TA-TA!

IT'S ONLY A BALLOON! BAH!



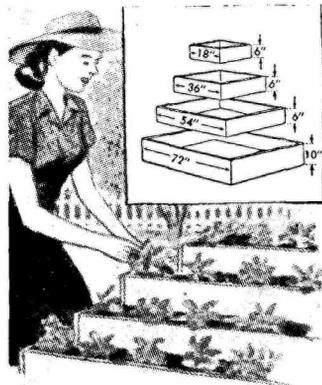
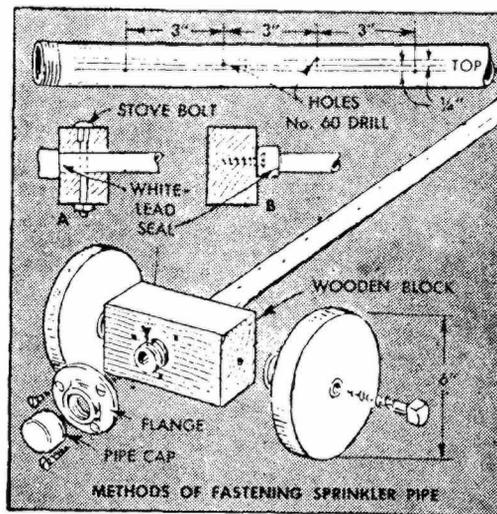
# IN THE GARDEN

## PIPE SPRINKLER for your lawn



A lawn sprinkler that will water large areas with few settings can be made by attaching wheels to a drilled length of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. galvanised water pipe. The wheels are mounted to a 6-in. length of 2 x 3 lumber with 2-in. lag screws. The wheel assembly is then secured to the capped end of the pipe by any one of the three methods shown. To space sprinkler holes evenly,

scribe three lines  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. apart along the length of the pipe. Using a No. 60 bit, drill alternate holes 3 in. apart as shown. For added convenience, use a pipe the same length as garden rows or major lawn areas.



THIS pyramid-type strawberry bed holds a large number of plants in a small space while bringing each plant within easy reach for individual attention. The original bed, built to the dimensions given in the drawing, holds 64 plants in a space 6 feet square without crowding. Because of the design of the pyramid the strawberry plants are not likely to spread, and weeding, watering and gathering the fruit is simplified. The bed consists of four square frames of diminishing size, filled with soil to about 2 inches above the top to allow for settling, and stacked pyramid fashion. A cheesecloth cover placed over the bed will prevent birds from eating the fruit.