

Volume No. 5
Serial No. 12



Dawn



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Registered at the G.P.O. Sydney, for transmission by post as a periodical.

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

DECEMBER, 1956



MERRY XMAS

'56



Our Cover . . .

Our special Christmas cover was designed by well known Sydney artist Kevan Hardacre.

It truly symbolises the traditions of the Past, the joys of the Present and the hopes of the Future . . .

To all our readers, God's Blessing for a Very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year.



"DAWN"

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

Editor: E. COLIN DAVIS, F.R.E.S.

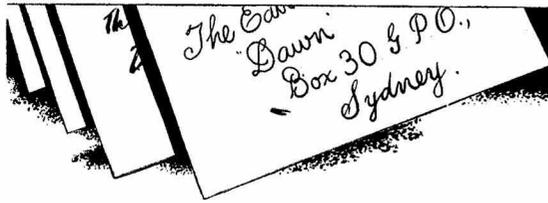
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Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men.

ALONG THE MAIL ROUTE



Mrs. Don Wallace, of East Waratah, finds a nice sunny spot to relax.

A very happy occasion at Brewarrina recently was the wedding of Evelyn Wright to Frank Langlow of the Tarrion. Frank is employed by the Department of Railways and works on the permanent way.

The ceremony was performed by Miss Latimer, Methodist Deaconess at Brewarrina, in the Station hall, and many people came from town for the occasion, which coincided with a visit by Mr. Saxby, Superintendent of the Aborigines Welfare.

The bride, who was dressed in a full length water silk taffeta gown, was accompanied by two small bridesmaids in pink taffeta. The bride carried a sheaf of roses and the maids held posies of sweet peas. The groom looked very smart in a light brown lounge suit. The dresses were made by Mrs. Wilson and did her great credit.

A reception was held later in the evening in the Station hall and amongst the good things decorating the tables was a three-tier wedding cake complete with icing and decorations.

This was indeed a great occasion, for apart from the wedding of a happy young couple it marked the first time since the recent floods that it had at all been possible to use the hall for a function of any kind where visitors could attend.



"Well, Here's Luck", says this young fellow, as she houts old Santa Claus a well earned drink.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. William (Toady) Chatfield, and Mr. and Mrs. Vesta Green, on the recent loss of their baby sons, and also to Mr. and Mrs. Keith Hinton, of Coonabarabran, who suffered a similar loss.

A happy change of environment for four lucky families who recently occupied brand new homes on the New Reserve near Coonabarabran.

Pen Friends Wanted

Seven lonely stockmen away up in Queensland are looking for some lady penfriends. How about some letters, ladies.

These lonely young fellows are—John Owens (26), George Foster (34), Joe Owens (31), Norman Foster (30), Ben Boon (40), Tommy Bradley (24), and Bill Smith (18).

The address for all of them is Mt. Harden Street, Blackall, Queensland.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES!

From the Superintendent . . .



Again at this time of the year, it is my pleasure to extend to the aboriginal people of New South Wales, good wishes for the Festive Season.

I know that for many, the past year has brought its share of trouble, particularly to those who were so greatly inconvenienced by the widespread floods. Trials were borne with cheerfulness and fortitude, and I trust that the New Year will bring better times.

The Board's staff join with me in the hope that all will experience joy and happiness at Christmastime, and prosperity in the days to come.



Superintendent of Aborigines' Welfare.

From the Secretary . . .



I am privileged to be associated with Mr. Saxby in conveying personal sincere wishes to the readers of *Dawn* for every happiness during this Christmas and New Year.

This is a period when families all over the world foregather, and when all differences are forgotten. The aboriginal people of New South Wales are no exception.

I trust that if, in the past, there have been any such misunderstandings, they will be overcome this Christmastime and that you will all be able to look forward to happy and friendly association in the New Year to come.

My earnest hope is that 1957 will not only bring each and everyone of you happiness, but also a better understanding between us all.

J. R. MULLINS,
Secretary, Aborigines Welfare Board.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

Aboriginal Woman Wins Art Prize

New Textile Design

It is interesting to hear that a 48-year old primitive aboriginal woman living at Yirrkala Mission Station at the north-east tip of Arnhem Land, N.T., has been awarded a prize for a design which will be used as a print for summer frocks in Australia, to be released in time for the Olympic Games.



The artist, Mawalan, was awarded £25 first prize in the Leroy-Alcorso textile design competition, and will receive royalties of threepence a yard on all sales.

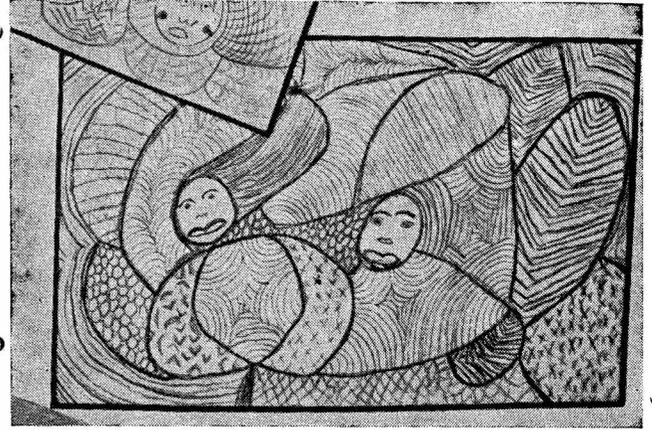
Different examples of this pictorial art are still being discovered, and some are outstanding in design and colour treatment.

Aboriginal art has almost become a craze in the last few years, many white artists practising a kind of pseudo-aboriginal art which is quite popular among people unacquainted with the real thing.

Recent examples of genuine aboriginal art, such as that of Mawalan, show that the natives of to-day have not lost the art practised by their ancestors in decorative cave art and rock engravings, even if they have lost the reasons behind some of the latter examples which have been found in Central Australia.

These carvings are believed by some to have a certain significance regarding past association with the world of the ancients.

The carvings, which are quite a different form to the pictorial art of the aborigines, are of rude circles sometimes alone, and sometimes crossed by from one to four lines, drawn parallel. Sometimes it is a circle within a circle.



These carvings are considered similar to tablets discovered by archaeologists in the old world, believed to be 12,000 years old and to represent the Sacred Four. The Four Great Primary Forces said to emanate from the Creator are represented by circles and lines, the same as these aboriginal examples in Central Australia. This is how they go: First the Creator created Man. Man then became two. The Two produced Three. From these, all Mankind descended.

If this reasoning is correct there may be a link somewhere between our aborigines and the ancient world, either unknown or forgotten by the present day aborigines, for they appear to show no inclination to offer any information regarding this theory.

NOTES FROM TABULAM

An old and well-respected resident of Tabulam Aboriginal Station, Mr. George Walker, passed away at Casino Memorial Hospital recently. The funeral which was held at Tabulam, and attended by most of the station people, was conducted by Mr. Frank Roberts, of Cubawee. George was well-known in the district for his interest in mining, and his wonderful sense of humour.

* * * *

A boy, David Greville, was born to Adelaide and August Torrens recently, while Patricia and Bobby Robinson are the proud parents of Julie Anne, born a week later.

At a service in the station church on 26th August, the Reverend Hilliard baptised David Greville, Julie Anne and little Vondda Baker.



"Just what I wanted."

NOW YOU KNOW!



CERTAIN GROWERS OF SILKWORMS (SILK IS MADE FROM THEM) NEVER SPEAK THE TRUTH!

THEY BELIEVE THAT IF EVERY WORD THEY UTTER IS A LIE THEN THEY WILL HAVE A RICH SILK CROP!

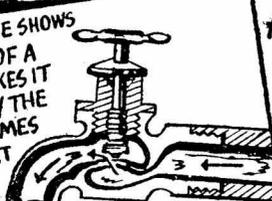


The CAPE BUFFALO

IS THE LARGEST AND FIERCEST MEMBER OF THE CATTLE FAMILY. WHEN PROVOKED IT IS MOST SAVAGE, AND IN A FIGHT WITH A LION THE BUFFALO IS GENERALLY THE CONQUEROR.



Most TREES SHED THEIR LEAVES IN WINTER BECAUSE THEY RUN LESS RISK OF BEING BROKEN DOWN BY HEAVY FALLS OF SNOW OR STRONG WINDS. THE FROST TOO, WOULD DO HARM TO LEAVES THAT WERE GROWING. BEFORE A LEAF FALLS A LAYER OF CORKY TISSUE FORMS ON THE LEAF-STALK TO PROTECT IT.



THIS PICTURE SHOWS THE INSIDE OF A TAP. IT MAKES IT CLEAR WHY THE WATER COMES SLOWLY AT FIRST & THEN FASTER. AS WE UNSCREW THE VALVE IS RAISED MORE AND MORE, AND THUS THE OPENING THROUGH WHICH THE WATER FLOWS BECOMES GRADUALLY LARGER.



An AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANG IS A WEAPON THAT CAN BE THROWN IN ALL SORTS OF WAYS SO THAT IT WILL MAKE CURVES AND TURNS IN THE AIR, TRAVEL THREE HUNDRED FEET AND THEN RETURN TO THE THROWER!



Just look at the worried expression on those Christmas puddings!

Native Courage

One reads and hears of many examples of courage, heroism, and devotion by aborigines, with the case of Jacky Jacky, Kennedy's faithful blackboy, as a classic example.

A West Australian example is that given by Maitland Brown, the explorer, who declared that one of the bravest men he ever met was a De Grey River black.

Exploring that river in the 'sixties, Gregory's party suddenly came upon a camp of blacks, none of whom had ever seen a white man or a horse before. Instantly, the whole mob rose and fled. Before they had gone far, an old gin stopped and screamed shrilly at the departing bucks.

A young buck turned back, and with spear at the ready, faced the white men. "Shoot him!" someone called to Brown, who was riding in the lead. The blackfellow's spear was thrust against Brown's chest, but the white man read some sort of an appeal in the eyes of the aborigine.

"No, let him be," said Brown, and he allowed the native to pass. Then dodging and ducking among the horse's hoofs, the buck ran to a clump of grass and lifted out a baby that had been overlooked in the wild panic of the blacks.

Knowing the superstitious terror of the blacks at the first sight of a horse—a gigantic fearsome animal to their primitive minds—Brown considered the action of the black in rescuing the baby measured up to V.C. standard.

The Briggs's leave Taree

FAIRWELL BY RESIDENTS

By A. NORTON, *Welfare Officer.*

The grand farewell recently organized by the aboriginal people of Taree Aboriginal Station for Mr. and Mrs. Briggs, was not only proof of the affection they had for the Briggs's—who had been with them for over 10 years—but also signified a definite march of the times and a great step towards their goal of assimilation.

When I asked Mr. Briggs what they were having he said, "I don't know, I think a few of them want to say 'goodbye'." To my surprise it was a very impressive function that must have taken weeks of preparation!



Mr. and Mrs. Briggs.

Guests were both white and dark and mixed freely. They included the Matron of the Manning District Hospital, and several nursing sisters, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Buttsworth and many others from the white community of Taree, plus a number of aborigines from Gloucester, Newcastle, Forster and Kempsey. Needless to add, the hall was packed to capacity.

The visitors were met at the door by Mr. Bert Marr and John Wallis who ushered them to their seats.

The hall was tastefully decorated by Mrs. Marjorie Marr, and was echoing soft music played by Mrs. Kate Davis, who played the piano and organ alternately and gave the evening a very delightful introduction.

Charlie Edwards—who was compere—appeared on the stage looking just the part, and welcomed all the guests.

The Station Choir sang "Shepherd of Love", and Mrs. Briggs's favourite, "Ship A'Hoy"; they were accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Bert Marr.

Then Nelly Clarke and Maria Dumas appeared, feeling very shy at first, but soon plucked up courage and sang a duet.

Les Marr played the gum leaves beautifully and also sang. He was followed by that great singer from Taree—Allan Saunders—who could "go places" if he took it seriously. Allan with his guitar enthralled the audience with his fascinating personality and gifted voice and received a tremendous ovation.

Georgie Simon and Ernie Samuels, who are noted comedians, appeared looking like Marilyn Munroe and Diana Dors. Ernie entered pushing a pram and kept everyone in fits of laughter!

Amongst several other good items Max Ridgeway and Warner Saunders sang a few of the latest hits and played the guitar.

The final act was the Aborigine Corroboree, which depicted old tribal customs and dances.

Charlie Edwards and Ernie Samuels were the guiding spirits and enacted, "The Man who Broke the Law", "A Native from the Early Days," "Natives Travelling from Island to Island," "The Devil Sets up Camp" and Charlie gave an exhibition of a "Wild Corroboree".

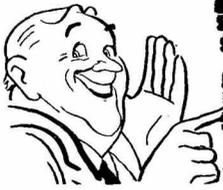
Mr. Briggs then showed some very interesting colour slides of familiar people and places.

This was followed by a touching speech made by Mr. Bert Marr and a presentation of a posey and a lovely set of silver spoons to Mrs. Briggs and fountain pen set to Mr. Briggs.

In thanking the people, Mr. Briggs pointed out that he was most impressed by the two young lasses—Nelly Clarke and Maria Dumas—who at first appeared on the stage feeling very shy and wanted to run away amidst much laughter by some of the children, but they soon plucked up courage and stood steadfast at what they had come out to do, and finished up singing a very lovely song. This he said should be everyone's aim in life. To make for a goal and stick to it until you have achieved it without losing heart and turning back.

The visitors were then given a very sumptuous supper and the evening concluded with all singing, "God Save the Queen".

It was a very befitting evening indeed for a couple who have given nearly 30 years of their life to help other people, and Mr. Briggs is still "batting" on a wider field as Aborigines Welfare Officer for Sydney and the South Coast, while Mrs. Briggs—though retired—will undoubtedly have the interests of the dark people at heart and do her bit behind the scenes. She will be greatly missed by not only the people of Taree but also Aborigines of Forster who used to look forward to her frequent visits armed with her lovely home made cakes and worm tablets.



They say



Proud Foster Parents

Mr. and Mrs. A. I. McDonald, of the Sydney suburb of Normanhurst, are very proud of their foster daughter, Harriet Ellis.

Writing to the Editor of *Dawn*, Mrs. McDonald said, "Last January we became foster parents of Harriet Ellis, formerly of the Girls' Training Home at Cootamundra.

Harriet has become very much one of the family, has made lots of friends, is doing very well at school and topped all this by her athletic achievements.

She won the Open Championship, the Age Championship, the Senior High Jump and the Senior Broad Jump at Normanhurst Public School, and with my daughter Glennys represented the School at the P.S.A.A.A. Combined Northern Public School Sports at Pennant Hills Oval last week.

Although they were beaten in the semi-finals of the Open Championship they were also in the Tunnel Ball, Captain Ball and 440 yards relay teams, and helped their school to fourth place in the Cup Competition."

. . . Congratulations to you, Harriet, for making good, and congratulations too, to you Mr. and Mrs. McDonald, for the love, care and affection you are obviously bestowing on your little foster daughter.

—Editor.

Passing of Michael Smith

Michael Gordon Smith, known to all his friends as "Mick", passed away on the 24th October, 1956. Mick suffered a heart attack in his home at 7 Dick Street, Chippendale, and had passed away before medical assistance could be summoned. *Dawn* extends its sincere sympathy to Mrs. Smith and the family, which consists of six sons and three daughters.

Mick Smith, who was 64 years of age, was born on the 22nd April, 1892, at Coonabarabran. He was well known and respected in the district and always maintained contact with his home town even though he had settled some years ago in Sydney where he owned his own home in Chippendale. He was the proud holder of an Exemption Certificate which was issued to him in June, 1952.

As Coonabarabran was the place of his birth, Mick was laid to rest in that town on the 28th October. A large number of his relatives and friends from Burra Bee Dee and Coonabarabran township, as well as many of the townspeople, attended the funeral.

A former resident, and recent visitor to Burra Bee Dee, Miss Wilga Goulding, who it would appear spent three busy weeks holidaying and renewing old friendships at Burra Bee Dee and Coonabarabran. It is understood Miss Goulding is a member of the Domestic Staff at The Royal Hospital for Women, Paddington.

* * * *

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Fuller, of Burra Bee Dee, on the birth of a son

* * * *

Three or four well-known identities from around Coonabarabran will eventually be seen when the film "Shiralee" is released for exhibition, these being fortunate in securing "extra" parts during a street scene in Coonabarabran recently.

* * * *

Soon, cottages on Burra Bee Dee Station will appear in a new light (colour). Residents are preparing to carry out a painting programme, which it is hoped will be completed before Christmas.

With recent improvement in the weather it has now been possible to hold a number of dances in the Brewarrina Station hall and many people from the reserve and town have come along to help the residents have a really enjoyable time.

It had been hoped to charge a small entrance fee but on both occasions trouble was experienced with the lighting plant and a late start was the result.

Mr. Seagrave, school teacher at the station put on two film shows recently and a collection at the door netted a sum of money towards the Christmas Party. The films, though old, were quite enjoyable. They were Jackie Coogan in "The Kid" and "Rin-Tin-tin."



"Aussie" Williams, Mrs. Queenie Roberts and Charlotte Robinson, of Tabulam.



..... And even a bone for Towser on Christmas Day.

HOME HINTS

Economical use of blue! Instead of dripping an over-wet bag of blue into rinsing water, cut a small piece from the tablet and place it in a pint bottle of water. Cork it with a rose sprinkler, and shake well. Whenever you need blue just sprinkle the required amount into the rinsing water. Much easier to regulate the strength this way too!

* * * *

Worn shirt cuffs are a never ending problem, but several rows of machine stitching in a matching thread will strengthen efficiently, so that no further mending is required. In fact, cuffs stitched this way are stronger than when new.

* * * *

If lapels of a thin summer suit tend to curl outwards, try this idea. Unpick a small piece at the point of the lapel and insert a collar-bone. Re-sew the seams. You'll find lapels treated this way just as successful as the collars.

* * * *

Convert jam into chutney—or sweet pickle. If your homemade jam begins to show mould on the top, take this off carefully, then boil the jam again with some finely sliced onion, a little spice, and vinegar. Plum or apple jam makes a delicious chutney in this simple way.

* * * *

To render down extra fat or suet, when you are next using the oven place the pieces in a colander inside a baking dish. Fat drains through and there's no need for straining afterwards.

* * * *

Lemons are not cheap and it's a pity to waste a whole one for the sake of a few drops. Instead of cutting—when you only need a few drops—insert a silver fork into the fruit and squeeze out the required amount. Holes close up again and the lemon keeps fresh.

* * * *

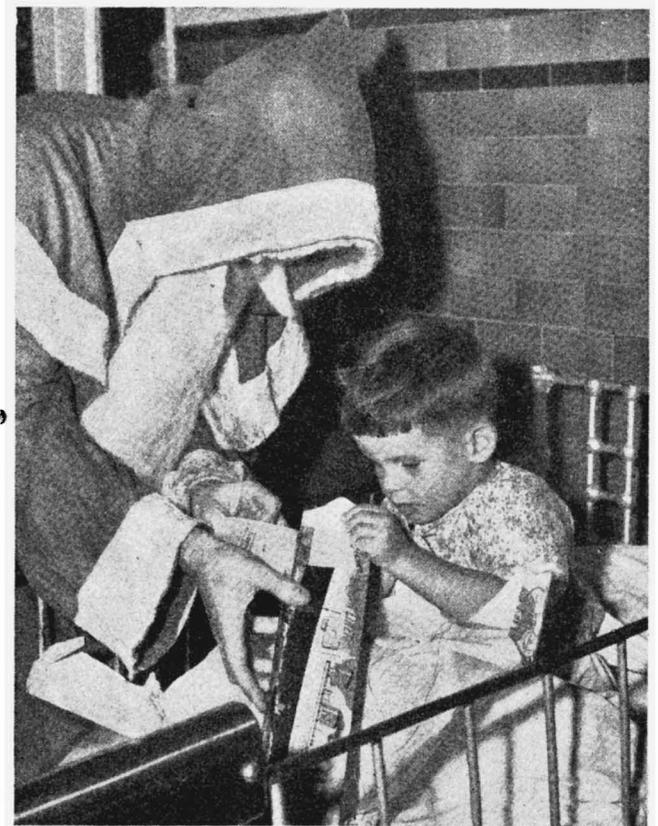
As a change from economy—here's a hint for cold feet! Kneel on a cushion for a few minutes and you'll find circulation improves immediately.

Now for hot feet—so painful in summertime. Take four tablespoons of soap flakes, two tablespoons each of carbonate of soda, powdered borax and epsom salts (crushed). Mix well and keep in a covered jar. Use two tablespoons of the mixture for a foot bath, soaking the feet for as long as you can up to 20 minutes. Do not dry the feet after soaking, but lie down and place them on a pillow. Excellent, too, for tired or rheumatically feet.

* * * *

Keeping cut flowers fresh in summer is always a tricky business. Did you know that Gladioli like to be alone? They resent inclusion in vases with other flowers and will wilt quickly. Carnations prefer dirty water! Don't change the water daily. When buds are attached to the stem, break off the fully matured bloom as soon as it shows signs of wilting. The buds will appreciate the extra power they get and will open up readily.

* * * *



This little fellow was in Hospital but Santa Claus didn't forget him.



And even into the heart of Central Australia, on Christmas morning, goes Santa Claus . . . with the assistance of the Air Force!



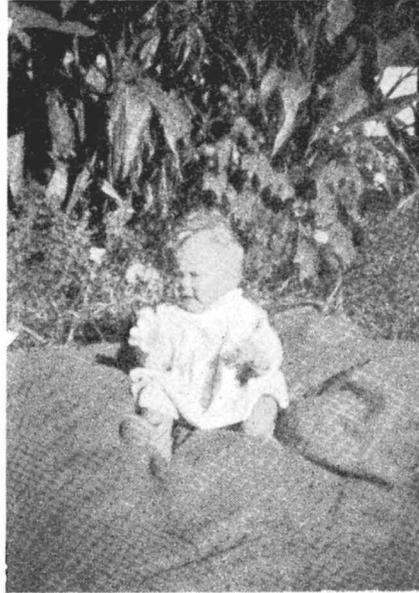
OUR ROVING CAMERAMAN

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.

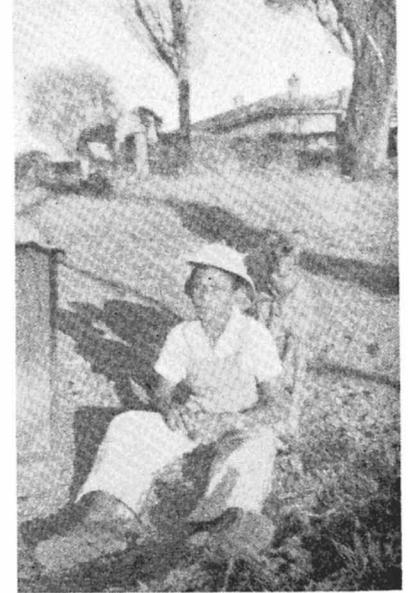
If you have photos at home, similar to those you see published in *Dawn*, send them along and thus add to, and maintain, the interest in your fellow men and women.



Pretty Margaret Johnson is a nurse in the McMaster ward, at Moree Hospital.



Sharon Kelly is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morrie Kelly, of Burnt Bridge.



Young John Craig, of "Wallendoon," Wallendbeen, always has his pet "Spider" close handy.



A family group. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Nean and daughter Joyce, of Quirindi.



A couple of 'fattys'. Patricia and Gordon Tighe, of Quirindi.



The cameraman just couldn't get a smile from Ida Spearman, of Moree.



This very pretty lass is Judith James, of Purfleet.



The gardens made a fine setting for little Hazel Jarrett, of Casino.



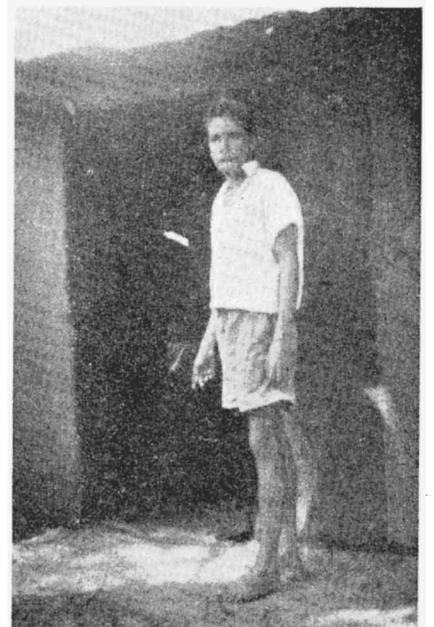
Two pretty sisters. Mary and Kathleen Cochrane, of Burnt Bridge.



These two happy ladies are Mrs. Ann Mumble, of Hat Head, and Mrs. Yvonne Cochrane, of Burnt Bridge.



These two husky young fellows are Leslie and Harold Smith, of Casino.



Ron Carriage, of Hat Head, is a very keen fisherman.

A Merry Christmas to Everyone

HELP YOURSELF

A warm and tasty drink for baby! Put a small portion of jelly crystals into a cup of hot water, add a little extra sugar, then cool before giving to baby to drink. He'll love it, and it's good for him.

* * * *

Try cleaning the bath this way: first sprinkle the bath with bicarbonate of soda, then soak an old nylon stocking with kerosene and rub away the dirt. The stocking can be rinsed out and used for cleaning again.

* * * *

When the centre of an aluminium frying pan buckles, heat it and tap it out flat again with a hammer.

* * * *

You can often revive an old torch battery when it becomes weak by placing it in the oven for a few minutes.

* * * *

Put a tablespoon of vinegar into washing-up water after a fish dinner. It removes the fish odour.

* * * *

When potatoes are short, try cooking only half the usual quantity and adding a cup of cooked rice. Beat well together and serve.

* * * *

Strain left-over tea into bottles, add a teaspoonful of glycerine to each pint of tea and keep it for cleaning windows.

* * * *

White turnip scraped and mixed with a little mustard, vinegar and milk is a substitute for horseradish sauce with roast beef or boiled mutton.

* * * *

When making a cake which has milk and syrup or treacle in it, put the milk in a cup first and then add the syrup. Stand in a warm place for a time and you will find the ingredients mix and are easier to add to your cake.

To save fat, fuel, and time, when two or more eggs have to be fried at the one time, try this method. Heat the fat as usual, then place the required number of pastry cutters in the frying pan. Break an egg gently into each one and fry until slightly set. Lift away the cutters, and the eggs, now a beautiful round shape, can be basted in the usual way.

* * * *

Before using a tin opener, dip it into boiling water. Sticky substances from the tins are apt to clog the opener, but you'll find that tins open easily and quickly this way.

* * * *

Dip your brooms into scalding soapsuds occasionally and the bristles will toughen and wear much longer. Be sure to dry thoroughly and store away with the bristles uppermost.

* * * *

Do the zip fasteners on your frocks and skirts have the habit of sticking at times? Rub the teeth of the zip with lead pencil and you won't have any more trouble.

* * * *

Flannel trousers are not easy to iron into the crease after being washed. Take my tip and rub a line of soap inside the trousers where the crease should be—before ironing flat. This will keep the crease secure, too.



This is a group of tobacco growers from Ashford.

GEORGE AND THE HEDGE!

A BREWARRINA DRAMA

A. F. S. ROBERTSON

It was one of those mornings when something seemed different. The garden which had retired during the winter was beginning to make itself noticed again. A few shoots of spring grass here and a clump of weeds there. And there was the hedge at the bottom of the garden!

This hedge, though not much to look at, gave some form of privacy, especially in view of the small cubicle located near the hedge. It is one of those essential places which we like to visit unobtrusively.

(The more fortunate have their's in the house with a flushing system laid on!)

However, the hedge, or not so much the hedge as what had accumulated around it, was the bone of contention. Intermingled with last year's growth were the new spring shoots, bright, fresh and vividly green. It looked pretty as far as the colour went but it also looked untidy. Besides what would the visitors think, for they do venture out to the station now. And though one steered them to the better parts of the garden they were apt to stray to the bottom of the garden.

This, I thought was a job for George. (He's our handyman and a better handyman never did a better job if he thought of it first!) I must have been deeply engrossed in this project for George, for a dark shadow thrown over the offending growth awoke me to the fact that he was at my side.

After the pleasantries of morning salutations were exchanged, I explained the job in hand.

George thought it was a good idea, especially as the snakes were on the move again. And what's more, he said I'll grub that old hedge out, too.

Well, that was the last thing I wanted to happen, so I emphasized that the hedge had to stay. It was then that I noticed that the top rail on the fence had come adrift and was cradled in the wire netting it was supposed to support. I went to great lengths to explain to George the best method of repair. Cut two pieces of two by one and nail one on either post. Then nail the rail to that.

Well, that seemed all right and I thought that would keep George out of my hair for a couple of hours whilst I tackled some office work. It wasn't till I

heard the spoons tinkling in the saucers that I realised it was near "smoko" time, and wondered how far George had got. At least I thought he would have cleared the weeds.

Making my way to the scene of operations my gaze went straight to the fence, there was nothing to stop it! There was no weeds, and no hedge—NO HEDGE! And the two pieces of two by one weren't on either post. But there just was one slap bang in the middle of the fence where the bole of the hedge should have been. When I had recovered sufficiently to enquire the reason for all this, George said that I didn't need the two supports at all and he'd fixed the posts but he said it did want a support in the middle right where the hedge was, and the hedge was in the way!

From the look in George's eye there was a faint hint of a man who had set his heart on a job and he had well and truly done it!



This young fellow doesn't know whether to be an engineer or a fireman.

THE LIFE OF AN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINE

From an A.B.C. broadcast by A. NORTON, Welfare Officer at Kempsey.



As I have been concerned mainly with Aborigines in New South Wales, and have studied their customs, habits and ways of living, I propose giving three talks on the life of the Australian Aborigine. Firstly, I shall deal generally with their position in this country; secondly, I shall speak on education and foster homes and thirdly, about their employment.



The Aboriginal question no doubt has been a subject of much controversy at home and abroad, and I am quite convinced that the problem is not one of colour, but is purely and simply a social one.

The Aborigine is not lynched like the Negro in America, nor is he hated and despised like the Kaffirs in South Africa.

He is in a country where snobbishness and class consciousness is practically non-existent. In fact, his colour to him, in many cases, is an advantage, for people are often prepared to assist an Aborigine without much hesitation or delving into his troubles, but are inclined to doubt a white man in similar circumstances, for they can see no reason for his plight in a land of full and plenty.

The average Australian is a clean living person who is home conscious, sport-loving and has a horror of disease. Therefore, and quite justifiably, he expects to maintain a similar standard throughout the community; and anyone falling below the mark is not readily accepted—irrespective of colour, class or creed.

The uplift of the Aborigine from his apathetic state of life—where he was found sparsely clad, adversely housed and exposed to disease, has been a very sudden transition for him. And to change his mode of living to that of a white Australian—which is the policy—has to be achieved with forbearance, understanding and sympathy on the part of the white man.

Whenever and wherever it is found that an Aborigine has reached the standard set by us, every opportunity should be given to him to be assimilated into the general white community before it is too late and he loses heart and returns to his ancestral mode of life.

I know of a case where a young man had done very well for himself. He had a steady job in the Department of Main Roads, dressed well and endeavoured to be above the dark people living in that area. He had numerous white friends and was well accepted by all

the people of the district. When he was transferred to another town, close to an Aboriginal settlement, where the dark people were not yet ready for assimilation, he was classified as one of them and had to take his seat amongst them in the local cinema, in spite of the fact that he asked for a dress circle seat! As a result, he felt frustrated and gave up the life of a decent white man, and went to live on the Aboriginal settlement. No doubt the Aborigines living in that area were not ready to take their place amongst the white community, and the theatre proprietor was not able to distinguish the stranger from the local dark people. Unfortunately, also, the young Aborigine was too hurt to speak up for himself, but the fact remains that the harm was done, which could always quite easily be avoided with a little Stop! Think! and Act!

The Board's Officers are continually seeking opportunities to assist the Aborigine through this most difficult period of his life when he has played his part and is expecting the white man to play his. And we make every endeavour to break down any social prejudice that exists in some quarters amongst white people against the better class of aborigines who are trying to uplift themselves.

Considerable progress is apparent 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 more responsive and is encouraged to make his effort to bridge the gap.

It is very encouraging when we find that voluntary and whole-hearted assistance to enhance our policy is offered by Church groups, Local Committees, Social, Cultural and Sporting Clubs and from various sections of the community, which considerably lightens our task and makes us feel that we all have one common aim in view, and that is to assist in the uplift and assimilation of the Australian Aborigine.

Education Improves

There has been a marked improvement in the education of aboriginal children in the last few years. Previously, Managers of Stations were also expected to teach school, until the Education Department decided to build schools on Stations for aboriginal children, and appoint qualified teachers, thus separating the two duties and enabling a greater oversight to be given to the functions of management and teaching.

It is now the Board's policy that, wherever possible, aboriginal children should be educated in the ordinary Public Schools of the State. With this in view, the Aboriginal Schools at Taree, Forster, Karuah, and Burra Bee Dee were closed and the children enrolled at the local Public School. And it is remarkable how well they have been accepted by the white children and are able to hold their own. In some instances, the aborigines outstrip the white pupils in educational attainments and sporting abilities.

This is of immense value to our assimilation policy as it gives the dark children a degree of confidence in their own ability and a feeling of equality which could not be gained by continued segregation.

Secondary education is available to any aboriginal children of the requisite standard, and as an encouragement, the Board awards a number of bursaries each year. In Kempsey alone, there are six children in receipt of bursaries who are attending the Kempsey High School.

The Department will also assist any aborigine who wishes to complete a University course.

We have had several who have gained their Leaving and Intermediate Certificates, and the Board is confident that with improved housing in towns, closer contact with whites, and more opportunities to enable them to mix on an equal basis with white children by enjoying similar privileges, such as common playing fields, swimming baths, etc., will all help towards the achievement of a higher standard of education.

From time to time the Board has to seek the committal of aboriginal children through the Children's Court for being neglected by their parents; and in some cases where a parent is not in a position to satisfactorily care for the child, it is voluntarily handed over to the care of the Board as a ward.

These children are received from newly born babies to the age of 15 years, and the majority of the cases are in a pathetic state when admitted.

Innocent children, some who would carry off the prize in a baby show, are left to the mercy of the gods! However, the Board does all in its power to alleviate the child of its suffering and place it in one of our Homes, either at the Kinchela Boys' Home, or the Cootamundra Girls' Home.

These Homes are fully equipped and have a qualified and sympathetic staff, but every child requires parental love, and the only substitute to its own parents are foster parents, and therefore every endeavour is made to place them in foster homes rather than give them an institutional life.

Response for Foster Parents

The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, Mr. Saxby, not so long ago appealed through the newspapers for foster homes for aborigine children, and he received a magnificent response. Practically all children so placed have settled well into their new environment.

I recently interviewed a fine upright young lady in the Kempsey district who applied for one of our wards. And I asked her if she wanted a dark child or one light in colour, she said that the child would be hers, and anything that was hers had nothing to do with anyone else because they weren't paying or caring for it, and she therefore didn't mind what the colour of the child was as long as it was a child. I thought that was a wonderful spirit, and I think that the courage of one's convictions is the finest metal anyone can be made of.

A good home, where a child can have the love and affection of a mother and father—even if they are foster—helps to give it a feeling of security, and all the goodness in it can be brought out to its fullest extent. Therefore, we not only feel that an innocent child who is made to suffer for the faults of its parents is being assisted by placement in a foster home, but we also know that a valuable seed is being sown, which if it bears fruit will eradicate any antagonism in that district towards aborigines.

I have noticed in hospitals where a dark baby has been left for placement, the nursing staff and the patients get so attached to the child that much persuasion has to be exerted to remove it from their care.

We therefore hope with the advent of more foster homes, that many more children whose future hangs in the balance, will be succoured by white foster mothers and nurtured with the courage of their convictions along the right road to assimilation.



ABORIGINAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS.

Statistics :

A survey of the aboriginal population of New South Wales was made during the year by the Board's Officers. This revealed that the number in this State was :—

Full bloods	231
Half castes	6,388
Lesser castes	5,751
Total	12,370

Of this number, 4,788 reside on Stations or Reserves under the control of the Board. Of the remaining 7,582, a minority reside in sub-standard conditions on the outskirts of country towns. The majority, however, own or rent their own homes and live as ordinary members of the community.

Labour and Employment :

It is the constant endeavour of Welfare Officers and other field staff, to encourage and assist aborigines in securing skilled or semi-skilled employment. Each year, reports of success in this direction are received, and the current year is no exception.

Increasing numbers are taking and remaining in permanent employment and there are cases of aborigines who have been for more than 20 years in the same job.

This year, employment was found for an aboriginal youth as apprentice in a motor garage, and a girl obtained a position in the office of a large country departmental store.

Many more are taking employment with the Railways Department, Main Roads Board, and Municipal and Shire Councils. Nevertheless, many are still engaged in casual employment in pastoral and agricultural industries.

Relief and Benefits provided by the Board :

In cases where indigent aborigines are not eligible for the usual Social Service Benefits, the Board assists by the weekly issue of food rations and winter and summer issues of clothing and blankets.

Treatment rooms are set up on Stations where attention is given for minor ailments. More serious cases are referred for medical attention or hospitalisation, as necessary.

Aborigines are encouraged to join Ambulance, Hospital and Medical Benefits Funds, and many have availed themselves of the services provided through these schemes.

Special Christmas cheer is provided for aged and infirm, and the Board also makes funds available to assist in holding functions for children at this time of the year.

Progress and Parents and Citizens' Associations are encouraged and, on many Stations, these function actively. The Board subsidises funds raised by these bodies, for the provision of amenities on Stations.



All over the world, children, of different colours, of different classes, different creeds and different nationalities, will be singing Christmas Carols.

Kinchela Boys' Home :

The number of wards resident in the Home as at the 30th June, 1956, was 44, compared with 45 at the beginning of the year. Their ages range from 5 to 17 years.

Boys of school age attend school at the Home, and those beyond 15 years receive instruction in agricultural pursuits. A number attend Kempsey High School.

During the year, a new clothing store was erected, and necessary repairs have been carried out to buildings.

The health of inmates has been good, and there was an absence of epidemic diseases. Regular medical and dental attention is afforded to all inmates.

The farm attached to the Home has been productive of much of the domestic requirements, and besides affording a valuable avenue of training, contributes considerably to the economic running of the establishment.

Production from the dairy herd for the period under review, was 6,493 gallons of milk and 1,315 lb. of butter. Egg production from the small poultry section was 846 doz.

Crops were adversely affected by floods, but nevertheless a supply of fodder and vegetables was maintained. The dairy herd was culled and surplus stock sold.

A keen interest is taken in the Home by Public bodies in the district, and their practical interest and help is greatly appreciated.

The objective of the Management is to prepare inmates to take their place in the community as responsible citizens.

Cootamundra Girls' Home :

There were 29 inmates in residence at the end of June, a decrease of 18 in the past 12 months. This was due to a number being placed in foster homes as a result of the Board's appeal for foster parents. It enabled four very young boys to be transferred from Kinchela. It is felt that they will benefit by the motherly influence of the female staff at this Home.

Girls of school age attend the Public School in Cootamundra, while nine are enrolled in the High School.

Girls on attaining school leaving age, are instructed in domestic duties and subsequently employment is found for them in the district. Eight are at present so placed ; one is nursing at the local District Hospital.

The Home maintains a small dairy herd, an orchard, poultry farm and vegetable garden. Produce is available for home consumption, and practically all butter required is produced at the Home.

Girls participate in local Church and social activities, and valuable help is afforded the Home by public-spirited local people.

An excellent tone prevails in the Home, and inmates receive training designed to prepare them for subsequent entry into the community.

Life Assurance for Aborigines *Country Member gets reply*

Last month Mr. W. R. Weiley, M.L.A. asked in Parliament if aborigines were eligible for Life Assurance. In a recent reply to Mr. Weiley, the Chief Secretary, Mr. Kelly, said . . .

I refer to the question you addressed to me in the Legislative Assembly on 4th September, 1956, concerning the possibility of extending life assurance to persons with aboriginal blood.

I am informed by the Government Insurance Office that whilst there is no record of any application for Life Assurance from a full-blooded aborigine, there have been one or two cases where half castes have been granted Endowment Assurances to age 55 but with a rated-up premium. The Government Insurance Office would be prepared to consider persons of aboriginal blood for Endowment Assurances to age 50 or 55, subject to an additional premium, provided they were in a permanent type of occupation such as clerical work, school teachers, etc., and provided birth certificates were available. Acceptance would be subject to a satisfactory medical examination.

There are not any reliable statistics on the mortality of aborigines, and in the absence of these, the Government Insurance Office could not consider Whole Life Assurance.



They're all yours! A Merry Christmas.

Important Notice

TABALAM SCHOOL
in
NATIONAL BROADCAST

Wednesday, January 9

From—

2BL	Sydney	...	...	9'45 p.m.
3LO	Melbourne	...	...	9'45 p.m.
4QR	Brisbane	...	...	9'45 p.m.
5AN	Adelaide	...	...	9'15 p.m.
6WN	Perth	...	...	9'15 p.m.

Be sure and hear these brilliant Aboriginal children.



Choir boys from Westminster Abbey, help decorate the Queen Christmas Tree.

The Real Smoke Signals
A Grand Sight

A. NORTON.

The smoke signals made by the really wild aborigines are a great sight to behold.

In order to make the signals, the aborigines light a big fire and when it has burnt down, they make a flue or chimney. These chimneys are made of paperbark, and sometimes of rocks.

The blacks then place green bushes on the hot ashes. They know just what type of timber and boughs to use for their signals.

When I was in the wild Obagooma country in the West Kimberleys I used to see splendid smoke signals almost every day.

The aborigines are able to make signals that go right up into the air in a thin streak. In the desert country they can make beautiful signals as they use spinifex which makes a thick black smoke.

The bush aborigines are able to make the smoke go up in puffs or rings by putting the green boughs on and off the fire.

Some white people think these smoke signals are a sort of bush wireless, but this is not so.

When the bush abos see a smoke signal they say, "Ah, all about Big Spring," for they know what group of aborigines would be allowed in that part of the country.

Contrary to popular opinion, bush aborigines cannot just roam about anywhere. Each clan of "skin" must go to its own country.

These smoke signals are also a way of the aborigines saying "Here we are." If you see several smoke signals for a few days converging on to one part of the country, you may rest assured "that all about go along big fellow corroboree"—probably an initiation ceremony.

I suggest that in some instances the signals are made to give the old psychic "doctor men" an opportunity to get in touch with the other old "doctor men", for our bush aborigines are great psychics and spiritualists.

Transfer of Officers and New Appointments

The following appointments have been effected since 26th June, 1956:—

Wallaga Lake.—Mr. and Mrs. V. H. Sully, appointed Manager and Matron.

Taree.—Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Thomas, appointed Manager and Matron.

Welfare Officer, South Coast.—Mr. L. N. Briggs appointed, with Headquarters at Sydney. Address, Box 30, G.P.O., Sydney.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

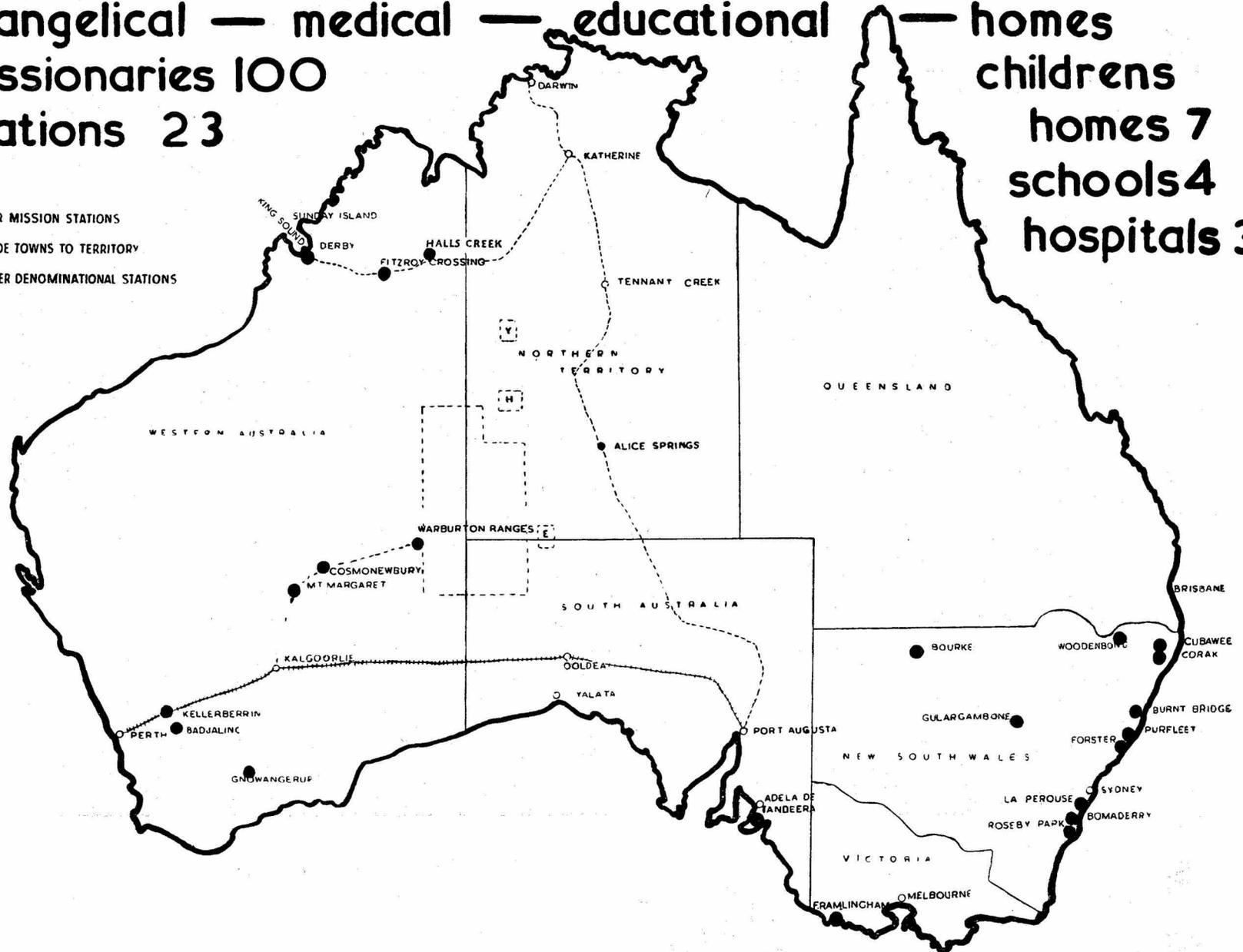


The Great Morning Arrives!

UNITED ABORIGINES' MISSIONS
 evangelical — medical — educational
 missionaries 100
 stations 23

MISSIONS
 homes
 childrens
 homes 7
 schools 4
 hospitals 3

- OUR MISSION STATIONS
- GUIDE TOWNS TO TERRITORY
- OTHER DENOMINATIONAL STATIONS



FOUR NEW HOUSES FOR ABORIGINES AT PEAK HILL.

For years, the aboriginal folk at Peak Hill have lived in huts which they built on the Common and the Hill near the old mines, but now four families have shifted into four new cottages which the Board has just completed near the Parkes Road at Peak Hill. The cottages look most attractive with their brightly painted exteriors, and they are just as colourful inside too.

The tenants, who are Harold Keed, Robert Read, "Mick" West, and Bill Cohen, are busy settling in, and have not had much time to do any gardening yet, but in a few months time, we hope that the tenants will be able to send us photographs of their new homes and gardens.

NANIMA ABORIGINES SCHOOL, WELLINGTON.

The Minister for Education, the Hon. R. J. Heffron, recently paid a visit to Nanima School, and we hear that he was most impressed by the good work that is being done at that School. The children must have impressed Mr. Heffron very much because he gave them a special holiday.

At the Wellington District Schools Sports held in November the Nanima Aboriginal School won the marching competition in the Staffed Schools section. This is a very creditable result, because the Nanima children were competing against larger schools. They looked very neat in their white shirts with red "N", and pale blue shorts, and sandshoes.

NEW COTTAGES AT COONABARABRAN.

Following on the five cottages which the Board built in White Street, Coonabarabran, four new cottages have just been completed on the New Reserve near the Gunnadah Hill, quite close to the town.

The proud tenants are Bill Sutherland, Mrs. Queenie Robinson, Vin Cain, and George Cain. The tenants are busy clearing their yards, and preparing to plant their gardens; they hope to start fencing in their blocks shortly, and one tenant has already laid a concrete path from his front door.

The builder was Mr. W. French, of Coonabarabran, who was formerly a Manager at Burra Bee Dee Aboriginal Station, Coonabarabran, before he became a building contractor.

* * * *

Friends of Mrs. Elaine Waterloo, of Peak Hill, will be sorry to hear that she is suffering from a painful illness in Dubbo Base Hospital, and that she may be some months encased in a suit of plaster of Paris.

WANTED

Pen friends

Three young fellows from Menindee are looking for some pen friends, particularly some of the pretty girls they read about in *Dawn*.

These young men, whose address is c/o. Post Office, Menindee, are Leslie Burke (17), Terry Whyman (20) and James Williams (19).

They are all very fond of music and play the guitar and the mouth organ. How about some letters, girls!

Miss Isa Randall (16), c/o. Post Office, Maclean, is also looking for some pen friends of either sex.

Isa's main hobbies are collecting photos of filmstars, and reading. She is particularly anxious to hear from a former pen friend, Coral Binge.

* * * *

Aboriginal Relics in the Sutherland Shire

There is no need to go to the Northern Territory for aborigine relics—Sutherland Shire is full of them.

The amateur historian or sleuth can find many aboriginal rock carvings, shell mounds, or kitchen middens within the Shire.

These relics prove that the area was a favourite settlement of aborigines.

The region now known as Sutherland Shire gave food, water, and natural protection to Australia's earliest inhabitants.

Even after the beginning of white settlement, the area was cut off from Sydney by Port Hacking, and the aborigines continued to live unmolested for some time.

An ardent student of local aboriginal habitations, Mr. F. Cridland, wrote in his book, "The Story of Port Hacking, Cronulla, and the Sutherland Shire":

"Burraneer Bay (now Cronulla) was a favourite haunt of the blacks.

"No part of Port Hacking shows more evidence of continual aboriginal habitation. It was a fine strategic position to hold against the enemy . . .

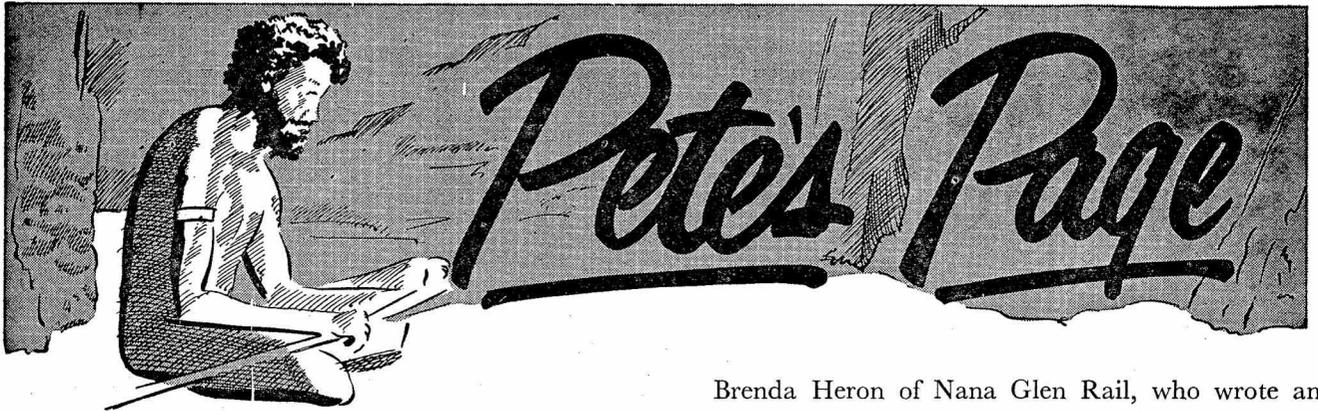
"They left behind some very fine rock carvings cut with remarkable fidelity and proportion to life.

"The flat rocks on the Gunnamatta side of the Point are exceptionally rich in this respect.

"The Burraneer Bay side is, no doubt, still rich in these treasures, for some of the private properties contain great mounds of half decomposed shell and other debris."

The aboriginal history of the shire is retained in the names of some of the neighbouring places.

These include GyMEA, Burraneer, and Gunnamatta.



Hallo Kids !

And a Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas to you all. This is the time you've all been waiting for and I hope that Christmas morn will bring you lots and lots of joy and happiness.

While you're all sitting down relaxing on Christmas Day how about a thought for some of those lonely people who are looking for penfriends.

I've just had a letter from Vivienne Laurie, care of Post Office, Yamba, and she says: "There are four of us girls here and we would like some penfriends because we get terribly lonely. On Sundays Yamba always gets a big crowd but there are no coloured people among them, and we would like some penfriends from our own people".

So how about some letters for these girls. Mavis Laurie would like penfriends 20-22, Lilian Laurie, friends 16-18, Shirley Laurie, friends 14-16 and Vivienne 16-18.

The mailman just brought me in a nice aeroplane drawing from Hilda Daley of Baryulgil, near Grafton, and another from Doreen Johnson of Murrin Bridge. Thanks, Pals, they were very nice.

Brian Irving of Armidale Road, South Guyra, wrote me a nice letter and sent a drawing. Brian told me he always does the washing up. (I wonder how many others do that?). He also feeds all the pets about the place.

Brenda Heron of Nana Glen Rail, who wrote and sent a photo is fifteen and goes to Coff's Harbour High School. She has three brothers and a sister. Brenda was telling me of her recent visit to Kempsey Show.

Then there was another fine drawing entitled "A Windy Day", by Betty Black of Murrin Bridge. Very nice Betty.

My word the postman is busy today. He just brought me in some more letters. Among them is one from Jean Kelly whose address is Box 89, Post Office, Balranald. Jean wants some penfriends interested in horseriding, hillbilly songs and swimming. (Righto, Kids, how about some letters for Jean.)

Also had a very interesting letter from Kenneth Leonard of Bemble Street, Coonamble. Kenneth, who is just recovering from a broken arm, told me his mother lost a lot of fowls and ducks recently in a bad storm. (What a terrible thing to happen just before Xmas!)

Well Pals, that's all the mail for the moment, but I do hope to have a lot more letters, poems, stories, drawings and photographs from you all, in the New Year. And so I'll say now,

A very Merry Christmas to you and yours,

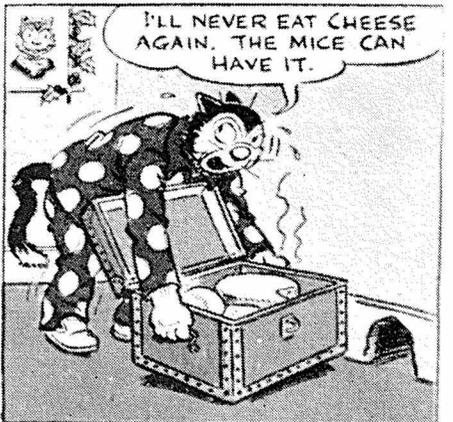
Your sincere pal,

Pete



KORKY THE CAT

KORKY'S SHAKING LIKE A LEAF. HE'S SCARED STIFF, AND THE CAUSE IS HE'S JUST BEEN VISITED BY NO LESS THAN *EIGHT* DIFFERENT SANTA CLAUSES!



PASS IT ON

When You have read DAWN Pass It On—

If you have friends or relatives who are not on the Mailing List send their names in now.

Address all letters to: THE EDITOR, DAWN, Box 30, G.P.O. Sydney.



HOW TO MAKE A LAWN

(Continued from last month)

By now your lawn should be well formed and ready for regular attention.

If you want a nice lawn, look after it.

(10) Cutting and Rolling :

Mowing is required in order to keep the lawn attractive and to assist in the maintenance of a sward of dense turf. Lawns should not be cut extremely close, more especially the first few cuttings, as leaves are essential to the vital processes connected with the food supplies, and constant close cuttings reduce the vitality of the plants. Frequent close cuttings are responsible also for a reduction in root development, thus rendering the lawn more sensitive to the effects of dry weather.

Very close cutting following a period during which the growth has been allowed to attain a height of 3 or 4 inches must be avoided. The sudden exposure to the sun will injure the grass under such circumstances.

The disposal of lawn cuttings is a vexed question to many householders. Where cutting is frequent and regular there is no need to use a grass box, but long growths should not be allowed to remain on the surface.

The use of a roller is not required in the maintenance of a home lawn, and the results of continued rolling may be harmful. However, in cricket wicket areas, lawn tennis courts and bowling greens the roller is required in obtaining a true surface, but this treatment is quite unnecessary under home lawn conditions.

(11) Neglected Lawns :

Thin and unhealthy appearance in many lawns and greens is almost entirely due to the failure to use fertilisers, or to use them intelligently. In most cases

they could be rejuvenated by the use of fertilisers, together with adequate watering. So pay attention to feeding, watering and weeding, and have a lawn you're proud to call your own. It's the perfect setting for your home.



Clarice Newman, of Karuah.