



Dawn

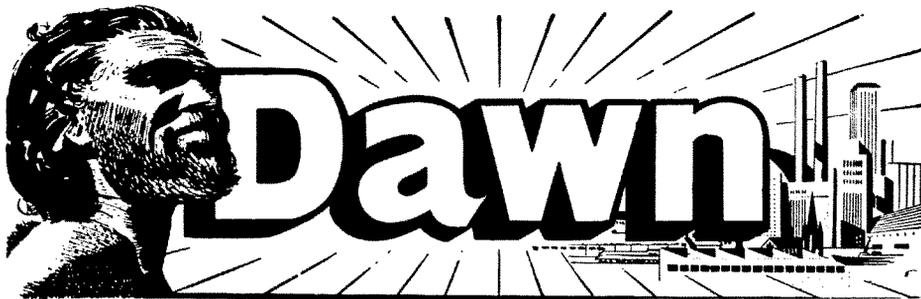


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A MAGAZINE FOR THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF N.S.W.

DECEMBER, 1958





“DAWN”

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

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

DEAR FRIENDS,

On Christmas Day when we greet each other with "A Merry Christmas" we are expressing a feeling of peace and goodwill which at the time is very strong within us. We perhaps cannot explain why we feel so differently at Christmas to other times yet we do know that at that particular season our feelings of love and kindness towards our family and our friends are even stronger and our attitude towards those whom we may even dislike is a little kinder and more tolerant. Some of you may think it is just the parties or presents or the Christmas dinner or in short all the little things that are part of Christmas. It is really more than that, it is the spirit of Christ pervading our lives.

But there is a special lesson for all of us to learn at Christmas. The Child who lay in the manger at Bethlehem grew into manhood and lived a life of self-discipline so that He might finish the work that He was meant to carry out. And so, all of us, white or coloured, should remember that Christmas will have a much greater meaning for us if we seek to discipline ourselves by sticking to our jobs, by doing them properly, by improving our homes, by spending our money more wisely, and providing well for our families. You see the happier our lives are during the year the happier our Christmases will be when they come around.

In this spirit I wish you all a Happy Christmas and will be thinking of you on this great festival of the Christian Church.

A. G. KINGSMILL,
Chairman.





The Editor of *Dawn* is such a good friend of old Santa Claus that the old gentleman even has his photo hanging in his office. If you are inclined to disbelieve this, remember the camera never lies (or almost never)



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe, but it is true, Christmas is here again already. Personally I love Christmas, it is such a happy time, especially for the children, as they excitedly look on Christmas morning to see what Santa Claus has left for them.

Christmas is a time too, when we should renew our friendships and if we have quarrelled with somebody, or had an argument and stopped being friends, we should patch up our quarrels because Christmas is a time of goodwill. Many of us turn our thoughts, especially at this time, to our Church. Irrespective of our belief or what Church we belong to, the lovely story of the birth of Jesus Christ in a stable and the singing of the Angels that night in Bethlehem is the same. If only every person would make up their minds on Christmas Eve to turn over a new leaf and live a life full of peace and goodwill for the next year, how wonderful it would be.

Close on the heels of Christmas comes New Year. I always think that every year on the 31st December, which is New Year's Eve, everyone should stop and think of what progress they have made during the year. There is such pride in thinking "I have achieved this", or, "I have been successful in that". What a joy to a proud housewife to look back and think "I have been able to save money and have bought myself a nice lounge suite", or, it may be a new table, or other furniture, or new curtains, or some other item to make a home more comfortable. How many of you can look back and see a bank account with more money in it than last year. It is not such a hard job if you really try.

How many of the children can look back on a successful year at school—perhaps gained the Intermediate Certificate. How many men can look back and see a year of full employment instead of just casual work. At New Year we must take stock of what we have done or failed to do and make up our minds that next year we will do even better. Aim for an objective in your work, your home or your school, and if you try hard enough you will probably succeed.

To each and every one of you I extend sincere wishes for a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and I hope that the New Year will be a successful one in all that you try to do.

Sincerely,
H. J. GREEN,
Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare.

the

Australian

aborigine

A recent report presented by the Victorian Aboriginal Group throws some interesting light on the study of Aborigines throughout the Commonwealth.

The native population of Australia is estimated at about 74,300 aborigines or people with a significant amount of aboriginal blood.

COMMONWEALTH TERRITORY (North and Central Australia)

Native Population : The total was 15,445, and an estimated number of 720 not yet included in the census of 1957. Welfare officers took two years to complete the register of 15,445 names, listing native and white names with tribes and locations.

There are 14 Government Settlements, 8 Government Depots and 14 Mission Stations in the Northern Territory.

Subsidies are provided for Missions and Station owners who support children and aged natives. Thirty children of mixed blood have been adopted in private homes and placed in institutions in the South to facilitate assimilation. The Administration meets the cost of the child's outfit and fare, and pays £300 per annum (less Child Endowment) towards maintenance and education.

There are now 27 special native schools, 11 on Government Settlements, 14 on Mission Stations and two on pastoral properties, attended by 1,843 native children out of the 2,500 children of school age in the Territory. Some will go on to secondary schools and others will be trained in a variety of industries. Dark and white children will attend the high school in Darwin on Vestry's site, but no full bloods have yet attained that level. Alice Springs is following suit with a Higher Primary School and a Leaving class, as well as a Catholic school to Intermediate standard.

In the unsettled parts of the Northern Territory adjoining Western Australia, two Government Settlements, at Hookers Creek, and Yuendumu, provide schools for the children, and from these stations patrols are sent out to keep in touch with the natives in the desert area. In June last year the first of two patrols under Mr. E. C. Evans, Chief Welfare Officer of the Administration was sent out from Yuendumu to Lakes Mackay and Hazlitt, which found about 150 natives living there in good condition, as to health and nutrition, though there is no surface water and stock could not find support. This patrol recommended the declaration of a large reserve along the W.A. border, to include the area round Lakes Mackay, McDonald, Wills, Hazlitt and White. Part of the Pintubi tribe live more or less permanently round Haast's Bluff Station, which was opened as a ration depot in 1941. In 1947 a Lutheran

Mission was permanently settled there, and a hospital built, conducted by the Misses Scherer for the Administration. This proved a valuable refuge for the desert members of the Pintubi tribe, many of whom came in the drought of 1956-57, when only 1½ inches of rain had fallen in the year. Some of the tribe are employed as stockmen by the Administration to provide meat for the area; others work in the gardens and hunt dingos for scalps in the winter.

New Stations were being planned at Phillips Creek, now removed to Warrabri, Daly River, Borroloola, and Maningreda. Emphasis on Government and Mission



Christmas cakes galore for hungry Australians ! Have you got yours yet ?

Stations is to be placed on nutrition, health and education and improvement in standards of living. The Wards Employment Ordinance will improve conditions of employment and vocational training.

The attainment of full citizenship by people unprepared for it, who regard it solely as the right to enter hotels and buy and bring home liquor, has led to trouble in many cases. Part whites have supplied liquor to Government wards, and those full bloods, now citizens, have easy access to it with disastrous results. Excessive drinking has led to neglect and ill-treatment of children. Early in 1957, Mrs. Battarbee emphasised the need for a home in Alice Springs where part white children could live with their mothers instead of being separated from them and taken to Darwin institutions. Plans are now under way to deal with this situation.

Albert Namitjira was declared a citizen in 1957, and excluded from the Northern Territory register of wards. He may now vote, drink liquor and build a house in a town. He can enter reserves to visit relatives, but where he has none, he must apply for a permit like any other white citizen. He has a considerable income, but is still in need of protection, as he no longer sells his pictures through the Arunta Arts Council, and has been getting

into debt. His daughter, Eiwala, won a first prize with a central Australian landscape at Rockhampton Show, entered by the owner who bought it in Alice Springs.

Phillip Roberts, of Roper River Mission Station, is the first Aborigine to be sent by the Federal Government for a training course at Noumea conducted by the South Pacific Commission and the World Health Organisation. He was five years a medical assistant in the Northern Territory Medical Service, doing outstanding pathological work in the laboratory at Darwin. Originally a motor mechanic and marine engineer, he took every opportunity to help the Mission Sisters in the hospital, and developed a keen interest in medical work, before training in Darwin as a medical assistant.

Six delegates from the Northern Territory Methodist Mission Stations attended the National Christian Youth Convention in Adelaide.

QUEENSLAND

Native Population : Full bloods 9,957, Mixed 7,133, Torres Straits Islanders 6,184. In addition, there are 20,000 people of mixed blood, not under the Act, in regular employment maintaining their families.

Last year 153 natives were exempted, but anyone wishing it is readily accepted back in to the ranks of protected people.

The need now is to stimulate natives to wish to leave Government and Mission Stations and take their place in the white community, who, on the other hand must learn to give as much attention to the assimilation of the dark people as they would to migrants from any other community.

There are four Government Stations and 12 Church Missions on the mainland.

The discovery of bauxite at Weipa will affect the future of all three Presbyterian Stations on the Gulf of Carpentaria. There are about 3,000 natives on the Peninsula, and only a few whites. The development of mining will bring a greater white population and contacts for which native life in isolation has given the people little or no preparation. It is to be hoped that this disadvantage will not too greatly outweigh the advantage of increased opportunities of employment. At Aurukun, where the Enterprise Exploration Co. wished to employ men from the Mission, a meeting was held with the Native Councillors and all the men to work out a roster so that the work of the Mission should not suffer, but all should have an opportunity of working for the Company. So 22 men work on the Mission in various jobs of building and agriculture, 16 do cattle work, 20 work with the Company and 14 have signed on at Thursday Island in the marine industry or pastoral work.

Education of the 2,755 children in all native schools provides only for Primary stages with manual training and domestic science, so it is not surprising that only six boys and seven girls are attending secondary schools. It would seem that more and more highly trained



This little fellow is having all the fun of Christmas just a little in advance. Its his first Christmas tree and Mum and Dad set it up before the great day . . .

**The Australian
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teachers are the need. At one station there are 127 children in the school and only one fully trained white teacher with native assistants.

The campaign against T.B. has brought it under better control, and the native population is increasing. Excess of births over deaths on all stations was 145. Infant Welfare work has contributed to this result. The provision of better housing is going on, 116 houses were built last year as well as recreation halls, schools, and workshops.

The population of the northern Peninsula Reserve (Bamaga, Cowal Creek, and Red Island Point) is 556. Births 22, deaths 5, with 125 children at school. Stores and 14 native cottages have been built and pipe lines laid on to houses, church, school and sanitary depot. A picture plant and hospital are at Bamaga, and nurses visit Red Island Point and Cowal Creek weekly to give instruction to mothers and care to any who cannot get about.

There is an irrigated garden at Coutha Creek from which a pipe line, laid by Mr. Garnet Pidsley, brings water to all the staff houses and every house in the new village at Lockhart Reserve. The new houses are built of pise, with showers and private lavatories. Particular attention is being given to dairy and beef cattle, vegetables, poultry, engineering, agriculture, individual gardens and an airstrip.

Four natives have offered to be trained as lay readers, and the first has left to attend the Theological College at St. Pauls, Moa Island.

At St. Paul's school, weekly classes have been conducted to prepare for the Co-operative Society. One girl has been taking a course in bookkeeping so as to be ready to work with the society.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Native Population : 235 full bloods, 6,600 half white, 6,673 of a lesser degree of colour. Total 13,598.

Of this number, 2,878 are on the Welfare Branch's 16 Stations, and 1,880 on the Reserves—a total of



"I don't care if I DO sit here all night, I'm determined to see old Santa Claus come down the chimney", says young Donald Anderson

4,758 under the control of the Welfare Board. Stations are controlled by a Manager and Matron. The largest is Moree with a population of 319, while the largest number on a reserve is 180 at Gulargambone ; La Perouse has 178. All schools are now staffed by qualified teachers from the Education Dept., but wherever possible children attend the district school. The Board has 18 current bursaries for aboriginal pupils at High Schools. Margaret Williams of Casino, after a year at Brisbane University, has gone to Melbourne to take a Physical Education Course on her N.U.A.U.S. Scholarship.

There are six male Welfare Officers stationed at Sydney, Kempsey, Leeton, Dubbo, Moree and Lismore and two lady workers at Sydney and Kempsey. They try constantly to settle natives in permanent occupations. Many girls are employed as trainee nurses, nursing aids and hospital domestics.

Exemptions last year were 137, and only six were cancelled. Out of 260 wards of the State, 93 are boarded out with foster parents.

The policy of assimilation has been slowed down, owing to the limited funds available for better housing. About £800,000 is needed to complete the housing programme. In spite of this, nine residents from stations have been settled in the white community, and loans of over £9,000 have been made to natives to buy land and build homes. The Armidale Association for the Advancement of Aborigines is helping to deal with the housing situation and has already settled one family, which is growing vegetables to defray the cost of the house.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Native Population : Over 5,000. There are no exact figures reported, but there are probably a few more mixed than full blood. The full blood population in the north is increasing owing to improved medical and hospital facilities and the abolition of infanticide.

The staff has been increased by the appointment of an additional woman and two male Welfare Officers.

Twelve adults and three children were granted unconditional exemptions and 16 adults and 13 children



It was party time for 200 children from a village near Hallipoli Camp in Korea. A party that was organised and given by the Diggers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment to bring a little of the spirit of Christmas into the drab lives of underprivileged children. Santa soon got on with the job of handing out gifts to the assembled children . . . there was something for everyone . . . and here a little Korean girl bows politely after receiving her present



Stevedores carrying Christmas trees onto the Italian liner Italia at Hamburg, in Germany, for shipment to Italy, where they will delight hundreds of children

**The Australian
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limited declarations. Unconditional exemptions cannot be revoked and this is often a hardship to old or widowed natives who wish to return to their family or friends on a Reserve. In this respect the Act needs amending as soon as possible.

The Board maintains 199 children in 7 Mission Homes and other institutions. The policy of encouragement of young married people to settle in the community by providing houses for them has been continued, and a number of houses have been built on Reserves, and land bought in towns for homes. All of the homes provided have been kept in good order. Advances of nearly £2,000 have been made for furniture to those settling in the white community.

In spite of this the Board's two stations, Point Pearce and Point Macleay show an increase of population, being 424 and 365 respectively. This will need to be watched, as better attention to health and housing is likely to

promote further increases, and the Stations are already overcrowded.

Each station now has a Building Overseer who can carry out repairs to the houses and add sleepouts and bathrooms. Point Pearce has started a Co-operative Store, which will provide training in taking responsibility for Directors and Committee members. Some of the natives now earn good money comparable with that of white workers in share-farming.

Yalata Reserve now consists of 1,728 square miles. The care of 10,000 sheep and improvements on the property provide work for the people and a surplus which is put in trust for the benefit of the Aborigines.

Campbell House was completed and ready for occupation by June '57 for boys who will be trained after normal schooling for agriculture, grazing and pastoral activities.

North West Reserve : The stringent conditions laid down for entry by the S.W. Mining Co. and staff, and the constructors of the Giles Meteorological Station in W.A., have been faithfully observed. Three good

supplies of water were found, but not enough yet to start the cattle industry as hoped.

At Coober Pedy, the Board subsidises an agent appointed by the Lutheran Church to care for the Aborigines in the area. The Church has bought a Store, issues supplementary rations, and tries to ensure that natives receive fair value for opal obtained, also to prevent exploitation of the natives and the supply of intoxicants to them. The agent's wife cares for the sick. Unfortunately water supply is limited so the reserve applied for was not obtained.

At Andamooka, Mr. R. J. Bills acts as agent for the Board and has been supplied with a quantity of drugs and medicines. A shelter for aged Aborigines is being put up with the co-operation of the miners.

The Aborigines' Advancement League appointed a part white matron to their Hostel at Mellwood, which was opened in November, 1956.

The United Aborigines Mission continues work at Gerard, Finnis Springs, and Nepabunna Mission Stations, and at the Colebrook and Oodnadatta Children's Homes. Children from the latter home now attend the Oodnadatta Public School.

Umewarra Mission, Port Augusta, has 50 children in the Home, and general health has been good. About 40 adults and 25 to 30 children are usually camped on the Reserve, and 48 children are enrolled at the special school. Two girls have entered Singleton Training College, three are taking correspondence lessons in art work, and some are learning music.

Koonibba Lutheran Mission has 96 children in school and is planning for better buildings and vocational training.

At Ernabella, an outbreak of measles was followed by a number of deaths, particularly among the children. This was investigated by the Secretary of the Board, and two medical scientists, who suggested remedies to ensure that the mortality rate should in future be no higher than in other communities.

VICTORIA

Native Population : 1,346, of which slightly more than half are children, and less than 20 full blood.

The newly appointed Welfare Board first visited all the centres of Aboriginal population in the State, and next appointed a Superintendent of Aboriginal Welfare, Mr. P. E. Felton, formerly Welfare Officer in Dubbo district, N.S.W.

The main needs in Victoria are regular employment for the people, an improvement in the standard of living, public education for all children and above all, an awakening of the general public to a sense of their responsibility towards the people.

The Board had soon to deal with the Mooroopna situation where the Rodney Shire Council had rather suddenly cleared away all native shacks from the rubbish tip. The people moved to the river bank, while the Board arranged with the Housing Commission to provide 10 new cottages of intermediate type at a low rental, to be ready as soon as possible on a Crown land site near Mooroopna.

The work of the Save the Children Fund has gone steadily forward. Robinvale centre lost their welfare worker, but were carrying on with a Committee and starting to build their Welfare Centre. Miss K. Martin was appointed to Echuca, and had started home visiting and interesting parents in their children's welfare and progress in school.

S.C.F. workers are finding employment for the people in the various centres, arranging for treatment for sick children, and providing bursaries for regular school attendance. In the last year, £6,700 had been spent on Aboriginal work in Victoria.

Experiments in adoption of native children from Missions in the North are being made, which should prove valuable.

Harold Blair, in addition to his ordinary job, is on the staff of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Albert St., running an Aboriginal Choir, and has formed an Aboriginal Welfare Association, one of whose members arranged for five Aborigines to attend the Moral Rearmament Conference in America. The party included Mrs. M. Tucker from Victoria, and Irwin Lewis, the University Scholarship winner from Western Australia.

Rona Glynn from St. Mary's Hostel, Alice Springs, was the first Aboriginal girl to graduate at the Royal Melbourne and Associated Hospitals' School of Nursing last November. She was brought to Melbourne by the National Association for the Advancement of the Native Race on a scholarship provided by the Anthropological Society of Victoria, from a bequest for native welfare, and is now doing a further course at the Royal Women's Hospital.

WEST AUSTRALIA

Native Population : 8,536 full bloods, 6,963 mixed and approximately 6,000 nomadic natives. Total : 21,499.

Total expenditure, £446,740.

There are 132 Native Reserves in the State; 61 are camping reserves round country towns, and 15 are large sanctuaries for nomadic natives. There are 21 Field Officers in charge of five Districts and the Mobile Welfare Clinic.

The Mobile Clinic comprises a Dodge Utility and caravan with tools and equipment. Mr. & Mrs. Halford started in October, 1956, for the North Central District, where they helped the Public Health Trachoma Unit, afterwards spending some months in different centres, before moving south to the Central District at Moora in April, 1957. Their object is to visit native Reserves, living with the natives for as long as possible, and helping them to improve and rebuild their humpies; they also enlist the help and interest of the local authorities and members of the community. At the Reserves visited, a general clean-up is organised, and where possible, regular rubbish collections and repairs attended to. Field officers and police have reported a noticeable improvement in the personal hygiene of the Reserve occupants and some natives have bought materials to improve their houses under the advice of

(Continued on page 15)



COWRA *Jottings*

A committee has been formed at Cowra to organise functions with a view to raising money for the Children's Christmas party. Mrs. S. Smith, Mrs. J. Bamblett, Mrs. J. Mosely and Miss Olive McGuinness really put their hearts into the first function, a supper dance held on the 28th October. The few doubts held earlier as to its success were quickly dispelled when the residents started to roll up. As this was the first organised function for some time there was a fear that the people might have forgotten how to dance but this was found incorrect as soon as the music started. An old identity from out west supplied this necessary requirement, Paddy Black, who hails from Murrin Bridge and just happened to call at Cowra for a look. It seems Paddy can keep playing that accordion all night if the cause is good. He was ably assisted at times by Froggie Simpson, and Lochie Ingram on their "leafs". Doc Simpson presided at the door and, with his well-known tact, extracted the dues.

The Manager and Matron attended for a time, Mr. Yates extending his compliments to all present, on the organisation and behaviour shown. Before leaving, the Matron, Mrs. Yates judged the prize dance, which was won by Ike Williams and Mrs. Phillip Ingram.

Next day the general feeling was that the opening night had been an auspicious success and with the committee working on plans for such things as barbecue dances, fancy dress for children, etc., etc., the future for entertainment at Cowra Station looks very bright.

* * * *

Due to the late season delaying crops, the employment position did not improve as expected, but as this news is forwarded, work is once again becoming available. It is sincerely hoped that the men finding employment will remember the long slack period just over, and plan accordingly.

* * * *

Congratulations to Froggie and Doc Simpson who have just received their exemption certificates. A better pair of battlers would be hard to find.

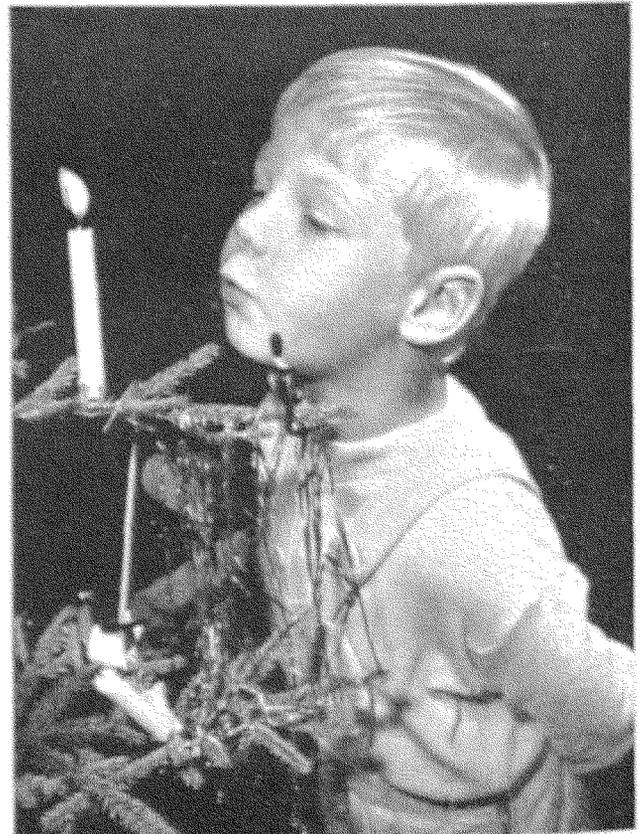
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Two happenings saddened the hearts of residents since last reporting. Late in September, Norman (Buddy) Perry was killed in an accident at Dubbo,

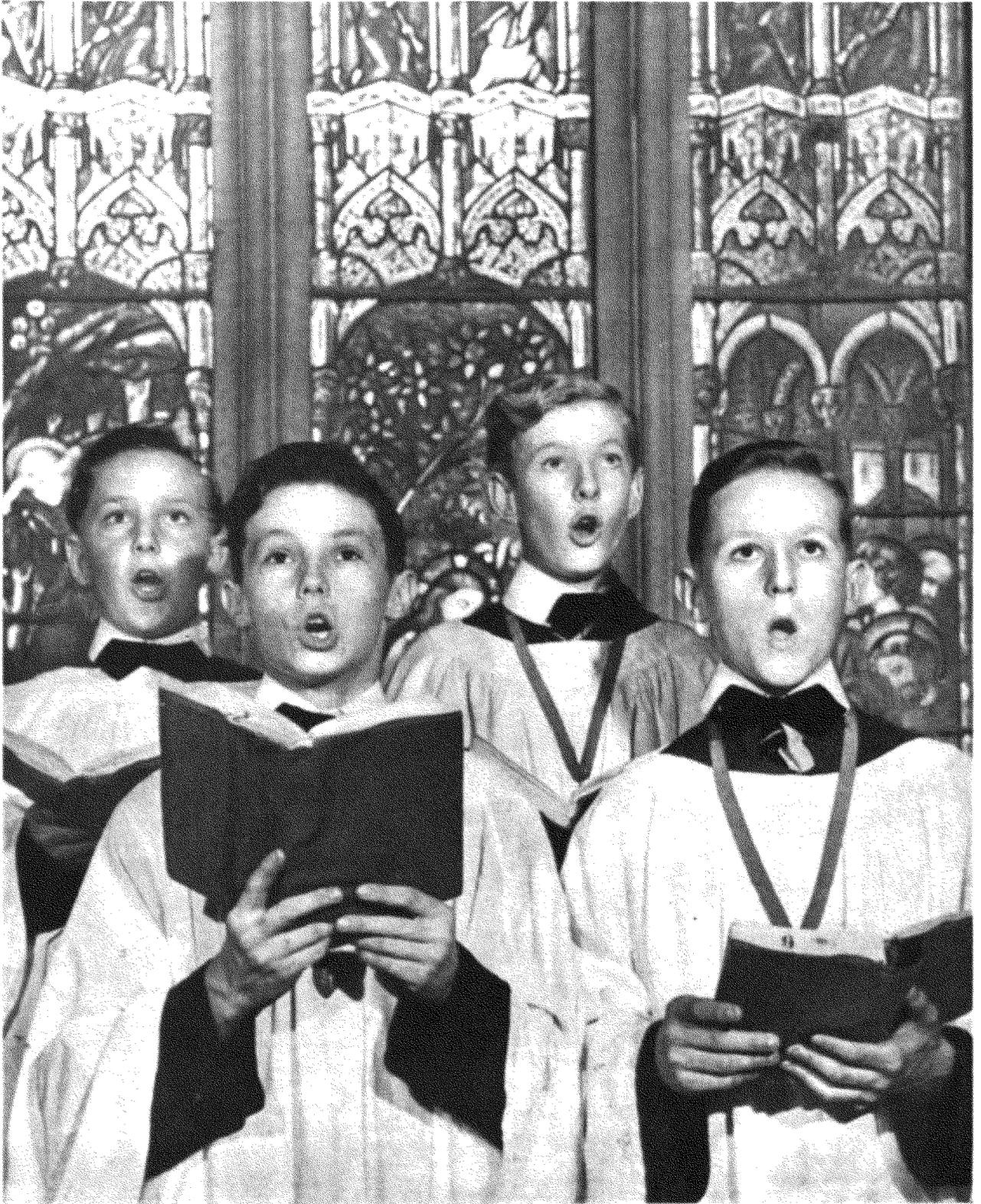
and Mrs. Beryl Smith lost her expected child at birth. All residents expressed their most sincere sympathies to those concerned.

* * * *

What with the new motor mower chugging away on the new lawns, the new entrance being erected and great quantities of shrubs and plants going in, the Station generally is very bright.



A big puff, a big wish and this young fellow will be satisfied



"Peace on Earth, Goodwill to men upon this Christmas morn," sing these Sydney choir boys



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.



Melva Clarke, of Purfleet, is not nearly as aggressive as she looks



Meet pretty Margaret Newman, of Condobolin



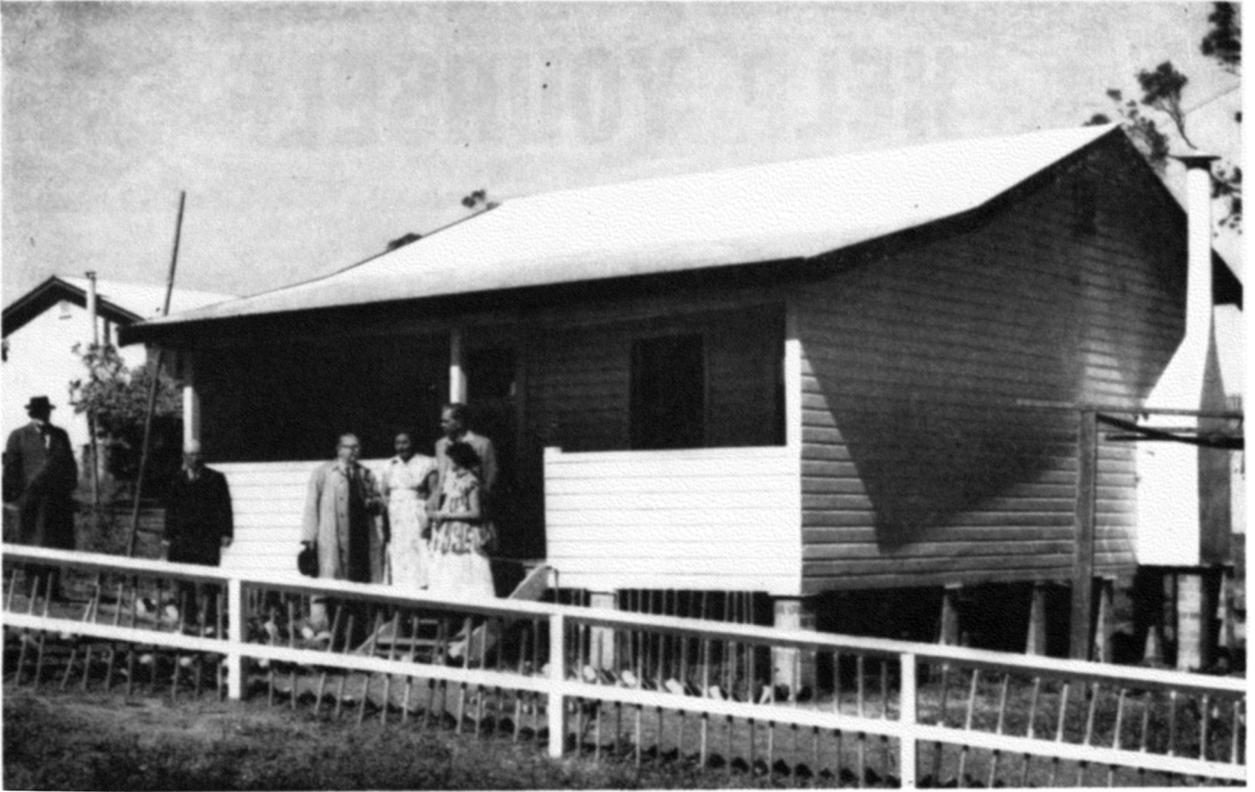
Beverley and Ina Slater, of Purfleet, have a chat in the sun



Big smiles from these two husky young fellows from Woodenbong. They are Clancy Roberts and Owen Morgan



Its not hard to see that these two young fellows are brothers. They are Lionel and Leonard Mitchell, of Purfleet



The Chief Secretary, Mr. C. A. Kelly, M.L.A. (third from left), accompanied by Mr. Radford Gamach, M.L.A., member for Raleigh and Mr. Les Jordan, M.L.A., member for Oxley, recently inspected a number of modern cottages erected by the Board for aboriginal people. This cottage, at Green Hills, belongs to Mr. and Mrs. James Jackie, who are seen on the steps with their daughter, Mavis



Vera Walsh, of Mooroopna (Vic.), doesn't always ride on the back bumper bar



When the Anti TB clinic visited Brewarrina recently many children, like this little girl, were innoculated



This winsome little lass is Mary Clarke, of Walgett



To Remove Severe Discolouration of Nylon

If discolouration is stubborn, apply the following treatment, in four steps :—

1. After a thorough washing dissolve one packet of commercial colour remover in one gallon of hot water (160 degrees) in an enamel container and put in wet garments. Stir gently while maintaining the temperature. (Temperatures higher than 160 degrees may set wrinkles in the garments.) If whiteness is restored evenly after 30 minutes, remove garments and rinse thoroughly in hot water. If they are still dull, leave in for another 30 minutes. Then remove and rinse thoroughly.
2. To one gallon of warm water add two tablespoons of liquid bleach and two tablespoons of detergent. Soak the garments for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Rinse thoroughly in warm clear water.
4. For the final rinse, immerse the garments in warm clear water to which has been added 1 tablespoon of bleach or blue.

WASHING AND IRONING

Put clothes pegs in a warm oven for about 10 minutes before hanging the clothes out in cold weather. Each time you reach in the bag, a peg will warm your hands.

To help whiten handkerchiefs, soak in cold water to which a good pinch of cream of tartar has been added.

To protect pearl or glass buttons on blouses in the washing machine, place garments in a mesh bag.

Save lemon peels and drop them in with tea-towels when boiling them up. Helps make them white.

Put handkerchiefs or other small articles together in flour bag for running through the washing machine or boiling in copper. Takes less time than handling them individually.

To test coloured material for fastness, dip a corner in soap suds. Squeeze, then press on a white cloth with an iron adjusted to the correct heat for the material. A fast colour will not stain the white cloth.

When emptying a ticking pillow-case to wash it, transfer the filling into a muslin bag in this way : Make a hole in the ticking-case and a similar-sized hole in the muslin bag. Roughly sew the two holes together, shake the filling through (no spilling), undo rough sewing, wash ticking-bag. To fill, repeat procedure.

A squeeze of blue in the rinsing water will lighten stockings that are too intense in colour.

When washing articles of black cotton, use vinegar in the rinsing water. Another notion to keep the black a good colour : Rinse in water containing twice as much blue as you use for whites.

Avoid waste of soap powder. Keep a small tin or measuring cup of the required size in your laundry cupboard.

To remove lettering from flour or sugar bags, soak overnight in kerosene, then boil with soap and water.

Soak clothes pegs in hot water to make them grip clothes more firmly on the line.

To remove perspiration odour completely from a garment, add a little vinegar to the rinsing water.

To keep woollies soft, add a few drops of glycerine or a pinch of borax to the washing water.

To keep good condition of black lace after washing, dip into half a pint of strong tea to which has been added two teaspoonfuls methylated spirit. The latter adds a gloss to the lace, tea keeps the colour.

To whiten sugar-bags boil about 20 minutes in copper in water to which 1 packet of dye stripper has been added for about 1 dozen sugar-bags.

STARCH

When you cook rice use a large quantity of water. Pour off and save to starch collars, lace edgings, and other dainty things.

To prevent starch sticking to the iron, add a teaspoon of salt or a few drops of turpentine or glycerine to the starch when making it.

Add one cup of cooked starch to the last rinse of a mixed cotton wash. Gives new life to clothes.

If starching coloured cottons, add dye or tint of appropriate colour to starch solution. Use squeeze of blue-bag for blue or black cottons, cold strong tea for brown. Turn garment inside out before dipping it.

Save left-over starch for next wash-day by pouring into ice-cube tray and storing it in refrigerator or deep freeze.

A teaspoonful of kerosene added to boiled starch will help prevent the iron from sticking later.

To distribute starch evenly through lace or other flimsy curtains, dip curtains in boiling hot starch solution, then put them through the wringer.

the Clinic. There is a marked reduction of offences by natives during the stay of the Clinic, and their success has proved the value of personal contact and teaching for the Reserve natives in improving their living standards.

On Reserves, provisions are limited as yet to the building of an ablution and laundry block, with two showers, copper and troughs, lavatories for each sex, and water supply connected with the town, with bore and windmill, or well and hand pump.

Following reports of the starvation and distress of the natives in the desert parts of Western Australia, various expeditions were undertaken to investigate conditions. An official patrol, under Mr. McLarty, Welfare Officer for the district, made a five weeks survey of the area. He reported that the people were not, as a whole, suffering from starvation, disease, or physical neglect, and the season had not been a particularly bad one. The natives photographed by the Select Committee under Mr. W. L. Grayden, and shown so widely in the film were not typical of the Warburton Range area, but had come from further north through unknown country and had suffered special hardships, which can happen from time to time in a country where normal conditions are so near mere subsistence level.

Modern developments in teaching the people in their own language, now being so widely stressed, should not be allowed to exclude or delay the teaching of good fluent English, without which they cannot hope to fit into white society.

A medical survey of the district emphasises that the availability of white flour and sugar on stations and Missions, reduces the foraging for native seeds, causing a vitamin deficiency in diet. (Native seeds contain 21 per cent. protein, whereas white flour contains only 9 per cent.) One suggestion that the natives be given a herd of goats and be taught to care for them would help with the feeding of the children, but provide no income. Water is the first need to attract game and cattle, and sheep could then be introduced as at Ernabella.

The Warburton Range people number from 350 to 400, and have greater affinity with the natives of the Musgrave Ranges in South Australia than with those of the Rawlinson Ranges to the North. The latter number 150 and are much less in touch with white civilisation. They are mainly fine examples of hardy physical development, not yet affected by the handout of white man rations on Mission stations.

Government action is necessary to provide employment to prevent pauperisation, and to provide for the future of the children who are being educated in white man's ways. At present their only source of income is the sale of dingo scalps. The Ernabella experiment preserves the native's social and cultural organisations and creates a means of economic advancement for them, gradually improving their standard of living with the minimum of interference with their natural way of life.

A beginning was made by the appointment of an additional Welfare Officer for the Warburton Range area, Mr. H. C. Moorhouse. Mr. McLarty also recommended that the Warburton and Rawlinson natives be treated as separate groups in any further measures decided upon.

Irwin Lewis is the first Aboriginal student to attend Perth University, having gained two scholarships while at Christ Church Grammar School, Claremont, where he was a prefect and outstanding in sport. Geoffrey Penny from McDonald House, passed his Leaving exam. in seven subjects at Perth High School, and is doing a Teachers' Training Course.

Bill Bennell, a 19-year-old apprentice cooper, from McDonald House, Perth, has won a Scholarship offered by the Owners' and Pilots' Association for a lad of aboriginal blood to learn flying. He hopes to become a flying missionary to his own people.

The scheme to move the Presbyterian Mission at Wotjulam, formerly Kunmunya, to Mowanjum, near Derby, has been successfully carried out and a neat village established on freehold land, with adjoining homes for aged and invalid pensioners. The children attend Derby State School, and the pre-school kindergarten is in charge of Elkin, known to many by her outstanding school work at Kunmunya. Four hundred and fifty head of cattle have been branded and bores sunk, and many of the Worora tribe from Kunmunya have moved to Mowanjum, who did not favour the Wotjulam site. The Council of Elders were consulted as to the move and agreed on it as offering a better future for their children.

At Wongutha Farm Training School near Esperance, ten native boys are doing practical work with sheep, poultry, pigs and cattle, as well as English and arithmetic to bring them up to standard. Three are attending High School studying for Intermediate Certificate. They hope, eventually, to own their own blocks of land with the help of the Native Welfare Department.

CONCLUSION

It is increasingly important for us to realise that political action alone cannot ensure justice or even survival to the Aborigines.

Citizenship, so often clamoured for, defined mainly in terms of easy access to liquor, for which most of the older people are quite unprepared, is likely to result in very undesirable social consequences.

Education for citizenship is the only solution, and this is a slow process demanding conditions, the opposite of those under the segregation policies of the past.

Church and people must play a larger part than ever before in fitting Aborigines to take their place as real, not nominal citizens of a white community.

(The Editor thanks the Victorian Aboriginal Group for its kind permission to reprint the foregoing material.)

ALONG THE MAIL ROUTE

The
The
Down
Box 30 & P.O.,
Sydney.

PURFLEET BOY WINS HONOURS

David Russell, 12, of the Aboriginal Mission Station, Purfleet, and pupil of Taree Public School, won the senior boys' championship at the annual Mid-North Coast Primary Schools' athletic championships held at Taree recently.

Over 400 children from primary schools from Wauchope to Forster took part.

A team of 70 athletes chosen from the day's sports took part in the Newcastle area Public Schools' Amateur Athletic Association's championships, which were held on the Newcastle Sports Ground on October 7th.

David was one of nine Purfleet Mission boys who recently attended a camp in Sydney. He returned with a good conduct report and won praise from the Headmaster, Mr. J. G. Hamilton.

At the latest meeting of the P. and C. Association, Mr. Hamilton said: "David Russell is a good lad and the others are doing excellent work. It is a feather in the cap for the school."

"I would say he is one of the best-mannered boys in the school, and I would like to compliment him on receiving the certificate," said the president, the Rev. Canon R. D. McCulloch.



Even the old dog has a close look at the Christmas tree because he knows he's sure to find a nice juicy bone there

The Officers and Children of the Cootamundra Girls' Home were very pleased to receive a visit from Professor Elkin recently, also Mr. Sawtell, whose address to the children of the primary school was very much enjoyed.

Kathleen Smith, of the Cootamundra Girls' Home, has commenced her training as a nurse at the District Hospital, Cootamundra.

Penny Packer, of the Cootamundra Girls' Home, recently sat for her nurses exam in Wagga after twelve months of study through correspondence. We all wish her luck.

Mavis Lang, of Cootamundra, sat for her intermediate recently after studying hard all the year.

Marion Holten and Doreen Bugmy took their first Communion one Saturday recently at the Cootamundra Catholic Church.



This native from the Tari area in New Guinea admires himself in a mirror he bought from the trade store



Girl students of Lowther College, in Wales, hold special Carol Services at the college each year. A feature of the services are the beautifully produced tableaux depicting the life of Christ. Here we see the Nativity

KOOKABURRAS IN THE GUMTREES

By FRED WOODGATE, F.R.S.A., 19 Brisbane Street, Tamworth. Convenor, Social Committee, Tamworth Association for the Assimilation of Aboriginals.

Two kookaburras laughed high in a gumtree on the Timbumburi River Reserve on a warm October Saturday. They were happy, but were not alone in their joy. This was the day of the first picnic arranged by the Tamworth Aboriginal Assimilation Association. A big red and blue bus had transported the people from the Tamworth camp along the six mile journey through wheat and sheep country to the picnic ground. Everyone was joyous and spent the day in games, sporting events and feasting.

The Association was glad of some extra help for the day, too. The Anglican Fellowship took over the catering and arranged a barbecue to cook 100 sausages. They were delicious.

In the afternoon a number of car loads arrived and the teenagers and grown ups played rounders for an

hour or so. Other groups for the little ones played ball games, skipping and ring-a-ring-a-rosie. There were plenty of king size thirsts to quench, and plenty of orange and lemon drinks to quench them.

Colour slides were taken of the various groups and everyone is looking forward to seeing these at the next social.

Tamworth Association has not been formed long, but already some of the families are saving up something from each pay so that a start can soon be made on better homes. The Boomerang Club which meets on Tuesday afternoon is very popular with the boys and girls. In a happy atmosphere they learn painting, modelling and singing. When we are really good, there is going to be a concert.

HOME



HINTS

For Amateur Painters

In any kind of painting, the one hard-and-fast rule to follow for good results is always to read the directions on the paint tin labels very carefully. And make sure the directions you follow are the ones on the particular tin you're working with, because they vary so much from one paint to another.

BRUSH DRILL

Be sure not to dip a new paintbrush into the paint without striking it against the palm of your hand two or three times. This will remove any possible particle of dust.

To get the best out of a new paintbrush follow this procedure : First flip it to remove dust. Then drill a small hole in the handle and suspend it in raw linseed oil for 24 hours. Wash the oil out with mineral turpentine. Dry by spinning the brush between your hands.

Tip for a beginner : Get into the habit of not loading a paintbrush beyond capacity. Train yourself to put it into the paint at the same depth every time you dip it.

When painting a ceiling, poke the brush-handle through a paper plate to stop the paint running down the handle and then down your arm.

Another idea to catch ceiling drips : Push the brush handle through half an old tennis ball.

When you've finished painting, an excellent method for keeping paintbrush bristles nice and straight is to drive a tack in the side of the brush, near the top, and suspend the brush in the can by means of this tack. Your next painting job will be much less likely to streak because of curled bristles if you follow this idea.

PROTECTIONS

To protect wallpaper when painting skirting-boards, hold a stiff piece of cardboard against the wall, with edge on skirting-board top.

The chances are your hands will get as solid a coating of paint as whatever you're working on, so before starting rub your hands well with a moist cake of toilet soap. This will act as the same sort of preventive as petroleum jelly, or you can buy excellent barrier creams for the same purpose.

When painting woodwork, coat the doorknobs, locks, and other metals with petroleum jelly, so that any paint which splashes on these areas can be easily wiped off.

When coping with wall corners, it prevents smudging if you hold a square piece of card against the ceiling.

If you want to paint knobs on furniture a different colour from the rest of it, unscrew the knobs, screw them into cardboard, and paint. When they're dry screw them back in place.

When painting the leg of a chair, put two drawing pins into the base of the chair leg to lift it off the floor.

TRICKS OF TRADE

To avoid surface bubbles when varnishing, don't shake the tin. Instead, stir the contents gently with a clean stick. With oil paints, surface bubbles can come from many sources, such as water getting into the paint, or failure to mix properly. But just as often these bubbles are caused by applying paint to a surface that isn't perfectly clean and free of grease and oil.

If in cold weather paint becomes stiff and difficult to work with, stand the paint tin in a bowl of hot water and stir the paint constantly.

For an interesting effect, spray paint through a wire screen. This will give a delightful "stippled" effect.

If rainspots have marked your paintwork before it has dried you can restore it by rubbing with pumice stone dipped in water, and then applying another coat.

When working on a door, first unscrew the fittings if possible. Clean off all fingermarks. Put a piece of newspaper under the door and use a wedge of wood to keep it in one position.

REMOVING TRACES

Paint remover takes time to do its job, so never try to rush the process. The best way to use the remover is to apply with a brush, and when the paint begins to curl remove it with a putty knife.

To remove the smells of paint, place in the room a bowl of water containing a chopped-up onion.



A Christmas party for about 70 animals of all shapes and sizes was held the other day at the P.D.S.A. Sanitorium at Ilford in England. The hosts were about 20 old horses and ponies and Lewis the 12½ year old goat, who was formerly the mascot of the Royal Air Force band but is now retired, and between 50 and 60 cats and dogs. Guest of Honour was Upstart the police horse, who holds the Dickin medal (the animal V.C.). The fare of this unusual party consisted mainly of cakes of bran, treacle and rolled oats.

CROSSING THE SIMPSON DESERT

by

MICHAEL SAWTELL

The Simpson desert proper has never been crossed and perhaps never will be crossed over the middle.

The desert is about 36,000 square miles in area. It is about 200 miles long, running up from north of Lake Eyre, to the head of the Mulligan Creek in the Northern Territory just below Lake Nash.

It is about 180 miles wide, partly in Western Queensland, the Northern Territory and South Australia.

I grew up with aboriginal boys right on the edge of the desert in 1901, at Callidgewarrie Station, and I am now one of the few men left who has ever actually been in the desert.

The desert was named after the President of the

Royal Geographical Society of South Australia. In my day, we just called the desert the sand hill country.

The desert is a most peculiar formation, for it is long rows of parallel sand hills, which are about 100 feet high, with about 40 feet of loose ever-shifting sand at the top, which is in the form of a very steep hill.

It is therefore utterly impossible for any motor truck or animal to climb over these steep hills. I have, with my aborigine boy mates, climbed over by taking off my boots and climbing over barefooted. My old friend Ted Colson crossed the lower end of the desert, where the sand hills are not so steep, in 1936 with a black boy Pete. Dr. Maddigan crossed a few years later, over the top end, again where the sand hills are lower.

GREETINGS FROM MRS. ENGLISH

Dear People,

Greetings to you all. As it is now more than a year since I was obliged to give up my work amongst you and as the Christmas Season is here once more, I felt that I would like to convey my very best wishes to you all and at the same time assure you that I have not forgotten you.

Some of you may have thought it strange that I should go without saying goodbye. For one thing it would not have been possible at the time for me to have seen you all personally and for another, I would not say farewell when I did not believe that time or distance would make any difference to my interest in you all.

My sojourn amongst you while in the service of the Board was a happy one and the years went all too quickly.

Of course the road was not always a smooth one, for there were difficulties and disappointments along the way. Despite the latter, I was able to watch with justifiable pride, the endeavours on the part of those of you who overcame all obstacles and made good.



" Hey, come and see what I've got ", this young fellow seems to be calling out. And by the look of things he certainly has a lot



It is becoming increasingly popular in Australia, and particularly in New South Wales, for many home owners to illuminate and decorate their front trees at Christmas time, just like the one seen here

Those who determined not to allow themselves to become bogged down in the mire of apathy and self-pity discovered that life had much to offer them.

You see, most of you have found that while you have the encouragement and help of many, it is only possible for them to assist you part of the way. The rest is up to you and you alone.

I happen to know that many of you are tired of being made the target of press publicity, leastways of adverse and ill-informed publicity and of defeatist statements such as that old bogey of "stealing the country". Such a foolish utterance only fosters resentment and opens wide a wound that should have been allowed to heal. It all happened so long ago, that we of the present should not waste precious time in looking backwards nor in recriminations which do no good whatsoever. All that can and should be done now, is for us to ensure that we will become united fellow Australians, determined to develop what is so sadly lacking in this torn but wonderful old World of ours, "A Brotherhood of Man".

As I see it, the best way to combat opposition and to destroy discrimination, is a united effort to make those, who by their indifference and careless mode of living, see how largely responsible they are for holding back your progress. In order to bring this about, you will need courage and determination.

I know of the hardships most of the older generation endured in years gone by. My talks with many of them convinced me that they realized the difficulties involved in learning a new way of life. They spoke with pride of their ancestors, religions and culture. I was aware of their pride and their dignity.

I remember, too, the hopes they expressed for the new generation, the young ones, whose lives must, of necessity, follow a new pattern. All that they asked was that they be given the opportunities that came too late for them. There was no bitterness amongst them, only understandable sadness at the passing of their way of life.

Mrs. English's Letter

To have known and talked with them was at enriching experience.

I know that you too, will meet every challenge in your endeavours to win a rightful place in the community, without bitterness.

To those of you with families, I do urge that you make an even greater effort to ensure a secure and happy future for your children. As parents, I feel sure that you will face up to your responsibilities and that where necessary, you will co-operate fully with those who are ready and willing to help you.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Your sincere friend,

IRENE ENGLISH,

Ex-Welfare Inspector.

"A Stranger in the City"

By ROD SHERRY of Burnt Bridge

(The author of this poem says "I had to go to Sydney recently to have an operation and wrote this poem whilst I was there".)

You have heard some tales of Dad and Dave — and people from the bush
Who have gone down from the country — to see the city push
So here's a yarn about myself — and some of it is true
And to me it wasn't funny — but I'll leave that up to you
The train pulls in to Central — that's a very busy place,
And the pushing, shoving, people — make you hate the human race
So I walk around the station — looking for some place to rest,
As I'm tired out from my journey — and I don't know what is best
So after resting on the steps awhile — I make off across the street
Then met a great big burly policeman — who was walking on his beat :
"Get back and wait with all the rest"—this man in blue then said :
"Can't you see that light up there — and don't you know it's red ?"
So soon I get away from there — and start to look around,
And then I find the subway — which of course is under ground
Well I'll take a walk down here I thought — for I had some time to spare
But very soon I'm lost, my friends — it's tricky way down there
So I ask a friendly policeman — and he soon showed me the way,
And if you are lost in any city — ask a policeman any day
It was then I met a coloured chap — Bill Glover was his name,
And a better friend I've never met — true friendship was his aim ;
He took me through the city — show'd me parks and lovely houses
And told me this little yarn — about a pair of trousers
It seems that Bill went shopping — he had nothing else to do,
And he gets a pair of trousers — but some lady grabbed them too,
And then they have a tug-o-war — of course 'twas all in fun,
But ended up with one leg each — of course those pants were done
Both paid the price and all was well — but it just goes to show
When shopping in the city — you just have to have a go
And now my friends I'll say goodbye — God bless you every day
For my little poem is finished — and I'll put my pen away
But before I go, take heed my friends — for you there'll be no pity
If you go out and you're like me — a stranger in the city.



This G.P.O. mail sorter says, "We call this heartbreak corner", as he examines a pile of Christmas parcels that have broken open in transit through bad packing. Unfortunately, a lot of people, young and old, are going to be disappointed when their presents don't arrive.

A WORD OF ADVICE TO RESIDENTS OF ABORIGINAL STATIONS

A manager had reason to investigate a "blue" on his station, and if the noise meant anything, there was a life-size riot going on.

However, it just happened one of the "boys" came home merry, but a crowd of about twenty people of all ages were not game to let him be merry on his own, and provoked him to "doing his block" to all and sundry.

The manager realised that the only way to restore order was to disperse the crowd, but they were reluctant to go. After three commands (you cannot request a mob to disperse), they finally went all but one fellow, who stood on his rights and dignity. It was carefully explained to this fellow, who was dead cold sober as the saying goes, that his presence was aggravating the situation. This he failed to see. He will be attending the next court, on a charge of failing to obey a reasonable command. This of course was a breach

of No. 7 of the Regulations under the Aborigines Protection Act.

Many residents complain about the "drunks" and the brawls, but they fail to realise that they are only making matters worse for everybody when they want to "stickybeak" at a disturbance on their station. Some of the "boys" like to put on an act, therefore when residents purposely go from one end of the station to the other just to see what is going on, they are only making matters worse, and providing the offenders with an audience.

So remember this, that it is better to stay in your own home when there is trouble about. Far better than getting involved in something which does not concern you, and spending a few days in the "cooler".

Incidentally, the merry fellow who started all this took the manager's advice and went home.

Colourful Ceremony To Open Aborigine Homes

Paper flags rippling and rustling in a stiff northerly struck a carnival note for the opening of the five new homes at Greenhill one Saturday, recently. The aboriginal occupants, expectant and excited, had decorated their homes inside and out for the formal opening ceremony by the Mayor, Ald. F. A. Slack.

Representatives of churches, service organisations and associations joined civic dignitaries for the ceremony. The numbers swelled shortly afterwards when three bus-loads of passengers arrived to break their tour of Festival gardens.

They arrived in time to watch part of a merry display by children from Greenhill school, and inspected the new homes, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mumbler, Mrs. Amelia Hoskins, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Smith, Mrs. Leila Roberts and Mr. and Mrs. James Jackie.

Before the speeches began, two tiny tots, Beverly and Beryl Hoskins, presented sprays of flowers to the Mayoress (Mrs. Slack), and Mrs. N. Long, wife of the chairman of the Kempsey Aboriginal Welfare Committee.



Xmas Eve

Introducing the Mayor, Mr. Long emphasised that the simple opening ceremony had a much deeper significance for the Kempsey Aboriginal Welfare Committee.

“We take pride in the fact that this is the first step in a progressive movement through the years by which our coloured friends will be more adequately housed than in the past,” he said.

“It is a fact that in the past, Kempsey has won a name for itself of which we are not very proud, so we determined to do something so that these people would have an opportunity of bettering themselves in life.

“The families who have been selected for these cottages have been wisely chosen and we feel that if they are given an opportunity they will adopt the white man’s way of life and set an example to their fellow aborigines.”

Mr. Long then went on to thank the Aborigines Welfare Board for making the housing grant possible and extended his thanks to local tradespeople who cut costs to a minimum and enabled the committee to build five homes from the limited funds.

He thanked Mr. Ken Brenton, who designed and built the cottages; R. J. Jamieson and Sons, who provided timber at cost and made no charge for freight; Mr. L. M. Everingham, who did the painting at cost price; Mr. R. G. Melville, who did the brick work at cost; Mr. R. H. Packwood, who did the plumbing at cost; Mr. G. F. Brest, for joinery and moulding at cost; Schroder’s for ironmongery and hardware at considerably reduced rates and the Macleay River Co-operative Dairying Co. who provided other materials at cut rates.

Mr. H. J. Green, the newly-appointed Superintendent of the Aborigines Welfare Board made his first official appearance in Kempsey and warmly congratulated the Kempsey Welfare Committee and the townspeople on their encouraging work.

“What we see here,” he said, “is not an end but a beginning. It is only the beginning of the task of making the residents of these cottages at one with the rest of the community.”

In opening the homes, the Mayor commended the housing programme. “It is only a beginning of the future development and assimilation of our aboriginal brothers,” he said. “Many of the people here will recall that up until recently the housing standard here was not fit for our community.”

He congratulated the Aboriginal Welfare Board and the local Committee on its forthright programme and said that the integration would slowly bear fruit with better housing, education and employment of aboriginal people.

(Continued on next page)

He outlined recent progress and urged that the work continue.

"We are intruders on the aboriginals' way of life inasmuch as we should never forget that this country belonged to them originally. In the sight of God all people are equal and are not considered in relation to the colour of their skin."

Ald. Slack then presented Mr. K. Brenton with a cigarette case as a mark of appreciation for his work on the new homes.

To Mrs. A. Hoskins (the winner) and Mrs. J. Jackie, Ald. Slack presented trophies won by them during the recent Festival garden competition.

The winners also received plants donated by Mr. W. Flanigan, Mr. Ross Kesby and Mrs. R. G. Melville.

Plants donated by Mr. Kesby were also presented to other home owners, Mrs. Alan Smith, Mrs. Fred Mumbler and Mrs. Leila Roberts.

Later, the Shire President, Cr. J. Saul, presented

certificates to representatives of Greenhill school for winning the Shire's school garden competition.

At the end of formalities, visitors watched a spirited display of folk dancing, action songs and games, interspersed with choral items, from Greenhill school-children, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Jack Jeffery.

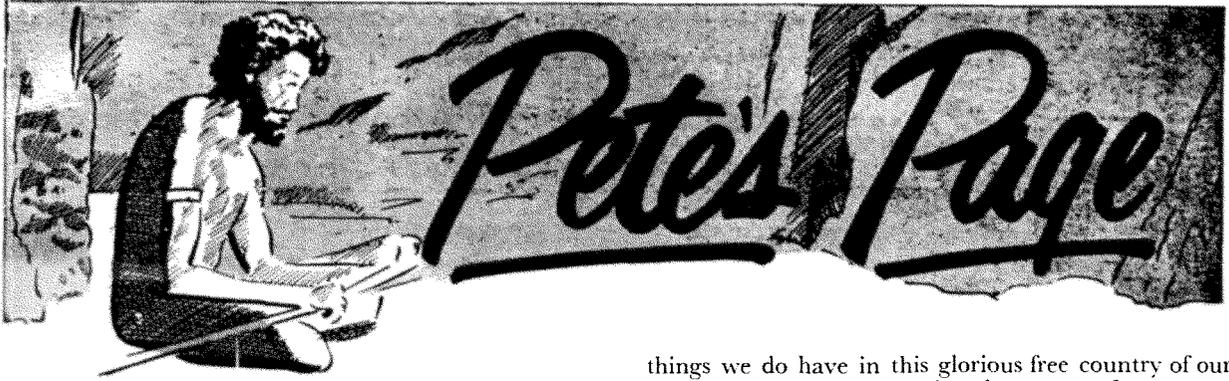
The children were later entertained at a party, a gesture of appreciation for the high standard of entertainment.

The party fare was donated by service organisation in town, and prepared by Greenhill residents.

In the official party at the opening of the new aboriginal homes at Greenhill were the Mayor and Mayoress, Ald. and Mrs. F. A. Slack, the Shire President, Cr. J. Saul and Mrs. Saul, President of the Kempsey Aborigines Welfare Committee, Mr. N. Long and Mrs. Long, Mrs. R. B. Gamack, Mr. A. Norton (Aboriginal Welfare Officer) and Mr. H. J. Green, Superintendent of the Aborigines Welfare Board.



Pete, on a recent shooting trip at Moree



Hello Kids—

Writing to me from Green Hills, via Kempsey, Valerie Hoskins sent along a pencil drawing entitled "The Birth of Jesus Christ". Valerie said "I think only for The Lord Jesus Christ, we wouldn't be celebrating Christmas at all. I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year." Thank you very much indeed, Val. Also two nice coloured sketches from Valda Toomey of Queen Street, Pilliga. Thanks, Valda.

A special prize this month to Melva Kennedy of the St. Columbans Seminary, 57 Braeside Street, Wahroonga for her two sketches; these will appear in *Dawn* later. Melva would like some pen friends from 15 to 20 years of age. Her hobbies are swimming, horseriding, modern music and dancing. How about some letters for Melva.

Also a brief note from Mary Button of 93 McIntosh Street, Forster, enclosing some photographs. Mary is one of those who sat for her Intermediate Exam. this year and I sincerely hope she passes. Thank you for your note, Mary.

Pat Galway of Moulamein Road, Barham, sent me some nicely coloured drawings. They just missed out on a prize this time Pat, but send some more will you.

Also had a very nice letter (the second one lately), from my pal Charlotte Nicholson of Moulamein. Charlotte told me all about the recent Ten Town Talent Show. Seems to have been a wonderful success. Pam Dickson, whose address is c.o. Post Office, Green Hill, Kempsey, is 15 years of age and wants some pen friends between 15 and 18 years of age. Pam's hobbies are swimming, cycling, dancing and collecting film star photos. Well kids, how about a bagful of letters for Pam?

I also had a nice sketch "In a tight spot", from 13 year old Matilda Williams. Just missed a prize Matilda, but better luck next time.

Robert J. Baxter, c.o. Mr. J. Lawler, Beulah, Victoria, who is 18 years of age, would like a girl pen friend about the same age. How about it?

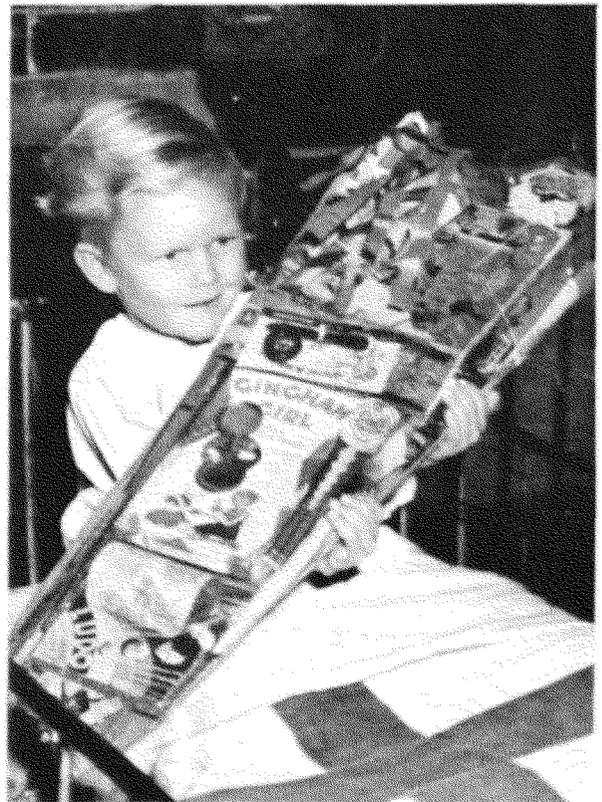
Well Kids, this is the big month we have all been looking forward to and it is my sincere wish that each and every one of you gets everything he or she is hoping for. But if we do miss out on some things, lets just reflect for a moment to consider the many wonderful

things we do have in this glorious free country of ours, and then we will realise just how more fortunate we are than thousands of other people throughout the world.

A happy Christmas and a very prosperous and eventful New Year to you and yours and may God bless you all.

Your sincere pal

Pete



Although he is a patient in the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Michael will not miss out, as Santa Claus always makes sure that he visits the hospitals first of all



DECEMBER

I S T H E M O N T H T O G R O

(FLOWER SEED SOWINGS)

Ageratum	Carnation	Marigold	Stock
Alyssum	Celosia	Nasturtium	Sturt's Desert Pea
Amaranthus	Cockscomb	Pansy	Sunflower
Antirrhinum	Coleus	Petunia	Sweet Pea
(Snapdragon)	Capsicum (Ornamental)	Phlox	Tithonia
Arctotis	Convolvulus (Dwarf)	Poor Man's Orchid	Torenia
Aster	Cosmos	Poppy	Tweedia
Balsam	Dianthus	Portulaca	Verbena
Brachycome	Flannel Flower	Primula	Viola
(Swan River Daisy)	Gaillardia	Rudbeckia	Viscaria
Californian Poppy	Gerbera	Saponaria	Wallflower
(Eschscholtzia)	Kochia	Snapdragon	Zinnia

(VEGETABLE SEED SOWINGS)

Bean (French, Wax and Climbing)	Celery	Marrow	Radish
Beet	Celtuce	Melon	Rosella
Silver Beet	Cress	Mustard	Salsify
Broccoli	Cucumber	Okra	Squash (Bush)
Brussels Sprouts	Egg Plant	Parsley	Sweet Corn
Cabbage	Endive	Parsnip	Tomato
Carrot	Herbs	Popcorn	Turnip
Cauliflower	Lettuce	Pumpkin	Swede

(FLOWERING BULBS)

Agapanthus	Brunsvigia	Crinum	Nerine
Amaryllis	Canna	Cyclamen	Sternbergia
Billbergia	Clivia	Dahlia	Vallota

PLANTING GUIDE

Ornamental Trees	Passion Fruit	Ferns	Sweet Potato
Ornamental Shrubs	Palms		