



Dawn



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

February, 1954.



Summer Camp!



Dawn



OUR COVER

This month's cover was selected from one of the many happy photographs taken at the Summer Camp at La Perouse.

The youngsters are:—

(Back Row)

Shirley Murray (Moree);

Alice French (Moree).

(Front Row)

Daphne Pitt (Moree);

Brenda Leslie (Coonabarabran);

Elsie French (Moree).

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SUMMER CAMP FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

PARENTS DID A GOOD JOB

by

M. H. SAXBY,

Superintendent, Aborigines Welfare.

This year the Summer Camp for aboriginal children from Western Districts was held at La Perouse. The first children moved in on Saturday, 9th January, and the last party moved out on Sunday, 24th January.

Children came from Bourke, Walgett, Coonamble, Gulargambone, Brewarrina, Wellington, Collarenebri, Moree, Boggabilla, Quirindi, Murrin Bridge, Coonabarabran, and Dubbo, and in all, sixty-five were accommodated at the Camp.

A great amount of preliminary work was necessary, in the preparation of the ground, making of tables, trestles and forms, installation of a stove and equipping the kitchen, and erection of tents. This preliminary work was under the direction of Mr. Jeffery, Supervisor of the La Perouse Reserve. He was ably assisted by Mr. Bob Brown from Wreck Bay, without whose yeoman service the Camp could not have been the success it proved to be.

Mr. Burless, the Board's Welfare Officer at Moree, was in charge of the Camp. He was assisted by his wife, a qualified medical practitioner, and five ex-students from the Sydney Teachers' College. Mrs. Mary Griffiths, of La Perouse, was the cook and Mrs. Lily Foster was in charge of the staff quarters and assisted the cook.

Messrs. Cole and Green, of the Board's Head Office staff, were responsible for the commissariat and entertainment activities respectively.

All staff members worked loyally and well, and Mr. Jeffery ably assisted during the Camp period.

The behaviour of the children was exemplary. They observed necessary rules and at all times cheerfully undertook the usual Camp chores. Tents were kept clean and tidy.

The parents of the children are to be highly commended for the neat and tidy appearance of the children as they arrived at Camp. All were provided with ample changes of clothing, and when taken on outings as a group, one could not but be proud of their deportment and appearance. It has never been my privilege to have had anything to do with a better behaved group of children. I record this fact sincerely, and without hesitation.

A notable feature of the Camp was the interest displayed by the residents of La Perouse, both from the

Reserve and otherwise. A number of young men particularly, assisted in the preparation of vegetables, wood-chopping, washing-up and generally keeping the camp site tidy and free from garbage and rubbish. Thanks are due especially to Albert Ardler, Kevin Longbottom, Noel Timbery, Bruce Stewart, Neville Moore, Donald Walker, Ken Foster, and the inimitable William Pitman. Mr. Siggs, local missionary of the United Aborigines Mission, was most helpful and co-operative in assisting with entertainment and arranging suitable religious services.

Apart from the first day of Camp, which was very wet, campers enjoyed beautiful weather. There was a freedom from serious accident or illness among the children.

All children were medically and dentally examined and the matter of treatment for any defects discovered will be taken up with parents in due course.

The children enjoyed many swims in the calm waters of Botany Bay, some, however, remarking that the "river was too salty." Trips were undertaken to the Zoo, the Circus, Manly, Tivoli Pantomime and Luna Park and Kurnell.

Most of the children had never seen a big city or the sea before. The experiences of the visit, the holiday by the sea, and the social contacts made, cannot have been other than beneficial to those who participated.

All were regretful when "break up" day came, and not a few were in tears as farewells were said.

The proximity of the Camp to the city enabled me to spend quite a good bit of my time, including one of the weekends, there. I was able to give some assistance to the staff and benefited much by mixing amongst the children and gaining their confidence. It was very gratifying to see them enjoying themselves and the happy atmosphere which existed, sufficient reward for all who had anything at all to do with the organisation.

Visitors to the Camp were the Hon. C. A. Kelly, Chief Secretary, the Chairman and Members of the Board, Mr. Kingsmill, Chief Clerk of the Department, and Mr. Duncan, Accountant, the Rev. Archdeacon Robertson and Rev. Clint, and Mr. Keith Smith of the A.B.C. Each member of Head Office staff paid a visit to the Camp during the time it was in progress. The Secretary, Mr. Mullins and Mrs. Inspector English were frequent visitors.

BIRDSTVILLE REVISITED

by

MICHAEL SAWTELL,

Well-known author, and traveller and Member of the Aborigines Welfare Board.



Recently I did my annual tour of the Inland. This time I revisited Birdsville, a tiny bush town in the extreme south-western corner of Queensland, lying in what is more generally known as the Channel country.

It is the best beef fattening country in Australia, and I was first there in 1900 as a drovers' boy, for the late cattle king, Sir Sydney Kidman.

I flew in the big Alice Springs plane to Leigh's Creek, and there I changed into the little six-seater plane, the "Drover" with which T.A.A. serves the Channel country.

As the "Drover" was a day late, I went down to a little town named Copley and visited the public school, which has an attendance of 25 children, 13 of them aborigines.

The District Inspector happened to be there at the time, and when I gave him a copy of *Dawn*, he was delighted to learn what we are doing for the aboriginal children in New South Wales.

From Leigh's Creek I flew up over the famous Maree Birdsville, where many years ago, I had taken cattle on hard dry trips up to 80 and 90 miles without water.

I think 112 miles without water for cattle is the record. From the air I looked down upon the few large pools of water still in the Cooper, and away to the west in the brilliant sunlight I could see Lake Eyre glistening, but whether it was salt or water I could not tell.

From the Cooper, the big shallow claypans begin to show up, and from Cowrie right up to Birdsville there is water in those great rivers—probably from the record floods there early this year.

At Cowrie, which is probably the driest cattle-producing area in Australia, the rainfall is only five inches a year, but men who have lived a life-time on the edge of Lake Eyre tell me that the country is so fertile that even that rainfall is enough, if it is regular.

I have known Cowrie to have been wiped out and deserted in a big drought, but now they have a motor punt on the Warburton river. All the stations in the Channel country now have motor punts to get across the great flooded rivers and the wide flooded plains.

Boats and floods in the so called "Dead Heart"! Strange but true! From the plane I looked down over Goyders Lagoon, which is at the junction of the Georgina and Diamantina rivers, to see an enormous area of country about 100 miles around, all covered with numerous small channels. It looked like some huge irrigation scheme. Those big rivers, when they come down in floods, spread out over the country and irrigate it naturally, with the numerous small channels. Hence the name the Channel country. Birdsville has one of the best aerodromes in Australia. It is only a few yards from the hotel, and one can walk from the plane to the hotel.

The night I arrived in Birdsville, before I went to bed, had paid my respects to all the nineteen people of the town.

In this town, they also have one of the best picture shows in Australia. In the main street they erect a large screen and on this they project the pictures. The bush people drive up in their cars and sit back to enjoy the show. The aborigines also sit around and yell and scream their approval. At the end a collection is taken up, and everyone contributes something, including the aborigines, who are all now earning big money.



These Indonesian students were recently in Australia studying our social and cultural activities. Some of them visited the La Perouse Station.

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.



Three Cabbage Tree Island girl guides, Vivienne Anderson, Cynthia Moran and Fay Cook.



A real tough man from the West (or is it the North), Richard Lang, of Burnt Bridge.



Another woman driver! Helen Lang, of Burnt Bridge, gets some instructions from her brother.



William Sands, of New Angledool, poses for the cameraman.



Ethel Williams, of Swan Hill, looks the real sports girl.



Dorothy Mitchell is rather proud of her pet, Kim, and insisted he be in the picture.

BIRDSVILLE REVISITED—Cont'd from page 2.

There is a very fine type of bush policeman in Birdsville, Sergeant Barlow. I have great respect for our bush police, and I have had a great deal to do with them, in the last fifty years.

In this town, Sergeant Barlow is the leading man and he organises almost everything.

He is also keen on the co-education of white and aborigine children. There are 18 children in the Birdsville school, and only five are white.

Altogether, Sergeant Barlow has 20 different jobs and is also the local Protector of Aborigines.

I spent the evening talking to him, and he told me that no adult non-exempted aborigine under his care had less than £140 to his credit in the bank. The Sergeant told me that the pictures cost £400, and the money was raised, as one resident told me, by all throwing-in £20. That is the spirit of those tiny bush towns, where there is the real community effort.

From Birdsville I journeyed by truck with Mr. Bill Coates, the clerk of the Diamantina Shire Council, and he was also able to give me some excellent information as we made our way up to Glengyle Station, which is the Kidman Estates head station.

We had with us an old Kinchela boy, Miles Herbert Lalor, who told me he appreciated what had been done for him at Kinchela. At Glengyle I met an old aboriginal woman, Lizzie, who must now be well over seventy years of age, and who said she remembered me. She said, "I been knowem you long, long, long time, when you been boy."

When I ask about the aboriginal boys, with whom I had grown up on the edge of the Simpson desert, she said, "You make me sorry fellow, for all about are dead now."

The aborigines have nearly all died out in that country.

I also saw old Kitty, the last of the real old Simpson Desert aborigines. There has been complete and silent revolution in the standard of living in that out-back country.

In the past 50 years there are no drab over-worked women there now, for they have washing machines, electric light, refrigerators, wireless, flying doctors, and the school of the air.

The wages to me seem almost fantastic. Where I once worked for 15s. a week, white and aboriginal boys are now paid £16 a week, and £3 16s. 6d. a day for Sunday work, and old Lizzie, was told by Constable Hale in Bedourie, has to her credit £300.

But the rate of production is still low, ranging from one beast to the square mile down in the Lake Eyre country, to about three beasts to the square mile in the Channel country.

How to improve the rate of production is a long and difficult story—a story that must wait for another time.

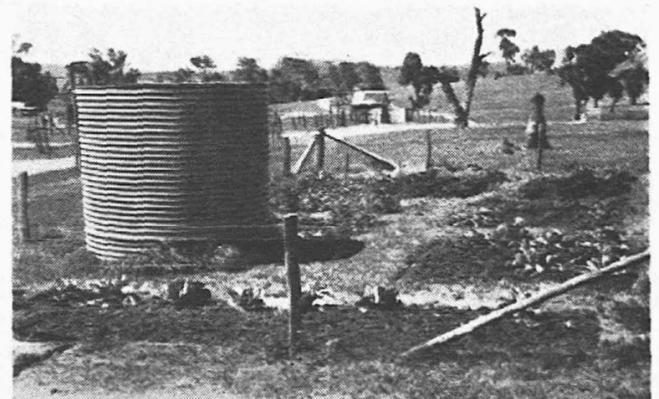
GARDEN COMPETITION

The Runners-Up

Nanima School lost the Garden trophy this year but they were certainly not disgraced in getting second place.



A group of youngsters from Nanima School.



This section of Nanima's garden had potatoes, onions, corn, pumpkins, cabbage and spinach.



Another view of the Nanima School Garden showing its elaborate layout of well-kept beds.



Harry Briggs, Senior, one of the oldest and best-known residents of Moonahcullah.



109 year-old Charlie Dennison, of Boggabilla, with members of his family and Mr. Harrison, Manager of the Station.



Don Martin, of Seymour, Texas, U.S.A., is one of *Dawn's* keenest supporters. He has many aboriginal pen-friends.



Lennie Bowden works in the Condobolin sawmills and is an expert benchman.

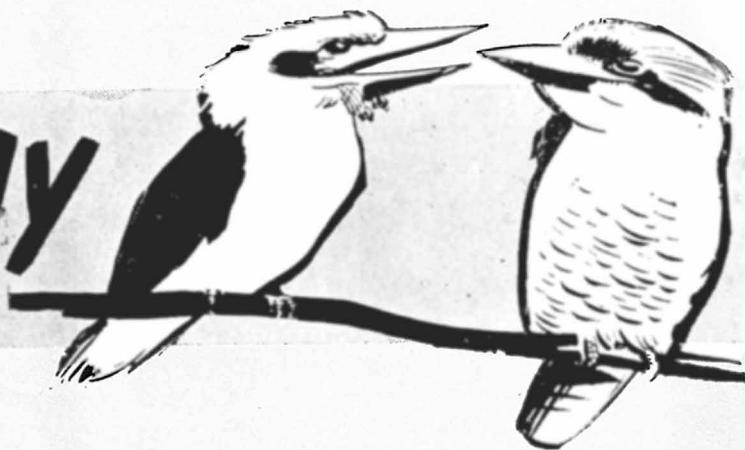


Walter Knight and Ken Buchanan, of Waratah, strike a leisurely pose for the camera.



This pretty miss is June Mason, of Condobolin.

THEY SAY



William Hughes and James Dickson, both ex-Kinchela lads, who are members of the Bermagui Life Saving Club, took part in a surf carnival recently at Bermagui, which was held in honour of His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir John Northcott's visit to the district.

James Dickson was presented to His Excellency the Governor, who shook hands with him and two other members of the Club.

The Manager and Matron of Tabulam Aborigines Station, wish to extend their deepest sympathy to Mrs. Nancy Torrens and all the family in their recent bereavement. Don Torrens was a well known and respected figure, both on the Station and in Tabulam. His sudden death on the morning of Friday, February 12th, 1954, was a great loss, not only to the family, but to all the residents of this Station. He was known affectionately as the "Mayor". His funeral was one of the largest seen in Tabulam, about 130 people attended to pay their last respects.

Congratulations to Adelaide Torrens and Nancy Hickling, of Tabulam, on the birth of a fine daughter to each in January.

The P. & C. Association, of Tabulam Aborigine School, have recently purchased a wireless, this is a great effort as the P. & C. has only been active for a short period.

The children are greatly enjoying their Square Dancing lessons recently started at school. It is intended at a later date to hold Square Dances both for young and old, to swell the P. & C. funds.

Mr. and Mrs. Simon Miles of Woodenbong now have a new son, Euston.

One of the most famous of North Coast horsemen recently died in Kyogle hospital.

He was Alex Williams of Woodenbong Station, reputed to be 100 years of age.

A very pretty wedding was recently celebrated at Woodenbong when Wynne, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Ord, married Jimmy Gordon.

The bride, just turned sixteen, looked lovely in her bridal outfit, complete with veil.

The young couple intend settling in Queensland.

Woodenbong residents say the Station will not seem the same without "Smiling Wynne."

Some really splendid acts were presented by Woodenbong children at their school concert in the Recreation Hall last month, and much of the credit for the success of the concert must go to Mr. Ringland and Mr. Greenfield.

Although she is over 78 years of age, Mrs. Clara Williams made all the dresses for the concert—quite a task!

Little Valma Close, a daughter of one of the Station's most progressive residents, was the Fairy Queen, a role she carried out very well.



"Our Pets", a drawing by Ivan Ravenau, of Moree.

STRANGE CREATURES OF THE DEEP

IMPORTANT NEW FINDS

Latest discoveries from the deepest part of the world's oceans show that a weird community dwells on life's last frontier.

The discoveries were made on the deepsea exploration trip of the Danish naval frigate, *Galathea*, which called at Sydney and other Australian ports during its voyage.

The significance of the discoveries has just been announced by Dr. Claude E. Bell Zo Bell, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in Washington. He was on *Galathea* as a U.S. naval observer.

Principal discovery of the expedition was that life exists at the bottom of the deepest part of the oceans, in perpetual darkness at temperatures close to freezing and under pressures of approximately 15,000 lb. to the square inch, which is practically 1,000 times normal surface pressure.

Galathea dredges brought up 27 varieties of sea anemones—free-living creatures very similar to polyps of coral.

There were more than 100 holotherians, or sea cucumbers. There also were five kinds of sea lice, five worms, five kinds of molluscs akin to oysters and clams, and two crab-like creatures. All these, normally, are inhabitants of surface waters, but through the millenniums they gradually have descended to great depths and become acclimatised to the total darkness and enormous pressures.

None of them was brought up alive. They could not survive, even for the few minutes required to bring the dredges to the surface, the enormous change in pressure. Their bodies were badly distorted when they reached the surface.

All these discoveries are essentially sedentary animals. It is quite possible, says Dr. Zo Bell, that larger and livelier creatures—perhaps even fish or free-swimming molluscs such as squids—exist at the great depths. It would be almost impossible to catch any of them, because they would swim free of any sort of dredge.

Scientists on *Galathea* found that the sediment on the sea bottom was alive with bacteria. They found billions of these one-celled, invisibly minute organisms per gram of bottom mud.

These creatures differed quite markedly from the bacteria found on land or in surface waters. By special techniques it was possible to keep them alive and study

the means by which they have been able to adapt themselves to great pressures. Research on these points may be of considerable importance to biological theory in general.

Hitherto it has been thought that life would be impossible under such conditions. A primary question is that of food. A certain amount of organic material floats downward from the sea's surface.

This may constitute sufficient food for the bacteria and these, in turn, may constitute the base of the pyramid of life at great depths. Most of the animals found on the deep-sea floor were types adapted to feed on small particles. Some actually were gorged with micro-organisms. Beyond that, they probably feed quite voraciously on each other.

The greatest depth at which life was found was $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles at the bottom of the Mindanao trench, near the Philippines.

The bacteria brought up from this abyss could not survive more than a few minutes at surface pressures. It was possible to save some of them alive for study, by placing them in a refrigerator under pressure equivalent to that of the sea bottom.

Instruments for collecting sea-bottom life, Dr. Zo Bell says, are still necessarily crude, and until they are vastly improved it will not be possible to do more than scratch the surface of the living world at such great depths.

ABORIGINES MUST VOTE

Are You on the Roll?

Contrary to the belief of most people, all Aborigines in New South Wales have a vote, and enrolment and voting are compulsory.

As the Federal Elections will be held in May next, all readers are advised to check with their Station Manager, or local Police Station, to make sure their names are on the Electoral Roll.

INTER-SCHOOL SPORT

Cabbage Tree Island v. Woodburn

Boys and girls of Cabbage Tree Island recently had a most enjoyable afternoon when they visited the Woodburn Central School for softball and cricket matches.

The Cabbage Tree Island girls again failed to beat their more experienced rivals but showed that they have improved considerably since the last encounter. They went down 32 to 29.

The C.T.I. boys were much too good for their opponents, Woodburn being quickly dismissed for 33 runs. John Rhodes (4 wickets) and Henry Bolt (3 wickets) were the main destroyers but Barry Marlow and Brian Caldwell bowled very well.

C.T.I. passed the Woodburn score with only one wicket down and several boys later retired as time was running out.

Brian Caldwell, who scored 21 before being run out, was the most impressive batsman. He was very confident and produced many delightful strokes. His score included two very powerful fours. Brian is very interested in cricket and should be an asset to some local team in a few years time. Barry Marlowe also batted brightly, scoring 11 before he was caught.

When the games concluded, the visitors were entertained to afternoon tea by the girls of the domestic science classes. Later the children made their way to the nearest cafe, reappearing some time afterwards laden with ice-cream, chocolates, biscuits, sweets, fruit, etc.

Some, we think, looked upon this as the best part of the day!



This young lady in her Salvation Army Uniform, is Gloria Leon, of Merewether.

BURNT BRIDGE CHILDREN

Burnt Bridge children are no slouches when it comes to sport.

The pictures below, show just how successful they have been.



Just a few of the cups and pennants which the Burnt Bridge boys and girls won last year.



This Burnt Bridge 5-stone football team proved unbeatable.



Some of the trophies won last year for football, cricket, captain ball, marching and athletics.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

While quite a number of aborigines are regularly employed in skilled and semi-skilled occupations, the majority are dependent upon seasonal work of a casual and unskilled nature.

The unemployment position, therefore, fluctuates. Unemployed aborigines are entitled to apply for the usual Unemployment Benefits and are encouraged to do so. To those not eligible and others who are indigent, the usual issues of rations, clothing and blankets are made.

Generally speaking, the employment position throughout the year was not as good as last year. This resulted in an increase in the amount of clothing and blankets issued, but the amount expended on rations showed a decrease due, no doubt, to the payment of Commonwealth Benefits in lieu of ration issues.

Aboriginal workers enjoy the same labour conditions as other men, having the benefit of all appropriate awards, and, generally speaking, they suffer no disadvantage in their employment by reason of their colour.

Where income is regular, aborigines have been encouraged to improve their living conditions, especially where new dwellings have been erected by the Board. There is, however, much to be done in the education of the aboriginal worker in the proper and intelligent application of his income.

Relief and Benefits Provided by the Board.

The Board has continued to provide relief to the aged, infirm, indigent and incapable aborigines. This relief, of course, has not been confined to those residing on Aboriginal Stations or Reserves and, at the same time, has not been extended without due consideration of the capability of the aborigine to provide for himself and, where necessary, his family.

When an aboriginal is in employment he is expected to make provision for his family and is encouraged to avoid having to turn to the Government for assistance in times of unemployment by saving when he has an income against the day when he might be less fortunate. It is regrettable, however, that this does not meet with a very great measure of success.

Housing :

It is the Board's aim to provide, as far as possible and as funds allow, good housing for all aboriginal people. This aspect of the Board's activity is dealt with more fully in an earlier part of this report, being regarded as an important step in the Board's work towards the implementation of the Government's assimilation policy.

BOGGABILLA BOXERS

Following the success of the first Boxing Tournament held on Boggabilla Station to raise funds for the local Ambulance, another grand Boxing Tournament was recently held to augment the efforts of the Board toward the Children's Christmas Tree. Boxers from all over the nearby country (Warialda, Yetman, Moree Goondiwindi, etc.) participated.

It was very gratifying, also, to see boys from the Moree Aboriginal Station take part. There were no less than 40 nominations, but unfortunately, only 36 could be matched. Boggabilla has certainly put its name on the "Boxing Map."

Over 600 witnessed a grand show, and the public is clamouring for another.

A sum of £98 was realised from this tournament. The results of the boxing were as follows:—

Ray Binge, 2st. 8 lb. (Boggabilla) v. Brian Troutman, 2 st. 8 lb. (Boggabilla). This bout ended in a draw but certainly stole the show. Both boxers were congratulated and were showered with coins from the jubilant crowd.

John Binge, 10 st. 6lb. T.K.O. Cambell Johnson, 10 st. 4 lb. (Moree).

W. Jerrett, 9 st. 6 lb. beat C. Bird, 9 st. 7 lb. (Mungindi).

M. Jerrett, 9 st. beat Lyall Clarke, 9 st. 4 lb. (Moree).

Noel Graeme, 9 st. 2 lb. (Goondiwindi) beat S. Waters, 9 st. (Boggabilla).

Bill Waites, 8 st. 4 lb. (Boggabilla) beat Alfie Spearin, 8 st. 6 lb. (Moree).

Ronald Waters, 9 st. 7 lb. (Boggabilla) beat Les Hemstead, 9 st. 8 lb. (Goondiwindi) T.K.O. in last round. Best fight.

Kev Binge (Boggabilla) beat Pevlowitch (Goondiwindi).

Barlowe, 8 st. (Moree) beat N. Davis (Warialda).

A. Armstrong (Boggabilla) beat Bruce Munro (Moree).

Bluey Lang (Moree) beat Hilton Wightman (Boggabilla). A very good fight.

Des Clarence (Goondiwindi) beat Pop Eye Bartman (Boggabilla).

C. Harrison (son of the manager of Boggabilla) beat Jeff Prince (Boggabilla).

N. Binge (Boggabilla) beat C. Phillips (Warialda).

L. Sunderland (Goondiwindi) beat T. Hemstead (Goondiwindi).

Stan McIntosh (Boggabilla) beat R. Johnson (Warialda).

Don McIntosh (Boggabilla) beat T. Pasterfield (Warialda).

Pop Eye Bartman (Boggabilla) beat C. Lock (Warialda).

CONDOBOLIN SCHOOL

Athletic Successes



The Condobolin School youngsters are particularly proud of the fact that last year they won the Inter-Schools Sports Cup for athletics.



Here are some of the successful athletes looking spic and span in their neat white uniforms.



The all important trophy which the Condobolin youngsters will hold for the next twelve months.

ABORIGINES PARTY HIGHLIGHT OF FESTIVE SEASON

One of the highlights of the festive season was the party given local aborigine children in the Coff's Harbour Agricultural Society's Pavilion. The function was organised by Coff's Harbour Aborigines' Welfare Committee.

The hall was gaily decorated with Christmas festooning, and the centre of attraction was a beautiful Christmas tree, loaded with presents for the youngsters which Santa Claus presented at an appropriate break in the festivities.

More than fifty children and their parents were entertained at the party and the children, dressed in their very best, entered wholeheartedly into the fun.

It was a delight to see the well-behaved, bright-eyed youngsters enjoying to the full their Christmas party and to hear them singing well-known carols.

The tables were laden with a real Christmas spread. There was an abundance of good food, in addition to the traditional nuts, sweets, fruit, milk, soft drinks and ice cream, and the children did full justice to the good things placed before them.

During the function, Mr. Dick Button, on behalf of the aborigine population, thanked the Welfare Committee for the party.

Mr. Morgan, Aborigine Welfare Officer, also thanked the committee. He said these functions played a large part in the social education of the children and made them feel they are really wanted in the community.

The children, on their own initiative, provided one of the nicest gestures of the evening, when they presented Mrs. P. Chisholm, who is their teacher at the Public School, with a posy and small gift.

This little ceremony was well performed by the children, and Mrs. Chisholm was deeply touched by their kindness.

The Coff's Harbour and District Band contributed to the entertainment of the evening with a programme of carols and bright music, and the aborigines supplied items on mandolins and gum leaves.

Mrs. Dodd, who possesses a very sweet voice, rendered vocal items.

Cr. A. Patterson, president of the Welfare Committee, thanked the general public for their response to the committee's appeal for donations.

She made special mention of the Lions, Rotary, Apex and Ex-services clubs, the Technical College hobby class and the business houses, whose generous donations made it possible to give every child a really good present.

Mr. J. G. Gerard presented each child with a free ticket to the pictures and the very happy party broke up at 9.30 p.m.

Letters From Our Readers! . . .

In her long and interesting letter, Lexie Ellis of Jellingroo, Tumblong, said:

Dear Sir,

Thanks very much for my monthly copy of *Dawn* which I get and read with great interest. I'm always looking forward to it, and when I do read it I always think that the next copy seems to take ages to come.

During the last two weeks we've had some very hot weather here, and I can guess it's the same everywhere else in Australia.

Last Saturday I went to Wagga for a swim (Wagga is forty miles from here) and being new and only just opened, the pool was crowded with people.

I would be very pleased if you could get me *pen friends* between the ages of seventeen and nineteen who are interested in swimming, tennis and reading. I would like letters from both sexes. All letters will be answered and photographs would be accepted.

When the Queen visits Australia, she will visit Wagga, and the people are going to decorate the town. Many people will come here from all over the Riverina District.

This is my second letter I've written in, but I promise to write again. Until then I'll say cheerio and best wishes.

Yours faithfully,
Lexie Ellis.

Another interesting letter was from Margaret Cruse, of Wave Hill, Muttama. Margaret said:

Dear Sir,

We are all looking forward to seeing our beautiful young Queen in February. I suppose Sydney will be too crowded to move.

We have nearly fifty little turkeys to look after now, and, my word, they take a lot of looking after too. (I'd like to look after just one—on a plate!)

We have been busy shearing, dipping, footrotting the sheep. (My word, isn't there lots to be done on the land!)



Dear Editor,

It is with pleasure that I write to *Dawn* again. I was very interested recently to read the article in *Dawn* about Swan Hill and its new aboriginal centre.

It thrilled my heart to know that someone like the police sergeant at Swan Hill takes an interest in our people. As he said, it needs someone with vision to do this because, as it says in the Bible, "Where there is no vision the people perish." That is very true. I am glad someone like this sergeant has seen this because he can exert such a good influence. I am a very fair caste aboriginal and live off the La Perouse reserve, but I live for my people. I love to help all I can to see they are better cared for. There is so much to be done and our allotted spans are very short.

We have a wonderful lady doctor at Armidale, Dr. Kent Hughes, who is doing a great work among the coloured people. I served under her tuition for some years and I know just how much she is esteemed among our people.

Another very lovable person, a person so kind and gentle is Mrs. Inspector English. Words really fail me in trying to express my gratitude to her for the way she manages our girls and irons out our many troubles.

Her Majesty the Queen will be here shortly and when she arrives I hope there will be a great spirit of unity among our people. I hope she will be able to see us as we want her to see us.

Emma J. Cook,
Yarra Bay.

SUMMER

THESE photographs feature some of the Summer Camp held this year at

Almost 100 children from Bourke, Brewarrina, Wellington, Collarenebri, Bridge, Coonabarabran and Dubbo were a wonderful time.

Parents are at last realising that this is more than just a holiday in Sydney.

They contribute very materially to the welfare of our young Aborigines and prepare them for life in the white community.



Brian Dowd, Ambrose Brown, Charles Ruttley, Lionel Masters, Kevin Morgan, Cliff Sampson, Jill Hall, Beryl Walford, Beatrice Waters, Barbara Hall, Margaret Carney, Brenda Brennan, Alice French, Margaret Smith, Bert Prince, Ernest Kelly and Isabel Hickey.



Board Members—left to right—Mr. Michael Sawtell, Professor A. P. Elkin, Mr. E. G. Wright, M.L.C., Mr. C. J. Buttsworth, Supt. J. D. McAuley, Mr. M. H. Saxby, and Mr. Stan Wyatt, M.L.A.



Mervyn Sampson, Cliff Sampson, Ivan Taylor, Charles Ruttley, Bert Prince, Tom Taylor and Arthur Burns.



Left to right—Charles Ruttley, Ian Jeffrey, Ian Taylor, Arthur Burns, Neal



Mr. C. J. Buttsworth, (Chairman) and Mrs. Mary Griffiths (Cook).

R CAMP

of the activities of the highly successful
at La Perouse.

Walgett, Coonamble, Gulargambone,
Moree, Boggabilla, Quirindi, Murrin
ere accommodated at the Camp and had

ese Summer camps mean much more

the physical, social, and mental welfare
them for their eventual assimilation



ey, Bert Prince, Mr. H. W.
ur Burns, Tom Taylor and
Taylor.



Left to right—Professor A. P. Elkin, Mr. E.
G. Wright, Mr. C. J. Buttsworth, Supt. J.
D. McAuley, Mr. M. H. Saxby and Mr. Stan
Wyatt.



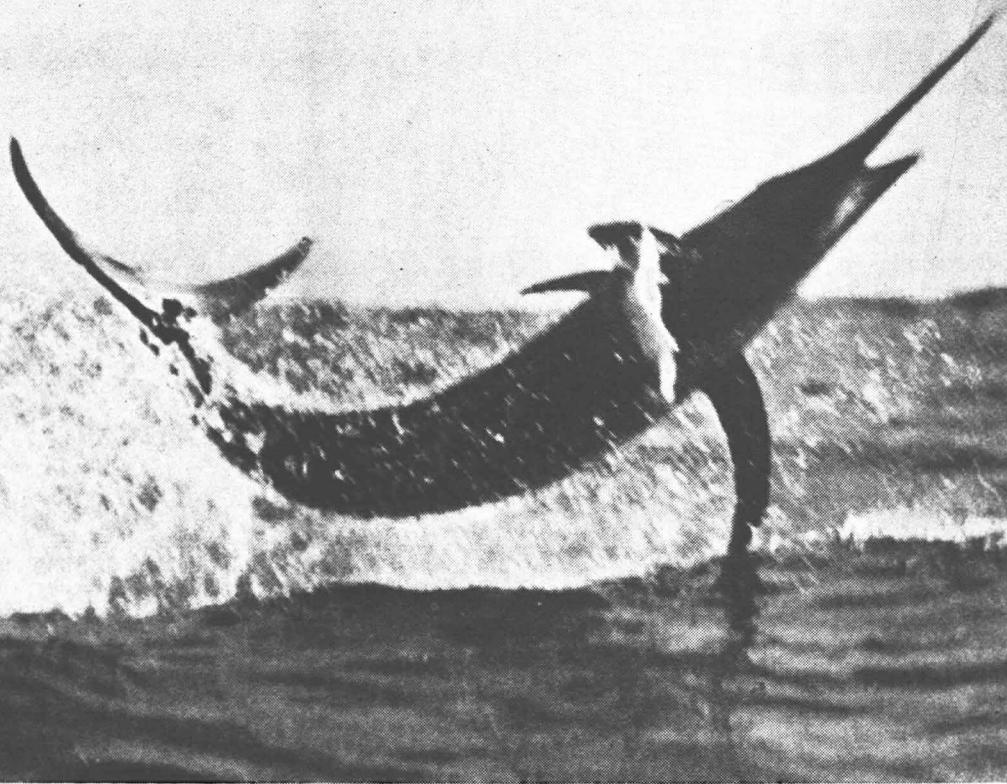
Kevin Morgan, Noel Fuller, Keith Roberts, Ambrose Brown, Ivan
Taylor, Charles Ruttley, Brian Lake, Brian Dowd, Don McIntosh,
Richard Chatfield, Tom Taylor and Bert Prince.



Standing—left to right—Mrs. J. K. Burless, Mr. J. K. Burless, Mrs.
Mary Griffiths, Mr. J. R. Mullins, Miss J. Barker, Miss L. Eastwood,
Mr. H. J. Green, Miss B. Lipscombe, Mr. H. W. Jeffrey, Mr. M. H.
Saxby. Sitting—Mr. G. Webeck, Mrs. Lily Foster, Mr. E. C. Sutton
and Mr. Bob Brown.



Janet Robinson, Brenda Leslie, Myra Cain, Betty Cameron and
Isabel Hickey.



THE BIG FISH

FORTY years ago we read of incredible angling feats with tarpon off the coast of California—and perhaps that was the genesis of the wonderful sea-sport with marlin, sharks, tunny, and other game-fish enjoyed all over the world to-day.

As far as New Zealand is concerned, I firmly believe that—even with Australia's strong claim for supremacy in this field of sport—the Northern East Coast waters of this Dominion are unrivalled in opportunity for the angler.

The fish are plentiful, splendidly conditioned to fight well, and the authorities have every possible convenience and facility available to the angler.

In New Zealand the season roughly extends from December to April, the marlin and sharks are migratory fish, and during the season pursue and thrive on the huge schools of surface fish in the shape of *trevalli* and *kabawai*—a type of mackerel.

In New Zealand the rulings about game-fish and tackle are clearly defined, and in some cases in Australia fish claimed as world records cannot be allowed, owing to the length of trace used and other breaches.

True game-fish are defined as broadbill (very rarely caught), black and striped marlin, mako shark (very similar to grey nurse), thresher and hammerhead sharks, and kingfish—which often scale at 100 lb. The harpoon is not allowed for any marlin or kingfish—the gaff is alone legal.

Rods are generally *tanekaha* (a New Zealand timber), split cane, or hickory, generally 8 feet long. Reels are very often Hardie or Andrea's, holding 500 yards of 39-thread line. The breaking strain allowed—21 lb. dry—2 lb. per thread. The trace specification is important if a weight is to have official recognition; 30 feet is the regulation—generally of wire.

The boats are generally equipped with a couple of swivel chairs—this allows two to fish, one man

pulling out when the other has a fish to deal with. These launches have ample power, are well decked, and quite capable of going out in all sorts of weather, for it takes pretty tough weather to keep a keen angler at the base camp.

Baits present little difficulty. Those who want sharks generally cast a net before setting out, and get some mullet in the bait well; however, troll a line with a spoon or red rag on the way out, and you can rely on an ample supply of live bait, generally *kabawai*.

The local boatmen know every point in the game, and after an early start to reach the grounds at sun-up, if you are fortunate you will reach acres covered with schools of fish, which look thick enough to walk on.

From time to time, with a huge splash, the school disperses to escape the onrush of a huge kingfish, shark, or marlin, while the noise of squawking gulls which hover overhead is deafening.

And now to our sport—shall we drift or troll ?

They are both methods which meet with about the same amount of success, though drifting is a bit of a trial if you are not a first-class sailor—there is no better way to get seasick.

Well, we will drift for a start. We grab a nice 5-lb. bait fish from the well, and carefully adjust it on the hook. Over she goes with a buoy in the shape of a bladder balloon as a guide. We puff at our pipes in silent hope and anticipation, if the seas and our interiors permit such liberties. With any luck, sooner or later a strike is indicated by the erratic and furious bobbing of our balloon.

“Action stations”—we strain as we sit in eager anticipation in our harness—rod butt in slot—while our boatman springs to his engine and gets to the starter.

Quickly the hooked fish—whatever it may prove to be—“goes for the doctor.”

The launchman's skill is now put to the full test as we get the strain, and realise that something worth while is on. The launch carefully follows the run of the fish, and then the full strain of the sturdy rod is felt, and we yield the line.

We have something worth while, not a shark, surely a decent marlin. As we must give more line, the launch helps us by its uncanny foresight of direction and speed, and this is a “hummer,” and we are at our last line of defence—little line left on the reel to play with—the strain is on, and the pace a killer. After about 40 minutes we give our fish the works, and up he comes—a nice striped marlin. Two or three leaps, and down he goes below the boat, worst possible angle for us, but we cope with this crisis, thanks to our boatman, Peter.

The fish tires, and so do we, but finally, after some tactical moves we gradually win line, and more line, until finally, after 90 minutes, our marlin, still with plenty of fight in him, is manoeuvred to the stern of the boat, and Peter, with the gaff, makes no mistake, while panting and puffing we admire a beautiful fighting streak which lies across the stern.

Trolling is a different game. Sighting many shoals disturbed by large fish, we decide on this method. We tow two “teasers”—lures shaped like fish—while we steam at about six knots, in and out of the shoals. The teasers are well astern, and in our chair, harnessed up and tense, we await the call to action.

Very soon we actually see a silver flash rush the lure, and quietly, on Peter's signal, in comes the lure, and out goes a kicking mackerel on our hook.

It is the thrill of thrills to see a game fish almost leap to take the mackerel.

The strike comes at once, and there are no beg-pardons, the preliminaries are cut out, and your fish either beats you at once or you are engaged in a struggle which is so fast that even your boatman cannot, in the case of a big one, regulate the tempo. It is give and take and victory to the best. The reel shrieks, and



This is a Black Marlin weighing 220 lb.

now every foot of line counts, and must be fought for. The boat waltzes and time flies, the struggle takes every ounce out of you.

The whirring, screaming reel reminds us that there lies a long struggle ahead. The side plates of our reel are hot. Three times the fish at the end of the rig tries to “do the dirty” by going down, and takes all the line we have. And then, with a rush, our marlin broaches, and his final exhibition is a series of leaps. Finally, to cut a long story short, the fish is won by fluking him to the side of the boat, and Peter, with incredible skill, has a rope round his tail, and he quickly joins our first captive.

Pretty tired, we toast our victims, and as the sun is well down, up goes the marlin flag of victory, and happily we head for Russell and Hone Heke's flagstaff on the hill. The scales at headquarters records our first marlin at just under 400 lb., and the latter at 50 pounds heavier. We reflect on our luck, and wonder, as Peter at the wheel yarns on his way back to the camp, on the skill of our lady anglers who have caught bigger and better fish.

And so ends our day. They talk of the “Sport of Kings”; a few such days have been worth crossing the world to enjoy.

MORE BIRTHDAY LETTERS

CONGRATULATIONS STILL COME IN

Since "Dawn" last went to press further congratulatory letters have been received.

How gratifying it is to know that a magazine, *Dawn*, issued regularly, has been produced primarily in the interests of aboriginal men and women, not only in New South Wales, but in all Australia. I have read with increasing pleasure the various issues, and I am confident that the people for whom the magazine is planned share that pleasure with me. It is a delightful journal that is entertaining as well as instructive. Aboriginal people may feel proud of the record of their activities and social doings within the general community. It is instructive, too, to the general public who need to know and to be interested in, not only the way their neighbours live day by day, but something of their hopes and aspirations as well.

Dawn makes a worthwhile contribution to current periodical literature. There is a warm and intimate quality in the stories, and particularly the photographs of wedding groups, sporting activities and school communities, that should ensure the popularity of the magazine throughout the Commonwealth.

One is particularly pleased to note the emphasis placed on the value of education. Education is so essential and so right for aboriginal people in the very same way that it is essential and right for any other people. In our own generation we have seen the heights of culture and artistic achievement in creative and expressive arts reached by aborigines. In painting and music the names of Albert Namitjira and Harold Blair come to mind on the instant, and they in their own right enjoy an honourable place amongst artists of note. It is fitting, then, that every aboriginal girl and boy should be given the opportunity to develop those talents with which by nature he or she has been endowed. It is equally important that parents make sure that their children receive those education opportunities most suited to their needs.

Congratulations to all those associated with such a satisfying and successful magazine, and as the months roll by may *Dawn* enjoy ever increasing popularity.

H. S. Wyndham,
Director-General of Education.

The Editor of the *Anglican*, the Church of England's weekly newspaper, said:

"You do, indeed, deserve the highest praise for the content and presentation of your journal during the two years of its existence.

Although this is a denominational newspaper, we share, in common with the rest of our colleagues of the religious press throughout Australia, a set of fundamental Christian principles.

Arising from these is our inescapable duty to our aboriginal brothers and sisters.

I know that all my colleagues of the religious press will join me in saying that *Dawn* has shown in practice an attachment to Christian principle which is an example to us all.

Joyce James,
Editor.

Dear Sir,

As I expressed in my birthday greetings last year, I assure you that your unique magazine *Dawn* can be considered as one of the stepping stones in bringing the aborigines into the general community, and I am convinced that it is, and will continue to be a success. In my opinion it is very important to give information to the people on what has been done by an organisation in a certain field. Your magazine is a very effective way of achieving this ideal with the attractive articles that it publishes.

During my stay and study in Australia, I had the opportunity of making a short study of aboriginal affairs. I visited the Board and the reserve at La Perouse, where I obtained information about the development, the planning, and the working of the Board and how the officials of the stations carry out their duties. I was also very interested in the method of educating the Aboriginal people. The fact that you don't have separate schools is, in my opinion, the basis of the so-called assimilation. The daily contact among the school youths gives understanding and is of assistance to this assimilation.

May your work lead to success in the fulfilment of this great ideal. In conclusion, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity of saying a few words on *Dawn's* second birthday, and on behalf of my colleagues who visited and studied in Australia with me, I wish *Dawn* a good and prosperous third year.

Yours faithfully,
R. Soemantri,
c/o. Ministry of Interior,
Republic of Indonesia,
Djakarta.

HELP YOURSELF

Magnets Hold Fishhooks on Hatband

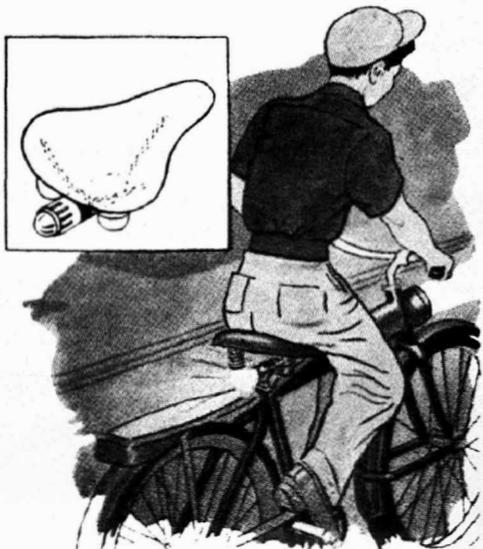
Attached to a hatband, two or three small magnets will hold several fishhooks within easy reach. The magnets are fastened with strong thread.

Fumbleproof Matchbox.



Cutting a hole in the drawer of a match-box makes it possible to raise the matches out of the box with the finger tip so that one match can be removed without having to fumble for it. If cut approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ in. square in the centre of the drawer, the hole will not be large enough to permit the matches to fall through.

To make the tail-light on your bicycle attract attention of oncoming motorists, suspend it with small chains from the bicycle seat where it will swing back and forth in constant motion. The light in the detail is a two-cell unit that works in the same way as a flashlight, but any type light can be used. Three short lengths of small chain are attached to the sides and rear end of the light, and are bolted to the underside of the seat in the positions shown. The chains should be short enough to keep the light from striking any part of the seat.



Hardening "Dusty" Concrete.

If you have a concrete floor in your home that always seems "dusty," chances are that the condition can be corrected by hardening the surface of the floor with a zinc-sulphate solution. Mix powdered zinc sulphate, 3 lb., to water, 1 gal., and pour the mixture over the floor. Then scrub vigorously with a stiff brush but don't remove the solution. Instead, let it dry thoroughly, and then sweep the floor clean.

Jointed oars designed by Manuel Lopez Dafonte of Ferrol, Spain, permit the user to face the direction he is rowing. Boatmen using the conventional straight oar in the usual manner have their backs to the direction of travel.



By supporting two panes of glass with slotted wooden blocks, a flower box or a small section of the garden can be converted into a miniature hothouse in a few minutes. This is handy to protect delicate plants from the wind and extreme temperature changes. A triangular piece of wood or sheet metal can be propped at each end of the hothouse to fully enclose the plants, and afford maximum protection.

KINCHELA HOME

A SUCCESSFUL VENTURE



This is a Home for male wards ranging from 6 to 16 years of age. It is situated on the banks of the Macleay River, 16 miles from Kempsey, and comprises 33 acres of good dairy land and an additional 11 acres some 5 miles from the main site. The buildings are of a simple design and comprise dormitories, dining room, recreation room, kitchen, laundry, ablution block and the usual outbuildings and school. A swimming pool is on the property.

The buildings are surrounded by lawns and gardens, both flower and vegetable, which are tended by the inmates under the supervision of an experienced gardener. The number of inmates on 30th June, 1953, was 57 as compared with 42 the previous year. During the year there were 23 admissions and eight discharges.

The health of the inmates has been generally good during the year, a complete medical examination having been conducted during March. The Medical Officer from Kempsey visits the Home regularly and, where necessary, hospital attention is received at the Macleay District Hospital in Kempsey.

The Hospital authorities have been very co-operative in regard to the treatment of boys from Kinchela, 23 of whom received hospitalisation during the period. The Kempsey Ambulance Brigade has also been of great assistance. All boys were immunised where this had not been done before.

In addition to the school within the Home, six boys attend the Kempsey High School, one of whom was a successful candidate in the Intermediate Certificate Examination in 1952. The primary school boys competed with success in the Public Schools Athletic Sports Day at Kempsey. The boys were successful in winning the Cavrilos Cup for marching. Every possible effort is made to encourage boys to take part in gymnasium activities, cricket, football, boxing and swimming. Six boys are members of the Smithtown Rugby Football Club and others are active members of the South-West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club. The latter have taken part in boxing competitions at the Kempsey Boxing Stadium. The Surf Life Saving team also patrols as a full team and has the confidence of the public. They have taken part in Surf Carnivals held at South-West Rocks and adjacent beaches. Other boys are members of the Junior Farmers' Club of New South Wales.

The boys enjoy a weekly film show, high quality films being supplied from all of the well-known film companies. These entertainments are greatly enjoyed by the boys of all ages.

Endeavour is made at all times to bring the inmates into close touch with the general white community in order to overcome the feeling of segregation brought about by the institutional life which they lead. One lad spends regular week-end visits at the homes of his friends, and those of the High School pupils who are members of the football and cricket teams travel with the teams to other country towns and on those occasions have always been billeted at the homes of opposing players. On every occasion the demeanour and general behaviour of the boys has been favourably commented upon.

The older boys receive training in general farm duties under the supervision of a farm overseer. The younger inmates are trained in domestic duties and a limited education in poultry keeping. Training duties are rostered to give each lad a good all-round knowledge.

The boys' spiritual training is attended to by the Home Chaplain who visits the Home weekly. Once each month the Sunday School is conducted by the local Methodist Minister, and boys of other faiths attend their Churches locally, when opportunity offers. All boys, however, receive religious training in conjunction with their school.

The Home maintains a dairy herd which at 30th June, 1953, comprised a stud bull and 48 heifers, cows and 33 head of poultry. During the year 8,911 gallons of milk were produced of which 5,291 were consumed and the balance converted to 1,810 pounds of butter. The poultry farm yielded 279 dozen eggs. Fodder produced was :—

Lucerne, Hay	20 tons.
Saccharine	10 tons.
Corn	70-80 bushels.

All types of vegetables were grown, as follows :—

Beetroot...	212 lb.	Parsnips ...	126 lb.
Cabbage...	421 head.	Green Peas ...	212 lb.
Carrots ...	139 lb.	Potatoes ...	36 bsgs.
Beans ...	90 lb.	Pumpkins ...	776
Sweet Corn	286 cobs.	Rhubarb ...	388 lb.
Cucumber	445	Spinach ...	352 lb.
Lettuce ...	128	Tomatoes ...	572 lb.
Onions ...	112 lb.	Kohlrabi ...	10 lb.

The value of the vegetables produced is estimated at £340 and the total of all Home products, £2,680. This is regarded as a particularly fine effort.

NOW YOU KNOW!

Why we say "BURY THE HATCHET"



THE AMERICAN INDIAN, TO INDICATE THAT QUARRELS WERE OVER, MADE A CEREMONY OF THE ACTUAL BURYING OF THEIR TOMAHAWKS AND WAR CLUBS, AS THE PIPE OF PEACE WAS SMOKED. TO THIS VERY DAY WE USE THE PHRASE "BURY THE HATCHET" TO SIGNIFY PEACE AFTER A QUARREL!

A MAN



IS PHYSICALLY MATURE AT 25 YEARS



AND SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO LIVE 150 YEARS!



STOREHOUSES FOR FOOD IN THE SUDAN, NORTH AFRICA, ARE BUILT IN THE SHAPE OF GROTESQUE MASKS IN THE BELIEF THAT ANY INTRUDER WILL AT ONCE BE SCARED AWAY!





HUMMINGBIRDS ARE FEROCIOUS FIGHTERS THEY WILL EVEN ATTACK A CROW OR A HAWK WITH THEIR LONG NEEDLE-LIKE BEAKS!



MEN OF THE PAMUE TRIBE, MUNI, FRENCH WEST AFRICA LIGHT THEIR PIPES FROM RED-HOT COALS HELD IN THEIR BARE HANDS!

BUTTER WOULD STILL BE EATABLE AFTER BEING KEPT IN A FRIGIDAIRE FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS!





NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Stan Wyatt, M.L.A.



Mr. Stan Wyatt, M.L.A., has replaced Mr. E. Wetherell (now Minister for Transport) on the Aborigines Welfare Board.

Mr. Wyatt, who was born in West Maitland and reared in the Narrabri-Moree District, has travelled and worked in every State.

Having an intimate knowledge of all our rivers and watercourses, he is a keen student of native trees, shrubs, plants and animals, and an ardent advocate of complete ban of sale of native flowers.

Mr. Wyatt is a returned soldier from World War II, being twice wounded in action.

He has always taken a keen interest in the welfare of the Australian Aborigines and studied their customs and habits over many years.

HOME



HINTS

Pressing School Tunics

Most mothers with teenage daughters going to school are worried about keeping their tunics spick and span. Before hanging the tunic away, mother should place it on the bed and fold the pleats neatly in place, then attach a skirt press to the hem, being careful that all pleats are securely gripped. Hang as usual on a coat hanger, allowing the press to hang suspended from the hem. This little extra trouble will send daughter off to school every morning with her tunic having that "just pressed" look.

How to Press Veils

Veiling can be made to look like new by pressing with a hot iron under a sheet of wax paper.

Chewing Gum

To remove chewing gum from clothing, dab with a little methylated spirit.

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION AT WOODENBONG

Homes Gaily Decorated

Members of the Psychology staff of the University of Queensland, who organised a series of competitions among the school children at Woodenbong during 1953, marked the end of a year's activities by announcing a Christmas competition in which the grown-ups of the Settlement could also take part. Prizes were offered for the best-decorated houses, and competition was so keen among residents that fourteen homes were offered for the judges to inspect.

The judges were given a very difficult task, because most of the entries were of a high standard. Conditions were not set out in advance, as this was the first occasion, but after awarding the prizes for 1953, it was decided to offer another Competition for Christmas, 1954, and to announce the conditions early in the year.

Points considered, included the general appearance of the house—its cleanliness and furnishings; suitability of the decorations; effort used in the decorating and the difficulties overcome by the householder.

At a time when water was very scarce, the judges were particularly impressed by the clean condition of the houses. This was a tribute to the industry of the womenfolk, and they should be proud of their success as housekeepers.

PRIZE-WINNERS

First Prize went to Mr. Bruce Breckenridge, whose decorations were the result of great care and thought, and whose handiwork had produced much of the furniture in the two rooms inspected.

Second Prize was shared by Mrs. Mona Donnelly, Mrs. Frank Bundock, and Mrs. Rene Robinson. It was not found possible to separate these three entries, and the points gained in each case were very close to those awarded to Mr. Breckenridge.

Third Prize was also shared, and the standard was still high. The winners were Mrs. John Close, Mrs. Olga Hickling, and Mrs. Eric King.

Highly Commended.—Mrs. Clara Williams, whose making of the children's sports uniforms and concert dresses is well known, was awarded a special prize for the general appearance of her home as well as the fine decorations she had added.

Prizes, which were provided by the young people of the Baptist Church, Red Hill, Brisbane, took the form of Christmas cakes, puddings, fruits and nuts. A potted Christmas tree was also given to the family, in each grade, whose gardening interest assured it of a good home. These were won by Mr. Breckenridge, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Hickling.

The prizes were presented in the Settlement Hall, which has recently been extended, and community carol singing brought the evening to a happy conclusion.

Next Christmas, it is hoped that even more families will enter the competition. Home furniture and gardens added during the year will be given full recognition when judging is carried out.

ABORIGINES RESERVES GENERALLY

In addition to the stations which have been mentioned previously, there are a large number of reserves for aborigines throughout the State. These differ from stations in that they are not under full-time resident managership. However, in a number of cases non-resident supervisors have been appointed. This is the case at Brungle, Condobolin, Coraki, Karuah, Nambucca Heads, Ulkundahi Island, Wellington and Wilcannia. At Condobolin, Karuah, Nambucca Heads and Wellington, the teacher-in-charge of the school carries out the duties of supervisor.

At La Perouse, where there is a population of 176, together with another 334 living in the vicinity, there is a resident full-time supervisor. On this Reserve there are thirty cottages in which, for the most part, the tenants take a pride. Of these, twenty-two have been connected to the electricity supply and some have washing machines and refrigerators.

La Perouse is a popular tourist spot with historic associations. A number of aborigines supplement their earnings by making and selling curios to visitors. One man has a well equipped workshop with electrically driven lathe and conducts a profitable business in the manufacture of boomerangs and other articles.

Where no supervisor has been appointed, oversight of reserves is exercised by local Police, by arrangement with the Commissioner. Furthermore, it is an integral part of a Welfare Officer's duty to visit reserves as often as possible and give attention to the needs of residents.

The population of some reserves has dwindled considerably in recent years and, in some cases, all residents have removed to other parts. In such cases, action is taken to return the control of the area to the Lands Department.

◆
The rolling plain and the homestead truck make a good background for Clair and Bennie Flick, of Collarenebri.
◆



SANTA CLAUS AT WALGETT

Board Members Visit

This year the children of Walgett Aboriginal Station had two Christmas parties. For the first they brought a Christmas tree from the bush themselves and stood it in a drum of sand in one of the schoolrooms.

Many willing little helpers blew up balloons and tied them to the tree together with boxes of sweets (the money for all this having been provided by the Board). The children asked to be allowed to do all the decorations themselves and the result was a pleasant blending of coloured streamers and silver bells from the ceiling, with the tree hung with silver and gold. This first party was held on December 8th.

The Buffalo Lodge and the Church of England combined in giving another party on December 16th, where the guest of honour was the Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C., a member of the Aborigines Welfare Board.

Each child received a present from Santa Claus (Mr. Wallace) for whom much sympathy was felt when the temperature soared over the century mark.

Bottles of cool drinks were supplied but the contents disappeared with lightning rapidity, so the Vicar, Mr. Fincher, went back to town and brought back a huge jar of orange syrup, and an equally huge block of ice. The ladies of the Church supplied sandwiches. Our thanks are due to the Vicar and his helpers who each Christmas help to brighten the lives of these out-back children.

The Hon. E. G. Wright gave a short address to the gathering of parents, on the aims of the Board, which was listened to very intently.

Despite the heat and the terrible road he had to travel to reach the Station, it was evident he enjoyed the party.

Walgett Station certainly possesses some budding young Sherlock Holmes's. When Santa Claus arrived per car, they all broke into the tune of "Jingle Bells," but later were heard to remark that he wasn't "the really truly Santa." When asked why they thought that, they said—"Well, after he'd given out the presents, didn't he get in a car and didn't the car go out only as far as the gate and come back? He went out and took off his red coat and beard, but he forgot to change his shoes."

The very small children were not quite so sure but wanted to know where Santa had left his reindeer. Much mirth was caused when a larger boy said they'd been left hobbled at the fence because there isn't enough grass here for them.

KINCHELA BOYS DO WELL

Win Lifesaving Awards

Four aboriginal boys in New South Wales hold the bronze medallion of the Surf Life Saving Club of Australia.

Of these four boys, three of them received their initial training at Kinchela.

The Home now has seven boys going through to be tested for their proficiency certificate. They could not aim for the bronze medallion until they were 16 years of age, but, in passing for the proficiency certificate, they had to pass in all except the 250 yards swim with belt.

The boys are trained in life-saving twice a week.

Life-saving activities helped the boys be assimilated into the life of the Australian community, and, as Australians, gain life-saving knowledge of use to the community.

Harry Penrith, one of the Kinchela squad, had won the junior beach sprint at Black Head surf carnival a few weeks ago.

At Football, Too.

Writing to the Manager of the Home (Mr. White), Mr. H. A. Miles, Secretary of Smithtown Football Club, said:—

“I am writing to congratulate the boys from the Home on their conduct, sportsmanship, and football achievements whilst playing with our Club last season.

“Their conduct on and off the field was a credit to themselves, and also to their teacher and yourself. I feel that they would be a credit to any club, or organisation, no matter what the standing.

“I wish you to convey to them my congratulations, and I am looking forward to seeing them with the Club next season.”

During the year 1953 Rugby football season, five youths from Kinchela Boys' Home joined the Smithtown Rugby Football Club. Four of the boys, viz., Harry Penrith, Norman Perry, Lionel Harradine and Harold Dickson, played in the “Under 18” League and one, Fred Ward, in the Reserve Grade League.

The “Under 18's” won the premiership and the minor premiership of the Group Competition against teams from Kempsey, Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Kendall, losing only three games throughout the season.

At the commencement of the season, Harry Penrith was unanimously elected captain of the team by all of his white companions. In the final game both Penrith and Perry were chaired from the field by other team members and by spectators.

Harry, Norman and Lionel have been awarded club blazers valued at nearly £10 each and all boys have been measured for such blazers by a Kempsey tailor. These blazers will be presented to the club members sometime in February at a Ball to be held in Smithtown.

INSPECTOR VISITS COUNTRY

Mrs. English at Taree

Mrs. Inspector English recently visited Taree Aboriginal Station where she was the Guest at the Women's Sewing Circle Annual Break-up Party.

Mrs. English was able to combine duty with a very pleasant sojourn amongst her old friends in this district. She attended a function organised by the Ladies' Committee, where there were also present Dr. Dawson (guest speaker), Mrs. Dawson, and other well-known local people. Dr. Dawson gave an address on children's illnesses, their cause and treatment, which should prove very helpful to the mothers.

Mrs. English, who addressed the gathering, complimented the women on their excellent organisation, and made suggestions for their future guidance.

Mrs. Ella Simon, who chaired the function, and other able helpers in Mrs. Marjorie Marr and Mrs. Stella Russell are to be congratulated on their splendid efforts.

Musical items and other entertainment was contributed by Mesdames L. Dawson, T. Mulligan, Kate Davis and Flo Carter, and special mention must be made of the wonderful harmonising of Mrs. Kate Davis and Mrs. Flo Carter, which compared more than favourably with the best of such items heard on the radio. Mrs. Davis (“Aunt Kate”) was also a most able and obliging accompanist.

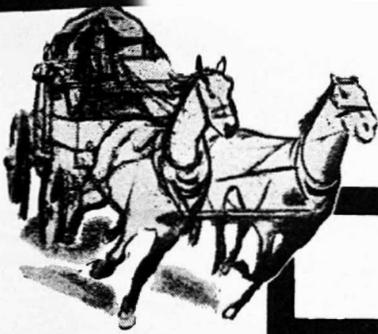
As a token of their esteem and appreciation, the residents presented Dr. and Mrs. Dawson with a silver casserole dish, and Mrs. English with a beautiful posy of flowers, and a china souvenir dish of Taree. Dr. Dawson and his wife, and Mrs. English, were obviously quite touched at such thoughtfulness, and expressed their appreciation.

The floral decorations on this occasion, and the posies presented to the visitors and the Matron, were in excellent taste and a credit to those concerned.

On the second day a breaking-up picnic for 130 children was held at the local beach. The special bus for the occasion was packed with happy, cheerful youngsters and their relatives, and Sergeant James Fallon, kindly made his car available for the Manager, Mr. Briggs and his guests.

A tribute must be paid to the Manager and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. L. Briggs, for the harmonious relations existing between them and the local residents. Mrs. Briggs is to be commended for her tireless efforts.

Congratulations, Purfleet! Keep up the good work.



Along the Mail Route

The Christmas Breaking-Up Party for the children at Cowra Station was held on December 16th at the New Recreational Hall, 65 children participating.

The hall was suitably decorated by the Manager and a few helpers, whilst the Xmas tree was transformed into a fairyland tree (just like the ones we see on Xmas cards) by the Matron and her small band of Station women helpers.

As the tree held, besides glittering decorations, a toy for every child present, eager faces were pressed against the hall windows whilst all the preparations were being attended to.

When the great moment eventually arrived, Santa Claus (Mr. C. Keirs, a well-known Cowra citizen) stepped from a car, making his way through the crowd of excited children towards that ever-fascinating tree. After every child had received his or her present, lollies, cakes, oranges and numerous cups of cordial were consumed.

Roy Carroll's guitar and gum-leaf band provided the music for an informal dance which completed a very happy function.



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, seem to be sharing a joke.

BIG FLOOD HITS KINCHELA

AN ANXIOUS NIGHT

Saturday night, 20th February, was one of great anxiety at Kinchela Home when it felt the full force of the cyclone which, earlier in the week, had done so much damage in Queensland. Fortunately, the position was not so bad as at Lismore, Murwillumbah, Casino and further up the North Coast, but still a lot of damage was done. All the crops were flattened to the ground, and winter feed, which had been stored up is gone. Fortunately, no stock were lost.

There was no electric power at the Home, and all Saturday night, the staff and the boys worked like trojans with the light of hurricane lamps, to lift the stores and equipment into safe positions above the flood waters.

With an 85 mile-per-hour cyclone blowing and torrential rain falling, the younger children in the Home were evacuated at 9 o'clock Sunday morning, 21st. Mr. White, with other male members of the staff and three senior boys, stayed until 5 o'clock, and when they did get away, the road was 2 ft. 6 in. under water. What a day it was!

Thanks to the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club, the Club Hall was made available as shelter for the boys, and when the flood waters had subsided, they were able to return to the Home on Monday afternoon.

Whilst the experience was most unpleasant at the time, looking back it is regarded as just another adventure, and when this is being read, the Home will be back to normal again.

Pete's Page



Hello! Kids,

I had a very nice letter from Ruth McKenzie recently. Ruth has now left Manwaring's place, "Wongrabel," and is now working for Mr. and Mrs. John Scott, of "Hillview," Cootamundra.

Ruth won't be there long, however, as she is taking up nursing. Telling me about her nursing interview, Ruth said, "I had butterflies rather badly. I was really scared but I got a lot of encouragement from Mrs. English and Mr. Saxby."

Denis Moran of 31 Hollis Avenue, Eastwood, would like an aboriginal pen friend.

Thanks, Denis, for your kind wishes for the New Year; you certainly will receive *Dawn* during 1954, so watch the postman every month.

In a long and interesting letter from the Girls' Training Home at Cootamundra, Lorraine Turnbull said she was looking for pen friends, boys or girls, about 13 or 14 years of age.

Lorraine was telling me how the grasshoppers had caused so much damage and eaten practically every blade of grass.

She also asked me to find some pen friends, about 16 years of age, for her friend Betty Mundy.

Another one from Cootamundra, looking for pen friends, is Penelope Packer. "It doesn't matter what colour they are," said Penelope.

Penelope said the girls were all looking forward to see the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at Wagga.

"I am 12 years old and I would like some pen friends about my own age," said Judith Darcy in her letter from Cootamundra.

Judith said she recently saw some pictures of the Royal family and thought Princess Anne was the prettiest little girl she had ever seen.

Another one to write to me was Vincent Wenberg. Vince and his brother, who are ex-Kinchela boys, are now working with Mr. Luckie, at "Wallumburrawang," Gilgandra. Another couple of farmers for our great country.

In a letter from Wreck Bay, young Ambrose Brown told me he and his mates were looking forward to seeing the Queen at Canberra. In his final school exam last year Ambrose came first. Brother Bob came second.

Ambrose said the Station manager, Mr. Cole, had a horse for them to ride on and a goat "from which he gets milk for his baby." Ambrose is a very keen fisherman and often gets among the "big ones."



One of my young friends from Walgett, Shirley Thorne. Shirley once lived in Collarenebri.

Eleven-year-old Barbara Masters, of Armatree, sent me some nice coloured drawings. Whilst they didn't win a prize this time, they were very good.

And that's all our mail for this month, pals, so hurry up and write me some long letters and let me know what you have been doing.

Your Sincere Pal,

Pete

