

VOLUME 10, 0  
Ser. No. 2



# Dawn

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

FEBRUARY, 1956





## Our Cover . . .

This happy smiling youngster is Joan West, of Goodooga. Joan was one of the 76 country children who attended the recent summer camp.



## "DAWN"

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

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

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## RESIGNATION OF Mr. R. J. G. BROWN

Readers of "*Dawn*" will learn with regret of the resignation of Mr. "Bob" Brown, from the position of Manager, Jervis Bay Aboriginal Station. Mrs. Brown has, for some time, not enjoyed good health, and it is on doctor's advice that he has taken this step.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were the first persons of aboriginal blood to occupy a position of such responsibility with the Board. They have graced it with dignity and have earned the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends in all sections of the community.

I trust that they will not be the last to attain to such a position, but that others will follow the trail which they have blazed.

All members of the Board join with me in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Brown both good health and prosperity in the future.

M. H. SAXBY,  
Superintendent.

\* \* \* \*



These two happy looking youngsters are Charlotte and Glenda Green, of Ashford. They believe in plenty of sunlight in the wide open spaces.

## NEW LAND FOR ABORIGINES

The Board has accepted the offer of the Yulgilbar Pastoral Company Pty. Ltd., to have 15 to 20 acres of land set aside for the exclusive use of aborigines. The land in question is known as "The Square" and is owned by the Yulgilbar Pastoral Company, of Baryulgil.

The Board is to ask the Lands Department to insert the appropriate notices in the *Government Gazette* and the Board will then assume full control of the area.



The open life is the life for Adie Morgan, of Narrandera. An open fire, the billy to boil, and Adie's as happy as a man can be.

## Aboriginal Ex-Servicemen

More Names Received.

The following additional names have been received for the list of aboriginal ex-servicemen of World War II. The first list appeared in the December issue of *Dawn* :—

Andrew Boney.

Amos Harvey.

S. J. Kelly.

John Longbottom (jnr.).

Arthur Waters.



This photograph which appeared in the "Melbourne Herald", shows how popular "Dawn" has become, not only in the home State of New South Wales, but right throughout the Commonwealth.

The caption which appeared in the paper beneath the photo, said, "'Dawn', the Magazine which aborigine Fred Jackson, is reading, is published for aborigines in New South Wales". Residents of Shepparton, Moorupna, urge a similar publication for Victorian aborigines, to help in their education and make them feel less lost.

### Double Birthday Party

Just before Christmas last, Mrs. Queenie Robertson, of Coonabarabran, celebrated her 78th birthday. A very pleasant surprise was a lovely present from Mr. Spenser, formerly manager of Burra Bee Dee and now manager of Caroona.

It happens their birthdays fall on the same day and during Mr. Spenser's stay in Coonabarabran he and Mrs. Robinson shared their birthday festivities.

As a reminder of those happy days Mr. Spenser sent Mrs. Robinson a special invitation to attend the Caroona Christmas Tree for a combined Christmas and birthday celebration.

Unfortunately Mrs. Robinson was unable to attend but she has asked *Dawn* to convey her thanks and appreciation to Mr. Spenser.

This we gladly do.

### Aborigine Gets Taxi Licence

WOODENBONG RESIDENT  
SUCCEEDS.

Mr. John Close, of Woodenbong Aboriginal Station, has been granted a Hire Car Licence and will operate from the Station. He is to be congratulated on this exhibition of confidence by the Kyogle Shire Council who granted his application.

He is having the telephone connected to his home on Woodenbong Station as a convenience to his prospective passengers. *Dawn* wishes John every success in his new venture.

## WEDDING OF THE YEAR

### AT WALLAGA LAKE

Miss Harriet Thomas, the daughter of Joyce and Arthur Thomas of Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Station, was recently married to Leslie Darcy, an ex-Kinchela boy.

They were married by Rev. Keith Wilson, Rector of the Church of England church at Cobargo.

The bride looked radiant in a lovely white taffeta and lace gown, and a Tudor rose coronet held her three-tiered tulle veil. She carried a beautiful bouquet of roses, and was lead up the aisle by her proud father, followed by her two charming bridesmaids, Elaine Stewart and Iris Hoskins, who were dressed in pink taffeta and wore Tudor rose coronets.

The handsome bridegroom stood proudly beside his bride at the altar and unhesitatingly took the solemn vows, while his smartly groomed best man, William Hughes, fumbled nervously for the ring, hoping that he had not forgotten to put it in his pocket.

The reception was held in the Station Recreation Hall, which was tastefully decorated, and provided a very happy evening of dancing and celebration for all.

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## BIG DAY AT MURRIN BRIDGE

### New Brownie Pack Enrolled.

November 13th, 1955, was a big day for a number of the young girls on Murrin Bridge Station. On that day Mrs. Raffin, the Condobolin and District Guide Commissioner visited the Station to enrol the first thirteen Brownies of the 1st Murrin Bridge Brownie Pack. After the enrolment was finished the Brownies entertained the visitors with games and songs. The other main item of the afternoon was the lovely tea party for all the visitors and children.

Both Brown Owl Matron Carlin and the Manager would like to express thanks to Mrs. Raffin who travelled over 130 miles to conduct the enrolment, especially when the roads were so bad and the river in flood.

They would also like to thank the Condobolin Pack, Tawny Owl, and the five visiting Condobolin Brownies, who presented the Murrin Bridge Brownies with a lovely "Brown Owl" wall vase and also for their donation of £2 2s., which went towards the purchase of the girls' uniforms.

Mr. Carlin would also like to congratulate the Brown Owl, Mrs. Carlin, Tawny Owl, Mrs. Robertson, and the following Brownies for such a good effort, showing the visitors that the Murrin Bridge Pack will really be a first class pack. Elaine Williams, Mary Whyman, Valda Johnson, Maureen Taylor, Nancy Whitton, Gloria Williams, Peggy Johnson, Valerie Roberson, Fay Williams, Yvonne Sloane, Merle Kelly, Nancy Johnson, Elizabeth Sloane, and last but not least, little Rose King.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY AT TABULAM

On Thursday, 22nd December, 1955, a Christmas Party with Christmas Tree, was held in the Recreation Hall for the children of Tabulam Station, the success of which was due to the combined efforts of the Aborigines Welfare Board, the Casino Branch of the Australian Red Cross, and the Mallangance and Tabulam Buffalo Lodge.

The Recreation Hall was tastefully decorated by Miss Joan Daley, with fern leaves, streamers and tinsel. On the stage stood the Christmas Tree which was surrounded by sixty-five parcels of toys from the Australian Red Cross, and down the full length of the hall ran a table decorated with flowers, streamers and tinsel. The table was piled with plates of sandwiches, fancy iced cakes and biscuits.

After the children had eaten, Father Christmas arrived to the strains of "Jingle Bells", rendered by three of the local lads, and Father Christmas distributed a bag full of toys as he proceeded around the hall. On returning to the stage he distributed a parcel of toys to each child living on the Station, and then all visiting children were supplied with toys.

Later in the evening, gallons of iced fruit drinks, ice cream, icy poles and fancy biscuits were served, and the adults partook of refreshments.

The catering and serving was done by the Matron with the help of two visitors to the Station, Mrs. Julia Draper and Miss Gracie Daley.

The Manager welcomed to the Station the visitor-donors from the Australian Red Cross and the Buffalo Lodge and thanked them for their wonderful gifts, and the residents showed their appreciation for one of the best evenings they have ever had.

The adults then cleared the hall for dancing, and the visitors were given supper at the Manager's residence.

At daybreak next morning, a squad of children, in column of three, with wooden tommy-guns at the slope, marched around the streets to the cheers of the adults who lined the balconies of their homes. Later in the day, "A Fleet of Boats" was launched in the beautiful Rocky River which runs through the Station property.

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## FAREWELL TO Mr. GORDON.

A very sad farewell was recently given in the Murrin Bridge School Hall to Mr. Bruce Gordon.

All the children have known Mr. Gordon for a number of years and it was easy to read in their faces just how much they are all going to miss him. He was more than a teacher, he was indeed a friend to all, adults and children. We are all pleased to say that although Mr. Gordon has moved from the Station he has only moved into Lake Cargelligo, so the residents will all see him now and again. A leather overnight bag was presented to Mr. Gordon by the children and the adults, and for once he was speechless.



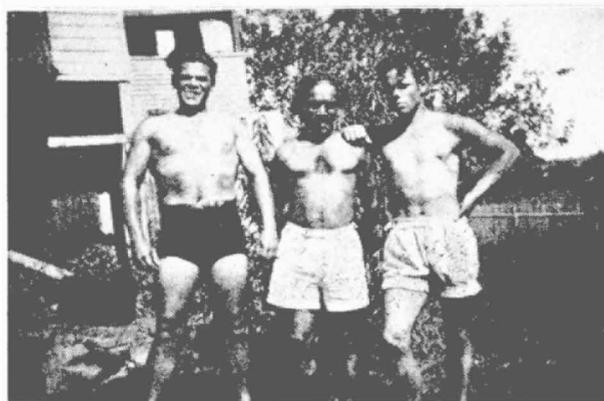
# OUR ROVING CAMERAMAN

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.



These four handsome young fellows are Harry Connors, Colin Madden, Malcolm Green and Frank Irvine, of Guyra.



Just look at those musclemen from Glenreagh. They are Des Bolt, Don Daley, and Ernest Bolt.



The swaying palms make a perfect background for Ted McGrath, Fay Davis and Jim McGrath, of Bellwood.



Charles Bolt, of Glenreagh, was out for a walk along the line with his little niece, Lynette Daley, when the cameraman met them.



Looking rather coy as they posed for the cameraman, were these two lasses, from Guyra. They are Elaine Foster and Eileen Madden.



**This imposing building is the Bible Training Institute at Singleton.**



**These intelligent looking young people are all students of the Bible Training College.**



**Although Alfie Williams, of Glen Innes, is being chased by Les Black, things are not TOO serious.**



**Four mermaids. Shirley Laurie, Veronica Laurie, Marie Roberts and Diane Close, of Cubawee.**



**Meet Mrs. Janey Daley, of Glenreagh.**



**Here we have Valerie Newman, Betty Woolfe, Alice Briar, and Pauline Newman, of Condobolin.**



**"Careful there, you'll fall off", says young Lynette Daley, of Glenreagh, as she glares at Des Bolt.**

# In the News

## WALGETT NEWS.

A Christmas Party was given for the children of the Walgett Aboriginal Station on December 19th, when the Reverend Mr. Burton, Presbyterian minister, and his helpers supplied toys and ice creams. Mr. Handley, manager of the Bank of N. S. W. was Father Christmas. Mrs. Burton, Mr. Imrie and Mr. McCallum (senior) helped.

Cordial drinks and lollies provided by the Aborigines' Welfare Board were much in demand.

Mrs. Keith McKellar, Minoru, Carinda, donated five pounds which came by post after the party, so it was spent on fruit for the children the next day. We thank Mrs. McKellar for her kindly thought of these children.

The Christmas weather was hot and swimming was a very popular pastime with the young people.

Dulcie Dennis has a new baby—Douglas James.

The friends of Mrs. Jack Murphy, formerly Dorothy Lance, will regret to learn of her sudden death. She had a stroke and died in Walgett hospital at the end of October.

## SUCCESSFUL MURRIN BRIDGE FUNCTION.

Murrin Bridge Christmas Party was once again a huge success. We are pleased to say that apart from all the lovely presents that Father Christmas delivered he also brought a very nice, cool day. Each one of the 170 children received a nice present and at the party which followed each child and adult that attended received as much cake, lollies and ice-cream as they could possibly eat.

## PEN FRIENDS WANTED.

Writing to the Editor, Mrs. I. D. Leonard, of Namoi Street, Coonamble, asks for some pen friends for her sons and daughters.

"I would like some young folk to write to them," says Mrs. Leonard.

"They are Archibald Leonard, aged 23, Alfred Leonard, aged 17, Thomas Leonard, aged 15, Rachael Leonard, aged 14, Kenneth Leonard, aged 12, and all live at the same address. I would like some pen friends for myself, too!"

Well, there you are folks, how about some pen friends for the Leonards.

## NANIMA CHRISTMAS PARTY MOST ENJOYABLE EVER.

The most successful and enjoyable Christmas party ever held at the Nanima Aboriginal Reserve was staged just before Christmas.

More than 200 children from the Reserve and a large crowd of parents and visitors from Wellington attended.

Highlight of the afternoon was a concert presented by the children of the Nanima School on the verandah of the new classroom, which has just been completed.

### Commendable Improvisation.

Parents and children were present long before the Concert commenced.

All visitors were highly impressed with the new classroom, which is as big as the old school.

Constructed of weatherboard and built high on tiers to provide maximum ventilation, the new classroom is a credit to the Education Department.

The verandah of the new building will eventually be extended across to the old building to provide a sheltered area between the two classrooms.

## BITS FROM BURRA BEE DEE.

Keith Hinton and family, Joe Cain and family, Herrick Cain and family, John Watton and family and Joe Allan and family are all settling into their new town houses in Coonabarabran. Burra Bee Dee doesn't seem the same without them, but it is wonderful to see the colourful curtains of their new homes showing proudly in White Street as these families take a big step forward towards assimilation.

By the early work being done in their front yards, it shouldn't be very long before their gardens become a challenge to their white neighbours.

Toad Chatfield and family are settled into a cottage at Burra Bee Dee and Toad has already fenced an area with a post and rail fence as the first step towards a vegetable garden.

Tom Ashby and his family have returned to Burra Bee Dee and like the idea of a nice cottage and water laid on after so long away where conditions were not always the best.

Mrs. Amy Williams recently enjoyed a week's holiday at Gulargambone.

# RUM

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## FOR THE RAILWAYS

*In the days when Australia's first railway was opened, rum at a penny a bucket, was something of a bargain.*

Last year, New South Wales celebrated the centenary of its first railway.

Not much rum was used in the celebrations, though it played a big part in the opening celebrations, when a 14-mile stretch of track was opened between Redfern and Parramatta.

On that historic occasion rum was sold in Parramatta at a penny a bucket.

The licensee of the Vauxhall Inn advertised that he would sell rum at a penny a bucket to celebrate the opening of the railway. The Parramatta station was a few yards from the Vauxhall Inn. Rum, of course, was cheap enough in those days, but at that price many people thought there must be a catch in it.

And there was.

On the morning of September 25, men lined up waiting for the hotel to open its doors, and when the doors were thrown open they flocked into the bar for their share. There was some disappointment and at first resentment when the early customers discovered that the buckets were specially turned for the occasion, each bucket being about the size of an ordinary wineglass, minus the stem. They were made of solid metal, with a small depression in the top, which held about a teaspoonful of rum.

### Lost Buckets.

Some of the men walked out disgusted, but most of them took the whole thing in good part, told their mates about the rum that was selling at a penny a bucket and induced them to hurry along to the hotel to get their share. A large number of these little buckets were sold, but most of them seem to have disappeared. Only a few kept them and handed them down to their descendants as mementoes of a great event in the history of this country.

The first sod of the railway had been turned on July 3, 1850, by Mrs. Keith Stewart, daughter of the Governor, Sir Charles Fitzroy. At the beginning the work was to be entrusted to private contractors, but

the contractors could not get enough labour, because of the rushes to the goldfields. In 1854 it was decided that the Government should take over the works belonging to the Sydney Railway Company and push on with the railway.

When the railway was tried out on September 22, it was declared safe.

The Governor and many officials made the memorable first official journey three days later.

Even after that official opening there were many people who strongly objected to this form of transport. Some claimed that it was wicked, others that it was dangerous, and still others who claimed that the fares were too high. Carriages were of three classes, first, second and third, and the fares for the single journey of 14 miles were 4s., 3s., and 2s. respectively. At the beginning of operations there were four engines, eight first-class carriages, 12 second-class and 12 third-class and the support of the general public was so niggardly that at one period it was considered that the railway would be a dead loss.

Many people objected to the train because of the sparks from the engine which flew in all directions. Often they burned holes in the women's frocks and the men's suits. The engines used wood fuel—indeed, engines on all lines used wood fuel until 1861, when they were converted to coal.

Rum played an important part in the life of the people in the first 70 years of the colony. Many of the early buildings had a foundation of rum. Builders were either paid for their work in rum or else they were given certain rights for selling it. Sydney Hospital, once known as the Rum Hospital, was paid for in rum, so was the building that is now the N.S.W. Houses of Parliament. The first church to be built in the new colony was paid for partly in rum, and a number of bridges built in the early days gave the builders the right to trade in rum over lengthy periods. The Governor rewarded convicts, soldiers and civilians with special issues of rum for special services. The first corps of soldiers to take up duty in the colony became known as the Rum Corps.

*(Please turn over.)*

(continued.)

### Wife for Rum.

On one occasion a man sold his wife for four gallons of rum, and many men and women sold their souls for a few pints of rum. The rum traffic became such a serious menace that Governor King realised that something would have to be done to prevent rum taking complete charge of the colony's economy. Strange as it may seem, Governor King encouraged the manufacture and sale of beer in the hope that beer would reduce the consumption of rum, and thus lessen its commercial value.

Breweries were established on the Parramatta River and at other places near Sydney. Perhaps the best known of the early breweries was that of James Squire at Kissing Point on the Parramatta River. Evidently his beer was not of very high quality. In an old Parramatta cemetery there is a tombstone which bears this inscription :

"Ye who wish to lie here,  
Drink Squires' beer."

The early settlers did not readily take to Australian beer and still preferred rum if they could get it.

It was Governor Bligh who did a lot towards checking the traffic in rum, indeed it was his activities in this respect that really led to the often quoted rebellion.

Governor Macquarie tried in some way to check the traffic in rum, but even he used rum to pay for a number of public works. It is on record that he bought a house for 200 gallons of rum.

### Into the Harbour.

It was a man named Tawell, a member of the Society of Friends, who made a spectacular move to deal with the rum business. With as much publicity as he could command he ordered 600 gallons of rum ceremoniously emptied into Port Jackson. The event, talked about for many years after, took place on March 9, 1836. Many tried to get a taste of the rum before it went into the harbour. Others claimed that the fish were so drunk that they could be caught without bait.

In more recent years hundreds of gallons of rum poured into the river at Bundaberg (Q.), but not deliberately. Fire broke out in the distillery and huge quantities of rum poured into the river. It floated over the surface of the water and burned with a brilliant blue flame. For some time afterward stupefied fish were caught about the distillery, and many dead fish were washed up on the river banks.

Rum played a big part in the early development of Australia. In the purely historical sense of adequately remembering the railway centenary it would have been interesting to see rum sold at a penny a bucket when the N.S.W. railways celebrated their big event last year. There probably would be many buyers, even at a £1 a bucket, if some sort of souvenir utensil, similar to the novelty of 100 years ago, was made for the occasion.

# Burra Bee Dee has Proud Record

## No Colour Line Drawn Here!

During the past year, thirteen people left the Station, to live permanently in the general community. Every possible encouragement was given by the Station staff in this regard, as those who moved have all the characteristics of good citizens and are unlikely to need further assistance from the Board in the future.

Improvements have been effected to the aborigines' dwellings by way of improved water reticulation and fencing.

A Progress Association was formed on the Station during the year and it held a number of socials and dances.

One Station lad is boarded by a white family in Coonabarabran during the week, so that he avoids the six mile bicycle ride in the bitter cold of early morning during the winter. This indicates the feeling of friendliness apparent among the better elements in this town and must set a splendid example, that might well be followed by other towns not so understanding.

There has been an improvement in the scholastic attainments of the Station children, since they have been attending the Coonabarabran Schools. In one case, a Station lad secured the prize as the most improved boy in his class. They are admitted to the recently opened swimming baths, where no colour bar is raised. This in particular is a very pleasing feature, particularly in view of the unfair and unchristian attitude adopted by some Councils.

Again this year, the residents have the proud record that no Police or Court action has been necessary, because of any misdemeanour by a resident while on the Station.



Don Ritchie, Bessie Ferguson and Alfred Mercy, of Coraki, make a very musical trio.

# A Party at Burra Bee Dee—Fancy Dress For All

When the Burra Bee Dee folk put on a party they really go to town and do it properly. No trouble is spared to make sure that everyone has a real fancy dress and joins in all the fun and games. At Christmas time, the youngsters had a Christmas party, in fancy dress and some of the costumes were really outstanding. Here are a few of the youngsters.



These two beautiful Hawaiians are really Cynthia and Dawn Chatfield.

A Clown, and this time none other than young Richard Griffiths.



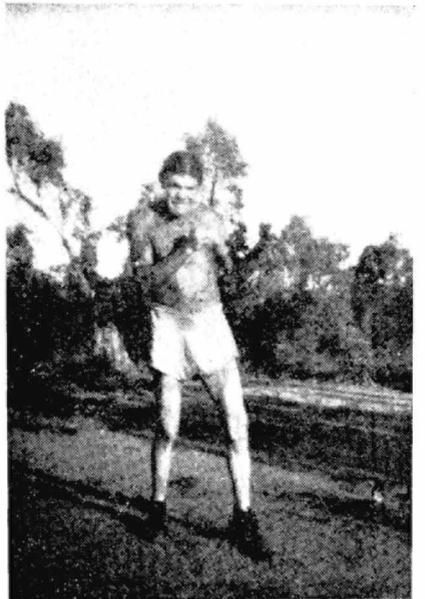
Dianne and Elizabeth Griffiths caught everyone's eye as they paraded in their party dresses.



Two more beauties! This time Lorraine Cain and Caroline Griffiths.



Don't be alarmed. These two villainous looking characters are only John Griffiths and Neville Cain.



Tommy Griffiths didn't wear much in the way of a costume, but he did claim to be as big a kid as any of them.

# HOME HINTS

● Steaming of bathroom walls when drawing water for a bath is kept to a minimum by running the cold water into the tub first.

## SHAVING-CREAM HAND CLEANER.

● Brushless shaving cream makes an excellent waterless hand cleaner. A tube of the cream can be carried easily in the glove compartment of a car for "dry" washing the hands to remove dirt and grease after changing a flat tyre. Also, using the cream on your hands after working on greasy machinery will permit soap and water to do a better final job of cleaning. For extra convenience, wrap the tube in an old towel that can be used to wipe off the cream.

☆ ☆

● To remove mustard stains from fabric, rub the spot with glycerin and then wash in soap and water.

☆ ☆

● Garden tools painted a bright orange are easy to see and are less likely to be forgotten when the work is finished.

☆ ☆

● Indelible-ink stains from a ball-point pen can be removed by sponging the spot with cotton soaked with rubbing alcohol.

☆ ☆

● By adding a few squirts of lighter fluid to a tin of shoe polish every time some of the polish is taken up by the brush, you can improve the shine on your shoes. The fluid causes the polish to spread more evenly and penetrate the leather. Only a light buffing is necessary for a good shine. After several such treatments, the shoes become waterproof and dirt resistant.

☆ ☆

● A drop of water carefully placed on the top surface of a genuine diamond will remain in globule form, but will spread out if the stone is glass or paste.

● When the groove in the top of a paint can becomes filled with paint, it is difficult to replace the lid so that the can is airtight. To keep the groove paint-free, fill it with a length of light rope or sash cord. After using the paint, simply lift out the cord.

☆ ☆

● A nail dipped into colourless nail polish before it is driven will "stay put" longer. And screws that work loose can be replaced permanently if the polish is brushed into the hole before resetting the screw.



**Mrs. Florence Huddlestone, formerly of Groote Eylandt.**  
Last month we had her very handsome young son on the cover of Dawn.

# Kinchela Boys' Home

## Boys Have Earned Respect

The number of wards resident in the Home as at the 30th June, 1955, was 45, compared with 54 at the beginning of the year.

The buildings are in fairly good condition; maintenance work has been carried out and further work is planned, and improvement of the sanitary facilities is contemplated. Tenders have been called by the Department of Public Works relative to the construction of a new seepage well.

A complete medical examination is conducted in January of each year, and a dentist visits the Home every six months and appropriate dental treatment is given. Hospital attention, where necessary, is given by the Macleay District Hospital.

Thirty-seven inmates attend the Public School in the Home grounds, and five boys attend Kempsey High School for higher educational training.

Extensive repairs have been carried out to the school buildings and new furniture supplied.

Boys attending the Kempsey High School are well respected by teachers and classmates. Lads visiting other towns with their school teams are boarded out with white people, and reports have always been favourable regarding their conduct and sportmanship on these visits.

A number of lads are members of the Smithtown Rugby Football League Club, and are regular playing members of that Club's "under eighteen" league team. Several boys are also members of the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club, and one lad was Junior Beach Sprint Champion of the Central North Coast and also won his Bronze Medallion for life saving.

Inmates receive training in general dairy farm duties, including the usages of farm machinery, milking and butter-making, vegetable production, poultry and general farming.

Production of various types of vegetables last year totalled 3,962 lb.

Production obtained from the dairy herd for the period under review was 7,931 gallons of milk and 1,718 lb. of butter. Egg production from the small poultry section was 1,196 dozen.

Crops produced 10 tons lucerne hay, 20 tons saccalene, 60 bushels corn and 116 bales grass hay, besides providing ample grazing.

The dairy herd was culled and surplus stock sold.

Estimated value of total products was £2,990.

It is the aim of the Management to prepare these boys for the responsibility of ultimately taking their place in the community.

# Permanent Employment Increasing

## Many In Good Jobs

The number of aborigines settling into permanent employment is increasing. Many are securing work with the Railway Department, Shire and Municipal Councils, and the Department of Main Roads. The majority engage in rural employment, much of which is seasonal. This does not mean that the worker is unemployed for lengthy periods, but is engaged in various occupations from time to time as seasons change and the nature of the work varies. This applies particularly in the western districts, where pastoral and agricultural work prevails.

In coastal districts, work, as well as being seasonal, is of a more casual nature and some periods of unemployment are experienced.

It is the constant aim of Field Officers of the Board to encourage aboriginal workmen to secure and remain in the more permanent types of occupation.

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## Benefits

### Provided By The Board

In addition to the usual Social Service Benefits which are available, the Board undertakes the care of indigent aborigines, who are not eligible for such benefits. This assistance takes the form of weekly ration issues and the issue of winter and summer clothing and blankets, where necessary.

Community gardens and dairy herds are maintained on some Stations, and fresh vegetables and milk are distributed.

Treatment rooms have been set up where attention is given for minor ailments. More serious cases are referred for medical attention or hospitalisation, as the case may be.

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

Each year the Board provides special funds for the provision of Christmas cheer for children, aged and infirm.

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

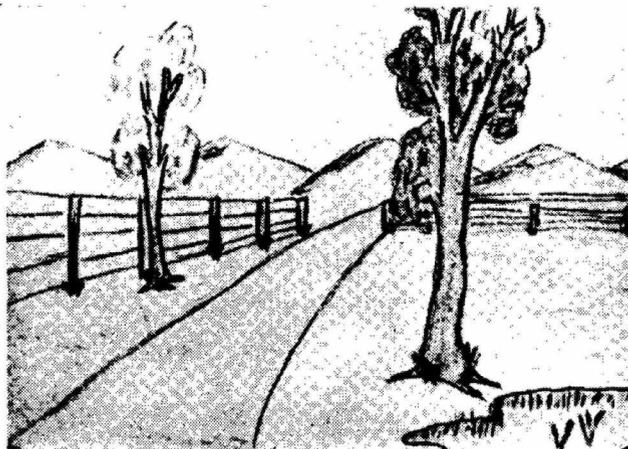
## ZEBU CATTLE.

by Michael Sawtell.

In a recent issue of *Dawn* there was some reference to the Zebu cross beef cattle now called the Santa Gertruda cattle. In 1908, I was on the Adelaide River in the Northern Territory looking after some cattle for a well-known Darwin butcher. Running among the ordinary beef cattle were some Zebu cross cattle, that were the descendants of the Zebu cattle, that were brought by the English to the ill-starred settlement well over a hundred years ago. You may read all about this settlement at Port Essington, in Mrs. E. Hill's book "The Northern Territory". Those cattle were left behind, with the Timor ponies and Buffaloes. In time the Zebu cattle crossed with our beef breeds. The Zebu cross, that I used to muster, were always fat, but they were rather wild and small, but they were tick immune. I used to say to the old cattlemen, "These are the cattle for this country", but they used to laugh at me and say: "They are too small". That was so, for in those days cattle were not marketed till they were older and bigger than they are to-day.

However, the Americans have evolved a new breed out of the Zebu cross, which is called the Santa Gertruda, and which we now import back into Australia.

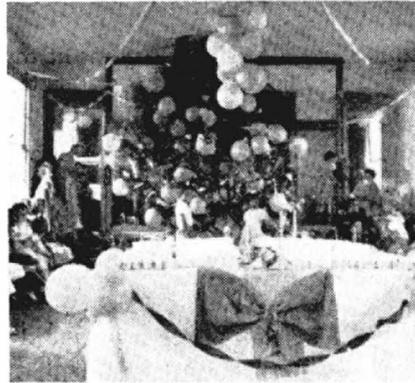
This new breed of beef cattle, the Santa Gertruda, are now being bred in many parts of North Australia, the Gulf country and the Peninsula of North Queensland, but there is still a rather strong prejudice against them, for they do not look as well as our beautiful Shorthorns or Herefords. I must also admit, that under Australian conditions, they would be rather difficult to keep quiet. The North Australian Monthly had a great deal to say about them recently. It now appears that only about one-eighth cross of Santa Gertruda is necessary to make our beef tick immune.



This fine black and white sketch by Zetta Clarke, of Murrin Bridge, wins her a special prize. Congratulations to you Zetta.

## SANTA VISITS WALLAGA LAKE.

Once again the children had the thrill of seeing Santa Claus at Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Station, when they had their Christmas Tree in the Recreation Hall, which was gaily decorated with streamers and balloons for the occasion.



Everyone at Wallaga Lake had a very busy time getting the hall ready for the Xmas Party.

Prior to Santa's arrival all the residents had a sumptuous afternoon tea of lovely cakes, sandwiches, icecreams, drinks and lollies very kindly supplied by the Bega Methodist Church. These good Christian people come 40 miles each year to help the Manager and Matron to make the Christmas Tree a great success. Not only did they help with the Station Christmas Tree this year, but they helped to make history for the South Coast, by extending an invitation to the Aboriginal children of Wallaga Lake to attend their Tree which they hold each year for white children in Bega.

The Manager was only able to take a limited number of 16 children on the Station truck to the Bega Tree, where they were given a wonderful welcome, and no differentiation whatsoever was made. The children played games side by side with the white children, and the white children gave presents off the tree for the Aboriginal kiddies. In return the Wallaga Lake children sang Christmas carols without showing any signs of shyness.



All spic and span, these happy youngsters eagerly awaited the arrival of Santa Claus.

An invitation was extended to the white children of the Methodist Church in Bega to attend the Station Christmas Tree, and Santa Claus had himself photo graphed with Joy Wattling from Bega on his right and Errol Stephens of Wallaga Lake on his left, as a genuine symbol of our policy of assimilation.

Once again every one sang Christmas carols and the children were recipients of lovely gifts, and one and all had a most enjoyable afternoon.

# The Tabulam Convention, 1955

By

MALCOM J. C. CALLEP, M.A.

For fourteen years now on the North Coast of N.S.W., the annual Conventions have been the great event of the year, planned for, saved for, and looked forward to by the people of half a dozen stations.

Previous Conventions have been held at Cubawee, just outside Lismore, but chiefly owing to the influence of Alec Vesper of Woodenbong, it was decided to break with tradition and gather by the banks of the beautiful Rocky River on the Board's new station at Tabulam for the recent convention. Despite the advantages of spacious recreation hall and church it was feared that many people would not be willing to travel all the way to Tabulam, but the record roll up proved such fears groundless.

The visitors arrived by bus and by truck, in their own private cars and even on foot. Every "beigal" (aborigine) on the North Coast seemed to have but one fixed idea; to get to Tabulam. Many stayed with friends on the station and the rest slept in the hall or in tents hired for the occasion. The heavy rain of the previous week gave way to bright sunshine, and two short thunder storms proved to be only a minor annoyance.

From Maroopna in Victoria came Mr. Shedrach James, well known preacher and lecturer, a leader among the aborigines for many years. Also from Victoria came Frank Roberts Jr., who, I understand, is making a name for himself as an evangelist far from his native Lismore.

Late on Friday night a big red truck driven by a white missionary, Mr. Palmer, arrived from Boggabilla, bringing among others two old friends of mine, Mrs. McGrady and that fiery evangelist, Dick Piety, already well known among the "beigals" of the North Coast. From Fingal on the Tweed River came Pastors L. Phillips and Don Brady, bringing with them a party of visitors from a very long way away indeed, G. Anda, H. Smith and B. Over from the islands of Torres Strait. Everyone I spoke to was most impressed by the songs sung by these men in their own language. From Billinudgel came Mrs. Nouter and her daughter Lily.

The South was ably represented by Mr. Sam Leon of Forster, Mr. Bert Mar, Mrs. Ella Simon and Mrs. Marjory Mar, of Purfleet, near Taree. Mr. Claude Randell represented Maclean, and on Sunday, Mr. Wally Carter arrived in his car from Grafton just in time for the baptism ceremony.

Over the weekend, Woodenbong Station and the reserve at Cubawee must have been almost deserted,

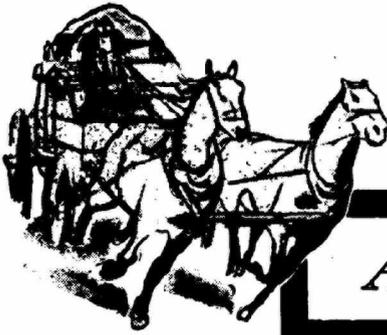
it seemed to me that the whole populations of these sister communities had moved en masse to Tabulam. Notable among these were Alec Vesper, Frank Bundock, Joe Clarke, and Erkie Green from Woodenbong, and four generations of the Roberts family headed by grandfather Liol, from Cubawee. From Woodenbong, John Close carted £50 worth of groceries, besides meat and bread and an organ in a borrowed truck. Similar contributions were made by the Cubawee people. The brunt of the preparation, the erection of tents to accommodate visitors, and a large marquee in which to hold the services was borne by Tabulam Christians, Eric Walker and his wife Una, his uncle Jack Walker and Mrs. Marjory Marsh.

Nor must those who carried out the catering be forgotten. For one meal alone on Friday, 642 adults, besides scores of children were fed. It says much for the organising ability of Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Florrie Collins, of Tabulam, Mrs. Frank Roberts, Mrs. Aubrey Roberts and Mrs. Laurie, of Cubawee, that none of this vast concourse went hungry. Mr. Alan Boney, from Guyra, who has had some experience of cooking is to be congratulated both on keeping up a steady supply of freshly made tea, and in assisting the ladies with the preparation of meals. A particularly pleasing feature of the convention was the manner in which a group of girls waited on the table, quite a job when there were often five sittings per meal. Notable among these were Irene Roberts and Vivienne Laurie of Cubawee, Judy Slockey, from Coff's Harbour, now living at Tabulam, and Lily Nouter, of Billinudgel.



On Thursday, a "Welcome Tea" was held at which Jack Walker and Eric Walker welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Tabulam community. Friday brought what I thought a very well reasoned address from Mr. Shedrach James: it is a pity that the Aboriginal peoples have not more leaders like him. I think everybody present was impressed both by his command of the facts and by the restrained, tolerant fashion in which he presented them.

On Saturday, Mrs. Ella Simon held a children's service and Sunday brought what to my mind was the climax of a weekend that will long be remembered; the baptismal ceremony in the Rocky River just below the Station. The ceremony was conducted by Pastor Frank Roberts, of Cubawee. Candidates were Frank Hickling, Herb Walker, Unice Walker, Mrs. Aubrey Roberts and Mrs. Laurie. The evening service was conducted by Frank Roberts Jr.



## ALONG THE MAIL ROUTE

Dr. Wurm, of the Department of Anthropology, Sydney, was a very welcome visitor to Boggabilla Station. Dr. Wurm made a very good friend of old Harry Lang, 89, they conversed freely in the now almost forgotten Kamilaroi language. The younger generation also, were very interested and many now can speak the language of the forebears.

Boggabilla is now in the grip of summer. The residents of the station however, keep cool in the river. The management has however, put out of bounds their original swimming pool, near the pump house. It is hoped all will abide by the rule and not swim where the station water is pumped up for their own consumption!



Meet Jack Chapman and Ettie Carriage of Ulladulla.

The Baby Health Centre at Caroona was opened recently with Sister Doran of the Department of Health in charge.

Large numbers of mothers and babies attended (in fact, far more than could be attended to in the time allowed). Mrs. Trixie Cutmore had the distinction of being the first mother to take her baby to the Centre. This centre broke new ground, in as much as it is not only a fully equipped Baby Health Centre situated on a station, but, thanks to the co-operation of the Board and the Public Health Department, it is the first time that a community service situated on an aboriginal station has been made available to the entire population, regardless of colour.

At Caroona, the building and facilities were supplied by the Board, the equipment was provided jointly by the Board and the Baby Health Division, and the matron

and the station Progress Association are donating work and money to help. The benefits of the station are available to anyone living in the district.

One white baby from the surrounding district attended the clinic on its opening day, and it is understood that there will be several more after the New Year.

The opening day showed very clearly that much more time will have to be allotted to enable the work here to be done. It is understood that an urgent recommendation to this effect has been sent in, and, further, that a recommendation has been made that a pre-natal clinic be added to the Baby Health Clinic.



School concert and prize giving was held at Caroona on the last day at school and was well attended by the parents. Songs by the school, short plays and miming were performed by the children. The miming and plays by the little children were particularly good, and were enthusiastically received.

The prizes were presented by the Manager, and included an imposing collection of cups, medals and pennants for football and athletics. The Manager called for a vote of appreciation for the work done by the children and their teachers, and this was heartily given.

*Continued from page 13*

On Monday, Pastor Frank Roberts celebrated Holy Communion in the big marquee, decorated with flowers from Tabulam gardens. Some thirty people attended this impressive traditional ceremony. An evening meeting concluded the official convention program, but I feel sure that the effects of this gathering will be felt for a very long time. Besides their primary religious function, such gatherings provide a meeting place for people from many different districts, where mutual problems can be discussed and friendships made. They tend to break down the isolation of the little station communities, besides bringing together adherents of many different denominations. U.A.M., A.I.M., Pentecostal, Plymouth Bretheren, Church of England and Roman Catholic, were all represented at Tabulam, and all co-operated to make the function a success. Possibly white Australians could learn from such an embracive tolerance.

# Nanima Xmas Party Most Enjoyable Ever

The most successful and enjoyable Christmas party ever held at the Nanima Aboriginal Reserve was staged just before Christmas.

More than 200 children from the Reserve and a large crowd of parents and visitors from Wellington attended.

Highlight of the afternoon was a concert presented by the children of the Nanima School on the verandah of the new class room, which has just been completed.

## Commendable Improvisation.

Parents and children were present long before the Concert commenced.

All visitors were highly impressed with the new classroom, which is as big as the old school.

Constructed of weatherboard and built high on tiers to provide maximum ventilation, the new classroom is a credit to the Education Department.

The verandah of the new building will eventually be extended across to the old building to provide a sheltered area between the two classrooms.

President of the Nanima Citizens' Aid Committee, Archdeacon H. Graham, welcomed all present and introduced the District Inspector of Schools, Mr. G. Meckiff.

Mr. Meckiff said how pleased he was to be present and also to see how delighted everyone was with the new building.

He said the Education Department had been concerned for some time about the accommodation facilities at Nanima and this concern had been reflected in the construction of the new building.

He enjoined the young people to look after it as it would serve them well.

Mrs. Meckiff said how delighted she was to be present and to see so many young, happy, smiling faces obviously all ready for a very enjoyable day.

The Headmaster of the School, Mr. Foreman, thanked all those people and organisations who had so willingly assisted with the staging of the party.

He extended a warm welcome to all present and said he trusted they would enjoy the concert.

The concert was a marvel of commendable improvisation and reflected the greatest credit on the young children who took part and on Mr. and Mrs. Foreman for their patience and instruction.

It was the first such concert staged at Nanima and was highly successful.

The participants were mostly the younger children and they entered willingly into the spirit of the occasion.

Dressed in all manner of costumes, skilfully pieced together and sewn by the children and Nanima ladies, the children were warmly applauded after each item.

It was a splendid beginning for the party which followed.

The army of volunteer workers had meanwhile prepared the tables beneath the big tree in the school grounds.

Each child received drinks, sweets, cakes, sandwiches, ice cream and other party fare.

At the given signal the children descended on the tables and the party commenced.

They were still busily eating when the excited cry "Santa Claus" brought them running to the school gate when "Santa" arrived in a car.

He was mobbed by the children and led quickly to the Christmas tree, where he dispensed 200 gifts, each of which was marked with the name of the recipient.

As the children received their gifts they were treated to ice cream.

## Public's Generous Donations.

The people of the town and district made the Christmas party at Nanima possible on Saturday.

Their donations of 10s. enabled the Citizens' Aid Committee to provide Christmas fare for one child.

A total of £126 was donated by the public and Archdeacon Graham this morning expressed the committee's deepest thanks for the generous response.

Children also helped provide the party.

Typical gestures of warm hearted generosity deserve special mention.

Janelle Birchall, of Short Street, saved 10s. in threepences and sixpences to enable an aboriginal child to attend the party.

The committee is writing a letter of appreciation to her.

The Junior Christian Endeavours of the Yeoval Union Church subscribed a total of £4 10s. to the appeal.

This was a highly commendable effort as the money was all raised by the children themselves. They are all under the age of 12 years.

Committee treasurer, Rev. K. L. Doust, said, "These two examples show how truly the spirit of Christian charity can be exemplified by children.

"Their sacrifices in little ways enabled many children to get something which ordinarily would not have been there for them," Rev. Doust added.

## CHRISTMAS DOINGS AT LA PEROUSE.

A grand time was had by the children of La Perouse, at Christmas time. Many parties were held in the district, and on the Reserve.

The Mambo Club of Sydney, put on a party for one hundred and twenty children in the La Perouse Hall, with a fine spread of food and drink. There was also a big Christmas tree with all the trimmings and each child received a present. The people of this Club certainly went to a lot of trouble to make a Happy Christmas for the children of La Perouse, and we thank them.

Mrs. Foster, affectionately known as Grandma Foster and her Church helpers also worked very hard to make it a happy Christmas for the kids. The gaily decorated hall was packed with happy children and Father Christmas gave presents to all. Well done, Grandma and all your helpers.

The Supervisor's party was not without its thrills as the children were entertained by the "Yodelling Sweethearts", Vi and Laurie Lawson. These two people, cowgirl and cowboy, entertained the children with singing and rope spinning. The way the little boy handled the spinning rope when his father had finished with it was really something. He is going to make a good roper, too.



Three big smiles from Elaine Bradshaw and Olga Kelly, of Bowraville, and Darcy Turnbull, of Nambucca.

## Children's Christmas Treat at Burra Bee Dee.

This time, because of the moves in population to new houses, it was not possible to hold the treat close to Christmas, but when the day turned up, on January 14th, all those who could crowd onto the station vehicle spent a wonderful day at Riversdale—some miles out from Coonabarabran on the Castlereagh.

The fish weren't anxious to be caught that day, but nobody seemed to mind since the river water was cool and pleasant for swimming on a day when the temperature was making a century.

Sweets and soft drinks added to the festive fare and much to our surprise, there were no complaints of sickness the following day.

## STAFF CHANGES.

The following staff changes have been effected since 18th August, 1955 :—

**MOREE.**—Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Heaney have been appointed Assistant Manager and Assistant Matron.

**KINCHELA.**—Mr. A. W. Nicholls has been appointed as an Attendant at Kinchela.

**BREWARRINA.**—Mr. and Mrs. H. F. S. Roberson have been appointed as Manager and Matron of this Station.

**WALLAGA LAKE.**—Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Thomas have been appointed Manager and Matron of Wallaga Lake.

**WELFARE OFFICER, KEMPSEY.**—Mr. A Norton has been appointed as Welfare Officer with his headquarters at Kempsey.



At first glance you might think these are some of our children, but actually they are Maori youngsters, from New Zealand.

## DID YOU KNOW.

The phrase, "to eat humble pie", meaning figuratively to come down in the world or adopt a submissive attitude, has an interesting origin. "Humble" is a corruption or pun on "umble" meaning the heart, liver and entrails of the deer. In the Middle Ages when the lord and his household dined, the venison pasty was served on a dais, but the umbles were made into a pie for the huntsman and his fellows, who took the lower seats.

\* \* \* \*

England has the world's first all-aluminium bridge. It crosses the River Wear at Sunderland, Durham.

\* \* \* \*

The Swiss watch industry employs more than 50,000 persons.

# WHEN DID MY TRUMPETER DIE?

By

C. F. HARRISON, Manager, Boggabilla Station.

As I promised you, like a bad penny, I am back again. This time folks, I am going to tell you something—just bear stories. I hope it will not be very bare! You have, I daresay heard of the several species of Bear. The brown, the black, the sloth and so on. Well I am going to tell you a bit about the Black Bear, found in several parts of the world. My story is to be about the ones found in the Himalaya Mountains of Northern India.

The black bear is very commonly found in the lower reaches of the great Himalaya Mountains. In cases, they have been found as far up as 15,000 feet! However, the bear is a very shy animal and can hardly be called a very dangerous one. Of course, stir him up, corner him or wound him, and you will then say, "I read about bears once, and the author said they were very shy and could not be classed as dangerous animals." "What a liar he was." Yes, the black bear is very dangerous when stirred up, etc. So if you ever come across a bear, treat him as being "cornered," "stirred up" or "wounded". I do not desire to go into any length of discourse on the habits of the bear and so, I will begin my Bear Stories.

Since I was very fond of shooting and had the various facilities out in India, I tried my hand (my gun I should say) on practically every hunting line. So, it was a bear shoot. A good time to get the bears was during the month of September, when the sweet corn was ripe and ready for harvest. Just as most humans are very fond of sweet corn, so are the bears. I am sure most of you have indulged in pinching corn from the farmers fields! You are not the only ones then! Bears

do exactly the same except that they do more damage. They will trample down each plant and therefore, ruin all the corn on that particular stalk. Farmers are therefore, only too pleased to see a shooter. I was due for some leave and had to take it during the corn season if I wanted success. On hearing that my leave was sanctioned, I immediately

wrote to a friend of mine in an area where I knew bears to be in large numbers and, the corn their attraction. A few days later I received his reply. It was very encouraging. His letter promised me the best bear shooting and his hospitality.

During this period, I was a bachelor, and had no encumbrances. So, on the day of commencement of

my leave, I, and a servant were speeding along a highway (I wonder whether I was exceeding the speed limit!?) destination Kangra. I had to travel 150 miles. Seventy-four of this was in the plains while seventy-six miles was in ever climbing twisting road. I arrived at Kangra at about 5.0 p.m. A room and a bath had been reserved for me in the Government Dak Bungalow. Soon after arrival, I took a hot bath and I felt fine and to improve my tired condition, the doctor had ordered a scotch and soda! A mixture I very readily took! That night, before retiring, my friend and host, paid a fleeting call and advised me that his horses and men would be at the bungalow at 5 o'clock in the morning to convey me to the shooting ground.

At about 5.15 next morning, I was mounted on a very peppery mare. Surely it desired to get back to its home, and get back as fast as it could. I was not very happy but, did not want to dismount as, already there were quite a number of muffled laughs from some of the men. Come what may, I thought to myself, I'll let her out and she's bound to tire and slow down. For a few minutes I was jet propelled! The mare knew its way home and covered a mile a minute!! On tiring, the mare slowed down and riding became tolerable. The men caught up with me and we continued leisurely to our host's village. A very sumptuous lunch at the village (and much deserved too!) a few minutes nattering with my host and his friends, and we were off for the bears.

My host had organised a beating party of about sixty men. Of the sixty about six were armed with muzzle loading guns (probably of 1857 vintage) and the remainder with sticks, staves and drums. The drum, known to the Indians as "Dholaks," is very fashionable amongst the best of Indian bands, but certainly a great source of annoyance to Mr. Bear. At the sound of a "Dholak" a bear will get up and try to get out of its hearing. Therefore this drum is practically essential on bear drives.



The beat was well organised. They were to drive a valley from the bottom upwards. I was to select a suitable spot at the top and await the driven bears. I had barely selected my spot (a small clearing in the heavy forest), when the beat began. A frightful noise. Something like the noises heard on the screen, made by Red Indians on the war path! Amidst the awful din, I heard a terrific bang, I should say BOOM. A muzzle loading gun had been discharged. Discharged at a bear, I thought. This Boom gave the beaters a bigger incentive to create more noise. The din became enormous. Distinctively, even though the din was terrific, I could hear the sound of oncoming bears. A very peculiar noise, peculiar only to the bear.

I shall try to describe it to you phonetically. In trying to pronounce it, imagine you are drunk and speak through your nose! This is the sound "Youszh youszh youzm youzm." (How does it sound?) With nerves set, rifle in hand and safety catch forward, I waited, wondering whether I had selected a good "possy". Youszh youszh youzm youzm (Yum Yum I thought) for the bears, I imagined about ten of them coming towards me. I was disillusioned, for, in a few seconds three fairly large bears came crashing through into the clearing before me. Quick thinking and a little presence of mind, allowed me to let the bears come broad side on. A well placed bullet in the neck of the leader and another in the shoulder of the second saw two bears go to their happy hunting grounds. I was not quick enough to get in a shot at the third. The reports from my rifle had embued the beaters, now a few hundred yards below me, with renewed vigour. More shouting and louder beating of drums and above all another terrific ear-splitting Boom greeted my ears. Surely they thought, I had downed half a dozen bears! Some seconds later, I heard yet some more Youszh youszh, and from the direction of its sound the bear would pass me about twenty yards to my right and out of sight. To intercept it, I had to move to the right. Accordingly, with least possible sound I ran to the right. Luck was on my side. Here in front of me was a fallen pine tree lying at an angle of about 15 degrees with the ground. I scrambled up this as best I could and hoped to get a glimpse and a fleeting shot at the bear, now only a few yards away. To my surprise, however, a very outsized



(XOS) bear approached at a high speed. It's head was a gory sight, blood all over. On this fallen tree I was not very steady and was impeded with branches, etc. I took a very quick shot at him. Over went the bear, but, in a split second was up again. This time, rearing up on his hind legs, displaying an enormous barrel chest, marked with a white "V". It's fore-legs shaped up as would an all-in-wrestler, and its bloody head showed an array of most formidable looking bloodstained teeth. With this massive bear (now really a bear with a sore head), a couple of feet below me, my plight was not conducive with good health! I had to get another shot at the beast. How could I? The branches of the fallen tree hampered me, and, I did not like the idea of being the victim of a "bear with a sore head". Seconds were all the time I had to live. Its remarkable,

how one's nerves react, and, thank God, I kept my head. All I did was to stretch my hands forward as far as possible with rifle in them, allow the rifle to come down muzzle first in the direction of the bear. My left hand guiding the barrel towards its mark (Bear) and my right hand holding the small of the butt and my thumb around the trigger. (A very unorthodox way of using a rifle!) In a flash, I imagined what would happen when I pulled the trigger. The recoil would certainly throw the rifle out of my hands, and if the bear were not killed I would be a "bear trifle". Pull the trigger I must, and so I did. Bang. I remember the effects. I wish I was a caricaturist to give you a picture of a rifle flying through the air, and the shooter falling back slowly on to his posterior! In a flash after falling, I was on my feet but, in the "on your marks" position. Had a gun gone off, I would have beaten the gun! Yes, its true folks, I might have still been running. A quick glance towards the bear and I remained where I was. The bear lay hunched up. I grabbed my rifle, which was a few yards away, opened the bolt shoved another round into the breech. Not a movement from the bear and I was certain it was dead.



I was very stunned at the recent adventure, and to calm my nerves, sat down to loading my pipe. If any other bears came, I mused, I'd tell them, "Pass friend, all is well". I enjoyed the smoke. Having finished smoking I got up to examine the bear. Its bleeding face was due to wounds received from the muzzle loading gun. It appeared, the muzzle loader was loaded with a handful of rusty old nails and this charge had struck the bear full and square in the face. A closer examination, disclosed my first shot having struck the bear through a non-vital part of the neck, and, my last very unorthodox shot had hit him above the right shoulder and had gone crashing through the entire body and lodged in the left rear leg. (After the animal had been skinned we found that the bullet had pierced the heart also.)

Within another few minutes the beaters had arrived and begun to assemble around me. Apart from being amazed at the sight of the large outsized bear, some of the men were heard to say, "Look at the size of the brute, any wonder it took four bullets to kill him?" Some were heard to say, "I thought Sahib would have at least half-a-dozen bears lined up here". Another said, "This bear has been the one that has done all the damage to our corn. Why, it must be able to eat 100 bhuttas (sweet corns) at one sitting alone". After hearing so many remarks and congratulations, I told them that there were another two bears dead about twenty paces away. Cheers went up amongst the men and then came the skinning, and haggling. The folk up in these parts are great believers in the medicinal values of several parts of the bears anatomy. The fat, the claws, lungs, etc., are greatly valued, hence the haggling for the finer or more valued parts. I heard it said that the gall bladder of the bear, if taken out

*Continued on page 22*

# Children's Party at Native Centre

The Swan Hill Native Centre was again the scene of much activity recently, when the committee gave twenty-one children their annual Christmas treat.

Parcels of gifts were received from various persons, and associations over the whole of Victoria, and many toys and monetary gifts were given by local people, some of whom prefer to remain anonymous in their philanthropy.

Much thanks must be tendered to Mrs. Frank Brown, of Swan Hill, who through her Sunshine Club columns in the Victorian Weekly papers, obtained more than a full car load of toys and other gifts for the native children.

Mrs. Brown has worked indefatigably throughout the year for the native people and their families, and the committee are indebted to her for her untiring work and interest.

Mrs. Brown has been assisted in her work by Mrs. D. Carn, Mrs. Ed. Bryan and Mrs. Dillon, and their work is greatly appreciated too.

Mrs. Feldtmann was mainly responsible for the lavish spread of chicken and salad savouries in lettuce leaf cups, cakes, sandwiches, fruit, lollies, soft drinks, peanuts and ice cream, but she was ably assisted by Mrs. S. Storer who is always a willing worker.

Just as the Christmas treat was almost over Santa Claus arrived with more gifts than he could carry at the one time and distributed them to the children.

It would take up too much space to enumerate all those persons who contributed cash and kind to make this Christmas party such a happy one for these little native children, but a mention of the school children from far away Birchip, the CWA at Lascelles, Kooloong and Natya would not be amiss.

Also a special thanks should go to Mrs. William Kennedy, of Watchupha, who made a very large Christmas cake, all iced and decorated, which was the centre-piece of the table decorations.

After the children had their party, the tables were reset, and the "grown-ups" were given a party of their own.

It was agreed by everyone present that it was the happiest day of the year.

On the same day as the party, Mr. Kotalawela, the Member of Parliament from Ceylon, accompanied by Mr. Pat Landy, visited the centre and were shown over it by Sgt. Feldtmann. At the conclusion of the visit Mr. Kotalawela stated that he was so impressed with the project that he would incorporate an article on it in his report to the Commonwealth of Australia, a copy of which would go to his own Government.



This lonely looking young lady is Edith Duke, of Ben Lomond. She was not really lonely, just surprised.

## "Jedda"

The popularity of the Charles Chauvel production "Jedda," was further evidenced by the wonderful reception it received when it was shown at one of Sydney's leading suburban theatres, the "Magnet", at Lakemba. "Jedda" was shown there for six nights, and the theatre was crowded at every performance. The remarks overheard in the foyer as the people left for their homes, were that it was "a truly great picture".

Whilst the picture was screened at the "Magnet", a most interesting exhibition was featured in the foyer. (See picture below.)

Mr. Robert Simms, the boomerang expert, of La Perouse, loaned many of his excellent specimens of early aboriginal weapons, as also did Mr. Jeffery, the Supervisor of the Reserve, who possesses some excellent specimens from Northern Australia.

During one of the performances, Mr. Jeffery, with Robert Simms and Mrs. Mary Griffith, who is already well known to the readers of *Dawn* in connection with her activities at the Annual Summer Camp, made a personal appearance and were introduced by Mr. William Auld, the manager of the theatre.





## HOUSING—HOW THE POSITION HAS BEEN MET.

Since the Board adopted the policy of providing homes for selected families in towns and within municipal areas, thirty-five of these cottages have been erected and occupied. These cottages are in the following centres :

Casino	...	...	4
Grafton	...	...	1
Coff's Harbour	...	...	8
Deniliquin...	...	...	1
Moama	...	...	3
Nowra	...	...	2
Cobargo	...	...	2
Coonabarabran	...	...	5
Dubbo	...	...	3
Yass	...	...	6

In addition, 277 new homes have been erected on Stations and Reserves, and it is estimated that these homes have provided improved accommodation for about 2,000 people.

### MOAMA COTTAGES.

Mrs. Norah Charles, who is a tenant of one of the three cottages in Moama which were transferred from Cumerogunga and re-erected there, has been given the opportunity to purchase her home on a rent-purchase basis. This means that although the rent will be a little higher, at the end of a period, the house becomes the property of Mr. and Mrs. Charles.

An offer such as this indicates that Mrs. Charles has completed two years, satisfactory tenancy. Congratulations from *Dawn*.

### PENSIONS.

A survey was recently made throughout New South Wales in regard to aborigines who do not receive pensions but who would be entitled to them if the present restrictions were removed.

The figures collected show that there are 114 such cases in the State, 65 of which are on Aboriginal Stations. The other 49 require only an Exemption Certificate to make them eligible, and if any of them are readers of *Dawn*, or if any reader knows of a case, they should get in touch with the local Welfare Officer or the Secretary of the Board as early as possible.

### WELFARE ACTIVITIES CONTINUE.

Male Welfare Officers with special training for the work are located at Nowra, Leeton, Dubbo, Moree and Coff's Harbour.

Two lady Welfare Officers are located at Sydney. One of these, a trained nurse, was appointed during the year and has undertaken a considerable amount of country work, chiefly among mothers and babies and adolescent girls. The other is responsible for the placement and supervision of girl wards of the Board.

Difficulty is experienced in securing suitable foster homes with private families, with the result that the two Homes conducted by the Board are nearly always full to capacity.

The work of Welfare Officers supplements that of the Managers and Matrons of the various Stations, and is designed primarily to assist aborigines not resident in controlled situations. Their help and advice is freely sought and they are a potent factor in improving the relationship between the Board and aborigines, and between aborigines and the general community.

### Child Endowment.

Aboriginal mothers in New South Wales are entitled to claim Child Endowment, and do so. Welfare Officers and Managers assist in the preparation of claims. In some cases, it is considered to be in the interest of the endowee and her children, that payments be administered by the Board.

The Maternity Allowance is paid to aboriginal mothers in exactly the same way as to white women.

### EXEMPTIONS

It was very pleasing at recent Meetings, for the Board to have before it so many applications for exemption. Congratulations to all those good people who will now be so proud to have been exempted.

The Board, however, expects every exempted person to maintain the standard of character which was considered necessary to comply with the conditions of the issue of the Certificate. Unfortunately, in some cases, when a Certificate is issued, the holder is inclined to become a little careless in his (or her) behaviour. This was the case with the holder of a Certificate living at Nambucca. The Board very regretfully cancelled his Certificate. Don't let this happen to you!



# They say



## WELFARE OFFICER AT DUBBO NOW HAS AN OFFICE

Ever since Mr. Phil Felton, the popular Welfare Officer, has been at Dubbo, he has been without an office and he has been compelled at very great inconvenience, to do all his clerical work at home. Now, all that is changed. He has his office in Brisbane Street, Dubbo, in the Lands Department Building, and all those who wish to interview him, should call there.

Mr. Felton is, of course, away in his district a good part of his time, but he can always be found in his office on the second and fourth Fridays of every month. In fact, any of the Welfare Officers are available at their Headquarters on these two days.

The telephone number is Dubbo 1411D.



The Cameraman caught Mr. and Mrs. Coombes and Mrs. Marie Stewart, of Nowra, out having a stroll with the baby.

Caroona has been very much on the air lately. The Baby Health centre was on the Australia wide network. The ladies of the Progress Association committee, who were doing some buying for the Xmas party, did some broadcasting, and were made a feature of the New England magazine of the air. Two of the party we are afraid will never be radio stars, as they were too shy to say anything! This did not stop them having a lot of fun, though.

Our sympathies and best wishes to Jim Sampson, of Caroona, who is a patient at the Chest Clinic in Tamworth.

Lynette (Cherry) Taylor, of Caroona, is in Strathallan hospital at Turrumurra for treatment of a spastic condition. She has all our good wishes, and we hope to see her back cured.

The gardens on Caroona station are looking well. Mrs. Jim Saunders has a lovely display of gladioli. Between the paint and the flowers, the station is looking very gay.

The report of the Caroona Progress Association during the first few months of its existence was very satisfactory.

The Association was started in October, 1954, and, owing to the lack of electric light, was unable to hold any functions in the winter. The soft drink shop, that was such a successful source of funds, was started in February, 1955, and was closed in April when the weather turned cold. The Balance Sheet, on 30th, June 1955, the end of the financial year, showed total receipts of £363 11s. 9d. There was a balance at the bank of £47 14s. 3d.

Among the expenditures were included:—

	£	s.	d.
Expenses of Christmas party, 1954 ...	88	11	10
Books, drawing materials, etc., for school ... ..	19	6	1
Presentation of stretcher to Quirindi Ambulance ... ..	28	6	9
Sporting equipment ... ..	5	13	4
Flood Relief ... ..	10	10	0
Presentation to the Headmaster on leaving the Station ... ..	9	9	0

Considering the short time this Association has been in operation, it has done well, and thanks are due to everyone concerned.

The Station has been badly handicapped by the lack of music for dances. If the young people want to have a good time dancing, they must get busy and learn to play the accordeon! The shortage of musicians on a big station like this is really amazing.

The Association is away to a good start for the present year. The cordial shop is doing well, and the Christmas party was the best ever.

Mrs. and Mrs. Tom Brennan and Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Smith, of Caroona, have been visited by the stork, both boys and every one doing well.

At last, Caroona Baby Health Centre has been approved and the Station has received its first visit from Sister Doran. This will be of great value to the Station, particularly as it is far away from town.

Caroona Manager has arranged for a dentist to pay a weekly visit and he has already been rushed by patients.

The general feeling is that he is a really painless operator. to the great relief of the children.

fresh from the body and immediately allowed to dry in the sun had the remarkable power, if eaten by a woman before pregnancy, is certain to conceive a son. Generally, amongst the Indian women, it is a great honour for a woman to give birth to a son. Therefore, the value, of the gall bladder is greatly enhanced as compared with other tit bits. The scrapping amongst the would-be beneficiaries from the bear's anatomy was therefore chiefly over the gall bladder!

The bears, having been skinned and dissected, and each recipient cheerful, we wound our way back to our host's village. The villagers were happy that night and there was much feasting. I was tired and retired to bed fairly early. To this day, however, my host nor any of the men knew how narrowly I had been missed by the big bear.

And now folks, I will leave you. I hope you have enjoyed reading all aforesaid. Look out for another instalment.

Baking powder, used in cooking, comes from the same source as salt. It is obtained in the production of sodium carbonate. Flake salt, a variation of table salt, is used for salting fish, curing ham and bacon, and purifying sausage casings.



**Beauty and the Beach.** This lovely young lady is Hazel Bolt, of Cabbage Tree Island, a champion swimmer.

## Cootamundra Girls' Home

There were 47 girls in residence at the end of the year, an increase of six since the beginning.

Considerable repair work was carried out during the year by the Public Works Department and the Board's Maintenance Officer. The buildings were painted externally, and roof and guttering repairs effected. A new poultry run and shed was erected and fencing generally repaired.

The health of the children has been good. A complete medical and dental examination was conducted twice during the year.

A small dairy herd provides fresh milk, cream and butter. A good supply of vegetables and fruit was maintained from the garden and orchard.

Thirty girls attend the Public School in Cootamundra and fourteen, the High School.

All attend local churches as ordinary members of the congregation.

The atmosphere of the Home is far from "institutional", and their training should be a potent factor in preparing the girls for the time, when they will leave and take their places in the community.

## More Homes in Country Towns

### A Definite Step Forward

The Board feels that a definite forward move was made during the year in the steps taken to provide town houses for selected aboriginal families in country towns. This may be regarded as a milestone in the progress of the policy of assimilation, and perhaps the most positive step thus far taken.

It looks forward to further advancement in this direction in the coming year.

While ever ready to assist the aboriginal people in improving their standing in the community, it recognises that much can be done by the people themselves in this direction. It feels that there are many worthy aboriginal families who are in a position to make some effort on their own behalf, and gives every encouragement to such to do so.

The Board earnestly solicits the interest and practical help of all who have the well-being and progress of aborigines at heart.

# HOME HINTS

When making a dress of dark material, use a white manicure pencil to mark tucks and darts if you don't have white tailor's chalk. Moisten the tip of the pencil a bit before using.

\* \* \* \*

Combine two baby blankets to make a larger child's blanket. Trim blankets to be the same size. Cut each into four rectangular pieces. Arrange alternately in a checkerboard pattern. Lap edges  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch; stitch. Conceal seams with bands of satin blanket binding  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, topstitched over seams. Finish outside edges with binding. Trim with monogram.

\* \* \*

Add crushed pineapple to the next apple pie you make. Spread four or more tablespoons of the pineapple over the sliced apples. Then put on the top crust. It's a wonderful combination.

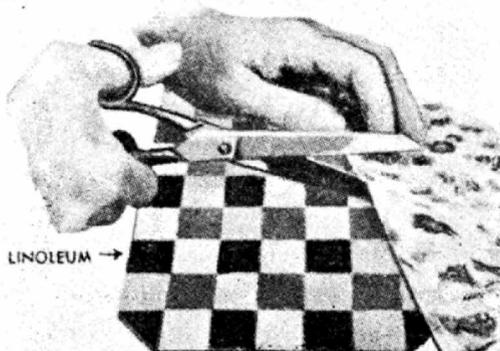
\* \* \* \*

Make a container for the mayonnaise from a red pepper. Cut a thin slice from the stem end and remove seeds, then fill with mayonnaise. Looks attractive on a salad platter.



When you are preparing cherries or blackberries for a pie or making them into jelly, pound them well with a clean empty bottle.

A piece of "squared lino" or a draught board held beneath a piece of material will help you to cut it straight.



## HELPFUL HINTS

### Clogged Drain.

Next time the bath is used for a hairwash, first take the precaution of placing a wad of steel wool in the plug opening. The steel wool strains out the hair which might otherwise clog the drain but allows the waste water to flow away quite freely.

### Jar Lids.

When a stubborn jar lid is encountered, a good way to loosen it is by wrapping a strip of emery cloth around the jar top, grasp the ends together with a pair of pliers and twist the jar to loosen the lid.

### Cooking Odours.

When no deodorant is at hand, a little perfume or eau-de-cologne on a light bulb in the kitchen will counteract the odours of cooking by giving off a pleasant aroma when switched on.

### Moth Balls.

A useful method of being sure that moth balls stay put where they do the most good is to fix them to the clothes hanger with scotch tape. By drilling holes in the hangers, the tape can be applied on both sides so that the moth balls will remain trapped in place even though their size decreases.

### Venetian Blinds.

Try cleaning venetian blinds with a soft chamois which should first be soaked in a solution of some household detergent and warm water and wrung nearly dry before using. You'll achieve a fast, lint-free job.

### Fruit and Vegetables.

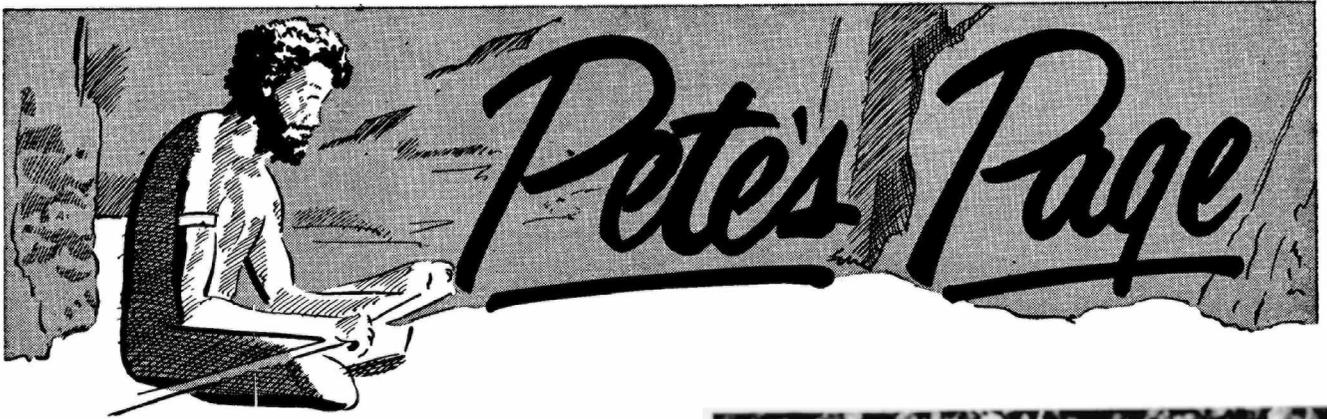
Did you know that acid fruits and coarse vegetables should never be eaten at the same meal? Here they are: Acid fruits—apricots, blackberries, cranberries, currants, grapefruit, gooseberries, lemons, loganberries, oranges, peaches, pineapples, plums, prunes and sour apples. Coarse vegetables—cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, beets, onions, parsnips, radishes, swede turnips and turnips.

\* \* \* \*

When next you sew shoulder straps to underwear, place the front straps about 1 inch closer together, than those at the back. This keeps them from slipping off the shoulders.

\* \* \* \*

For sparkling finish on a toaster or other stainless steel appliances polish with baking soda. Sprinkle soda on a clean soft cloth and rub over the surface. Follow by rubbing with a second clean cloth to make surface glisten like new.



HELLO KIDS,

Well 1956 is certainly slipping away on us, isn't it? Before we know it will be round to Christmas again and of course that would make you just too miserable, wouldn't it? I can just imagine!

I had a very colourful drawing from Dennis Smith, of Rivertree, the other day and it just missed out on a prize. Try again Dennis!

One of my most regular writers is Carol Donovan, of Bowraville. I always like getting letters from Carol because they are so full of news. (A special prize to you this month, Carol, for your letter.)



This very pretty lass is Ellen Williams of Warialda.



A group of Boggabilla children play safely on high ground out of reach of the floods.

**PEN FRIENDS WANTED.**

George Smith (18) of Box 89, Post Office, Balranald, wants some pen friends, boys or girls.

George, who likes tennis and horse riding, says he is very lonely and never gets any letters.

I must say, kids, that I'm very disappointed in the few letters I have been getting from you lately. I know, of course, that a lot of my pals in the Boggabilla area have been cut off by those horrible floods, but there are still thousands of others who haven't written at all since Christmas. Now how about it. How about a lot of letters, poems, drawings, etc.? We must keep that postman of mine busy. He's getting far, too fat lately.

A few days ago I called in at Purfleet and spent a very enjoyable hour or so with Mr. and Mrs. Briggs, drinking tea and eating some of the most wonderful sponge cake, while I looked at some coloured slides Mr. Briggs had made of the residents of the station.

I think we must really have a lot of film stars up at Purfleet. I did intend wandering around the station and meeting many of my friends, but the rain put a stop to all that. But next time without fail.

Now, what do you like best. Drawing or painting competitions, puzzles, crossword puzzles, or what have you? Will you write and tell me what you would really like on this page so I can see if I can arrange it for you.

I do hope that all these terrible floods will soon be over again, and that all my young pals will once again be able to enjoy themselves.

That's all for this month Kids, so until next month, *Your sincere Pal—*

*Pete.*



## PASS IT ON

When You have read DAWN Pass It On—

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



# What to sow during March-April

*Planned a month in advance for your convenience*

## FLOWERS.

As the weather grows cooler germination is slower and often uncertain. The following should therefore be sown as early as possible: Antirrhinums, aquilegia, canterbury bell, candytuft, carnation, annual chrysanthemum, cineraria, cornflower, delphinium, dianthus, foxglove, marigold, forget-me-not, gaillardia, gypsophila, helichrysum, hollyhock, lobelia, lupin, lychnis, linaria, mignonette, mimulus, nasturtium, nemophila, nigella, pansy, pentstemon, Iceland poppy, shirley poppy, rhodanthe, salpiglossis, scabious, schizanthus, stocks, sweet peas, sweet williams.

Plant bulbs of amaryllis, anemone, babiana, calla, daffodil, hyacinth, freesia, ixia, jonquil, lachenalia, nerines, ranunculus, snowflake, sparaxis, tritonia, tulip, watsonia.

## VEGETABLES.

Sow seed of beets, broad beans, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, broccoli, brussel sprout, cress, lettuce, mustard, khol rabi, leek, onion, parsley, parsnip, peas, spinach, silver beet, swede, white turnips, also set out cloves of shallots, garlic, tree onions, potato onions, and rhubarb roots.

## SHRUBS AND TREES.

Place your orders now for rose and other shrubs, flowering and fruiting trees, shade trees, grape vines and all berry fruits.

## ONIONS.

Although the onion thrives best in a temperature climate where there is plenty of moisture, it will grow under a wide variety of soil and climatic conditions. The soil should, however, be fertile, moist, well tilled, and free of stones, clods, and other foreign matter.

The soil at all times for best results with onions should contain ample well-rotted manure and be supplemented by commercial fertiliser if of doubtful quality.

One pound of manure for each square foot and from 4 to 5 lb. of a well-balanced fertiliser per 100 sq. ft. are recommended.

Seeds should be sown in late summer to mid-autumn in boxes or beds of medium to light loam, and when about the size of a slender bridge pencil should be lifted and the tops cut down by about one third. The roots too, should be reduced to about  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch. This allows the gardener to set the roots in small dibbled holes without doubling them up. Each seedling should be firmed into the ground with the fingers, covering only the roots and leaving the gently swelling bulbous part just on the surface of the soil.

The soil should be moist when planting out but not excessively wet or muddy. Plant out seedlings about 6 inches apart, for many onions grow to 3 or more inches in diameter and need ample space between them.

Do not cut back the foliage at any time once the plants have started to produce big leaves, but if they go to seed prematurely, the flowering head should be pinched out at the base. Such plants rarely make very satisfactory onions.

The best keeping onions are Prizetaker, Hunter River Brown and White Spanish, Ailsa Craig, Giant Rocca, Silverskin, and Lord Howe Purple.

Pests affecting onions are not numerous in Australia, the worst being the onion thrips, which regular spraying of DDT will control. Onion mildew is probably the worst disease known here. Regular spraying with lime-sulphur will check early outbreaks.