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

FEBRUARY, 1957.





Our Cover . . .

Happy moments at the 1957 Summer Camp. A group of youngsters from Bourke, Caroon, Goodooga, and Moree put everything into the tug-o-war urged on by staff member George Ellis.



"DAWN"

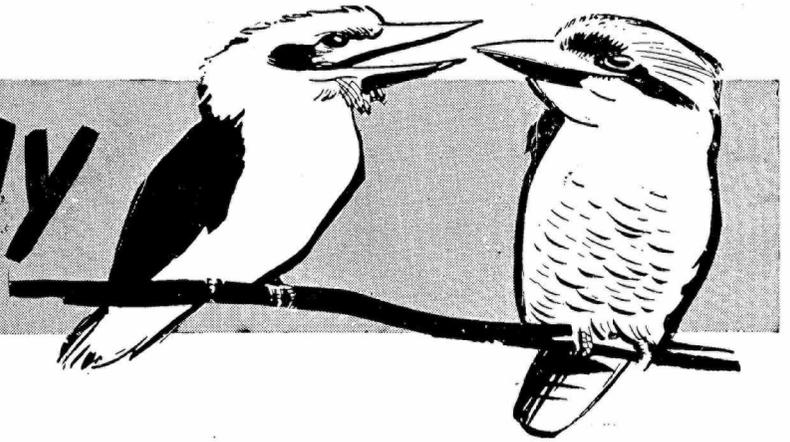
is a monthly magazine produced by the N.S.W. Aborigines' Welfare Board for the Aboriginal people of New South Wales.

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THEY SAY



It has been Convention time again in the Far West. The United Aborigines Mission at Bourke held meetings at Bourke, Brewarrina, Goodooga, Collarenebri, and Walgett, and also travelled into Queensland to Cunnamulla, and very successful gatherings were reported in all centres.

* * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Riley, of Dubbo, have just moved into a home which will soon become their own. The Rileys saved a considerable sum of money, and with the assistance of a loan from the Board, they were able to buy a two-bedroom weatherboard and fibro cottage in Gipps Street, North Dubbo. Finding a cottage to buy took a great deal of hard work, but eventually just the right cottage became available and after it had been seen by an Officer of the Board, action was taken to purchase it.

* * * *

Dorothea Combo, of Cootamundra, celebrated her 21st birthday on the 7th October at the home of her employers, Mr. and Mrs. Cronin, at "Emu Chase," Grogan.

The party was given by Mrs. Cronin who made and beautifully iced the cake. Fifty guests were present and numerous were the gifts received.

* * * *

The girls of Cootamundra Home held a concert in the Parish Hall on the 3rd of November. They were assisted by a few town artists, and had a full house. Mrs. Inspector English was present and all enjoyed themselves.

* * * *

Patricia Wenberg, Joan and Katherine Smith and May McLeod, were confirmed in the Church of England Church, during the Bishop's last visit.



We'd like to introduce you to these two folk from Guyra but unfortunately we don't know their names.

We hear that Albert May, of Wellington, is out of hospital now, and well on the road to health and strength. Mr. May had a serious operation in Orange Hospital.

* * * *

There were many aborigines visiting Brewarrina at the end of October; the reason was the Rodeo. Amongst those noticed were Wilkie Bates from Pilliga, and Wilma and Linda Peckham from Dubbo.

* * * *

Gwen Sullivan (who will be remembered as an old Cootamundra girl) was seen in Dubbo recently where she was spending a holiday with friends. Gwen now lives in Brewarrina.

Burnt Bridge News

SCHOOL'S CONCERT, PRIZE GIVING.

Burnt Bridge Aboriginal School, which has an enrolment of about 100 pupils, held its annual concert and prizegiving function recently, when over 200 people were in attendance, under the Chairmanship of the Headmaster, Mr. M. A. Perrin.

The pupils provided a very entertaining programme including "The Old Man," a humorous action song by the infants; the playlet, "The Three Bears," and a number of happy songs.

Second and Third classes contributed a play, "Magic Slippers," songs and folk dancing.

The senior children's contribution included the play "Aga Boo," several songs, and a sea chanty, "The Mermaid," to the delight of all present.

* * * *

ADVICE TO CHILDREN.

Mr. Perrin, in a brief address to the parents and children, urged that as many children as possible go on to High School to further their education.

Mr. Perrin thanked the P. and C. members for their assistance in organising the function and the staff for their co-operation.

Mr. Perrin commended the children on the winning efforts at Kempsey Eisteddfod and in football competitions, and said that there might be a future Olympic champion in their midst.

Mr. N. R. Luschwitz, Manager of Burnt Bridge Station, urged the parents to support their school and to send their children regularly. On behalf of the people of Burnt Bridge he thanked Mr. Perrin and the school staff for their work during the year.

Mrs. Norton, whose husband is District Aboriginal Welfare Officer, presented prizes to children first in their classes as follows:—

Kindergarten, C. Bradshaw and Sam Davis; second class, Michael Kelly; third class, Bet Kelly; 4B, D. Quinlan; 4A, D. Thompson; 5th, Robert Campbell; 6th, A. Thompson; Sewing, H. Thompson, B. Jarret, E. Campbell, M. Quinlan; Manual work, P. Silva; Music, P. Morris; Improvement, P. Smith; Attendance, R. Gray and D. Thompson.

Pennants were presented to the 5st. 7 lb. football team, which won the interdistrict Knockout Competition held at Kempsey and Coff's Harbour.

A happy dance followed the presentations.

WALLAGA LAKE

The Christmas Tree

The Christmas Tree was held at Wallaga Lake on Saturday the 15th December, 1956, when 50 children received gifts and sweets, etc., from our old friend Santa Claus. Some of the younger children who met the snowy bearded old gentleman for the first time didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Many decided to cry. However, before the afternoon was over most of the tear-stained faces gave way to smiles as Santa produced many nice toys and sweets from his big bag, which were followed by soft drinks, ice cream, sandwiches and cakes.

The huge pine Christmas tree reached from floor to ceiling of the Recreation Hall and was gaily decorated with coloured electric lights, artificial snow and many of the toys.

A great number of parents and adult visitors, too, decided to have a look at Santa bringing joy and cheer to the children yet another year when, apart from the gaiety of the occasion, most of us remember the true significance of Christmas.

It was pleasing to note that a number of visitors from Bega, Tilba Tilba and Central Tilba were present.

Our sincere thanks are due to the Bega Committee, who worked so hard with the Management to make the Party a success, and also supplied the lovely things to eat at supper time.

* * * *



This pretty little lass with the mighty dog is Shirley Simon of Waratah.



ALONG THE MAIL ROUTE



The Railway Picnic was held at Dubbo recently, and a large number of aboriginal people who work for the Department of Railways together with their families and friends spent a pleasant day in Dubbo.

However, for Mrs. Elizabeth West, of Brewarrina, the Picnic was spoiled, because she took sick on the special train coming to Dubbo, and had to spend her Picnic day in hospital.

* * * *

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Keith Riley, of Dubbo, on the birth of a daughter. Mrs. Riley was formerly Delma Wright, of Moree.

* * * *

Within less than a week, two brothers who were well known at Coonabarabran both passed away. Mr. Mick Smith, of Chippendale, died in Sydney on November 24th, and his body was brought to Coonabarabran for burial at the Cemetery at Burra Bee Dee Aboriginal Station. His brother, who was better known as Bill Goulding, died at Coonabarabran five days later. The two brothers were buried side by side.

* * * *

We are pleased to hear that Mrs. Nelly Rolfe, of Enngonia, is recovering after a period in Bourke District Hospital.

* * * *

Mrs. Isobel Leonard, of Coonamble, recently had a birthday (we didn't ask her age) but she received a novel birthday present from her sons, a pair of beautiful guinea fowls.

George Morris, of Dubbo, his brother Rex Morris, from Byrock, and his younger brother Ivan Morris, from Taree, are talented musicians. We hear they recently recorded a group of numbers, and sent the recording to the Amateur Hour. Perhaps when next we hear of them, they will be broadcasting.

* * * *

Quite a few people from Brewarrina have been in Dubbo in recent weeks for medical treatment, and include Mrs. Linda Rose, Mrs. Milly Hill, May Warraweena, Mrs. Hilda Cunningham, Leo Coffey, and Jack Coombes.

* * * *

The death occurred recently at Coonamble District Hospital of Mrs. Lila Dargin, who was well known at Peak Hill and Wellington, as well as Gulargambone and Coonamble.

* * * *

After a long illness, Mr. Walter Murray, of Wellington, has died. He had been very feeble for many months, and towards the end, he was unable to move about, except with two people to help him. Mr. Murray's death will be mourned by his many friends in the West.



Arthur Williams of Tabulam and his trusty old car.



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.



This lovely looking lass is now Mrs. Wally Lord of Turleys Bore, near Broken Hill. Before her marriage she was Doreen McNiven of Eulo, Queensland. This photograph was taken on her wedding day and the beautiful gown is made of slipper satin.



Meet the Williams family of Tabulam. Here we have Mrs. Williams, Una and Laurie.

* * * *

This is what happens when the floods come down. Here we see the bridge over the River at Murrin Bridge, almost submerged.





Lionel Heron, in the picture above, comes from Nana Glen Rail. (How many people know where that is ?)



This young man is Percy Thomas of Cobargo.



A real beach girl, with plenty of male admirers. Here we have Betty Mundy, an ex Cootamundra girl. Betty is a very good swimmer and particularly keen on surfing.



The rocks made a good background for Daphne Edwards and Mrs. Gerrard of Tingha.



Someone else from that place called Nana Glen Rail. This time pretty Kate Laurie.



Two pretty lasses. Daphne Edwards of Tingha and Una Baker of Guyra.



Mr. and Mrs. Don Daley and daughter Hazel (and the doll !)



Life Assurance For Aborigines

In the November issue of *Dawn*, a statement was made that it is not generally known that Life Assurance benefits are not available to aborigines or to persons having any admixture of aboriginal blood.

Subsequent to the paragraph appearing, a number of the aboriginal people who actually have life assurance policies became anxious as to the position in regard to premiums that they had paid to Insurance Companies. In one or two instances the fear was expressed that their money had been wasted.

Dawn wishes to impress every aboriginal person who has a life assurance policy—and it is known that there are many—that they have nothing to fear. They have entered into a contract with an Insurance Company that in return for certain instalment payments they will receive, at some future date, the payment of a lump sum. So long as they continue to pay the instalments on the due date, the Insurance Company must, by law, meet its obligations.

These conditions also apply to Friendly Societies, Medica Funds, Hospital Funds, etc., which have been sanctioned by the Government.

CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION

At the direction of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Certificates of Commendation have been forwarded to the following:—

- (1) The pupils of the Tabulam Aboriginal School commending them on their success at the Lismore School Choirs Festival in July last.
- (2) The President and members of the Toomelah Branch of the Country Women's Association located on Boggabilla Aboriginal Station, to commemorate the opening of the first Aboriginal Branch of the Association.

No doubt both of these Certificates will, in due course, find an honoured place on the walls of the Tabulam School and the meeting place of the Toomelah C.W.A.

SUCCESS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Margaret Williams, a pupil at the Casino High School, was successful in passing her Leaving Certificate Examination last year. Her passes were in English, French, Modern History, Biology and Economics.

Margaret is seventeen years of age and held a bursary awarded by the Aborigines Welfare Board. She is now residing with her family in Brisbane, and it is her ambition to go to the University there and obtain an Arts degree. If she is successful, she will be the first aboriginal student to do so. She hopes eventually to become a teacher.

Congratulations to Margaret, and we wish her every success in her future career.

Norma (10) and Elizabeth (9) Cochrane, of Burnt Bridge, were recently treated to a fortnights holiday sponsored through the efforts of Apex, and had the pleasurable experience of flying to and fro from Kempsey to Sydney.

They were met at Mascot by their respective hosts who whirled them away to fairyland. Quoting Norma and Elizabeth "we had a wonderful time, we saw the Sydney Harbour Bridge, had a joy ride on the Show Boat, went to the Botanical Gardens and dined at David Jones, not to mention the excursions to the beaches at Manly and the picture shows." Most of all they were welcomed at home "they did not want me to come back" said Elizabeth, 9 years.

The girls were televised whilst at Sydney, and expressed their views on 2NB on their return to Kempsey.

This fine gesture by Australians through Apex has been greatly appreciated by the staff and residents of Burnt Bridge Aboriginal Station. More so as it affords Aboriginal children living on the coast an opportunity to broaden their outlook on life in associating with the ideal Australian home, and promotes a better understanding between Aborigines and Australians.

THE 1957 SUMMER CAMP

SOME HAPPY HIGHLIGHTS

by J. R. Mullins

The Arrival at Central Station on Sunday morning, 6th January.

● A beautiful, mild summer morning heralded the arrival of the children early on Sunday morning at Central Station. The first batch from Coonabarabran arrived at a quarter to 5, and the last batch from Murrin Bridge just on 8 o'clock, in time to catch the special double decker bus. The parties, on their arrival, were met by Mr. Saxby and Mr. Mullins, and Mrs. Mullins also assisted in checking the parties over to see that there were none lost on the way; and there were none, thanks to the efficiency of the escorts.

Introduction to Television.

● Station ATN, Channel 7, was well to the fore and shots were taken of the arrival of the Bourke train, the children boarding the bus, during the trip out and having breakfast at La Perouse. These shots were featured in the session at 7 o'clock on Channel 7 as part of the newsreel for the day.

The children came from—

Balranald	Burra Bee Dee	Murrin Bridge
Boggabilla	Dubbo	Walgett
Bourke	Goodooga	Warren
Brewarrina	Coonamble	Peak Hill
Caroona	Moree	Wellington

There were 42 boys and 32 girls. Unfortunately, one of the boys from Dubbo spent most of the time in hospital suffering from mumps which, I am sure, would have been much more convenient after school opened.



Albert Binge of Moree, Stan French, Moree, Kevin Rutley, Burra Bee Dee, and Victor Wright, Moree, in the Tug o'War.



The Orange Scramble. This was lots of fun and oranges for all.

● TARONGA PARK ZOO, as usual, was visited and everybody had a fine time. Free rides on the miniature train and the merry-go-round were the order of the day, and the Animal Circus put on a special show. It was unfortunate that time did not permit of a visit to the Aquarium, but possibly next year this will be a feature.

● THE PANTOMIME "SINBAD THE SAILOR" at the Tivoli Theatre was again a highlight in the programme. One child was so excited that it was feared that she would fall from the Dress Circle into the Stalls and it was necessary to keep a close eye on her to keep her in her seat. Although never having seen a Pantomime before, the children were well able to follow the continuity, as questions asked the next day showed.

● To give the children an experience they can never have in their own towns, the OUTING TO MANLY was organised differently this year. The children proceeded to Redfern Station by bus from La Perouse where they boarded an electric train which took them to Circular Quay Station. The underground portion of the journey was considered quite exciting but all thought it much too noisy. The escalators at the Circular Quay Station have never been so well patronised. Even the children who had never been on an escalator before practically had to be prised off them to catch the ferry.

Arrangements were made this year for the children to visit the Far West Children at their Camp when at Manly and each child received a gift given to them by one of the children there. The meeting was a very successful one and much enjoyed by the children. Very pleasing were the comments of the aboriginal children that they would rather be at La Perouse than at Manly. After all, it was their own Camp at La Perouse, where they knew and had made great friends of the staff and local residents.

● Hoyts Theatres entertained the children at the PLAZA THEATRE where the film "THE LADY AND THE TRAMP" was screening. In addition, each child received an ice cream at the conclusion of the performance. This is the first time that the children attending Summer Camps have been entertained at a city theatre and it is hoped that it might become a regular feature. City theatres appear extremely lavish compared with many of the country cinemas, especially in those centres where pictures are shown only in the open air or in a small galvanised hall.

● As in previous years, the most enjoyed outing of all was the visit to LUNA PARK. The Management are always ready to do their utmost to see the children fully enjoy their visit. Screams of delight which echoed over Milson's Point that morning were surely an indication that the efforts were successful. It is hard to say whether the rides on the various entertainments or watching the expressions of their fellow campers is most enjoyed by the children. Each entertainment brought forth fresh joy and laughter. Morning-tea was provided for the staff and a party for the children where vast quantities of sandwiches, ice creams and soft drinks were consumed. Before departing, each child received a very nice present and three cheers were given for the Management. During the morning, a Mr. Mawson from Wagga appeared and announced that he had heard of the children's visit and contacted the Management to ascertain the number of children attending, and then presented each child with a new two shilling piece.

● For the first time, FILMS were screened outside the hall at La Perouse which proved very successful. Six films were shown during the period of the Camp and were much appreciated by the children, both from the Camp and local children. A screen was placed outside the hall, the film being projected from the double doors of the hall. The projector was again loaned by the New South Wales Film Council for the period of the Camp.

● Ten of the children were taken to the studios of ATN, CHANNEL 7, and took part in the Children's Session. The Superintendent, Mr. Saxby, had an opportunity of telling "viewers" all about the Camp, why it was conducted and how it was conducted. His short address was followed by the introduction of the children by Mr. Green, and it was very pleasing to note how well each child spoke up and told the viewers all about his home town. Through the courtesy of A.W.A., two television receivers were installed in the hall at La Perouse, which enabled the other children to see their companions as they were televised. This was very well received.

● An afternoon was spent at KURNELL, where the children inspected the Museum. Nobody was seasick during the launch trip, and most of them felt that they were embarking on a great adventure across Botany Bay.

● During the Camp there were many visitors, both official and unofficial. The Chief Secretary, Mr. Kelly, owing to illness, was unable to visit the Camp this year, but the Honourable Mr. W. M. Gollan represented him. Mr. Gollan spoke very highly of the Camp in general and presented each child with an ice cream. His visit was featured by Cinesound. Television was again to the fore and several shots of the visit and the children playing were taken for that night's news session.

The members of the Board also visited the Camp. A surprise visit was made by the Mayor of Randwick, Mr. Lucas, who was fortunate to be present during the appearance of the children on Television. The Chief Clerk, Mr. G. Kingsmill, and Mr. J. O'Donnell of the Public Service Board, also paid a visit. Mr. Saxby and Mr. Mullins were constant visitors and assisted where their services could be used.

● Entertainment at the Camp, apart from films, was provided by Mr. Sid Madden who brought a small party with him and entertained the children with magic and comedy for 1½ hours. This was a great night. Mr. Madden, "Stinker" and the others were untiring in their efforts to put on a good, bright show—and how!

● Miss Lena Bungary, Mrs. Lake, and Mr. H. Stewart also arranged a small concert by the local children and concluded with a hand puppet show of "Little Red Riding Hood". Another resident, Joe Timbery, provided the children with ice creams, drinks and sweets one afternoon.

● The children attending this year were a very quiet group and it took several days for them to lose their shyness. Most noticeable was the cleanliness of the children, both personally and in the care of their tents. Their behaviour was excellent and this was particularly noticeable when they were on their outings.

Losses of equipment were confined to one small vegetable knife and small saucepan lid. Breakages were very light, only five plates, two cups and one mixing bowl being broken. Considering that about 750 pieces of crockery were washed by the children daily, the percentage of breakages is a very small item. No cutlery was lost, though teaspoons were retrieved on several occasions from the drain. Again, considering approximately 700 pieces were used and washed by the children daily, this is an excellent record and reflects credit on the children and supervising staff. This is a record we are proud of.

This year different arrangements were made for the departure. The children were held at La Perouse until the departure of their trains, instead of being marshalled in the city as on previous occasions. As each train left, the children one and all, and quite spontaneously, expressed their appreciation of a good time, but they were glad to be "going home again".

A Grand Experience . . .

SUMMER CAMP CHILDREN ON T.V.

by M. H. SAXBY,

Superintendent, Aborigines Welfare

During the course of the Summer Camp, a number of Children were invited to appear on the children's programme over T.V. Station, ATN, at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 16th January, 1957.

The children who participated were:—

Stan French, Moree.
Lawrence Sutherland, Burra Bee Dee.
Vincent Farrant, Balranald.
Ronald Smith, Warren.
Lionel "Bud" Slater, Caroonna.
Clare Binge, Moree.
Colleen Toomey, Dubbo.
Doreen Bennett, Coonamble.
Robin May, Wellington.
Margaret Wallace, Coonamble.

They were introduced by Mr. Saxby, Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, who said:—

"I am sure that you will be interested to learn something of the Summer Camp which is at present being held at La Perouse for aboriginal girls and boys from the western districts of New South Wales, and to see some of the children who are enjoying a holiday there.

For some years now, the Aborigines Welfare Board of New South Wales, among its other activities, has arranged a holiday by the sea for a number of children from distant country centres. For the last four years they have been held on the Board's property at La Perouse where a good kitchen and dining hall have been erected and other facilities provided. The children sleep in tents and each child has its own stretcher and a real "camp" atmosphere is preserved.

You, no doubt, all know where La Perouse is. It is near the spot where, many years ago, Captain Cook first made contact with the aborigines of our land. The aboriginal people who still live at this historic place look forward to the visit of these children each year and do a wonderful job in helping to give them an enjoyable holiday.

This year there are 74 children in camp and some of them came from places well over 500 miles from Sydney. These places are hot and dusty in the summer time and there are often great bushfires raging for many miles. At times, too, the country is subject to severe floods and the children and their parents suffer great inconveniences. They do not enjoy the many pleasures which city children take

for granted. Very few of them have been to Sydney before. They have not seen the sea, or big ships, trams, buses or large city shops.

During their stay they have been taken to the Zoo, Luna Park and theatres. They have had rides on buses, ferries, trains and the underground railway. They have been to the surf at Manly and Maroubra, and also have a swim each day in the calm waters of Botany Bay at La Perouse where there is a lovely beach.

All these pleasures are a great experience for them, and I am sure that the trip to Sydney will live for many years in their memories.

On the other hand, these children have many pleasures which are denied to city dwellers. They enjoy the freedom of the bush and the wide open spaces. They know the birds and animals of our land. They see sights which would be strange to city children. They know the kangaroo and emu well, and the many pretty birds which inhabit our Australian bushland.

They attend school just like you do and many of them do well at their lessons. They love to sing and I have spent many enjoyable evenings with them at camp-fire sing-songs. Perhaps some of you heard the Tabulam Aboriginal School Choir over the air last Wednesday evening.

The people of Sydney have been very good to these children and have given them many nice presents, ice creams and drinks, and provided them with entertainment and other pleasures. They appreciate this kindness very much and are having a real good holiday. They will be sorry to leave Sydney and its hospitality, but just like any other children, will be glad to get home again when it is all over."

The children were then interviewed by Mr. Green, the Officer-in-Charge of the Camp. Each said a little about their home town and gave some impressions of their visit to Sydney.

They played their part well and were perfectly at home in the strange surroundings. Quite a number of people who saw them on the TV screen remarked how well they did their bit, and regarded them as the highlight of that particular programme.

Well done, children!

La Perouse Summer Camp

SOME CANDID COMMENT

by Little Chief Eagle-Eye

Just a day or two before the children of the great out-back were due to arrive in Sydney to pitch their camps at La Perouse, and prepare to explore the wonders of a mighty city and to bathe and bake on its glorious beaches, Great Chief Bald Eagle, who presides over all the lesser birds at Head Office, came to my eyrie and fixed a twinkling eye upon me.

"Eagle-Eye", he said, completely ignoring my full title, "I want you to keep your eyes and ears open for any funny little happenings at the Summer Camp and write them down for *Dawn*, so all the children who did not get to the camp this year can read about them and have a good laugh and be happy even though they had to stay at home.

"Oh, Great Bald One", I replied, not using his full title because he had not used mine, "suppose nothing funny happens at the Summer Camp. What then?"

"Senseless One", he roared, using a more applicable title this time, "you will write funny stories about the Camp, whether they happen or not. I, Great Chief Bald Eagle have spoken."

I felt that I should say something more about that, but I couldn't think of what I wanted to say until he had disappeared round the corner, followed by Sir Secretary, who turned to grin a smirky grin in my direction before he too disappeared round the corner into his hollow tree. Just then a roaring blast from the direction of the new Quay Railway Station shook the building and reminded me of what I wanted to say. I looked over at Mr. Green Parrakeet to make sure that he was still absorbed in nursing the arrow wound he received from Cupid's bow at last year's summer camp, and I looked to see whether little Mrs. Rene Wren, who flits from branch to branch and hops from shoulder to shoulder, was out of sight and hearing. Then I said it . . . as softly as I could. After that I felt better and the job didn't seem so hard as it sounded at first.

On Saturday, the 5th January, the first batch of children from out back of Bourke arrived, bringing to Sydney the rural fragrance of gum leaves and sheep to be mingled with and absorbed by the odours which only a big city can produce.

They were met by Mr. Jeffrey, Supervisor of La Perouse Reserve, who guided his car with his elbow stumps, because he had forgotten to stop gnawing when his finger nails had all been eaten while he tried to remember all that he had to remember during the preparations for the Camp.

Naturally, the youngsters were almost stunned by the bigness of the city and everything in it.

"Look at all the cars" said the first boy to recover from shock. "Look at all the people" said another. "Would ya take a look at that great big shop," said yet another, as the car came to a halt at a red light.

Just then a workman started operating a jack-hammer startlingly close to the car. As the great hammer chattered its way through solid cement, an eight-year-old in the front seat dived under Mr. Jeffrey's coat tail and yelled: "Hurry up, and get us away from that great big woodpecker."

At last came the time for the first swim in the surf. "Killer" Cain, a big, barrel-chested boy from Moree, dived fearlessly in and struck bravely out to sea. At thirty yards a big wave struck him head on and turned him over backwards. Hastily he made for the beach and flopped on his stomach on the sand. His colour was not good and all the "Killer" urge had left him.

"What happened?" I asked, quite unnecessarily. "I met a big wave" he sickly replied. "What happened then?" I asked, still quite unnecessarily. "I think I swallowed the most of it, sir" he gasped, and promptly set about showing me just how much he had swallowed.

Apparently they are accustomed to having salt with the beef, but never with their bath water, at Moree.

Really, you know, these kiddies didn't do and say the funny things I had hoped they would do and say to make my job easy and to keep me out of trouble with Great Chief Bald Eagle. Mostly they were just normal kids who knew how to behave and have a good time anywhere, without making other people miserable. Their parents and teachers can well be proud of them.

A lot of people, from the Superintendent down to me, have given a lot of thought, a lot of time and a lot of labour to make this year's Camp a happy one for the youngsters of out-back. Now that it is all over, I am sure that every one of them is looking forward to doing the same again for next year's batch.

Many happy memories have gone to the west with these boys and girls, and many a tale of the city will be told round the camp fires of Dubbo, Walgett and Bourke.

When asked what was tops in their two weeks' stay at the Camp, it seemed that they all shouted, "Luna Park". It was shouted so loudly by the boys and by most of the girls that I couldn't have heard if some shy maiden had softly said "Harry" or "Georgie" or "Danny". But I wonder and I wonder. You see, I am Little Chief Eagle-Eye.

Minister Visits Summer Camp

Message from Chief Secretary

The Chief Secretary usually visits the Summer Camp at La Perouse, but this year was unable to do so owing to illness. He arranged for another member of the Government, Mr. W. M. Gollan, M.L.A., Minister Without Portfolio, to do so in his place.

Mr. Gollan met all the children and gave them the following message:—

“Mr. Kelly has asked me to tell you how very sorry he is that he was unable to come out to meet you.

I hear you have had a number of outings to the Zoo, to Luna Park, to Manly, to the Pantomime and you have seen many of the sights of this great City of Sydney. I feel sure you have enjoyed them.

Now, when you go home, I want you to remember to tell your mothers and fathers that the Government has been most happy to have had you here as our guests. We want the visit to be a constant reminder to you of the efforts being made by the Government through the Aborigines Welfare Board and the Education Department, to help you in every way we can. We want you to have the same opportunity in life as every other boy and girl in the community.

On your part you must remember also, that you must make the most of these opportunities. Everybody who wants to get on in life must work, and work hard.

So don't forget, when school starts again shortly, to learn and learn all you can and fit yourselves for the better positions in life.

You have amongst you two fine young men in Harry Penrith and George Ellis. Harry is working in a Government Department as a permanent Public Servant. I hope some day he will rise to an important position in the Public Service of this State. George is apprenticed to the Government Motor Garage where he will learn to become a skilled tradesman, and a skilled tradesman can always get a good job. These are examples right here for you to follow.

Good luck and best wishes.”

SMOKE SIGNALS

FROM LA PEROUSE

Once again La Perouse is in step with the times, meaning of course, T.V. The making of boomerangs, from the log of wood to the boomerang in the air, has been featured in television, with Bob Simms taking the leading part. Also “Joe Bud” Timbery took a part in a show as a hunter in the early days of Australia.

The crew of the “Westralia” gave a hundred children from the district a day on the boat with dinner and pictures in their club room. A good time was had by all, and the boat was still floating after the children had had the run of it; strange never the less.

The La Perouse School Football team was unbeaten this year. This team has without a doubt made a name for themselves. Let's hope the team keeps this up even though a few of the star players have left school this year.

Two girls from the Cricko team went to Queensland on tour with the State team. The people of the Reserve ran two dances to help to pay the cost for the two players, Marg Dixon and Ruth Simms. Good Work.

As Christmas time has been around, the run of Christmas parties has been on. One was given by the Mountbatten V.A.Ds. It was a good show and the children had plenty to eat and drink. A little story which arose out over the occasion was: A balloon was left hanging from the roof of the hall and one little boy said to the Commandant: “Lady, that balloon up there is not going to bust, but I am”. So it seems that he had had plenty to eat.

The highlight of the year, was the Xmas party put on by the people of the district. With funds raised from four dances, it was really a grand show and the people who ran the whole thing are to be congratulated. The women folk who set up the tables were, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Cooley, Mrs. Mary Simms, Miss Mary Simms, Mrs. Stewart, Miss Foster, and Mrs. M. Ritchie. The photos speak for themselves.

The sports were run by the menfolk: Mr. H. Stewart, Mr. Cook, Mr. J. Amatto, Mr. J. Simms, Mr. M. Cooley, and Mr. E. Foster and a grand job was done. The highlight of the afternoon was the mile marathon race. This was won by Barry Longbottom, Lorraine Longbottom second and John Longbottom third. Quite a family affair.

SUMMER CA

January saw aboriginal children from all parts of the State assembling at La Perouse for one of the big moments of their lives . . . the Annual Summer Camp.

This year the youngsters were extremely lucky for the weather was ideal and every hour was packed tight with some thrilling new adventure.



Here we have a group of children posing for their photograph with members of the Aborigines Welfare Board. In the Background, left to right, are Mr. Mullins (Secretary), Professor Elkin, Superintendent Clifton, Mr. Buttsworth (Chairman), Mrs. Gibbs, Dr. Cummins, Mr. Wright, M.L.C., Mr. Saxby (Superintendent) and Mr. Sawtell.



The Board Members were extremely interested in the children at play. Here we see Mr. Jack Green, officer in charge of the camp, in a characteristic pose (with back to camera) talking to Mr. Wright.



Board members and camp officials discussing camp arrangements and programmes at lunch at La Perouse.

AMP AGAIN

These Summer camps are not intended merely to give the youngsters a holiday away from the outback but to show them how people live, and work in the city. It serves to educate them and to broaden their outlooks so they can acquire a better sense of proportion, and ultimately become better men and women.



Look out for broken windows. A mighty swipe by Judy Duke of Moree. Victor Wright and Tommy Binge look on.



A little yarn. Left to right, Beverley French, Peter Allen, Edna White, Rose Wetherall, Doreen Bennett, Dr. Cummins and Superintendent Clifton.



The girls "tug" the boys off their feet, much to the delight of Mr. Saxby and George Ellis and to the disappointment of Mr. Jeffrey who acted as referee.



This very pretty little lass making her bed at the camp is Blanche Ferguson of Brewarrina.



They say



The death occurred recently of two brothers, Michael Smith and William Goulding.

Michael died in Sydney and his remains were taken to Burra Bee Dee, his former home, and laid to rest in the Station Cemetery.

William Goulding, his brother, died in the Coonabarabran District Hospital and was laid to rest near his brother in the Station Cemetery. Many relatives and friends from near and far attended both burials, and sympathy is extended to these on their sad loss.

* * * *

William Chatfield (jun.), 13 years, a pupil of Coonabarabran Public School, and resident of Burra Bee Dee, was chosen to represent the Primary Schools of the District as a competitor in the broad-jump against Country Schools in Sydney recently.

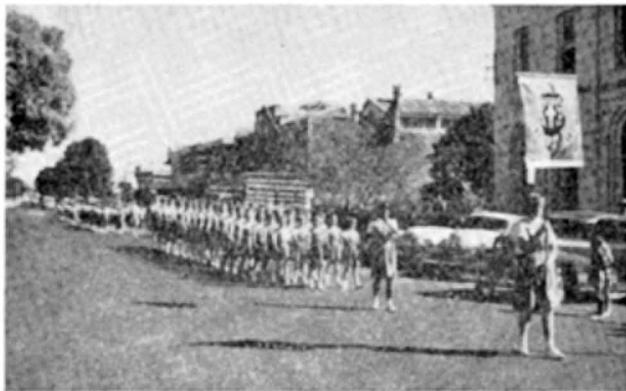
Bill was not successful but, "there's always another time, Bill".

* * * *

Helen Griffiths of Burra Bee Dee, at present an employee at a private hospital in Ashfield, Sydney, is sorely missed by her mother who says "Helen is worth half a dozen boys" around the place.

* * * *

Many thanks to "Rotary" of Coonabarabran, who provided free seats for Grannies, Sorby, Marney and Fuller of Burra Bee Dee at the Annual Pantomime, held in the "Savoy" Theatre, and for the free transport provided.



The School Captain of St. Mary's High School, Casino, leads the school in the Education Week march followed by Gertrude French, who was one of the two House captains.

TABULAM ABORIGINAL STATION SOCIAL CLUB

The Tabulam Aboriginal Station Social Club has had a very active and prosperous year, after being heavily in debt.

Arrangements were made with a local farmer for the development and planting of a corn crop on 22 acres of station property, on a share system, the floods of last year destroyed a few acres of crop, but the venture proved to be a good one, as all debts were paid.

The Club made donations to the Casino Memorial Hospital and the Casino District Ambulance of £10 each, and £12 was used for the Christmas Tree Party which was a great success.

The harvesting of the corn crop became a general picnic, everyone joining in, the Matron and several residents supplying tea, cakes and sandwiches. The women and children had a great time riding in the trailer behind the tractor, loading it with corn cobs, or assisting to feed the corn thrashing machine, while the men filled the bags, did the sewing and stacking.

A new crop of corn has been planted on 20 acres, and residents have recently built a corn store with loading ramp, also a slide to assist with this year's crop, but a lot of work still remains to be done on the crossing of Black Creek, to make the harvesting of this year's crop possible.

The objective of the Social Club, is to purchase a moving picture sound projector, to get electric light and power connected, and to build a children's playground.

The Social Club would like to express through Dawn their gratitude to Mr. T. Cooper, farmer, for his sound advice and work on the corn crop, also for the use of his tractor around the station, to Mr. W. Hooton, farmer, for the loan of his tractor, and the hours he worked to assist the Social Club.

Meet the Tingha Folk



Plenty of smiles here. Mr. and Mrs. Les Gardiner and daughter Jill.



Here we have Eileen and Phillip Strong, two more Tingha residents.



Another member of the Gardiner family. This time young Irene.



This young man, photographed in one of the lovely gardens at Tingha, is Ray Livermore.



Somehow or other young Jill Gardiner got her photo on this page twice. Here she is again. However as she has such a nice smile we don't mind at all.



This young fellow taking the sun in luxury on a blanket is Ray Ellis.

Bright Eyes and Happy Faces

Happiness reigned supreme at the Christmas dinner and party for aborigine families at the School of Arts one night just before Xmas. Little children, their eyes shining and their faces, solemn at first, but changing to smiling happiness as the good things were piled before them, relaxed still further as the evening wore on, and were at their shining best when Santa arrived.

It was an evening of joy, not only for the children but also for their smiling parents and for the happy band of workers who had devoted so much time and endeavour to the organisation of the function. For all, it was a night to be remembered

Quiet at First

The party opened quietly. It was due to commence at 6.30 p.m. and, as the magic moment drew near, groups of small children, whispering and exclaiming, gathered at the open doors of the School of Arts.

In the background, more hesitant parents kept a respectful distance but they too were showing signs of keen anticipation. The men, perhaps, were inclined to be shy of the bright lights, but the mothers and younger women soon joined the children near the doors, waiting happily for the signal to enter.

Inside, working quickly and efficiently, the organising committee had prepared an appetising spread for 150 people. Of these, 80 were children. There was plenty of everything for everybody.

At the appointed time the guests entered the hall. Excited, but very well behaved, they moved to their places and the 1956 Christmas dinner "was on".

Plenty for All

With amazing speed the tables lost their overburdened appearance and, in no time, empty plates and vacant spaces began to appear. Just as quickly they were filled again until, at last, the movements of the children became lethargic. Their eyes, still sparkling, wandered from the good things on the tables to the lovely Christmas tree standing proudly, and enticingly, in the main hall.

It was obvious they had, for the time being at least, lost interest in food.

However, children's appetites are persistent if nothing else and, as the evening progressed, there were no refusals as Christmas cake, sweets and ice creams were distributed.

The Big Moment

The big moment came with the arrival of Santa Claus. He was met at the door by the prettiest fairy one could wish to see.

Cheryl Holton, not yet four, dainty in her shimmering white costume with its lacy wings, and carrying her magic wand trailing streamers and coloured balls, waved her welcome, and the happy voices of 80 excited children lifted in support.

The gifts, handed to each child personally, were soon opened and the wide expanse of the dancing floor soon became a happy playground.

Carols

When the excitement had died down, Mrs. Franklin went to the piano and, with Santa Claus leading them, the children sang carols and other Christmas songs.

Games and competitions continued until shortly after 9 p.m. when the party, one of the finest ever, ended.

The members of the Aborigine Welfare Advisory Committee, and their helpers, deserve full praise for the magnificent result of their weeks of work.

Those who assisted included Cr. A. Patterson (president), Mr. and Mrs. Rushton, Mrs. N. J. Jordan, Mrs. N. Scott, Mrs. Les Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Brookes, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. King, senr., Mr. and Mrs. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. P. Chisolm, Mr. John Tolhurst, Mrs. J. Landale, Mrs. C. Adams, and members of the second Coffs Harbour company of Girl Guides.

* * * *

Christmas Party at Murrin Bridge

A very successful party was once again held at Murrin Bridge, over 170 children and about 40 adults attended. All the children received a very nice present from Father Christmas and the decorated tree looked most attractive with all the presents and decorations on it. Each child and adult received as much ice-cream as he or she could eat and the hundreds of sandwiches disappeared very quickly. Cakes, soft drinks and oranges were also plentiful. Each person also received a very nice piece of the very lovely Christmas cake donated by Mr. Joe Orr of Lake Cargelligo. Thanks are extended to the ladies of the C.W.A. of Lake Cargelligo for their donation of £5, also to Mr. Jim Woods and Mr. Joe Orr for their big help towards the party.

A second party was held at Murrin Bridge when the Matron, Mrs. Carlin, organised a party for her Brownie pack. All the Murrin Bridge Brownies attended and also all the girls from the Lake Cargelligo pack. Each Brownie received a present and a good "tuck in" of cakes and lollies. Many games were played and during the hectic goings on at times it was very hard to pick out the Lake Cargelligo girls from those of Murrin Bridge. Congratulations to the Matron for the hard work that she has put in during the year with the "Brownies" and for the way she has made many friends for the girls in the Lake Cargelligo pack.

Xmas at Boggabilla

The residents of Boggabilla had a very busy Xmas last year, with no less than three parties to attend.

The first was early in December, when Toomelah Branch of the C.W.A. held its first Xmas party. The temperature was around 100 degrees, but it did not melt the ladies enthusiasm, and everyone had a very busy day, decorating the Recreation Hall in the colours of the C.W.A., light blue, dark blue and gold, and baking cakes and nice things to eat.

Visitors from Boggabilla Billa Billa and Toobeah (Queensland) branches were made very welcome and the party commenced with the National Anthem and the C.W.A. Motto, after which several guessing competitions and games were held.

After a sumptuous afternoon tea, the visitors thanked members of the Toomelah Branch for a very enjoyable afternoon, receiving in return three very hearty cheers from the ladies for coming so far in the heat to their party.

The Station School held a 'breaking-up' Concert and once again the ladies were busy baking in high temperatures. After various songs and recitations, an ever popular "Punch and Judy" show brought the house down.

At last the day for which everyone had worked so hard, and the children longed for, arrived. The 21st December was the day Santa Claus arrived on the Station. It was very unfortunate that the weather-man decided to send the rain he had been saving up for months on that particular day. The races and the Treasure Hunt had to be cancelled, but when the children took their seats in the gaily decorated Recreation Hall there was no disappointment to be seen in any pair of shining eyes. After several Christmas Carols, Mrs. Susie McGrady said Grace in the absence of the Vicar, and the kids fell to on the plates piled high with food.

While the adults had their afternoon tea, the children sang themselves hoarse and tension mounted. The time for Santa Claus was drawing near! At last he arrived and the children went mad with excitement. They weren't at all disappointed that Santa had a cold and could not speak to them. After each child had received a present, and eaten as much ice-cream as little tummies could hold, it was time for Santa to visit other lucky children, and the residents gave him a send off that could be heard in Boggabilla, ten miles away.

After Christmas was over the ladies of the C.W.A. were invited into Boggabilla to attend a New Year party at that Branch. It was a nice change to sit and be waited on, after all the cooking and work of the Station Christmas, and it was nicer still to see the women of the town mixing freely with their dark neighbours.

Let's hope it will mean a good omen for the new year ahead, and let's pray a few more barriers will come down to friendship and ideals in common between dark and light.

WILCANNIA DIGS IN

by Jack Quayle

The residents of the Settlement have finally commenced digging their way into their homes after eight months of hardships in tents, during the recent floods in the Darling River. The digging-in operations turned out to be a man's size job, but it was tackled with a will that would put any digger to shame; "whether gold digger, or otherwise". However the vegetation that took possession in their absence soon disappeared and in less than no time the area was cleared. One was surprised to note the difference in the appearance of the whole area after a day or two of work.

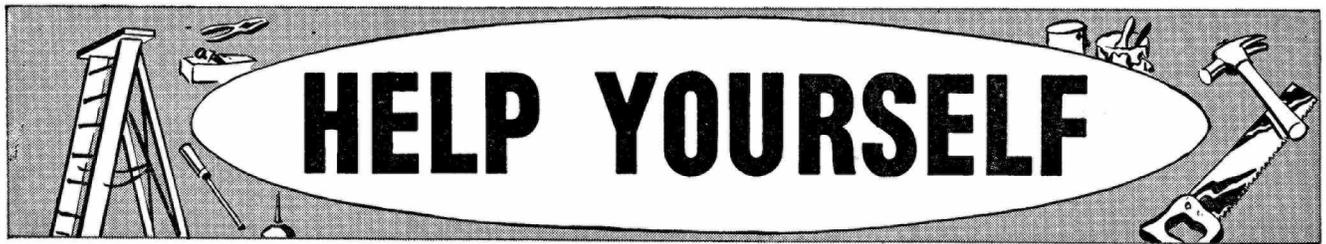
Everyone appears to have settled in quite comfortably and the painting operations that were halted, because of floodwaters have commenced again and progress is slow but sure and it is expected that by Christmas, several of the homes will have a new look.

Bill Harris gave his house a very nice outward appearance with two shades of green. Jim Bates, Bob Wilson, Bob Jones and several others are tackling the painting job, May Barlow, Mrs. Wyman, and Jim Clarke are other willing starters with the paint brush, as soon as more paint becomes available. We would like to congratulate these people on their efforts, because it goes to show that they do appreciate the comforts of a good home, and that they are taking an active interest in the progress of the Settlement.

A vast improvement is noticeable in the general conduct, and living standards of the majority of residents, though there is a minority that prefer the primitive conditions to the comforts of a good home. Efforts to encourage these people to accept better homes, and raise their living standards have been met with little or no results, they prefer the primitive life and way of living to that offered to them.

The welfare of the Aborigines at times become a problem to the Management, particularly those that live in small huts and shantys, who don't realise that inadequate sanitation, and bathing facilities, can have unsatisfactory results towards the welfare of children. Plonk, and cards are other enemies of Child Welfare. Many aboriginal children have been neglected for the sake of a bottle or two of "Red Ned", commonly known as plonk.

There are lots of ups and downs throughout life, and there is but one way to cope with them, and that is to keep on trying to overcome each obstacle as you come to it. Armed with courage, and, determination as a weapon, and willpower for a guide, you can fight your way to a new world of health and happiness, if you keep on trying.



HELP YOURSELF

Never hang a mirror where the sun shines directly on it or it will gradually become dim and deteriorate.

* * * *

If you are thinking of trying a little home dyeing, rub the hands well with grease before beginning and the stains will later wash off easily.

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Varnish and paint stains will come off instantly if rubbed with cotton-wool dipped in nail-polish remover.

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To remove the smell of paint after the work is done, place a pail of water in the room and change it every few hours.

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If you are not a seasoned cake baker you could probably do with a few hints. Cakes will not burn so easily if the tin is greased out with lard and not butter and sprinkled lightly with flour.

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When making chocolate puddings or cakes, a drop or two of vanilla is always good, but for a change try adding a pinch of ground cinnamon instead. This gives a distinctive flavour.

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Lots of cake recipes include golden syrup. When weighing this glutinous substance, flour the scales well and the syrup will slip off without sticking.

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Scones need plenty of baking powder. Use one level tablespoonful to half a pound of plain flour and half a level tablespoonful to half a pound of self-raising flour.

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Always put a pinch of salt in any cake or scone mixture, it brings out the flavour of the other ingredients.

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When making a rich cake beat the butter and sugar together with the hand—it will be lighter than if mixed with a spoon.

* * * *

If you are taking any velvet garment out of the moth balls and you find it badly "plushed" hold the marks over a steaming kettle and brush gently with a soft hat brush. Try to follow the grain of the velvet. Ribbon velvet can be rejuvenated almost to new if you prop a hot iron upright, place a wet rag over it, then pull the ribbon firmly back and forth over the surface through the steam.

You do know, don't you, that in making up velvet for frocks it will look richer if the velvet brushes upwards from hem to waist.

* * * *

To teach baby to begin to drink by himself there is a new plastic disk made to fit into a cup. This has two pierced holes to enable him to get enough to drink but not enough to spill all over himself. As a stop-gap, until you can obtain one of these, use one of the card lids that seal cartons of jam, and bore two holes in it.

* * * *

When working shoes become a little rubbed give them a freshener with raven oil. Rub this in well and allow to dry. Then clean in the ordinary way.

* * * *

Don't put up with a squeaky door. Oil the hinges well, using a little oil on a feather.

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A leak in a pipe may be stopped temporarily by applying a thick mixture of whitening and ordinary yellow soap.

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Do you know that whitewash may be made permanent if a handful of alum and a pint of skimmed milk is added when mixing. And, if you are making a pot of flour paste to use in the children's scrap-books, a little alum can be added to this. Put what is left over in a screw-topped jar and it will keep several weeks.



Iris Hoskin of Wallaga Lake was rather doubtful about having her photograph taken.

SANTA VISITS CABBAGE TREE ISLAND

Saturday 15th December, 1956, became a day of great excitement for the children of Cabbage Tree Island, for it was on this day that that genial and ever welcome visitor and family friend, affectionately known as Santa, was due to make his annual visit.

At approximately 4.0 p.m. Santa drew up in his sleigh, which consisted of a well-decorated sled drawn by one of the local horses, as a substitute for Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Yes! even the animals entered into the spirit of the day and although he drew a few surprised looks from his two other horsey friends in a nearby paddock, he didn't seem to mind.

A well-decorated Christmas Tree had been erected in the open park and here it was that Santa opened his three bags of toys and handed out the presents, amid great excitement and laughter.

Captain Palmer of the Salvation Army, and family provided music for the occasion and helped the children to sing Christmas Carols.

From the park the children moved to the Recreation Hall where a colourful and appetising supper had been prepared for them. The hall looked gay and Christmas like—decorated with paper flowers, streamers and balloons. An extra Christmas tree had also been decorated and erected in the hall in case the rain spoilt the festivities outside. The tables had been decoratively laid out and the supper consisted of sandwiches with goose, ham, corned meat, date and tomato filling, cakes, meat balls, jelly and cream and cordials. After supper the children were supplied with ice cream, oranges and packets of sweets. Trays of sandwiches, ice cream, cordials and oranges were carried round to the parents. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and the day was rounded off with an evening dance. Although smiles at the end of the day were a little tired, they were happy and contented, showing everyone was satisfied with the happiness of the occasion.

The success of the day was due to the hard work and thought of a small band of local people, who worked unflinchingly throughout. These people deserve congratulations. Included among them are Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bolt and three daughters, Bertha, Hazel and Nancy. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bolt with the assistance of Dick Roberts and Nobby Rhodes were mainly responsible for the Christmas Tree being what it was—a complete success. Thanks also goes to Bob "Pop" Moran who helped out with the slide and horse to bring Santa to the station. Allen Marlowe, Cynthia Moran, Tubby Bolt, Brian Caldwell, Jane Moran and Mrs. Dick Roberts are to be thanked for the assistance they gave. Three people who deserve special mention are, the school teacher Miss E. Robinson, her sister Margaret and the Matron, Mrs. Butcher, who gave up a lot of their time in making the Christmas party occasion the children and parents of the island won't forget.

Tabulam Choir Gives Fine Performance

A quarter hour of fine choral presentations that would have reflected credit on a much larger, more experienced group, was presented over the A.B.C. by the Tabulam aboriginal children's choir one night last month.

The programme was presented over national regionals at 9.45 p.m. and re-broadcast over 2NR at 10.15 p.m.

Unaccompanied, the children presented three brackets of numbers, in three separate choral groups.

The children's choir, ranging in age from 5 to 9½ years, opened the programme with "Bushland Lullaby".

The choral classics, "The Happy Wanderer" and "Now With Creation's Morning Dawn", were sung by the full choir of 28 voices.

A bracket of three numbers, "Maid of Maughan Shore", "Now Melts the Snow" and "Oh Hail the Lovely, Laughing Maid," were presented by the senior group, aged 7 to 14.

The choir, which was started at the school four years ago by teacher Mr. A. Soorley, has competed with outstanding success in school's sections of local cisteddfod and musical festivals.

Although singing unaccompanied the children did not miss a note, their timing was excellent, and diction good.

Particularly in part sections of the "Happy Wanderer" and the rondalay, "Oh Hail the Lovely, Laughing Maid", they were outstanding.

The Manager of Tabulam Aboriginal Station has received a letter from Broken Hill and several telephone calls, thanking the children for their very fine rendering of numbers during their National Broadcast on Wednesday, 9th January. Each person has stated that they would like to hear more from them on the "Air", and that they continue to progress. Thank you boys and girls.

JULIA MURRAY—DOES ANYONE KNOW HER WHEREABOUTS?

Brother, Reg Murray who lives at Walgett Station is anxious to get in touch with his sister, Julia. Julia is about 47 or 48 years old and originally came from Angledool Aboriginal Station. She was a ward of the Board and was apprenticed to an employer at Rowena and was last heard of in Stanthorpe, Queensland.

If anyone knows her whereabouts, please get in touch with Reg Murray, or the Secretary of the Board, Box 30, G.P.O., Sydney.

FLIGHT ACROSS THE TASMAN SEA

AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP

by NORAH J. C. FOSTER

Kincumber, Gosford. Ex Matron, Walgett Aboriginal Station

I can visualise the dark folk sitting around their little camp fires in the stillness of a summer's evening on the plains, chatting of this and that, and I join the circle to tell you a little about my trip home to New Zealand—Aotearoa, or The Land Of The Long White Cloud.

It is rather a wonderful feeling to be going home, and I had been away for many years, so when I boarded the plane at Sydney on November 14th, I was indeed pleased, knowing that at the end of my journey there would be dear friends and my own folk waiting to welcome me.

After a smooth trip in perfect weather the plane landed at Auckland, or rather Whenuapai airport which is some distance from the city. Auckland is called The Queen City of New Zealand. A few days there, and I caught the plane to Wellington, which is the Capital. There was much to see and do and I was impressed by the progress made during the seventeen years I had been away. One of the biggest undertakings is the enlargement of the Rongotai airport in Wellington, so that eventually overseas planes will be able to land there instead or perhaps as well as at Whenuapai in Auckland.

Great conveyor belts were working at Rongotai day and night whilst tractors and other machinery necessary for reclaiming land and levelling off, kept feeding them. A whole hill has been practically cut away and houses moved from it, but there is yet a huge hill to be levelled out. Some of the workmen are Maoris who earn good wages and know how to take care of their money.

Here it may be interesting to mention that there are three or perhaps four Maori members of Parliament. I forget, but one of them is a woman. That made me think—why not an Aborigine woman member of Parliament in Australia? One does not see very many Maoris in the cities. They prefer the country and many have saved their money and bought farms. They work hard and are earning a good living. The Maori people know the value of education, and many

of them send their sons and daughters to college and from there to the University to become teachers, dentists, agriculturists and so on.

The Maori children I saw were much the same as children anywhere else. Most were beautifully clean and nicely dressed but here and there were parents who were shiftless and though the children were clean and well fed there was no effort made to improve living conditions.

Wherever you see a Maori house you will see sometimes a small but very often a large, plot of kumaras—sweet potatoes is the name by which you know them, for no Maori considers a meal complete without kumaras. The women do a great amount of the planting and the digging of the crop is quite a ceremony. Flax kits are made and the kumaras placed in them as they are dug, for they must not be bruised. Then a long shallow pit is dug over which is built an iron roof with a little door at one end. The kumaras are taken out of the flax kits and packed by hand in big heaps, in the pit. Most Maoris grow corn and there is usually a patch of it near the kumaras.

The Maori way of life is much the same as that of their white neighbours. One sees beautifully dressed Maori women who have all modern conveniences in their homes, and older ones who are quite happy to have a little house without any of the things the younger ones consider to be necessities. As I said once before in *Dawn* when relating to saving, the only way in which to get things is to save for them, and this the Maoris who want up-to-date homes, do.

They are a happy people, with a great love of children and they all love to get together and sing. Though they have adopted the white man's way of life, they tell the young people of the old customs and legends and of the mighty warriors of their tribes, which is good, as it would be a great pity if such interesting history should become forgotten.

I do not want to give the impression that New Zealand is a land of Maoris. It is not. In fact one could roam the towns for weeks without seeing any.

I was taken out to Petone where the first settlers landed from England in the year 1840 by a ship called the "Aurora", and there I saw the memorial erected in honour of those pioneers. There is a plaque on which are the names of those who arrived by the "Aurora" in 1840 and among the names are those of my great grandfather James Petherick and his brother. It was interesting to see Wellington as it is now, and try to visualise what it seemed like to those people who arrived so long ago. Had it not been for the friendship of some of the Maoris not many of them would have survived, as there were fierce natives who resented the coming of white folks.

Some things are cheaper than in Australia but on the whole prices are about the same except that butter is two shillings a pound. Wages of course are not so high.

The time passed all too quickly and at last it was time to catch the plane from Wellington to Auckland. A couple of days there visiting the various beaches and the new suburbs that have sprung up, and the date for leaving was due. I caught the plane for Sydney at night and again was fortunate in having a smooth trip, and again I was coming home, for Australia is now my home. Both countries are indeed wonderful and sometimes I think we do not appreciate them fully.

The lights of Sydney were an unforgettable sight viewed from the air. In fact I do not think it would be possible to see anything more beautiful anywhere. A very Happy New Year to you all, especially the sick and lonely.

* * * *



This young man with the southpaw stance is Jimmy Daley of Woodenbong.



Outback brotherhood. Billy Kemp, a fencing contractor, and Harold Johnson, both of Wilcannia.

TABULAM'S PARTY

On Saturday, 22nd December, at 3 p.m., a Christmas Tree Party was given by the Tabulam Station Social Club at the Recreation Hall, and was attended by over 150 persons.

The hall was decorated with multi-coloured plaited streamers, and the Christmas Tree, mounted on the stage, was decorated with balloons, tinsel, and crepe decorations.

A table running the full length of the hall, was decorated with bowls of beautiful flowers grown by the residents in their home gardens, and loaded with plates of sandwiches, cakes and biscuits.

The new hall seats which are painted five different bright colours gave an added brightness to the scene, and every person was able to be seated.

The party started for the children first, and then the adults joined them later. Drinks and icy poles were donated and served by members of the Mallanganee and Tabulam Buffalo Lodge.

After everyone had eaten, Christmas Carols were sung, and individual items were given by station residents to the accompaniment of guitars played by Lance Walker and Robert Caldwell.

Father Christmas presented each child with a parcel of toys, donated by the Casino Branch of the Australian Red Cross, and oranges donated by Mrs. Murray of Tabulam.

Each child was given a bag of sweets, a blow out whistle and a balloon.

Much of the success of this party was due to the efforts of the children who decorated the hall, and the residents who helped with the preparation of sandwiches, etc.

All visitors to the station were later entertained by the Manager and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. F. Levin, at their residence.

HOME HINTS

Here's a delicious savoury dish that would be especially appreciated by an invalid. Mash a quantity of boiled potatoes, add some chopped parsley, and spoon into individual oven dishes. Scoop out a hole in the centre of each dish, and place an egg in the middle of the hole. Put in the oven to set the egg, then sprinkle grated cheese over the top, and put in the oven again until the cheese is melted.

* * * *

Nails, screws, hooks and all the hardware that is necessary for doing the odd jobs around the house, are usually found jumbled together in a box or jar. An easy method of separating and assembling them is to use the compartments of a patty tin. Put nails in one compartment, bolts in another, and so on. Then, they'll always be tidy, can be seen easily, and selected quickly, without damage to the fingers.

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To prevent a soggy crust when you're making mince meat pies, sprinkle the bottom of the pie shell with a layer of crushed cornflakes before you put in the mincemeat.

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Black suede shoes that are looking the worse for wear can be restored with this simple mixture. Just apply equal parts of olive oil and black ink, and they will come up like new.

* * * *

Try this spic flavoured caraway cheese. You'll need about one cup of cottage cheese and two teaspoons of crushed caraway seeds. Add these to the cheese, and season with salt and pepper. Serve in barbeque style with slices of rye bread, it's delicious.



An interstate visitor,
Noeline Pearce of Robinvale.

Put your discarded powder puffs to work, by washing them free of powder and using them to clean and polish silverware or metal jewellery.

* * * *

One way to make the burden of shopping easier is to put a pocket for your shopping list on the side of your shopping bag or carryall. With some sticky tape attach a square of cellophane or clear plastic to the outside of your shopping bag. Then you can slip your shopping list in the transparent pocket where it won't get lost and will save you much awkward fumbling.

* * * *

Drying clothes inside the house in wet weather is an uncomfortable and untidy process. It's a good idea to use the frame of an old umbrella for this purpose. Take off the old cover, and paint the frame so that it won't rust. Hang it from the ceiling by putting the handle on a small hook. You'll find the spokes will accommodate quite a number of small articles, and not take up too much space.

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If you have unseemly-looking wide cracks in your floor boards, try using plastic wood to fill in the cracks. First, work a little varnish into the crack and then force the plastic wood in. When it has dried, sand it off evenly with the boards and stain it the colour you require to make a perfect match.

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For the housewife who has brass or copper ornaments in her home, it is a labour saving idea to clear lacquer them. This protects the surface for years from corrosion.

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If your dining table is an extension type with an extra leaf which is difficult to put in or close up, vaseline will limber it up sufficiently. Pull the table out as far as possible and coat the sides of the sliding members with vaseline.

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If your polished timber sun furniture has become dull through being exposed to the sun, use a cotton cloth which has been soaked in methylated spirits and rub lightly over a small area at a time. This will remove the stains and give a shine to the furniture.

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The housewife who takes a pride in the meals she cooks, will be interested in a hint for turning faded cauliflowers to a fresh whiteness. When cooking the cauliflower simply put a pinch of sugar in the water.

* * * *

You'll find that jar lids are often difficult to unscrew, if your wrist is not particularly strong. Wrap an elastic band around the lid tightly several times and you'll get a firm grip and extra strength.

The Shamrocks Concert-Dance

A Concert-Dance was recently organised by the Moree Station Vigoro Team, The Shamrocks.

Half of the proceeds went to the Vigoro Club and the other half to fund for the Children's Christmas Treat. Each of the above received £15 so it can be seen it was financial success. It could be safely said that everyone on the Station, with the exception of the people away shearing, attended. Quite a number of visitors from the town were present.

Every item was particularly well done and well applauded. Two or three items were outstanding such as Mr. Ritchie Smith's impersonation of Al Jolson. This artist was recalled three times. Another was the "Hula Girls", Freddie Moran supplied the music on his guitar for this item. All that was missing was the swaying palm trees and the white sands of the Hawaii beach, the swaying movement of the girls more than made up for the lack of the palm trees.

It will no doubt interest readers to know that the Station has three vigoro teams, two active and the third in the making. We play local teams and a number from nearby towns and have won most of our matches.

Next year it is hoped to have a competition going when matches will be arranged with teams from Narrabri, Boggabilla and various other places.

We have also started a cricket club. The actual spade work has been done in so far as the inaugural, first annual and first general meeting has been held. The club has been called "The Australs" and its president, Mr. E. Saunders, has high hopes of launching the club on its first match in the very near future.

Several practice matches have been played under the eagle eyes of Mr. P. Duncan and Mr. R. "Doc" Smith, both very good cricketers in their day and they say they can pick a side that will make the local cricketers sit up and take notice. Incidentally, when we do start, there are at least six teams locally and near vicinity lined up waiting to play us.

A first class wicket has been prepared on the Station oval and the thanks for this go to Jimmy Barlow, Maxie Cutmore and his father, Mr. Harry Cutmore. These chaps, with a few others, really worked, did a mighty job. Let us hope the "The Australs" will repay this effort with some mighty wins.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RUBENACH

Sir: The writer was unable to attend Casino High School speech night to hear the well merited remarks which were doubtlessly made about Mr. Rubenach's success and popularity as a headmaster for so many years.

A phase of his work, however, which is not generally known and of which some mention should be made as he reaches last milestone in his long and successful teaching career, is that which he has done amongst the children of aboriginal blood in the Casino district.

It was through Mr. Rubenach's representations to the Aborigines Welfare Board that the department gladly agreed to his request to award the first Aborigines Welfare Board Bursary to a child with an admixture of aboriginal blood, which was awarded in 1945.

Since then Aborigines Board Bursaries have been awarded in other parts of the State but Casino holds the proud record of having eight such bursary winners attend its schools over the past eleven years.

There was more to this work than writing a few letters.

Mr. Rubenach had to keep an oversight on the expenditure of Bursary moneys, submit progress reports to the Aborigines Welfare Board and to put up with frequent visits from the Aborigines Welfare Officer, not to mention his personal contact with these children.

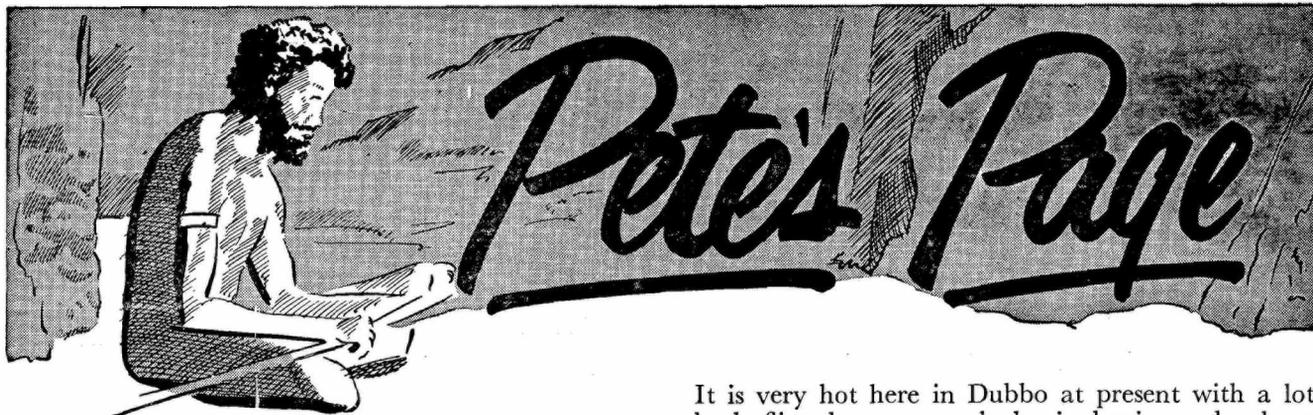
It may well be said of him indeed, that he has, with patience and encouragement, guided the faltering footsteps of these children of the dark people up the craggy slopes of learning and enlightenment, and what a reward indeed, if it is his pleasure to see one of these children, who recently sat for the Leaving Certificate become the first of her kind to bridge the gap from secondary to tertiary education and to commence her University education next year.

If this should happen he will have helped make history.

E. J. Morgan
Welfare Officer,
Coff's Harbour.



This is what happened when Malcolm Timberry of La Perouse met Santa Claus.



Hallo Kids,

Well, I suppose by this time most of you are back at school again. What a wonderful place to be!

During the holidays I had a nice letter from our young artist friend, Les Franks of Cobargo. Les sent along a photograph of himself (the first one we've had) and we will be publishing it later.

Another letter came from Co'in Morris, of Hillend Rd., Blacktown, who very kindly offered a quantity of books for my friends. Thanks a lot, Colin, for your offer, and as soon as we can we'll pick them up.

A very interesting letter (which won a prize) came from Ray Nolan, Box 127, Post Office, Dubbo. Ray said "I love reading *Dawn*, especially Pete's Page. I am 13 years of age and go to West Dubbo School.

It is very hot here in Dubbo at present with a lot of bush flies, but we are lucky in having a lovely park where we often go and take our lunch. Sometimes we go to the baths, but now the river is clear again we go down there. I often see photos of my relatives in *Dawn* whom I have not met yet. I have two sisters and eight brothers". Many thanks for the letter, Ray, and we'd like to hear from you more often.

In one of her usual interesting letters Carol Donovan tells me she is working now. Carol, who was complaining about the hot weather sent me in some drawings. Some of these drawings showed the main street of Maclean, where she is living. Carol said she often goes to the local baths or spends a day on the beach at Yamba. It's so nice there, she says, she doesn't like leaving it at the end of the day. Thank you for your letter too, Carol and I'd like to hear from you again soon. I believe you are taking a new job soon. Will you write and tell me all about it?

Now here is a poem by our famous Henry Lawson and I think it is a very prophetic one.

THE STORM THAT IS TO COME.

By Henry Lawson.

By our place in the midst of the farthest seas we are
fated to stand alone—
When the nations fly at each other's throats let Australia
look to her own ;
Let her spend her gold on the barren West for the land
and it's manhood's sake ;
For the South must look to herself for strength in the
storm that is yet to break.

The rain comes down on the Western land and the
rivers run to waste,
While the townfolk rush for the special tram in their
childish, senseless haste,
And never a pile of a lock we drive—but a few mean
tanks we scratch—
For the fate of a nation is nought compared with the
turn of a cricket match !

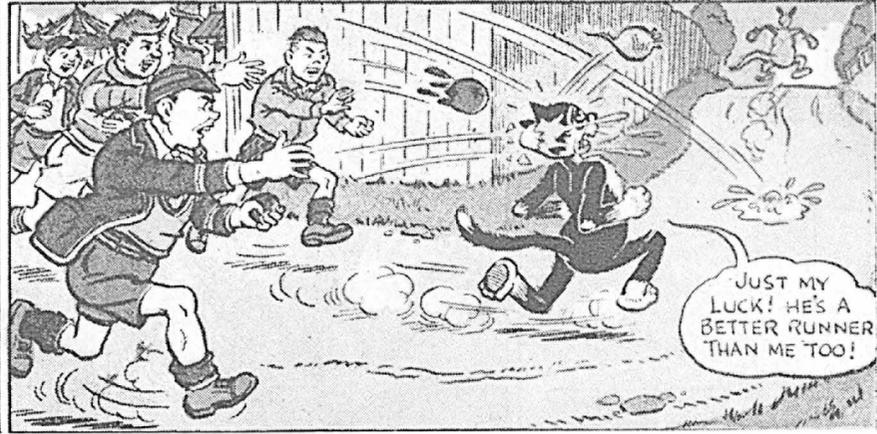
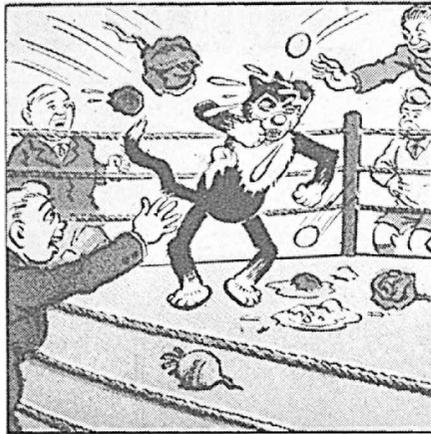
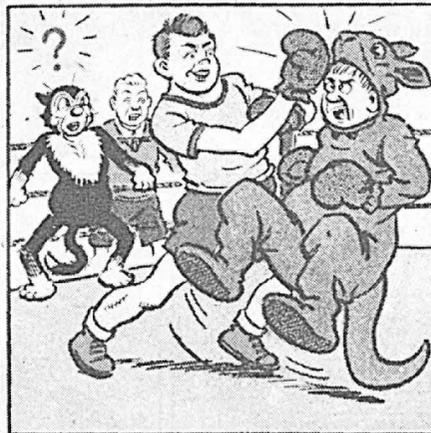
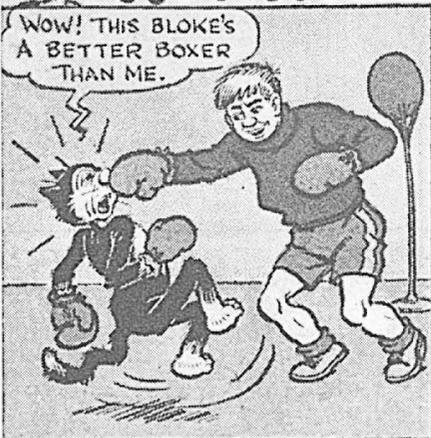
I have pictured long in the land I love what the land
I love might be,
Where the Darling rises from Queensland rains and the
floods rush out to the sea.
And is it our fate to wait too late to the truth that
we have been blind,
With a foreign foe at our harbour gate and a blazing
drought behind?



This nice drawing comes from Rita Wenberg, a Cootamundra girl. Congratulations Rita, and a special prize.

KORKY THE CAT

KORKY'S KANGAROO CAN BOX, BUT IT'S AS CUNNING AS A FOX, FOR WHEN ITS MASTER LANDS IN A FIX IT LEAVES HIM TO TAKE THE BIFFS AND THE KICKS!



BEAUTY COMPETITION

One of Sydney's leading newspapers has promised to conduct a Beauty Contest for Aboriginal girls, provided we can be assured of sufficient interest.

If you are an Aboriginal girl between the age of 17 and 25 and you would like to enter this competition, send a good clear photograph of yourself to the Editor of *Dawn*, Box 30, G.P.O., Sydney. Now!



Your Flower Seeds

(Continued from last month)

The Importance of Watering :

It is not necessary to water the seeds immediately after sowing, but 24 hours after that the first watering may be given. Care must then be taken to see that the soil does not dry out, as this is absolutely fatal to good germination, and is responsible for many failures. Night and morning are the best times to attend to the watering, but in Summer it may be necessary to water more frequently, unless the boxes have been placed in a position where the sun does not shine directly on them in the hottest parts of the day. Seed beds will hold moisture better than boxes in midsummer.

When to Transplant :

Transplant seedlings when they are big enough to handle easily. A cloudy, windless day is best for the operation. See that the soil where the plants are to be placed has been well prepared and manured, though this material should not come in contact with the roots of the seedlings until they are strong enough to make use of it. Firm each little plant well, and see that sufficient water is given to each one to settle the earth round the roots, even though the weather is showery. Fine stakes for tall-growing annuals should be driven in before the plant is placed in position.

And the Vegetables

Sow onion seed immediately in well manured rows, and either thin out or transplant to 5 inches apart in single rows when the seedlings are as big as a bridge pencil. If your soil is good, and a dressing of wood ash will help to make the plants less subject to onion mildew, they should be ready to pull by November (for early sorts) or round about Christmas time for brown and other main crop varieties.

Lettuces usually do better with most novices in winter time, for they are less inclined to run to seed than during hot weather. Rich soil, plenty of water, and they will form hearts quickly. The best winter varieties are Imperial D, Imperial 615, and Imperial F. Plant lettuces 10 inches apart in single or staggered rows to enable weeding to be carried out easily.

Cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, kale, brussels sprouts and kohlrabi all belong to the one family, and need somewhat similar soil conditions. They are all gross feeders and need the best sort of bed you can give them. Put in all the manure you can afford and then be like the old lady sugaring her rhubarb, let your conscience be your guide, and put in a bit more. Watch the plants during winter for white cabbage butterfly grubs, and the smaller grubs of the cabbage moth. Regular fortnightly sprayings of DDT will not only kill grubs but also wipe out aphids, which are often troublesome.

Cabbages should be given 15 to 18 inches of space in the rows and cauliflower and broccoli at least 2 feet or more. Brussels sprouts can be planted 18 inches apart, and kohlrabi 7 inches. Kohlrabi is a turnip sort of vegetable to look at, with swollen stems above ground and leaves which can also be used as spinach if cut when young. The swollen stems are like a good cabbage stem in flavour, and should be cut into four and cooked in their jackets, which peel off easily when soft.

All root crops, including beetroots (which should be raised from seedlings only now), require good soil that was heavily manured for a previous surface crop such as early cabbage, beans, or lettuce. Newly manured soil causes forking in carrots, parsnip and other roots. Sow the seed and thin out when big enough to handle.

If vegetables are sown early in May and fed with liquid manure at intervals, as well as being watered well during dry winter spells, the cook will have plenty in hand as the months roll by.

If everyone grew what root crops, lettuces, greens, and a few luxury lines at home they required the greengrocer would be compelled to bring his prices down to meet the competition, and housewives would need only to buy staple lines such as potatoes, pumpkin and onions.