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Dawn



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A MAGAZINE FOR THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF N.S.W. FEBRUARY, 1962





Our Cover . . .

Our People Play their Part

When the 2nd Battalion sailed for Malaya, included among the complement were Private Keith Walsh of Rockhampton and his wife and 7 children (only 6 in the picture).

The picture shows them with Lieut. General H. Edgar, General Officer Commanding Eastern Command and the Minister for the Army, the Hon. J. Cramer.

The children are Keith (7), Sandra (6), Deborah (8), Evelyn (11), Hal (2), Steven (3).

The baby, aged 3 months, was asleep in the cabin.



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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A PROBLEM THAT NEEDS PATIENCE

Chairman Discusses Board's Plans

DISCUSSING the activities of the Aborigines Welfare Board over the past 12 months, the Chairman, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, said:

“The aim of the Board remains steadfastly directed to the assimilation of aborigines into the general community and its activities during the year, carried out by an enlarged field staff and supported by many practical manifestations of better informed and more enlightened public acceptance of its policy, have continued to that end.

“There is an increasing awareness amongst citizens of this State that the aboriginal problem, which is one of a small, depressed minority, must be tackled patiently and sympathetically against the background of world-wide interest in the problem of colour and race.

“The alternative to assimilation is the negative prospect of groups clinging together on Reserves in houses provided by the Government and requiring expenditure of increasing sums on maintenance or replacement. Although assimilation will be achieved slowly and painfully, it offers the prospect of ultimate realisation with hope of full acceptance by the community. Moreover, it is neither natural nor logical to expect the State to maintain aborigines living together in artificial groups on the principle that the State owes them such an existence, especially those in whom aboriginal blood is in the minority.

“It is recognised that the problem confronting the Board cannot be resolved by the mere provision of new homes and improved household amenities. Guidance and encouragement by Welfare Staffs, medical and nursing personnel and other services over a protracted period will be essential.

“It is difficult for a welfare authority to decide how critical it should be of those committed to its care. The Board recognises the psychological and emotional disabilities of a small minority group whose mode of life provides few opportunities for self improvement by participation in social and community organisations or the example set by others around them. It appreciates, too, that many have come to accept their lot as inevitable and cling pathetically to the surroundings that have offered them so little in employment or opportunity.

“But nothing can be achieved without some effort at self-help, especially by young aborigines. This may even involve the pulling up of roots and a movement to the cities where trades and occupations offer something better than the seasonal round of vegetable digging or fruit-picking or bush labouring. The Board's Welfare Officers agree that the greatest opportunity should be afforded for social mingling with the community at large. They must be encouraged to shoulder greater responsibility and meet their obligations in paying rent and meeting household and family expenses. It is of the utmost importance also that they be trained in proper methods of hygiene, generally lacking in those who constitute the fringe dwellers of country towns.

“The appointment of additional welfare officers will ensure better assistance to aborigines, particularly in regard to their personal problems and matters relating to health and hygiene. This will apply particularly to the far north-west portion of the State, which will now be worked from Bourke. Previously within the area of the Welfare Officer at Dubbo, distance and travelling time have been a bar to fully effective welfare work in this area.

“During the year, the Board's Officers have undertaken several surveys, particularly in regard to housing requirements and living conditions generally, and when collated, these will provide a basis for a long-range plan over a number of years to remedy the situation.

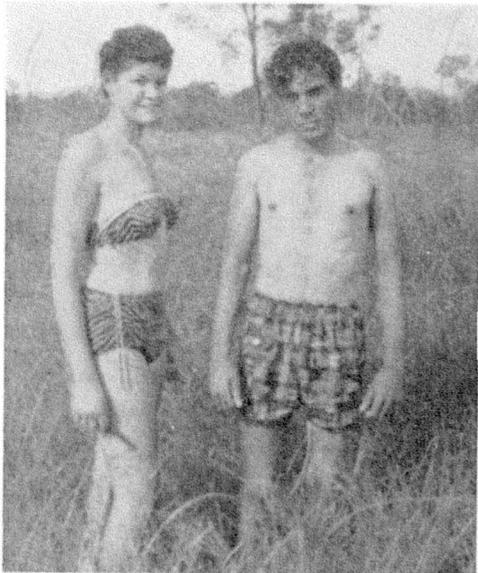
“Between the close of the year and the completion of this report the Board has been advised by the Chief Secretary, Mr. Kelly, that the Treasurer anticipates the provision of loan moneys to the Board to the extent of half a million pounds, spread over four years. This is a cause of great satisfaction to the Board as it will enable it to plan a programme well ahead and facilitate its housing programme tremendously. One of the great problems confronting the Board has been uncertainty as to the amount available to it each year and the difficulty of having work completed under contracts in towns and on Reserves scattered over the length and breadth of the State.

“The Board wishes to record its appreciation of the interest and support of the well-established Churches. On 5th September, 1960, the Board wrote to Church leaders on the aspect of the spiritual and moral welfare of the aboriginal people. In this letter it said:

‘The Board recognises the efforts of many Clergy and other workers on behalf of aborigines. At the same time it suggests that a review of methods and attitudes would not be untimely and that the Churches themselves, although subject to limitations of finance and staff, would wish to study the problem with the object of seeing whether the aboriginal people can be brought more fully into the life of the Church. In

this approach, the Board considers that all it can or should do is to point to the problem while emphasising the policy which is being followed, and leave it to the Churches to see what more can be done for the dark people. The aborigine does not lack an inherent religious sense; indeed, in many there are strong indications of a craving for religion which, in some instances they have sought to satisfy, even if only temporarily, by turning to relatively unknown or newly formed denominations. Such are not extensively organised, leadership and balanced instruction are not always in evidence, and, in many cases, it is probable that the interest of the aborigine is largely transitory. Most importantly it would obviously be preferable for aborigines to be drawn into local Church congregations rather than having special services for them on Stations and Reserves, although in some cases, due to the distance of the Station or Reserve from the town, the latter may be the only means of providing for them.'

"On 9th June, 1961, a conference was held in this Department with the full support and approval of Church leaders, including the Archbishops of both the Church of England and Roman Catholic Churches. As a result it was decided to set up a number of regional conferences in various parts of the State to which Clergy and lay-workers would be invited for the purpose of discussing problems associated with the promotion of the moral and spiritual well-being of aborigines not as a group to whom religion should be taken, but as participating members of the congregation. Two such conferences have been held, one at Dubbo and one at Moree."



Jimmy and Elizabeth Watson of Bungunya, Queensland, take advantage of the fine summer weather



Coonabarabran Wedding

Leslie—Morris

Miss Brenda Merle Leslie chose a pink tulle and taffeta ballerina gown for her marriage to Mr. Eric Reginald Morris one Saturday recently.

The Rev. R. E. Sherlock officiated at this solemn occasion at Christ Church of England, Coonabarabran.

The bride is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Leslie, Gunnedah Hill, Coonabarabran, and the bridegroom the second son of Mrs. Mary Morris and the late Mr. George Morris, of Walcha.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a pink ballerina gown with sweetheart neckline, bouffant skirt with tulle flounces caught by white roses and the sleeves trimmed with pearl buttons. The frock was designed by Mrs. Ruby Langford and made by Mrs. Hilda Milligan. The hand-made tulle veil was embroidered in seed pearls and the bride carried a bouquet of orchids and roses (made by Mrs. D. C. Beit, Chappell Avenue, Coonabarabran).

Bridesmaids were Misses Joan Leslie (sister of the bride) and Nancy Whitton. Jacqueline and Angela Milligan were flower girls. They wore gowns of buttercup yellow and powder blue taffeta, trimmed with matching tulle and white roses. Circlets of tulle and roses were worn in their hair and they carried bouquets of Sweet Williams. Mr. Bruce Leslie, the bride's brother, was best man and Mr. Samuel Griffen groomsmen.

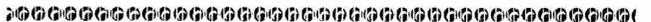
The bride's mother wore a green and gold polished cotton frock with yellow accessories and matching diamante and earring set. The bridegroom's mother was unable to be present, but was represented by Mrs. Ruby Langford.

The bridegroom presented the bride with a dinner set as a wedding gift and in turn received a set of gold cuff links. Bridesmaids received signet rings and the flower girls gold locket.

The reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Milligan, Boomerang Street, Coonabarabran, where 50 guests participated. Some of the visitors came from as far as Gilgandra. The double tiered wedding cake was made by Mrs. John Milligan and iced and decorated by Mrs. H. Leslie.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris will reside at Coonabarabran until the New Year when they will depart to make their home in Sydney.

Copied from Coonabarabran "Times" dated 23rd November, 1961.





MORE WEDDING BELLS AT BOGGABILLA

One finds it hard to keep abreast of the people getting married at Boggabilla, and we are happy to announce the marriages of the following couples.

Lorraine Sampson, of Moree, was quietly married to Bert Prince, a resident of the Aboriginal Station. The wedding was so quiet that we were unable to get any particulars before the bride and groom left for Moree on their honeymoon.

Another happy couple were married about a month later, at the Anglican church in Boggabilla. The bride, Pearlie Mackie, looked lovely in a white, delicate material frocking of full length, with hat of similar material. The bride carried a small bouquet of flowers. The groom, Edward Whiteman, also resident on the Station, wore a light brown tweed suit, looking very smart. The bride was attended by her niece Colleen Mackie, who was very prettily attired in a lavender coloured full length dress.

In the third wedding, Isabel McGrady married Edward Talbot, of Gunnedah. Isabel was neatly dressed in a grey two piece costume and the groom was attired in a blue suit. It was unfortunate that their wedding had to be put off for a few days owing to the death of a nephew of the bride. The marriage was quietly performed in the Anglican church in Boggabilla.

All marriages were performed by the Reverend Mr. Harker.

BOGGABILLA NOTES

Boggabilla Matron is being kept busy at all hours treating cut feet. In the ordinary way we used to blame the odd grog bottle. Today the kids have themselves to blame. Many cool drink bottles are brought home, and instead of being returned they are just thrown around where everybody walks. This is not the end, some of the dear little boys have shanghais and use the bottles for target practice. Those who have no such weapons just throw stones. Mothers complain, clear around the yard, but nobody wants to do more than that, so we get cut feet. So far nothing serious has happened, but when it does, then perhaps the mothers will really control their dear little boys.

There is a continued improvement in the gardens around the Boggabilla Station. Outstanding garden is still that of pensioner Walter Duncan who has green fingers. Much rain has given all gardens a new lease of life and some of the late starters now have a good show of flowers.

G 69037—2

Polio victim Victor Dennison, aged three years, of Boggabilla is now improving in hospital at Brisbane. Victor, son of Victor, snr., and Dawn Dennison was rushed to Brisbane as a suspect polio case.

It is very gratifying to be able to report the little fellow's promising recovery, in view of the fact that he has had a full course of vaccinations on the Station.

It is with great regret that we have to tell of the death of young Mervyn McGrady, son of Nola and Bill McGrady, jnr., of Boggabilla. Mervyn was only three years old and swallowed a bean seed which lodged in his throat. All efforts to remove it failed, and his father rushed him in to hospital. They were met by the Goondiwindi ambulance, but it was too late.

The Boggabilla Social Club now having been re-formed for about a year continues to add to its membership with a total of 30. As the demand for the court is growing, it was proposed at the last meeting to build another court. Well lads, it's up to you. Apart from elbow grease, it should not cost a penny.



In the far outback we photographed Brumby and his daughter Ninu, on Manbaloo Cattle Station near Katherine, Northern Territory



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.



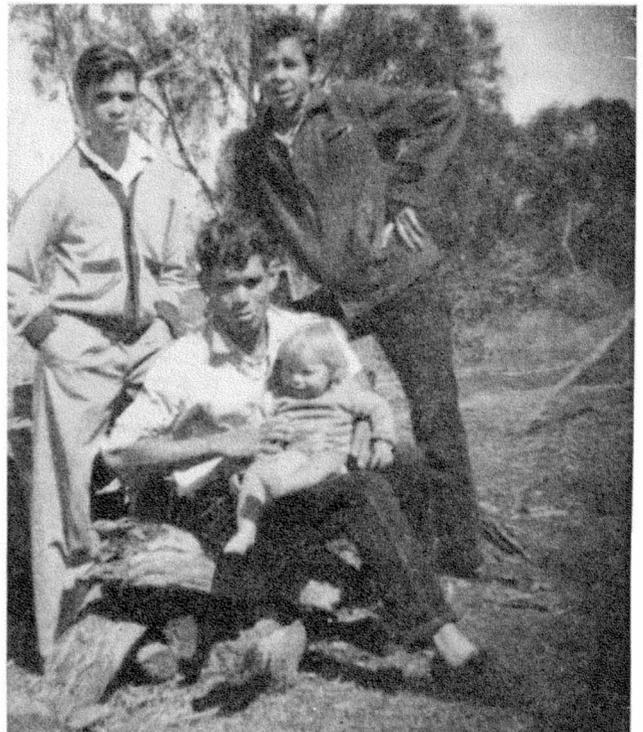
Pearl, a little aboriginal girl on Manbaloo Cattle Station in the Northern Territory, does her washing



Tea-time on the C.S.I.R.O. farm at Katherine in the Northern Territory—a very important time for all



Murghe Stewart, of Wellington, with Dorothy and Diane



Ronnie and Leslie Cain, of Coonabarabran, with Mervyn Morgan and his son Douglas



Richard Ellis, of Tingha, and his pet dog



A cheerio call from Victoria Cousens, of Tingha



These two cyclists are Raymond and Vicki Connors, of Tingha



Two lovely lasses pose for the cameraman—Annette and Mary McDougal



Ethel Kelly, Patsy See, Gladys Bell, Dorothy Towney, Queenie Daley and Joyce Peachey, of Wellington, wait for the bus



These happy looking people are members of the Naden family

THE BOARD

During the year, Aborigines Welfare Board personnel changed by the appointment of Dr. J. J. Donnellan, M.B., C.H.M., D.P.H., representing the Department of Public Health, in place of Dr. T. L. Dunn. Following an election among Aborigines, held for the purpose, Mr. Charles L. Leon was appointed to the Board as Member having an admixture of Aboriginal blood.

The constitution of the Board, as at 30th June, 1961, was as follows:—

Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department:
Mr. A. G. Kingsmill (Chairman).

An Expert in Sociology and/or Anthropology:
Professor A. P. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D. (Vice-Chairman).

Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare: Mr. H. J. Green.

Officer of the Department of Public Health: Dr. J. J. Donnellan.

Officer of the Department of Public Instruction:
Mr. V. J. Truskett, B.A.

Member of Police Force: Superintendent F. S. Windsor.

An Expert in Agriculture: Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A.

Two Persons nominated by the Minister:

Mr. M. Sawtell.

Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C.

Two Aborigines—

(a) One Full Blood: Vacant.

(b) One having an admixture of Aboriginal Blood: Mr. C. L. Leon.

POLICY OF THE ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

The policy of the Board remains directed to assimilation of the aboriginal population into the general community.

In effect this means that all Aborigines and part-Aborigines are expected eventually to attain the same manner of living as other Australians while enjoying the same rights and privileges and, of course, accepting the same responsibilities.

So far as available finance has permitted, the Board, over the last six years, has endeavoured to accommodate suitable aboriginal families in towns, rather than erect further homes on Stations and Reserves. In addition, loans are made on easy terms to applicants desiring to acquire their own property, providing such persons are in possession of assets sufficient in extent to form the basis of a modest deposit.

It is recognised, however, that many aborigines desire to remain on Aboriginal Stations and Reserves which give them a feeling of security and, while this situation remains, building on Stations and Reserves must continue.

As regards education, the Board, with the assistance of the Department of Education, is at present exploring the formation of Adult Education Classes for Aborigines.

VISITS BY BOARD MEMBERS

During 1961 visits were made by Board Members to the Taree, Cabbage Tree Island, Woodenbong, Tabulam and Caroonna Aboriginal Stations, to the Cootamundra Aboriginal Girls' Home and to the Baryulgil and Armidale Aborigines Reserve.

Sixteen visits were made by the Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare to Stations and twenty-four to Reserves. The Homes at Cootamundra and Kinchela were each inspected on two occasions.

FEATURES OF THE ADMINISTRATION

Rental Arrears

As at 30th June, 1961, accumulated arrears of rent owed by tenants of houses on Stations and Reserves and in towns reached a total of £60,882 compared with £54,734 as at the same date during the previous year, an increase of £6,148 for the period. As there are approximately 370 houses for which rent is paid, this deficit represents a proportionate default of around £16 10s. per tenant over the year.

It is pointed out, however, that the increase in the total indebtedness of tenants shows a decided improvement in relation to that for the previous twelve months' period, when the actual addition amounted to £8,531. This may be attributed in part to firm action taken in a number of cases.

The problem associated with collection of rent from Aboriginal tenants is a vexatious one and most difficult of solution. Although the rental rate determined is purely nominal, compared with that paid by the white community for houses of a similar standard, a large proportion of tenants, for various reasons, refuse to meet their commitments, even when in a position to do so.

The attitude adopted most frequently is that there is a debt owed by society for dispossessing them of their lands and, less often, that it is the bounden duty of the Board to provide for them and not expect them to shoulder responsibilities.

ABORIGINAL STATIONS

GENERALLY

Of the Reserves for Aborigines under the control of the Board, sixteen are classed as Stations and are under full-time resident supervision. A married couple are in charge as Manager and Matron, the latter being, in some cases, a trained nurse.

Six Stations are located in the coastal area, the others being in the Central West, Far West, Northern Tablelands and the North West districts. There were 2,885 persons residing on Stations as at 30th June, 1961, compared with 2,821 at the corresponding date during the previous year.

An Aboriginal Station consists of a community settlement embracing a dwelling for each family, a school, recreation hall and medical treatment room. The fundamental purpose of a Station is to provide a home and refuge for those Aborigines who would not be able effectively to fend for themselves outside the Board's care and protection, and to train them in the principles of citizenship so as to facilitate their ultimate absorption into the white community.

Since the immediate post war years, housing difficulties have been most acute, and the Board for this reason has exerted no pressure towards insisting on residents leaving Stations, even when their standard of living compares favourably with white people and the persons themselves are practically indistinguishable by reason of their light colour.

It is felt, however, that the time has now arrived when some definite policy should be determined regarding residence on Stations of those who are considered quite capable of mixing with, and earning their living in the general community, and of those whose slight degree of caste does not legally qualify them as Aborigines. Removal of residents affected will then result in accommodation being available for the class of aborigine for which Stations were originally constructed.

During the year the Board resolved that Brewarrina Aboriginal Station be closed and a new site selected nearer to town on which it can be re-built. This was decided due to the state of existing buildings and to allow Station children to attend Brewarrina Public School. In addition, the menfolk will be closer to a pickup centre for employment.

Approval was also given for the installation of a sewerage and septic line on Moree Station at an estimated cost of £21,500 and the incorporation of bathrooms in each of the twenty houses on Walgett Station, together with the installation of a sink with running water in each kitchen.

More Welfare Officers

Safeguarding Our People

During the year the Board's establishment of Welfare Officers were increased from six to eight, in respect of male officers, and from two to five female officers.

Two new districts were determined for the additional male employees, one with its centre at Armidale and the other at Bourke. Of the three female welfare officers, one has been stationed at Head Office, and one at Lismore. It is intended that the third officer operate from Bourke. There are now to be officers stationed in Sydney, Dubbo, Kempsey, Lismore, Leeton, Armidale, Moree and Bourke.

Most of the duties of Welfare Officers involve personal contact in the field towards promoting the welfare, social development and assimilation of the aboriginal people, with particular attention being given to those living off supervising Stations and Reserves.

Some of the more important responsibilities embraced by a Welfare Officer are the obligation of fostering good relationships between the aborigines and the white community and of encouraging and assisting the promotion of voluntary organisations for Aboriginal welfare. Officers are expected also to identify themselves with the public life of the area in which they work, locate suitable sites for acquirement as individual building lots or for use as a Reserve and to secure employment for Aborigines and, subsequently, watch over their interests in such employment. An additional and most important duty is the safeguarding and well being of children and, in appropriate cases, institution of proceedings to have committed to the care of the Board any of those found to be neglected.



We would like you to meet a very pretty lass—Nurse Valda Connors, of Tingha

HOME



HINTS

BETTER HOUSEKEEPING

Dish Washing

This most unpopular of household tasks, all too often results in what has been described as an “impartial distribution of disease organisms”.

It should be remembered that a certain amount of saliva is deposited on drinking utensils and cutlery, with its usual content of bacteria—and that average dish water provides ideal conditions for their growth. It is warm, it is moist, it contains nutriment and there is time for many generations of bacteria to multiply. In fact, dish water not uncommonly contains as many as 300,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre. For the same reasons danger lurks in damp, soiled tea-towels, greasy dishcloths and mops; these are frequently just as grossly contaminated as the dish water.

Even when clean methods of dishwashing are employed, with hot water frequently changed and sufficient soap or detergent, utensils are easily contaminated again by towelling. It is better therefore to allow them to dry off naturally by the heat they have absorbed in washing. Tea towels should be changed frequently and reserved for polishing cutlery and glassware. Dishmops and cloths should be washed daily, rinsed and opened out while drying, if possible where the sun can penetrate the threads.

Food Storage

Store all perishable foods in your ice chest or in a cold place but remember refrigeration merely *retards* the multiplication of bacteria, it does not *kill* germs in foods already contaminated.

If you have a refrigerator defrost it at least fortnightly and clean it with a weak solution of vinegar and warm water. Inspect it daily to make sure each food is in good condition. If in doubt **THROW IT OUT**.

Take particular care in the preparation of dishes containing milk, eggs, fish and meats, especially chopped or minced meats such as brawn, meat pies, sausage meats and rissoles, and lightly cooked foods containing milk and eggs, such as custards and salad dressings. These should be cooked and eaten as soon as is practicable. Even if refrigerated meanwhile it is risky to use left-overs of this type two or more days after preparation.

When reheating semi-liquid dishes such as soups and stews bring to the boil and simmer at least fifteen minutes. Do not reheat on more than one occasion.

Never use any canned food if it is mouldy, has a bad odour or comes from a bulging can. Even tasting such food is dangerous.

Clean Hands

Cleanliness is one of the basic needs for good health. Possibly more than any other part of our body our hands are directly responsible for the spread of much disease.

Clean hands will not in themselves give you good health, but if your hands are clean, your chances of escaping many infectious diseases will be very much higher.

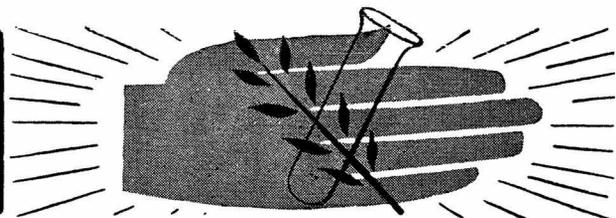
In the home—and in fact, in every other part of the community—the hands should be thoroughly washed—

- before handling food;
- after using the toilet;
- after handling pets.

If this is done the risk of catching, or spreading, an infection will be greatly diminished.



Esme and Gwen Madden, of Guyra



SCABBY SORES

(impetigo) in School Children

Impetigo is commonly met with in children. It affects principally the exposed parts of the body—such as the face, hands, knees, and appears in the form of sores, covered with thick crusts or scabs, and frequently discharging matter. It is contagious, and spreads by direct contact or by infected articles, and is commonly spread about a child's body by scratching a sore and then scratching some other part of the body.

PREVENTION

The nails should be kept short and clean; each child should have his or her own towel, handkerchief, and mug, and should not use those of other children. They should be warned against putting penholders, pencils, etc., in the mouth.

Parents are advised to seek prompt treatment and cure for Impetigo. If untreated it will spread rapidly both on the infected child and to other members of the household and can be responsible for scarring. Parents should consult their own doctor in regard to treatment but should medical advice be unobtainable the following method of treatment is advised.

TREATMENT

(1) *Remove all Scabs.* Do this by soaking a piece of cotton wool in warm olive oil and placing on the sore for fifteen minutes. After softening, the scab can easily be removed.

(2) Then apply a little white precipitate ointment to each sore and keep it covered with a clean bandage. If white precipitate ointment is not obtainable some simple antiseptic ointment such as boric acid ointment may be used.

The treatment should be repeated twice daily until all sores are completely healed.

Exclusion—If the sores are kept covered by a clean dressing, affected children may be allowed to attend school; otherwise they should be excluded until the skin is quite free from sores.

Fleas

Fleas, which may have come from infected rats, should be destroyed in all dwellings and business premises. The floors and walls should be sprayed with an insecticide, or sprinkled with an emulsion of kerosene and soft soap in water, prepared as follows:—

Stock Emulsion—Take 25 parts of kerosene, 1 part of liquid soap, and 5 parts of water. A little eucalyptus may be added if desired. Shake well together.

For use, dilute this stock emulsion in the proportion of two tablespoonsful to a pint of water. Sprinkle it from a spray, or from a watering can with a fine rose.

Powdered naphthalene sprinkled over the floor and especially into cracks between the boards is of value in destroying fleas. It may be left overnight, the room being kept closed, and that which is swept up in the morning can be used over again.

Liquid insecticides are also effective in killing fleas. A reliable brand, containing at least a 4 per cent. solution of D.D.T. gives the best results.

Dogs and Cats

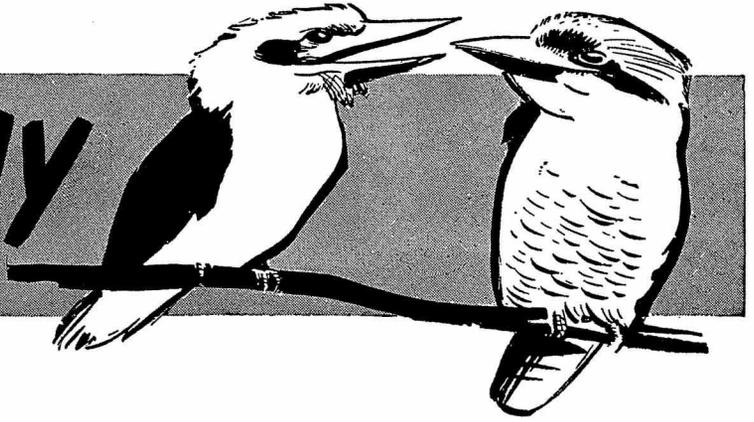
Dogs and cats should be kept free from vermin. Dogs should be washed with a disinfectant solution, or they may be dusted with an effective insect powder. Their kennels should also be frequently cleansed with kerosene emulsion or dusted with insect powder.

Apply to your local Council or Shire for any assistance you need in fighting the rat.



Barry Stanley and his wife-to-be, Kathleen Pholi, of Ipswich, Queensland, formerly of N.S.W.

THEY SAY



SUCCESSFUL FUNCTION

The Aborigines from Baryulgil held a dance recently for the Grafton Ambulance and Baryulgil Football Club. Takings were £50 clear, shared equally by the Ambulance and Football Club.

Two hundred and fifty aborigines and thirty-five white people attended. The dance was very well conducted and went on until 4.30 a.m. the next day.

Bruce Marshall and his sister won the Rock and Roll Contest. Mr. Aubrey Roberts, Caretaker of Cubawee Aborigines Reserve, won the contest for the best dressed man. Miss Lily Gordon won the prize for the best dressed girl. Mr. Jim Smith was the Master of Ceremonies.

The function was organised by Mr. Reg Simmons, the Postmaster of Baryulgil and Mr. and Mrs. John Mundine, assisted by many other residents of Baryulgil.

JOSEPHINE LYNCH—"MISS PERTH"

Answering questions, organising games, helping with painting and modelling, stopping any arguments between 42 kindergarten children

It's all in a day's work for today's Miss Perth, according to an article in the *Western Australian Daily News*.

She is vivacious part-native girl Josephine Lynch (19), of Deschamp Rd., Morley Park, a kindergarten assistant, who finds she spends all her working hours continually helping her charges—even to making sure they all eat their lunch.

"I love children, so really my work isn't work in the true sense of the word at all," said Josephine.

She Plays by Ear

A talented musician, Josephine plays by ear and has mastered the claviola in the past two months. Now she takes the children for singing lessons.

"It's a fascinating instrument and can be toned to a bassoon, saxophone, organ, flute, horn or piccolo by pressing stops," said Miss Perth, who also plays the piano and is a master of the seldom-heard tambourine.

"I was educated at Mt. Margaret's Mission, where we had our own band and made up lots of musical arrangements, and it was there I learnt to play the tambourine," Josephine said.

She worked for a year at the Native Welfare Department and began her new job at the kindergarten in Morley Park last year.

Commenting on the article, Area Welfare Officer, Mr. S. Preston Walker, said:

"This article stresses the value of training homes such as at Mt. Margaret in the gold fields of Western Australia, where Josephine Lynch, now Miss Perth, spent the first years of her young life. The Mt. Margaret Children's Home is the property of the United Aborigines Mission. I served that Mission for close on 15 years and when at Mt. Margaret was the Head Teacher of the Mission School where Josephine trained.

"With another 90 Aboriginal children, Josephine was admitted to the Christian atmosphere of this remarkable home at the request of either the parents or the Department of Native Welfare, or both. I well remember Josephine as a sweet little girl being especially cared for by the Matron of the Home, Mrs. F. Jackson, who is still on the staff in that capacity. Josephine was the pride and joy of that Home.

"Several of the Home girls are now on the Staff of the Education Department in W.A., some serve with missions to their own people—Miss Sadie Corner is Matron of the Leonora District Hospital, Mr. Ben Mason is Pastor of a People's Church in Derby in the far North West, and many are scattered throughout the West, making their contribution as valiant citizens of our great country. These are too numerous to name one by one, and what pleasure it gives those who have had their training. They give God the glory!"

TOOMELAH MEMBERS AT C.W.A. NIGHT

Three C.W.A. members from the Toomelah Government Aboriginal Settlement were at the International Night at the Services club recently.

Treasurer, Mrs. L. Dennison and Secretary, Mrs. P. Knox, and Mrs. H. Duncan, represented the Toomelah branch.

"Despite our late arrival we enjoyed ourselves immensely, and were very glad we came," said Mrs. Duncan.

The International Night is run by the Goondiwindi Branch of the Country Women's Association as an annual event.

The Office Bearers of the Toomelah (Boggabilla) Branch are always invited. However, the President, Mrs. Mavis Dennison, was unable to attend owing to sickness in her family.

"Truly C.W.A. is a wonderful medium towards assimilation! Our aboriginal women were very grateful to the Goondi ladies", stated Leila. She concluded her remarks by saying, "We had a lovely time, and did enjoy seeing the way people of Malaya live and work together."

ESTABLISHMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

During the previous year Board approval was given to the lease, at a nominal rental and for use by a Co-operative Society, of 45 acres of the Cabbage Tree Island Aboriginal Station land, together with a building for conversion to a store room. This was the culmination of nearly two years' preparatory work by the Australian Board of Missions Co-operative Ltd., and constituted the first Aborigines Co-operative to function in this State.

The Australian Board of Missions Co-operative Ltd. was responsible for interesting and training selected aborigines to manage the project and the Aborigines Welfare Board assisted by meeting the transport costs of the aborigines concerned.

At its inception the co-operative functioned as a retail store under the registered name of the "Numbahging Co-operative Society Ltd.", but during the year it was decided to extend its activities to the growing of sugar cane and other agricultural produce. For transport of heavy equipment and removal of produce, a suitable barge was purchased at a cost of £45, portion of which will be met by the Board. Due to lateness of the season, it was only possible to prepare seven acres of land for cane growing. Twenty-two acres of millet, however, were planted and a further four acres of land were prepared for tomato growing.

Although the co-operative has operated satisfactorily so far in its store trading activities, it would seem that this venture and any other of a similar nature must receive efficient and continuous assistance during its nascent years. This aid at Cabbage Tree Island has been supplied by a school-teacher, Mr. A. McCrohon, who has worked tirelessly to ensure its proper functioning.

One significant fact has emerged following the progress of the Cabbage Tree Island Aboriginal Station Co-operative. Interest appears to have grown in surrounding aboriginal centres and enquiries regarding the possibility of membership have been received from aboriginal residents of Ulgundahi Island, Cubawee Reserve and Coraki.

Outstanding Moree Students



These are the six outstanding aboriginal students of Moree High School, mentioned in the December *Dawn*.

Paying tribute to the aboriginal children at the Annual Speech Night ceremony, the Headmaster, Mr. W. Baldwin, said:

"The decision that all secondary pupils of the Moree Aboriginal School should attend Moree High School from the beginning of this year (1961) gave us the pleasure of welcoming these pupils to our ranks. They have made contributions of work in both the sporting and academic sides of school life."

Seen above are Percy Suey, Barry Johnson, Bob Stanley, Brenda Haines, Jeanette Binge, and Shirley Briggs.

In the Third Year Exams, Bob Stanley got first in general activity, English, Mathematics, Science, Woodwork, Art and Craft whilst Wayne Suey took first places in second year (2C) Social Studies, General Activity and English. Percy Suey won an Athletics Blue, and Jeanette Binge won a special Rotary prize for citizenship and service.

The Area Welfare Officer, Mr. S. Preston Walker, said: "It should be borne in mind that these children along with 50 others of aboriginal blood have just completed their first 12 months at the High School. I am particularly grateful for the efforts of the Headmaster, Mr. W. Baldwin and his staff who have done a wonderful job in the interests of assimilation here in Moree."

Freddy's Won His Place

A new face is taking its place on public committees in Grafton—a dark one.

It belong to Mr. Frederick Albury (Freddy) Skinner, 49, of Through Street, an aboriginal who is doing his bit to help the community and finding a lot of new friends.

“People here treat me like a gentleman,” he said.

One night recently Freddy was co-opted on an Apex Club Committee, which is raising funds for a Learn-to-Swim pool at South Grafton.

He is also on the Cobbas committee, a benevolent society formed recently to raise funds to help the needy.

Mayor a Friend

He counts among his friends the Mayor (Ald. W. E. Crisp), who said “Freddy can make a wonderful speech.”

Freddy said: “It all started last year when I went out to see the sod turned for a new pool at Cowper Orphanage, 12 miles east of Grafton.

“At the orphanage I noticed a few little dark children and I thought what a wonderful thing the orphanage is doing. I thought I'd run a couple of dances and try to help.”

There were 105 children in the orphanage, and only three of them were aboriginals. But, sure enough, Freddy raised enough to buy swimming togs for the 105. One of his dances cleared £106 after expenses had been met.



Betty Williams and Gwen Strong, of Guyra

Christmas Party at Boggabilla



It would appear that all the children enjoyed themselves at the Christmas Party held on the Station on the 19th December. Tables were piled high with nice things to eat, from sandwiches with all kinds of fillings to cakes of all shapes and sizes. There were plenty of bottled drinks and ice-cream cups.

Father Christmas got there just after the feast. He was a quiet old fellow and everybody was pleased to see him, and he must have been very patient, giving out all those toys. Each child received a present from Santa.

Visitors to the party were Mr. and Mrs. Mills. The Reverend Mr. Mills is the officiating minister till such time as the residential minister and family arrive. Reverend Mr. Harker has left for a tour overseas. Other visitors were Mesdames Hyslop, Thorsborne, Donohue, Hall and Brown. Presentations were made to the C.W.A. branch and a book from the Goondiwindi Library was presented to the Station Library by Mrs. Hyslop.

Thanks of the residents go to the band of helpers under the guidance of Mrs. Liela Orcher, who made the hall look very nice.



Margaret Brown, of Port Macquarie, does some baby sitting

Christmas Festivities

BURRA BEE DEE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Those unseen drums (sometimes called the bush wireless!!) had beaten out that Saturday the 23rd December was the date set down for the Christmas party and Christmas tree for the children from Burra Bee Dee Station and the New Reserve, Coonabarabran, and the response was very much seen in the number of children present. There were so many that one not knowing would feel sure that these children were from one of the larger Stations when in reality it was the smallest!

It had been decided that the party and tree be a combined effort with the local U.A.M. Missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Wakerley from Gulargambone distributing the presents, and the party to be the special responsibility of the Manager and Matron. Station residents were very pleased and thankful to have the help of the young people of the Methodist church represented by Jim Hayman, his sister Lois Hayman, and her fiance Mr. Newman.

The Church was packed to capacity for the short service that preceded these happy events with the singing of Christmas carols and exhortation by Mr. Wakerley.

Then it became evident that it was getting close for the appearance of that age-old gentleman, Father Christmas, not in a sleigh with bells attached, gliding along the ice as in some countries of the world, but in a fast moving sleek motor car with horn honking! Yes, there he was, dear old Santa Claus! And what beautiful, and useful gifts he had in those endless bags! All shapes and sizes. Every child present (some 80 of them) received a gift, and some as many as two and three.

After farewelling this benevolent friend, it was then time to bring on the party. Nothing had been forgotten. Hot "dogs" with rolls and tomato sauce, cakes of all colours and sizes, fruit, nuts, sweets, balloons, drinks, and last but not least, ice-cream kindly donated by the young people of the Methodist Church. The Rocky Glen Country Women's Association had donated money that was used in the purchase of two Christmas cakes, and the residents are indebted to these ladies for their kind thought.

At the conclusion of the party, that well-known personality Mrs. Queenie Robinson remarked that the tree and party had brought back fond memories of the days when Miss Knight and the late Miss Barnett had conducted similar Christmas Trees at Burra Bee Dee in the years they had given religious instruction there. A very special thought goes out to Miss Knight who still resides in the township of Coonabarabran. Everyone sincerely wishes her better health and God's richest blessing for the New Year.

And so it is with regret that we leave the Christmas party and Christmas Tree of 1961, thanking the Aborigines' Welfare Board for the large part they played in the success of the party.

The Manager and Matron have asked us to especially thank Julie Robinson for the tastefully decorated Christmas tree in the Church, and her valued help with

the party, also Mrs. Mildred Griffiths, Audrey and Queenie Ashby, Rhonda Sampson, Myra Cain and others who contributed in no small way to the success of the party.

As the year ended the thoughts of the Station Manager turned to those words that have inspired many noble men, even Kings, as a thought for 1962, from he and the people at Coonabarabran:—

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

Give me light that I may tread safely into the unknown.

And he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."

Talented Artist at Narrabri

On a visit during the Christmas holidays was Cyril Knox and his wife and family, from Narrabri. Cyril has a certain amount of talent as a painter and brought with him three oils for the folk to see. I only saw these just before he left Boggabilla, but I was impressed with what I saw.

Two of these efforts were in oils, and were copies. The first was of a horse and rider, was very well drawn. The second, was a striking painting of the late Albert Namatjira. Here I think Cyril shows his ability as a copyist, for though not having seen the original or the reproduction from which he took this painting, he shows he can faithfully portray what he sees. His work was about eighteen inches wide by twenty inches high, and there was instant recognition of the famous aboriginal artist. Cyril, I thought, had got the solemn dignity of Albert as shown in this head and shoulder pose.

The third painting, Cyril said, was painted from memory after a walk in the bush. This, somewhat larger in size than the portrait, is full of autumn colouring the main subject of the ghost gums is balanced by a group of three Lombardy poplars in their warm golden colouring. For a painting from memory this shows Cyril to have a very retentive memory to be able to record later what was perhaps just a glimpse of what he saw. This is not just a daub. The gums look like gums and so do the rest of the bush trees including the poplars. The grass in the picture has come through a hard summer and so have the rest of the plant life painted in this picture.

Cyril, I think, shows a great ability to draw what he sees without romancing, thus one can recognise things for what they are. This of course is in the manner of Constable and Gainsborough who believed in realism.

Cyril has entered some of his work at Narrabri, so he tells me, and has taken second prize, on one occasion. We hope to see some of his work at the Goondiwindi Show in May this year. The Goondiwindi Show is an inter-state event in this particular spot and very worthy of entrance particularly in the art section. Many Sydney artists enter and take prizes. So, Cyril take note, we want to see the portrait of Albert Namatjira in this Show.

About Our People . . .

Extracts from the Board's Report

ABORIGINAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS

From a census taken by Field Officers in 1956, the Aboriginal population of New South Wales was found to approximate 13,598 made up of the following:—

Full-Bloods, 235.

Half-Castes, 6,600.

Lesser-Castes, 6,763.

Of this number, only 5,442 were residing on Stations and Reserves.

As at 30th June, 1961, 5,849 were living on Stations and Reserves, the rise in population being mainly due to natural increases.

HEALTH OF ABORIGINES

Improved Conditions

Following the establishment of recently created Health Districts by the Department of Public Health, Area Welfare Officers will contact the Medical Officer of Health in the District under their control and establish the closest basis of consultation in respect of health matters affecting aborigines. The Board is seriously concerned at the lack of hygiene in many aboriginal fringe settlements, on Travelling Stock Reserves, Town Commons, and other areas not under the control of the Board. The Board feels that their efforts to improve living conditions and hygiene on these unauthorised encampments are not supported in many cases by local Health Inspectors who have powers under the Public Health Act to secure certain improvements.

Medical Officers of Health are required to make regular inspections of all Aboriginal Stations and Reserves and to submit reports to the Director-General of Health.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The Board is Concerned

The employment position in respect of Aborigines deteriorated during the year, to a certain extent, with a resultant increase in the number of those receiving rations. This state of affairs was not confined to Aborigines, however, as the rise in unemployment was general throughout the community.

It has been found, unfortunately, that, when there is a surplus of labour offering, preference is given by employers to white workers at the expense of Aborigines,

the general opinion being that Aborigines are less dependable and inferior in working capacity, except where the employment is of a casual nature, such as cane-cutting, pea-picking, droving and fencing. However, those Aborigines who have proved to be reliable are rarely unemployed and their services are sought by employers.

The greatest concern is felt by the Board as regards the employment of youths and young girls. In the case of boys, every effort is made by field officers to impress on them the advantages to be gained by becoming a qualified tradesman.

Towards the end of each school year, headmasters of secondary schools are contacted and the prospects discussed of those aboriginal students who are suitable and have expressed a wish to be apprenticed to a trade.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act may, on written application to the Board, be granted where the person concerned is of good character and has demonstrated by his standard of living that he is capable of taking his place as a worthy member of the community.

In the twelve months period under review exemption was granted in 57 cases, 6 applications were declined, 4 deferred and 1 cancelled.

It will be noted that the number of exemptions granted fell considerably compared with the previous year when 125 applications were approved. This can be explained by the fact that, prior to the Commonwealth Government liberalising the grant of pensions to Aborigines, it was necessary for those seeking this assistance, who resided on Stations or Reserves, to be in possession of an Exemption Certificate.

EXPULSION ORDERS

The Board is empowered to remove from a Reserve any aborigine who is guilty of misconduct, or who, in the opinion of the Board, should be earning a living away from such Reserve. This action is only taken in extreme cases and as a last resort, and is done by the issue of Expulsion Orders against the persons concerned.

During the year it was necessary to issue Expulsion Orders against four residents of Reserves. During the same period, because of improved conduct, an existing order was revoked.

It is pleasing to note, however, that the need for this drastic action showed a decided improvement compared with the previous year, when 13 Expulsion Orders were issued.

ASSISTANCE BY OUTSIDE BODIES

At present there are 13 organisations in existence, which were formed with the express object of assisting in the assimilation and welfare of Aborigines throughout the State. These bodies are located at Armidale, Casino, Coff's Harbour, Condobolin, Coonamble, Dareton, Kempsey, Moree, Tamworth, Wellington, Griffith, Maclean and Walcha. In addition to the country associations mentioned, a group of housewives operate in the metropolitan area under the name of the Waterview Group, Seaforth, towards maintaining an aboriginal student at boarding college. A group of journalists employed by the *Sydney Morning Herald* are working to the same end as is also the Glen Innes Branch of Apex Clubs. Philanthropic associations, such as the "Save the Children Fund", St. Ives, and the Soroptimist Club of Canterbury have devoted portion of their income towards the endowment of bursaries.

Worthy of mention during the year under review was the construction of a house, in Kempsey, for an aboriginal family, by the N.S.W. Christian Youth Council with materials supplied by the Board. At Griffith the local Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines undertook to construct a building on the local Reserve to serve as a hall and baby health centre and to subscribe half the cost of the expenditure involved. At Collarenebri the local branch of Apex Clubs accepted responsibility for the installation of a water supply and ablution block to the Collarenebri Aborigines Reserve with materials being made available by the Board. The Kempsey Lions Club constructed a recreation ground and football field at the Burnt Bridge Aboriginal Station, helped financially by the Board in this respect. Also worthy of special mention is supervision by the Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines at Armidale of a Canteen erected by the Board as a temporary measure to provide a hot meal and milk or cocoa for pre-school children resident on the Reserve pending the erection of new homes.

ABORIGINES RESERVES GENERALLY

The term "Aborigines Reserve" is applied to those areas where, as distinct from Aboriginal Stations, there is no residential management. In some instances, when degree of population so warrants, part-time supervisors are appointed to attend to the welfare problems of Reserve inhabitants. Usually supervision of Reserves is exercised by local Police with intermittent visits by Welfare Officers.

On a majority of these areas improvised homes have been erected by Aborigines themselves. Recently it has been necessary for the Board—in rectifying unsatisfactory living conditions of local Aborigines—to have gazetted small areas of land as Reserves for Aborigines and erect thereon sufficient houses of approved design to accommodate the families involved.

It might be mentioned here that the Board is forced into this position when Aboriginal communities take up residence on Travelling Stock Reserves and town commons, erect "shanty" dwellings and are allowed to live under unsanitary conditions without any early action being taken by local authorities to enforce the relevant provisions of the Public Health and Local Government Acts.

Too often these unauthorised encampments are allowed to grow unchecked as additional families move in until the situation becomes a serious health menace, leading to unfavourable publicity over a position which should not have been permitted to develop.

The Board feels also that Councils should accept a greater share of responsibility in improving conditions of aborigines living on the outskirts of country towns.



Some Tingha residents rest for a while during a days shopping



Elaine Combo, Roger Little, Ellen Connors and Eric Strong, of Guyra

HELP YOURSELF

A Saucy Hint

Pounding a tomato sauce bottle to remove obstinate contents is both dangerous and unnecessary. Next time merely tap the neck of the bottle gently with the forefinger and watch the sauce flow out smoothly.

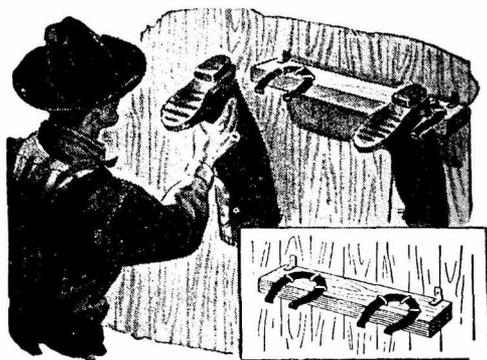
A Novel Weather Forecaster

Because the cones from pine trees tend to open when the air is dry, and close when the air is damp, knowledge of this fact can be utilized in making this weather forecaster. The body of the animal is a pine cone; the head is cardboard and the legs are short lengths of wire resting on a cardboard base. During periods of high humidity when rain is more likely, the cones will be closed, but when the humidity is low and the weather probably will be fair, the cones will be open.

To Make Drawers Glide Easily

Drawers will glide noiselessly and easily if thumb-tacks are pressed into the runners on which the drawers slide. A thumb-tack that has a rounded head and an enamelled finish is better than a flat-head tack.

Old Horseshoes Used as Boot Racks



To hold rubber boots upside down for drying them out, one farmer nailed a pair of horseshoes to a 2 by 4-in. wood block and hinged this to a convenient wall. The open ends of the shoes extend outward so the ankles of the boots will slip between them. When not in use, the rack is swung up out of the way.

To Clean Those Shoes

To keep suede shoes and accessories looking like new, it is best to clean them frequently. Before putting the items away after wearing them, go over the suede with a cloth moistened in vinegar. Then rub with a stiff brush or sponge.

Influenza

Doctors still claim there is no definite cure for that common ailment—influenza—but one doctor assures us it can be prevented by the simple precaution of taking two drops of oil of cinnamon on sugar daily.

Cough Cure

In the winter months nearly all of us develop that inevitable cough. To make a simple cure take 1 teaspoon of olive oil, 2 teaspoons of honey and the juice of 1 lemon. Mix, and add a stiffly beaten white of egg. Take 1 teaspoonful whenever the cough comes on.

Keeping Flowers Fresh

A teaspoon of sugar added to the water in which cut flowers are placed will keep them very much longer, as the sugar is an “energy” feeder to them, as it is to anything else.

Sugar is also splendid for freshening lettuce before making a salad, by placing some in the water in which the lettuce is soaking.

Egg Shells for Washing

Save all your eggshells from uncooked eggs and place in a bag. Use in the copper when you are boiling the clothes and it will help to whiten the washing.



Little Esther Williams, of Guyra

Board Moves To Lift Liquor Ban

Should Help Assimilation

The Board decided by a majority decision to recommend the repeal of Section 9 of the Aborigines Protection Act, prohibiting the supply of liquor to Aborigines—unless in possession of a Certificate of Exemption under Section 18c. The reasons given by majority favouring this recommendation were—

Section 9 is basically discriminating, in that it denies to a class of people a right enjoyed by other classes, simply and only because of racial characteristics;

It penalises the temperate because of the failings of the intemperate—a principle not recognised in respect of drinking by white citizens;

It has not prevented the supply to aborigines of inferior quality liquor or liquor of high potency;

It is humiliating to any aborigine whose moral status and general standards are in no way inferior to white people;

It is contrary to the broad concept and policy of assimilation, which is accepted by Governments and Welfare Authorities.

The Board, in its deliberations, recognised that there would be initial difficulties, but felt that these could be resolved by law enforcement and intensified welfare activity.

In deciding on this course the Board also resolved that Section 20 (1) (1) of the Act be amended to provide for an increase in penalties prescribed by regulations, in respect of drunken and disorderly conduct on Aboriginal Stations and Reserves.

FOSTER HOMES ARE NECESSARY

Looking After Our Wards

Aboriginal children may be received as wards of the Board, on application of a parent or guardian, or may be committed as such by a competent court.

Action to remove a child from its own home is only taken as a last resort and when all efforts to rehabilitate the family have proved abortive. Neglected children may be committed to a Children's Home constituted under the Aboriginal Protection Act for the reception, maintenance, education and training of wards.

The Act also authorises the boarding out of a ward in a selected foster home and the payment of an allowance to the foster parent, in addition to which the foster parent is entitled to claim Child Endowment and to receive further benefits such as medical and dental expenses.

It is recognised that the best substitute for a child's own home is a foster home with understanding and sympathetic foster parents. If accommodation of this type cannot be secured the only alternative is a Home under the control of the Board. Two such Homes operate, one at Cootamundra for girls, the other at Kinchela for boys.

When a ward reaches school leaving age, he or she may be placed in employment, under prescribed conditions, which secure for the ward a proper standard of

living and wages. All wards in foster homes and in employment are visited regularly by Welfare Officers to ensure that the provisions of the Act and Regulations are being observed by foster parents and employers.

Of 312 children under control of the Board during the year, 18 were discharged, 148 boarded out with foster parents and 32 placed in employment.

As at 30th June, 1961, there were 41 inmates at the Cootamundra Home for girls and 54 at the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Home. Of these, 13 girls and 15 boys attended High School.

In view of the restricted fields of employment available to wards at Kinchela and Cootamundra, and other features calling for improvement in the Homes, the Board resolved that enquiries be made whether there was any suitable Crown Land in close proximity to Sydney to which the two Homes could be transferred. As a result, the Department of Lands has been requested to set aside an area of fifty acres of land within 40 miles of Sydney on which new homes for Aboriginal boys and girls can be constructed side by side.

LOVE BLOSSOMS

by KATH WALKER

Mrs. Kath Walker, a 41-year-old aborigine of 19 Myrtle Street, Buranda, Brisbane, and who comes from Stradbroke Island in Queensland, has displayed considerable talent as a painter, author and poet.

Now, rather footloose after having been a member of the WRAAC in the Army for some time, Kath feels she has a message to tell on behalf of her people and that is the theme of most of her work.

Soft pale light filtering down
Where earthward moonbeams go,
Sees boy and girl in frustration stand,
With beating hearts aglow.
Boy, tender in his love of her,
Gaze on her slender hand
Nervously caressing cameo
On velvet band.

Sadly she pleads that he
Will understand;
Dare he deny unwritten rules
his society demand?
She sees his true love revealed to her
And in her love for him,
She hangs her head, and wonders why
Their love should be a sin.

Apart, two silhouettes on moonlit ground
Their shadows throw;
While moon in all his wisdom,
Sadly watch the scene below,
And wonders why mankind, so cruel
Insists this love be barred,
Watching, waiting, wondering why
Such beauty should be marred.

Two silhouettes, parted still
With barrier in between,
Stand; and aching hearts beat faster,
As moonbeams light the scene.
Gently, softly, lovingly, her dark hands
Caress his tense white face,
And suddenly, two silhouettes become as one
As they tenderly embrace.

The moon with pale glow shines on
And in its light
Views peaceful scene, as true love
Blossoms in the night.
And, as he in ecstasy sublime
Watch happiness make its run,
Discreetly hides behind a cloud
As he sees loves battle fought and won.

PRODUCTION INCREASES

Mission Publications of Australia

The production of Sunday School materials at the Mission Publications of Australia at La Perouse, N.S.W., is increasing.

Last term 11,300 books were produced, and since production began in February of last year over 31,500 books have run off the press.

This United Aborigines Mission and Aborigines Inland Mission joint project produces Sunday School materials geared to meet the spiritual needs of the coloured people in Australia.

Because of the high spiritual tone and excellent teacher-aids and expression helps, many white churches are now using these materials.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Miles, who are in charge of this department of our work, are ably assisted by Misses Phillips, D. Lennon and Mr. G. Blacket.

Youths from the various churches around Sydney and the local coloured Christians from La Perouse give voluntary help in assembling books after printing.

Because of the increased production, further machinery became necessary. A folding machine, power stapler, electric typewriter and guillotine have been purchased by gifts from friends.

The new print shop, the frame of which was erected by voluntary help, is still incomplete. Painting and other finishing touches need attention.

Tracts, primers (for the illiterate) and other Christian reading matter will be produced when the necessary staff is available.

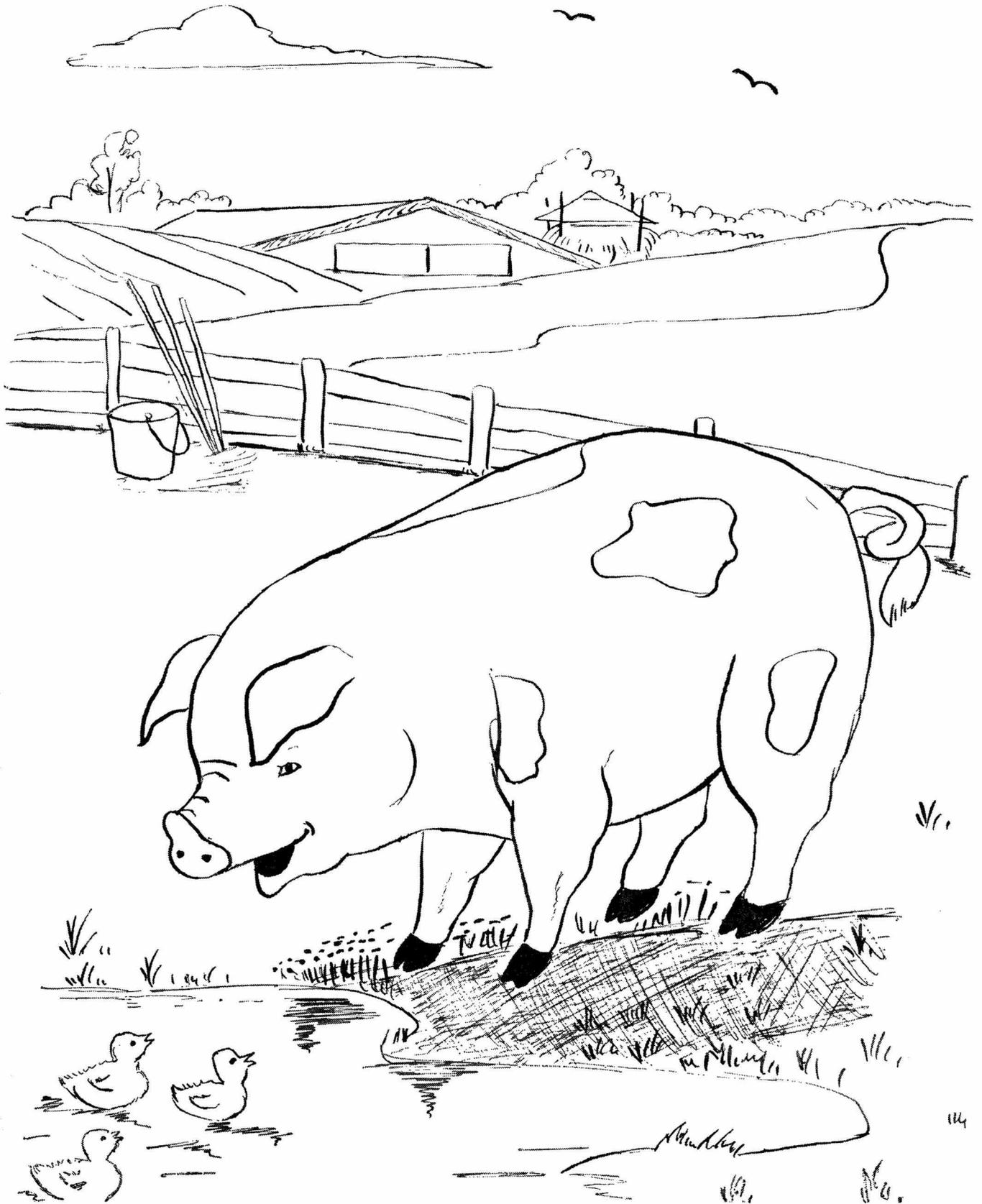
Letters from S.S. Superintendents and teachers give encouragement.

Wrote one grateful teacher, "The lessons are so well prepared. Also the teacher-aids have been a great help to me."

Another writes, "Congratulations on standard of materials. New print and drawings are excellent."

Details of Sunday School materials and future expansion of this work can be obtained by writing to Mr. H. Miles, M.P.A., Adina Ave., La Perouse, N.S.W.

Colour-in This Picture



FOOT HYGIENE

Foot troubles are responsible for much of the fatigue and nervousness that plague the human race. Besides producing a good deal of misery they cause a serious economic loss.

Foot troubles may arise from a number of causes; ill-fitting and too high or too low-heeled shoes; poor posture; improper habits of walking or standing; injuries of various kinds. Concrete and asphalt footpaths and streets are also factors in producing these troubles.

The feet have a very important part to play as they carry the weight of the body and protect it from jarring. The foot bones are held together by ligaments, by tendons from the strong muscles in the leg and by the small muscles in the foot itself. The bones most important for standing and for walking are arranged in two arches which act like springs in the feet.

One arch extends from the heel to the ball of the foot and the other extends from side to side across the foot. As we walk the bones in the arches are pressed closer together and then spread apart again, as our feet are flexed and the weight of the body is transferred from one foot to the other.

With perfect arches we have the spring and elasticity nature intended us to have. With the arches down we have flat feet and their attendant ills. Nature has provided the arches of the feet, the cushions in the knee joints and the cushions also between the bones of the spine to give spring and elasticity. If the arches fail an extra burden is thrown on to the knees. If they are unable to accept this increased load the headaches, backache and irritability associated with spinal disorders are experienced.

Simple exercises such as walking on the outside of the foot, and rising on the toes will develop the muscles that hold the arch. Picking up small objects with the toes, and curling the toes over the edge of a book will also be found helpful. Arch supports should only be used as a last resort and then only at the advice of your doctor.

Like all other external parts of the body the feet should be bathed once a day. Always wash and dry thoroughly between the toes, and wear clean socks or stockings each day.

A common infection of the foot is that known as tinea or athlete's foot. This is caused by a fungus. It occurs usually among young adults and people whose feet perspire freely. In mild cases there is a soft whitish skin between the toes, often with cracks. In severe cases small blisters, raw areas and scaly patches may occur.

Tinea is more likely to occur in damp conditions and is usually caught from bare floors of swimming pools and other places where people walk barefooted.

If your feet perspire a great deal use a drying powder on them, especially between the toes. Ten per cent. boric acid in talcum powder is satisfactory. Wash your feet night and morning and apply the powder.

Ingrowing toenails dig into the flesh on one or both sides of the toe. Faulty cutting of the toe nails and tight fitting shoes may cause this trouble. In cutting the toe nails trim straight across.



Some of Our Folk



**Shirley Binge and Jimmy French,
of Moree**



A bevy of pretty country girls



Hello Kids,

Well, Christmas is a long way off again, isn't it? Do hope you all had a wonderful time. Did you like our special Christmas cover on *Dawn*? How about writing and telling me what you thought of it. There will be some special prizes for the best letter.

I just had a letter from James Ridgeway (18) of 5 Frederick Street, Merewether, telling me he would like some pen friends.

His hobbies are music, jazz, painting and motor cars. How about some letters for him!

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A LETTER FROM LOLA

Writing to *Dawn*, from the Cootamundra Girls' Training Home, 15 years old Lola Edwards says:

Recently I went on a visit which is held every year in July between the school I attend, and Telopea Park High School in Canberra. There were 40 odd of us fitted into a bus, along with our suitcases, because we were going for three days. We had a pleasant trip over, but it was more exciting when we arrived, where we met our billets.

The first day we had athletics, and the ball games, the second day I played basketball against Telopea, along with the other members of the team. Although we did not win, I enjoyed it thoroughly. We won the football, which I am glad to say was the main feature.

That night, which was Friday, we had a dance which was very successful. I sang at the dance, and was very pleased to see the way in which the students of Telopea Park High accepted me, even though I was an aborigine.

All in all I had a very enjoyable time, and I did not want to leave my new-found friends.

I would like pen friends please, any age, in teens; my hobbies are drawing, sketching, and painting, singing also.

(This nice letter wins Lola a special prize!)



This fierce looking Indian is none other than Kenny Watson, of Bungunya, in Queensland

MERVYN BISHOP DOES WELL

Congratulations to Mervyn Bishop on being selected as a Prefect of Dubbo High School for next year. Mervyn will probably sit for the Leaving Certificate at the end of 1962.

Mervyn, who comes from Brewarrina, is a bursar of the Board and is boarding in the Church of England Hostel at Dubbo. Mervyn is also being supported by the Journalists' Aboriginal Group of *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

I guess that's all for now, so until next month,

Your sincere Pal,



In the Garden

Raise Your Own Seedlings

Don't believe any story which tells you it's difficult to raise your own seedlings. It's one of the simplest jobs in the garden—if you go about it properly.

Home-grown seedlings, too, are often preferable to shop-bought ones. You can, frequently, use better seed than the nurseries use; and if you raise them properly, in the sun, you can transplant them on even the hottest day.

Buy the best seed, always—and remember that special seed, at perhaps 2s. 6d. a packet, giving you perhaps twenty dozen plants, is a lot cheaper than seedlings at 1s. 6d. and 2s. a dozen. Most first-class seed shops have special seeds—look for them; and you'll be more than pleased with the result.

Three essential points must be remembered in seedling-raising; use only light, friable soil—never heavy, clayey soil; never bury the seed deeply and never allow the seed box or bed to become dry.

It's easiest to use boxes, about 3 inches deep; but you'll do just as well in a half-shaded patch of light soil in your garden—provided you can give it shelter from rain. Rain washes off the surface soil, and dislodges the seed.

See that the box has sufficient holes or cracks to enable all surplus water to drain away easily; cover the bottom with half-an-inch of stone chips, charcoal, or sharp grit; then fill the box with light, loamy soil, containing almost half sand.

Tramp it down lightly, to level and firm it; and then spread your seed thinly on the surface. If the seed is very fine, mix some sand with it, to facilitate spreading or cover the soil in the box with a fine film of white sand to show you where the seed is falling.

Cover the seed with a very light coating of sieved earth—sieved manure is better—and dip the box gently into water just deep enough to reach the tops of the sides or put it in the laundry tub, and turn the tap on slowly—the water will soak up through the bottom drainage holes, and saturate the soil and the seed.

When it is properly soaked, pull out the plug, and let it all drain away.

Put the box where it will catch all the morning sun, with shade in the afternoon; and keep it damp always, even if you have to water it twice a day.

Pricking Out

Have ready a second box, earthed like the first one; and as soon as the plants are big enough to handle, prick them out, separate them individually, and put them in the second box, an inch or so apart. Do this in the shade.

Leave the box in full shade for two days, and then gradually push it out into the sun, until it can stay there all day (don't forget the watering). When you want to transplant, you can lift them individually from the box, each with a ball of earth attached, and you won't lose any of them, even on the hottest day.

An effective rain shelter for a seed box can be fashioned from a piece of fine wire gauze. Fix it on a frame at a steep angle over the box, and facing the weather. The gauze will let the sun through, but most of the rain, except in heavy wind, will drain off.

Watering

In watering, as an alternative to dipping the box in water, use one of the rubber or metal nozzles which the chain stores stock for damping-down the laundry. Put this nozzle into a sauce or beer bottle; and it will give you a perfect seed-box waterer, throwing a fine mist-like spray which cannot wash out the seed.

Under Glass

In cold districts, and in cold weather anywhere, it will pay to cover a seed box with a sheet of glass, in the sun; but the glass should be removed as early as possible after the young plants come through—if you leave it, the seedlings will become spindly, reaching up to the glass, and they'll wilt quickly when you plant them out.