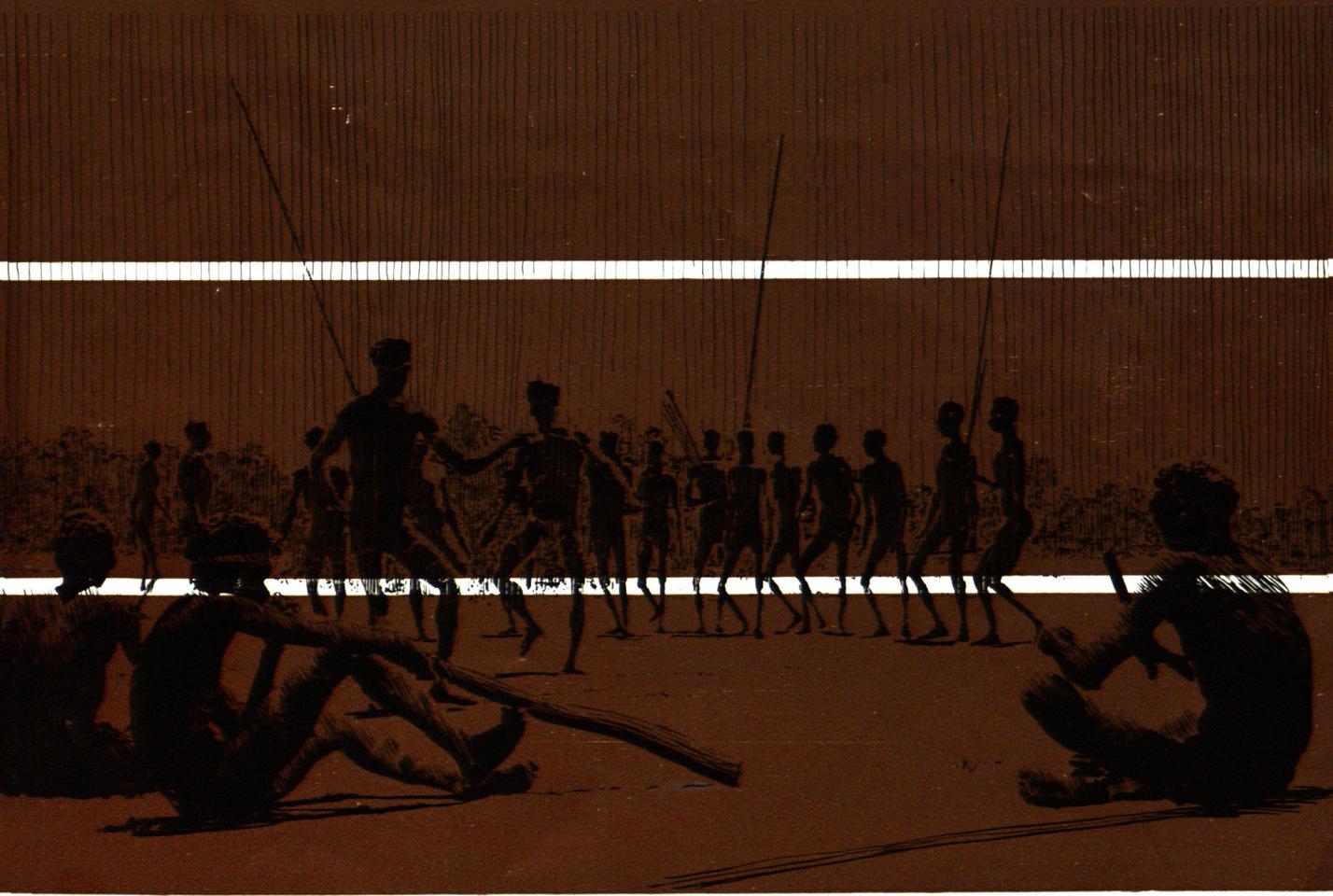


# DAWN

MAGAZINE FOR THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF N.S.W. FEBRUARY 1966





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Front and back covers this month combine two fine drawings from "The Australian Aborigine", Leaflet No. 2, published by The Australian Museum.

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# Coraki Women Receive Unique Awards

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Two Aboriginal women from Coraki late last November became the first in Australia to be awarded helper's certificates under the pre-school training scheme for Aborigines.

Lismore's *Northern Star* newspaper said that the certificates were awarded to Mrs Olga Yuke and Mrs D. Knight by two trained supervisors of the Play Centre Federation of New Zealand, Mrs Hine Campbell and Mrs Mana Rangi.

Mrs Yuke is secretary of the Box Ridge Family Education Centre and Mrs Knight the treasurer.

The centre was formed in May last year, following a visit to Box Ridge by a team of six Maori women, who also conducted the first Aboriginal pre-school training course held in Australia, at Evans Head.

To qualify for the certificates, the women had to complete a series of formal observations and prepare reports.

These were given their final check by the two New Zealand officials in November who then decided whether or not the certificates would be awarded.

The next step for the two Box Ridge women now is to study for an assistant supervisor's course which will involve 12 months practical and theoretical observations of the growth and development of children.

Mrs Campbell and Mrs Rangi were accompanied to Box Ridge by the Sydney University's Department of Adult Education staff tutor for Aboriginal adult education, Mr Alan Duncan.

Before going to Box Ridge, they spent five days at Tabulam where another Aboriginal family education centre was established.

Mr Duncan said an application had been made to the Department of Education to use the school building when it was not occupied for the centre. In the meantime, the centre would use a hall at the Tabulam reserve.

## Need Help

He said the Box Ridge centre was still finding it difficult to establish a permanent building and was meeting under a tree. A small amount of money had been raised through the centre's own efforts towards a meeting hall.

Mr Duncan said it was obvious the Aborigines, despite their willingness to help themselves in this venture, would require aid from some outside organization.

He said the Department of Adult Education at the university was pleased with the success of the Box Ridge centre and it, too, would make an award of suitable certificates to the two women.

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## Smoke Stains on Plaster Can be Removed

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Smoke stains on plaster walls near chimneys are a real problem, but most of these stains can be removed or covered. Don't paint straight over smoke stains because they often "bleed" through new paint.

The stains should be removed or neutralized before painting. Most smoke stains can be removed by scrubbing lightly with a solution of washing soda—about 6 oz to a gallon of water—or one of the proprietary cleaners stocked by paint shops.

Lime water—rock lime (quicklime) slaked in water—is also very effective in many cases. For reasonable cost and effectiveness the well-known sugar-soap type cleaner (sold under various trade names) is hard to beat.

Rinse the surface with clean water after treatment—especially if you have used lime water or washing soda solutions.

Severe smoke stains require more than one application of the cleaning solution; ingrained stains not removed require sealing.

Stain "bleed" through paint can be stopped by first covering the stain with a special anti-tar paint; this method is suitable for tar, creosote and similar stains. Shellac varnish or aluminium paint also can be used, but the anti-tar paint is a primer as well as a sealer.

The wall surface must be allowed to dry thoroughly before any of the sealers are applied.

### Water Stains

Water stains, which often appear on plaster ceilings after rain, can be treated the same way as smoke stains. Rain stains are caused when mud soaks through the plaster leaving an unsightly brown stain. The mud is formed when rain water leaks through the roof and mixes with dust on the ceiling plaster sheets. The dampness associated with the stain causes paint to flake and peel.

Before you begin to repaint or treat water stains make sure that roof leaks have been repaired. It is a good idea to cover ceiling joists with aluminium foil-covered building paper. This paper insulates against heat and cold as well as catching water from leaks that may develop.

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## Death of Mrs Annie Blakeney

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The people of Coraki lost a well loved and respected friend late last September when Mrs Annie Blakeney died after a long illness in the Campbell Hospital, Coraki.

Mr E. R. Leggo, supervisor at Coraki, wrote to *Dawn* about Mrs Blakeney. "She was a very fine old lady," Mr Leggo said, "and was well loved and respected by her own people and the people in Coraki. Her disposition was such that all who came into contact with her found her very easy to get along with and she was always bright and happy.

"I doubt if her correct age is known, but it is estimated at 72 years. She was a full-blood of the old school but was ready to listen to new ideas and did not condemn them without at least talking about them first.

"I feel the loss of Mrs Blakeney very much indeed. She was always ready to talk with me and used to ask me many questions.

"All I can say is that with her passing, this Reserve and town have lost a friend."

# Tribal Aboriginal Culture

MICHAEL SAWTELL

*Michael Sawtell knows a lot about Australia's tribal Aborigines. He grew up with them and travelled the country as they did. For 25 years he was a member of the Aborigines Welfare Board and his earlier experience was of value to the Board and its work. Mr Sawtell wrote to Dawn not long ago giving a few brief notes about the people for whom he has great admiration.*

At 84 years of age I think that I must be just about one of the few last pioneers who knew tribal Aborigines as they used to live in their wild, native culture. When you know Aborigines as I do, their wonderful and wise tribal laws and mystical understanding make you wonder what some people mean by calling them a primitive and ignorant people.

I believe that Australia's Aborigines are the descendants of a highly developed race who came to Australia thousands of years ago. Their many strange myths and corroborees suggest it.

I grew up with Aboriginal boys in 1901 on the Simpson Desert country. Boys are boys all the world over and they will tell other boys much they would not tell men. My boy mates told me all about their complicated marriage laws, how to make rain by magic, smoke signals, and the terrible rite of initiation into manhood.

At night watching sleeping cattle, my friends would tell me in tones of reverence and awe that the Magellan Cloud was an emu with its head hanging down; and that the Milky Way was a track over to a water hole.

A few years later I went to Obagooma country 90 miles north of Derby, at the back of Yampi Sound on the Kimberly coast of Western Australia. There I lived as a lone pioneer "poddy dodger", surrounded by wild cattle and man-killing Aborigines.

What a strange, weird country! Many sacred caves there were filled with symbolic pictures which the Aborigines would not or could not explain to me. All they would say was "Long ago, long ago Womba", meaning that the pictures

were drawn by Aborigines in ancient days. I think all the real symbolic art had died out long before the white man came to Australia.

They told me wonderful stories, and every prominent feature in that hilly country had a legend to explain it. Here is one.

In the gorge on the Trent River is a rock hole that I called the Red Lily water hole. In the middle of it was a large green lily leaf, from which every year blossomed a beautiful red flower. I could see that the rock hole was a sacred place because my Aboriginal friends would not swim in it. So I said to them "What name?", and this is the story they told me.

In the long, long ago, the elders of the tribe said "Don't go in swimming there, for there is an Irriwally (evil spirit) hiding". However, a dry time came and the tribe had to go to the Red Lily water hole to get a drink. Then with much singing and dancing they told me how the tribe disobeyed the law of the tribal elders, and swam there.

One woman named Curri used to swim every morning with a little baby named Umballa on her back. My friends dragged out the story to a great length, telling how kangaroos, emus and all the other animals had to come to the Red Lily water hole for a drink.

The last animal to come was the sly, cruel crocodile, who came in the night when nobody could see him, and dived down into the water hole.

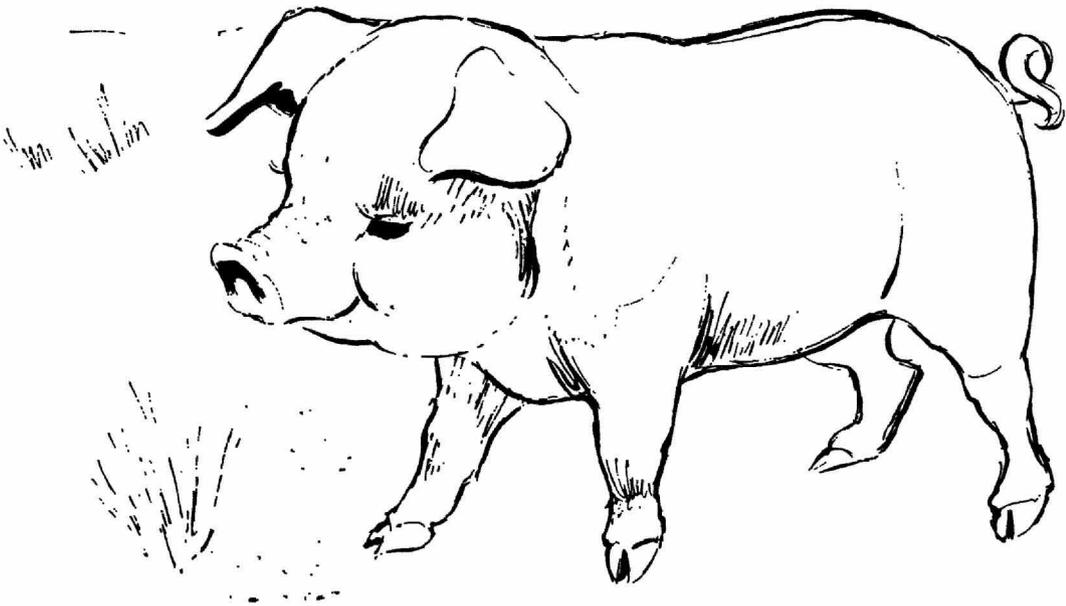
Next morning, Curri and Umballa were swimming when the crocodile seized Umballa and took him down into the water hole and ate him. Then all the Aborigines stood around crying. Curri took up a sharp stone and dived into the water hole.

All the tribe stood around and they could see, by the bubbling water, that a great fight was going on. Then all became still, and they knew that Curri had killed the crocodile but had herself been killed.

When I was there, every year when the red lily bloomed, the tribe would go to the rock hole to chant about the red lily on the broad green leaf, which symbolized the spirit of Curri—still swimming in the rock hole with Umballa on her back.

I think you will agree that the story is beautiful, and how enchanting it was as told and acted to me by wild, tribal Aborigines sitting around a camp fire.

# Colour the Happy Pig



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## **Scotsmen Want Australian Pen-pals**

Scottish boy George Topp wrote to *Dawn* recently asking for pen-pals to get in touch with his club. Here's his letter.

Slughead,  
Cowie,  
Stonehaven,  
SCOTLAND.

Dear Sir,

Some friends and I have formed a pen-pal club and would like pen-pals in Australia, preferably female, aged 12 to 15; hobbies or sports general.

Therefore could you please publish this letter in your magazine Dawn.

If anyone in your country would like pen-pals anywhere else I can easily get them a pen-pal anywhere in the world.

Yours sincerely,  
G. (George) W. Topp.

George said he wanted to write to Australians, so how about you real Australians get to it and tell him all about your country.

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## **Success of Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Council**

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"I am pleased to report that the Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Station Council is at present functioning extremely well," said Mr E. D. Seymour, in a recent report to the Aborigines Welfare Board.

"The president, Mr Bill Riley, and his wife Mavis, treasurer, deserve credit for this," Mr Seymour added.

The Rileys have moved from Murrin Bridge to Euabalong but continue in office and have made every effort to keep the Murrin Bridge council in operation. Mr Seymour said that Mrs Riley spent much of her time collecting donations from

the local residents and people at Lake Cargelligo and Euabalong; the money was for a children's Christmas party.

A dance in the Murrin Bridge station hall organized by the Residents Council last November was a great success, and raised \$110.

Mr Seymour said he attempted to interest the residents in holding dances, social evenings and film nights to raise money for education and outings of the station children.

If people like the Rileys keep up their interest and enthusiasm the council has a secure future.



## More Aboriginal Welfare Staff Needed

says S. Aust. Officer

Mr A. A. Gastonbury, Adelaide district welfare officer of the South Australian Department of Aboriginal Affairs, said in Sydney late last year he was convinced that additional welfare staff—particularly Aboriginal welfare officers—were needed to accelerate Aboriginal advancement.

Mr Gastonbury (pictured above, left) spoke to Mr H. J. Green, superintendent of the N.S.W. Aborigines Welfare Board, before returning to Adelaide after attending a two-weeks social workers conference in Brisbane.

Welfare staff training is one of Mr Gastonbury's responsibilities. He said two members of the S.A. welfare staff were training at the Commonwealth's School of Pacific Administration.

Census returns and a recent population study in South Australia have revealed that from 8,500 to 10,000 Aborigines live in the State; about 2,500 of these people are full-bloods.

While in Sydney, Mr Gastonbury visited the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, and compared notes with Board Superintendent Green.

The work of the 36 welfare officers of the N.S.W. Aborigines Welfare Board seems to be similar to that of their 27 counterparts in South Australia, who work among Aborigines on reserves and in metropolitan areas.

Aborigines in South Australia are free to choose to live in groups or in the wide community.

Mr Gastonbury said he thought group and community development offered better advancement for Aborigines, who varied from near primitive to highly sophisticated.

People living on reserves were hardest to reach, but there had been notable successes, Mr Gastonbury said. The 300 people of Musgrave Park Aboriginal Reserve, in the northwest of his State, had formed the Amata Co-operative Society to mine chrysoprase (a form of jade). (Amata is the Aboriginal name for the Musgrave reserve area.) The venture had been so successful that after only a few months of operation the co-operative had been able to buy a large, new truck.

This is the type of enterprise that Mr Gastonbury feels will handsomely reward the Aboriginal people of South Australia on their road into the general community.

Work prospects for Aboriginal school leavers and adults at Nowra should improve as a result of a meeting of Shoalhaven Shire's Aboriginal Welfare Committee held last October.

Committee chairman Cr B. F. McIntosh (Shire President) told representatives at the meeting that its purpose was "to assist the employment of Aborigines". Mr I. C. Drury circulated a list of the Aboriginal children about to leave Nowra High School and asked the meeting to try to obtain suitable work for them.

One of the industrial companies represented at the meeting was John Bull Rubber. This firm employs several Aboriginal girls and will employ more.

Transport is a problem in Nowra, where factories and offices are often several miles from the centres of Aboriginal population at South Nowra and Wreck Bay.

The Committee will seek ways to iron-out such things as transport difficulties, which make more difficult the finding of suitable work for Aborigines.

## Work Prospects Brighten at Nowra

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The Committee discussed work prospects for two boys and three girls who would leave school at the end of the year (1967). One of the boys may be able to work for Shoalhaven Shire, and the other for the John Bull Rubber Company or in the Shoalhaven Paper Mills plant.

One girl may find clerical work with a Nowra bank, and the other two in positions as hospital attendants locally.

Mr A. L. Thomas, Nowra area welfare officer of the Aborigines Welfare Board, takes a prominent role in obtaining work for Aborigines in his region, and has been invited to join in the Nowra welfare committee's discussions.

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The disease scurvy has been a serious problem throughout the ages, and even nowadays many children are admitted to hospitals each year in New South Wales.

For hundreds of years scurvy was associated mainly with sailors, because they did not have supplies of fruit on board their ships. But in 1757 a Dr Lind discovered that oranges and lemons cured and prevented the dreaded disease. Captain Cook, discoverer of Australia, was the first voyager to use fresh fruit to prevent the disease following an order by the British Navy that all its ships should carry a good supply of lemons and limes.

This practice led to the British sailors being called "limeys", but they were also known as the sailors who did not suffer from scurvy.

In recent times, medical science has shown that it is the vitamin C content of fruit which prevents and cures scurvy.

### Children

Babies fed wholly on cows milk are particularly susceptible to the disease—called infantile scurvy. Cows milk contains no vitamin C. Large doses of

## Scurvy Still Attacks

vitamin C as a supplement produce miraculous results and most child victims are out of hospital within a few weeks.

Vitamin C has been called the "fresh food vitamin" because its content is highest in fresh vegetables and fruits—particularly citrus fruits. Potatoes and leafy green vegetables contribute considerable amounts of the vitamin also.

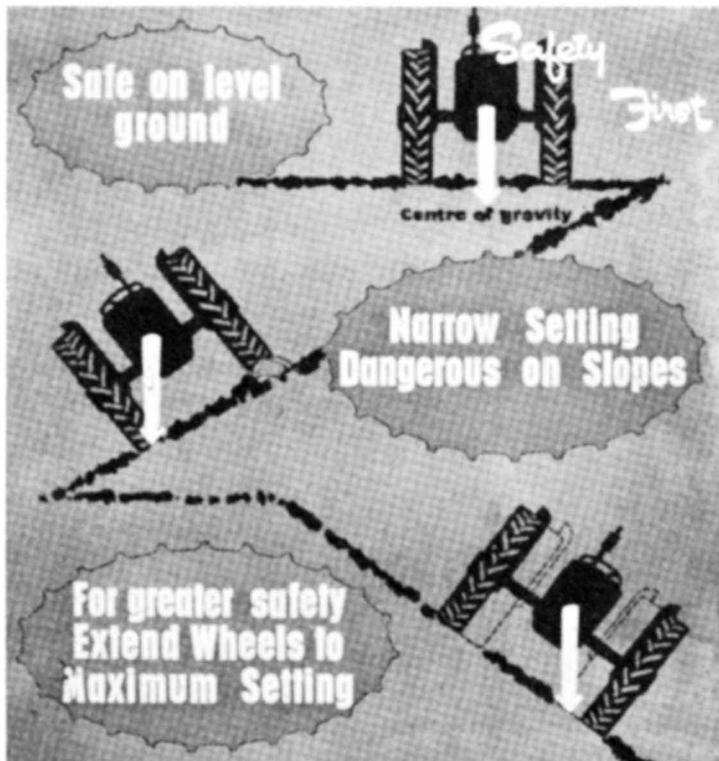
To retain the maximum amount of vitamin C, foods should be selected when they are fresh, and with vegetables, not wilted. They should not be stored in water or cut up too soon before use.

When cooking vegetables, add them to small quantities of boiling water, cover, and cook until just tender. Don't use sodium bicarbonate because it hastens destruction of the vitamin C.

To obtain sufficient vitamin C for your needs, you should include in your diet four servings of vegetables or fruit each day. Remember that citrus fruits and tomatoes are the best source of vitamin C, the anti-scurvy vitamin.

Most people are aware that more than 1,000 people are killed each year in N.S.W. road accidents, but did you know that up to 30 people are killed each year in tractor accidents in the open farmlands of this State? Aboriginal farm workers who drive tractors should look carefully at the safety posters reproduced here and take in their message of safety. It could save your life.

# SAFETY FIRST WITH TRACTORS



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**LOOK  
FOR  
HIDDEN  
OBSTACLES**



Issued by Authority of the King. The Ministry for Labour and Welfare, S.S.W.  
FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL WELFARE BOARD No. 392

**SLOW DOWN  
ON SLOPES**



Issued by Authority of the King. The Ministry for Labour and Welfare, S.S.W.  
FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL WELFARE BOARD No. 377

**ONE  
OVERLOADED TRAILER  
IS TOO MANY**



Issued by Authority of the King. The Ministry for Labour and Welfare, S.S.W.  
FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL WELFARE BOARD No. 325

# Moree Aborigine Honoured

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Mr Alexander Stanley, well known and respected Aboriginal resident of Moree, was honoured late in November when he laid the foundation stone of Moree Services Club's new building.

The *Northern Daily Leader* said that the new club would cost about \$500,000. The *Leader's* report said that Mr Stanley was better known as "Digger". He was born in Queensland on September 5, 1895.

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Before World War I he worked on a cattle station at Chinchilla. When old enough he joined the AIF at Brisbane and was posted to the Light Horse. He sailed for Egypt in the Wiltshire and was attached to the remount depot at Moascar before being posted to the 11th Light Horse Regiment.

The commanding officer of the Moascar depot at that time was the late Major A. B. ("Banjo") Paterson, Australia's famous writer of bush ballads.

After a short time at the depot, Mr Stanley joined his regiment and subsequently saw action at Tripoli and Beirut. Following his discharge, he became a drover and first came to the Moree district in 1921 in charge of a mob of sheep.

He gave away droving after his marriage to a Terry Hie Hie girl, joined the railways and worked on the construction of the Boggabilla line. Mr Stanley retired several years ago.

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## RADIOGRAPHY SCHOLARSHIP

The N.S.W. Branch of the Australasian Institute of Radiography has established a Scholarship for training in radiography, to be awarded to one Aborigine per year.

Radiography is a highly skilled technical occupation in the medical field. The radiographer is responsible for taking X-ray film under conditions which will provide the best diagnostic results. Opportunities for employment as a qualified radiographer are sound: there are excellent opportunities in country hospitals as well as in the city.

The course in radiography is a three-year evening course at Sydney Technical College. The present minimum educational requirement for entry to the course is successful completion of Fifth Form, with passes in English, Mathematics and Science. For students who completed their secondary education under the old (pre-Wyndham Scheme) conditions, the requirement is a Leaving

Certificate with passes in English, Mathematics and Science (Chemistry, Physics or Combined Physics/Chemistry): a pass in Biology is acceptable to meet the Science requirement only if a pass in Physics or Chemistry or Combined Physics/Chemistry has been obtained at Intermediate level.

A further pre-requisite for entry to the course is that the student be employed as a trainee radiographer. The donor organization has undertaken to assist the selected student to find a position as trainee in one or other of the major hospitals in Sydney.

The Institute of Radiography, N.S.W. Branch, is also prepared to assist a selected student to find suitable accommodation in Sydney if necessary. Pay during training should normally cover accommodation and living costs.

The Scholarship will cover all tuition costs for the Technical College course, subject to continued satisfactory progress on the course.

Applications should be submitted to the Secretary, Scholarship Sub-committee, Consultative Committee on Aboriginal Education, c.o. Department of Adult Education, University of Sydney, Sydney, N.S.W. 2006.

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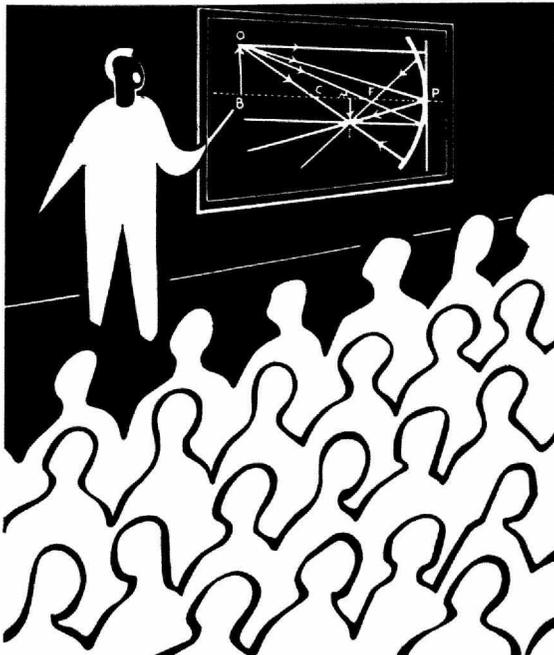
# Your Career TEACHING

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This information about teaching has been extracted from Background to Careers published by the Vocational Guidance Bureau of the Department of Labour and Industry.

Teaching as a profession has always meant much more than the mere imparting of knowledge. Today, in a rapidly changing world, the community's dependence on the teacher is greater than ever before.

**Personal qualifications.** The prospective teacher should have a lively interest in children, and a



sympathetic understanding of them. Enthusiasm, patience, tact and a sense of humour are desirable qualities.

**Training.** 1. Department of Education. The following courses are available: General primary (2 years), infants (2 years), junior secondary (2 years), manual arts (2 years), home science (2 years), needlework (2 years), art (4 years), music (4 years), physical education (3 years). There are university courses (appropriate degree course plus 1 year of teacher training) for teachers of Industrial Arts, Physical Education, and other secondary school subjects (English, History, Mathematics, Languages, General Science, Geography, Economics).

The minimum age for entry is 16 years and the minimum educational requirement is the Higher School Certificate. Matriculation standard is essential for university courses and Physical Education courses and is desirable for junior secondary training. Exceptions to this may be allowed in granting admission for training as teachers of specialist subject or subjects. These applicants must have either passed in English as one subject at the Higher School Certificate standard, or have passed in a special test in oral and written English set by the Department of Education.

Teacher's College scholarships cover all tuition fees and provide a living allowance ranging from \$520 to \$800 a year (living at home or in College Halls of Residence) or \$900 to \$1,200 a year (living away from home). Every student must enter a bond to remain with the Department of Education for a given period (3 to 5 years depending on period of training). Further details may be obtained from the Officer-in-Charge, University Branch Office, Department of Education, University Grounds, Sydney.

Salary scales range from \$2,422 to \$4,036 a year for a 2 years trained teacher, and \$3,262 to \$4,862 for a 4 years trained teacher. The salary range for senior positions in a high school is \$3,362 to \$7,262 a year.

2. Kindergarten Union of N.S.W. conducts a 3-year training course for kindergarten and sub-primary teachers at the Sydney Kindergarten Training College, Henrietta Street, Waverley. Fees are \$150 a year. Commonwealth Scholarships are tenable.

The minimum age for entry is 17 years. Ability to play the piano is desirable. Education to matriculation standard is required. The training is suitable for employment in kindergarten, child centres under the Kindergarten Union (salary

range \$1,664 to \$2,652 a year) and in junior departments of private schools. Graduates may also apply for appointment to the teaching service of the Department of Education.

3. Sydney Day Nursery Schools Association conducts a 3-year course for teachers of children in the 2 to 6 years age group, at the Nursery School Training College, 146 Burren Street, Newtown. Fees for the first two years are \$119.70 a year for day students and \$324 to \$360 a year for resident students. Commonwealth Scholarships are tenable.

The minimum age for entry is 17 years. Ability to play the piano is desirable. The future educational requirement has not yet been decided, but in the past the Leaving Certificate has been required. Graduates are employed in nursery schools (salary \$29 to \$37 a week), kindergartens, private schools and pre-school centres.

4. Teachers' Guild of N.S.W. conducts a 2-years secondary training course open to those who are already engaged in teaching graduates and final year university students. A 3-year primary and sub-primary course is also available. At present this is open to students who have passed the Leaving Certificate (now Higher School Certificate) or whose standard of education is considered adequate by the Guild. Lectures are given out of school hours and fees are about \$25 a term. Students are assisted in finding employment in private schools. Further information from the Registrar, Teachers' Central Registry, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney.

*Further information.* Vocational Guidance Bureau's leaflet *Teaching* and sources mentioned above.

Several Aborigines have successfully completed courses at N.S.W. teachers colleges and are now teaching.

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## What is RHEUMATISM?

Rheumatism is the name which describes several diseases which cause pain in the body's joints, tissues or muscles. The N.S.W. Department of Health says that rheumatism seldom kills people, but if not treated the disease can cause them much suffering.

It can interfere with their work and sometimes can cripple them for life and make them dependent of others.

*Rheumatoid arthritis* is the kind of rheumatism which attacks the joints and may permanently damage them; it is commonly called arthritis. It causes the joints to become inflamed and its effect varies from slight stiffness in the fingers to total crippling.

White, fibrous tissue forms around the cartilage of the joints, and the cartilage eventually may be destroyed completely—accompanied by a progressive weakening of the muscles.

Affected joints become swollen and distorted; sometimes they remain stiff permanently. Arthritis

is aggravated by rapid changes in weather and by dampness and cold.

First signs of rheumatoid arthritis are tiredness, muscle pain and loss of weight and appetite. Painful swelling then begins in one or more of the joints, and pea-size lumps appear under the skin.

A few people recover without treatment, but usually the disease grows worse and needs prolonged treatment.

*Fibrositis* is a kind of rheumatism that causes pain in the muscles and other soft parts of the body. When this disease attacks certain parts of the body, like the small of the back—lumbar region—it is called lumbago; if it attacks the chest it may be called pleurodynia; in the leg and thigh—the sciatic region—it is called sciatica.

All forms of rheumatism seem to be made worse by damp weather, sudden changes in temperature, and by tiredness and overwork.

### Prevention

To prevent rheumatism, make sure that your home is warm and dry, but also well ventilated; try to have healthy working conditions.

Observing the general rules of healthy living can help build up your resistance to rheumatism. If you suffer from rheumatism you need the advice of a doctor.



Following ancient trade routes to the Orient, the French Citroen-Haardt Expedition in 1931-2 made the first motorized journey from the Mediterranean Sea to the Pacific Ocean. The only American with the party was a representative of the National Geographic. His account of the journey, printed in the Magazine, described almost unbelievable obstacles. An avalanche wiped out their trail in the Karakoram Mts. They took the vehicles apart, carried them across the rocky scabble piece by piece and re-assembled them on the other side.



One of the most exhaustive archeological investigations ever made was the eight-year study of Wetherill Mesa in the arid southwestern United States. The Society, working with the U.S. Park Service, sought answers to why the ancient cliff-dwellings were abandoned centuries ago. From their findings the scientists believe an extended drought forced the Indians who built them to leave some 700 years ago.

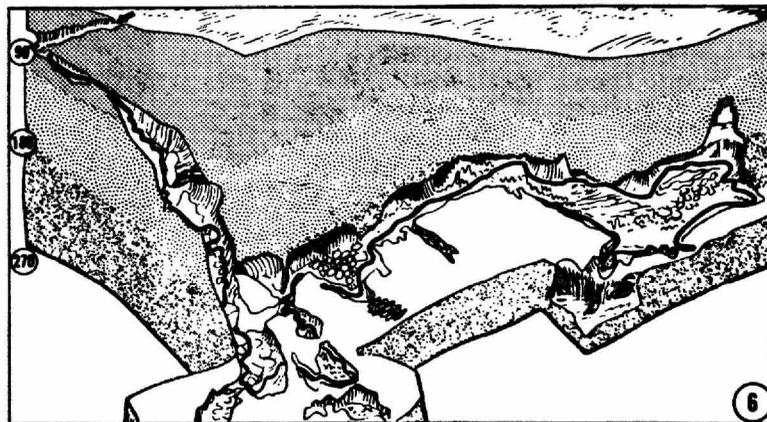


Two British anthropologists, Dr. Louis S. B. Leakey and his wife Mary, are busy searching for links between present-day man and his earliest ancestors. Among fossils unearthed in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania they discovered remains of the oldest known man. Called *Homo Habilis*, or "Man with ability," he lived some 2,000,000 years ago, walked erect and was capable of making stone tools.

## IT'S A FACT-National Geographic Society

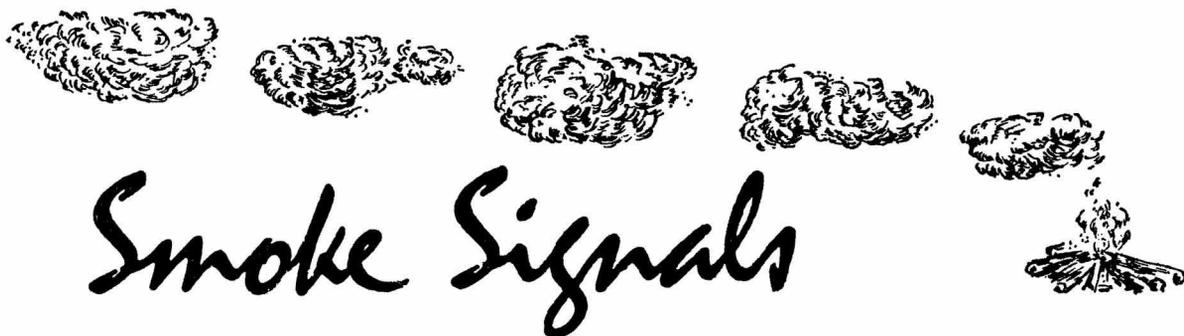


In 1912 a violent volcanic explosion literally blew the top off Mt. Katmai in Alaska. A Society expedition into the area three years later to study the explosion's effect on vegetation, led to the discovery of the *Valley of 10,000 Smokes*. Thousands of columns of sulphurous vapor rose through vents in the valley floor. The entire area is now the largest of the U.S. National Parks.



Another area that became a National Park through efforts of the Geographic Society is the Carlsbad Caverns area. The Caverns are a series of caves that stretch for many miles underground near the U.S.-Mexican border. Many miles of passages have been explored and mapped but there are still unexplored passages. This cutaway view shows most of the 3-mile trail maintained

for visitors. There are over 32 kilometers of less-used trails. The depth of the diagram is 270 meters, the two intermediate horizontal lines indicate the 90 and 180 meter depths. The main chamber averages about 225 meters below the entrance. Millions of bats make their home in one of the caves that tourists seldom visit.



**TIP FOR THE MONTH** When your straw broom wears down on one side, soak it in hot water for about 10 minutes and while it is soft and wet trim evenly with kitchen shears. When it dries out the broom will be as even as new.

► Twenty-four-years-old Dubbo mechanic John Dickerson attended a St John Ambulance first-aid course last year, and saved his own life because of it. Late last year his left arm was dragged into a tyre-stripping machine, which ripped out part of a main artery. Mr Dickerson was working alone and would have bled to death had he not known how to apply pressure to stop the flow of blood until medical aid was available.

► Australia's Aboriginal population totalled 79,620 in the 1966 Census, reports Mr J. P. O'Neill, the Acting Commonwealth Statistician. This figure was 4,311 more than in the 1961 Census. The following State figures cover people with 50 per cent or more of Aboriginal blood: Northern Territory, 21,119; Queensland, 19,003; Western Australia, 18,439; N.S.W., 13,613; South Australia, 5,505; Victoria, 1,790; A.C.T., 96; and Tasmania, 55.

► Harry Carpenter, from Northern Territory, is another Aboriginal to appear in an Australian-made film. Harry and 12 other fullbloods of the Gobaboingu tribe are members of a group of interpretive dancers and musicians, which will tour the United States and Europe this year. During a six-days stopover in Sydney, Harry played the part of a tribal chief in the TV production of "Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo". "Skippy" is being filmed in colour for Australian and world distribution; it has been sold in North America, Europe and Asia.

► Mrs Francis (pictured) grows some whopper vegetables in her Weilmoringle garden. That spinach is 2 ft high, and carrots, cabbages, tomatoes and turnips do just as well. Boggabilla welfare officer Bruce Wilson says that since water was piped to the settlement from the town bore, the Weilmoringle people have been busy in their gardens. The picture of Mrs Francis' garden tells the story best.



► A group of Arnhem Land Aborigines have paid \$2,000 for a 26-ft fishing boat which they plan to use on a commercial basis at Maningrida settlement, at the mouth of the Liverpool River. Northern Territory Administrator, Mr C. L. Dean, said in November that this was an example of the growing interest in private enterprise among Aborigines.

► The undisturbed and almost perfect remains of an Aboriginal buried about 6,000 years ago have been put on display at Melbourne's National Museum. The skeleton was found on the banks of the Murray River, about 30 miles west of Mildura.

#### FROM DUBBO

► Dubbo area welfare officer Harry Kitching sent in these photographs to let us know what's going on up Dubbo way. Photograph at right shows Mesdames Hill and Lake in the gardens of their Dubbo homes recently purchased by the Aborigines Welfare Board. Below is a beautiful picture of Alison Teresa Robinson, granddaughter of Julia Robinson. Baby Alison's mother Janey was too shy to appear in the picture. Below right is a house purchased by the Aborigines Welfare Board for an Aboriginal family at Peak Hill.



► Leon Sampson, a 30-year-old Greek strongman, has bet Darwin businessman John Katapodis \$20,000 that he can eat a standard model car in four years—body, gears, axles and all. The bet is in the form of a legal contract signed and witnessed. The strongman has been trying for some years to get someone to take his bet. Each piece of his car-meal will be witnessed by three people. Sampson, a professional strongman, eats razor blades, electric light bulbs, and bites the heads off six-inch nails, would prefer to eat a new car, but will settle for a secondhand car. "I'll have the car cut into marble-size pieces," Sampson said, "so it'll be easy to digest." He estimated that to consume a late model sedan he would have to eat 2 lb of it a day. Talk about an iron constitution!





▶ Mr D. G. Yates, Armidale area welfare officer, reports that Arthur Widders was awarded the prize for best beard at last year's Armidale Trade Fair. Mr Yates said "Mr Widders, who has always been known for his wondrous whiskers, was an enthusiastic starter. On the final night some twenty entries were judged by Inspector Guyer of Armidale Police and the entries wore dress fitting an historical period." The Trade Fair attracted about 20,000 people. Mr Widders takes an active part in community affairs, and has discovered valuable mineral deposits at Hall's Peak and Aberfoyle. (Photo. courtesy *The Armidale Newspaper Co.*).

▶ Dempsey Knight, the Aboriginal singer from back o' Bourke brought to Sydney recently by a theatrical agent, will star in a film being made for the Cannes film festival. The film will tell of Dempsey's life of poverty as a drover, and show the transition from Aboriginal songs to country and western to sophisticated city singing. Throughout the film Dempsey will sing in his husky, haunting style. His agent, Mrs Dominique Millnick, is training Dempsey for appearances in Europe, where she believes an Aboriginal singer would strike it rich.

▶ The distinguished Aboriginal bark painter, Mawalan, 60, died in Darwin Hospital late last November. He was considered to be the last of the great Aboriginal bark painters. Mawalan was leader of the Rirajingu tribe, in eastern Arnhem Land, and painted several hundred "barks", which, with thousands of others from his tribe and others from Arnhem Land and other parts of Northern Territory, have popularized bark painting throughout the world in the past 10 years. The Northern Territory Administrator, Mr R. L. Dean, said: "Apart from his ability as an artist, Mawalan was a man of great strength and dignity."

▶ Mrs D. J. Hall, welfare officer at Deniliquin, says that the Aboriginal Ladies' Handicraft Group raised \$80 at a street stall late last November to help pay for the 1968 high school education of Jenny Ross. Jenny, who will sit for the School Certificate and hopes to obtain office work, boards at the Country Women's Association Hostel at Narrandera; cost of \$130 has been contributed by the local Lions Club—\$100—and the Deniliquin C.W.A. has contributed \$80 to Jenny's book and uniform costs. Mrs Hall said that the Deniliquin ladies' group, the members of which live in McCauley Street, had made toys to raise money for a Christmas party for 86 children at the local football ground.

▶ Two Melbourne children played "dress-ups" with a bracelet for five days before it was discovered it was worth \$12,000, said the *Daily Telegraph* last November. The wife of a N.S.W. grazier lost the diamond bracelet at a Melbourne ball, and it was found by an organ tuner—who thought it was of little value. The man gave it to his children, who had a wonderful time playing with it, until he read of the loss. A Melbourne insurance company gave the man \$1,000 reward for the recovery of the bracelet.

▶ A policeman in charge of a lost-animal compound in Britain late last year decided to give a taste of the behind-bars life to a dog owner who came to collect his pooch after it had been in the pound for a week. The policeman released the dog, and locked up the owner. "I'm off now," the policeman told the owner. "I'll bring you some food every day." Later, he said, "I only kept him locked up for about 20 minutes. I wanted to teach him how to treat his dog properly."

## Pete's Page

Hello Kids,

I got a letter not long ago from the Bellbrook, via Kempsey, "First-Aid Gang". The children successfully completed a St John Ambulance first-aid course—the first in New South Wales for Aboriginal children.

The first-aiders are Claudette (12) and Barbara Quinlan (14), Fay Smith (12), and Darcey (14) and Lawrence Cohen (11).

One day those children will be very glad they did the course. Sooner or later someone they

*Rhonda Reid, babysitting at Peak Hill*



*Edward Barker, of Weilmoringle, with his sporting trophies and king-size vegetables*



know (or even themselves) will have an accident, and their first-aid knowledge could save a life. How many other children have done the St John course?

Another letter came from Mr Bruce Wilson, welfare officer at Brewarrina. Bruce sent the photo (lower left) of Edward Barker, from Weilmoringle, with his awards for Best and Fairest player in his weight division in last season's Brewarrina district football competition.

And what about those mighty vegetables! The residents of Weilmoringle grew them. The little town, about 60 miles from Brewarrina, produces big vegetables—spinach grows 2 feet high and one turnip weighed  $3\frac{3}{4}$  lb. Mr Bruce Wilson reckons that the Weilmoringle Mighty Midgets football team can't help but continue to win next season if it keeps eating those mighty vegetables.

While we're moving around the State let's look in at Dubbo district. Area welfare officer Mr Harry Kitching sent in a few photos of children in the region.

Send in a photo of someone you know, boys and girls, and see it on this page of *Dawn*.

See how you go with Colour the Happy Pig, on page 4.

'Bye for now kids,

See you next month.

*Pete*

*Jim Hall and Wally Carr, from Warren Shows*



