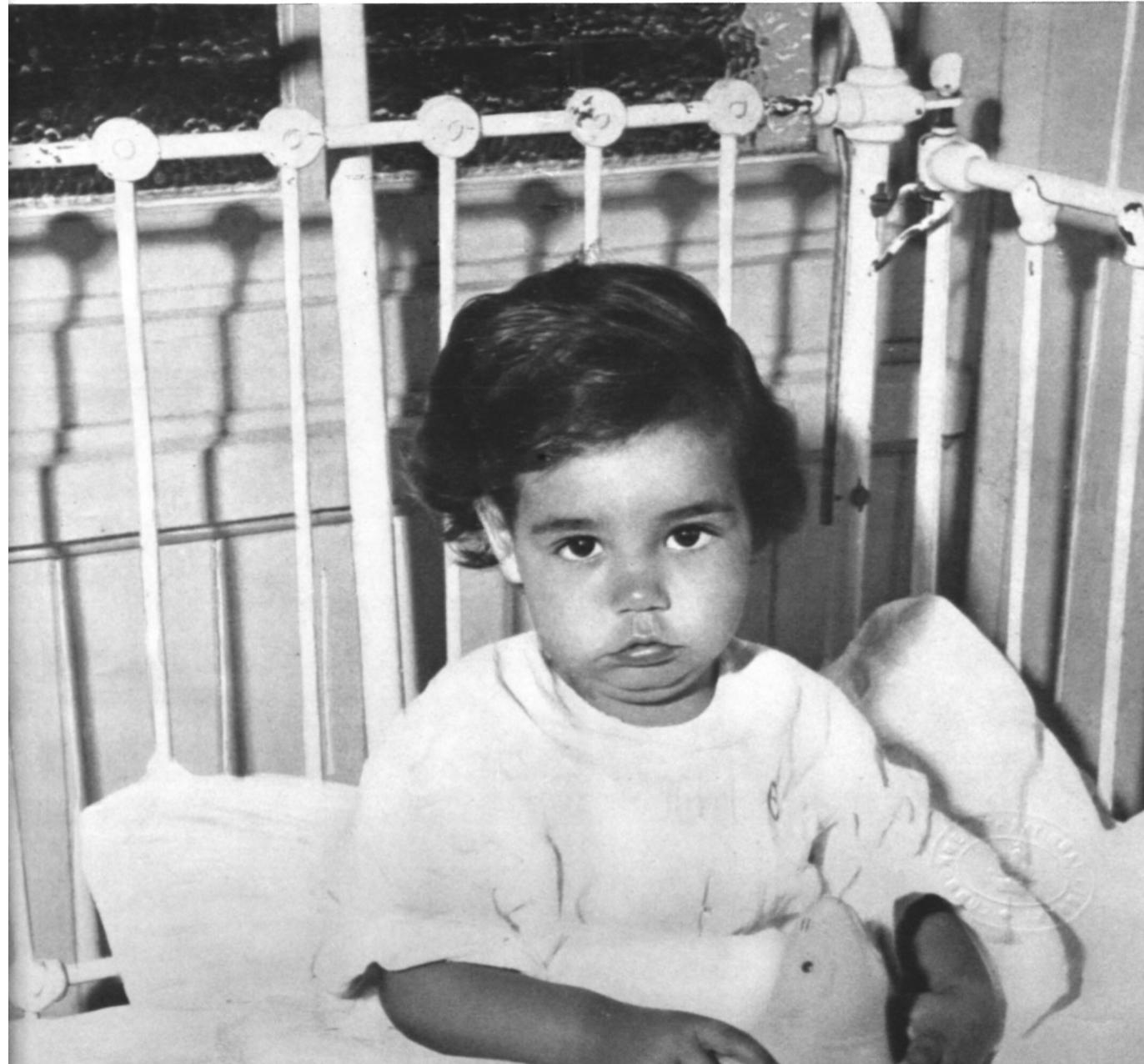




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A MAGAZINE FOR THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF N.S.W.

JANUARY, 1957





Our Cover . . .

This month's Cover Girl is pretty little Marlene Daley, of Tabulam Aboriginal Station. Who could resist the wistful look of this little two-year-old ?



"DAWN"

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

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

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Dawn is 5 Years Old

This month *Dawn* proudly celebrates its fifth birthday.

When it was first created by its present Editor for the Aboriginal Welfare Board five years ago, it was indeed somewhat of an experiment, but time has shown it to be a vital instrument of assimilation in the lives of the aboriginal people of New South Wales.

Today, *Dawn* travels all over the State, to many parts of our vast Commonwealth, and to many countries abroad, and is read with interest and appreciation, not only by the aboriginal people, but by thousands of other people in many walks of life.

When the Editor created *Dawn* five years ago, he called it *Dawn* because he felt its introduction heralded the dawn of a new era for the aboriginal people, an era of education, of understanding and of enlightenment.

We bring you now some of those kind messages that have come to us on our Fifth Birthday. We regret that space would not permit us to publish ALL the letters we received, but to everyone who so kindly wrote us we say "Thank You". We too hope that *Dawn* will see many more birthdays, serving and entertaining the aboriginal people of New South Wales.

. . . The Editor.



Government House,
Sydney,

1st January, 1957.

Dear Sir,

I wish to congratulate you upon the fifth year of the publication of the magazine *Dawn*, which has done so much to interest Australians generally in the welfare of our original Australians.

During the last few years I have been very interested to read the wide range of articles and news, dealing with our native Australians, and through these to understand something of the important work that is being done towards their welfare and general higher standard of living and education.



Sir John Northcott.

conditions of living and their rights as free citizens of Australia.

Much has been done in many parts of this State and it is encouraging to see what improvements have been made in the last few years, but much more must be undertaken all through the Commonwealth before we can really feel that our original Australians are getting all the opportunities that should be provided for them to take their place as free and valuable citizens in the Community in which they live.

This is not an easy problem, but your magazine *Dawn*, during its five years of publication has done much to bring before the Government and other authorities responsible for their welfare the facts concerning their

I wish you every success and encouragement in your further efforts and I am pleased to pay a tribute to an excellent and most interesting publication—*Dawn*.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN NORTHCOTT,
Governor of N.S.W.

The Premier Says:

Dawn, in its four years of publication, has won for itself a unique place in the fields of social service and welfare.

In its endeavours to promote the interests and well-being of our native people, it has accomplished much.

Dawn is a magazine which does not carry any advertising, and yet it is distributed to thousands of persons in Australia and in overseas countries at no charge whatever.

It is a publication which makes the widest possible coverage of items of interest to our aborigines in every age group, and in doing so, it has proved itself a vital instrument of assimilation in the lives of these people.

The N.S.W. Aborigines' Welfare Board is deserving of the highest commendation for the work carried out through this magazine, and in other directions, to gain the active co-operation of our aboriginal people in a campaign to fully equip them to become useful members of society.

In this State, the fullest opportunities are available to all our people, irrespective of race, and the responsibility for one's social and economic position rests fairly and squarely on the individual concerned.

It is a matter of great gratification to the New South Wales Government and to me personally, that our citizens of aboriginal extraction are showing a keen disposition to embrace the opportunities that are made available to them.

I have much pleasure in paying tribute to the splendid work and achievements of *Dawn* during the first four years of its useful life, and in doing so I am confident that the magazine's fine record of service will be maintained in the years to come.

The Hon. J. J. CAHILL, M.L.A.
Premier of New South Wales.

The Chief Secretary Says:

Birthdays are happy occasions as we know from celebrations in our own family. Only recently, too, we witnessed at Christmas, the great family of Christians celebrating the birthday of the Founder of the Christian Faith. As nations, we honour the birthday of our King or Queen and observe the anniversaries of great national events. We can profit too, from such occasions by looking at the progress we have achieved in the past twelve months and making plans for the future.

As Chief Secretary, I am very happy to join in celebrating *Dawn's* fifth birthday which coincides with the beginning of a New Year. I congratulate the

Aborigines' Welfare Board and the Editor, Mr. Davis, on the excellent progress they have made.

Dawn has proved itself to be a vital force in the lives of the aboriginal people since it was founded five years ago. Let us resolve by our joint efforts to make it an even higher source of inspiration and a stronger link between the Board and our aboriginal friends in New South Wales.

C. A. KELLY,
Chief Secretary, Minister for Immigration
and Co-operative Societies.

I've been privileged to read *Dawn* since it commenced publication five years ago and I find it one of the most interesting—and certainly one of the most useful—of the many magazines that come my way.

I send birthday greetings and the wish that *Dawn* may go on for ever.

S. H. DEAMER,

“Granny” Sydney Morning Herald.

* * * *

Dawn has already become such an institution in Aboriginal affairs that it comes as quite a surprise to realise that it is even now only five years old.

The concept of a bright informative magazine catering for the needs of Aborigines, came from the Aborigines' Welfare Board. To its first and only Editor has fallen the task of translating that concept into reality.

A magazine has been developed which, in the half decade of its existence, has created its own special and most important place in the affairs of Aborigines in this State.

I have much pleasure in extending to *Dawn* my congratulations, birthday greetings on its fifth anniversary, and best wishes for the future.

WALLACE C. WURTH,

Chairman,

Public Service Board.

* * * *

Heartiest congratulations to *Dawn*, which is celebrating its fifth birthday. I have read this delightful little paper since it was first published. It is a charming publication and is doing a wonderful job.

J. W. ROBINSON,

Editor,

Newspaper News.

Through your kindness I receive copies of the magazine regularly and have always read them with interest, noting the encouraging progress being made by many individual Australians of aboriginal origin. There is no doubt that the publication of *Dawn* has done a great deal to stimulate among the aboriginal people themselves an interest in their own education and advancement and, at the same time, it has made known to many other well-wishers something about the life of their fellow Australians in New South Wales. May I wish you every success in the continuance of your work.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL HASLUCK,

Minister for Territories.

Parliament House, Canberra.

* * * *

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you and your magazine *Dawn*, congratulations upon the success achieved over the past five years and to hope, upon the occasion of its fifth birthday, that it will continue to meet the needs of aborigines as their own magazine in the years to come.



The magazine has been received in this Department regularly since the first issue. It is bright, entertaining and informative and is perused with interest and appreciation in this office. I have no doubt that each issue is eagerly awaited by the aborigine community.

With best wishes and seasonal greetings,

Yours faithfully,

C. J. DELANEY,

Commissioner of Police.

From the Director-General of Education:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I wish all concerned with *Dawn* the happiest of Fifth Birthdays. In doing so, I am thinking not only of the editorial and management staff but also of the readers who look forward to each issue with such eagerness.

To our aboriginal people, it must indeed carry a message of hope and encouragement. To other readers it brings home the need for a more tolerant and encouraging attitude towards those whose ancestors were in this country before the dawn of western occupation.

Let us hope that future volumes will carry with them a story of continued progress, a happy development of the assimilation of our dark children into the schools of the State, and evidence of aboriginal people taking a prominent place in the life of the community.

Dr. H. S. WYNDHAM,
Director-General of Education.

The Board's Chairman Says:—

With the publication of this issue, *Dawn* will be five years old, and a healthy, strapping five years at that.



In its short life it has been praised, not only by the aboriginal people for whom it is primarily published, but by citizens in many walks of life. Its fame has reached other lands for people outside Australia have asked the Board to send *Dawn* to them regularly.

When the idea of a monthly magazine for the aboriginal people was first put forward several years ago, it was realised right from the beginning that if the magazine were to succeed it would need the services of an experienced journalist as editor. The Board was indeed fortunate in securing Mr. Davis for this important task.

But what of the future? None of us can afford to rest on our laurels or to stay in a "rut". We cannot settle down into a comfortable way of life because living means that we must be continually working and striving and, more often than not, changing or adapting so as to move with the times. In short, we must be thinking all the time of changes and improvements and what is true of ourselves as individuals is true of any enterprise such as *Dawn*.

Will you tell us then what you think of our magazine on its fifth birthday? Would you like to see some changes made and, if so, what are your suggestions? The Board and Mr. Davis will be pleased to receive them and you can be certain that they will be very sympathetically considered.

On this, the fifth birthday of *Dawn*, let us with the help of the aboriginal people, resolve to create an even better *Dawn* so that on its tenth birthday we can look back with even more satisfaction than we have on its fifth anniversary.

C. J. BUTTSWORTH,

Chairman, Aborigines' Welfare Board and
Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department.

I would like to say how much I look forward to receiving each issue of *Dawn*. It is full of real interesting and most attractively presented reading matter. Of special appeal are the many delightful pictures—of the athletic young men, the attractive girls and the healthy children.

In its five years of existence, *Dawn* has surely been a strong influence in the assimilation of the Aboriginal people and a source of great information about them to its thousands of other readers.

Dawn's remarkable collection of "home hints" and its notes on child welfare are the best I have seen anywhere.

May it have many returns of its fifth birthday.

Yours sincerely,

JOYCE JAMES,
Editor,
The Anglican

* * * *

It is a pleasure to offer birthday greetings and congratulations to your magazine. I have read *D* regularly since its first issue appeared five years ago and have appreciated the friendly spirit and imaginative approach that have characterised every page. Friends, both here and overseas, to whom I have shown copies have admired, as I do, the splendid work your magazine is doing.

May your success continue in the years ahead.

F. H. ROWE,
Director-General,
Department of Social Services
Melbourne.

* * * *



☆
Dawn is bringing pride and assurance to the dark people of our country. It will help them to make better use of their many gifts of skill and character.

A. HULLS,
Editor, "1

☆



ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The children, of Cootamundra Girls' and Kinchela boys' Homes, acknowledge with many thanks, the gift by Miss E. Langhorn, of 14 Hale Road, Mosman, of decorations for their Christmas Trees. The decorations are the work of Miss Langhorn's own hands and indeed added lustre and brilliance to the trees.

It is intended to keep the decorations for future festive occasions.

Such interest in the Children's Homes is much appreciated.

* * * *

ANOTHER SMOKE SIGNAL FROM LA PEROUSE.

During the month of November, a committee of the aboriginal residents ran four dances in the La Perouse Recreation Hall, to raise funds for the Christmas party for the children. Mr. H. W. Jeffery played no small part in the organisation of the dances.

The Apex Club, of Randwick, also assisted to a very large extent by supplying the band and the supper for the first dance. For the other three dances, the supper was provided from funds which were especially raised. Ten pounds was raised from the sale of a large boomerang, and the following is a result of the people's effort for the four dances:—

	£	s.	d.
Total takings ..	73	12	10
Total expenses ..	27	17	10
Cash in hand ..	45	15	0

A very active committee was organised for the Christmas party in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. E. Foster, Mrs. M. Stewart, Mrs. L. Cooley, and the three Miss Fosters. Mrs. Foster was the Secretary.

Dawn congratulates La Perouse on their splendid effort. It only goes to show what can be done.



A December Thriller!

COOTAMUNDRA GIRLS RECEIVE PLEASANT SURPRISE.

On behalf of the girls at Cootamundra Home, *Dawn* extends thanks to Miss Brenda Geldard, granddaughter of the Secretary, Mr. Mullins, for her handsome gift of a dolls' house which arrived unexpectedly on 21st November. The House occupies a place of honour on the Home verandah and the children look forward to spending many happy hours with it. It is quite a large house, standing nearly 4 feet high, and the four rooms, hall and staircase, have been newly carpeted and decorated in modern pastel shades. We understand that grandpa built it for Brenda and that gives it added value.

If any readers of *Dawn* have any items of furniture—dolls' size, of course—they will be very acceptable. They can be forwarded to—

The Matron,
Girls' Training Home,
Cootamundra.

and will be suitably acknowledged.



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.



Joan Whitton, of Moree, found a good way of cooling off.



Mrs. Beatrice Mercy, of Woodenbong.



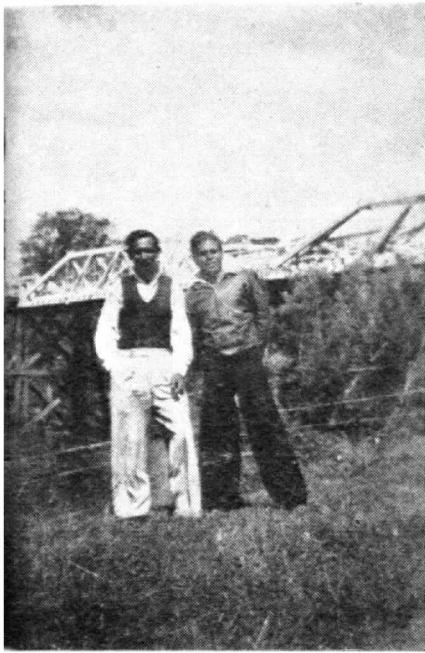
Wallace Mansell, of Woodenbong has a chat with Gertie Williams



The Ladies get together! Mrs. Burmine and Daphne Edwards, of Tingha, with Aileen Scott, of Bellbrook.



Fun at the Seaside! Mrs. Edna Daley, of Tingha, had a busy time looking after son Peter when she took him to the beach.



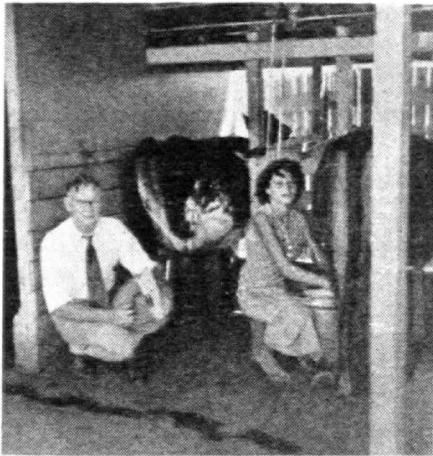
Ted Thomas and Albert Scott, of Wallaga Lake.



The Kelly Gang! Marjorie, Betty and Michael Kelly, of Burnt Bridge.



This is Hilda Baxter, of Robinale.



Pat Cook (16) on Mr. Crother's dairy, at Coff's Harbour, which she and her brother share farm.



Among the blackberries. Olive Strong, of Guyra.



Don Green, of Ashford, spraying tobacco at Texas.



Marjorie Davis, of Burnt Bridge.



Ross Connors, Olive Strong and Harvey Connors, of Guyra.



LA PEROUSE.

CHRISTMAS SPORTS AND PARTY.

On Saturday, the 22nd December, a Sports afternoon and children's party was held on the Reserve at La Perouse.

Responsibility for the preparations and actual carrying out of the programme rested entirely upon the people of La Perouse. The function was a complete success and great credit is due to the organisers.

Throughout the year, various functions had been held and a considerable sum of money raised to provide prizes, presents and refreshments for this occasion.

Races and other outdoor games were organised and a comprehensive programme successfully carried through by Mr. Harold Stewart and his assistants. The sports were conducted without a hitch and in a most orderly fashion.

The Recreation Hall was tastefully decorated and a sumptuous repast set out by Mrs. Doris Foster and a team of willing helpers.

Besides providing a most enjoyable time for the young people, the function illustrated the initiative and ability of our aboriginal folk to plan and conduct their own affairs.

Further instances in other places throughout the year, clearly demonstrate that there are many among our people who have the ability to take their place among their white fellow-citizens in different aspects of community organisation and responsibility. I hope to see a growing realisation of this on the part of our own folk and, what is more, a recognition of this fact by members of the white community.

I am satisfied that the day will yet come when, from among our people, there will be those who will play a worthwhile and responsible part in the affairs of our wonderful country.

Congratulations and all good wishes to the La Perouse people and those from other places who have done such wonderful work.

M. H. SAXBY,
Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare.

Scholarship Available

For the information of High School pupils and for former students of secondary schools, it is advised that a scholarship—the first of those to be awarded annually by the Melbourne University Council and endowed by the National Union of Australian University Students—will probably be available for 1957.

The scholarships are open to Aborigines qualified to undertake University courses and will be tenable at any University. The emoluments and tenure will be determined by the University Council.

Application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Melbourne, Carlton N3, and completed applications should be returned to reach the Registrar by 1st February, 1957.

Even if not eligible this year, every aboriginal boy and girl student should keep in mind this golden opportunity of gaining a university scholarship.



What a team! Rex Williams, Jeff Phillips, Norrie Williams, Aussie Williams, Col Hickling, and Clifford Williams, all of Tabulam.



OUT BACK

The old year went, and the new returned, in the withering weeks of drought ;
The cheque was spent that the shearer earned, and the sheds were all cut out ;
The publican's words were short and few, and the publican's looks were black—
And the time had come, as the shearer knew, to carry his swag Out Back.

*For time means tucker, and tramp you must, where the scrubs and plains are wide,
With seldom a track that a man can trust, or a mountain peak to guide ;
All day long in the dust and heat—when summer is on the track—
With stunted stomachs and blistered feet, they carry their swags Out Back.*

He tramped away from the shanty there, when the days were long and hot ;
With never a soul to know or care if he died on the track or not.
The poor of the city have friends in woe, no matter how much they lack
But only God and the swagman know how a poor man fares Out Back.

He begged his way on the parched Paroo and the Warrego tracks once more,
He lived like a dog, as the swagmen do, till the Western stations shore ;
But men were many and sheds were full, for work in the town was slack—
The traveller never got hands in wool, though he tramped for a year Out Back.

In stifling noons when his back was wrung by its load, and the air seemed dead,
And the water warmed in the bag that hung to his aching arm like lead.
Or in times of floods, when plains were seas, and the scrubs were cold and black,
He ploughed in mud to his trembling knees and paid for his sins Out Back.

And dirty and careless and old he wore, as his lamp of hope grew dim ;
He tramped for years, till the swag he bore seemed part of himself to him.
As a bullock drags in the sandy ruts, he followed the dreary track,
With never a thought but to reach the huts when the sun went down Out Back.

It chanced one day when the north wind blew in his face like a furnace breath
He left the track for a tank he knew—'twas a shorter cut to death ;
For the bed of the tank was hard and dry, and crossed with many a crack ;
And, oh ! it's a terrible thing to die of thirst in the scrub Out Back.

A drover came, but the fringe of law was eastward many a mile ;
He never reported the thing he saw, for it was not worth his while.
The tanks are full and the grass is high in the mulga off the track,
Where the bleaching bones of a white man lie by his mouldering bag Out Back.

For time means tucker, and tramp they must, where the plains and scrubs are wide,
With seldom a track that a man can trust, or a mountain peak to guide ;
All day long in the flies and heat the men of the outside track,
With stunted stomachs and blistered feet, must carry their swags Out Back.

—Henry Lawson.

FROM HERE AND THERE !

WHERE IS MRS. ROWLINGS ?

The Director of Native Affairs, Brisbane, is anxious to learn the address of Mrs. Rowlings, nee Williams, in connection with the death of a Charles Francis on 4th February, 1956.

It is understood that Mrs. Rowlings, who is the only known living relative of the deceased, visited him just before his death.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Mrs. Rowlings is asked to advise the Secretary, Aborigines Welfare Board, Box 30, G.P.O., Sydney.

* * * *

NEW ROAD FOR BELLWOOD.

The Nambucca Shire Council, in conjunction with the Forestry Commission, recently constructed a road through the Bellwood Reserve at Nambucca Heads. A new road has been cut and formed below the School, and the road from the School has been regraded and remade.

The Board is very appreciative of the Council's co-operation and assistance, and on behalf of the people of Bellwood, extends thanks to all those concerned.

* * * *

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS

The Superintendent offers a prize of £1 to the aboriginal school boy or girl who sends in the longest list of aboriginal place-names in New South Wales, together with the English meaning.

The Competition closes on the 1st March, 1957. The winning entry will be published in *Dawn*.

Send in your list early and try to win the prize.

* * * *

SUPERINTENDENT VISITS TABULAM.

The Superintendent recently visited Tabulam and was impressed with the efforts made by residents to improve their homes. It was pleasing to see colourful flower gardens and neat lawns. In some cases, vegetable gardens were flourishing and the Station generally presented a tidy and pleasing appearance.

The residents are to be congratulated on their efforts, the results of which must be a source of extreme satisfaction to them. Other Stations might well follow their example.

Congratulations to the Tabulam folk !

SANTA CLAUS ALMOST MISSED OUT.

(A Brewarrina Drama.)

There were 71 happy smiling faces at the Christmas Party on Brewarrina Station.

All the good things to eat, some provided by the parents, soon disappeared to show the bare tablecloths beneath.

Gallons of cool drink too, went the way of all good things, and it was an arm-breaking task for the helpers to keep the kiddies' mugs filled.

The arrival of Father Christmas depended on the arrival of the train, not that he was coming that way. Father Christmas usually has his own mysterious way of coming as we all know. The reason for this was that he had to bring the ice cream which came on the train from Dubbo !

However, the train was late, something we thought only could happen in the floods. Everybody then adjourned to the lawn, and sung carols conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Ferguson. Music was pleasantly supplied by young Douglas Ferguson. It was whilst singing "Come all ye Faithful" that the Methodist Sisters arrived with their junior church members. We all enjoyed the Christmas play that they so kindly put on for our benefit.

Still there was no sign of Father Christmas, in spite of search parties going out for him, and as the children were getting impatient and the hour was getting late an S.O.S. was put out for a deputy. Of course he arrived in the usual mysterious manner and began the eagerly awaited pleasure of giving out the presents.

Whether anyone had guessed the identity of Father Christmas, who was indeed a jolly fellow, I do not know, for he knew every child's name. He was indeed a well informed Father Christmas or so we thought. It was a remarkable thing that amongst all the chatter and laughter there was a moment of silence, well almost silence, when a small voice piped up, "That's not Father Christmas that's my Daddy," And then of course we knew.

Well, I suppose one Father Christmas is as good as another so long as he delivers the presents. One of the oldest "children" to receive a present was old Marie Boney. Marie did a good job of housekeeping when her daughter Edie was in hospital recently and we all thought she at least deserved the present she got, a pipe.

Xmas Party at Wreck Bay

Although quite a number of parents and children were away from Wreck Bay Station engaged in pea picking at Bega, those who remained had a wonderful time at the annual Xmas Tree party and presentation of prizes.

Prize books were presented to the lucky winners by Mr. Maffesoni of Jervis Bay.

At the official table were Mr. Maffesoni, the Station Manager Mr. J. Heaney and Mrs. Heaney, the Headmaster Mr. J. Gersback and Mrs. Gersback and the Assistant Teacher Mr. J. Wright.

When Santa Claus eventually arrived every child received a lovely present and then Santa led the way in community Carol singing. In no time at all everyone was having a marvellous time.

At lunch time all the children took part in a very substantial party with good things galore supplied by the School Parents and Citizens Association and Jervis Bay tradespeople.

Prize winners for the year were :

Sixth Class—

1st Place : Eddie Bloxsome.

Most Improved : Beverley Pittman.

5th Class—

1st Place : Colleen Moore.

Most Improved : Phyllis McLeod.

4th Class—

1st Place : Eileen Pittman.

3rd Class—

1st Place : Chris Bloxsome.

Most Improved : Maureen McLeod.

2nd Class—

1st Place : Patsy Brown.

Most Improved : Harry Pittman.

Kindergarten—

Best Boy : Robert Chapman.

Best Girl : Paula Ardler.

Sewing—

Pauline Thomas.

Neatest Books—

Upper Division : Lurline Moore.

Lower Division : Patsy Brown.

Good Conduct, Lower Division—

Eric Ardler and Joy Thomas.

Consistent Good Work in 3rd Class—

Ken Brown and Elaine Ardler.

* * * *

MICHAEL SAWTELL

Michael Sawtell, well-known author and traveller, and Member of the Aborigines Welfare Board, certainly gets about.

In the last few weeks he has spoken to many Rotary clubs and schools, appeared on television twice and now gone off to Central Australia on his annual "Walkabout", as he says "to gather more information for my talks and keep myself up-to-date".

An Appreciation

The December issue of *Dawn* was really par excellence.

The article by Eva Somner on the "Helping Hand" relative to assisting full-blooded aborigines to obtain citizen rights which are granted to "whites" is worth reprinting in all Australian and overseas newspapers and magazines.

As one who, in 1908, was chaplain to the aborigines at Coomergunja Station on the Murray River in New South Wales, I know, that if given the opportunity, full-blooded and half-caste aborigines do make good citizens.

They are not so unclean and objectionable as some callous critics would make out.

I hope that *Dawn*, which is read with interest by scholars will succeed in bringing about a better state of affairs for our Native people.

A. W. Jinks (Dpl.),
North Stockton.

• * • •

Christmas at Condobolin

There was an air of excitement about Condobolin Aboriginal Reserve just before Xmas when the annual Xmas Tree party was held.

Santa Claus had a gift for everyone, young and old, from the tree and every one of the 200 adults and children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Santa paid a special visit to little Mona Knight who managed to get the measles the day before the party, and although she couldn't eat much of the lovely food she did enjoy the lovely doll she received.

Residents of the Reserve extend their thanks to the Methodist Ladies Guild and the Condobolin Apex Club for their donations of £5 each and to the various stores and business houses who also made donations.

• * * *

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Nicholls, of Condobolin, on the birth of a bouncing baby boy. What a nice Xmas present!

• • • •

The Christian Endeavour folk from Parkes visited the Condobolin Reserve early in December and gave the children a very lovely Xmas Party. There must have been plenty of good things to eat for someone heard little Eugene Goolagong say he had to walk away and leave the cake.

* * * *

The Lachlan River is very popular again now that it has returned to normal and particularly these hot days. Some of the Condobolin boys and girls are very good swimmers and would do well in competition.

Ambitious Plans to Assist Aborigines

Apex Club Makes Big Move

Randwick Apex Club has an ambitious scheme well in hand for the social assistance of aboriginal people in the surrounding district, particularly in the La Perouse area.

The Apexians feel that there is much that can be done, and indeed, should be done, to assist the aboriginal people, particularly if the aboriginal people themselves are prepared to offer co-operation, and their efforts now are directed towards the investigation of how, when and where they may best proceed.

Already the Randwick Apex Club has four projects either already under way or being considered. They are—

1. They have approached Randwick Council regarding the pegging out and levelling of a recreation ground at La Perouse. The Council has agreed to this and now the Apexians intend erecting a fence round the area.

2. As soon as it is practicable, efforts will be made to establish a Community Hall. Naturally, this is dependent on the support received outside the Apex Club, but tentative enquiries reveal that leadership in this direction will command attention and practical support from other organisations and business houses.

3. The erection of a shark-proof net on the La Perouse beach known as the Big Congie, and the provision of dressing sheds.

4. Assistance in the organisation of a Xmas Party for the aboriginal children in the locality.

The Randwick Apex Club was fortunate in having the assistance of Mr. McMillan, Headmaster of the La Perouse Public School in the compilation of the necessary data required.

In a most interesting report submitted to Randwick Apex Club, Mr. McMillan said

It is with feelings somewhat of trepidation that I approach my subject, as I feel that much of my material is not necessarily backed by scientific data and relies upon observation and supposition alone. However, my boyhood was spent in country centres and for more than twenty years my teaching experience has been centred in country towns, where the aborigines have formed part of the community, and I



have always exhibited more than a mere passing interest in their welfare.

Possibly it might be fitting if we were to approach our subject from the point of view, firstly, of the place in the community of the school (and hence the *juvenile*), then the *adolescent* and finally the *adult*.

The school naturally focuses our attention upon the one at La Perouse.

In 1950, my Departmental Inspector suggested that I might be interested in accepting an appointment to that centre. It was pointed out that amenities and equipment were practically nil, but that the Department of Education had promised to provide a modern building with full scope for experimentation and for the institution of ideals.

It was felt that the offer made was in the nature of a challenge and, principally on that basis, acceptance was made.

The early days were ones of frustration and disappointment.

Seven dilapidated buildings—overcrowded, unsuitable and depressing—were sufficient in themselves to kill any spark of optimism in pupil and teacher alike.

Equipment was wholly inadequate, whilst conditions for hygiene were crude.

No wonder there was little in the nature of enthusiasm or even of interest. In keeping with the general surroundings the pupils showed a lack of pride in personal appearance, tidiness and cleanliness generally. (Please do not imagine that this is a reflection upon my predecessor, an estimable teacher and firm friend of the folk in the locality). It was the environmental set-up which was to blame.

What of the pupils themselves ?

It was necessary to call the staff together and get down to bedrock. We reviewed the whole position and formulated a policy that we undertook to prosecute assiduously in an endeavour to lift the overall morale and provide the means for the inculcation and practice of good citizenship.

FIRSTLY it was necessary to create within the individual a spirit of self reliance and dignity.

SECONDLY that personal behaviour and personal relationship should be according to the Golden Rule and other maxims of Christian behaviour. That cleanliness—personal hygiene and pride in one's appearance are necessary social attributes—their absence could raise barriers.

THIRDLY, that we should lead them sufficiently along the road to success in some field at least, whereby they would win recognition from others, and to build up a feeling of personal confidence in place of the natural one of inferiority so apparent amongst the aborigines in particular.

FOURTHLY, to widen their horizons by taking them further afield—beyond the isolation of the La Perouse Peninsula, so that their contact with the outside world would help remove inhibitions arising from life in a sheltered community.

Allied with this proposition every endeavour was to be made to introduce visitors to our school.

We do not wish to weary you with all the details of our early crusades.

The city bookshops responded to appeals for library books—a collection of worthwhile pictures was begun—adequate equipment for self activity was gathered—handwork material was obtained and interest in pottery, book-binding handcrafts such as basketry, leatherwork, puppetry, etc., meant that new avenues of interest were opened up.

It was realised quite early that the natural prowess displayed in sporting activities provided a clue for boosting the morale of the individual, the team, and the school. All possible branches of sport were pursued. Care was taken to have our teams arrayed in first rate attractive uniforms. The parents co-operated readily—the project assumed community importance. As successes followed, so did the enthusiasm lift, whilst confidence and pride of achievement became evident. *The tone was on the rise.*



Then came the new building. We had many feelings of trepidation. How would children from an underprivileged area with no training and background, treat a modern building with pastel-coloured walls, glass and new furniture.

Would the food-preparation room be a nine days' wonder and then become a white elephant?

There was no need for worry! The response has been magnificent and points a moral for critics who decry the provision of such amenities in sub-standard areas.

With the new school came the chance for our cultural idealism.

The library, though not sufficiently equipped—the Assembly Hall with its puppet theatre, piano, movie projector, stage and venue for dramatic work, choir and dancing—adequate space for pictures of artistic merit—suddenly became a reality. The uplift was instantaneous. A new zeal and enthusiasm spread through the staff and pupils alike. There was no need for repression now, there was every opportunity for expression and for the satisfaction of the diversity of human interests. Problems relating to absenteeism, irregularity of behaviour and disinterestedness were fast disappearing and in return children had to be hunted out of classrooms and had to be sent home from school after the day's work was done.

Again, the brightness and newness were reflected in the improved appearance and attitude of the children. Work in keeping with the surroundings became the order of the day; pride in achievement replaced casualness and the old spirit of *laissez-faire* . . .

A new deal in a very tangible form, was the provision of suitable and adequate toilet facilities—a septic tank system replaced the old objectionable one of pans (there is no defacing of lavatory walls and problems relating to outhouses is nil).

The improved health of our school has been striking proof of the soundness of planned amenities. The provision of free milk, the supply of suitable lunches and food from the Oslo Lunch Room has resulted in the disappearance of once familiar sores and now we have the presence of youngsters who, without doubt, appear just as sturdy as those in more favoured parts of the Metropolitan area.



One problem however, still worried us. There was a general reluctance, amongst those ready for post-primary education, to leave La Perouse. Should WE embark upon post-primary activities within the school, or make a bid to have them attend the neighbouring secondary schools. Obviously the child's own welfare was bound up in the latter course. It was necessary to issue an edict at the beginning of 1954, that the selected scholars MUST GO to their appointed schools at Daceyville, Maroubra, etc.

Fortunately, due largely to the fact that they were moving in group formation and also as they were known in those centres from football, basketball, soft-ball activities, they took the leap. (We made certain beforehand that their reception at the appointed centres would be most cordial.)

To-day they are accepted as normal pupils in those centres and the younger pupils with us accept the fact that these secondary schools are part of their heritage and the old reluctance of meeting this new situation has vanished. (Something will be said along these lines when we later mention the "new horizon" problem of employment).

Have we any assessment at all of the *value* of our attempt and experiment? On the grounds of objective evaluation, and we assure you for that reason alone, we claim your indulgence by reading an extract from the last official observation recorded by Head Office Inspectors on the conduct of our school.

"The school is meeting the need of the community very well.

It is having a tremendous influence for good in the lives of the children, many of whom have suffered from underprivilege, neglect, irregularities of family life and lack of direction.

School policy has concentrated on—

- (1) personal care and self respect;
- (2) humanising, civilising and socialising influences;
- (3) sport;
- (4) basic skills and interests.

It is considered that great successes have been achieved particularly in the first three respects. In the fourth good progress has been made when one takes into account all the difficulties as they are described in detail in the school report"

Thus in the first place, at the expense of wearying you, we have presented the picture as it concerns our juveniles:—

What then of the "teen-ager"?

What of his employment?

What of his leisure hours?

What of his social adjustments?

Going back to the period when the majority of our pupils remained at school until the leaving age of 15 years. We were often dismayed to learn that many ex-pupils drifted along with no prospects of gainful employment. The presence of two neighbouring Golf Links was as much of a curse as a blessing as they offered a means of gaining ready cash (usually inadequate) and they also provided an excuse for partial and desultory employment. Attempts were made to interest employers in our pupils and gradually our efforts were rewarded. The Employment Bureau in Albion Street, Surry Hills has been of inestimable value, whilst to-day many of the large city factories absorb our ex-pupils. Once a core of a couple of workers has been established, they soon attract others and we can say with pride that practically every one of our ex-pupils, including girls (during the past five years) are to-day in employment, the large majority beyond La Perouse.

Two important factors should here be noted:—

- (1) The value of personal sponsorship.
- (2) The problem of the "new horizon", which is minimised when there is employment in groups (it should also be stated that these people all still reside at La Perouse).

The city with its factories and its diversity of occupations seems to provide the type of employment for which these people apparently are the most suited at the present time.

Generally speaking, they are not interested in academic pursuits, nor as yet have many expressed the desire to become highly skilled artisans, although it is felt that they possess more than average manipulative skill and in time, given the proper incentives, they will achieve more success. From my own observations, it is *not usual* for them to select tasks involving endurance and heavy labour. However, our girls have been expert sewers and weavers of baskets, and should prove to be good operatives in the factories.

Now we feel that those leaving school are being absorbed generally in worth-while occupations and are fitting themselves for earning a living.

To ensure that full justice and assistance is available for these people, a visit to the locality, say monthly, by an Officer of the Employment Bureau, would ensure that everyone was considered and that unemployment would be reduced to an absolute minimum.

It is around the question of the period of leisure hours that we have the greatest feelings of misgiving. At the outset might we mention that there is no Picture Theatre, no suitable hall or place of normal suburban entertainment in the locality. This is a most serious handicap. It means there is practically no scope for social fraternisation beyond the immediate homes, which have little or no facilities to offer.

Thus there is an evening exodus to such centres as Maroubra, Kingsford, Redfern and the City generally. Is it any wonder that the hotel is a magnet of attraction? There is a desire on the part of the girls to escape from the boredom of their surroundings and likewise they trek to outside centres of attraction.

It is quite apparent that something should be done to halt this more or less enforced migration for pleasure and recreation.

The immediate requirements are a Hall and a form of social centre within the neighbourhood. The activities, such as stressed by the Police Boys' Clubs, are admirable within their limits. However, we feel that there are too many limitations in their charter.

We agree wholeheartedly with their activities, but you will, I am sure, agree that the craft aspect, including as it does hobbies and allied pursuits, together with the provision for cultural activities is essential if an attempt is to be made to capture the interest and provide for the aptitudes, aspirations and yearnings of the young people.

Questions, such as provision of material, supervision and control would, of course, have to be solved.

Note.—At this stage mention the activities and goals of bodies such as —

THE LIBRARY AND CRAFT MOVEMENT under the guidance of Mrs. M. Matheson, at Phillip Park, Clovelly; Erskineville and Bradfield Park, etc., and extend invitation to visit various centres.

POLICE BOYS' CLUB.

CHURCH AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS.

Value of Motion Pictures, Socials, Dances, Reading Rooms.

Library Facilities and possibly Television.

Talk about the provision of Swimming Baths.

What Council activity can be aroused ?

There is no suggestion that the young folk should be penned up at La Perouse continuously—let them by all means mix and fraternise with the outside communities, but it is felt desirable that there should be a happy, well conducted and well directed focal point of social interest within easy access, where youthful enjoyment of leisure is real, and is conducive to good living.

So much for the adolescent.

What of the parent and the adult ?

Employment has been mentioned, and remarks already made largely suffice. There should be no obstacles in the way of each wage earner being able, with or without assistance, to obtain employment.

Housing needs careful consideration. The general standard of homes is NOT adequate. There are insufficient amenities in the home. The question of provision of *baths, showers, refrigeration, sanitation*, MUST be followed up.

The Aborigine Welfare Board has been purchasing homes apart from those in the Mission, and has been encouraging families to purchase them on a rental basis. This is an excellent start. Those who live in Government provided dwellings, do not necessarily show much interest in the care and condition of their homes. This is a problem which is not restricted to the aborigines alone, but thought and guidance from outside influences might do a lot to correct it.

We are given to the idea that until such times as the homes reflect some pride of ownership or occupancy, and until such times as they contain reasonable amenities and living space, then the proper assimilation of these people with their claims to responsible citizenship will be delayed.

The health requirements must also be considered. The School Doctor and the Dentist periodically visit the school and necessary treatment is available at the hospital and clinics.

Could these facilities be extended to cover the needs of the aborigine folk in general ?



What a boon a *Baby Health Centre* would prove to be. There would be no reluctance or hesitancy on the part of mothers and those ill to visit a centre established in their midst. The periodical attendance of a doctor and regular visits of the travelling dental clinic would be an untold blessing.

We mentioned earlier that the children have an aptitude for sport. They have frequently represented the State at Football, Softball and Basket Ball, yet not one adult has appeared in a Grade Team ? Why this strange anomaly ?

The answer is that the sport needs to be organised. Somebody is needed to guide them, to help form their clubs—to see that they participate in the executive side of their sport. Patience is needed, but unless something is done to assist them, then the present wastage of talent will continue.

RELIGIOUS GUIDANCE.—This is dangerous ground and we refrain from being critical.

There has been no Minister of religion stationed at La Perouse Mission for many months. To my way of thinking this is tragic.

I feel that the choice of a religious *Counsellor, guide and friend* with high ideals, sympathy and broad tolerance is needed for these folk. A man, not easily daunted by irregularities of conduct, by seeming indifference or by apparent apathy, would do more than any other single person to build a community, guided and held together by Christian morals and precepts.

In conclusion, we cannot over emphasise the need for the community at large to provide men and women whose own lives would serve as examples, and to whom these people would be able to look for support and guidance in their development as citizens of this great country of ours.

PEN FRIENDS WANTED.

It's not much fun being in hospital, especially when you have to stay there for a long time, for it gets very lonely.

Some good pen friends can help a lot to cheer you up and that's just what Francis Cruse needs.

Francis Cruse is 19 years of age and his address is Ward 4, the Sanatorium, Waterfall, and he has been there over a year. So, how about a lot of pen friends now for this very lonely person.

HOME HINTS

The inside of the metal top of a salt shaker can be kept rust-free by painting inside with nail polish.

• * * *

Jelly will set quickly if you dissolve the crystals in hot water and make up the required quantity with ice cubes.

• * * *

To stop squeaks in floor boards, try working a little moist soap into cracks between the boards.

• * * *

Clothes can be dampened more evenly and more quickly with luke-warm water rather than cold.

• * • *

When hammering nails into wood, you will reduce the risk of the wood cracking if you first push the points of the nails into a bar of soap.

* * * *

When cooking marmalade, leave the lid off the pan to allow water to evaporate.

* * * *

When cooking vegetables, leave the lid on the saucepan to speed up cooking and prevent loss of vitamin C content as far as possible.

• * • *

When stewing fruit, do not add the sugar until the last ten minutes of cooking.

* * * *

Fresh cream used as filling for cakes will not run down the sides if a teaspoonful of gelatine is dissolved in a little warm water, mixed with the cream and allowed to set for about an hour.

Cover with clear plastic, school books, and books in the house which are frequently used (such as your cookery book). It is easily stuck down with sticky tape, and allows the title to be read and keeps the cover clean.



This sophisticated young lady is Melvie Simon, of West Maitland.

* * * *

Country People

Nearly every month now, a dance is organized by the aboriginal people at Gulargambone, and several successful functions have been held at the Aboriginal School. The proceeds of the dances have been devoted to such projects as the provision of extra equipment for the School, and raising funds for the Christmas party.

* * * *

Robert Hubbard (known to his friends as "Blind Bob") recently flew from Bourke to Brewarrina, and is now living at the Brewarrina Aboriginal Station. Bob, who is almost totally blind, is looked after by his friends on the Station.

“What does Moruya mean?”

Recently a party travelling along the Princes Highway, passed through Moruya, and the question arose, “What Does Moruya Mean?” Nobody seemed to know and it was not until a dictionary was referred to, in Sydney, that it was found that Moruya was the original aboriginal word for a “Water ford”.

It may therefore be of interest to know the meanings of several of the towns along the South Coast which, very fittingly, have been given an aboriginal name. It would be a great pity if the meanings of these place names were to pass into obscurity simply because no one bothered to find out what they actually mean.

Here are a few of them :—

Bega	Big camping place.
Bermagui ..	Resembling a canoe with paddles.
Berry	White box-tree.
Bodalla ..	Haven for boats, or several waters.
Bombo.. ..	Thunder.
Bulli	Place where Christmas bush grows.
Cambewarra ..	Mountain on fire.
Cobargo	Grandfather.
Dapto	Lame native “chief”.
Eurobodalla ..	Land between waters.
Gerringong ..	Place of peril.
Illawarra ..	High place near the sea.
Keira	High mountain; wild turkey.
Kembla	Abundant game.
Narooma	Magic stone; Zamia palm growing in the water.
Nowra	Black cockatoo.
Pambula	Two waters.
Tathra.. ..	Beautiful country; place of wild cats.
Teralba	Place where edible bush grows.
Thirroul	Valley or hollow.
Tilba Tilba ..	Many waters.
Ulladulla	Safe harbour.
Unanderra ..	Junction of two creeks.
Wollongong ..	See; the monster comes!
Woonona	Place for young wallabies.
Woronora	Black rock.

Progress at Wilcannia

By Jack Quayle

Though the residents of the Wilcannia settlement have faced some trying situations during the last eight months, their spirits have not been broken, not by a long shot, in fact the trying situations have made them more determined to go ahead and do things that seemed previously to be a fruitless task. In the few years preceding the evacuation no one appeared as if they wanted to do any more than just linger on, but that, however, is not the attitude to-day; many are the improvements under way and everyone seems to have a better outlook on life than previously noticed. Better and brighter homes appear to be their “motto” and a brighter and happier future is anticipated.

Everyone is no doubt looking forward to Christmas, and the happy reunions that mostly come with its prospects of a visit from Santa Claus is beginning to brighten the hearts of our younger folk and let's hope that these young people are not disappointed. However, a monster Christmas tree and breaking up party has been arranged for the children of the settlement, sponsored by the Aborigines Welfare Board, and contributed to by the parents and many well-wishers.

Sports are being arranged for the children by the Progress Committee to help make the breaking up party and Christmas tree function one to be remembered by every one concerned. Nothing like this has ever taken place at this settlement before and we sincerely hope that we will see many more of these functions carried on throughout the years to follow.

For the benefit of those who have never seen or heard of this place before, I would like to put it on the map through *Dawn* by saying, that it is the youngest Aboriginal Station in the State, the farthest out along the “Sunset Trail” and the only one with its own resident Priest and Nuns in New South Wales for approximately 250 Aborigines in the district.

Four years ago the residents of this settlement were living under primitive conditions along the banks of the Darling River, and to-day it is pleasing to see that many of the residents are making an effort to raise their standards of living, by furnishing their homes as best they can with the small amount of funds available, and keeping the homes neat and clean. Some of the homes have neatly kept gardens.

However, another step has been taken towards assimilation, and I have no doubt that the residents of this settlement will, in the very near future, be equal to any other settlement in the State.



Help Yourself



Even the youngsters in hospital had a visit from Santa Claus and his Merry band last month.

* * * *

This summer you'll have no trouble with recurring fly dirt on your mirrors if you rub them down every few weeks with a cloth dipped lightly in methylated spirits.

* * * *

For those whose walls are kalsomined in a light tinging, you'll do well to take this hint, particularly if there are children in the house. Paste a disc of plastic in a matching shade round each light switch and door knob—this can be kept clean with a wet soapy cloth and there won't be any grubby fingermarks to spoil the appearance of the walls.

* * * *

With the rising cost and scarcity of sheets, it's a good idea to buy the cheaper unbleached variety. These can be whitened and every trace of dressing removed simply by adding two tablespoons of turpentine to the first washing water. Boil them and rinse well. You'll marvel at the difference and it's so economical.

* * * *

Here's a hint for that old, faded umbrella. Sponge it well with a strong solution of sweetened tea. This treatment will revive the colour and stiffen the fabric.

● * * *

We all know what a misery tight shoes can be to the wearer. If you have such a pair, peel two raw potatoes and leave them in the toes of the shoes overnight. When morning comes the leather will have expanded sufficiently for comfortable wearing.

To give trousers knife-like creases and that professionally ironed look, use one very wet and one dry cloth when ironing. Place the former on the trousers with the dry one over it. Then, give a final pressing with the drier cloth only. Result, a truly workmanlike finish.

* * * *

There is a way of mending broken china so that it can never be broken again in the same place. Into a very thick solution of gum arabic in water stir some plaster of Paris. Apply with a brush to the fractured edges of the china and stick them together. Leave it for three days and it will be as strong and durable as it was before the break.

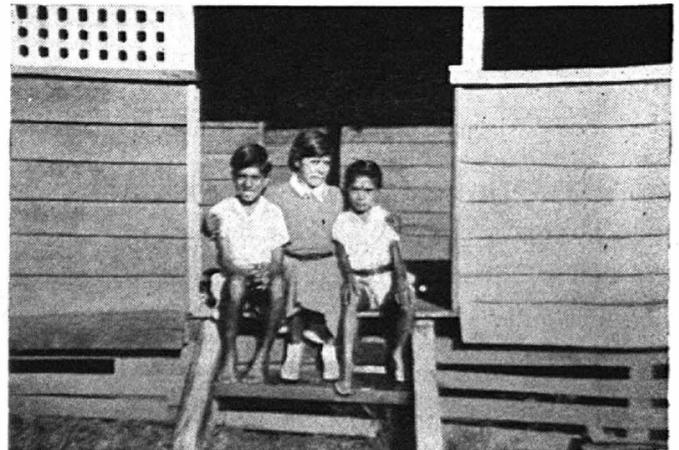
* * * *

To remove the stains from clothing saturate the spot several times with a mixture of ammonia and turpentine and then wash out in soap-suds. This is a sure little trick that never fails.

* * * *

The problem of drying glassware without those pieces of fluff from the tea towel adhering to the glass will be solved if dried with a towel which has been dipped in a weak solution of starch.

* * * *



The Heron youngsters from Nanaglen Rail. They are Ron, Brenda and Charlie.

SEARCH FOR ABORIGINAL PILOT

Flying Associations Offer

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia is offering a flying scholarship for some lucky aboriginal youth.

In a letter to the Editor of *Dawn*, the Manager of the Association, Mr. Kevin M. Moloney, said

“AOPA represents all aircraft owners and pilots except Airline and Military personnel. It is a non-profit organisation, whose aim is to encourage and develop aviation in Australia . . . mainly in the light aircraft and gliding field.

A Memorial has been founded in honour of our late President, Dr. Mervyn Hall, which each year takes the form of a scholarship or project: e.g., last year a prize was offered for the best design submitted for an ultra light aircraft suitable for home building. This year we propose to sponsor a scholarship to train an aboriginal youth to private or commercial pilot standard. Money to be raised by public subscription.

As aviation is the primary interest of AOPA, the only form of assistance we can offer the aboriginal is as outlined above. As far as we know this is something never before attempted by any member of this race, and the successful conclusion of the project would do much to further the cause of these unfortunate people. We are convinced that there is no basic difference between humanity's races, except opportunity.”

This is a very generous offer and one which will undoubtedly attract a lot of attention.

In the very near future more specific arrangements will be made and aboriginal youths will be advised how they may apply for consideration.



Steps and Stairs! Irene and Lena Gardiner and Aileen Scott, of Tingha.

More Memories of Cootamundra

Another old girl writes

Writing to the Editor of Dawn, Mrs. E. Nicholls, of 7 Caroline Street, Redfern, says . . .

It was with a great deal of interest that I read the memoirs of W. K. Boxsell in the October issue of *Dawn*, as I am one of the girls who was under Matron Lamont, Miss Wales and Miss Owen. Yes, there are still some of the old Cootamundra girls about who remember the old place. We often meet and talk about our beloved Matron and teachers and we have never forgotten them. I don't think we will.

Our love for them has grown no dimmer over the years for their thoughts were always for the girls in their care. We are very grateful to them today for it was their help and guidance that made it possible for us to face the World today and to accept and overcome any task that may confront us, and do it cheerfully.

How well I remember the long hot, dry, summers we used to have and the long walks over the Common with our beloved Miss Owen, listening to her intently as she told us of her homeland Wales, and hearing her sing some of her lovely quaint Welsh songs. I remember how we used to go to Church with Matron Lamont and Miss Wales. How could we ever forget this trio of unselfish women?

I also remember, as if it were only yesterday, little Willie in the watertub, and our little dog Jock who loved to chase snakes. Truly a lot of water has flown under the bridge since those far off days but I am sure all of us will always remember those three very grand women.

All of us who knew them would say to Matron Lamont, Miss Owen and Miss Wales: “We are truly thankful for everything you have done for us and with love and pride, we say, very sincerely, thank you all, Vale.”



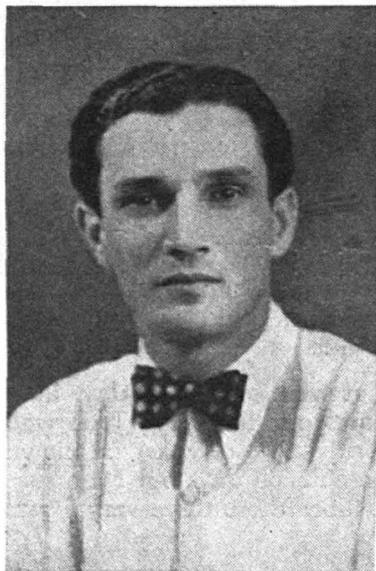
Out Shopping! Robyn Crowe, of Gundagai Road, Cootamundra, and her sisters.

A WIDE CHOICE OF JOBS

Work is Plentiful

From an A.B.C. Broadcast by
Welfare Officer A. Norton

Every endeavour is made by Welfare Officers and Managers of Stations, to obtain constant employment for aborigines in skilled, semi-skilled and seasonal work.



Mr. Norton.

secretarial professions; also several take up fishing and timber cutting on their own.

It is not easy to wean the aborigine from casual seasonal work, catering as it does for the tendency in many to lead a nomadic life, and offering opportunity for high wages and free spending for all members of the family.

No doubt this country offers many opportunities for people who are prepared to work. And there are many praiseworthy aborigines who have grasped that opportunity when it has come their way. One of these is a young man and his sister who worked as farm hands on a dairy farm on the North Coast and are now share-farming for the same employer and doing an excellent job.

There are a number of young lads from the age of 16 to 18 years, some are from the Kinchela Boys' Home, and others from private homes, whom we are anxious to apprentice in trades and on farms, but are not only faced with the difficulty of procuring employment for them, but we are unfortunately confronted with the problem of housing them.

It is considered that the improvement of the "job status" of aboriginal workmen will not only improve the economic stability of the house, but will act as an excellent morale builder.

Employment is found with the Railways Department, Public Works, Saw Mills, Factories, as well as pastoral work and a few in the mechanical, teaching, nursing and

When I was appointed to an Aboriginal Station on the South Coast, I introduced the first aboriginal boy to live in with a white family on a dairy farm in the district. This no doubt being the first case of its kind ever heard of in those parts of the country, caused much consternation amongst the white community. However, the sympathetic and understanding farmer was fully prepared to meet any criticism from the locals. He had also at the time a white man in his employment; three months later he found that the young aborigine lad was doing far more work than the white man, and he therefore dispensed with the latter's services. This lad, who is now a young man, purchased a new motor bike for himself, and attends all the local functions and private parties as if he were one of the family.

Since his introduction, fourteen other lads followed in similar jobs and were readily accepted.

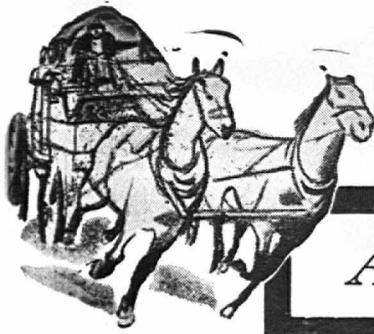
At the Kinchela Boys' Training Home, inmates receive training in general dairy farm duties, including the use of farm machinery, training in milking, butter-making, vegetable gardening, fencing and poultry farming.

Employment of girls in similar age groups has been and still continues to be an uphill issue, particularly so far as country areas are concerned.

Every endeavour is made to place them as nurses domestic helps and any other vacancies that may arise but the scope unfortunately is very limited, although we have girls who have made a success in teaching secretarial work and nursing. One young aborigine girl is employed as a Private Secretary to a Foreign Diplomat, another to an Airways Company, and a third is a qualified School Teacher.

Since the introduction of mixed schools where aborigines are studying side by side with whites, and as they are being given every opportunity for higher education, it is our aim to secure better types of employment for aborigines, and any assistance in furthering their chance towards this goal from businessmen, farmers, and other interested bodies would be greatly appreciated.

The Commonwealth Employment Officers do a wonderful job in placing aborigines, and it is felt that with co-operation from both Government and non-official agencies, much will be done to place the Australian Aborigine in permanent employment which will, without a shadow of doubt, be a great step achieved towards our policy of Assimilation.



ALONG THE MAIL ROUTE

The Condobolin Apex Club have formed plans to assist folk living on the Condobolin Reserve. They intend to lay water on to each house, assist in general repairs, run a spring and autumn gardening competition, and assist in fencing of houses. As well as this, they have undertaken to buy a strip film projector for the aborigines school.

Quite a comprehensive programme!

* * * *

Miss Molly Fairfax, who for many years has been stationed at Condobolin by the Aborigines Inland Mission, has transferred to Queensland. Some weeks ago, Condobolin folk welcomed her successors, Mr. and Mrs. Matthews and family, from North Queensland. We hope their stay in Condobolin will be a happy and fruitful one.

* * * *

Floods again caused much inconvenience at the end of last year when they cut the Reserve off from Condobolin township. The school was closed for some days, and three homes belonging to the Knights, Frosts and Briars were surrounded by water. Fortunately, after a few days the water receded again. The residents were very grateful to Condobolin Motors, who loaned a truck to get people and supplies in and out of town each day.

* * * *

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Greg Ingram, of Condobolin Reserve, on the birth (after some delay) of a fine son, Barry.

* * * *

Mr. Paul Dargin, of Condobolin, who has for many months been an inmate of the Auxiliary Hospital, Randwick, is recovering from another operation on his spine. We all wish Paul the very best and hope to see him on his feet again soon.

The First 1957 Baby

To Kerry Walker, of La Perouse, goes the honour of being the first baby born in New South Wales in 1957.

Kerry, who weighed in at 8 lb. 6 oz. is the first child born to 19-year-old Mrs. Elaine Walker, a resident of La Perouse.

She was born in the Crown Street Women's Hospital at 12.1 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Congratulations to Kerry and Elaine!

NEWS FROM MALLANGANEE.

Mallanganee is justly proud of Gertrude French, who commenced duties as a Trainee Nurse, at Tweed District Hospital, Murwillumbah, on her seventeenth birthday, 12th November, 1956.

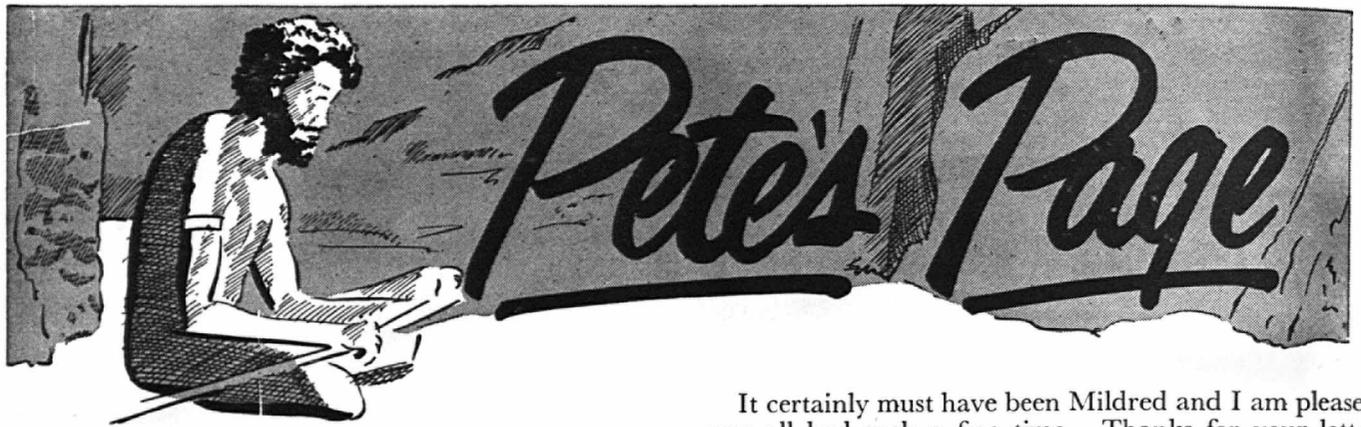
Gertrude passed her Intermediate at St. Mary's Convent High School, Casino, in 1956, where she had studied for three years as the recipient of an Aborigines Welfare Board Bursary. Whilst attending this school Gertrude became one of its leading athletes and achieved the distinction of becoming a House Captain. She was very popular with both teachers and students.

It might well indeed be said, that Gertrude carries the "Torch"; held in the one hand to brighten the path of those of her blood who may follow, and in the other the lamp of that courageous woman who pioneered the nursing profession.

* * * *



Two cute little lasses from Guyra.



Hallo Kids,

Well, here we are in a brand new Year and let us hope it's going to be a really good one for all of us.

Wouldn't it be really marvellous if this old world of ours could just settle down to peace and prosperity and forget all about wars and troubles for a while . . . even if just for one short year.

First of all, I must say a very sincere thank you to Mrs. N. H. Luschwitz, of Wymann Street, Broken Hill, and Alan Ridgeway, of Rozelle, for those really lovely Xmas cards. I did appreciate them so much.

Just before Xmas I had one of my usual interesting letters from Carol Donovan, of the Racecourse, Bowraville. Carol said, "I had a swell holiday at Coff's Harbour recently with my aunty. The holiday was a kind of celebration for the finish of the intermediate examination. One day we went to Mutton Bird Island and my cousin caught a large groper and a rock cod. Unfortunately, the waves washed the rock cod away but the groper was certainly sweet. It's so hot up here, we almost live in the creek."

Well, thanks indeed for that nice letter, Carol. It's so hot here at present I wouldn't mind being in that creek myself.

Another nice letter came from Mildred Murray, c.o. Mrs. L. Cusack, "Oakleigh," Murringo, via Young. Mildred said "I have settled down in my new position very well except that it is still a bit lonely. Although there are five children here I still miss all the girls at Cootamundra Home. My brother and sister Dorelta and Richard are at Cootamundra and my three brothers Percy, Claude and Alan are at Kinchela.

I went up to the Cootamundra Home for Xmas and enjoyed it very much. On Xmas Eve we all attended the Christmas tree out on the lawn. As we sang Xmas Carols we had the music of the Cootamundra Jazz band in the background. We also had a lot of visitors from the town. After the carols we sang Jingle Bells and old Santa Claus appeared to give us our presents, followed by soft drinks, sandwiches, cakes, sweets, and lots of other good things.

On Xmas Day we all tried our luck at seeing how many threepences we could get out of the pudding, and in the afternoon we went swimming. At night we had dancing, finishing up with Rock'n Roll. It was certainly a grand time."

It certainly must have been Mildred and I am pleased you all had such a fine time. Thanks for your letter and a special prize to you. That's a good start for the New Year isn't it ?

Well kids, another few weeks and many of you will be back at school again so then I suppose I can expect a lot more letters. All the best for the time being and a very Happy New Year.

Your Sincere Pal,

Patriotism has no Colourline

Aborigines in the Army

The September cover of *Dawn* showed five young aboriginal men, proudly wearing the uniform of their country, in the service of their country.

Our caption said "Patriotism knows no colourline". How true that was.

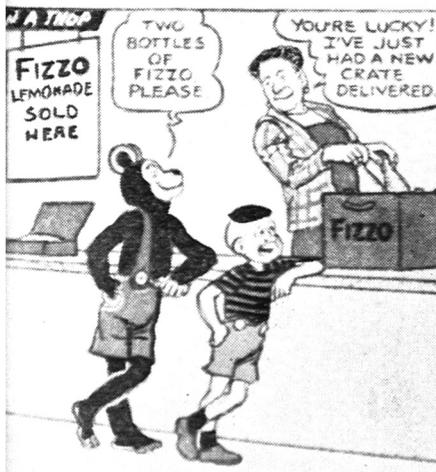
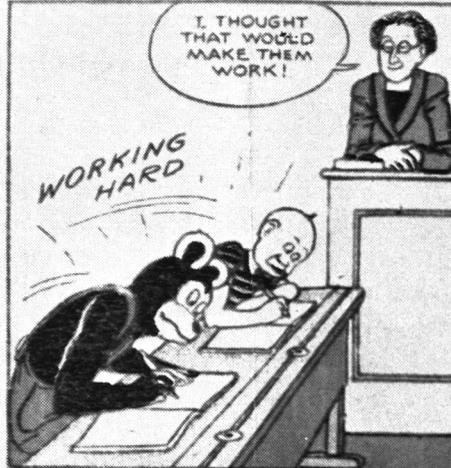
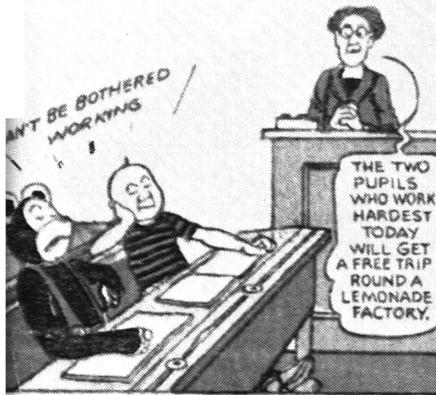
Now we have just had a letter from those five young men, signed by one of them, Private G. E. Hill, and he says:

"We are very grateful to you for publishing our photos in *Dawn* and we would like to thank you for what you said about us. It is our sincere hope that those words will bring more people to realise that in the services there is no such colour bar as that one that exists, unfortunately far too often, in civilian life. We have a duty to carry out, and duty which we hope will be an asset to our people and our country.

So far this year no less than twenty young aboriginal men have volunteered for full-time service for their country. We sincerely hope that we are not the last and that more of our race will follow in our footsteps."

Surely every reader will say "amen" to that and share with these young men, these truly Australian citizens, their pride of race and country.

Biffo the Bear



PASS IT ON

When **You** have read DAWN Pass It On—

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

Address all letters to: THE EDITOR, DAWN, Box 30, G.P.O. Sydney.



Flower SEED SOWING *Simplified*

PREPARATION IS IMPORTANT

Seed Beds or Boxes :

Whether seeds are to be sown in seed beds or in boxes, good drainage is the first essential. In boxes, holes should be bored in the bottoms as well as in the sides, and sufficient rough drainage material placed on the bottom—old flower-pots broken and mixed with small coke ash is ideal for the purpose. Three inches in depth of soil is plenty for seed-raising, and half-an-inch to one inch of space should be left between the top of the soil and top of box or seed pan.

If seed-sowing takes place during the cold weather seed boxes should be placed in a warm, sheltered corner. Seed sown during the hot months should be in a position protected from the direct rays of the sun, yet obtaining sufficient light to prevent the young seedlings becoming drawn when they appear above the surface.

Kind of Soil to Use :

The soil in which seeds are to be sown need not be very rich. The main factors are lightness, fineness and porousness, the qualities found in sandy loam and, at the time of sowing, the soil should be neither too wet nor too dry. If possible, the soil should be sterilised, as this will destroy weed seeds, larvae of pests, etc., and make for better results. This is done by putting the soil into a sugar sack, taking care not to try to do too much at a time, and pouring over it several applications of boiling water, allowing it to dry out before using. When the required quantity of soil has been placed in the boxes, it should be levelled, firmed thoroughly, watered and allowed to drain for an hour or so.

How to Sow :

It is best to sow thinly in rows rather than broadcast the seed. Fine seeds such as Petunia, Begonia and similar varieties, should be sown on the surface of the soil and pressed firmly, using a piece of thick glass or a smooth board for the purpose. Scarcely any covering should be placed on very fine seed. A pan of glass placed on top of each box will greatly assist germination of all seeds. Shade is provided by a sheet of newspaper laid under the glass, but as soon as even plant life appears, a hole must be torn in the paper to admit the light, and this hole torn a little larger every day until the paper can be taken away altogether. The glass can then be tilted to admit air, increasing the opening gradually each day as the seedlings grow. The glass can be removed altogether during the day when the seedlings are about an inch high, but replaced at night until the plants are strongly established. It is often an advantage to mix very fine seed with an equal quantity of fine silver sand in order to obtain a more even sowing.

Coarse seeds should be covered with about twice their own depth of very light soil after being pressed in, as recommended for the finer types.

Should seeds germinate too thickly, it is advisable to prick out a sufficient number into prepared boxes of fine soil to give those that remain ample room to develop.

Seeds of Sweet Pea, Lupin and kinds of similar size are best sown in the garden where they are to remain and should be sown at a depth of about one inch in light soil, a little less in heavier soil. Also such plants as Gypsophila, Larkspur, Mignonette, Candytuft, Cornflower, Cosmos, Balsam, Godetia, Shirley Poppy, etc. are better if not transplanted.

To be continued next month.