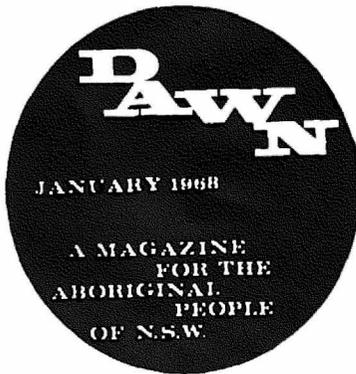


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N.S.W. ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD**

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Fourteen-year-old Patricia Dickson receives awards for her bravery from the State Governor Sir Roden Cutler (see story page 1).

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Patricia Dickson, a fourteen-year-old Aboriginal from Cootamundra Girls Training Home, has received the Royal Humane Society's highest awards for her daring rescue of a drowning woman.

At a Sydney ceremony late last September the State Governor, Sir Roden Cutler, presented Pat with a Bronze Medal and Certificate of Merit. Watching proudly from the crowd were Pat's friend from Cootamundra Home, Loretta Ebsworth, 15, and her sister Evelyn Dickson, 18, who works in Wagga, and the woman whose life Pat saved, Miss Morag Owens, deputy-matron at Cootamundra Home.

The Royal Humane Society, now in its 90th year, presents its awards to people who show bravery and courage in the saving of human life. Police and other people tell the Society when they hear about exceptional deeds of courage. This year there were fewer reports and the standard was much higher than in previous years.

Before Sir Roden presented awards to the thirty-two people, whose ages ranged from 14 to 72, N.S.W. Premier Askin congratulated them and said that their deeds of bravery stirred him. Mr R. J. Heffron, former premier of N.S.W., referred to Sir Roden's gallantry and valour in war (Sir Roden won the Victoria Cross) and said that he must feel at home at such a presentation.

Sir Roden, a patron of the Society, said that he did not feel at home at such presentations. He said: "I've never seen anyone who received an award who didn't deserve it—but I've seen many who deserved an award but who were never recognized".

Sir Roden said that he and Patricia were practically old friends; a few weeks before they had been introduced at the Cootamundra Wattle Festival by Mayor Conky. Sir Roden told the Sydney gathering that Patricia must be an excellent swimmer to have rescued Matron Owens from the swiftly-flowing Murrumbidgee River.

Taught herself

Pat was a little modest when she said that she could swim quite well. She taught herself, and the circumstances of the rescue proved that she is a strong swimmer, and a good teacher.

Last April, Pat and other girls from Cootamundra Home, with Deputy-Matron Owens, were picnicking at Jugiong, on the Murrumbidgee River. Pat and two of her friends went for a swim but the swiftly-flowing river caught them. Pat helped her friends swim downstream to a fallen tree on the opposite bank, where they called for help.

Girl gets Highest Award for Bravery

Other girls who heard them thought they were joking, but Miss Owens dived in to save them and was herself dragged past by the strong current.

Pat swam from the safety of the fallen tree, grabbed Miss Owens, and pulled her on to the far bank. Miss Owens, who had been in considerable difficulty, fainted, and fell back into the river. Pat dived back into the current, caught hold of Miss Owen's hair, and again pulled her back to shore.

Pat then helped Miss Owens walk farther downstream till they reached shallower water and could walk across to the other bank.

Mr Gardiner, handyman at the Home, ran half a mile to a petrol station, got a rope and returned with it so that Pat could rescue the other two girls still struggling to hold on to the tree on the opposite bank.

She tied the rope around her waist, swam to the girls, and helped them back across the river.

Owes her life

Miss Owens said that Pat was a very brave girl, and that she definitely owed her life to Pat's quick thinking in grabbing her hair when she fainted. She was very pleased that Pat's bravery had been recognized.

The swimming spot at Jugiong was normally safe, but a sudden surge of very cold water released from Burrinjuck Dam caused the trouble, Miss Owens said.

Miss Owens came to Australia about 18 months ago from Glasgow, Scotland; she has been deputy-matron at Cootamundra Home for the past nine months.

Patricia Dickson has been at Cootamundra Home for seven years, and last year was in Second Form at Cootamundra High School.

And what does she want to do when she leaves school? You guessed it: she wants to stay in the life-saving business, by becoming a nurse.

Ex-Kinchela Boy Returns as Manager



Herbert Simms took up his appointment as manager of Kinchela Boys Training Home in mid-October—32 years after he first went to the Home as an 8-year-old State ward in 1935. And in the 25 years since he left the Home at 15 he has accumulated a wealth of personal experience that will benefit every boy now at Kinchela.

Mr Simms joined the Aborigines Welfare Board (which runs the Kinchela Home, near Kempsey) as a welfare officer in December, 1965. In the past two years, mainly in the Sydney area, he has seen and solved many of the problems which beset his people.

In mid-1964 Mr Simms accepted the invitation to become the first manager of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs. Fifteen months later he resigned to undertake social survey work throughout New South Wales for the Commonwealth Social Science Research Council before joining the Aborigines Welfare Board.

Mr Simms was born at La Perouse and is still well-known there. After his education at Kinchela, he worked on a poultry farm at Mount Ku-ring-gai, near Hornsby. Later, he was apprenticed for five years to a motor mechanic at a Redfern garage and became a qualified motor mechanic.

For the next 15 years Mr Simms worked at his trade, and for another five years was employed as a

Herbert Simms at his desk in the Aborigines Welfare Board's Sydney office before he went back to Kinchela as manager

kitchen equipment service mechanic before becoming manager of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs.

Early Training

The kind of early training boys at Kinchela receive is of great importance, Mr Simms says. It can shape their entire future, and he is vitally interested in their future advancement.

Mrs Simms doesn't expect he will need to make drastic changes at Kinchela, and will continue to encourage the boys' activities and social assimilation.

The Kinchela boys have built up an excellent reputation as little gentlemen and good sportsmen—particularly in football, soccer, cricket, swimming, and boxing.

Parents of their schoolmates at Kempsey Public School and West Kempsey High School often invite the Kinchela boys to stay over-night in their homes.

Mr Simms hopes to find each boy's particular interest and to develop an individual's talent; he will closely watch their progress through school, and will try to find suitable employment for them. If the boys play their part, and there seems little doubt about that, they will find that Mr Simms will more than help them.

Nursing experience

Mrs Simms, who is the new matron at Kinchela, gained nursing experience at the Australian Inland Mission's Retta Dixon Home at Darwin 10 years ago; she nursed at the Home for a year. In Sydney she was secretary to the Mission's secretary for 12 months.

This nursing and administrative experience will help Mrs Simms in her difficult position of matron at Kinchela.

Mr and Mrs Simms have been married for 12 years, and have a 20-months old son Robert who will find no shortage of playmates as he grows up. Mrs Simms' sister Georgina is 17-years-old, and hopes to continue her schooling at a Kempsey high school; like Mrs Simms, Georgina is interested in a nursing career.

Mr Simms, with considerable modesty, feels that his success in the trade of his choice and in his other positions serves as a personal example to the Kinchela boys. If other Kinchela "old boys" do half as well as Herb. Simms they will have much to be proud of.

Use Tools Properly

Tradesmen and handymen usually adopt their own special methods of doing a job and of using tools, but they follow certain basic rules about use of tools. If you don't follow these rules, the resulting job will be done poorly, and you could injure yourself.

Handsaw If the handsaw is correctly sharpened and set, the sawing action should allow the teeth to cut on the forward stroke without undue pressure. If you have to force the saw to cut there is insufficient "set" on the teeth. This causes the blade to jam in the cut or "kerf".

Filing Files must be kept thoroughly clean because the teeth cannot cut if they are clogged with dirt or old filings. Use of a fine-wire brush or material called "file card" will ensure a clean cutting face on the file.

Don't use files not fitted with a handle. With no handle there is a very great risk that the sharp handle point (tang) of the file could pierce your hand and cause a nasty wound.

Hold the file's handle in your right hand and the tip of the file in your left hand. This keeps the blade horizontal over the work, and flat and steady. All cutting should be made on the forward stroke. Attempting to cut on the back-stroke causes the file to rock and the work surface will be curved instead of flat.

Cutting glass Handymen often have to replace window panes, and it is very useful for them to be able to cut a suitable size from a sheet of glass kept for window repairs. A good-quality wheel-type glass cutter should be used, but remember this basic but often overlooked rule: make only one firm cut—not several ragged scratches on the glass surface. Rest the glass on a firm flat surface covered with a blanket.

Hacksaw blades must be chosen to suit the work to be done, that is, one with the correct number of teeth to the inch. If this is not done, the teeth are almost certain to break out.

For thin sheet metal, tubing, or narrow strip metal use a blade with thirty-two teeth to the inch. For thicker sheet metal, metal tubing, and for copper and brass use a blade with twenty-four teeth to the inch. For harder steels and iron pipe use a blade with eighteen teeth to the inch. For mild steel use a coarse blade with fourteen teeth to the inch.

KING COTTON

these fly-by-nights are all here to stay

King Cotton reigns supreme in the fields of Narrabri and Wee Waa in the northwestern pocket of New South Wales.

And the spectacular new monarchy owes its strength to the efforts of men of the soil born thousands of miles apart.

Four years ago, Australia produced barely a bale of commercial cotton a year.

So little, in fact, that the Australian Government offered a subsidy of roughly 13 cents per pound for all cotton produced.

The Government decided that the subsidy peak to be paid would be \$4 million each year.

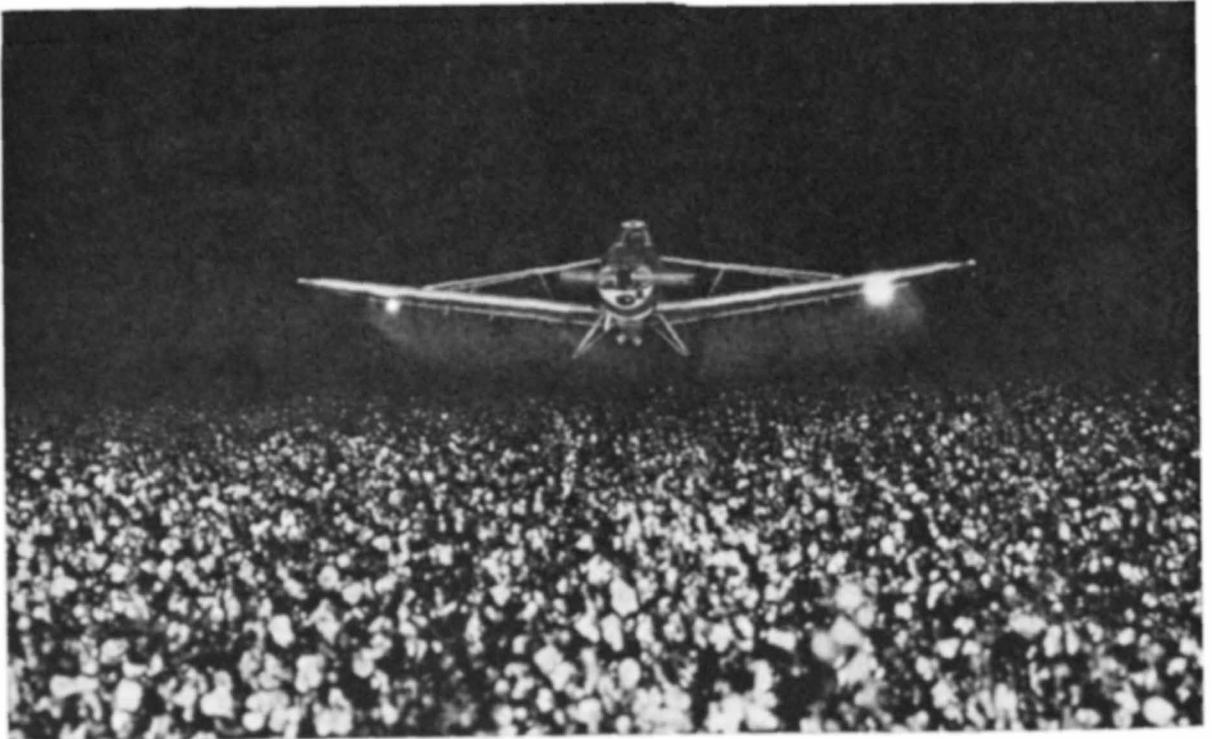
Last year production exceeded this peak.

More than 60,000 bales of high-grade cotton were produced in the Wee Waa and Narrabri area alone.

Land along the Namoi River which five years ago was worth less than \$40 an acre is now valued at about \$400 an acre.

The swift transition from what was mainly a wheat-growing area into a cotton-growing bonanza began with the migration of a group of Californian cotton farmers.

American-born Mert Dula, the man they call "Mr Midnight", makes a 120-mile-an-hour run across the cotton-crop, the wheels of his single-engined plane only a yard above the ground. Spraying by night ensures the crop will be free from aphids and other pests.



Leading them were Paul Kahl, now 47, and his partner, Frank Hadley, 40.

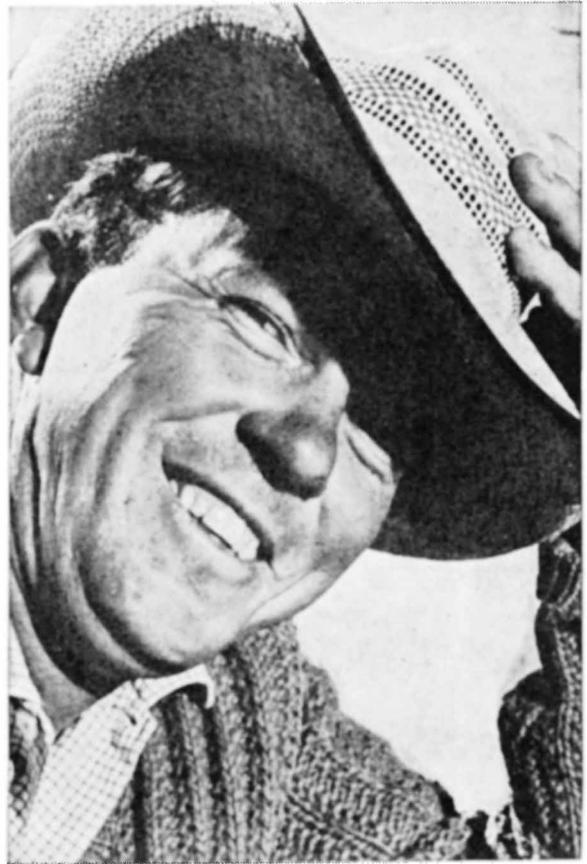
They started what has now become a co-operative of American and Australian cotton growers with headquarters in Wee Waa.

Paul and Frank were followed by an agronomist from California, Jim Fisher, now 35, who had worked for the J. G. Boswell company, leading cotton-growers in the United States.

He became a director and the farm manager of Austcott, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Boswell empire, which now grows cotton on 8,000 irrigated acres between Narrabri and Wee Waa.

On a holding next to Austcott, 27-years-old Narrabri farmer Peter Potter has taken the tip from his migrant neighbours. Three years ago Peter was still paying off his 2,000-acre wheat farm. Now he has transferred to cotton growing.

Gone from the area are yesterday's wheat harvesters, barns, and implement sheds. They are replaced by cotton-picking machines and buys cotton gins where fleets of semi-trailers collect the cotton for distribution to mills in every State.



Cotton-picking machines line the Wee Waa horizon, ready to begin the harvest

Peter Potter, the Australian wheat farmer who followed the advice of his migrant neighbours and turned to cotton. The value of his land jumped from \$40 to \$400 an acre



Cotton festival time is celebrated in July each year by the American and Australian families who have been brought together through their mutual interests.

Typifying the spirit of the new cotton producing area is 46-years-old pilot Mert Dula, also of California, who once flew with Chennault's famed Flying Tigers in China.

Mert, the only pilot ever to be given permission by the Australian Department of Civil Aviation to crop-dust by night, is known as "Mr Midnight" by the residents of the area.

Flying a Piper Pawnee at less than one yard from the ground, he sprays the cotton with defoliant to rid the crops of the pests that slow its growth.

To help the cotton growers make a start, the New South Wales Government enlisted the services of a migrant who had been a leading plant breeder in Europe. He is former Hungarian, Nicholas Derera.

Now that cotton is flourishing, Mr Derera has been appointed head of the Wheat Institute at Narrabri. Already he has bred a new wheat strain called TR136 which, if as successful as early tests indicate, will yield a fantastic 130 bushels to the acre.

Nicholas Derera sees the area as a future food bowl which could help feed the hungry people of the world.

From The Good Neighbour, an Immigration Department publication

Food for Elderly People

Many elderly people fail to take enough care about the food they eat, which should not vary greatly from that of the average adult, says the N.S.W. Department of Public Health. Too much and too little food can both present problems.

Older people are less active and need less calories. If they eat more calories than they need they become overweight.

To prevent this tendency, elderly people should limit their intake of calorie-rich energy foods (those rich in sugar, starch, and fat).

Sometimes the appetite of the older person is fickle and leads to an inadequate food intake, underweight, and poor nutrition. Appetite may be affected by feelings of loneliness and insecurity.

Other things such as a sore mouth and lips, poor teeth or ill-fitting false teeth, bad digestion or chronic illness also may limit appetite.

Practical difficulties such as limited cooking facilities, a limited budget and problems of shopping restrict menu planning and may result in a poor diet. An inadequate diet tends to cause tiredness,

and susceptibility to infection and slow healing after operations or bone injuries.

The following notes about types of food are a simple guide to the daily needs of elderly people:

Protein Meat, eggs, fish, and cheese are important whatever one's age because body cells are being worn away continually and need to be replaced: one good serve of any of the above foods is needed in the diet each day.

Milk and cheese are important in the diet because they are the only rich source of calcium—the mineral necessary to maintain healthy bones. Half to $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of milk should be included each day, remembering that 1 oz of cheese has the same calcium value as $\frac{1}{3}$ pint of milk and can be substituted for it.

Fruit and vegetables Four servings of fruit and/or vegetables should be included each day; they are rich sources of some of the minerals and vitamins necessary for maintenance of healthy bodies. One of the servings should be a citrus fruit or juice, papaw, rockmelon, or tomato because these are the richest source of vitamin C. With vegetables the emphasis should be on the green and yellow ones.

Bread and butter intake depends on energy needs and weight; $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 oz of butter should be included each day.

The booklet "Wise Eating for the Elderly" can be obtained free by writing to the Department of Public Health, 52 Bridge Street Sydney. 2000, or your local Medical Office of Health.

Twenty-two-year-old blind Aboriginal David Kerin returned to Australia early in September after five years study in London and said that he intended to devote his life to relieving the sufferings of others.

He successfully completed a four-year physiotherapy course at the Royal Institute for the Blind in London in March and for the next six months worked in London hospitals.

David was blinded by conjunctivitis at Alice Springs when he was four years old, and was flown to Darwin for treatment. He spent most of his school life at St Edmund's School for Blind Boys, from which he obtained his Leaving Certificate in 1961.

In 1962, the Commonwealth and N.S.W. Governments joined to help David undertake his



David Kerin Returns

studies in London. The Aborigines Welfare Board contributed \$4,000, and maintained a continuous interest in David's progress.

The course was not easy for him and although he had to repeat a year his persistence was crowned with success.

On his return to Australia, David said that when he was given the wonderful opportunity to choose a career he decided on physiotherapy because it would give him the opportunity to help others.

He was met at Mascot Airport by representatives of the Aborigines Welfare Board, the St Vincent de Paul Society, and the Commonwealth Government.

The next day, with his good friend and former teacher, Brother Adams, of St Edmund's, David paid a visit to Mr H. J. Green, superintendent of the Aborigines Welfare Board.

David told *Dawn* that about eighteen to twenty blind students from all parts of the world attended the physiotherapy school in London each year; at any one time there were about fifty at the school.

He said that a blind person developed slightly more sensitivity in his fingers than did a non-blind person, and this helped the blind to become excellent physiotherapists.

David went to Darwin to visit his parents for the first time in six years, and to spend Christmas with them. He hoped to work as a locum at Darwin Hospital until his return to Sydney, where he hoped to take up an appointment early in 1968.

The Aborigines Welfare Board at its October meeting received the following letter from the principal of St Edmund's School for Blind Boys, the sentiments of which, in regard to David and his



David and Brother Adams visited Mr H. J. Green, (left) superintendent of the Aborigines Welfare Board, in his office the day after David returned to Sydney after five years' study in London

success, are heartily shared by the Board: "I would like to express to you and the Board our deepest thanks for all you have done for David Kerin, in financing to a considerable amount his tuition fees in London. David has now returned to us, and one has a feeling of satisfaction, that the effort was well worthwhile. It is hoped that he can now find a position in the career in which he has successfully qualified.

"After a holiday with his family in Darwin, he hopes to return to Sydney to pursue his career. On seeing the type of gentleman David has become all our faith in him has been well repaid.

"With our repeated thanks, best wishes, and prayers."

The N.S.W. Aborigines Welfare Board during a three-day inspection tour of Aboriginal living conditions in Murray River towns in October announced that \$70,000 would be spent by the Board to provide twelve new houses near Dareton.

Mr A. G. Kingsmill, chairman of the Board, spoke to a reporter from Mildura's *Sunraysia Daily* and forecast other improvements for Aborigines in the region.

The Board's main problem here is the provision of adequate accommodation, and with the finances available to it will do all it can to solve this problem. Population of several of the towns swells considerably during fruit picking seasons. Under the Rural Workers' Accommodation Act it is the employer's responsibility to provide satisfactory accommodation for his workers.

Mr Kingsmill said that the Board could not accept the responsibility for accommodating itinerant workers, and that its first concern was to clear up the major problem of Dareton's sub-standard housing.

Dareton

About fifty Aborigines who are permanent residents live under very adverse conditions in thirteen shacks on a Reserve set aside for use as a future cemetery. The Board has tried for a long time to acquire land on which to provide suitable housing for these people, and recently has been successful.

Plans for twelve fully self-contained houses costing from \$5,000 to \$6,000 each will be prepared as a matter of urgency by the Department of Works at the Board's request. The houses will be built on a site about 1½ miles from Dareton near the road to Buronga; buses pass the site each day, providing transport to Dareton and Mildura for shopping and school.

The placid Murray at Moama



The Board Visits

\$70,000 for 12 new houses at

Mr Kingsmill said that these houses would be used as staging accommodation, and that as soon as families had advanced to a point where they could be fully integrated into the general community, they would be given the opportunity of moving into better houses which the Board will build in Dareton.

Two houses have been purchased by the Board in the town of Dareton and have been occupied by such families ready for town housing.

Wentworth Shire Council's building and health inspector considers the proposed houses would be acceptable as town houses in Dareton.

When members of the inspecting party asked Aborigines if they would like to move into the new houses all showed interest in the scheme. It's easy to see why.

They would leave the tin shanties for well-built and attractive houses which offer privacy—which is almost non-existent at the present camp.

Each house in the "village" of twelve will have three bedrooms, bath and chip heater, separate external laundry with fuel copper and tubs, attractive fencing, and individuality—achieved by varying roof line, window treatment, and painting schemes. Siting of the cottages in relation to the road alignment would be staggered; electricity and water will be supplied.

While in the staging houses, the families will be taught such things as hygiene, mothercraft, and efficient housekeeping. The families will also receive special help and guidance from the area welfare officer Mr R. Snook and Mrs D. Hall, who are based at Deniliquin.

At a meeting of Board members and representatives of Wentworth Shire Council held in Dareton Public Hall, Councillor Whyte said that the Shire was anxious to see conditions for Aborigines improved and was prepared to co-operate with the Board in every possible way.

Mr Kingsmill submitted a sketch plan of the proposed housing "village" which favourably impressed the Council men. Detailed plans would be submitted to the Council before tenders for construction were called.

Murray River Towns

M Building should begin early in 1968. In July last year the Board agreed to pay for water transportation to the old Reserve site until the residents are relocated in the new houses.

Members of the Aborigines Welfare Board feel that on-the-spot, first-hand fact-finding enables them to better understand problems which often differ from area to area, and to decide how best to utilize their finances.

S.T.C.F.

While at Dareton, Board members experienced the hospitality of the Mildura branch of the Save The Children Fund—one of several bodies in the region which work to improve conditions of Aboriginal life.

Mr Neville, the Fund's local chairman, welcomed the Board and gave a brief summary of the Fund's four year's work in Dareton. In association with the Sunraysia Aborigines Welfare Group \$15,000 had been raised to establish a welfare centre and pre-school kindergarten, which also provided recreational and study facilities for about forty primary and six high school children. In addition, the Fund advised Aborigines on housing and employment and employed a full-time welfare officer.

Mr Kingsmill responded to Mr Neville's welcome and said that the Board valued greatly its good relations with and the practical approach of organizations such as the Save The Children Fund.

s at Dareton will replace these tin shanties on the old Reserve



Mr A. G. Kingsmill (third from right) told a reporter from Mildura's Sunraysia Daily that the Aborigines Welfare Board would spend \$70,000 on the twelve fully self-contained houses costing from \$5,000 to \$6,000 each

Victoria

The Board visitors left Dareton and crossed the Murray River into Victoria and were conducted over the Manatunga Settlement, at Robinvale, by the Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare in Victoria, Mr P. E. Felton.

At Robinvale the N.S.W. Board members were welcomed by the Save The Children Fund, which operates a pre-school centre almost exclusively for Aboriginal children; from ten to twenty children attend each day, and receive a free meal.

Swan Hill

The town of Swan Hill is in Victoria, but the Aboriginal river bank camps are on the N.S.W. side of the Murray; the Board visited these camps. There are several Aboriginal centres and organizations in Swan Hill. One of these (on the N.S.W. side) is the Swan Hill District Native Children's Recreational Centre.

Cottages here were built in 1954 from money subscribed by the public. The Board has met requests for paint and materials for renovation of the cottages, which have been kept in good condition and are surrounded by attractive gardens.

The Murray Valley Food Processing Company hopes to establish a large juice extraction factory adjoining this Reserve. Erection of this factory will provide work for many local Aborigines.



The "Gem" Restaurant, a former Murray River paddle-wheel steamer, where the Board discussed inter-State co-operation between welfare authorities with members of the Swan Hill Aboriginal Affairs Committee

On board the "Gem", a floating restaurant converted from a former Murray River paddle-wheel steamer, the Board discussed with the Swan Hill Aboriginal Affairs Committee matters relating to co-operation between N.S.W. and Victorian authorities on welfare.

Mr Kingsmill said that existing inter-State arrangements appeared to be working satisfactorily. He said that welfare officers in the two States were willing to co-operate, and if difficulties arose discussions could be held.

Welfare activity in the district could be intensified now that an area welfare officer had been appointed to Deniliquin, Mr Kingsmill added, increasing the welfare staff to two officers.

Moama

The three A.W.B. houses in Moama are beyond economic repair, and suitable sites for houses to replace these have been hard to find. However, the Board has asked Public Works Department to prepare plans and specifications for three new cottages to replace the old houses.

Cumeroongunga

About 150 Aborigines live on Cumeroongunga Reserve, near Moama on the Victorian border. The Board visited the Reserve in 1963, when residents requested that certain long-standing leases of part of the Reserve be terminated, and the land made available by lease to Cumeroongunga Pty Ltd, a self-help company formed by residents to farm the land.

The plan has been made to work successfully, and the Board noted the progress which had been made. Sixty acres of wheat have been harvested, tomatoes have been grown for a local processing plant, and a large herd of cattle is being grazed.

The Board was welcomed at Cumeroongunga by Mr K. Atkinson, a resident of the Reserve and a



Aboriginal ladies in Deniliquin's McCauley Street prepared morning tea for their visitors. The Board was particularly impressed by the high standard of upkeep of the cottages and the well-kept lawns and gardens

full-time employee of the Company. Mr Kingsmill congratulated a meeting of Cumeroongunga residents for their progress to date, and hoped it would continue.

In 1964 four of the newer cottages on the Reserve were repaired and repainted at a cost of \$10,290. Last year the Board spent \$2,171 on toilet facilities, concrete paths and repairs, and repainting of the Recreation Hall. The Board has asked Public Works Department to repair and improve the Reserve's water supply at a cost of \$1,440.

Deniliquin

Deniliquin was the Board's last stopping place before returning to Sydney. Members inspected houses in McCauley Street and were impressed by the high standard of upkeep of the houses and the well-kept lawns and gardens. In a garden-party-like atmosphere, ladies of the cottages prepared morning tea for their guests.

The happy and gracious social occasion, which included representatives of the Council, concluded just as the skies opened and Deniliquin was drenched by a tropical-like downpour.

Arising from this inspection the Board is considering the provision of porches and fencing for the cottages, and a community sewing machine has been provided for the use of residents.

Mr Snook and Mrs Hall farewelled the Board at Deniliquin airport at the conclusion of a most interesting tour.

Many Aborigines pass through Deniliquin on their way to the fruit picking areas around Shepparton, in Victoria, and conditions on the north bank of the river have been investigated by the senior welfare officer.

To help reduce the problem, three new houses have been purchased in the town.

INVALID PENSIONS

This guide to entitlement to invalid pensions was prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. The N.S.W. address of the Department is Australia House, 50 Carrington Street, Sydney. 2000. Branch offices are at Armidale, Bankstown, Broken Hill, Gosford, Lismore, Lithgow, Newcastle, Orange, Wagga Wagga, and Wollongong.

These pensions are paid to people who are permanently incapacitated for work or permanently blind and who satisfy age and residence requirements. There is a means test on income and property, except for blind people.

Qualifying Age

16 years of age or over.

Incapacity

To qualify, a person must be permanently incapacitated for work to the extent of at least 85 per cent or permanently blind.

Residence

A person must have lived in Australia at any time continuously for a period of 5 years. If he became permanently incapacitated or blind outside Australia, except during a temporary absence, 10 years' continuous residence is necessary. But if he has completed 5 years' but not 10 years' continuous residence, and has lived in Australia for periods which, in total, exceed 10 years he may be eligible. Residence in New Zealand or Britain may be treated as residence in Australia. Certain absences do not affect eligibility.

Rates of Pension

The maximum Married Rate is \$1,222 a year (\$23.50 a week) for a married couple, both pensioners, i.e., \$611 a year (\$11.75 a week) each.

For a married person whose spouse receives an unemployment, sickness, or special benefit, a tuberculosis allowance or a service pension, the maximum is also \$611 a year (\$11.75 a week).

The maximum Standard Rate is \$676 a year (\$13 a week). This applies to a single person, to a married man whose wife receives a wife's allowance, or to a married person whose spouse does NOT receive an age or invalid pension, an unemployment, sickness, or special benefit, a tuberculosis allowance or a service pension.

Note: The maximum married or standard rate may be increased by additional pension for children but only the husband's pension is increased in the case of a married couple, both pensioners. The standard rate pension may also be increased by the addition of the guardian's allowance and supplementary assistance. The actual rate payable may be less than the appropriate maximum rate after taking *means as assessed* into account.

Information about the additional benefits mentioned, and others, is shown hereafter.

Children

For pension purposes the term "child" means a child under the age of 16 years in the pensioner's care. It also includes a child over that age but under 21 years if dependent on the pensioner and receiving full-time education.

Definitions of income and property are given below.

"Income" includes earnings and any other form of income with certain exceptions.

The main exceptions are: income from property; gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers or sisters; payments, other than annuities, by way of benefit from friendly societies; child endowment or other payments for children; sheltered employment allowance; Commonwealth health benefits and amounts received from registered benefit organizations.

In addition, in arriving at income for means test purposes, income as defined above may be reduced by up to \$156 a year (\$3 a week) for each dependent child.

"Property" includes all real and personal property, e.g., houses; land; money in hand, in a bank, invested or lent; shares; legacies; vehicles other than for personal use; livestock.

"Property" does not include the pensioner's home, furniture, or personal effects.

Other types of property disregarded are: the surrender value (up to \$1,500) of life insurance policies, the value of any reversionary interest; and the capital value of any life interest, annuity or contingent interest.

Married People

For married couples, except where they are separated or in other special circumstances, the income and property of each is taken to be half the combined income and property of both, even if only one is a pensioner or claimant.

The rate of pension payable depends on the

claimant's *means as assessed*. These consist of:

- his annual rate of income, *plus*
- a property component equal to \$2 for each complete \$20 of his property above \$400.

A person's *means as assessed* may consist entirely of income, entirely of property component, or of various combinations of income and property component.

OPERATION OF THE MEANS TEST

The actual pension payable is the maximum married or standard rate plus, where appropriate, additional pension for children and guardian's allowance, less the amount, if any, by which the *means as assessed* exceed \$442 if the claimant is married, or \$520 if the claimant is single, widowed, or divorced. The effect of this is illustrated hereunder.

WHERE THE CLAIMANT IS MARRIED

The figures shown are those applying after the combined income and combined property values of husband and wife are halved (*see* "Married People" in previous column).

	Where the Married Rate applies \$	Where the Standard Rate applies \$
If the claimant's property is valued at less than \$420—		
● a full pension is payable if the annual rate of income does not exceed	442	442
● no pension is payable if the annual rate of income reaches or exceeds	1,053*	1,118*
● a part pension is payable where the annual income is between \$442 and \$1,053* or \$442 and \$1,118*, as appropriate.		
If the claimant has no income:		
● a full pension is payable if the value of property is less than	4,840	4,840
● no pension is payable if the value of property reaches or exceeds	10,940	11,580
● a part pension is payable where the value of property is in the range \$4,840 to \$10,940 or \$4,840 to \$11,580, as appropriate		

* Increased by \$78 for each child in excess of one. Where husband and wife are both pensioners only the husband receives the increase; the wife would not be eligible for pension if income reaches or exceeds \$1,053 and the standard rate would then apply to the husband. Also see "For all claimants" page 13

WHERE THE CLAIMANT IS SINGLE, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED

If the claimants property is valued at less than \$420:	\$
● a full pension is payable if the annual rate of income does not exceed	520
● no pension is payable if the annual rate of income reaches or exceeds if guardian's allowance is payable,	1,196 or, 1,404*
● a part pension is payable if the annual rate of income is between \$520 and \$1,196 or \$520 and \$1,404,* as appropriate.	

* Increased by \$78 for each child in excess of one

If the claimant has no income:

- | | \$ |
|--|------------|
| ● a full pension is payable if the value of property is less than | 5,620 |
| ● no pension is payable if the value of property reaches or exceeds | 12,360 or, |
| if guardian's allowance is payable, | 14,440 |
| ● a part pension is payable if the value of property is in the range \$5,620 to \$12,360 or \$5,620 to \$14,440, as appropriate. | |

FOR ALL CLAIMANTS

If a claimant's property is valued at \$420 or more, the rates of income which will permit him to receive a full pension, or make him ineligible for a pension, both vary with the value of his property. Conversely, the value of property which does not affect the pension, and the value which makes him ineligible for a pension, both vary with his income. In all cases property of \$400 is disregarded.

Guardian's Allowance

A Guardian's Allowance of \$208 a year (\$4 a week) is payable, as an addition to the standard rate pension and subject to the means test, to widowers and other unmarried pensioners with one or more children.

Supplementary Assistance

Supplementary Assistance of \$104 a year (\$2 a week) is available to standard rate pensioners who pay rent, or pay for board and lodging or for lodging, and whose *means as assessed* do not exceed \$52. The assistance is reduced by the amount of *means as assessed* in excess of \$52.

Benefits for Dependants

A Wife's Allowance of \$312 a year (\$6 a week) may be paid, subject to the means test, to a non-pensioner wife. The wife's allowance is affected by income and property on the same basis as the pension, i.e., it is reduced by the amount of *means as assessed* over \$442.

A Child's Allowance of \$78 a year (\$1.50 a week) may be paid, free of the means test, for one child, and extra pension of \$78 a year may be paid, subject to the means test, for each other child.

Special Provisions for Blind People

Permanently blind people, if qualified in other respects, receive the maximum standard or married rate of pension and child's allowance of \$1.50 a week free of the means test. Wife's allowance, guardian's allowance, the extra pension for children other than the first, and supplementary assistance are subject to the means test. There are limits to the amount a blind person may receive from invalid and war pensions.

Payment of Pension

Invalid pensions are paid fortnightly by cheque posted to the pensioner's address or, in special circumstances, in cash at a nominated Post Office.

Employment: If an invalid pensioner is working the question of permanent incapacity for work is considered. Employment is not necessarily inconsistent with permanent incapacity and each case is treated on its merits.

Disabled people engaged in sheltered employment may be paid a sheltered employment allowance instead of an invalid pension.

Rehabilitation

The Department of Social Services provides treatment and training for a vocation to suitable invalid pensioners or claimants. Pension is continued during treatment, but is replaced by a rehabilitation allowance during full-time training.

Pensioner Medical Service

Free medical treatment of a general practitioner nature is available to most invalid pensioners and their dependants, while all invalid pensioners and their dependants are eligible for free pharmaceutical benefits. Entitlement Cards are issued by the Department of Social Services.

Pensioners who hold Pensioner Entitlement Cards, and their dependants, are generally entitled to in-patient hospitalization, without charge, in the public wards of public hospitals.

Telephone Rental, Radio and Television Licence Concessions

A concessional telephone rental equal to two-thirds of the amount otherwise payable is available

for blind people; pensioners who live alone; and pensioners living in a household each member of which is also entitled to the concession or has an income not exceeding \$1,196 a year.

Reduced rate radio and television licences (free for blind pensioners) are also available to pensioners in the abovementioned categories.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PENSION

Claim forms may be obtained from any Post Office and from all offices of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

People living in metropolitan areas should send their claims to the Director of Social Services in the capital city of the State in which they live. Others should send them to the nearest Registrar of Social Services.

If both husband and wife wish to claim a pension, a separate form should be used by each.

A person cannot receive an invalid pension as well as an age or widow's pension, a tuberculosis allowance, a sheltered employment allowance, or a service pension (except one for pulmonary tuberculosis).

People with pulmonary tuberculosis may be eligible for tuberculosis allowance at a rate higher than that of invalid pension. Information about the facilities for the treatment of tuberculosis and about tuberculosis allowances may be obtained from the State Director of Tuberculosis in the capital city of each State.

Correction

The article on Widow's Pensions in *Dawn*, July, 1967 (pages 7 to 9), was prepared from a pamphlet since superseded. The new edition incorporates minor changes in pension eligibility and the increased pension rates. People interested in obtaining the new guide to entitlement to widow's pensions should write to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, 50 Carrington Street, Sydney. 2000; branch offices of the Department at Armidale, Bankstown, Broken Hill, Gosford, Lismore, Lithgow, Newcastle, Orange, Wagga Wagga, and Wollongong; or to the Aborigines Welfare Board, 121 Macquarie Street, Sydney. 2000.

Smoke Signals

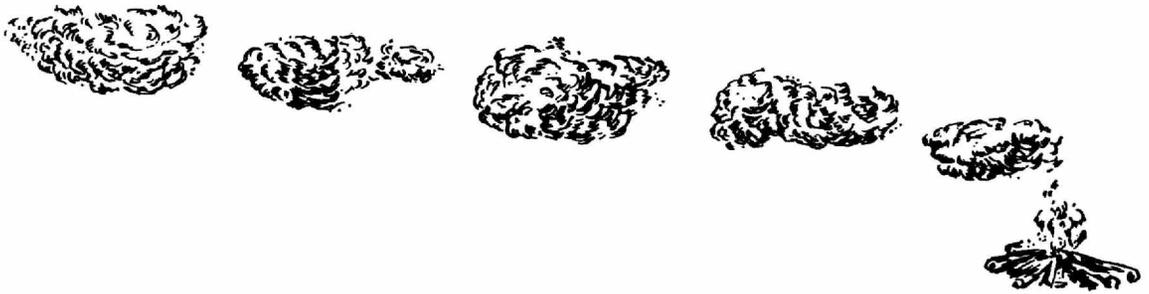
TIP FOR THE MONTH You can usually get a good shine on shoes wet by rain the day before by adding a few drops of paraffin to the polish.

► Fifteen-year-old Arnold Ulamari is the first full-blood Aboriginal to win an English prize in a Northern Territory school. Arnold is in First Year at Darwin High School and had only two years of primary schooling. Few of his adult relatives can read or write.

► Motorists in Perth (W.A.) have been asked to give way to long-necked tortoises crossing Herbert Road in the suburb of Shenton Park. Mr R. Flood, a signwriter, erected the appealing sign after several tortoises had been run over. Each year the tortoises leave a nearby lake to lay their eggs in the warm, dry soil of house gardens up to a quarter of a mile from the lake.

► Canadians, like people of many other nations, are greatly interested in boomerang throwing. Mr Robert Edwards, a young Tullamore farmer recently returned from Canada, said that he had given scores of lessons in the sport there. Members of many farming clubs he visited were interested in boomerang throwing.

► Arnhem Land didgeridoo player so impressed Mr Ken Davis, a schoolteacher who was once a brass bandsman, that he inspired the Northern Territory Administration to buy the players six cornets from Adelaide. Mr Davis' school is on Elcho Island off Arnhem Land, and his friends say that he plans to teach tribesmen the finer points of cornet playing. He hopes that Aborigines with a natural talent for rhythm will eventually learn to play bassoons, trumpets, and other brass band instruments. Pity, but I don't think I'd like to hear the weird, whoomping drone of the didgeridoo replaced by the crashing cymbals and blare of a brass band.



▲ Jimmy Little's new LP record "New Songs for Jimmy" has had good reviews from the critics. One of them said that Jimmy had a smooth, beautiful voice which gave character to any ballad. Jimmy pays particular attention to the words, so that listeners clearly hear what he sings.

▲ A "pop" recording group which seems to rely on gimmicks more than quality of voice and instruments, had trouble with a lion in October. The Troggs' song *The Lion* called for the roar of a lion in a London recording studio. Marquis, the Lion, was waiting to roar on cue, but his nose touched a live microphone and he got an electric shock. Then a piano lid fell with a bang. Marquis jumped, or fell, off a table and caught his paw in the furniture. Everyone in the studio leapt for the exit. After two handlers quietened him down, the recording session continued, and Marquis growled on cue—but would not roar.

▲ The owners of a kelpie bitch near Adelaide are trying to break up their dog's romance—with the local dog catcher. Every time the dog sees the dog-catching van in the area, she happily jumps in for a ride to the dog pound. And every time this happens, her owners have to pay a \$1 impounding fee and a return taxi fare of \$1.20 to get the dog home. So far this has happened four times. The dog's owners have written to the local council complaining that the dog catcher visited their area more frequently than any other area.

▲ Northern Territory will soon have more Aborigines than Europeans, according to the Reverend G. A. Pearson. Rev. Pearson, speaking to the Anglican synod in Melbourne early in October, said: "There is a real population explosion on the mission stations and elsewhere in the Northern Territory—it has possibly the most rapid growth per cent of population of any part of this continent."

▶ Camels can go without water for many days, but tiny hopping mice from Australian desert areas have set a world record for their ability to survive indefinitely without water. Scientists at Melbourne's Monash University have shown that the tiny mice can live on birdseed (which contains only 10 per cent water) because of their specially evolved kidneys which concentrate body water. The mice, which weigh only about 1 oz, forage at night and burrow underground in the day. Research on them might be useful in the selection and breeding of domestic stock for arid areas.

▶ A two-year-old Aboriginal boy from Bourke took his first steps late in October after months on his back with a crippling disease of his legs. He was treated at the Far West Children's Home at Manly for six months. When he was admitted to the Home doctors thought it would be 18 months before he could possibly be on his feet, but he surprised them with his quick recovery. Soon he will be back home with his parents at Bourke.

▶ Pests certainly do present problems. A woman selected an attractively packaged "meat balls in gravy" special at a Sydney store late in October. Her husband said the meal was "A bit tasteless", but this didn't surprise her because he is hard to please. A few days later the woman noticed on the label of the empty tin that it contained "The new shape in dog food"! Evidently this consumption of canine condiment had no ill effect.

▶ Australia's highest mountain should not bear the name of Kosciusko but should be named after an Australian, such as Namatjira, suggests Mr Bob McCarthy, of Cooma. If the name of Namatjira was not acceptable, Mr McCarthy said, then why not use the original name, Targingil, given it by the Aborigines. "At least that is more Australian than Kosciusko," he said.

Your Career Music



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

Young people who wish to make a career in music have a choice of becoming teachers, performers, or composers, according to their abilities. They may also elect to become exponents of either classical or "popular" music. Most professional musicians find it necessary to teach at some stage of their career.

Personal qualifications Natural musical aptitude, concentration, determination, and willingness to undertake long hours of study and practice.

Entry and training Some musicians, usually in the field of light entertainment, have succeeded without any formal training. However it is advisable to undertake some formal studies with either a private teacher, or at the Conservatorium of Music.

(a) The Conservatorium provides courses leading to a Diploma of Music in either Teaching or Performing, and a Diploma in Composition. The Diploma of Music courses last three years (including a pre-diploma year). Applicants for the Diploma course must hold the School Certificate and pass a special entrance examination. Students holding an Intermediate Certificate obtained before 1964 will also be considered. Further details may be obtained from the Registrar, Conservatorium of Music, Macquarie Street, Sydney. 2000.

(b) University of Sydney awards the degrees of Bachelor of Music (4-year course) and Bachelor of Arts (with a major in Music). Matriculation is the only formal entry requirement. Fees are about \$264 a year. Further details may be obtained from the Registrar of the University.

(c) Students can study either with private teachers or at the Conservatorium for the pro-

fessional qualifications awarded by bodies such as the Australian Music Examinations Board and Trinity College, London.

Prospects The majority of musicians rely on short-term contracts with radio and television stations, or on engagements on a free-lance basis, or private teaching. Those who obtain permanent positions are mainly teachers and lecturers, or members of orchestras, programme arrangers, and directors of music employed by radio and television stations.

Fees paid to free-lance musicians vary considerably. Soloists enter into individual agreements for each performance. Awards for other instrumentalists are negotiated by the Musicians' Union of Australia (122 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. 2000).

Further information Vocational Guidance Bureau's leaflet *Music*.

Primitive Lover

By Kevin J. Gilbert

I gathered my spears as the sun slowly set,
And I lifted my womera high.
I knew I must travel, yes, journey I must,
Or e'er the sweet dawn come, I die.
The hunters they sought me, by brook and through valley.
They followed my tracks through the day and by night.
And now, e'er the dawn come I know they will rally
And trap me, so turning I die or I fight.
The tribe judged me guilty, the law of my fathers.
Forbidden the kisses of sweet Kamjellee.
And I had sweet spoken and stolen the love of . . .
Forbidden, the maiden who sweet spoke to me.
The stars are all glowing, the cool breezes whisper
With gentle caress kiss this sweet desert sand.
And I as an outcast shall die as a rebel
For stolen love's bliss, and the laws of my land.
They met me at wahlo—the desert soak water.
Sweet desert ambrosia my parched lips kis't.
The first flying spear was flung and it missed me.
Oh, Baime, Great Spirit, I thank you, it missed.
The second was thrown by a stalwart young tribesman.
"My cousin! My brother" I cried as I fell.
My cousin, my brothers embraced my poor body.
The law reached fulfilment—the land would yield well.

Pete's Page

Hello Kids,

In July *Dawn* I told you about the great koala hunt. The Wildlife Service of the Fauna Protection Panel asked a quarter of a million N.S.W. school-children to look for bears, and to tell how many bears they saw, where they were, and what kind of gum leaves they were eating.

You kids certainly did a good job. Koalas were found in secret haunts where no one ever dreamed they existed. And other interesting facts came from the survey.

Koalas were found west of the Darling River, through the centre of New South Wales, and in scattered groups near Bando, in the far north-west.

Find the Animals

See how many animals you can find hidden in the drawing.



Children discovered that the bears eat food other than gum leaves—previously thought to be their only source of food; and that the animals are spread much more widely than has ever been thought.

Koalas in over-populated areas, such as the northeastern tip of the State, now might be taken to areas where bears no longer exist.

Another result of the survey has been the flood of requests by many graziers who have asked for their properties to be put under the protection of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. They want to be able to arrest a hunter if he has a gun on their property.

Because children like you did such a good job in tracking down the koalas, these lovely animals will have a far better chance of staying a part of our Australian bush.

Bye for now kids,

See you next month.

Pete

SOLUTION TO OCTOBER/DECEMBER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Sleep
- 4 Wet
- 6 Rabbit
- 9 Tree
- 10 AA
- 11 Battle
- 12 Milk
- 13 Me
- 14 Us

Down

- 2 Eye
- 3 Kittens
- 5 Treble
- 7 Bat
- 8 Bat

Mr. L. K. Darcy (nearest camera), the part-Aboriginal representative on the Aborigines Welfare Board, sat on the banks of the Murray at Swan Hill and talked things over with one of his people, during the Board's visit to Murray River towns in October (see story page 8)

