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# Dawn



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

July, 1953.





## OUR COVER

The snowy slopes of Kosciusko provide a dazzling winter playground for Australians and tourists from abroad.

Soon the Spring will come and the snow will make way for fresh green pastures.

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# THE ABORIGINES MUST HELP THEMSELVES

## LAZINESS RETARDS PROGRESS

*This interesting article by one of our District Welfare Officers will provide all aborigines with much food for thought. Those who think clearly and without prejudice must admit that it is startlingly true. The truth often hurts, but it can also be helpful.*



I find that there are very few districts where the white population are not sympathetic towards the problems of the aboriginal people. The problem, however, still remains that the aborigines in general are reluctant to give up their old slothful ways and face up to the responsibilities of life.

Drink and gambling are still the main causes of preventing the aboriginal people to rise up to a better standard of living. The majority of them have little idea of the value of money and see nothing wrong with wasting pounds on taxi fares, even when a cheaper means of public conveyance is available. I have lectured individuals and groups repeatedly over such stupid spending. In many ways it would be an advantage to have control over their wages, but this would increase staff problems and would defeat the purpose of making them self-reliant.



It is encouraging, however, to find that a few of the coloured people are endeavouring to lift themselves up to the living standards of the general community.

I have found that, where the aboriginal children are attending the Public Schools with white children, they encourage their people to attend public functions. I am pleased to report that in all cases where such children are attending Public Schools the teaching staffs give them a very favourable report and take a keen interest in their well-being.

It is realised that, with the difficulty of accommodation in some Public Schools, it is impossible to abolish Aboriginal Schools and send these children to mixed schools. I consider, however, that it is only where the coloured children mix at school with white children that we shall make a true start with an assimilation policy. I have heard it stated that the aboriginal children are happier when mixing with their own kind. I do not altogether agree with this argument, as I have seen these children playing in school playgrounds with white children and showing every appearance of being happy as they are when playing in aboriginal schools.



Unfortunately, it is when school is over that a barrier is set up. This, however, can be overcome when these children go home to an environment equal, or near equal, to that of the white children.

It is encouraging to find the keenness that exists to obtain a home where homes are being built by the Board. This applies mainly to the womenfolk, and is an indication that they are anxious to have their children enjoy living under better standards than they themselves were compelled to endure.

I find that the aboriginal people are generally too immersed in their own problems to take much interest in the social, cultural or civic life of the general community. It is only rarely that one finds one who will break away from the crowd and want to live and take an interest in events outside their own little circle. Those men who play football with white teams always drift back for companionship with their own people. This is not surprising as, irrespective of the sympathy and feelings of the white community to the aborigines, a closer relationship is still regarded with suspicion. I consider, however, that when the living standards of the aborigines are raised and they live within the white community, this barrier will disappear.



I have been disappointed to see a number of youths who were reared and educated at the Kinchela Home, return to living under the sub-standard conditions of encampments. I have tried to encourage these youths, who are in fairly constant employment, to bank some of their money, to clothe themselves decently and to keep themselves clean. I have even asked them to let me find them some cheap accommodation when they come into town in the week-end. They will always agree with me, but I find that they do nothing to alter their way of life or improve their personal hygiene. I have, however, insisted on one youth banking most of his Trust Account, and, as he voluntarily left his bank book with me, my lectures may be of some account. I will, however, have to try and break him away from his present associates.

I find that I have had very good co-operation from medical men and hospitals in their treatment of the aborigines.

It has been found necessary, however, in most cases to segregate them from other patients in the hospitals; the reason being that most aboriginal patients are filthy in their habits generally. I have had reports of cases where they expectorate on the floor near their beds and also one case (who was not mental, either) where a woman constantly got out of bed and performed her excretions on the floor.

How can people who persist in behaviour such as this expect to be treated as equals by the white community.?

Employment is becoming more difficult to obtain. This applies in all centres, and every effort should be made by the aboriginal people to establish themselves in one district so that they can become known and will then obtain work when it is offering.

Where individual aborigines show a desire to go in for agricultural work, every effort should be made to start them on old Reserves or pieces of available Crown Lands. There are indications that in most cases they do well in these pursuits, especially in market gardens and banana growing.

In conclusion, I would like to add that I consider the Board's building programme to be the most important uplift for the aboriginal people. I would, however, like to see, where possible, homes built for some of the better types away from Stations and Reserves. I consider it is essential, even to the point of reducing accommodation, to provide laundry and bathroom facilities. Without this encouragement to cleanliness and personal hygiene, much of the advantages of better housing will be lost.



The Gum Leaf band at the recent La Perouse Convention  
From left to right—C. Edwards, J. Longbottom, T. Williams, W. Stewart and Roy Simms.

## NOW YOU KNOW!

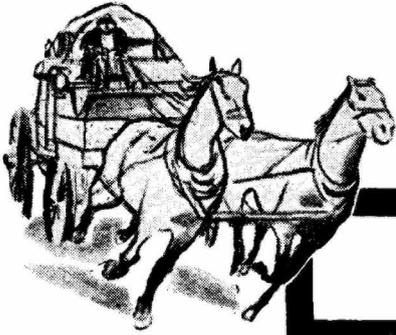
**THE MAN WITH THE LONGEST BEARD IS ALWAYS ELECTED THE TRIBAL JUDGE OF THE MONGO TRIBE, BELGIAN CONGO.**

**BIRDS ARE THE MAIN CHECK AGAINST THE RE-PRODUCTION OF INSECTS, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD MULTIPLY SO QUICKLY THAT THEY WOULD RID THE WORLD OF ALL VEGETATION, LEAVING MAN TO STARVE!**

**WHENEVER IT SNOWS ON MOUNT SHAVANO IN COLORADO, U.S.A. IT LEAVES A DEPOSIT WHICH TAKES THE FORM OF A FIGURE WITH OUTSTRETCHED ARMS!**

**AMERICA'S STATUE OF LIBERTY IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST ENGINEERING JOBS. IT STANDS 305 FEET HIGH AND THOUGH BUILT IN 1886, IT IS LIKELY TO STAND FOR ANOTHER THOUSAND YEARS OR MORE. THE MAN WHO BUILT THE EIFFEL TOWER IN PARIS, GUSTAVE EIFFEL, CONSTRUCTED IT. THE TORCH OF THE STATUE CONTINUALLY BURNS WITH A POWERFUL LIGHT TWO THOUSAND-FIVE HUNDRED TIMES STRONGER THAN MOONLIGHT!**

**ORIGIN OF THE WORD TANTALIZE**  
GREEK MYTHOLOGY RECORDS THE STORY OF KING TANTALUS, WHO OFFENDED THE GODS AND WAS PUNISHED BY BEING PLACED IN A LAKE WHOSE WATERS REACHED HIS CHIN, BUT RECEDED WHENEVER HE ATTEMPTED TO QUENCH HIS THIRST. OVER HIS HEAD HUNG BUNCHES OF GRAPES WHICH RECEDED WHENEVER HE STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND IN AN ATTEMPT TO SATISFY HIS HUNGER. TANTALUS BECAME THE SYMBOL OF TEASING, AND HIS NAME IS THE ORIGIN OF OUR WORD TANTALISE.



## Along the Mail Route

The people at Moonahcullah are fortunate to have a visit every second Sunday from Mr. and Mrs. V. Page and Miss P. Satoria, from Deniliquin. Miss Satoria and Mrs. Page look after the large Sunday School which has been formed, and Mr. Page then conducts a church service.

Perhaps the most important development recently, at Moonahcullah, has been the greatly increased interest of the people in Deniliquin for the welfare of the residents of the station. It is expected that this interest will lead to some real, practical help in the near future. The main reason for this increased interest is the participation of the school children in the inter-school sports last year, and then a very creditable performance at the Choral and Verse-speaking Festival in the Deniliquin Town Hall.

Early this year, the District Inspector of Schools, Mr. B. G. Watt, B.A., visited the Moonahcullah School and presented the prizes to pupils who had done well during 1953. Those who received prizes were Lona Day, Muriel Day, Ernest Taylor and Ralph Day. The Inspector stated he was very pleased with the progress of the pupils, some of whom had never attended school prior to 1952. Seven pupils began fourth class at the beginning of this year and will sit for the normal annual examination at the beginning of July.

Congratulations to Harry Briggs (Snr.) for the very fine job he is making in transforming one of the old houses on the Station into a really nice home. The remarkable change brought about by a coat of paint and kalsomine is well worth the effort and should set a good example for some of the other residents.

The residents of Brewarrina Station are planning a corroboree for early in September. This is going to be a really big affair and should attract hundreds of visitors.

Any readers of *Dawn* who are good singers or dancers and would like to join in the fun should contact the station manager without delay.

It is with regret that *Dawn* announces the death of Noelene Elsie Ward, a resident of Burnt Bridge, who recently passed away in the Newcastle General Hospital. Sympathy is extended to her mother, sisters, brothers, and other relations.

The newly formed Girls' Basket-ball Team from Burnt Bridge, under the capable management of Mr. Jim Stirling, teacher at Burnt Bridge Public School, will soon be seen in their new playing colours, royal blue, with gold trimmings. These tunics were donated to the team from the Burnt Bridge Social Club funds.

Boxing tournaments are being held regularly in the Agricultural Hall of the Kempsey Showground, and many lads from Burnt Bridge Station have already participated.

Ritchie Sands, brother of the late Dave Sands, is giving tuition to many youngsters in the Recreation Hall on Burnt Bridge practically every night. A number of lads from Burnt Bridge have already been matched with the boys from the Kinchela Boys Training Home.

Patricia Elaine Taylor, of Burnt Bridge, was recently admitted to Waterfall Sanatorium, and all the local residents wish her a very speedy recovery.



Young Billy Hughes drives the tractor on the farm where he works.

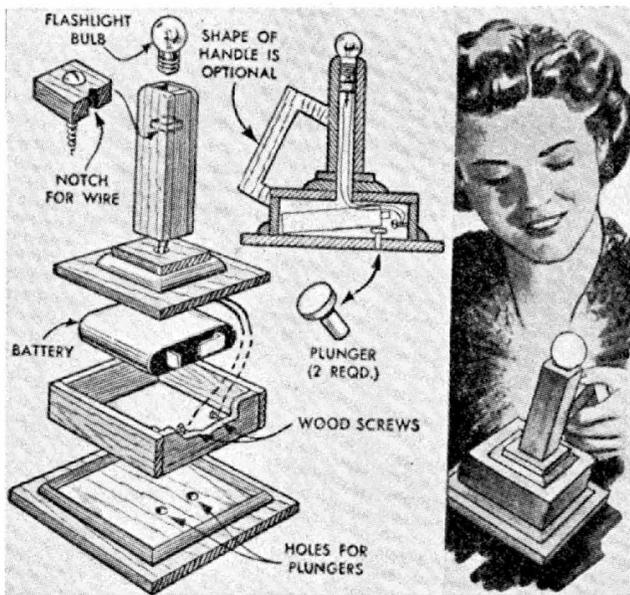
# HOME



# HINTS

## Novel Night Light with Convenient Handle is Switched on Automatically When Lifted

Kept within easy reach on a bedside table, this handy little night light turns on as soon as it is lifted. Two plungers fitted in the base raise the battery away from the contacts when the light is resting on the table. When it is picked up, the plungers drop and lower the battery, allowing the terminals to make contact. No dimensions for the lamp are given, as these are determined by the size of the battery used. Note, however, that there must be no side play for the battery so the terminals will not slip off the brass-screw contacts. Also, the height of the battery case must be sufficient to permit the battery terminals to clear the contacts completely. On this type of battery, one terminal usually will extend across the face to the second terminal, and the long one should be cut off as shown. The contact for the base of the flashlight bulb is a brass wood screw driven through a square piece of wood which is glued inside the lamp upright. The wood is notched for a wire which makes contact with the threaded portion of the bulb. The entire unit is of simple box-type construction and can be made of plywood or scraps of solid stock, using quarter-round beading to enhance the design. The plungers can be turned from wood or metal or made by gluing a disk cut from a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch dowel to a length of  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch dowel.



## Iodine Stains

Remove iodine stains from linen by using a mixture of milk and carbonate of soda. Wash in soapy water. Stains disappear.

Wash your old hair brush well and keep it for dampening clothes before ironing. Dipped in water it does an effective job and saves time.

## Greasy Overalls

Soak greasy overalls in water in which a packet of salts has been dissolved. Leave overnight, if possible, then wash in hot suds and rinse. The grease will be removed with very little rubbing.

## The Ironing Blanket

Four metal clamps with thumb screws, which can be screwed over the ironing blanket and sheet on the table, will stop slipping and constant adjustment.



Bridesmaids at a recent wedding, Dawn McIntosh and Valerie Binge, of Boggabilla, both look very lovely.

## ABORIGINAL STOREKEEPER

### *Lance Johnson's Fine Effort*

Lance Johnson, a resident of Murrin Bridge, is the proprietor of a store on the station and he is to be congratulated on his efforts. He stocks most of the necessary items of groceries, as well as bread and vegetables.

As Murrin Bridge Station is situated ten miles from Lake Cargelligo, the store is very convenient to the residents, and is not only appreciated but well patronised by them.

Lance grows all his own vegetables for sale in shop and his prices are very reasonable. In the garden he has tomatoes, potatoes, water-melons, rock-melons and pumpkins. He has been particularly successful with his tomatoes, growing some of the finest in the district, and they have been much sought after by the white community.



Lance and his assistants stand proudly outside the store. From left to right—Lance Johnson, Annie Williams, Flora Johnson and Hector King.

Lance employs two girls in the store and one man in the garden.

By his initiative and hard work, Lance Johnson has set a wonderful example for his fellow aborigines, and has shown that opportunity is where one seeks it, regardless of colour.

"THE MARE AND HER COLT."



A fine sketch by Lloyd Dennison, of Boggabilla.

## SCHOOL MILK

### *All Children Benefit*

Last year, the Commonwealth Government granted free milk to all school children throughout the Commonwealth up to 13 years of age, on the basis of  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint per child per day. The scheme has been extended to include all Aboriginal Schools and, whereas the Board provided milk in the past as part of the mid-morning lunch for all aboriginal school children, the cost of all milk supplied is now recouped from the Commonwealth Government.

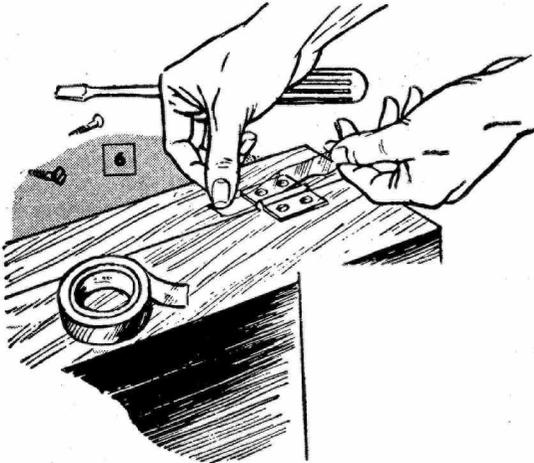


As a guarantee of good health, all the youngsters at Murrin Bridge are given a dose of malt and cod liver oil every morning. Strange as it may seem, they don't mind a bit. Indeed, as the picture shows, they line up full of eagerness.

# HELP YOURSELF

## TO HOLD HINGES TIGHT

Hinges won't slip out of position if they are held in place with cellulose tape while a few holes are being drilled. The tape may be left on until the screws have been completely driven.



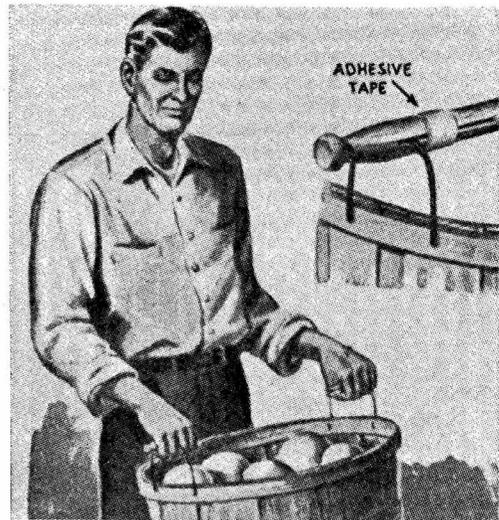
## PASTE BRUSH REST

Where to rest the brush while pasting wallpaper is solved by inserting a length of stiff wire through the bail eyes of the pail. When you want to stir the paste, merely withdraw the wire.



## AN EASY HANDLE GRIP

When laundry, fruit or other heavy loads are carried in a wire-handled bushel basket, the task is easier if a wooden clothes-pin is slipped over each of the handles to provide a more comfortable grip. If the basket is used frequently, fasten the clothespins in place by wrapping strips of adhesive or cellulose tape around them as shown in the detail.



## A NEW TIN OPENER

Brush handle doubles as a paint-can opener if it is fitted with a piece of metal to permit prying open the lid. The metal is drilled and then fastened to the end of the brush handle with two small wood screws.



# OUR REAL CITIZENS

## MORE EXEMPTED ABORIGINES

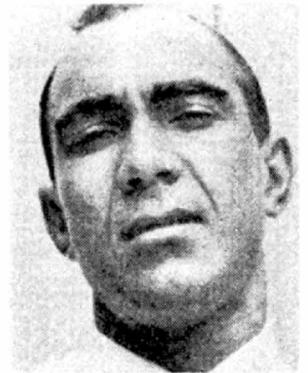


**Frederick Vincent (54),**  
of Lachlan Street,  
Euabalong.

This is the third occasion on which we have published the photographs of those aboriginal men and women who feel justly proud of the fact that they have received their Exemption Certificates . . . and have, in fact, become real citizens in every sense of the word.

These Certificates are not handed out indiscriminately . . . they must be earned by continued good conduct, initiative and the expressed willingness to accept not only the privileges of being a citizen, but also the responsibilities.

Next month we will present still more aboriginal men and women who have been granted Exemption Certificates.



**George Alfred Darcy (25),**  
of Bathurst Street,  
Brewarrina.



**Frank Stewart (21),** of  
Quinns Lane, South  
Nowra.



**Thomas Lyons (39),** of  
Gundagai St., Narrandera.



**John Alfred Bamblett (27),**  
of 9 Carabeen  
Avenue, Leeton.



**Arthur Roy Dixon (48),**  
of Woolbrook.



**James Henry Morris (35),**  
of Greenhills, Kempsey.



**Charles Frost (48),** of  
Condobolin.

## EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT

### *Equal Chances for All*

Further progress was made this year in implementation of the policy of providing every facility available within the State for aboriginal children in the matter of education. It becomes more apparent, year by year, that the future of our aboriginal people and their acceptance as social equals to the white community is wrapped up in educating the younger generation so that they may have the opportunity of taking their place in the social and economic life of the community generally.



It is admitted that many of the dark people are not availing themselves to the full of this opportunity, but the same can be said also of a section of the white people. Some parents, unfortunately, are not prepared to allow their children—some of whom are intelligent and well qualified—to proceed to secondary schools for higher education, preferring that they should leave school and go to work as soon as they reach fifteen years of age.

The Education Department fully recognises the right of the aboriginal children to be taught in up-to-date schools and by well trained teachers, and it is recorded with satisfaction that the new schools that have been built over the past few years for aboriginal children are modern buildings, well provided with proper facilities and teaching aids.

Another very important and most desirable departure from the old order, in which the Department of Education is co-operating most whole-heartedly, is the gradual closing of special primary schools for aboriginal children. This old-established manifestation of the "segregation" system is now giving place to the absorption, where possible, of aboriginal children into "white" schools. The arrangement has already been put into practice at Collarenebri, Mungindi, Forster and Dubbo, where special schools previously existed, and other centres have been noted for similar action at the beginning of 1953.

At the end of last year, fifty-seven children from aboriginal stations and homes were enrolled at High Schools, no less than seventeen being from Quirindi Aboriginal Station. These numbers have no reference to aboriginal children whose families live independently of the Board's direct supervision. It is known that there is a considerable number belonging to that category. The Board has followed the practice for some years past of granting a number of bursaries, year by year, in the sum of £50 each per annum for three years, to selected children who possess the requisite educational standard, to continue a secondary education, but whose parents are not able to afford the cost of maintaining them at school for that further period. During the year, four such bursaries were awarded, bringing the total of current bursaries to seven. Two children completed their secondary school studies during the year and the availability of their bursaries ceased. This year one bursar will sit for the Leaving Certificate Examination.

## STATION CHANGES

During the past few months there have been many changes in the management of aboriginal stations throughout the State.

**Boggabilla.**—Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Forster have left Cabbage Tree Island and taken over at Boggabilla in place of Mr. and Mrs. Forster who resigned to take up a farming property.

**Brewarrina.**—Mr. and Mrs. Somers, of Brewarrina, have retired from the service and their places have been taken by Mr. and Mrs. J. Spencer, formerly of Burra Bee Dee. Mr. and Mrs. E. Cole have taken over at Burra Bee Dee.

**Cabbage Tree Island.**—Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Luschwitz, of La Perouse, have taken over at Cabbage Tree Island and have already settled in.

**Caroona.**—Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Tower, of Burnt Bridge, have moved on to Caroona to take over from Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Wehams.

**Murrin Bridge.**—Murrin Bridge welcomes Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Ribbons, who have recently been appointed Assistant Manager and Assistant Matron.

**Pilliga.**—Pilliga has bid farewell to Mr. and Mrs. R. Constable, on the completion of their service.

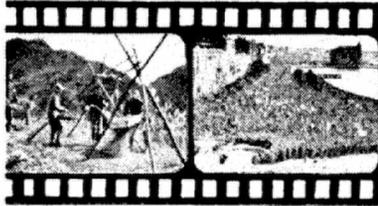
**Woodenbong.**—Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Stratton, of Cabbage Tree Island, have taken over from Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Foster at Woodenbong.

**Tabulam.**—Mr. and Mrs. J. Marsh, of Tabulam, have resigned from the service and their places have been taken by Mr. and Mrs. G. Carlin, of Burnt Bridge.

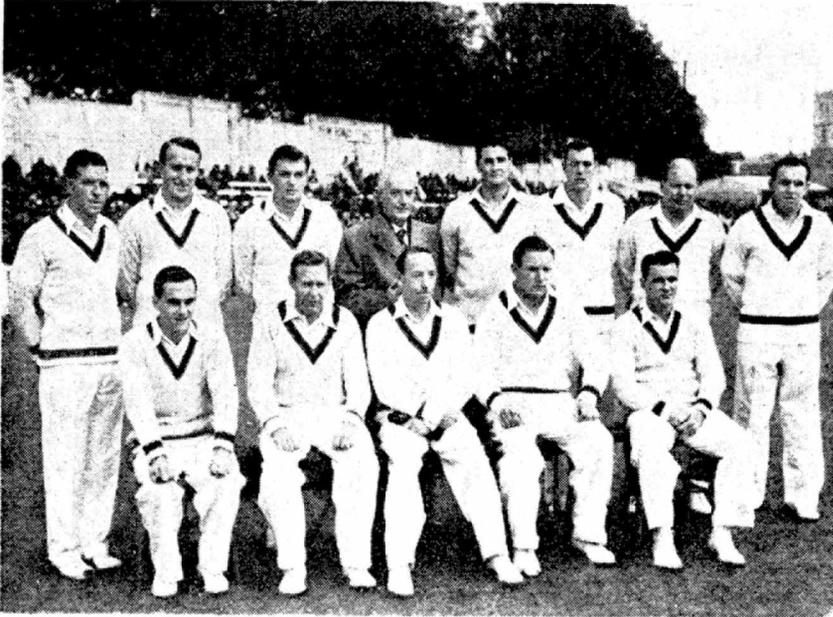
**Area Welfare Officer.**—Mr. S. C. Lambeth has been appointed Area Welfare Officer for the South and South-West, with headquarters at Leeton. His postal address is Box 119, Post Office, Leeton.



A happy group at the recent Convention at La Perouse. From left to right—Mrs. D. Forster, Mr. Lindsay Grant (Speaker), Mr. C. Edwards, Mr. Tom Brady and Mr. Tom Pittman.



# AROUND THE W

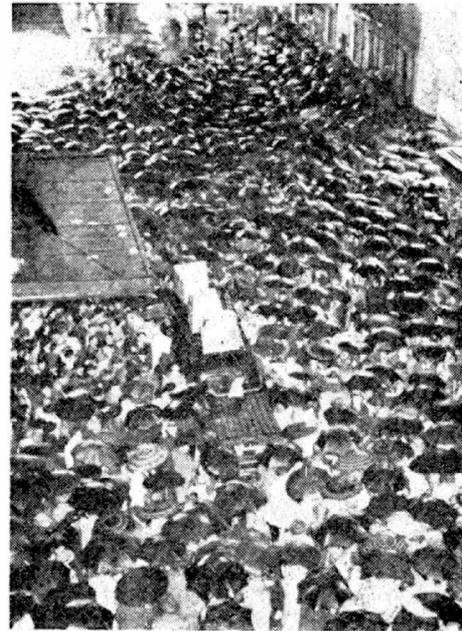


Members of the Australian XI now on tour in England. The first two Test matches have been drawn, but there are still three more to play. Australia holds the Ashes at present.

Field  
Sir V  
of A  
Gene  
was t

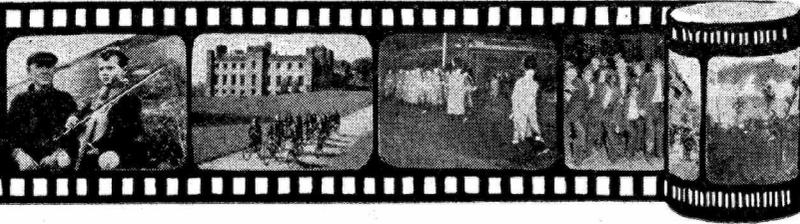


This giant snowman makes the little girl and her dog look just like do ls. The cold weather prevailing throughout New South Wales, gives many children the opportunities of building similar snowmen.



Maybe some day we'll know enough weather not to hold election campaign deluges. This photo taken in England recent election, shows just how keen the to hear their various candidates

# WORLD



...marshall, Sir William Slim and Lady Slim. ...liam, who is the new Governor-General ...ralia, was formerly Chief of the Imperial ... Staff. His most famous Command ... 14th Army which defeated the Japanese ... in Burma, in World War II.



While his friends waste their time chasing cats, this clever pup likes to stay home and practise the piano. We don't know the title of the song but, it looks like "Run Rabbit Run."



...out the ... s during ... during a ... ople are



This baby Koala was placed in a wastepaper basket at the Melbourne Fisheries and Game Department to keep him out of mischief. He was being transferred from Phillip Island to the Koala Colony at Sir Colin McKenzie's Sanctuary at Helensville.

# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ABORIGINES PASS?

*MICHAEL SAWTELL, well-known lecturer and author, here tells the Lake Eyre story. He deals frankly with the problems concerning the aborigines of the north, and beef production.*



I recently flew to Oodnadatta and travelled down the western side of Lake Eyre to Marree, to investigate aborigine welfare and beef production.

We hear a good deal about the eastern side of the lake, and those three large rivers that pour down into it from Queensland, but not so much about the western side.

So far as the aborigines are concerned, they were never better treated; that is if high wages mean welfare.

Aborigines receive more money now than a boss drover did when I was a drover's boy fifty years ago.

## "No Booze"

Aborigines working on stations are now able to buy portable wireless sets and wristlet watches.

I am pleased, however, to be able to report that the publicans in that country say most emphatically, "no aborigine can get booze here."

However, they gamble a great deal.

Still much of the cattle work in the country is done by aborigines, and the squatters are wondering where their labour is to come from when the aborigines die out, for very few young white boys go out there.

Cattle-growing around Lake Eyre is a long and difficult problem.



There has been a cycle of about ten good seasons in the area, which is good, of course, but it has also been good for the pests, and has given the rabbits, wild dogs, brumbies, wild donkeys, and the wild camels an opportunity to breed up and increase to millions.

The country now supports more pests than it does sheep or cattle.

I was told that the brumbies are the worst pest, for they eat out the grass around the waters and, when they have done that, are able to move farther out to grass than the cattle.

## They Appealed

They leave the eaten-out country for the slower-walking cattle, who are unable to walk so far as the wild horses.

The squatters appealed to the military to supply them with .303 cartridges to shoot brumbies, but the military ask £33 a thousand for cartridges, and then there are no men to employ as brumby shooters.

Another drought is now needed to wipe out the pests.

## The Answer

I suggest that the answer to the problem of increased beef production in the Lake Eyre area is in mechanisation.

It is a strange and difficult country to know and understand.

It might quite correctly be called a desert, but with water the country will grow anything.



All kinds of citrus fruits flourish there, and in some of the station gardens I saw many different kinds of vegetables growing, a few blades of wheat, oats, millet and small plots of lucerne.

Also, in the good seasons the country produces wonderful horses and cattle and there are no stock diseases.

How to get water—that is the main problem!

I suggest that the Government lease out to squatters a large modern earth-moving plant to scoop out great tanks. They must also grow more trees.

Look on the map and you will see that there is an enormous watershed on the west and northern sides of Lake Eyre.

On the west side of the Lake, the Macumba and Neales' rivers head in the west two hundred miles away, and there are numerous smaller creeks such as the Anna.

We hear a great deal about the flooded rivers that flow down into Lake Eyre from the east, but great floods of water can pour down into Lake Eyre from the west and north in a wet season.

As a matter of fact, the Lake Eyre river basin is the largest river basin in Australia and is slightly larger than the Darling-Murray river basin.

### Oldest River

The country immediately north of Lake Eyre is a network of rivers and overflow channels that all flow into the lake.

The Finke River, which the scientists say is the oldest river in the world, is 600 miles long and heads away 100 miles up above the McDonald Ranges.

The Finke is the longest river in Central Australia, and is the only river in the Centre which always has water, and that is where the river gorges through the McDonnell Ranges.

After many talks to old and experienced friends of mine, looking at pastoral maps and much making of "mud maps" on the ground, I was able to find out about the rivers and country north of Lake Eyre.

The Finke has many tributaries from the west, but before the Finke reaches Lake Eyre it fans out into sixteen different channels which are lost in the sand, but in a heavy wet season those channels flow into the Macumba, the Macumba flows into the Kallicooper, and the Kallicooper flows into the lake.

The Kallicooper flows out of the Diamantina, which there is called the Warburton.

All very confusing to city people no doubt, but real bushmen like to be exact in their geographical facts.

Much of this information was given to me by Mr. Ernie Kemp, the owner of the Macumba Station, who is an old drover friend of mine.



The Oldfields, of Cowrie station, brought store cattle right down from Banka Banka, which is 700 miles up north in the N.T., down on to the Macumba, and then across to Cowrie on the Diamantina.

They fattened the cattle there, and then sent them to Adelaide, where they topped the market for fats.

I knew Cowrie when it was wiped out by droughts.

The country north of Kallicooper, I hear, is not much good.

That is the country which my old friend, Ted Colson, crossed in 1936, when he travelled from Bloods Creek to Birdsville.

He was the first white man to cross the Simpson desert.

I was told that they had bored in that country but had struck only salt water, but I would not take that as final.

After reading about all these rivers and floods, the logical question is: Why not use these rivers for water conservation?

We cannot, for the rivers are too shallow and the country too flat.



The rivers are hardly rivers at all. They are great wide, dry sandy watercourses with no banks which in a flood are sprawling shallow streams that spread out a mile wide.

However, those floods can be terrific.

A railway official showed me photos of the floods which had washed away the bridges and culverts.

When a flood does that now, the engineers do not trouble to repair the bridge.

They stone-pave the sandy bed of the river or creek, lay the track on the stones, and the engine often ploughs through a foot of flood water, drawing the train over.

At the Coward and a few other places there are peculiar springs.

These springs are always on the tops of low hills or high mounds.

There, in a crater about 100 yards in circumference, is a deep pool of water and in the middle of the pool, the water bubbles up to a height of about 3 or 4 feet.

The local name for these springs is "Bubblers."

But the country round the springs is no good, and nothing will grow there. The ground is bare and too alkaline.

### Never Dry

Lake Eyre is never really dry and has a great deal of water in it every cycle of about eleven years.

Most of the rivers and creeks around Lake Eyre run every three or four years, but not enough to reach the lake always.

We cannot make over-shot dams in those creeks, for the first flood would fill them up with sand.

We ought, however, to prospect them more for spear-pump water; the same has been done in the Todd River at Alice Springs.

### No Trucking

We should not make any more deep artesian bores and waste that precious water by allowing it to run to waste.

Shallow sub-artesian bores are better where the water has to be pumped up. To increase cattle production, we need those large tanks I mentioned every few miles.

We must also kill the cattle at local killing places and fly the beef out. Trucking cattle is cruel and wasteful.

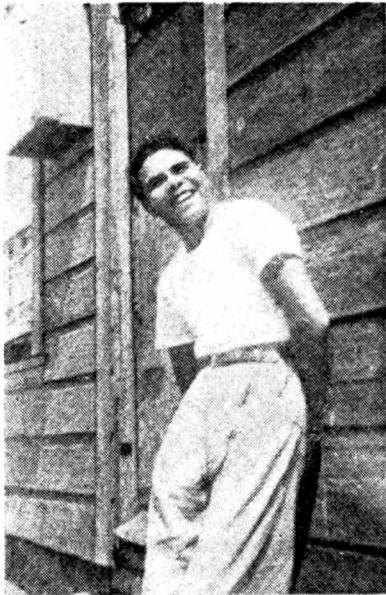
I visualise when we will be able to grow the cattle on the dry country and fatten them on the more favoured patches where we can grow with a sprinkler irrigation all kinds of fodder.



# 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.



One of the city "slickers", young Alby Roberts of Waterloo.



Plenty to smile about apparently. Kath Bright of Condobolin and her friend Monte Knight.



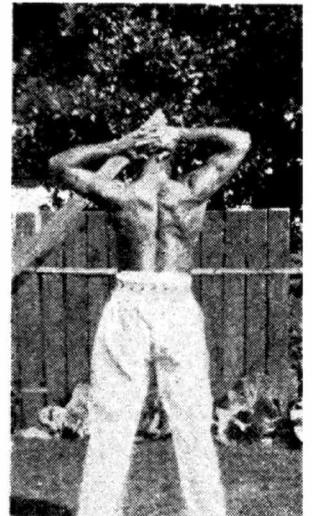
Two coy little flower girls, Rhonda and Pam McGrady of Boggabilla.



As you can guess, this picture was taken in the Summer time. Shirley Ballangarry of Bowraville looks good in her swimsuit.



Christine Perry of Bowraville poses gracefully for the camera.



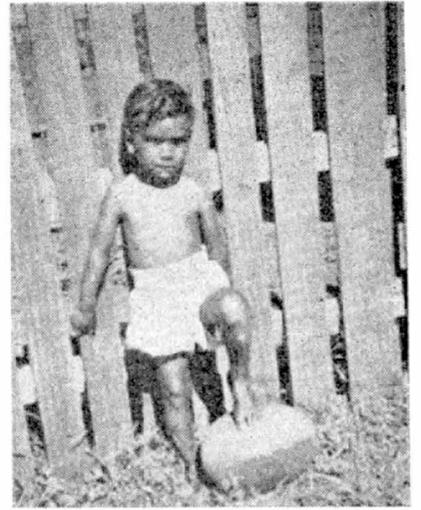
A back view of our May "cover boy", Police Tracker Sergeant Bill Robinson of Grafton.



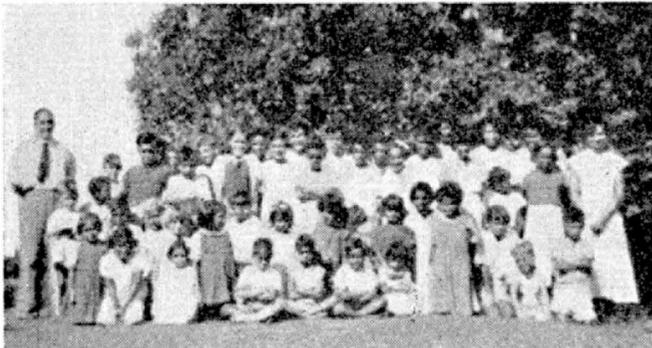
Our footballers are getting even smaller. This is young Charles Robert Bradshaw, one of Bowraville's "star" players.



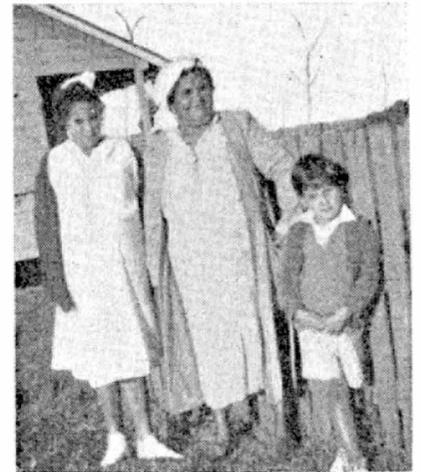
A happy smile from Mrs. Joan Nicholls of Condobolin.



A promising test player! Young Jimmy Donovan of Bowraville is not much bigger than the ball!



A real happy group. The teachers and pupils of Cabbage Tree Island School.



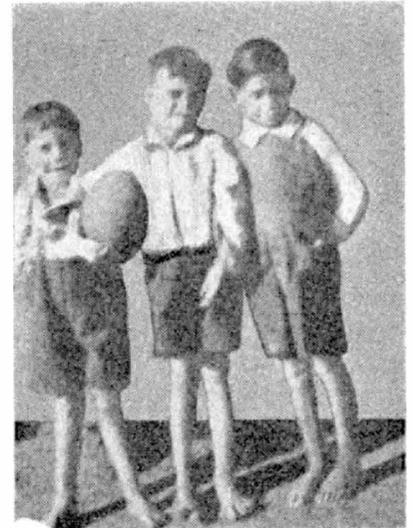
Some more of our western friends. This time Mrs. Ellen Davis and Carlene and Kenny.



More smiles from Condobolin. This time from Mrs. Kate Sloan and her daughter-in-law Margaret.



Boys will be boys (or is it girls!?) Here we see Dick Campbell of Burnt Bridge and his two "lady" friends Peter and Sid.



Three boys and a football! Colin and Andrew Sloane and Frank Johnson all come from Condobolin.

# COLOUR PREJUDICE DIES

## *The Aboriginal is Accepted*

It is pleasing to note that the breaking down of the antipathy of the white people to the aboriginal race continues. The general need for labour requires that white men and men of aboriginal blood work side by side, and this position has been accepted without question. Sporting organisations continue to accept aborigines as members, and in the Public and High Schools children of aboriginal blood have participated in the same sports and recreations as their white classmates. In many centres it is quite usual for aboriginal persons to attend social functions connected with Church and similar organisations and to be received without any distinction due to colour.

A complete assimilation demands, however, that the aboriginal concerned must be educated to take his place in the general social structure and learn to adapt himself to the customs and principles of the white man. For example, he must have acquired tolerance, a way of life calling for the habits of ordinary hygiene and a knowledge of the value of money, and the policy of the Board is directed to this end.

## ABORIGINAL STATIONS

### *Now Modern Communities*

At the end of last year the Board was maintaining twenty Aboriginal Stations. Two of these, however, Cumerogunga and Pilliga, had reached the stage where the continuance of them as settlements under managerial supervision ceased to be economical, and it is proposed to close them as Stations as early as practicable.

The Aboriginal Stations are located on areas reserved for the exclusive use of aborigines and form community settlements. They have in charge, a Manager whose wife has the position of Matron. Many of these Matrons are trained and certificated nurses.

The Stations provide amenities for the residents which are not so readily available on other reserves or at other centres. These include school, medical treatment room and, in many instances, particularly where the Station has been newly established or rebuilt, a church and recreation hall. Each Station has its own water supply, except Cowra, which is connected to the town reservoir.

While the main purpose of the Aboriginal Station is to cater for those aborigines and their families who are unable to fend for themselves, it has been found that the acute housing situation which is existent throughout the State has compelled families to remain in residence on the Stations who, in ordinary circumstances, would be fit and proper persons to make their homes in the general community.



A real country scene as it appears to young Boggabilla artist, Valerie Binge.

## THE ABORIGINES ARE HEALTHY

### *Good Reports from Stations*

The reports received from the various Stations and Reserves indicate that the health of the aborigines throughout the State during the past year can be said to have been generally good. The organisation which exists on the Aboriginal Stations, and the constant visitations from the Board's Officers, provide a safeguard in the event of any serious outbreak of disease. The usual epidemics of colds, influenza and other seasonal diseases prevailed, but in every instance prompt remedial action was taken.

The health of the aborigines continues to be carefully watched. Where practicable, steps are taken to arrest any deficiencies. Strict supervision is maintained, particularly on the Aboriginal Stations, of the cleanliness of homes and sanitary conveniences. The impracticability of constant supervision of this nature on the Reserves, however, militates against a full implementation of the Board's aims. Nevertheless, in those districts where Welfare Officers are operating, marked improvements have been reported.

In the new homes, which have been provided since the War, facilities are provided for bathing. These were, unfortunately, absent in the older type of cottages, but in some instances community bathrooms have been erected and good use has been made of these.

As previously stated, aborigines requiring hospitalisation receive no different treatment to that afforded to members of the general community, but there is often present a feeling of isolation on the part of the aboriginal, which is not necessarily due to discrimination or unfair treatment; regular visits by the Board's Officers go a long way to overcome this state of affairs.

# HOUSING ON STATIONS

## *Big Advances Made*

The erection of modern-type cottages which provide similar amenities to those enjoyed by the general community is one of importance, and this factor, together with regular supervision, helps in the attainment of a higher standard of living and in a quicker space of time than would otherwise be the case.

By the provision of this type of housing, many aborigines, adversely accommodated in shacks and tin humpies, generally situated on the outskirts of town, can be moved into a better environment and, in consequence, their mental outlook, which reflects their mode of living and physical bearing, is considerably enlightened.



The Board's programme of housing could be regarded as parallel but in a minor way to that undertaken for the white community, where slums and sub-standard dwellings are being demolished and the residents moved, either into cottages situated in the outer suburbs, or into modern self-contained flat units erected on the area previously occupied by the sub-standard dwellings.

Shortage of materials has prevented the general community from achieving rapid progress in the rate of home construction, and the Aborigines Welfare Board has, of course, been placed in similar circumstances. However, good progress was made during the year, and the following works were completed and occupied:—

- 18 cottages at Cowra Station.
- 12 cottages at Cabbage Tree Island Station.
- 15 cottages at Wallaga Lake Station.
- 16 cottages at Jervis Bay Station.
- 18 cottages at Tabulam Station.
- 12 cottages at Nambucca Heads Reserve.
- 24 cottages at Moree Station.
- 14 cottages at Wilcannia Reserve.

In addition to the cottages erected for aborigines on stations, staff residences, medical treatment units, administration buildings, halls, and churches have also been provided and, in two instances, single men's quarters.

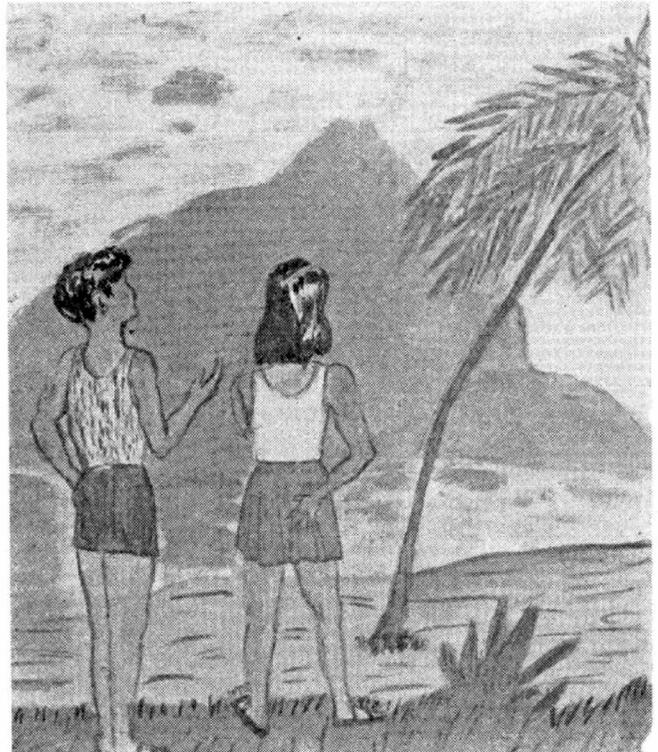
The present trend, however, is for the provision of individual home units on the outskirts of country towns, rather than for the establishment of group settlements. Due to a number of circumstances, however, the matter of acquirement of building blocks

for homes cannot be completed at this present stage. Efforts will be made next year for more home sites to be secured.

When funds are available for the implementation of such a scheme, consideration will also be given to the construction of home units for aborigines, who are either in possession of their own blocks of land, or able to make a reasonable contribution towards the cost of the building.

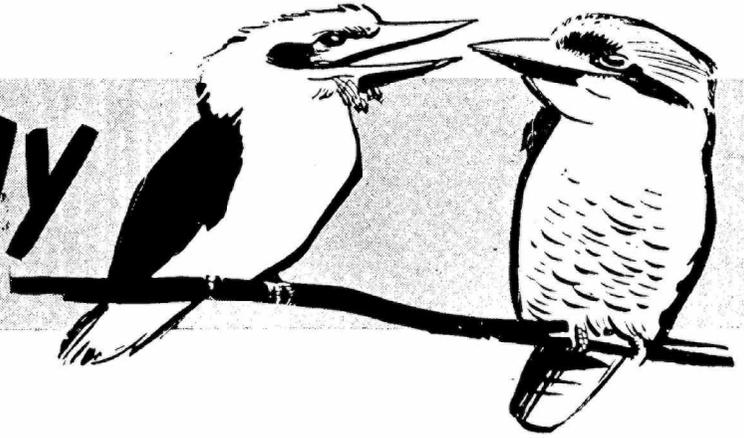
All tenants of the newly completed cottages are required to pay a nominal rental as a means of impressing upon them their need to acquire domestic responsibility and that this was a procedure necessary to all persons occupying a dwelling. On some Stations, the aboriginal tenants are meeting their rent commitments very satisfactorily. On other stations, however, there has developed an attitude of defiance and refusal to pay rent, and this attitude is causing considerable concern to the Board, not so much because of the lack of income, as because of the psychological reaction it has caused in the reasoning of this defiant minority, and the ultimate harm it must cause the whole community.

Gratuitous rentals and rentals on a reduced basis will continue to be applied to the aged and invalid aborigines.



A very fine drawing but, unfortunately, the artist did not sign his or her name. Who is it?

# THEY SAY



Residents of Murrin Bridge were recently shocked by the sudden death of Fred Biggs.

Fred, who was 35 years of age and single, was employed on Wallengarra Station for many years.

He died in Lake Cargelligo District Hospital whilst undergoing an operation for appendicitis.

His aged parents, Fred and Nancy Biggs, live on the station.

Highlight of the past few weeks, at Moonahcullah, was the visit of Pastor Doug. Nicholl. Doug. Nicholl is the Aboriginal Pastor in charge of the Church of Christ Mission in Fitzroy, Victoria. While at Moonahcullah, he played recordings he had made at reserves in western New South Wales, and then made recordings of the singing of the people at Moonahcullah.

Cootamundra girl, Dorothy Mitchell, has completely recovered from her recent appendix operation.



One of our lovely city girls, Hazel Roberts, of Waterloo.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Aborigines' Friends Association of South Australia for its very attractive Annual Report.

Writing to *Dawn*, the Secretary of the Association, the Rev. Jordon Rowe, said:—"It is good to know that such a magazine as *Dawn* is circulating among the native people of New South Wales. The format is attractive, the pictures interesting, the articles instructive, and the news items such as to encourage other natives to go and do likewise."

The Rev. Rowe is also a member of the South Australian Aborigines Protection Board.

Mrs. Adelaide King, of Murrin Bridge, is being congratulated on the birth of a son, Laurence Brian.

The residents of Brewarrina Station are to be congratulated on the community spirit they showed during the recent flood. When an emergency water supply was needed, every man on the station turned out and worked hard, Sundays, Saturdays and all day, regardless of heat, mosquitoes and sandflies. In fact, the manager had to step in, as he found some of them not going home for dinner.

Brewarrina Station has a champion team of footballers and throws out a challenge to all-comers. Takers should contact the Station Manager.

Last year a large number of Moonahcullah children had their tonsils removed, and the school doctor, who inspected the school recently, stated that all the children looked very healthy and well fed. A few of the older children are now to undergo appendix operations.

Friends of David and Betty Charles, of Moonahcullah, are happy to learn of the birth of a baby girl (Ester Maria) early last month.



# IN THE GARDEN

## Drainage Important

Good drainage is essential for success in growing vegetables. Drainage removes surplus water, increases soil temperature and enables air to enter the soil freely, thereby providing activity of useful types of soil bacteria.

In addition, it improves the tilth, increasing the depth of the soil and thus stimulating root development and makes the soil easier to work.

Sandy soils have a better natural drainage than clays, which tend to become water-logged in wet weather. In areas of poor natural drainage, or where the soils or subsoils are of a heavy clay type, it may be necessary to drain the vegetable garden by artificial means.

There are two types of drainage systems—surface and underground. The purpose of surface drainage is to remove the surface water, and this can be effected by utilising the series of depressions formed by raising the beds. If the beds are not raised, it will be necessary to form drainage channels by cutting shallow trenches between the plots. The drains may be connected at some suitable point, if desired, but in any case provision must be made for the drains to empty into the lower parts of the garden.

Underground drains are more effective than surface drains as they drain the soil in the root zone. The cost of construction is greater, but this is offset by the better results obtained. The layout of the system will depend largely on the size and contour of the area, but a series of more or less parallel drains placed about 25 feet apart will be effective in most instances. To construct the drain, home gardeners should cut a trench 2 to 2½ feet deep, 9 inches wide at the base and 12 inches wide at the top, having a gradual fall of at least 4 inches per 100 feet. The bottom of the drain should be evenly sloped to prevent localised accumulations of water. The trench should be filled to a depth of 4 to 5 inches with broken stone or tile and this covered with a layer of some durable material such as tin, hard wooden boards or palings to prevent the entry of soil. Care should be taken to see that the

material is placed end to end at the joins, which can then be covered with a small piece of tin as an additional precaution. The drain is then complete and the soil should be replaced in the trench.

It is necessary to construct the drain 1½ to 2 feet below the soil level so that it will not interfere with cultivation. If the nature of the subsoil prevents the drains being placed at the correct depth below the beds, they may be placed underneath the paths at depths ranging up to 2 feet.

August is the month to grow the following:—

### FLOWERS.

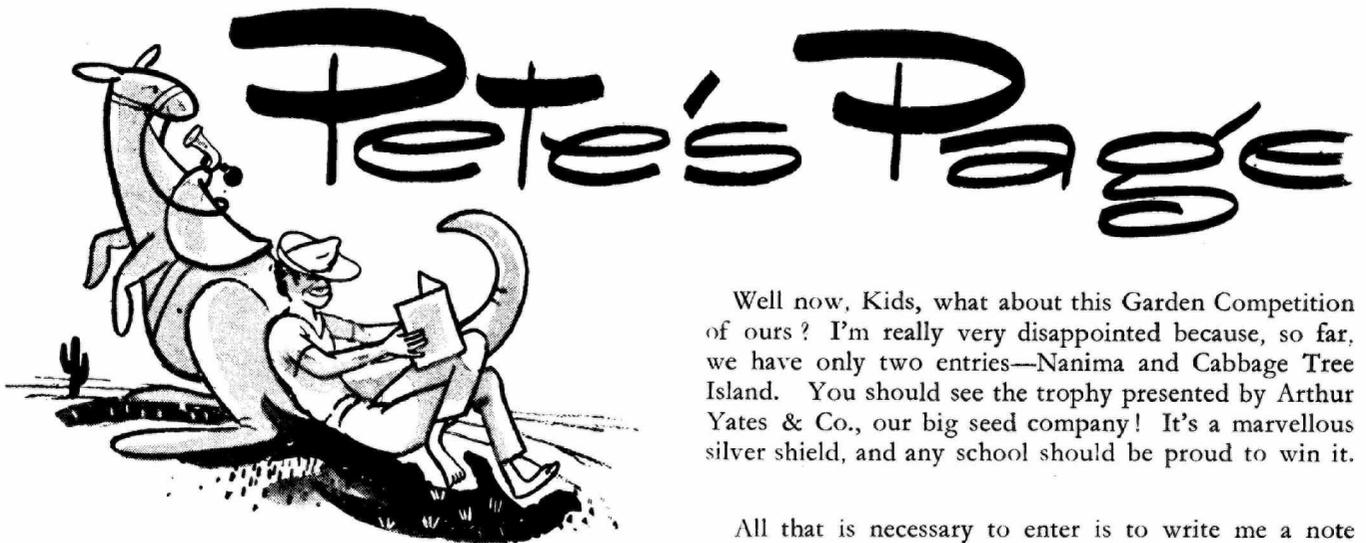
Ageratum, Alyssum, Antirrhinum, Arctotis, Asters, Blue Lace Flower, Boronia, Calliopsis, Canna, Candytuft, Capsicum, Carnation, Clianthus, Delphinium, Dianthus, Didiscus, Gaillardia, Gladiolus, Godetia, Marigold, Nepeta, Phlox, Poppy, Scabiosa, Verbena.

### VEGETABLES.

Beans, Beet, Cabbage, Carrot, Celery, Cucumber, Lettuce, Melons, Mustard, Pumpkin, Parsnip, Tomato, Vegetable Marrow.



Eileen and Carol Donovan and Gloria Flanders, of Bowraville.



Hello, Kids,

This is really winter weather, isn't it? I was watching our postman deliver the mail to-day, and the poor old fellow was wearing so many scarves and pullovers that he could hardly squeeze through the doorway.

If it gets any colder I'll have to wear four more overcoats!



A fine black and white sketch by Lloyd Dennison, of Boggabilla.

### School Garden Competition

Cabbage Tree Island Aboriginal School has entered for this year's school garden competition.

Headmaster Harris and his capable assistant, Evelyn Robinson, are already busy supervising the laying of garden plots and are determined to take out the valuable shield. What about all the other schools?

Well now, Kids, what about this Garden Competition of ours? I'm really very disappointed because, so far, we have only two entries—Nanima and Cabbage Tree Island. You should see the trophy presented by Arthur Yates & Co., our big seed company! It's a marvellous silver shield, and any school should be proud to win it.

All that is necessary to enter is to write me a note right away and tell me your school wants to enter. How about asking your teacher? We also have some free packets of flower and vegetable seeds, and if you would like some for your school or home, all you have to do is to write me a note and send a 3½d. stamp for return postage.

I had a lot of drawings this month, but we have been so very busy with our special Coronation issue of *Dawn* that I haven't had time yet to go through them all.

I think my young friends could write to me more often though. How about it?

Incidentally, what did you think of our Coronation issue?

I know you will all be thrilled to know that a special copy was sent directly to the Queen at Buckingham Palace. I thought it would be a very nice tribute to our lovely Queen from each and every one of you—our young aboriginal men and women.

Next year the Queen will be visiting our country and, of course, many of you will then have the opportunity of seeing her yourselves.

I hope to have some more competitions for you soon, but I'll tell you more about that next month.

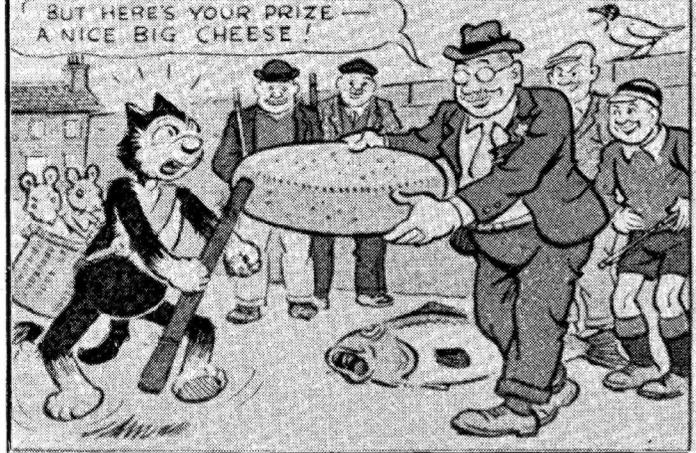
And so now, Kids, until next month, I'll remain—

Your sincere friend,

Pete

# KORKY THE CAT

AS KORKY WANDERS THROUGH THE STREETS HE GLARES AT EVERYONE HE MEETS FOR EACH ONE LAUGHS AT WHAT HE SEES — KORKY WENT FISHING AND CAUGHT A CHEESE!



**GARDEN COMPETITION**  
 Has your school entered for the Garden Competition? If not, write and enter NOW.