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# Dawn



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

JULY, 1962





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## DAWN

is a monthly magazine produced by  
the N.S.W. Aborigines Welfare Board  
for the aboriginal people  
of our State

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## Our Cover . . .

Smiling debutante, Harriet Ellis, photographed in a pretty garden setting at the Trocadero after her presentation to the State Governor, Lt.-General Sir Eric Woodward, and Lady Woodward at the Royal Commonwealth Society's Ball.

*Belle of the Ball*

# THRILL OF A LIFETIME

## FOR HARRIET ELLIS

*at Queen's Birthday Gala*

"The thrill of a lifetime", was how pretty aboriginal debutante, Harriet Ellis, described her presentation to the State Governor, Lieutenant-General Sir Eric Woodward, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., and Lady Woodward at this year's ball arranged by the Royal Commonwealth Society to celebrate the birthday of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth.

Harriet was one of six girls who represented Australia in a debutante line of 11 which included girls from Pakistan, India, Malta, Great Britain and New Zealand.

Strikingly dressed in a simply cut, nylon model gown, Harriet captured a great deal of attention at the ball which she attended with the Superintendent of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. H. J. Green and Mrs. Green.

The Queen's Birthday ball, one of the most colourful galas of Sydney's social season, was held on June 8 at Sydney's Trocadero, which was decorated for the occasion with a unique collection of flags and crests presented by the Prime Ministers of the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations.

It was into this spectacular setting that Harriet, the former Mungindi girl, walked on the arm of the Marshal of Debutantes, Mr. E. L. Westbrook, to meet the Vice-Regal party and the official party which included The President, Lt.-Colonel George E. Colvin, D.S.O., E.D. and Mrs. Colvin; the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Kenneth Street, K.C.M.G.; His Excellency Mr. K. M. Kaiser, S.Q.A., High Commissioner for Pakistan and Begum Kaiser; Lt.-General H. G. Edgar, C.B., C.B.E., General Officer Commanding Eastern Command and Mrs. Edgar; Rear-Admiral G. C. Oldham, C.B.E., D.S.C., Rear-Admiral commanding Eastern Australia area and Mrs. Oldham.

*Continued on page 4*

◀ **Harriet Ellis being escorted to the presentation line by Mr. Eric Westbrook, the Marshall of Debutantes.**







## Our Pictures

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**Harriet Ellis and partner, Flying Officer R. J. Nicholson.**

Page 3

**Harriet's curtsy brings a warm smile from the Governor and Lady Woodward. Others to the left of the Vice-Regal couple are Mr. F. Daniell (Secretary, Royal Commonwealth Society in N.S.W.) and Mrs. George E. Colvin, wife of the President, Colonel Colvin.**

Facing

**Back Row: L. to R., Shahwar Ansari, (Pakistan); Bronwyn Costin, (Australia); June Raureti, (N.Z.); Judith Rogerson, (Australia); Penny Quarmby, (Australia).**

**Front Row: L. to R., Elizabeth Fredman (Australia); Margaret Rose Degiorgio (Malta) and Harriet Ellis.**

Below

**Glamour debs of five nations, L. to R., Harriet Ellis (Australia), Shahwar Ansari (Pakistan), June Raureti (New Zealand), Sakuntla Sabharwal (India) and Margaret Rose Degiorgio (Malta).**

Continued from page 1

Air-Commodore C. W. Pearce, C.B.E., D.F.C., Officer Commanding RAAF, Richmond and Mrs. Pearce; Mr. G. M. Gray, C.B.E., B.A., deputising for the Hon. the Premier (Mr. Heffron) and Mrs. Gray; Brigadier G. S. Cox, D.S.O., M.C., deputising for the Leader of the Opposition and Mrs. Cox; Mr. N. Allan, Commissioner of Police and Mrs. Allan; Mr. D. Stansfield, acting High Commissioner for Canada and Mrs. Stansfield; Mr. A. R. Bruce, C.M.G., O.B.E., British Trade Commissioner and Mrs. Bruce; Mr. A. D. Trounson, First Secretary, British Information Service and Mrs. Trounson; Mrs. C. H. Fowler, wife of the Trade Commissioner for New Zealand; Mr. F. H. Choudhury, Trade Commissioner for Pakistan and Begum Choudhury; Shri G. L. Puri, Trade Commissioner for India and Shrimati Puri; Mr. M. C. M. Shilby, Trade Commissioner for Ceylon; Mr. J. C. Scicluna, from the office of the Commissioner for Malta and Mrs. Scicluna; Mrs. Alex Rigby, wife of Chairman of Council, Royal Commonwealth Society in N.S.W.; Lt.-Gen. Sir Frank Berryman, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and Lady Berryman, who is Chairman of the Women's Auxiliary,





## THRILL OF A LIFETIME

Continued from page 4

Royal Commonwealth Society, N.S.W. branch; Mrs. David Lindsay, Chairman of the Special Purposes Committee of the Royal Commonwealth Society, N.S.W. branch; Rear-Admiral H. B. Farncomb, C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O. and Mrs. Farncomb, who is deputy president of the Victoria League in N.S.W.; Mr. W. Naylor, Chairman of the Royal Overseas League, and Mrs. Naylor; Mr. Monte Lake, M.V.O., C.B.E., Premier's Department and Mrs. Lake; Brigadier F. B. McAlister, C.B.E., E.D. and Mrs. McAlister; Mr. Frederick Daniell, Secretary, Royal Commonwealth Society, N.S.W. branch and Mrs. Daniell.

After being presented Harriet was whisked away to the dance floor by her escort Flying Officer Bob Nicholson, of Richmond R.A.A.F. station.

The presentation of debutantes was followed by the ceremonial entry of three bands, the Eastern Area Band of the Royal Australian Navy, the Eastern Command Band of the Army and the band of the Royal Australian Air Force at Richmond.

The bands assembled on the ballroom floor and played incidental music during the colourful parade of the flags by representatives of Tanganyika, Sierra Leone, Cyprus, Nigeria, Malaya, Ghana, Ceylon, Pakistan, India, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom and Australia.

Both Mrs. Colvin, the Matron of Honour and Mrs. McAlister, who was in charge of debutantes, paid tribute to the charm and natural dignity of Harriet

Ellis and the gracious beauty of her gown, a Melbourne model from Prudence of Pymble.

The gown, a gift to Harriet from the Aborigines Welfare Board, was of imported Swiss embroidered nylon mounted on plain silk taffeta with a scoop neckline and deep V back. The waist was trimmed with a nylon bow.

The Marshal of Debutantes, Mr. Westbrook, told *Dawn*: "We were all so very proud of Harriet and glad to have her with us. She is an outstanding girl."

Everyone who knows Harriet will agree. Born at Mungindi 18 years ago she was left motherless as a baby and became a ward of the Board at a tender age. She was at Cootamundra Training Home until she was 12, when she was boarded out with a family at Normanhurst in Sydney where she attended school and gained her Intermediate Certificate.

Afterwards Harriet took a commercial course and is now employed as a typist in the office of the Miscellaneous Workers Union at the Trades Hall. She lives at the Australian Board of Missions hostel at Collaroy.

By a coincidence the home of her escort, Flying Officer Nicholson, who has since been posted to duty in Bangkok, Thailand, is also at Collaroy.

At the end of the ball, during which Harriet did not miss a dance, the starry-eyed deb. and her escort autographed a souvenir programme, "In memory of a magnificent evening" and presented it to their hosts, Superintendent and Mrs. Green.

## GLOBETROTTER

WENT  
ON  
HUNT  
WITH



ABORIGINALS

A Globetrotting Dutchman who, has a soft spot in his heart for the aborigine, has returned to Holland to write stories about his Australian visit for a group of Amsterdam magazines.

He is hustling 44 years-old Mr. Sem Presser (pictured at left) a freelance reporter-photographer.

In the past two years assignments have taken Mr. Presser to New Guinea, the United States of America, Communist Europe, Italy, North Africa and the Caribbean. During his five months in Australia Mr. Presser took 2,200 photographs in black and white and colour to illustrate his tour. Mr. Presser's visit was sponsored by the Netherlands Emigration Service and the Australian Department of Immigration.

During his tour Mr. Presser:—

- Travelled across the Nullabor Plain on a "tea and sugar" train—and back on a goods train.
- Accompanied aborigines on a kangaroo hunt in the Northern Territory.
- Watched an impromptu corroboree.
- Saw a black tracker at work.
- Learned how to throw a boomerang—AND make it come back.

Mr. Presser was particularly impressed by the welcome Australia gave newcomers, the friendship of Australians and by the country's standard of living.



*The Story of a Settlement . . .*

## **“Animal” from Outer Space Gave Woodenbong its Name**

A meteorite which, legend says, looked like a strange animal from outer space gave Woodenbong Aboriginal Station its name.

Warriors of the ancient Githebul tribe who watched from a distance the meteorite's swift passage to earth could never find where it landed. It disappeared without trace and the “animal” left no tracks.

From that day Githebul folk lore has retained the story of “Wootenbotem” the tribe's name for “disappearing animal”. Because of the white man's difficulty in pronouncing the aboriginal word it became corrupted to Woodenbong.

The settlement, however, has been known as Woodenbong only since 1930.

It was first called Williams Town by the white settlers because members of the Williams family were the original inhabitants. The family put down its roots there and today Woodenbong station, out of a total population of 162, houses 126 descendants of the first Williams boys.

The history of the Williams family dates back to the early 1800's, according to linguist Brian Geytenback who has compiled a record with the assistance of Stan Williams, a present-day resident of Woodenbong.

At the dawn of the 19th century a man named Yagoi (“Bandicoot”) was born. Yagoi married and had six sons and six daughters. The sons' names were Billy, Dudu, Tommy, Alf, Dicky and Jack. The boys took the surname of Williams. Billy and Dudu both married but the others remained single.

Billy Williams had four children who must have been born during the 1840's or 1850's. They were Doctor, Hughie, Mary and Lizzie.

As a young man Doc worked on Unumgar and Rosebery Stations. He broke and trained horses and rode as a jockey in races. He was a famous horseman and once rode at a race meeting as far away as Rockhampton in Queensland.

Doc married Lizzie McBride of the Yagarabul Clan about 1870. Lizzie came from Boonah in Queensland and the romance began while Doc was driving bullock teams down from Ipswich for Unumgar and Tooloom stations.

By the 1890's Doc and Hughie and their families had moved to where the town of Woodenbong now stands. Doctor's hut was at Wagaani by the soak west of the town from where water is pumped up to the dip-yards. Hughie built a bark hut about where Stanfield's garage or the sawmill sheds now stand.

In 1897 Doc ringbarked the district from Tooloom up to the McPherson ranges for various landholders. His four children, Julia, King, Summer and Gordon helped him as did Lily and Eileen, Hughie's two daughters.



In those days ringbarking fetched one and a half-penny an acre plus rations. Doc shot kangaroos and possums for the meat and skins. He continued on this work up till 1909-10.

By 1901, a year of very severe drought, Doc was living at Gunggur Galaami (Springvale), about 4½ miles from Woodenbong. The drought was followed by a big flood which covered the swimming bar at Woodenbong.

Shortly afterwards the family again moved, this time to Banggir Banggiirmi, "Spotted Rocks", where Doc first erected a bark hut.

In 1909 Doc built a 4-roomed wood and iron house and the site became known as Williams Town. His choice of a campsite has been perpetuated, for it was this area which was in 1908 gazetted as an Aboriginal Reserve. At that time it contained some 250 acres. It was reduced to its present size of 126 acres in 1937.

For a while Julia and Summer worked at Rosebery Station. They later returned to Banggir Banggiirmi where Julia married Bill Charles and had five children, Christie, Maisie, Herbert, Billy and Nellie. Julia is still living on the station, being one of the oldest inhabitants. Her children and their families are also at Woodenbong. Her husband died in 1936.

Summer married Herbert Jerries but she died in 1916 as a young woman. King married Nellie Jerries and a son by this marriage now lives in Queensland. Later King married Annie Moffatt and their son Gordon Junior lives on the station.

Gordon Williams senior married Eva McBride who passed away in 1951. Gordon now lives at Kangaroo Flat, about 20 miles south of the station but the family have scattered.

Doc Williams must have been 80 or more when he died about 1931. Lizzie continued to live on the station until illness took her to a Sydney hospital where she passed away in the late 1950's. With Doc she is buried in the aboriginal cemetery at Woodenbong.

The cemetery was established in the early 1900's when Dicky Williams—the brother of Doc and Hughie was buried there.

Tracing Hughie Williams' story we find that his father Billy Williams worked for Captain Glen on Unumgar Station. As a lad Hughie helped his father cedar-cutting. Later he worked at Killarney on the Condamine for the Dumigans. This station was then called Elbow Valley but is known as Happy Valley.

Colin Dumigan, a storekeeper at Woodenbong, is a grandson.

It was while working for the Dumigans that Hughie married Lena Weekly of the Girilil clan sometime about 1870. They had three children, Lily, Eileen and Euston.

Hughie later became the first tracker when a policeman, Constable Woods, was appointed to the Woodenbong district. He held this police job until Constable Woods

died in 1893. During that time he lived where Stanfield's garage now stands. The police station was located further west than the present site.

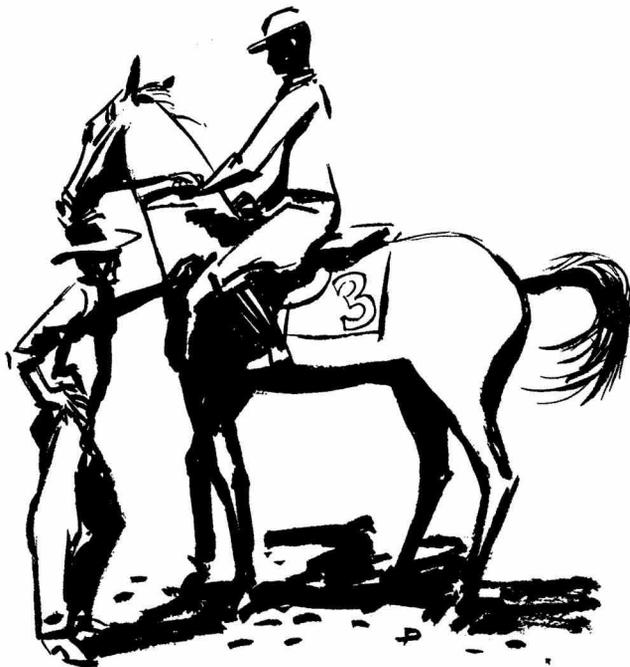
Hughie then commenced a full-time job as a station hand on Tooloom Station. He used to drive cattle for sale to Tenterfield, 50 or 60 miles away. Lena died about 1909 and is buried at Tooloom.

Meantime the Williams family retained its connection with police tracking under Constable Summerville. Tracker Dinny Joseph (Hughie's first cousin) took over the job and he was followed by Jack Barron, who married Hughie's sister, Mary Williams.

At that time Tooloom was an outstation of Gordon Brook Station, managed by Mr. Rolsen, then by Mr. Corey and later by Mr. McLean. Hughie continued to work there until the station was sold and sub-divided in the 1920's. In 1925 Tooloom station built him a hut on the Woodenbong station and Hughie lived there in retirement until his death in 1942.

Hughie's children all married. Euston married Charlotte Brown and had Stan, Andy, Milly (later Mrs. Boyd), Lily (Mrs. Ryan), Hughie, Euston, Allan, Dolly, Miles, Barry and Summer.

Lily married Tom Close and their children, Gordon, Tom, Famey, Ralph, Charlotte (Mrs. Page), John, Lena (Mrs. King), Rory and Dave are all well known at Woodenbong.



All this will explain how familiar names like Close, Charles, Boyd, Miles, Roberts, Williams and Cavanagh are all members of the Williams family tree either by direct descent or by marriage.

*Continued on page.12*

*Took Tea in Macquarie Street . .*

# GIRL FROM THE KIMBERLEYS TRAINS WITH CHURCH ARMY



**Sister Connie McDonald**

A girl from the wild Kimberley country of West Australia who grew up at Forrest River Mission and was educated at high school in Alice Springs was a recent visitor to Sydney.

She is Sister Connie McDonald a member of the Church Army, a society within the Church of England which trains men and women for evangelistic work.

Sister McDonald came from Alice Springs to the Church Army's Training School at Stockton near Newcastle. When Stockton school closed at the end of last year she was transferred to a new bible school at Croydon, a Sydney suburb.

During her stay in Sydney the Kimberleys' girl was a house guest of the Superintendent of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. H. J. Green and his wife at their Harbord home.

On a visit to the city she had morning tea with the Chairman of the Board, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, in his Macquarie Street office.

Sister McDonald was asked to write her story for *Dawn*. She agreed to tell it in her own beautifully simple, dignified style which we are pleased to record:—

“My name is Connie. I was born and brought up on a mission station which is 40 miles by boat from Wyndham, W.A., which is the nearest township to Forrest River Mission.

“I was taught about God at an early age by the missionaries who came to Forrest River to help us know about God. I attended the mission school and our teachers were Missionary teachers and as well as teaching us to read and write and do arithmetic, etc., they taught us about Christ and how He died for us all because He loved us so much that He gave His life for us.

“At the age of 14 I became aware of the presence of Christ and I knew that there was a God who is true and living, and it was at that age that I gave myself to Christ.

“In 1949 I went to Alice Springs at the age of 14 to school because I felt that I would like to further my education. I stayed in Alice Springs where I obtained a High School education and then went back to Forrest River where I helped to teach Kindergarten and also help to bring the little ones to know Christ.

In 1957 I came over to Yarrabah, Queensland, another mission, to help with the teaching in the schools.

I taught kindergarten at Yarrabah for 2½ years. It was while I was there that I heard the call of God to serve Him, and it was His will that I should serve Him in the Church Army. I then wrote away to the Church Army and after waiting a couple of months I received a letter from Sister Bacon, who is Sister-in-Charge of the Training College, telling me that I had been accepted as a candidate.



**On her Sydney trip Sister McDonald had morning tea with the Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, (right) and the Superintendent, Mr. H. J. Green, at the Chief Secretary's Dept., Macquarie Street.**

“ So I entered the College in Stockton where I was to be trained and where I was to learn more about God. The happiest days of my life were spent here. Although I did not show it outwardly I was happy inwardly because I felt it a great honour to have been called by the Lord Himself to serve Him within the ranks of the Church Army.

“ One does not realize how close God is until one goes into a place such as the Church Army Training College where the presence of Christ is often felt especially in our time of prayers and devotions.

“ The devotions and services that we had every day at the College helped me tremendously in bringing me closer to my Master, and although I feel at times I have often let Him down, I know from my experiences that He is always ready and willing to lift me up and bring me back to Him when I repent and ask His forgiveness.

“ I know that without Christ life is dead and that without His help I would not have been able to pass the exams. Although my marks weren't very high I managed to get through because I always put Christ first and because I trusted and had faith in Him. So friends and all those who will read this article, I do hope you will be willing to give up your lives to serve Christ and that when He calls you, you will be willing to leave all you have and be obedient to His call and take up your cross and follow Him.

“ Remember, I am in the Church Army today because I heard the call of God and obeyed His call and am now working for Him in His service here in Holland Park, Queensland.

“ I hope that maybe someday I will return to my people at Forrest River and teach them to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour and win them for Christ. ”

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### **Check Up On Charity Callers Before You Give**

Recently it came to the notice of the Aborigines Welfare Board that representatives of an organisation solicited for funds on an Aboriginal Station.

The Board has stressed the need for the utmost care by residents of stations and reserves to check the authenticity of these collections.

Any person asked to make a donation should ask to sight the collector's authority from the registered charity before any money is given.

It is not wise to make donations unless you can be assured that the appeal is genuine.

## THE COMING OF THE LIGHT . . .

Long, long ago before there was human life, there was only animal life. There was the bird tribe, the animal tribe, and the reptile tribe. Once a year, in the Spring time, all these different tribes met, and held a great festival, called a "Munmundi."

The bird tribe were great talkers. The cockatoos cried, "Come and let us prepare ourselves for this great "Mun-mun-di"! So they retired into the bush, and decorated themselves with leaves and bushes. When they came out again they began to dance in their decorations before the kangaroos, the carpet snake, the goanna, and all the others of the reptile and animal tribes.

The animal and reptile tribes cheered and praised the feathered tribe's dancing. This admiration and praise made the feathered tribe very conceited. The cockatoo, who was always a very cheeky fellow, went to the eagle hawk, chief of the feathered tribe, and said, "Oh, Father Eagle Hawk, are not we feathered tribe greater than the kangaroo, the carpet snake, the goanna, and all the tribes?"

The eagle hawk answered, "Oh my son, birds of course are superior to all the other tribes."

Now, the other tribes overheard all this, and it made them very angry. So after much wrangling the feathered tribe challenged the other tribes to fight, and to prove who was the superior.

But there was one little tribe that did not take sides, and that was the bat tribe. The chief of the bat tribe advised his tribe to wait and see who was the victor—and then to side with the victor.

So the great conflict began. First one side seemed likely to win, and then the other. The little bats were kept busy, first cheering the feathered tribe, and then turning over to the side of the animal tribe.

After much bloodshed and slaughter the Emu and Kangaroo met in mortal combat. Just as they both had their spears raised to throw, the Kangaroo cried, "Oh Emu, why should we continue all this foolish killing; let us be friends." The Emu answered, "Oh, yes, that conceited cockatoo began all this killing." So they all at once became friends, and all the different feathered, animal and reptile tribes were filled with joy.

But the little bat tribe did not know what to do, as they had been false to both parties. So the bat tribe had to go and live with the wicked owls, who always lived away by themselves, and who delighted in the dark.

Now the Sun, the great ruler of all, saw this fighting and killing among the animals. So the sun became very angry, hid his face, and all the earth became very dark. Life in the darkness was a great burden to all the animals. They found it hard to live, and the birds could not sing.

## WHY ALL OUR WILD CREATURES

### PECK AT THE SELFISH OWL



**David Unaipon**

*Folk-Lore has a peculiar fascination always. The original inhabitants of Australia have handed down the centuries many strange and beautiful legends. It has been left to David Unaipon, a full-blood aborigine and cultured gentleman, to make public some of these legends. Mr. Unaipon, a talented representative of his race, was born at Port Macleay, South Australia. He was educated among white people and became a brilliant scholar.*

But the owl and the bat did not mind, for they loved the darkness.

The animals did what they could to live in the dark; the Emu lit bonfires, but at last wood and food ceased. Then all the different feathered animal and reptile tribes set up a great cry, "Oh what shall we do? Oh, what shall we do?"

Now, the Emu and Kangaroo, always two very wise animals, called a great meeting to discuss the problem of light. All the tribes came, and gave their views; the cockatoos, as usual did a lot of talking, but yet there was no light.

At last a little lizard that had been sitting at the feet of the Kangaroo spoke up and said, "I have heard that the owl and the bat have the secret of light".

So the meeting decided to send the lizard to ask the owl and the bat for the secret of light. Off went the poor little lizard, groping in the darkness to call the owl and bat to the great meeting. At last the lizard returned with the owl and bat. Immediately all the birds and animals began to cry, "Oh Uncle, give us the light: Oh Uncle, give us the light."

The curlew and dingo set up a great howl for the light. They can be heard even today howling for the light. But the owl, who loved the dark and had a wicked heart, refused to give the light.

However, the little bat thought, "Here is my chance to atone, and to be taken back into the other tribes again." So the bat said to the chief Kangaroo, "Oh! father, give me a boomerang, and I will bring back the light."

The Kangaroo handed him a boomerang. The bat threw the boomerang into the north; and the animals listened very silently, as the boomerang was hurled out with great force into the darkness. The boomerang hummed loudly as it went out, and returned again with a loud thud. The bat picked up the boomerang again and hurled it into the darkness of the west. Still all the great meeting sat, silently watching this performance. Again the boomerang returned with a thud, and again the bat hurled it into the darkness of the south, and then again into the east.

Then the cheeky cockatoo could not keep silent any longer, and said, "I do not see the use of all this boomerang-throwing." But the bat said, "I am dividing the light from the darkness, and I will live in both."

"Look, Oh look brothers, to the east; the light is coming." All the animals looked to the east, and saw the day beginning to dawn.

Then there was great joy. The kookaburras laughed and laughed with gladness, even as they do today.

The kangaroo hopped and jumped. The dingoes barked, the galahs screeched, and the cockatoos chattered more than ever.

All the tribes were happy except the wicked owl.

That is why today all birds and animals peck at the selfish owl, but they are all friendly to the little bat. As for the little messenger, the lizard, he still loves to sit and gaze at the sun and if you look closely at his neck you will see he still has there the boomerang that the kangaroo gave him.

## "ANIMALS FROM OUTER SPACE"

*Continued from page 8*

Another original identity of Woodenbong is Dan Sambo, born in 1880. Dan still keeps busy helping the arrangement of gardens for local farmers and graziers. Also there is Alec Vesper who acknowledges 73 years and is still able to hold his own with most of the young men about the place.

There are now 22 homes at Woodenbong. Main employment in the district consists of timber cutting, mill work and seasonal occupations in the potato and peanut growing districts.

A new industry—cork leaf cutting—has sprung up in recent years. Cork leaf is shipped to drug firms in Holland where it is processed into belladonna.

The children of Woodenbong have full educational facilities. There is a primary school and a kindergarten under the control of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Jones within 200 yards of the station. High School and Intermediate pupils are able to attend Woodenbong Central High School, three miles from the station.

Headmaster in charge of the school is Mr. B. Fitzpatrick an understanding man who is aware of the difficulties under which the children undertake home study. For transport a special bus operates mornings and afternoons.

Sunday school is conducted each week by Mrs. Page in the Mission Church and Pastor Frank Bundock holds a service each Sunday for the residents. These services are attended by practically everyone living on the station.

Recently, with assistance from *The Sun* Toy Fund, a children's playground with slippery dip, swings, cradle rocker and a set of gymnasium appliances was installed and is proving most valuable in improving the health and education of the junior generation.

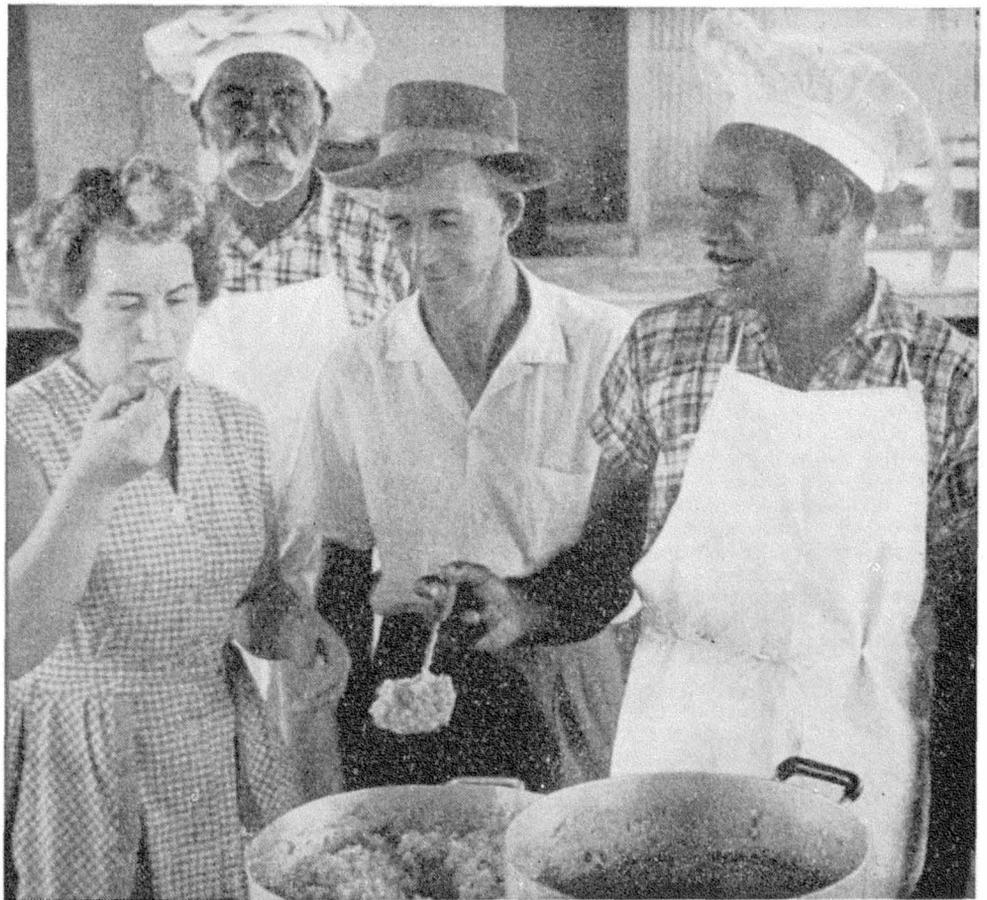
The station has its own dairy herd which is self-supporting. A scheme is now under way whereby, with improvements and the cultivation of crops, the herd will eventually be able to provide the station with its own milk, butter, cheese and even beef.

The medical Aid Post for the benefit of residents is under the capable supervision of the Matron, Mrs. L. Cowley. The post is popular with the youngsters who are usually rewarded with an ice block or sweet after taking their medicine.

The people of Woodenbong are still able to converse in their native Githebul dialect and in privacy observe many of their best tribal rituals. They also have a pet name for Woodenbong—"Bunga Bungedni" which, translated, means many colours. It is supposed to describe the beautiful effects of rainbows on the surrounding hills.

# “WIDE OPEN SPACES FOR ME” —Says SCOT

At right, Mrs. Bruce samples the work of aboriginal chefs Andy Juliuma (left) and Wenten Rubuntjoa in the kitchen of the settlement. Husband Alex looks on



A quietly-spoken Scot and his wife are helping to care for 300 aboriginals in the “centre” of Australia.

They are Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bruce.

Mr. Bruce is manager of the Ammonguna native settlement, seven miles from Alice Springs, in the Northern Territory.

The aboriginals live in 52 pre-fabricated aluminium houses at the settlement.

“If they don’t take to you,” says Mr. Bruce, “you might as well pack up.”

The aboriginals HAVE taken to Mr. Bruce and his wife, who is kitchen supervisor, and their two daughters—Dinah, 15, and Moira, five.

## Names

They have given them all aboriginal names.

Fifty-four year old Peter Loo, an aboriginal elder at the settlement, says: “Mr. Bruce and his family are very fine people.”

Mr. Bruce and his wife came to Australia from Ferremuir farm, Cupar, Fifeshire, Scotland, in 1951.

Mr. Bruce managed the farm.

After working as an electrician with the State Electricity Commission at Yallourn, Victoria, for four years, Mr. Bruce took up share farming.

## Champion Cows

In 1954, he brought seven cows to the Royal Melbourne Show for his employer and won awards for champion bull, champion cow, reserve cow, and seven first and two second prizes.

He later decided to “go north”.

“It’s the wide open spaces—and the sunshine—that appeals to me,” he says.

“I couldn’t take a colder climate—not even that of Victoria—nowadays. The climate at ‘Alice’ is the best I’ve struck.”

Mr. Bruce likes managing the aboriginal “town”. “They’re friendly people,” he says.

He encourages the aboriginals to play cricket and football.

This year an aboriginal team from the settlement will play other teams in Alice Springs League football games.

Mr. Bruce and his family live in a modern three-bedroom brick house, which is air-conditioned, at the settlement.

“We’re very happy in Australia,” he says, “And we feel we are helping Australia—and its oldest people—in our work.”

# WILD HORSES AND YELLOW DOG NOT SPANISH

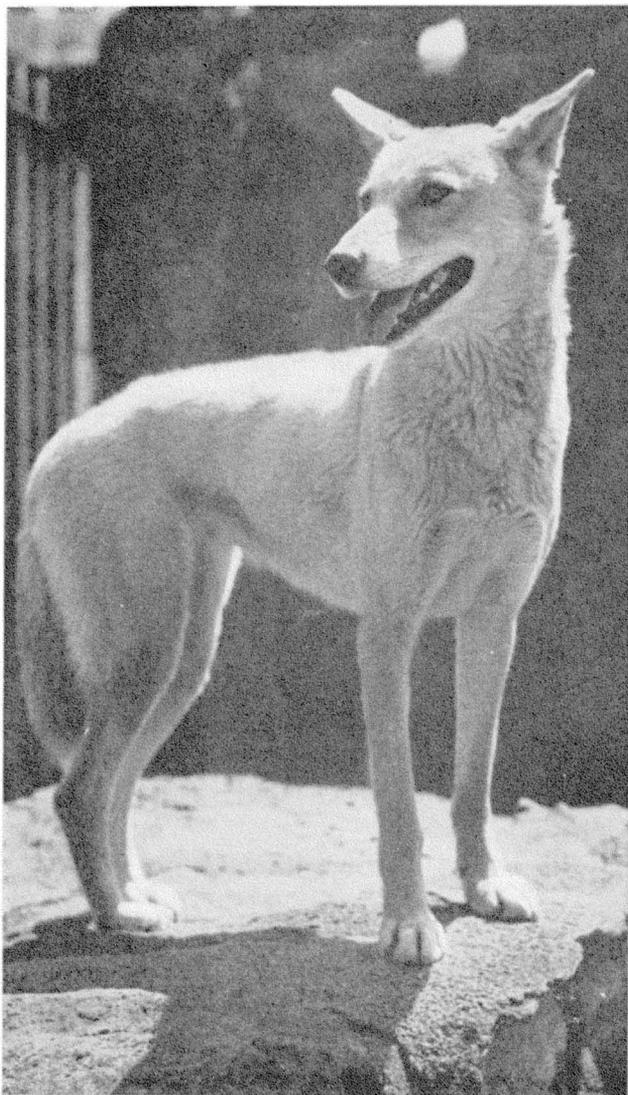
SAYS HISTORIAN

A London woman, in a letter to a Sydney newspaper the other day, claimed she could explain the origin of the wild horses of Australia and the dingo.

The writer, Mrs. N. E. Sherwood-Kelly of the Forum Club, Belgrave Square, London, said the British Institute in Madrid, Spain, had helped solve the riddle.

In her letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, Mrs. Sherwood-Kelly, said:—

“When my father, G. H. Greene, M.L.C., of Iandra, N.S.W., bought his first station of Tooma, near Tumut,



on the upper Murray (somewhere about 1870), a pair of outlandish wood and iron stirrups were found there.

“The wooden part, which would cover almost the whole foot, was carved with what looked like Mexican gods, in low relief.

“My father at once wrote to the man he had bought the property from, but he replied that he knew nothing about the stirrups and that he was the first white man who had lived there!

“Later on, when I was born, my first childish recollection was of a long line of wild horses, corralled by our stock riders, trying to find an opening in the fence that imprisoned them, but no one thought of connecting them with the stirrups!

“Sometime ago I was in Spain, and it suddenly occurred to me to write to the British Institute in Madrid and ask them if they could give me any information about the Spanish expedition to Australia.

“After a long delay they wrote and said that they had only been able to discover a few disjointed remarks about it, such as that Philip III of Spain wished to investigate the continent which the French and the Portuguese had discovered and named Australia.

“For this purpose he had a small flotilla prepared and sent off from a South American port.

## Narrative Gap

“It was commanded by Admiral Luis de Torres, and consisted of three ships which were piloted by a Portuguese.

“The flotilla arrived off the coast of N.S.W. in 1605-6, then a gap occurred in the narrative.

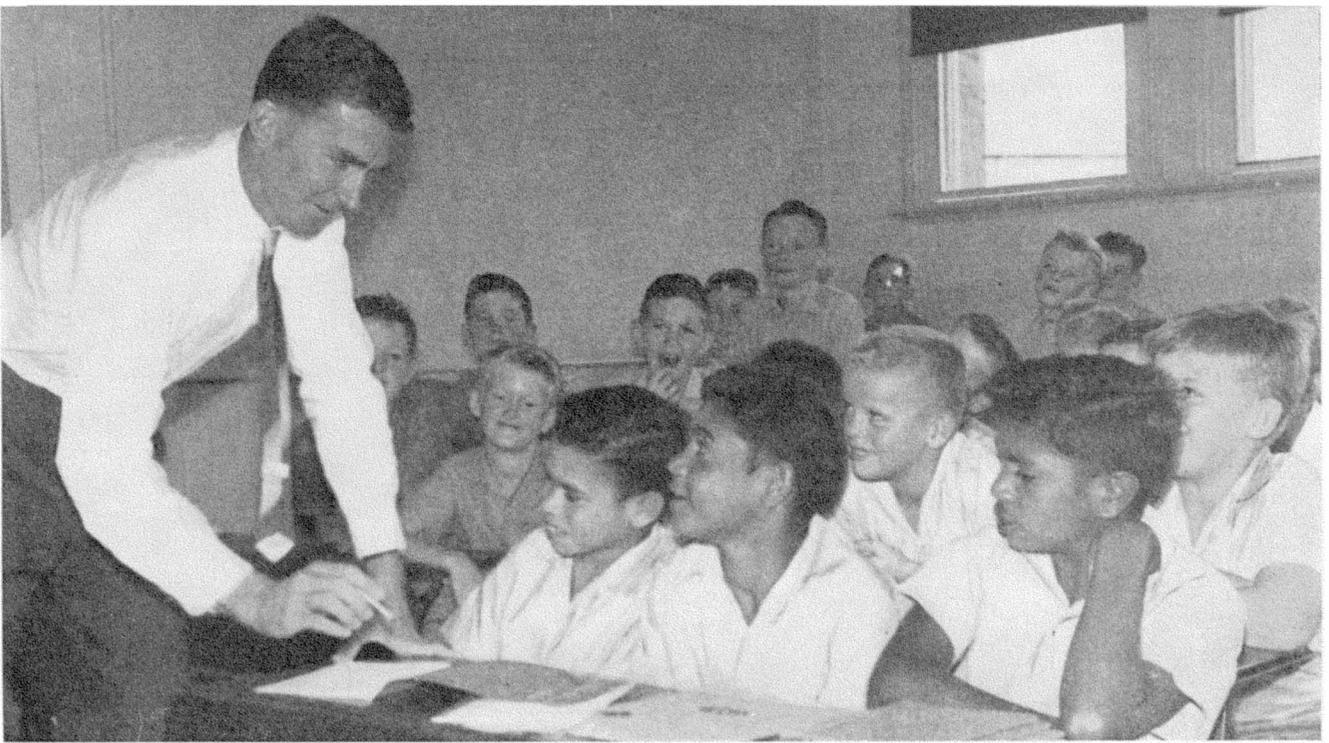
“The next item stated that Admiral Torres waited for the return of the Portuguese pilot until nearly all the food and fuel of his flotilla was exhausted, then had to leave.

“There the history ends, but it does not require much intelligence to understand what must have happened.

“In order to carry out the investigation required by King Philip, the Admiral would have had to organise an expedition into the country, and the only practical way would have been on horseback.

“This would present no difficulty to the Spaniards. It was they who introduced horses into South America where none had been known before, and when the Great Armada tried to conquer England in the reign





Continued from previous page

of Elizabeth I they brought over a number of horses, which, mated with the heavy English horses of the day, produced England's present throughbreds.

**Came to Grief.**

"Admiral Torres' expedition evidently came to grief though the *pilot* was the only one definitely mentioned as having failed to return.

"The horses would have escaped, and produced the present wild horses.

"And the dogs, which must surely have accompanied the party, are likely to be the precursors of our present day dingoes!"

Commenting on the London letter Mr. Alec Chisholm said historical evidence did not support the theory that the Australian wild horse and dingo were of Spanish origin.

Mr. Chisholm is president of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

There was no evidence, he said, to show that a Spanish flotilla visited New South Wales in 1606.

Mr. Chisholm said historical evidence showed that the wild horse descended from horses which had escaped from early settlers.

The Australian aborigine had bought the dingo with him from Asia more than 12,000 years ago.

Mr. Chisholm said the first know visitors to Australia were the Dutch in 1606.

## Welcome BY NEW CLASSMATES

Three newcomers to West Kempsey School get a warm welcome from classmates who introduce them to sporting gear.

The class master then took over (pictured) and put them through their paces at their desks.

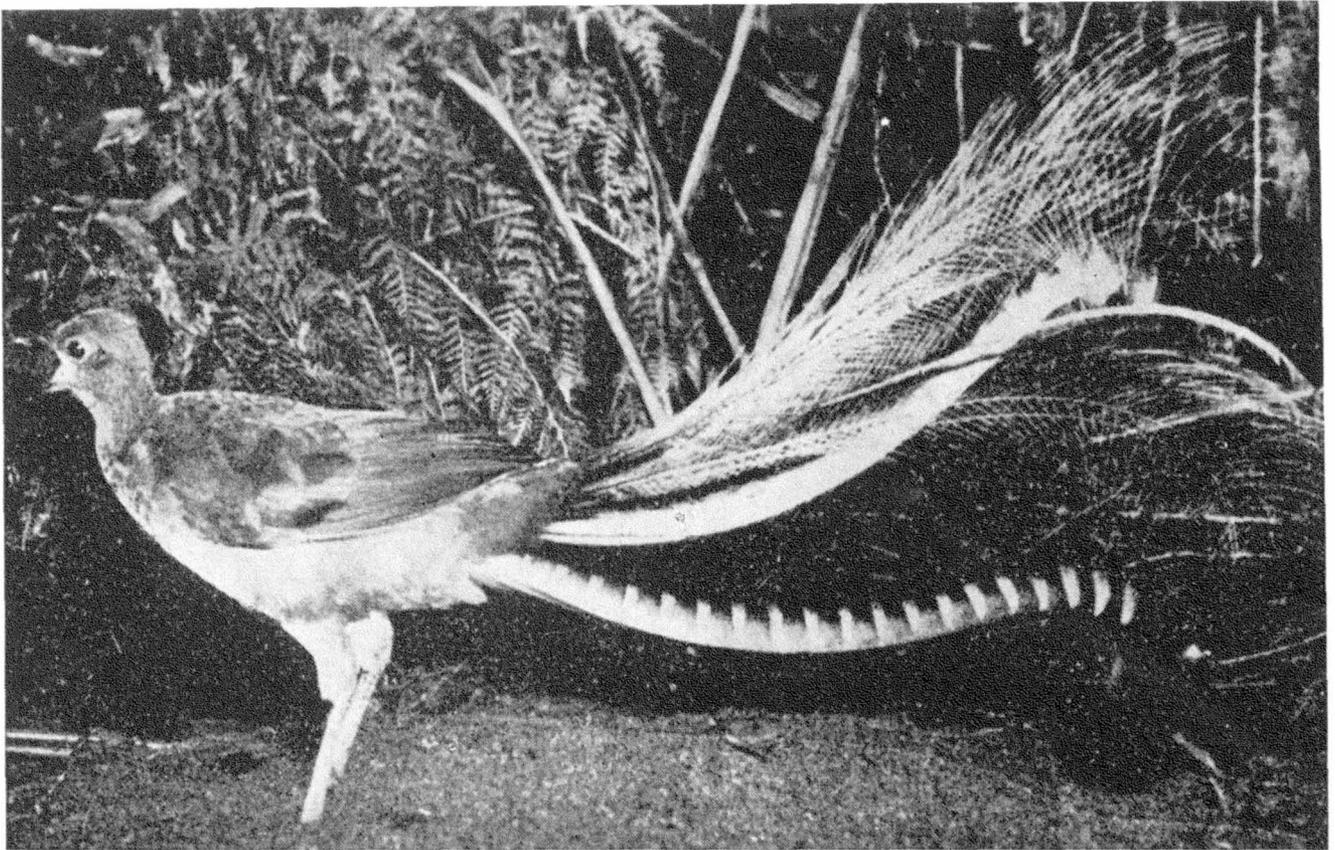
The three boys are ex-students of the aboriginal school at Kinchela Boys Training Home.

The aboriginal school is gradually being closed and this year fifth and sixth class primary pupils were absorbed by schools in Kempsey.

The Kinchela boys in our pictures (by courtesy of the *Macleay Argus*) are, left to right, Arthur Russell, Herbert Nixon and Cecil Clayton.

The trio, all aged 12, are members of sixth class.





## *The Lyrebird: Bushland Showman*

The noted English ornithologist John Gould, when he visited Australia in the 1840's suggested that the beautiful lyrebird should be the country's national emblem.

Although the bird has not achieved this distinction it is at least the one which arouses most admiration both from Australians and overseas visitors.

Unique to Australia, the lyrebird has no relatives in any other part of the world.

One species, the Superb Lyrebird, is found in eastern Australia from near Melbourne, along the Great Dividing Range to Southern Queensland, while a second, Prince Albert's Lyrebird, is restricted to rain forest near the Queensland-New South Wales border.

Prince Albert's Lyrebird is smaller than the Superb variety and more red in colour. It has a shorter and less decorative tail than its bigger brother.

The male Superb Lyrebird has a body about the size of a domestic fowl with brown plumage, but its distinguishing feature is its long and decorative tail, which it uses in displays of great beauty.

The tail comprises 12 slender feathers, two wire-like plumes, often referred to as "feelers", and two equally long but stronger feathers that are silvery-mauve beneath and carry crescent-shaped markings of golden brown with black at the curved tip.

It is in the courting and breeding season that the male sings and displays his tail in the performances that are world famous.

Almost obscured by the gauzy canopy of his tail, the bird quivers and shakes his feathers and exercises his powerful and flexible voice in a song supplemented by imitations of other voices of the forest.

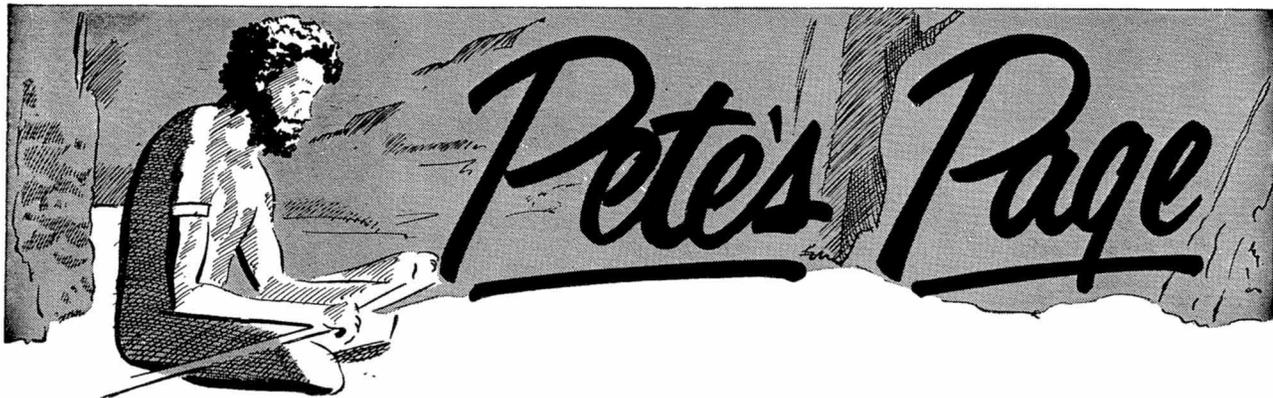
The female bird is smaller than her mate and her tail is not ornamental. Built for work and not for beauty, it is her lot to construct the nest and brood and feed the young.

The nest is large and consists mainly of sticks that are skilfully interlaced and the side entrance is surmounted with a dome of moss and ferns.

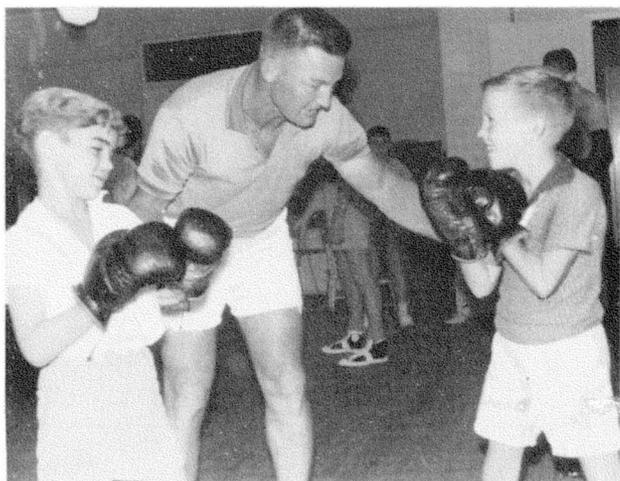
The nests in Victoria are found in the bases of large trees or on stumps. In the region of Sydney, they are mainly on the ledges of sandstone cliffs, and in the granite belt of northern New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland they are often precariously balanced on the smooth ledges of large boulders.

Lyrebirds have strong claws that are used for raking and sifting earth in their search for worms and other animal life on which to feed.

Their short wings are only occasionally used for flying.



# Pete's Page



The leather-pusher on the left is Steve Cochran, of Burnt Bridge, facing a smiling town boy who grins widely at Mr. Hudson's advice to "keep your guard up"



Boot hockey is all the rage in the girls' gymnasium. The Burnt Bridge Girl on the left is little Helen Lang who seems to be enjoying every minute of the game



Dear Kids,

The National Fitness gymnasium at Kempsey is a popular place these days—as you may guess from the happy smiles of the children from Burnt Bridge in our pictures on this page.

At the start of the year 14 to 16 boys, ranging in age from 10 to 15 years started gym work at the National Fitness school where the chief instructor is Mr. Lloyd Hudson.

The classes proved so popular that it was decided to do something for the girls.

National Fitness organisers were approached and as a result the Matron, Mrs. Henricksen, now takes 16 to 18 girls into the girls' gymnasium every Tuesday night.

Even though the girls are in the early stages of gym work it is easy to see they have a natural aptitude.

It is good to see the boys and girls nicely turned out, mixing freely and having a happy time.

Your Sincere Pal,



OUR BACK COVER

## *After the Ball*

Harriet Ellis, escorted by Flying-Officer Bob Nicholson, turns on the steps of The Trocadero on the way to her car. Next day F/O Nicholson flew to Bangkok to join his squadron on overseas duty.

