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Dawn



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Our Cover . . .

These two lovely aborigine girls are Pam Smith and Mavis Stanley, splendid examples of our modern generation of "old Australians"



DAWN

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

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MOREE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

CHAMPIONS IN THE MAKING

On Saturday, 26th March, the Moree Aborigines School held its first swimming carnival in the 25 metre pool recently built by Moree Apex Club. The beauty and benefit of this pool has to be seen to really appreciate the many hours of work put in by members of Apex and Station residents. This pool was officially opened by the Premier, The Right Honourable R. J. Heffron on Wednesday, 27th April.

Between 400 and 500 people watched with interest the many exciting finishes, particularly in the Senior Championship and Senior Relay where the winners won by a touch.

The best times of the day were recorded by Barry Johnson with 32.5 secs. for 50 metres in Under 15 Championship and Tom French with 18.2 secs. for 25 meters in Under 13 Championship. Stella Hammond (The Mighty Atom) and Ron Saunders (Doll Man) won the Hillary Smith Cups for Best Beginners Performance. This was the first time that Stella has swum the full 25 metres.

The Apex Cup for house competition was won by Cook House from Phillip House by the small margin of 159 to 142 points.

Other Cup Winners—

Senior Boy Champion won by Barry Johnson—Freeman Cup.

Senior Girl Champion won by Marlene French—Freeman Cup.



Some of the young Champions practice "flying" starts



A happy free-for-all in the new pool

Junior Boy Champion won by Tom French—Father Shanahan Cup.

Junior Girl Champion won by Vivian Stanley—Johnson Cup.

Sub Junior Boy Champion won by Daryl French—P. & C. Cup.

Sub Junior Girl Champion won by Marcella Kinchella—P. & C. Cup.

Open Men's Race won by Roy Nean—Lahood Cup.

Open Women's Race won by Joan Whitton—Lahood Cup.

A demonstration of different styles of swimming was arranged by Mr Hilary Smith who also acted as starter. Many thanks are due to the young people who gave up their time to show these various styles of swimming. Thanks are also due to all donors of cups, members of Apex and others who acted as officials and to Captain Rolfe for the pennants.

Some of the boys from the school completed the programme by showing their endurance and skill in underwater swimming. The best time of 22.8 secs., for 25 metres was obtained by Barry Johnson and Ralph Smith. The remarkable distance of 40 metres in 64 secs. was covered by Bill Clarke in the distance underwater swim.



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.



We would like you to meet Mrs. Pearl Blair, of Ben Lomond



Pretty Pauline Wilson, of Box Ridge, Coraki



Marlene Little, of Bellbrook, sets a dramatic pose for the cameraman



Reuben and Lurline Ardler, two of Wreck Bay's best-known identities, with their sturdy little son, Kevin



These three tough-looking hombres are Tommy and Ross Moore and Larry Ardler, all of Wreck Bay



A pretty little lass from far-out Walgett



Terry Doolan, Douglas, Evelyn, Freddy and Teddy Russell, of Walgett



Rocky and Raymond Ellis, of Tingha



A Walgett wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Morgan with best man Herbert Goolagong and bridesmaids Prudence Murphy and Cynthia Bullaman



Rhonda Brown, Reg. Brown and Larry and Lester Ardler, of Wreck Bay



Regina McLeod and Philip Chatfield, of Wreck Bay

KIBBUTZ!!

by Michael Sawtell

Well-known traveller and author and member of the Aborigines' Welfare Board.

I just wonder how many people in Australia, outside our Jewish community, know what a Kibbutz is. The plural is Kibbutzim. Well a Kibbutz is a small self-supporting community town in the deserts of Israel. Kibbutzim is the basic pattern of developing and reclaiming the deserts in the Holy Land, and they are doing a wonderful job—with the aid of modern mechanisation and science. Still, all this would not have been possible without the religious zeal and strict communal discipline of the people, believing as they do in the words of Isaiah that it is their mission "to make the desert blossom as the rose", and to this end they have dedicated their lives. I am indebted to Ritchie Calder's great book "Men Against the Desert" for most of my knowledge about what the Kibbutzim are doing. At the same time our Australian soldiers who have been in Palestine tell me that the country is much the same as our Inland, with its vast "gibber" (red iron-stone) downs. I have known for a long time that some of the drought-resisting trees and grasses now growing out at Woomera, the projectile base in the so-called desert, came from Palestine. Also the Athol tree that is now flourishing all over the Inland, and which was first introduced into Australia by Sir Essington Lewis, originally came from Israel.

For a number of years over the air, and in hundreds of talks to all the leading clubs and meetings in New South Wales, I have been advocating the same as a Kibbutz in our much misunderstood and mighty inland, although of course I have not used the word Kibbutz, but I advocated small self-supporting community towns. There is one now in South Australia, Nurriopta, where the people own the town. This town has a background of German blood, for the Germans are amongst the best pioneer settlers Australia ever had. The Kibbutzim, I believe, average a population of about 150 people and as far as possible they grow all that they need in the desert. They have overcome all the problems that we have to face in our inland, of high rate of evaporation, salt water and droughts. Joining or creating a Kibbutz is an act of dedication. No-one in a Kibbutz gets any wages till the community is thoroughly established economically.

The first principle is developing the land, and feeding first their own people, then the people of Israel, and then growing dates and citrus fruits for the world markets.

They have a most ingenious method of growing trees. They build a hollow mound of rocks about three feet high and plant a cutting in the centre. Then at sunrise the hot sun melts the dew, for there are heavy dews in the desert, and the melted dew runs down and irrigates the cutting.

A member of a Kibbutz may have to attend a national conference of some kind, or go on a business trip, and away from the Kibbutz he may appear to be a successful businessman, but sooner or later he has to go back to the soil. They are practical men who served a hard apprenticeship before they acquired academic and technological training. That is just what Australia needs.

How Australian a Kibbutz is, for it can be the pattern and inspiration to us. They talk of letting the Mediterranean into the Dead Sea, 1,292 ft. below sea level, just as I talk about filling our Lake Eyre 39 ft. below sea level from the sea. Then there is the sea of Galilee, 682 ft. below sea level. Israel is doing just what we are doing with our mighty Snowy river scheme. Making dams, tunnels, hydro-electric plants. They are also planning to do what I advocate in the 750,000 square miles of the Lake Eyre basin, that is dam the rivers, make weirs, turkey nest tanks, and all the other technique of desert area irrigation, with sprinklers.

Then there is the cultural and moral aspect of a Kibbutz. Have you ever lived in a town where you knew everybody, and the whole town one Church and one Club. If there is a public meeting, there is no question about how many people will attend. The whole town attends. Certain suitable members go and acquire a higher education, and then return and share what they have learned with everybody. That is real democracy. We can never reach a high state of civilisation, till man is again reunited to mother earth. That is the ideal and mission for Terra Australis, the Great Southern Land of the Holy Spirit.



Meet Hazel Taylor, of Bellbrook

Maningrida Settlement

Maningrida Settlement, a medical, control and trading centre for the tribes in the Liverpool-Blyth River area, lies near the mouth of the Liverpool River on the North-Central Arnhem Land coast.

Off here, on the morning of the 9th May, 1957, the *Temora* dropped anchor. Aboard were four Europeans; a Manager, an Assistant Manager, a Patrol Officer and the Manager's wife, who was to act as a part-time Matron. To help them they had brought four native assistants and one native patrol assistant. They had come to establish a settlement. On the site chosen was a waterhole—and rain-forest.

THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF NORTH-CENTRAL ARNHEM LAND

Tribes

Although there are a number of distinct cultural and linguistic groups in the Liverpool-Blyth River district, it appears in the main to be separate from the two major cultural groups—North-east and North-west Arnhem Land—which it lies between. Mission work has been carried on for some years by the Methodist Overseas Mission at Milingimbi, Elcho Island and Yirrkala among people of the north-eastern sector, and by the Church Missionary Society at Oenpelli and the Methodist Overseas Mission at Goulburn Island in the north-western sector, but no comparable work had ever been undertaken in the central districts.

Maningrida is in the tribal country of the Gunavidji group, but only a small number of these people still live in the area, the great majority having moved westward towards Darwin and the Cobourg Peninsula.

EARLIER CONTACT WITH EUROPEANS

In pre-war years, natives from the coastal area in the vicinity of the Liverpool River regularly visited Goulburn Island Mission to work on the extensive trepang beds nearby. The market with China was lost with the outbreak of war and, as the beds were no longer worked, this contact ceased. A number of Burera and Nakara tribesmen from the Blyth River area kept in fairly regular contact with Milingimbi Mission and a steady drift of Gunwinggu to Oenpelli Mission also took place. However, with the spread of war to the Pacific area, which brought in its train the closing of the missions, this contact also ceased.

During the war years many natives indigenous to the district found their way into army control camps and, on the disbanding of these camps, returned to their people with stories of Darwin and other townships, and of the many attractive things that these places could offer them.

As a result, a gradually increasing drift to Darwin and the Cobourg Peninsula developed. By 1949 this drift had reached serious dimensions and a Patrol Officer was sent to the district in an attempt to halt it.

This was the first official visit to the area since a brief inspection patrol in 1939.

The Patrol Officer carried out a detailed inspection and took a census. He also established a small trading post. The natives were encouraged to work trepang, and collect turtle and baler shells, and to hunt crocodiles for their skins for sale in European markets.

The natives were, at all times, co-operative and enthusiastic.

With the onset of the 1949-50 wet season the post closed. The survey had revealed that the health of the coastal people was poor; but it had also revealed that the resources of the area included large cypress-pine stands, and indicated that conditions could be favourable for the establishment of certain marine and agricultural industries.

Unfortunately, shortage of suitable staff prevented re-opening of the post in 1950 and the drift to Darwin soon recommenced. By 1955 it had reached alarming proportions. At that time there was insufficient accommodation at Bagot Reserve and the natives residing in and around Darwin were difficult to control and open to abuse by unprincipled white men. On several occasions it became necessary to hire a boat to repatriate natives to their home district, but in many cases it was found that the same people would soon be back in town again.

Site for a Settlement

In 1956 it was decided to open a medical and ration depot in north-central Arnhem Land which would make possible the exercising of some control over the general development of the area and, as already intimated, a party set off in the *Temora* arriving in the Liverpool River estuary on the morning of the 9th May, 1957.

The waterhole known to the local tribesmen as Maningrida lies on the eastern bank of the Liverpool River, about five miles from its mouth. Extending on either side of the site there is a sandy beach. The country lying behind the foreshore is about 15 feet above high-tide level, offering a good building area overlooking the mouth of the river.

Open-timbered forest country of stringy bark, woolly butt, wattle and cypress pine extends inland but the soil generally is of a light, sandy nature and poor.

To sea, there is a good anchorage, sheltered from the dry-season winds and showing a low-water depth of from 1½ to 2 fathoms, but its distance from the shore makes necessary off-loading onto rafts or small boats.

STARTING FROM SCRATCH: MAY, 1957

Upon arrival, a raft was built and unloading of stores commenced. Because of the high tidefall the *Temora* stood well out, and the work took from Thursday morning until Saturday night. The party, camped on the beach, made the acquaintance of Maningrida's sandfly and mosquito population; it found them to be enthusiastic, but bearable.

Work commenced immediately on the building of a weatherproof camp. There had been occasional light falls of rain, and it was necessary to get the stores safely under cover.

Fifteen natives were already to be seen in the area; three days later there were twenty-four.

One week after the party's arrival the Patrol Officer set out on an inspection tour of the area. Extracts from his diary read:—

May 15th

"Prepared to leave on patrol . . . The dinghy had several leaks, and these were sealed. Swags were packed and supplies bundled for the journey."

May 16th

"Departed at 8.30 a.m. by dinghy. Travelling with me were Patrol Assistant Tommy Fry and two others . . . Jack Maularrk and Michael Munburrmara . . . I quickly abandoned plans to use the dinghy in the open sea for the smallest wave washed over the bow and a decent wave would have swamped the craft . . . At Juda, two women and two children ran away into the bush. One man . . . was unable to run as he had no hands or feet. He was not afraid of me . . ."

"We placed the dinghy in a sheltered spot and commenced to walk to Skirmish Point . . . on the beach (at Manuwaugan) there are two freshwater soaks.

"At about midnight it was low tide and we were able to cross the creeks . . . the first was waist deep but the second, Namungwada, was about 80 yards wide with water up to our necks. It is a great experience crossing these creeks at night time—one watches every bubble and imagines a big crocodile . . ."

May 17th

"Commenced walking at 8.00 a.m. . . . along the beach for about 12 miles to a place which the Nakara people call Kalamanjara . . . Only two old leper women were in the camp when we arrived. The two old women shouted out to the returning people that 'the police were there' but they were not frightened and the head man, Jacky Nabuleija, came straight up to talk to us. Children were not afraid . . ."

May 18th

"We moved on to Junuwunia and there met three men and two boys who had come to look us over on behalf of a camp at Neitjangga, about 1½ miles further on . . ."

"At Larlargijirpa, at the mouth of the Blyth River, we were met by Harry Malumbuk who had about 30 people camped there with him. He had sent runners to other camps in the area . . ."

May 19th

"I invited Harry Mulumbuk and Barney Baibananga to return to Maningrida with me and they suggested we go by canoe . . . We sailed until 6.00 p.m. and camped at Namungwada. The boys returned with 14 crabs and about 100 turtle eggs. Lovely."

May 20th

". . . made wonderful time until the stay for the mast collapsed. The two men paddled into Manuwaugan, repaired the mast and sailed on to Juda . . . arrived Maningrida 6.45 p.m."

During the patrol the Patrol Officer contacted representatives from most of the groups in the area; he also informed them of the intention to establish a permanent settlement at Maningrida, and explained what this could mean for them.

The concept of the settlement was not that of a compound into which all the natives of the area would move. On the contrary, the natives were to be left in their tribal area with a minimum disruption, initially, of their tribal patterns. The function of the settlement at this early stage was primarily to provide trading and medical services for the area as a whole. Sustenance would be provided to aged and infirm and assistance where necessary. Training in craft work would be provided whenever possible, and the provision of a school for the young people of the area was an object to be worked for.

As the settlement expanded, its ability to absorb more natives in gainful employment would increase, a money economy could be introduced, more specialised training given, and its influence extended more firmly over the whole area.

In the first month at Maningrida the emphasis was on construction. The party landed with two tents and one fly. A bush-timber and iron building (34 ft. x 36 ft.) was constructed and bush shelters were made. These provided living area for all the staff, a storage area and a native messing area. Latrines were constructed. An isolation camp was established one mile south of the main settlement. An airfield site was plotted. A patch was cleared and planted with fruit and vegetables.

From the beginning, in her role as part-time Matron, the Manager's wife was busy. On arrival there were five children in the area; one month later there were forty-five. One day a baby of 12 months was brought in suffering from shocking burns caused through sitting in a fire. Sheets had to be torn up to provide sufficient dressings for a four-times-daily treatment.

Some of the sores treated could be leprosy. Some were suspect. Five certain cases of the disease were in the isolation camp situated one mile from the main settlement. Here they were fed and treated, and it speaks volumes for the confidence the natives had in the settlement staff that these five people submitted themselves voluntarily for treatment.

As confidence increased the number of people seeking medical treatment also rose. The Matron depended more and more on radio advice for the treatment of symptoms unfamiliar to her, and it was not until October that a doctor was to visit Maningrida. The response by the natives to his presence delighted the Manager, as people continued to come in willingly for medical examinations. The numbers at the isolation camp rose to 13 but by now the Manager felt certain that when the time came for evacuation the patients would co-operate.

By this time two corrugated-iron huts had been erected and bush timber was being used in the construction of shelter and treatment rooms at the isolation camp and for buildings at the main site. The appearance of the area generally had been improved, paths laid out, and a beautification programme with trees and shrubs adopted. Timber had been cut on the airstrip site and grubbing and burning off was progressing.

A fair quantity of produce had been obtained from the garden and had provided a welcome supplement to diet. The soil, however, proved poor. It needed constant fertilising to ensure supplies in quantity, and although there was a plentiful supply of water the lack of a reticulation system made gardening an arduous task. It made impossible any large-scale agricultural project.

Ten days before Maningrida's first anniversary, a light 'plane landed on the airstrip. Although much work was still necessary before larger 'planes could use the strip, Maningrida was now within three hours' flying time from Darwin, and urgently required supplies or evacuations were no longer dependent on an irregular boat service.

At the end of its first year, the settlement staff could look back with justifiable pride on their achievement.

DEVELOPMENT SINCE MAY, 1958

Agriculture

The area originally selected for the garden was abandoned at the end of the 1957-58 wet season owing to the poor quality of the soil. However, another area 500 yards north of the settlement was cleared and one acre planted out with vegetables for growth during the dry season, April-November, 1958. Fruit trees also were planted.

Despite the poor soil, fair quality bananas, pawpaws, water melons, radishes, tomatoes, potatoes, spring onions, spinach and custard apples had been grown without the aid of fertilisers. Thus, although detailed reports by agricultural experts were lacking, there seemed to be little doubt that Maningrida could eventually be entirely self-supporting in vegetables and fruit.

At this point it was decided to establish a special garden plot where efforts would be made to grow crops not indigenous to the area and where experimental work could be conducted into the local soil composition and the value of fertiliser. Such work was of interest to the C.S.I.R.O., some of whose officers visited the settlement to inspect the garden and to offer suggestions regarding growing methods. Their interest in this phase of Maningrida's development still continues.

Of special interest were the results obtained from the experimental plots of sorghum. One plot was treated with a fertiliser mixture recommended by the Agriculture Branch, Northern Territory Administration, while another was planted in natural (virgin) untreated soil. The fertilised crop produced plants standing 7 feet high and bearing ears up to 8 inches long. In the same period the untreated crop grew to be only 8 inches tall.

As a result of such work, it is now known that the most suitable cash crops for the settlement would be peanuts and sorghum; however, large-scale development of a garden area for this purpose is dependent upon marketing considerations.

Crops regularly grown for local consumption include pineapples, granadillas, passionfruit, pawpaws, rock melons and potatoes.

The pineapples in particular have been excellent—fruit averaging 6 lb. each are regularly harvested, the flavour and flesh texture of which would be graded first-class in capital city markets.

A trial planting of pawpaw seedlings brought from interstate was tried out but the results were disappointing and the strain found most suitable to the district appears to be that common to the Darwin area.

The passionfruit vines took a long while to become established but since finding their feet have produced remarkably large quantities of fruit.

Egg fruit from Maningrida regularly win prizes at the annual agricultural show in Darwin.

Four plantings being watched with great interest are those of coffee, avocado pears, Valencia oranges and tropical apples. All of these plants have become well established and show good growth. However, it is as yet too early to pass judgment on their ability to adapt themselves to local climatic conditions.

Some cashew-nut seedlings were struck from nuts sent from Darwin and a coconut grove of over 100 trees has been planted along the foreshores. In December, 1959, these were already some 5 feet in height.

Production figures for the settlement for the 12 months ending 30th June, 1959, were:—

Garden—

Beans	1,530 lb.
Pawpaw	1,009 lb.
Pumpkins	780 lb.
Tomatoes	535 lb.
Cucumber	448 lb.
Rock Melon	393 lb.
Egg Fruit	370 lb.
Sweetcorn	50 lb.
Bananas	30 dozen

Seafoods—

Turtle	3,250 lb.
Fish	758 lb.
Crab	365 lb.
Dugong	295 lb.

A river-front area which appears well suited to market gardening has been discovered within three miles of the settlement and will be investigated for possible exploitation during the 1960 growing season.

Airstrip

In some respects the airstrip is the most important facility at Maningrida. Its availability and use brings the new settlement within three hours of Darwin and makes possible regular visits by medical officers and other persons whose expert services are of benefit to the developmental programme. It was cut out of virgin bush under conditions of great difficulty over a period of 18 months. Almost all of the labouring work was done by the local aborigines using hand tools for felling and grubbing. The surface was graded with the aid of a light Ferguson tractor.

The first 'plane, a Cessna, put down on the strip in June, 1958; in June, 1959, the aerial ambulance, a Dove, landed, and by August, 1959, additional improvements made its use by Dakota D.C.3 aircraft possible. The length of the strip in December, 1959, was 4,200 feet overall, of which 4,000 feet were fully operational and 200 feet over-run.

Pilots using this airstrip describe it as the best (but not the largest) of those in general use along the north coast.

Isolation Camp for Lepers

The patients in this camp live in isolation about one mile from the settlement. It is a tribute to the kindness and understanding of the settlement staff that they have agreed to subject themselves to regular treatment and are happy to remain in the one place to receive it. Advice regarding treatment is received by radio from health authorities in Darwin.

Though many cases are receiving treatment it is believed that many more have not yet come in from the bush. In fact, so high is the incidence of leprosy in the area that it is believed that probably 50 per cent of all families have one or more members suffering from the disease.

Most of the patients have now been evacuated, by air, to the Leprosarium at East Arm in Darwin, where more extensive treatment is available. In the early days of contact such action was avoided as it was feared that many sufferers from the disease would take fright at the prospect of being sent away from the area and would therefore not report their condition. This is no longer so; most of the people now recognise evacuation as an opportunity for possible cure and welcome it.

Three meals per day are supplied to patients at the isolation camp and dressings are changed daily. A fresh-water creek which runs nearby provides ample water for the needs of this small colony.

Outpatients Clinic

A special building has been erected at the settlement site to serve as a small infirmary and medical-aid post. Nowadays it is run by a qualified nursing sister who attends to accident cases, minor ailments, etc. The clinic also provides a centre at which infant-welfare work can be organised and special feeding techniques taught.

Whenever necessary, the nursing sister may seek advice on particular cases by contacting Darwin over the Flying Doctor radio network.

Several emergency cases, including one involving a seaman from a passing ship, were attended to during 1959. Inspection visits by medical officers from Darwin Hospital are now a regular feature of settlement life, and a system of on-the-spot health surveys will be developed from beginnings made during 1959.

Native Village

A village of permanent dwellings is gradually replacing the wurlics previously occupied by the local population.

The framework of these new houses is of cypress pine; the walls are of canvas or paper bark and the roof of corrugated iron.

All of the units completed at the close of 1959 were occupied and, generally speaking, presented a neat and tidy appearance. Some of the occupants had started private gardens.

It is intended during 1960 to carry out a large-scale constructional programme at Maningrida in the course of which water will be reticulated to all houses in the village area. Communal ablution and laundry facilities will also be erected.

An experimental school was opened in 1958, the teacher being the wife of a research officer temporarily stationed at the settlement. The response from both parents and children was very good. Despite the lack of equipment and the need to use a temporary building as a school-room, the experiment was successful. The children were keen and were disappointed when the school ceased.

When staff and materials become available it is felt that the establishment of a school will present no difficulties.

Water Supply

The water-hole at present serving the settlement is the original "Maningrida" of the local natives.

The pool of water of earlier days has now given place to a cylindrical concrete pipe which reaches down through mud and ooze to a sandstone base through which fresh water is forced by natural pressure. That is to say, the well is fed naturally from below and the water so obtained is drawn off in reticulation pipes and pumped to set points in the settlement area.

Surveys recently conducted suggest that there is no likelihood of a water shortage ever embarrassing the settlement.

Service Facilities

In December, 1959 buildings erected and in use were:—

Two large corrugated iron huts, each 60 ft. x 20 ft. One of these units is used by the Manager as a dwelling; the other serves as a store.

Three buildings constructed of bush timber with corrugated iron roofs, and fibro or canvas walls. One of these units is used as a dispensary, the second serves as quarters for single men or visitors, and the third is permanently occupied as a residence by the Assistant Manager.

A cool room was built during 1959. This building has a cubic capacity of 300 feet; the walls are of iron, the floor of concrete, and the walls and roof have been sealed with hardboard.

Work commenced in November, 1959, on a four-bedroom pre-fabricated house which will eventually be used as the Superintendent's residence. The building is constructed of aluminium and is set on piers 3 feet high. The floor is of wood.

A 40-foot tank stand was completed in November 1959; it supports a 10,000 gallon squatter's tank and is of angular steel-girder construction with timber decking.

For 1960 the developmental programme laid down includes constructional work on an infirmary, two residences, an administrative building, and a two-classroom school.

An important step forward is planned by establishing a sawmill at the settlement during the next financial year. A 50-H.P. diesel engine is already on the site, as is the saw bench; there are good stands of cypress pine in the immediate vicinity. The development of this project will be of importance both to the physical growth of the settlement and to the training programme currently in hand.

SOCIAL CHANGE OVER TWO YEARS

Population

Upon arrival in 1957 one of the first tasks undertaken was to ascertain approximately how many people regularly inhabited the Liverpool-Blyth River district. The exact figure is still (December, 1959) a matter of some doubt as at any given time a considerable number of each tribe is out bush, thus making a complete counting of heads impracticable. It is also possible that there are a few small groups who have not as yet come in at any time. However, the estimated population of the area amounts to some 600 men, women and children. At the settlement, a census taken in October, 1959, revealed that at least 250 people were in more-or-less permanent residence.

A breakdown of the population receiving rations at the settlement during June, 1959, provided the following picture:—

		Week Ending—			
		10th	17th	24th	30th
Workers	Men ..	59	63	65	66
	Women	11	11	11	12
Dependants of Workers.	Women	54	50	60	66
	Children	67	70	67	66
Infirmary	Men ..	3	2	2	2
	Women	4	3	4	5
Aged	Men ..	13	13	13	13
	Women	14	14	18	19
In Isolation ..	Men ..	3	3	2	2
	Women	7	7	7	7
Children in area other than above		67	71	70	70
Motherless babe in care of sister		1	1	1	1
TOTALS ..	Males	78	81	82	83
	Females	90	85	101	109
	Children	135	142	138	137
		303	308	321	329

Figures for 30th June, 1957, showed 184 adults and 141 children—a total of 325, and for 30th June, 1958, 168 adults and 60 children—a total of 228.

When it is remembered that at most times about 100 hunters and traders and their dependents (none of whom are receiving rations), are around the settlement to trade and to buy supplies, the extent of the opportunity for the settlement staff to influence native thinking may be realised.

Canteen and Trading Post

Housed in a small hut, the canteen and trading post is the functional core of the settlement. Goods brought in by traders are stored there pending transport to Darwin; their value is assessed and the individual accounts credited.

Trading has always been brisk. The crocodile shooters alone earned over £400 in the first 12 months, and the quality of the goods brought in by other traders showed steady improvement as they gained experience in market requirements. Bark paintings, decorated pipes and carved animals are now quite capably produced and find a ready market in Darwin and elsewhere.

Hunting parties bring in fish and meat for use on the settlement and receive payment in canteen goods or cash, according to preference. Their catch includes buffalo meat, turtle, crab, dugong and baramundi.

The practice originally adopted to effect fair payment was to permit each trader to make purchases up to the value of his credit account. In the days of early contact

insufficient natives were accustomed to the working of a money economy to warrant the introduction of a system of cash payments; by March, 1959, however, this was no longer the case and since that date payments for goods, or as wages for work done, have been made in cash.

Employment and Training

Natives have always been employed on the various projects in hand at the settlement. In this way, as well as providing the essential working force for the settlement, they are learning the habits of regular work. Instead of following the traditional pattern of hunting, fishing and food gathering simply as required for the satisfaction of immediate needs, selected individuals are being taught to work on set tasks for set hours for a stipulated future return.

At the same time, working on the settlement projects is giving them some training in certain trades and skills. They work on building, gardening, cooking and general maintenance; by so doing they receive on-the-job training. Some are sent to formal courses to receive fuller training.

The workers are not drawn regularly from any one tribal group. After a period those from one group are dismissed and sent back to their tribal area, to be replaced with workers from another group. In this way the available work is shared around, and benefits in the form of canteen goods also; in addition, the habits and skills of work are being learnt by a larger group, and no group suffers an over-long disruption of its group life because of the absence of many of its workers.

—With acknowledgment to the *Welfare Branch of the Northern Territory Administration.*



Mr. Stanley Murray, of Bellbrook

ABORIGINES

“BIG ROLE IN C.W.A.”

Aboriginal women would play a big part in Country Women's Association activities, the State President of the association (Mrs. Jeff. Bate) said recently.

She said the C.W.A.'s new policy was to have aboriginal members.

Mrs. Bate was speaking at the opening of the 38th Annual General Conference of the C.W.A. at the Sydney Town Hall.

She said one branch already had aboriginal members.

“Most people do not realise how many aborigines or part-aborigines there are in country towns,” she said.

“Something must be done to make them part of our community.

“Whenever anyone wants to change the pattern of a race the women are the best people to start with.

“We decided to get aboriginal women into our association and let them see they are needed.

Missions

“They will learn how to take proper care of their homes and their children and find out that they can have responsibilities.”

Mrs. Bate said the women to be admitted as C.W.A. members would come mainly from missions.

“We have had requests from all along the coast to start new branches where aborigines will be members,” she said.

“There will be no segregation in branches.

“Australia doesn't want a race problem like the Union of South Africa.”

The Lord Mayor (Ald. Jensen) officially opened the conference.

ABOUT SPIDERS

Adapted from Bill Beatty's Book—Unique to AUSTRALIA

Australia "owns" more than two thousand different kinds of spiders but only the *Red-back* and the *Funnel-web* are deadly. A third, the *Trapdoor* (a relative of the *Funnel-web*), can give a serious bite, but as far as is known has caused no deaths. The number of human deaths from spider-bite recorded in Australia stands at fifteen—an average of less than one in ten years since the first white settlers came to this country.

One kind of spider called the *Magnificent* goes "fishing" for its prey with a fishing line and what does for a hook on the end of it. This spider comes out at night to feed on night-flying moths. Supporting itself on a few foundation threads of strong dry web it spins a long line with a large sticky globe-shaped point at the end. When a moth comes within striking distance the spider takes the fishing line in its front claws and swings it at the moth. It seldom misses its aim. The globe-shaped point holds the moth fast, the spider hauls in.

The young of the *Magnificent* spider are well protected from the cold of winter. Late Autumn is generally the time for the mother spider to make her cocoon and lay the eggs, so that the young come out the following Spring. The spider first makes a cradle of the softest silk, in which she lays up to as many as 200 eggs. The cradle is closed with more silk to make a bag which is hung by a long silk cord from a twig of a tree. There is plenty of silk floss in this cocoon to prevent the eggs from jilting against one another. An outside layer of hard silk that is not affected by rain allows fresh air to enter and stale air to pass out in accordance with the best principles of modern heat insulation. The lower point of the cocoon enables rain water to drip off easily, so the cocoon dries quickly.

The *Barking* spider, like many other kinds, makes a tunnel for its home. This spider makes a sort of whistling noise and it lives mainly in central Australia.

Many Australian spiders are very small and brightly coloured and some glitter like silver. There are 130 different kinds of *Flower* spiders in this country. The *Flower* spiders do not make a web but lie in wait to capture their prey, often hiding in flowers and pouncing on insects coming after the honey. The legs of these spiders are so made that they can run forwards, backwards, or sideways.

Three kinds of water spiders are found in Australia's tropical regions. They build their nests usually in the old holes left by the boring mollusca. As the tide rises they protect themselves from the water by building a curtain of silk in the opening, remaining in their prison homes until the tide goes back again.

The Australian *Diving* spider lives under water. There it builds its home and fixes it to sticks, roots or any water plant. This curious spider has no gills but is really an air breather. Every time it dives it takes down a supply of air. It has a hairy body in which air is entangled and held.

The kind of burrowing spiders commonly called *Wolf* spiders make deep burrows in the soil, lining them with silk as the *Trapdoor* spiders do. Those who live in the desert in the interior of our country make trapdoors to their burrows to stop drifting sand filling them up.

—With acknowledgment to *Evangelist*.

NEWS FROM WALGETT

The Station has been saddened at the passing of Arthur Hunter on 19th April, at the age of 67. He had been a patient in the Randwick Hospital for the past three years.

The service at the graveside on Saturday, 23rd April, was read by Mr. Clem Rafferty and Mr. Sheehan of Walgett, in the absence of Rev. Father Foley. Before his illness, Arthur had been employed by Mr. Rafferty for over 10 years on his property "Kyeemagh", Walgett.

The sympathy of the Station goes out to his wife, his two daughters, Muriel (Mrs. Dudley Dennis) and Pauline (Mrs. Johnny Dennis), and two sons, Ray and Bertie.

On Thursday, 28th April, Mr. Kingsmill, Chairman of the Board visited Walgett Station with Dr. Dunn, Health Officer from Newcastle, also a member of the Board.

All the residents were very pleased to see these two gentlemen from the Board, and sincerely hope that they will be able to come again to this far Western Station.

Rodney Doolan and Duncan Lance have both had a period of hospitalisation, but are back with us again. They say "There's no place like home!"

Frank Dennis was taken to Walgett Hospital this week, but we are happy to state that he is much improved.

The school footballers had their first win of the season on Saturday morning 30th April, defeating Lightning Ridge Public School by 28 points to 26.



How would you like to own a horse like this one? This English horse is reputed to have the longest mane and tail in the world, but don't ask us how he gets about. The photo was kindly loaned by well-known horseman, Alan Dennis, of Pendle Hill

MOREE'S SUCCESSFUL VENTURE

Social Club for Aboriginal Women

On Tuesday, 10th June, 1958, a Social Club for Aboriginal women was opened in the Methodist Hall, at Moree.

The Club continues to thrive and the average number of aboriginal women who attend the monthly meetings is between forty and fifty. All sections of the aboriginal community at Moree are represented.

The meetings take the form of a social function, with singing, competitions, jumble stalls and other activities, concluding with a cup of tea and biscuits. Much singing talent has been discovered among the women, who enjoy themselves immensely.

At the Christmas party there was over a hundred women in attendance, and previous to that a Baby Show was held, which attracted thirty-eight entrants.

YOUNG COUPLE TAKE OVER

Two young aborigines, Phillip and Muriel Prosser, took over the leadership of a new fellowship for young people at the Dee Why West Methodist Church, New South Wales, early in the year. They were married in January and are in their early twenties. Mr. Prosser has been in the Australian Army for three years and is now a gunner at North Head. He was brought up and educated on a United Aborigine Mission Home in West Australia. Mrs. Prosser had missionary training at the Aborigine Inland Mission Training College at Singleton, and worked at the Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home after completing an obstetrics course at the South Sydney Women's Hospital. The minister, Rev. C. L. Dixon, said the young couple had been recommended to him by a member of the Australian Inland Mission, and added: "This is a most unique and wonderful venture in the Methodist Church."

WRECK BAY ROUND UP



With summer now passed, activity lessened about the Station—as the warmer weather always attracts people to the delightful surroundings here at Wreck. School has been well into it and this year seven children are making the daily trip to Nowra to attend High School, leaving forty enrolled at the Station School.

Bad luck continued to dog the fishermen. A classic example. For a week before Easter not a fin was sighted, prices were high. During the holiday weekend over 200 boxes of mullet were landed on the two Station Beaches, net result, a poor market, one penny three farthings per lb. to the fishermen for fish that a week earlier would have brought at least 1s. per lb. It is heartbreaking for men who have battled through a poor season, and no wonder so many are giving the fish away for more steady employment such as the Water Board in Wollongong, where thirteen men are now employed. One ray of brightness shone, however, when the Commonwealth Forestry Department offered a contract for seven miles of fencing to the men of the Station. This fencing together with some 50 acres of clearing work should provide employment for the fishermen over the lean period.

All residents were saddened by the death of the District Forestry Officer, Mr. Brian Patton who died as a result of a forestry accident. Always ready to give unsolicited help to both residents and management Mr. Patton's presence will be greatly missed.

The tennis court is fast reaching completion with the A.W.B. kicking in with a net and strainer to give the Club initial incentive. Prediction of year, "Donald Chatfield possible Davis Cup player in 1970 and Patricia Brown for Wimbledon".

A monster jumble sale was held in April, the goods for same being kindly donated by several families residing at the Naval College, Jervis Bay. Proceeds totalling £12 5s. were added to the already healthy Social Club funds which are being accumulated with the hope that country television will make the addition of a Station set a practical possibility.

Aden Thomas, still going strong at 91, sends his regards to all his friends along the Coast and expects to do a bit of travelling next year if he can talk son "Boogles" out of his push bike. Eileen Thomas decided to try her luck in the big city after a few trips to the Stadium. We haven't decided yet whether she intends to become a rock'n'roller or a fighter!

BREWARRINA WEDDING



Saturday, 23rd April, 1960 dawned bright and clear. Great was the activity at the Ferguson household at Brewarrina. Since the day before, people had been arriving in numbers. As Saturday mid-day drew closer, many and varied were the people who assembled at the focal point of interest for all Brewarrina.

The house was gaily decked in flowers and much hurried preparation was going on, putting the last minute touches to the kitchen arrangements. Huge piles of sandwiches, small cakes in multitudinous profusion, twenty-odd large sponge cakes were in evidence. Cases of cordials were stacked in the cool at the rear of the house.

Three-thirty p.m., and there was assembled such a fleet of transport, that it looked like a drive-in theatre. Every type and mode of conveyance was present, from the humble "turn-out" to a sleek Dodge Kingsway. Visitors had assembled from as far away as Sydney for this most august and happy occasion.

Four p.m., and the focal point for the crowd's breathless attention arrived. Retta Ferguson, looking as lovely as an orchid and as pretty as a princess, dressed in her white bridal outfit. She was attended by two small children as flower girls, and they were dressed in pretty dresses of pink and white.

At last the reason for all the excitement was apparent. Retta Ferguson was marrying Eugene Biles of Brewarrina. The crowd became hushed in admiration as Retta entered the church, escorted on the arm of her father, Mr. Duncan Ferguson, Snr. The nervous bridegroom was waiting at the flower-decked altar, and the nervous knocking of Eugene's knees sounded like a kettle drum in full swing. Both the groom, best man, groomsman and father-of-the-bride were immaculately turned out in dark suits and white shirts.

The officiating celebrant on this happy occasion, was Brother Southwell, of Bourke. His prayers for the happy success of this marriage had a visible effect on the assembled crowd. Many of the ladies present, it was noted, had a moist eye or two and from the menfolk present, many an "Amen" was heard to be whispered.

The bride's father, at the conclusion of the wedding service, spoke a short prayer—drawing attention to the happy couple that the only chance of success in marriage was to put their trust and faith in God.

The bride and groom, by this time Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Biles, attended the wedding breakfast and were prominent at a Gospel meeting later in the evening, before departing upon a week's honeymoon.

Never in the history of Brewarrina has there been seen such a crowded and popular wedding as was witnessed on that Saturday afternoon in April. The very popular couple were showered with a small room-full of wonderful presents.

We wish Retta and Eugene Biles a happy and successful marriage.

BURNT BRIDGE-GREEN HILLS C.W.A. BRANCH'S FIRST MEETING

MRS. MARGARET MORRIS APPOINTED FIRST PRESIDENT

History was made in Kempsey on Wednesday, 25th May, 1960, when it was agreed that a Branch of the C.W.A. be formed in Burnt Bridge-Green Hills, at a meeting attended by the Hon. State President, Mrs. H. Jefferson Bate, who flew to Kempsey to preside at the all-important meeting.

Hon. State President, Mrs. Jefferson Bate, flew specially to Kempsey to form the Burnt Bridge-Green Hills C.W.A. Branch, the first aboriginal C.W.A. Branch to be formed on the North Coast, and also to honour a pledge she had made to Mr. A. Norton, Welfare Officer of the Aboriginal Welfare Board for the Mid-North Coast. All office bearers of the new Branch are aboriginals, with the exception of Mrs. Perrett and Mrs. Croad, who will act as Secretary and Treasurer and look after procedure.

The auspicious occasion, the Inaugural Meeting, was called and the Mayor of Kempsey, Mr. Melville, opened the meeting by giving a warm welcome to a large gathering of representatives from the Mid-North Coast, as well as interested visitors and members of the aboriginal fraternity.

Mr. Melville said it gave him great pleasure to welcome Mrs. Jefferson Bate to give the meeting the impetus it deserved. He commended the women who put service before all and hoped that the history which was being made would be emulated in the future. By coming forward to help form an aboriginal C.W.A. Branch in Kempsey, they had taken a lead and proved they were happy to help them accept the western way of living and to help and guide them.

The office bearers of the Branch to be elected would be on a national scale.

Mr. A. Norton, aboriginal welfare officer from Kempsey, told how he had first approached Mrs. Perrett and Mrs. Croad and had interested the State President, Mrs. Bate. He said, "We need this C.W.A. Branch. Aboriginal people, like us, are warm hearted and kind and only need a chance and opportunity to show their mettle and be able to take their place. We must remember, they are being asked to give up a completely different life, with a strict code, a free life, tribal laws and a natural attitude to help those in need, to accept civilisation. We Australians will have to be patient and understanding and extend the hand of sincere friendship and, once they feel they are being accepted in a genuine manner, they will never again be a sub-standard people. They have the same intelligence, body and soul and the forming of this Branch will be a great step in their lives and, with such a response of genuine friendship, they will now, and

they must, put their shoulder to the wheel and make a success of themselves. The handicraft classes will be a great boon and an incentive to learn just what goes on outside their own world and I hope that there will soon be an aboriginal C.W.A. at every centre with their own office bearers in training."

Mrs. Flo Perrett (convenor) told of her plans and her dreams to help the Branch and that, in twelve months, she felt certain she would be able to train the members to take their place and that she will have something to show with pride and something that will be worthwhile and they will stand side by side with dignity with other members.

Mrs. Croad spoke with deep emotion and said her whole heart and soul was in the project.

Mr. P. Lucock, M.H.R., said it was a privilege and a pleasure to attend on such an important occasion and to see the work that was being done and it was something of which the whole of the Macleay could be justly proud.

Things like this will affect the whole of our national life, this is a practical example and it is up to each one to play their part as a citizen and he hoped the venture would be an outstanding success.

Mrs. H. Jefferson Bate, Chairman of the Inaugural Meeting, said she was not a bit surprised to see such a large gathering. When the C.W.A. set out to do a thing they do it with all their hearts.

She spoke of the tremendously important part women play and how very little can be done these days without the help of women. Our job is to work together and help our fellow being. No matter what our colour or way of life, we cannot put people in separate apartments and the only race in this world is the human race.

C.W.A. is trying to see that our children have the best of everything.

All the opportunities are here in Australia. We are fortunate, and we must learn to give of our best.

By helping form this Burnt Bridge-Green Hills Branch C.W.A., the women will bring in a great deal of friendship and companionship, it will help to make everyone more competent and nicer people to live with, the homes will be nicer places to live in, after that our community and then our country.

The Inaugural Meeting

Mrs. Bate occupied the chair for the election of officers.

It was moved that a Branch of the C.W.A. be formed in Burnt Bridge-Green Hills with their meeting day the second Wednesday in every month, the first meeting to be held at 2 p.m., at Burnt Bridge, and the alternate month at Green Hills at 2 p.m., and the Branch to be known as the Burnt Bridge-Green Hills C.W.A.

Mrs. Margaret Morris, an aboriginal, was elected the first president of the new Branch, and it was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Morris, in a well-prepared speech, thanked the members for electing her their first president and said how wonderful it was to extend the hand of friendship to the white people and to be given an opportunity to take their place, and as fellow Australians we will help to keep Australia a happy and carefree country.

Mrs. Flo Perrett was elected Branch Secretary, and Mrs. K. Croad Branch Treasurer, and they will train future office bearers and help with procedure.

Vice-presidents elected were: Mrs. Ellen Davis, Mrs. Vickey Lane, Miss Alice Campbell (of Burnt Bridge), Mrs. Amelia Hoskins, Miss Gladys Smith, Miss Glenda Hoskins (of Green Hills).

The vice-presidents are all aboriginals and very proud of their election.

Mrs. Bate, with the conclusion of the election of officers, gave them her blessing and also the blessing of the State Executive of N.S.W.

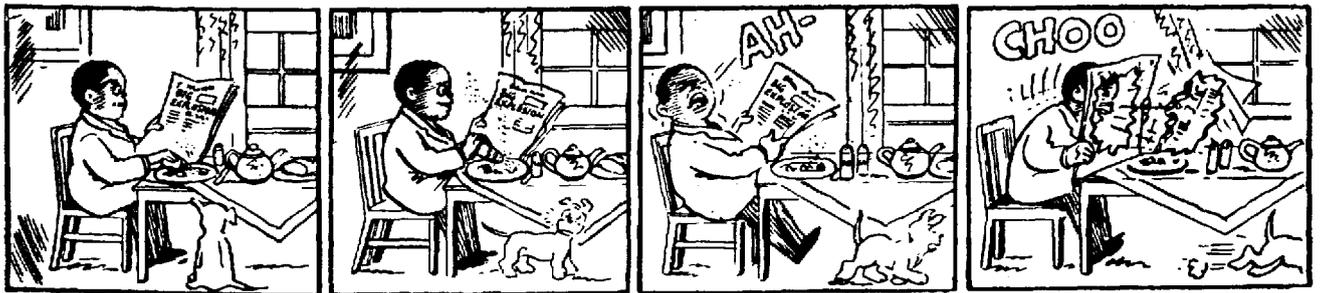
Mrs. Evans, Group President, gave the Branch a warm welcome to the Mid-North Coast Group and invited their delegates to attend the Group Council meeting in Wingham in July.

All visiting Branch Presidents spoke with genuine friendship and conveyed their good wishes and in each case presented a gift from their Branch.

Mr. Anderson, president of the Aboriginal Welfare Committee at Bowraville, extended his good wishes.

And there were good wishes from Mrs. Brown, Wollondilly C.W.A.; Mrs. Ewan, President of Grafton Branch; Mrs. Gregg, Bellevue Hill C.W.A.

The meeting ended with an exchange of floral sprays by the State President, Mrs. Bate, and the Burnt Bridge-Green Hills President, Mrs. Morris.





Shane Wilson, of Box Ridge, Coraki, doesn't seem to mind the cold weather

MURRIN BRIDGE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. B. Butcher, Manager and Matron of the Murrin Bridge Station recently had their first leave for several years, and all the residents were pleased they and their children had such an enjoyable time in the "Big Smoke".

With the start of the football season under way all the Murrin Bridge schoolboys are in full training in an endeavour to obtain selection for the team. Alfred Harris is very upset though, as a horse trod on his foot resulting in a few broken bones. Naturally Alf hopes the bones repair themselves quickly, so that he can start kicking balls again.

The Murrin Bridge Social Club recently held a dance to raise money to assist in the purchase of football gear. Eight pounds net profit was raised and will be of great help. From a social side the dance was a huge success, people even coming by car from Condobolin.

Anzac Day was a most impressive day at Lake Cargelligo and twenty-two children from the station marched in the procession. Two station returned soldiers also marched—one from each war. Bill (Cobar) Williams, ex 45th Battalion (1914-18) and Bill Whitton ex 2/3rd Battalion (1939-45). Cobar layed a wreath on the War Memorial from the residents.

Two other children have been breaking limbs as well as Alf. Harris. Ralph Johnson let a horse throw him and now has an arm in plaster. Yvonne Williams fell from a tree to break her arm. All arms and feet are now well on the way to recovery!

The Crucifixion

The soldiers took Him to the court,
Dressed in a purple gown;
The blood flowed freely from His brow,
Caused by a thorny crown.
He was taken before Pilate,
Who awaited Him in court;
Where Pilate said about Him,
"In Him I find no fault."

The priests cried out in anger,
With hate upon their breath,
"This man has sinned 'gainst Caesar,
The penalty is death."
The Jews had verified this,
They made a great uproar,
"He claims He is the Son of God,
Of that He seems quite sure."

To be written on the Cross
Were words "KING OF THE JEWS"
He bore it like the King He is,
Through mocking and abuse.
At last they got our Saviour,
And nailed Him to the Cross;
While for His simple garments,
The soldiers had cast lots.

He knew His work on earth was done,
He cried out to the host,
" 'Tis finished," as He bowed His head,
And then gave up the ghost.
No doubt you know about Him,
Who died for you and me,
Remember and believe in Him,
Who died on Calvary.

—Richard D. Martin,

c/- H.M. Prison, Brisbane.

Note.—The above poem was written by an Aborigine, who is at present in Brisbane Gaol.

RENT

Once again the Board finds it necessary to draw attention to the very unsatisfactory position regarding the payment of rent.

Over the past ten years the Board has spent well over half a million pounds in the provision of improved accommodation for aborigines.

It has also been active in securing benefits for aborigines in other directions, and an instance of this is the recent decision of the Commonwealth Government to discontinue its discrimination in the matter of pensions. This followed persistent action by the Aborigines Welfare Board.

The Board is anxious to see aborigines enjoying all the rights and privileges of citizenship.

At the same time, however, it must impress upon the people that privileges carry responsibility. If a decent, costly house is provided, it is the duty of the tenant to pay a reasonable rental for it, and in this connection all tenants must admit that rents charged by the Board are very low indeed.

Many of the Board's tenants are meeting their obligations well and are to be congratulated.

The Board is also aware that many who are not paying their rent are nevertheless spending their earnings on items which, even among white people, would be regarded as luxuries. When such items are purchased on time payment it is well known that if instalments are not paid regularly, the article is repossessed. It is disappointing to know that so many aborigines are quite happy to keep up payments on such things, but seem to feel no responsibility towards the question of rent.

The Board is sorry to have to refer to this matter again, but wishes it to be known that it cannot tolerate continued indifference on the part of all those who are well able to pay, and will continue to take all necessary steps to enforce payment in such cases.

THE BOARD HELPS BUILD A HOME

The first signs of anything being done about the home for Gordon Troutman and his family of the Boggabilla Aboriginal Station was noticed when the builder was seen pegging out the site.

Ever since the rough plans were drawn up by the Manager many months ago there has been little to show, apart from very legal looking documents and much correspondence from all the departments involved.

Gordon is a shearer, and one of the Mungindi Troutman's, and his wife Jean is a daughter of Ron and Ruby McIntosh, of Boggabilla Aboriginal Station. They have four children, Brian, Janet, Ruby and Dinah, all of whom are a credit to Jean, who keeps them neatly dressed, and in the case of the girls, their hair is always plaited. Due to housing shortage the Troutman's lived in a tent for some time. This developed to a tent with a tin galley. Then, one autumn Gordon approached the Manager about some building material salvaged from a derelict house. He said he wanted to build a small two-roomed place for the winter. It was about that time that Gordon made an application to the Board for assistance to build a home. His reasons were sound, he wanted a home of his own for Jean and the children. Somewhere they could be near town and be in closer contact with his business associations.

Well, he built his two-roomed shack, and he made a very neat job of it too. And now, after many months of waiting, and some minor setbacks, there are definite signs of progress. Well, here's hoping it won't be too long now before they are settled in their own home.

A LETTER FROM GRIFFITH

Dear Friends,

The Board has almost completed the erection of four very nice cottages on the Reserve at Griffith, N.S.W., and these new cottages will be let to four very lucky families. Many are wondering who they will be— whoever they are, I'm sure they will be proud of such lovely homes.

Now, just a word to the people who will not be lucky enough to be picked for one of the new homes. You will be disappointed, I know, but cheer up, there is very little we cannot do if we want hard enough to do it and there is very little we cannot have if we are prepared to work and save hard enough to get it. You try it out and see if I'm not right.

Are you really keen to have a nice new home? Talk with your Assimilation Organisation Executive about it. These men and women are ready and willing to help and advise you.

We are all very fortunate in having such an interesting and helpful little magazine as *Dawn*. *Dawn* has so many helpful hints for Mum and Dad and all the family—in fact, there is something for everyone. When setting out your garden don't forget to look up *Dawn* hints on what to sow.

Best wishes to all.

Yours sincerely,
D. C. M. Stanley-Smith,
Griffith Aborigines Assimilation Organisation.

NATIVE CHILDREN ENTITLED TO EVERY OPPORTUNITY

Our native children were entitled to every opportunity we could give them, the Premier and Minister for Education, Mr. R. J. Heffron, said recently when opening the new block of Moree Aborigines' School.

Mr. Heffron was welcomed by the Headmaster, Mr. F. Butlin, who said it gave him great pleasure to welcome Mr. Heffron in his dual capacity of Premier and Minister.

"We are very proud of the new block provided by the Department of Education, as this building completes the educational plan for this school by providing woodwork and metalwork facilities for the boys as well as a classroom and headmaster's office," Mr. Butlin said.

"The girls were provided for, in the building of a domestic science unit some time ago.

"The population of this school has grown rapidly during the past few years and now the Moree Aborigines' School provides education to the second year secondary level," he added.

"You have honoured us by your presence here today to officially open our new building. We trust that your stay in Moree will be a pleasant and enjoyable one."

Mr. Heffron expressed disappointment that rain had marred the function but added he did not mind as he knew they badly needed it.

He had been at the Aborigines' School some years ago to open the home science block and was glad to be back again.

"This school has a grand record and the excellent things being done here are just an indication that if our native children are given the opportunity and good teachers, great things can be done," he added.

Mr. Heffron told the children about La Perouse school where half the pupils were native children and half whites. It was one of the show schools of the State.

"The native children on the academic side hold their own and sometimes hold more than their own," he continued.

"There are no behaviour problems and one of the infants' mistresses has been there 20 years. You could not pull her out with wild horses."

In sport the children were grand champions and won the football competition for schools almost every year. At the end of the year leading Rugby League officials went to the school for the annual prize-giving function.

He said a new school had been built there 10 years ago and painted in attractive pastel colours. After 10 years there was not a mark on the school.

Mr. Heffron added the school had given the native children an opportunity to show what they could do. At first they were too shy to go on to high school but that did not happen today. They went on to South Sydney High or Maroubra Bay High.

Mr. Heffron told the children that one teacher in Sydney was an Aborigine girl. She had passed her Leaving, then gone on to Teachers' college and was now teaching her own people.

"I mention that to indicate that after all our native people are entitled to every opportunity we can give them," he added.

"I ask you to get it out of your heads that you can't get far. The point is, kind leadership and good teaching proves that success can attend your efforts."

Mr. Heffron said he was really interested in that kind of school and the training of young people. Therefore, he was glad to learn that the people of the district and service clubs had done so much to provide those extra amenities which were so needed.

"To the public and to those clubs I take my hat off for the good, humane and Christian job they are doing," he added.

"We can't get the best out of our young people without the interest and kind leadership, the right kind of school and the support of the people."

He then unveiled the plaque of the new building.

School Captain, Beverley French, thanked Mr. Heffron for his visit.

"Thank you for coming to Moree to open our new school building, of which we are very proud," she said.

"Thank you also for coming to open our swimming pool where we have such enjoyable times."

Mr. Heffron thanked Beverley for the way in which she had spoken. He then made an inspection of the classrooms and spoke to the children.

—With acknowledgment to *Moree Champion*.

Worthy Achievements of Local Association

Back in 1958 a public meeting was held in Condobolin with a view to assisting the aboriginal people in our town. This meeting led to the formation of the Condobolin Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines.

Although this meeting was held less than two years ago, the recent completion of four new houses on the Boona Road serves to emphasise that much has been achieved for the aboriginal people in that short time.

Unfortunately, finance has not been forthcoming in the amounts desired for the construction of new houses, and so the main concern of the Association has been to improve the position of the inhabitants of the Mission and the Murie.

The shocking housing conditions of those areas have continually been referred to the appropriate authorities and the Association hopes to see some steps taken to repair their homes before the onset of winter.

Shower

Only recently has a double-shower recess for the school children been completed.

It is hoped to instal some sort of heating system in the near future.

After much negotiation a loan of £2,000 has been arranged for Mr. Greg Ingram, who plans to build his own home in the town.

This is a very positive achievement and it is hoped that similar loans can be arranged for other applicants.

Co-operation with similar organisations throughout the Commonwealth has been of great benefit to the Association.

Conferences

Three delegates from Condobolin attended a conference at Armidale in 1959, and three representatives attended the Third Annual Conference of the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement which was held in February of this year.

The banding together in such conferences of organisations with a similar aim is of immense benefit to the organisations concerned, both individually and collectively and has led to the affiliation of our local Association with the Aborigines Australian Fellowship.

One of the main aims of the Association at present is to have more homes constructed in Condobolin to replace the present sub-standard dwellings on the Mission and the Murie.

Hopes

The provisional report of the allocation of Government funds for 1960-61 has not been encouraging, but it is still hoped that some of the twenty-odd buildings required can be erected this year.

However, the effectiveness of our Association in pursuing such aims is largely determined by the personal and financial support that is behind it.

Any help of this kind that you can give will be greatly appreciated.

—With acknowledgment to the *Condobolin Lachlander*.

Flashes from Walgett

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ward, of Walgett, on the birth of a baby boy, to be named William, and to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dennis, a boy, to be called Desmond.

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In the Walgett Show held recently, John Dennis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Dennis, Jnr., won the prize for writing. This was quite an achievement as he competed against all comers within his age group.

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The school football team has started the season off well with two wins from two matches. Through the generosity of several donors the boys will soon be playing in their new jerseys inscribed W.M.F.C.

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Valerie Sullivan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sullivan, has been sent to Sydney to the Children's Hospital for specialised treatment. Hope she returns fit and well.

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Dudley Dennis, Snr., has had a period of hospitalisation after his recent bout of influenza, but he is back with us again "to get back to that painting!"

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Many compliments have been paid about the newly-painted houses, the colour schemes being very harmonious. All large houses have been painted cream and blue, while the smaller houses that were painted first were cream, red and yellow.

HOPPY AND THE SNAKE

A True Story

by Rev. Harold Fuller

A rustle in the weeds at my feet disturbed me as I sat reading on my little African stool outside my mud-walled house.

At first I could not tell what was jumping around, but finally I noticed a little frog. In the early morning light his green skin, spotted with black, looked just like the colouring of the earth and the weeds.

Hoppy—I thought that must have been his name—did not know that I was watching. He had been hopping around all night looking for food. On the floor of the missionary's house he had found all kinds of insects that had dropped from the kerosene lantern, and outside he had licked up lots of ants. Now he was tired and needed a good long rest through the day.

Hoppy knew, though, that if he lay down out on the open ground, some big bird would swoop down and eat him, or a slimy snake hiding in the grass would gulp him down. So Hoppy looked for a safe place to take his nice long nap. At last he spied a dark hole under the mud wall of the missionary's house.

"I'll be safe in there," thought Hoppy, as he scratched away some of the earth to make more room. "No one will ever catch me in that dark hole."

Just as Hoppy was beginning to wriggle in, a shiny green head shot out of the hole. Hoppy was terrified. He was looking right into the tiny, flashing eyes of an ugly snake! He tried to jump back, but the snake's jaws snapped open and clamped tight over his head. The little frog scuffled and twisted, and kicked his feet in the air, but the snake's grip held firmly.

As all this was quickly happening, I couldn't help but think about the boys and girls I knew who thought they could play with sin and not get caught. Yes, there were

some who did not even know that God was watching them, and they didn't think that Satan—whom the Bible calls a serpent—would ever hurt them. But after they were caught in sin, it was too late; they could not save themselves—they were just like the little frog.

As Hoppy's struggling died down, the snake began to swallow him. First one jaw stretched and then another, and Hoppy slid farther and farther down. Finally, just his hind feet were sticking out of the snake's mouth.

Was it too late to help Hoppy? I picked up a stick. The snake was darting his hooked tongue in and out past the little frog's legs, but he didn't like the look of the stick. I struck at his head, and he drew back into the hole. The snake knew he couldn't run away quickly with such a big mouthful, so he gave up the frog and disappeared.

I thought Hoppy was finished as he lay there on the ground limp and quiet. But he sighed a couple of times and breathed deeply. Then I was surprised to see him shake himself and take a little hop. Sure enough, after a while Hoppy was back on his legs and able to hop far away from the snake.

I couldn't help thinking that I had done about the same thing for Hoppy that the Lord Jesus can do for every boy and girl.

When they get into sin they cannot free themselves from Satan. Jesus has to do that for them, because only He is strong enough. Then when Jesus sets boys and girls free from sin, He gives them new life so that they can keep away from sin.

If sin has hold of you, won't you pray to God to set you free?

—With acknowledgment to *Evangelist*.

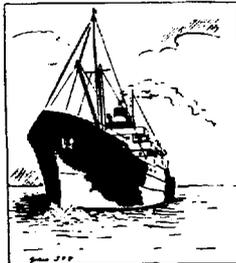
DID YOU KNOW . . .



In 1913, at the age of 19, Georgia ("Tiny") Broedwick, an American, became the first person in history, man or woman, to make a parachute jump from an airplane. She had parachuted from a balloon four years before.



Plastic surgery, usually regarded as a recent medical advance, was practised thousands of years ago by the Hindu surgeon, Susruta. His writings contributed to the spread of Hindu medicine throughout the ancient world.



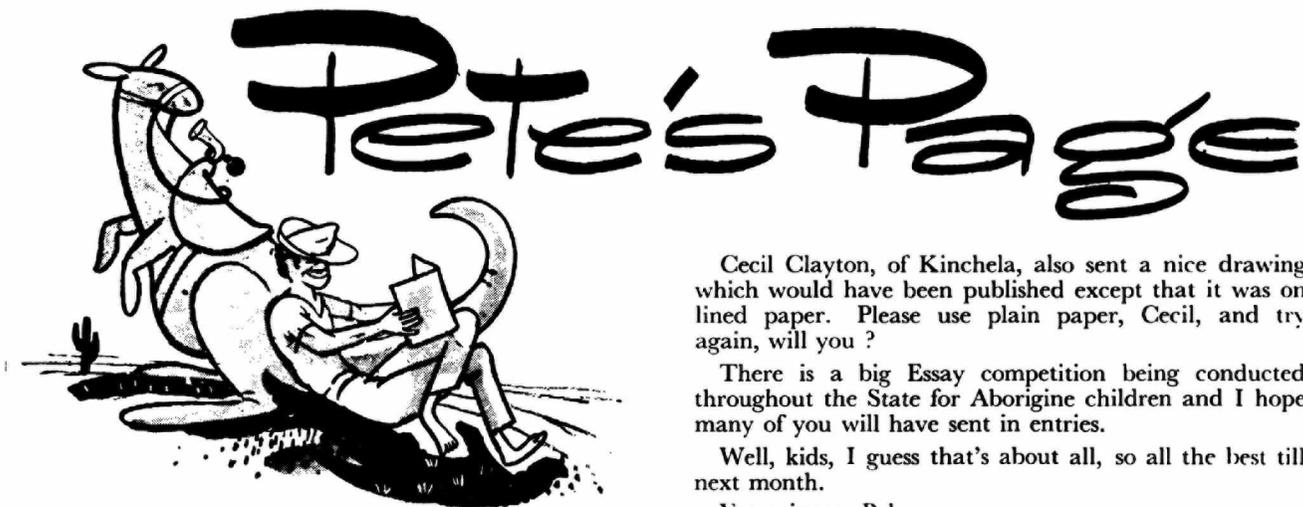
A steel ship is lighter than a wooden ship of the same dimensions. Welded steel ships are faster than riveted steel ships, and welded steel ships weigh about 13 per cent less than riveted ones.



The Red Cross now believes that the best method of artificial respiration is for the rescuer to put his mouth to the victim's and breathe air into the victim's lungs about 12 times a minute for adults and 20 times a minute for children.



When Kozo Ohishi, a 46-year-old Japanese, ate bread or potatoes, he became intoxicated. Medical examination revealed that his digestive tract contained a yeastlike fungus which fermented carbohydrates to form alcohol.



Cecil Clayton, of Kinchela, also sent a nice drawing which would have been published except that it was on lined paper. Please use plain paper, Cecil, and try again, will you ?

There is a big Essay competition being conducted throughout the State for Aborigine children and I hope many of you will have sent in entries.

Well, kids, I guess that's about all, so all the best till next month.

Your sincere Pal,

Hello Kids,

Well, we're right in the middle of winter now aren't we, and I don't like it a bit. How I look forward to the long summer days and a nice cool swim. Still, we can't have all summer, can we ?

Just had a nice drawing from Vicky Connors, of Tingha, but unfortunately it was only done in pencil. Please do your future drawings in ink, will you, Vicky, and then we can reproduce them in *Dawn*. Let's have some more, please.

Fay Nixon (16) whose address is c/- Tilbaroo, Illabo, wrote me a nice long letter giving me all the news. Fay, who sends her kind regards to all the Board Staff, is a keen basketball player. She often pays a visit to all her old friends (not so very old, of course !) at the Cootamundra Home and tells me she looks forward to these visits. Can you imagine Fay rushing around letting off crackers on Empire Night ? Well, that's exactly what she did. I believe one big bungler really caused consternation among her friends. Fay tells me she is a keen Rock-n-roller and a member of the Lonnie Lee Fan Club. 'Fraid I'm not much good at it myself, Fay.

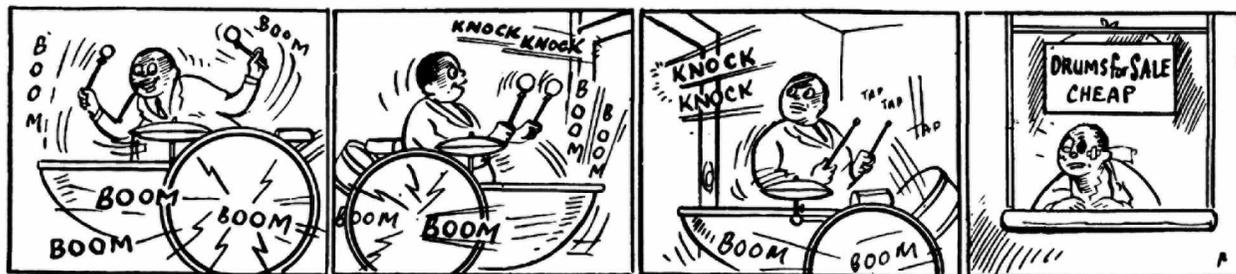
Thanks for a very nice letter, Fay, and I hope we'll hear from you again soon. Incidentally, your letter wins a special prize. Congratulations !

The postman just brought me a nice drawing from Colin Davis, of the Kinchela Boys' Home. Just missed a prize, Colin. Try again, will you ?

Pete



Pretty Marlene Little, of Bellbrook





TURNIP

The most tender turnips are those which are grown rapidly and then pulled while they are still young. The dislike of some people for turnips is no doubt due to purchasing the over-matured roots that are so often offered for sale.

Requirements

Turnip requires a similar cultivation to carrots, although slighter richer soil is desirable. Over-richness, however, tends to produce very heavy top growth and perhaps small roots. A good fertiliser is equal parts of Bone Dust and Superphosphate, used at the rate of 2 ounces to the square yard. This should be used in conjunction with any rotted manure that can be dug into the soil. Turnips need ample water during dry weather, but otherwise are a very hardy crop. Ground should be prepared some time prior to the sowing and allowed to settle. About a week before the seeds are sown give a further light digging, and at this stage the fertiliser can be incorporated.

When to Sow

In most districts, sowings are made during the Autumn but can be resumed again in the early Spring. With some of the early varieties, such as Yates' Flat Express, it is possible to sow in all but the very hottest period of the year.

How to Sow

Seeds are sown where the plants are to grow, as they do not transplant easily. Shallow furrows about 1 inch deep are made $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart. Along the bottom of these the seed is sown sparsely and lightly pressed into the soil with the edge of a batten or the back of a rake. Seed is then covered with about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch soil, leaving a slight furrow still visible and into which the moisture can collect. Keep the seeds moist from the time of sowing until the seedlings are established.

Cultivation

Roots should be thinned out to about 6 inches apart, and, for swede turnips, 9 inches apart, with 15 inches between the rows for this type. Keep the soil weed-free by shallow cultivation and do not hill it up around the roots. When the plants commence to bulb, give a further dressing of the fertiliser already recommended, allowing about 2 ounces to each 5 feet of row. If the plants show any signs of check, make sure that the water supply is sufficient, but do not apply heavy forcing manures, such as Sulphate of Ammonia.

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Mr. Jack Livermore, of Tingha, and his happy-looking family