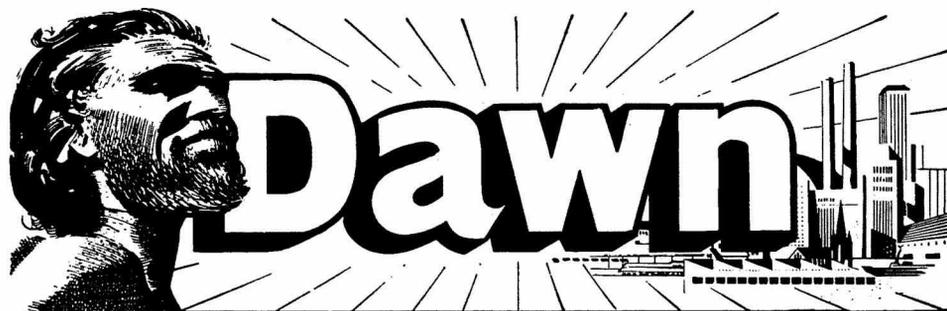


Dawn

Volume No. 11
Serial No. 6





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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

Five-year-old Lena Munro and her school friends queue up for their first slide on the new playground equipment at Moree. The new equipment, a present from the Sun Toy Fund, soon became the focal point in the children's playtime.



Big Day at MOREE as Kids Enjoy Playground Equipment

Playground equipment worth more than £100 was presented to Moree Aborigines' Station by the Chairman of the Sun Toy Fund, Mr. F. H. Palmer, on May 10.

The sturdily built equipment was handed over by Mr. Palmer to the Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill.

Mr. Palmer, in making the presentation, said:—

“Today we participate in a unique function, unique because it represents perhaps the biggest charitable effort of its kind in N.S.W.—and probably Australia—to help the aboriginal children in a collective and practical manner.

“The Sun Newspaper Toy Fund is proud and happy to tell you that this contribution of playground equipment is only a small part of what we have done for the aboriginal kiddies.

“Similar presentations are being made to stations from the far south coast to the Queensland border.

“Expenditure has exceeded £1,000 and we don't begrudge one penny of it because over the years youngsters will benefit in a happy and carefree way.

“We initially made an open offer to the Welfare Board and then we were guided by their recommendations.

“Moree was selected for the official handing-over ceremony because of the big number of children—about 300—under guidance at your local station.

“At the same time the Sun Toy Fund has no distinction to make of race and creed, as emphasised by today's special gesture to the aboriginal children of the State.

“You will thus appreciate that it is not only at Christmas, when we distribute thousands of toys all over the State, that the fund is active. Actually its work never stops, as instanced by today's pleasing function.

“My committee is imbued with the idea that the plight of thousands of youngsters can be immeasurably improved by also giving them something of an educational and recreational nature as well as just toys.

“Our aim is to make the lives of these children happy—and there are thousands of needy ones in hospitals, orphanages, institutions and places like aboriginal reserves,” Mr. Palmer said.

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“ NO BASIS IN FACT . . . ”

Welfare Board Chairman Decries Theory Put Forward on Education

The Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, in a special message to *Dawn*, condemns as completely false the suggestion that “aboriginal children, as a whole, do not possess an intelligence quotient comparable to that of their white counterpart.”

“This is a theory which has been quoted by some people in the community when giving their views on aboriginal children and their education,” Mr. Kingsmill said.

“The theory has no basis in fact and is a view which has never been held by the Board or its officers.”

Continuing, Mr. Kingsmill said: “By an unhappy circumstance, reference to this theory made in the Board’s annual report, tabled in Parliament late last year, was misinterpreted in some quarters.

“I hastened to correct any wrong impression it might have created in a Press statement issued last December.

“Subsequently, however, the original report in its unclarified shape gained further publicity. This led to the New South Wales Teachers’ Federation setting out their views on the theory and on education generally.

“I feel *Dawn* readers will be interested in the letter from the Teachers’ Federation and the Board’s reply which follows it below.”

Mr. M. Kennett, acting general secretary of the Teachers’ Federation, in his letter, said of the theory:

“The implication is that the aboriginal people are an inferior race and this erroneous contention can be used to justify all kinds of discrimination and repression. In fact, carried to the extreme, theories of racial superiority have been used to justify the most monstrous crimes against humanity.

“The statement is in the sharpest conflict with the conclusions of the UNESCO Statement on Race: ‘According to present knowledge there is no proof that the groups of mankind differ in their innate mental characteristics, whether in respect of intelligence or temperament. The scientific evidence indicates that the range of mental capacities in all ethnic groups is much the same.’

“The UNESCO statement is borne out by the findings of many eminent research workers in the field of intelligence testing.



Mr. Kingsmill

“Thus the Research Bulletin of the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey, in 1953, provides a survey of literature relating to the effects of cultural background on test scores. Its report states that ‘there is an increasing amount of evidence in the literature supporting the view that cultural factors do affect intelligence scores in many instances to a significant extent.’

“A similar view is expressed by the authority Klineberg who states: ‘The net result of all the research that has been conducted in this field is that there is no scientific proof of innate racial difference in intelligence: that the obtained difference in test results are best explained in terms of factors in the social and educational environment.’

“The UNESCO Statement reaches the same conclusion: ‘It is now generally recognised that intelligence tests do not in themselves enable us to differentiate safely between what is due to innate capacity and what is the result of environmental influences, training and education.

“ ‘Wherever it has been possible to make allowances for differences in environmental opportunities the tests have shown essential similarity in mental characteristics among all human groups.’ ”

Continuing, Mr. Kennett said: “It is the general experience of teachers in our own aboriginal schools that many pupils are twelve months retarded when they start school.

PRE-SCHOOL KINDERGARTENS

“This is due to social deprivation and the depressed economic and educational environment rather than to low intelligence. Thus elementary general knowledge—of newspapers, clocks and many other articles that are commonplace in a white child’s environment—has to be actually taught to some children from aboriginal homes.

“Teachers feel very strongly that there is a growing need at most aboriginal stations for the provision of pre-school kindergartens where specially trained and interested teachers could remedy this deficiency. Pre-school education would do much to lay the basis for the mental, social and cultural development of these children. It would ensure that they would start their formal education at a level much closer to that of white children.

“My Federation feels that positive steps such as these are needed to overcome the social and economic disabilities suffered by aboriginal children and to encourage them to develop their capabilities to the full. Branding them as inferior beings can only discourage them still further from making the most of the educational opportunities that are open to them.”

In his reply, Mr. Kingsmill pointed out that in the annual report of the Aborigines Welfare Board, it was stated that the Board’s field officers were directed to discuss the question of education with headmasters of secondary schools throughout the State.

HOME STUDY FACTORS

“The report of these officers discounted the theory of a lower intelligence quotient and they contended that the lack of adequate facilities for home study was the primary factor for the small number of aboriginal children completing secondary education,” Mr. Kingsmill said.

Continuing, the letter said: “As a result of this the Board requested managers of aboriginal stations to report on the practicability of using recreation halls on their stations for the purpose of having the children do their

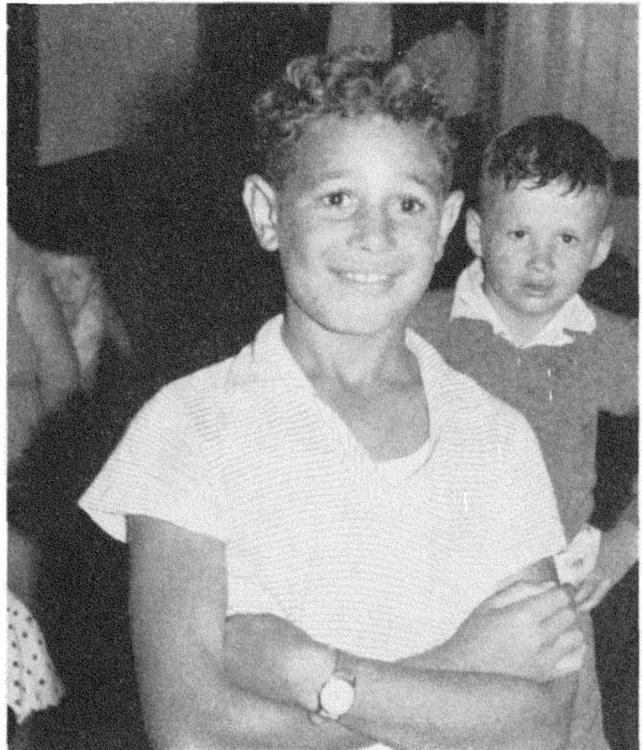
home study under supervision, and whether or not a suitable person willing to supervise is available. These reports are still being received.

“The question of pre-school kindergartens on aboriginal stations has also been considered by the Board, which has requested the Education Department to investigate the possibility of these being set up. Subsequently the Education Department advised that the Area Directors of Education favoured the scheme, but staffing was a difficult problem.

SAVE THE CHILDREN

“However, the Save the Children Fund has now commenced work of this nature among aboriginal children in N.S.W. and has opened its first pre-school centre on the aborigines reserve at Coff’s Harbour and proposes to establish other centres at Armidale and Lismore. Subject to these being successful, further expansion to other areas will be undertaken within the limits of the Fund’s staff and finances.

“The question of education is one which is considered by the Board to be of primary importance and the closest liaison is maintained by the Board’s field officers with headmasters and teachers in schools at which aboriginal children are enrolled to ensure regular attendance and, if necessary, material assistance to the children.”



Ian Mundine of South Grafton is a fine example of the new generation at school

The Origins of Caroona . . .

SHEEP STEALING CAMP DOGS LED THE MOOKI RIVER PEOPLE TO NEW HOMES

The good relations between aborigine and white man which existed in the Namoi country in the closing years of last century constitute a shining page in Australia's early history.

In those days the aborigines of the district camped along the Mooki River from Breeza to Pine Ridge.

Three large grazing properties—Breeza (owned by the Clift family), The Mystery (owned by the Leonard family) and Walhallow (owned by an English company), were located along the river route.

It was a time when the animal-loving tribes kept more dogs than they could ever hope to feed. Each family owned six to a dozen dogs.

Sheep began to disappear or were found dead on the grazing properties. The killing of sheep by dogs became such a problem that the station owners cast about for some humane solution.

Two of them, Mr. Leonard, of The Mystery, and Mr. Croker, manager of Walhallow, held a conference with the native elders. Without heat the white men pointed out that the sheep losses could not be allowed to continue.

There was no question of taking revenge on the dogs. All the station owners asked was that they be taken away from ranges where the sheep grazed.

They offered to move the entire aborigine community to a trouble-free area of land they had made available, on the Mooki River and which could be used as a permanent settlement.

The aborigine elders saw the wisdom of this suggestion and the tribe moved onto the area set aside for them and they stayed there. This land was located on the bottom section of what is today Caroona Aboriginal Station.

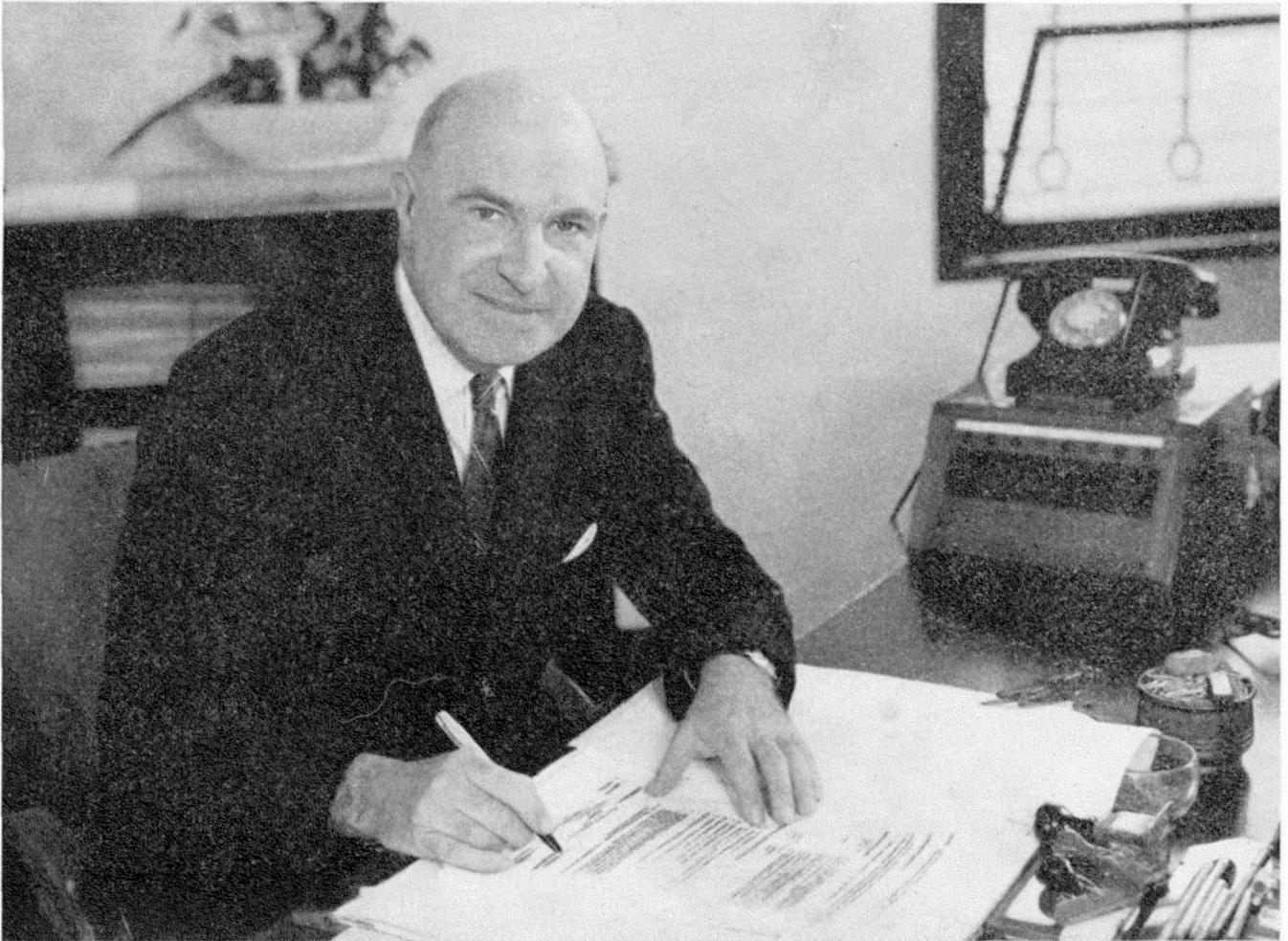
Continued on page 6



Typical Post-War Aboriginal Station

—Photo, by courtesy of T. Haggard—Casino

Key Man Behind 60,000 New Homes . . .



Ace Housing Administrator Joins the Aborigines Welfare Board

Mr. John Thomas Purcell, the newest member of the Aborigines Welfare Board, has an outstanding administrative record with the State Public Service.

He is the Chairman of the Housing Commission of N.S.W.—a multi-million pound State authority, which has built more than 60,000 homes during the post-war period.

Mr. Purcell (pictured above at his desk) succeeded Mr. Michael Sawtell on the Board. Mr. Sawtell retired earlier this year after 18 years' service.

Born in the Sydney suburb of Balmain in 1910, Mr. Purcell joined the State Public Service in May, 1926.

During 19 years' service with the Department of Public Works he acquired a most extensive knowledge of managerial, administrative and accounting problems involved in all classes of building construction, water supply, sewerage, road and bridge building projects, dam construction and land development schemes.

At the age of 21, Mr. Purcell became Senior Clerk of the Public Works District Office for the Narrabri district.

During the war years, Mr. Purcell played a prominent organising role in the formative period of the Allied Works Council and later in the establishment of policies generally and in the administration of major works carried out as part of the war effort.

In June, 1945, he transferred to the Housing Commission and played a key part in organising the rapid expansion of its building programme to meet the needs of thousands of homeless families after World War Two.

In the years that followed, he became Chief Administrative Officer, and took part in many Commonwealth and interstate conferences which dealt with major housing matters.

He became Chairman of the Housing Commission in 1958 and has since been successful in implementing many progressive developments in State housing, including the design and widespread construction of special homes for aged people, slum clearance and redevelopment projects and the establishment of modern residential estates.

Continued from page 4

Caroona was eventually resumed as a station more than 50 years ago.

The station comprises approximately 240 acres, and up till a few years ago the land was put to use in growing crops and grazing an excellent herd of dairy cattle and sheep for meat.

In Caroona's earlier days the old cottages were spread around the station.

These old homes disappeared when the Welfare Board's policy of modernising stations resulted in 30 new cottages of two and three bedrooms being built in a compact group on the eastern slope of a hill.

The Board supplied water to the cottages, pumping from two wells about a mile from the homes.

The station also boasts a large recreation hall and church, both fully furnished, and a football ground second to none in the district.

The aboriginal school caters for an average of 45 pupils in the preparatory and kindergarten classes. High School pupils are transported by bus to Quirindi High, which is 20 miles away.

In the field of sport, the station has developed a rugby football team which has become a force to be reckoned with by district teams. Re-formed in 1959, after a lapse of several years, the team has since won a minor and major premiership on two occasions. It was once defeated by the strong Werris Creek side in the grand final of the Group 4 Country Zone tournament after 20 minutes extra time was played.

The school children, besides being prominent in scholarship, have also come to the fore in rugby league and athletics in recent years. Some of their performances are worth recording.

The carefully prepared operations of the Housing Commission have helped to eliminate the housing shortage in many country centres of N.S.W.

At present, his organisation is responsible for the annual expenditure of about £11 million on homes for families in the low and moderate income groups.

The Commission's activities range from one end of the State to the other and homes have been constructed in more than 260 centres outside of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

During the many years of his Public Service career, Mr. Purcell has spent considerable time in country districts of the State, including about ten years in the North West and Far West.

This gave him first-hand knowledge of aborigines and the problems associated with the advancement of their welfare.

It was a sphere in which he was keenly interested and he had many opportunities to translate this interest into practical assistance.

Mr. Purcell is married and has a son and a daughter.

In 1955, the school team won the Peel School carnival in the special primary division of Country Rugby League. In 1958, they won the Werris Creek district junior league competition (4 st. 7 lb. division). That year, Edna White won the championship of the Willow Tree School Athletic Association in the 12-year division.

In the same year the school won the Anzac Day essay competition staged by the Caroona sub-branch of the R.S.L., with Peter Allan winning the individual award.

The school again won the Werris Creek district junior league competition (4 st. 7 lb.) in 1959.

In 1960, Jimmy White won the championship of the Willow Tree School Athletic Association.

In 1961, the school's team in the 5 st. 7 lb. division won the premiership in the Werris Creek junior league competition. Garry Porter, in the same year, was sub-junior district champion in athletics organised by the Quirindi Public Schools Amateur Athletic Association.

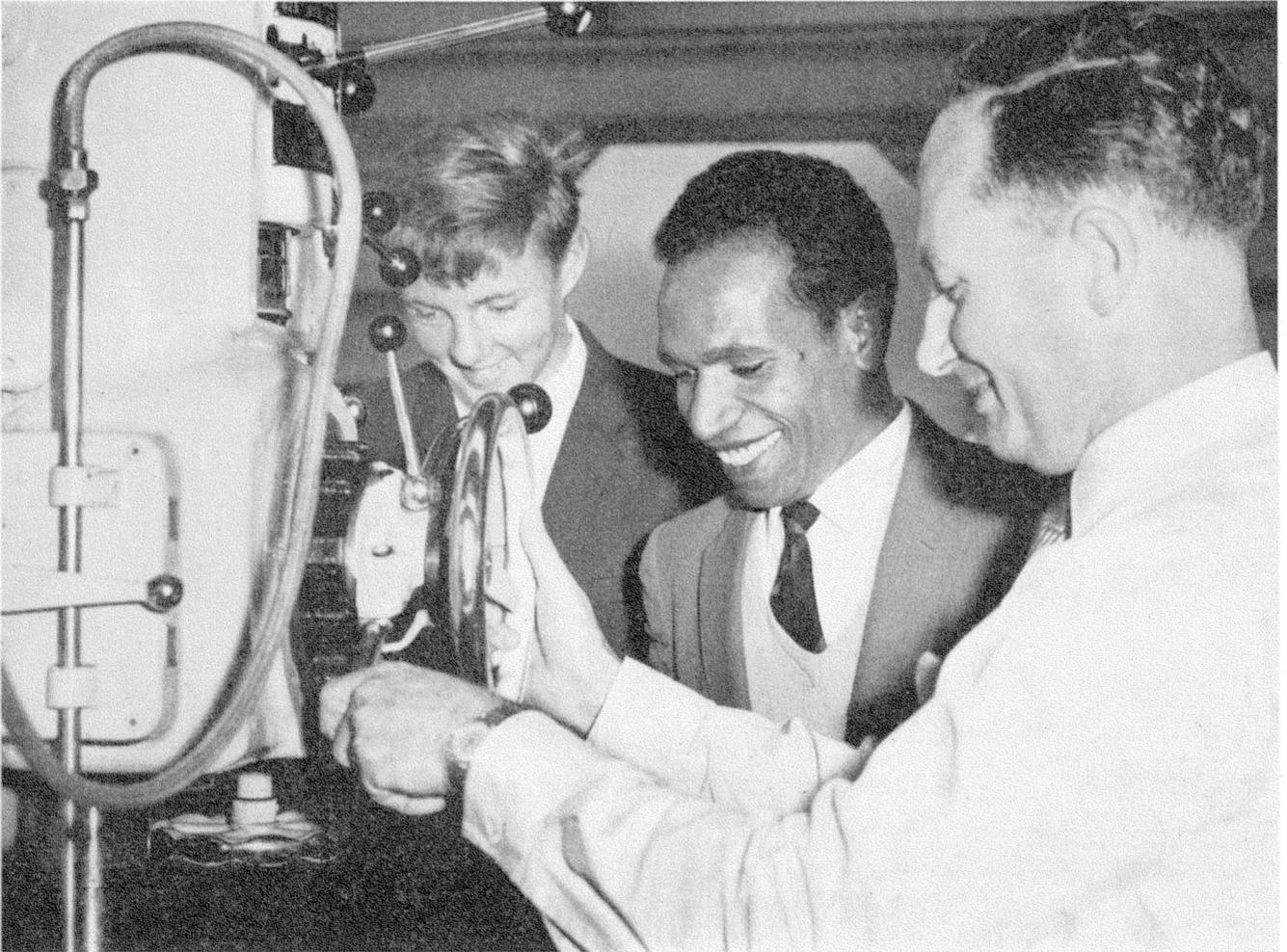
In the same year, Jill Brennan won the individual award in the Anzac Day essay competition.

Continued advancement is being made with improvements to Caroona. Being located in a pocket on the extreme boundary of the Namoi County Council, the station originally did not come within the council's electrification scheme.

As a result of efforts by the Welfare Board, the council recently extended the high voltage line to the station, and workmen recently erected supply lines of lower voltage (240 volts) on the station.

All residents are keenly looking forward to the connection of electricity to the cottages and are talking excitedly about the different labour-saving devices they plan to install.

TOP PAPUAN APPRENTICE TAKES LOOK AT OUR HEAVY INDUSTRY



Ian Caterson (left), son of the Secretary for the Department of Labour in Papua and New Guinea, and William Raurella, leading apprentice in Papua for 1961, being shown a drilling machine by Mr. Frank Lanyon, an instructor of fitting and turning at a large Port Kembla industrial plant. (Picture by Victor Wood.)

Top Papuan apprentice of 1961, William Champion Raurella (18), was introduced to *Dawn* readers in the May issue, when he was pictured making friends with children from Wreck Bay at Sydney's Royal Easter Show.

As part of his award for being leading apprentice of the year, William spent a month in Australia. He was accompanied by Mr. Caterson, the secretary of the Department of Labour, for the Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

William, a fifth year carpentry apprentice, visited various industries and met apprentices from many other trades.

Speaking excellent English he was able to discuss many aspects of trade training and impressed everyone he met by his courtesy, dignified bearing and ready smile.

He is a credit to his people and any community.





- *Left.* A view from the air, of Moree Aboriginal Station.
- *Below Left.* Happy youngsters swarm over the Jungle Jim equipment and others wait for a turn on the slide.
- *Below Right.* The Apex Swimming pool nearby was briefly forgotten in the excitement of the day.

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CHILDREN IN NEED

A former chairman of the Fund, Mr. H. E. Scotford, said the fund sought out places where children were in need so they could be brought amenities as well as toys.

Mr. Scotford said that while the main function of a newspaper was to disseminate news and express opinions there were more functions than just those.

"One is a service to the community which provided the lifeblood of a newspaper. On the other hand it was a generous public and readers of the Sun who were responsible for the remarkable growth of the Toy Fund," he said.

"The Toy Fund represents just one side of that community effort with which the newspaper is pleased to be associated and that it is a most important thing," Mr. Scotford said.

ADJUNCT TO POOL

Moree's Deputy Mayor, Ald. Pritchard, speaking for local visitors to the ceremony, said that the new playground equipment would be a wonderful adjunct to the pool built through the efforts of the local Apex Club.

There was no doubt, said Ald. Pritchard, that the equipment would be put to good use and would help develop healthy and good citizens.

The community's appreciation was expressed by Mr. Harry Sullivan, President of the Moree Rotary Club.

Mr. Sullivan, who is also editor of the *Moree Champion*, to which we are indebted for this report, said:

"In Moree, we are quick to acknowledge and appreciate charity. It was good to learn that gifts have been made to so many other aborigines' stations throughout the State by the Sun Toy Fund, which is now in its 40th year. This helps make us aware of the greatness of this organisation."

Thanking Mr. Palmer and the Sun Toy Fund, Mr. Kingsmill said the equipment would be much used and greatly appreciated.

"Perhaps this sporting equipment will lead to the development of more athletic champions from Moree," he said.

For the benefit of the many visitors, Mr. Kingsmill gave a brief outline of the Welfare Board's plans for the future of Moree's aborigine families.

He said the Board expected to build about 25 new homes within the town boundary in the near future.

This would mean that people living off the station would be better housed and cared for.

"We, as a Board, would like to see more and more aboriginal families brought into the town life of communities," Mr. Kingsmill said.

"We hope that stations and reserves will soon decrease in numbers. That is the policy of the Board and we regret it is still necessary to have stations and reserves.

"We want the aboriginal people absorbed in the community and social structure."

THREE CHEERS

The children quickly showed their appreciation of the equipment—five units—by giving three cheers for the Sun Toy Fund and then swarming like ants over the new permanent playthings.



HOME FOR ABORIGINES DEDICATED

Grand Work of CHRISTIAN YOUTH COUNCIL at LISMORE

Representatives of Lismore City Council and other civic and church organisations recently attended the dedication of a home for an aboriginal family in Invercauld Road, Goonellabah.

Rev. W. Morgan performed the dedication on behalf of the Lismore Ministers' Fraternal.

The home was built in three weeks by 52 members of the Australian Christian Youth Council from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide.

The new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Cedric Roberts, of Cubawee, said they hoped to move into the house within a fortnight. Their four sons, Colin (aged 10 years), Michael (6), Cecil (2½) and Oral (1), and a nephew, Lionel (17) will live with them.

Mr. Roberts said after the ceremony he was grateful to members of the A.C.Y.C. and all who had helped in the construction of his new home.

He said: "I feel great. I am looking forward now to starting a garden and I hope the experience I have had in farming will help me."

Mr. Roberts has worked on banana plantations and at present is collecting leaf for the corkwood factory at Casino.

Leader of the youth council's camp, Mr. G. Hazell, handed over the building to an officer of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. E. J. Morgan, at the dedication ceremony. As well as official guests, members of the public and several friends of the Roberts family from Cubawee were present.

DIFFICULT PROBLEM

Mr. Hazell said members of the council were conscious that their work in building the home was only the beginning of a difficult problem—the acceptance of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts and their family as members of the white community.

"It might even be a wrong beginning. We are only certain that an assimilation problem does exist. We are not sure how to face this problem."

With other speakers, including the Minister for Lands and member for Lismore, the Hon. K. C. Compton, and the Mayor of Lismore, Ald. C. J. Campbell, Mr. Hazell asked the residents of Invercauld Road to offer friendship to the Roberts's.

He said the A.C.Y.C. members could leave for home with a glow of satisfaction, knowing they had "done their bit" and that they could have confidence that Invercauld Road residents would carry on that work.

Members worked until late on Friday night and were up at dawn on Saturday morning putting last-minute touches to the grey and white painted weatherboard house.

Mr. Compton extended congratulations to the workers on behalf of the Chief Secretary, Mr. C. A. Kelly.

Mr. Compton said he hoped the council's aim—to help members of an aboriginal family to take their rightful place in the community—would become a reality and, in return, that Mr. and Mrs. Roberts would contribute worth-while service to the city of Lismore.

The years of neglect by governments, both past and present, were gradually being overcome, due to the efforts of the A.C.Y.C., similar organisations and the Aborigines Welfare Board, said Ald. Campbell.

He said for many years there had been an ever-widening separation of whites from aborigines.

"Although it is difficult for a family to make the break and try to fit in with a new community, I feel sure the Roberts family will prove their worth as citizens in the years to come."

GOOD EXAMPLE

"Lismore City Council has always opposed the placing of aboriginal settlements within the city. But we know if we can help the aboriginal families in our area, we will set a good example for other areas to follow," Ald. Campbell said.

Four other aldermen—M. Hill, D. N. C. Wilson, E. Whelan and I. Fitzhugh—attended.

The Welfare Board officer, Mr. Morgan, said he was proud that two of the three homes built for aboriginals in N.S.W. by the A.C.Y.C. had been in his area. He said members of the council had encountered "a great deal of difficulty and expense to themselves to carry the torch for the betterment of man's attitude to man."

Mr. Morgan handed the key to Mr. Roberts, who opened the front door to his new home.

Continued on next page



C. W. A. SCHOLARSHIP TO GIRL FROM WRECK BAY

Elaine Ardler, a girl from Wreck Bay, has been awarded a scholarship by the Wollondilly Group of the Country Women's Association of N.S.W. Elaine (14), attends Nowra High School and was chosen with the help of the headmaster and Matron Brown of Wreck Bay.

The scholarship of £30 will buy Elaine's uniforms and books, and pay school fees, thus enabling her to study for the Intermediate. The C.W.A. Group has promised

that they will continue to help Elaine if she desires to go on and sit for her Leaving Certificate.

Our picture (by courtesy of Nowra Studios), shows a smiling Elaine at the presentation ceremony, with (left to right) Mrs. F. Brown, Wollondilly Group representative; Mrs. D. Cayford, President; Mrs. V. Whatmuff, Group Hon. Secretary and Mrs. J. P. Brown, Group Hon. Treasurer.

Continued from page 10

The president of the Lismore Aborigines' Advancement League, Mr. D. W. Harrison, said he hoped this was only the first of many steps that could be taken to improve conditions for aborigines.

He said Mr. and Mrs. Roberts were facing untold difficulties.

"They will feel new and they will feel strange. I hope Goonellabah people will understand this and offer to give help where they can."

Prayers were offered by Rev. Morgan (Anglican Church) Major L. Gilbert (Salvation Army) and Mr.

G. Chaffer (a council member). Rev. K. Sweeting of the Methodist Church read Psalm 127.

The work leader, Mr. K. Ismay, thanked the people of Lismore for the "wonderful way they helped us and the outstanding generosity they showed." He thanked the Apex Club, represented by the president, Mr. R. Boland, for laying the foundations of the home.

Mr. Hazell said the A.C.Y.C. was grateful also for the fellowship members of the clergy had offered, without discrimination of colour or creed.

FARMERS SAY SHE'S WONDERFUL . . .

Grandma Sims is Queen of South Coast Harvest Time



Two keen young pickers, Kevin Mason and Johnny Connell, of Bergalia, who work after school and on holidays



The 76-year-old Mrs. Bella Sims down on the farm with her orphaned grandson, Dougie Mason

Ask any Tuross River farmer to name the best pea-pickers on the South Coast and you are likely to receive a positive answer: Grandma Sims' team.

Such an answer will reflect the farmer's enthusiasm for the highly-rated squad of aborigine pickers who take off his winter green-pea crop.

The squad, sometimes numbering 40, has become known as "Granny Sims' team", simply because Mrs. Bella Sims (76), has been part and parcel of the harvest scene for so many years.

Mrs. Sims, who lives in Nowra, looks forward each year to the chance to get outdoors with members of her family and other aborigines drawn from Nowra and Roseby Park.

According to farmers around Bodalla, the aborigine team have become experts and cause so little damage to vines that two and often three pickings are possible.

The pictures with this story were taken on the Bodalla farm of Mr. Keith Lavis, a brother of champion Olympic horseman, Mr. Neil Lavis.

Tribes of Simpson Desert Trained Him in Bush Lore

A few weeks short of his 80th birthday, Mr. Michael Sawtell recently retired as a member of the Aborigines Welfare Board after 18 years' service.

But his term with the Board represents a mere fraction of the time he has spent working in the interests of aborigines all over Australia.

It was the bush life that lured Michael Sawtell away from St. Peter's College, Adelaide, at the turn of the century.

He grew to manhood with aborigine boys on the edge of the Simpson Desert—boys who taught him much about bush craft and aborigine tribal laws.

The spry Mr. Sawtell, who looks 20 years younger than his actual age, recently recalled those years as some of the happiest of his life. "Boys will be boys no matter where or what colour," he said. "And boys tell other boys much they would not tell grown-ups."

In 1901, Mr. Sawtell went to work for Cattle King, Sir Sidney Kidman, droving cattle. "I was a kind of white-haired boy with the Cattle King because I neither drank nor smoked," Mr. Sawtell said.

"Many things have been written about the late Sir Sidney Kidman, but there is one thing I would like to bring to people's notice. In his will the Cattle King ordered that all aborigines on his stations should be allowed to end their days there in peace and plenty."

Mr. Sawtell's early training with cattle was confined to the Birdville region, but at 21 he was probably the youngest pioneer in the Kimberleys—one of the wildest parts of the continent.

He was one of the first white men to settle in the wild Obagooma country, at the back of Yampi Sound, with its rich iron ore deposits.

"I lived alone 20 miles from the nearest white settler, surrounded by the suspicious Munjong tribe," Mr. Sawtell said.

"There I learned a great deal about tribal aborigines and how to make friends with them.

"In 1910, I took part in the agitation to have the chain gangs abolished and to get pay for aboriginal shearers.

"Those were the days when aborigine welfare was just a dream. Several times I discussed ways of helping them with that grand old lady of the Nullarbor, Daisy Bates."

Michael Sawtell hung up his droving boots and saddle in the mid-twenties, when he came to Sydney, married and started out in his own little business.

But he had not forgotten his old friends in the bush and was one of the prime movers in the campaign to set up the present Aborigines Welfare Board and gain full citizenship rights for aborigines.

He also joined in the battle for full Commonwealth Social Service benefits for aborigines, something they now have.

"Although I have resigned from the Board I am still interested in aboriginal welfare," Mr. Sawtell said. "The problem is no longer a matter of granting tribal people citizenship, but one of encouraging a detribalised people—many of whom are now nearly white—to take up the responsibilities of citizenship. This must be a labour of love, a service of intimate and understanding friendship."

Mr. Sawtell said that in his retirement, he planned to go on talking to leading clubs and organisations about aborigines and another of his pet projects, a big water scheme for the Inland.

As a hobby, he will continue to conduct the only Oratory Class, as distinct from public speaking, in Sydney, and remain active as a life member on the Council of the Shakespeare Society.

BOGGABILLA REPRESENTED AT SYDNEY CONFERENCE OF C.W.A.

The C.W.A. branch on Boggabilla Aboriginal Station chose Mrs. Leila Orcher and Mrs. Alice Haines, of Toomelah branch, to represent them at the annual State conference of the C.W.A. in Sydney, from May 7 to May 11.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Haines was ill for a couple of days which prevented her taking full advantage of the Sydney visit.

They met members from other aboriginal stations at the conference, including Mrs. Lang and Mrs. Morris, from Burnt Bridge, and Mrs. Simon of Purfleet.

The delegates also met Mrs. Fuller, Gwydir Group President, and Mrs. Brooks, who opened the Toomelah branch. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Stamm, of the Boggabilla branch, were also present.

Mrs. Orcher reported back to the home branch that the C.W.A. proposed to sponsor a scholarship for an aboriginal girl's secondary education to be known as the Susie McGrady Scholarship.



Most home gardens are quite small, and these small areas have to be used year after year for growing different sorts of vegetables. Plants use up a lot of the goodness in the soil, and this is particularly so in a small area such as a home garden. You must put this goodness back into the soil again if you want to keep on growing vegetables successfully.

You can do this in two ways. Firstly, you should build up the fertility of the soil by putting in lots of organic matter; that is, either compost or else household vegetable matter such as dead cabbage leaves, lettuce leaves, and so on. Seaweed is very good too. When there are parts of the garden which you do not need in winter time, you should sow them with lupins, or some other suitable cover crop, according to your locality. Lupins are a valuable way of putting goodness back into the soil.

When the lupins die at the end of winter, you should dig them into the soil to enrich it.

So the first way of making your soil better is to dig in humus, that is, decayed plants of all kinds. This is most important of all.

ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS

As well as this, you can help your soil by using artificial fertilizers. These are accepted today as a simple and practical way of keeping soil healthy, but remember that it is important always to dig in natural fertilizers, (that is, decayed plants and vegetables) as well as the artificial ones.

There are three main fertilizing elements which are needed for the healthy, well-balanced growth of vegetables.

Nitrogen is obtained from organic sources such as dry blood, blood and bone, and fish manure, and from inorganic sources such as sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda and so on. Nitrogen helps to make plants grow rapidly and become leafy.

Phosphates, which are obtained from organic sources such as bone dust, and inorganic sources such as super phosphates and basic slag, help roots to grow, and plants to become sturdy and fruitful.

Potash, sulphate and potash or muriate of potash, is also important. This is possibly not used in home

gardens as much as nitrogen and phosphates, but it is also very necessary, as it helps plants to resist disease, and gives colour to fruit and foliage.

Fertilizer manufacturers today are producing what is called a complete fertilizer, which has the proper proportions of nitrogen, phosphate and potash mixed up together. These complete fertilizers come under various trade names. If you use one, your soil will get the right amount of these three main elements that it needs to keep it healthy. Complete fertilizer is good for crops such as potatoes, tomatoes, cabbages, lettuces, pumpkins, melons, etc., and on the whole it can be used with advantage for strawberries, raspberries, blackcurrants, gooseberries, and fruit trees.

But do not forget that whether or not you use these artificial fertilizers, it is very important to use decaying plant matter as well. You can use this as a mulch on top of the soil, or else you can dig it in. Either way, your plants will grow much better because of this.

Horse and cow manure are very good as fertilizer also, and if you live in the country you should use this.

TRENCHING

Another good plan, at this time of the year, is to trench any part of your garden which you won't be wanting for the next few months.

Trenching is a way of digging and turning over the soil very thoroughly. You dig a complete trench, and shift the top soil from this trench to the opposite end of the area you will be digging. Then you use your garden fork to loosen up the sub-soil by turning it and breaking the top crust. After this you dig the next row, shift the top-soil over into the part you have just finished, and loosen the sub-soil in the same way. You keep digging one row after another like this, until you have finished the whole area. It is a good idea to dig in decaying vegetation or compost while you are on the job.

Root vegetables, such as carrots and parsnips, do well when the soil has been treated in this way.

Trenching takes a fair bit of time and energy, but you will really see results if you do it. The idea should be to trench one small part of the garden at a time, so that in the end you will have dug over the whole garden.

Broke Neck in Darling River . . .

PARALYSED BOY BECAME PIN-UP OF ROYAL NORTH SHORE NURSES

Malcolm Jones, a carefree Wilcannia youth, had the world at his feet at Christmas time, 1960. A few days later he dived into a shallow reach of the Darling River while on a picnic and broke his neck.

He was hauled from the water paralysed from the shoulders down.

After treatment in Broken Hill Hospital for a few weeks, Malcolm was flown to Sydney for specialist treatment at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Malcolm spent 18 months in the Sydney hospital where he became a warm favourite of Sister Joyce and others of the staff in the paraplegic ward.

One of his most constant visitors was Mr. L. N. Briggs, of the Sydney welfare staff of the Aborigines Welfare Board.

Mr. Briggs told *Dawn* that Malcolm settled down wonderfully in Royal North Shore and his great courage had enabled partial recovery from his paralysed state.

"When I first saw him," said Mr. Briggs, "his hands were trussed up helplessly in front of him. At the end of the Sydney hospital course he was able to lower his hands and use his arms. He will soon be able to feed himself."

The nursing staff of Royal North Shore gave the homesick Malcolm a cheery farewell party before he left the hospital early in June, for Broken Hill.

Arrangements had been made for Malcolm, now an invalid pensioner, to re-enter Broken Hill Hospital for rehabilitation treatment.

Doctors expect Malcolm will spend at least the next two years in hospital.



● At right MALCOLM is shown being wheeled to a car by his good friend SISTER JOYCE.

C.W.A. ARRANGING SPORTS DAY FOR WRECK BAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

A sports day for children is being planned for the future by the active C.W.A. Branch at Wreck Bay.

The sports will be held on the Wreck Bay sports-ground.

Mrs. Vera Brown is now president of the Wreck Bay C.W.A. branch and Mrs. L. Browne, Matron at the Station, is the secretary.

The branch conference was held at Nowra on March 3, and at this meeting scholarship winner Elaine Ardler was presented to group members.

Elaine is being sponsored by the Wollondilly Group of the C.W.A., through third year, at Nowra High School.

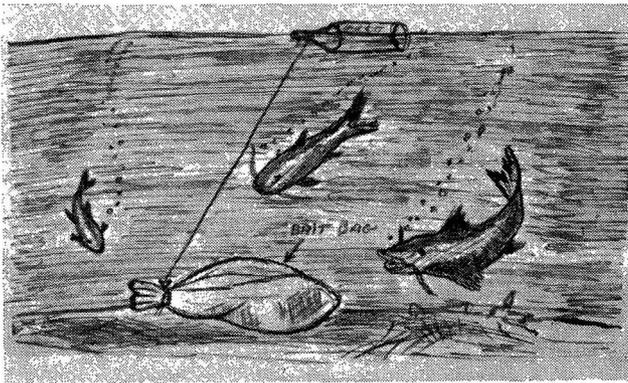
During May, the Wreck Bay president, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Moore, were representatives at the annual State conference of the C.W.A. held in Sydney.

Wreck Bay is the fourth C.W.A. branch for aboriginal women in the State, the others being at Boggabilla Purfleet and Burnt Bridge, and all four are operating very successfully.

Help Yourself

Bait Attracts Fish

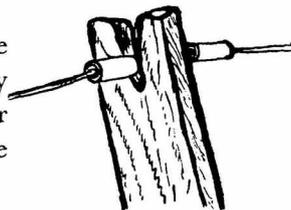
If you want to bring home a good catch of jewfish, catfish, or flathead, don't try to do it by hunting down the fish. Instead, make them come to your bait.



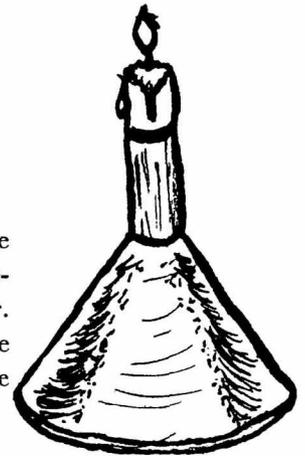
To do this, half fill a sugar bag with equal parts of pollard and fish or chicken scraps (flesh, gut or bones) or fresh meat scraps. Place a heavy stone in the bag and tie it. Attach a bottle float to the bag with a long line so you can easily locate it and then let it go to the bottom. The fish attracted by the odour of the bait will come long distances to try and get the contents of the bag. As the fish will be in the vicinity of the bag, just lower your baited hook and you are sure to bring in a good catch. If you use meat scraps it is always a good idea to leave the bag out in the sun for about a day first, so the bait will ripen.

* * * *

Clothes-line props can be kept from sliding or falling by wrapping some adhesive or insulation tape around the line on both sides of the props.



An old metal funnel is just the thing to make a good candlestick that will not tip over. Taper the bottom of the candle and then press it down into the end of the funnel spout.



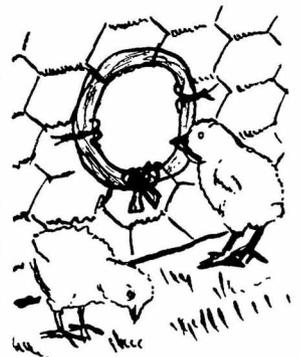
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To start seedlings for your garden, try using egg-shell halves filled with loam, as individual flowerpots. The shells can be stored in little boxes and moved from place to place. Later, they can be transplanted just as they are and the shells will rot away.

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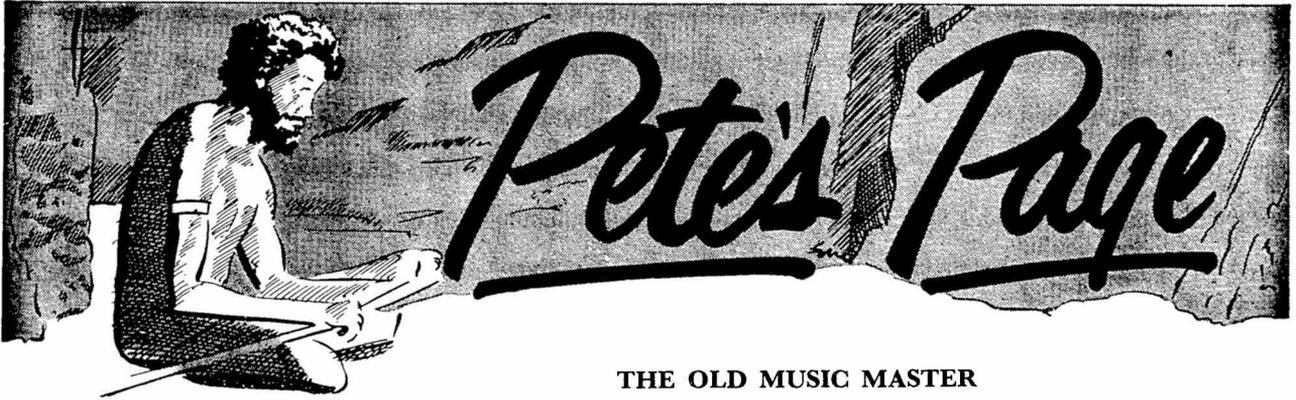
Chicken Run

Baby chicks, penned in small enclosures, because of lack of yard space, will develop faster if they are allowed to run at large during a part of the day. To permit the chicks to pass in and out of the pen at will, cut one twisted strand of the wire netting, as indicated, and bend the ends back. Then weave a strip of white cloth round the opening. Guided by the white cloth ring, the chicks quickly learn to find their way in and out of the enclosure through the enlarged hole in the netting.



BACK PAGE STORY

Five keen sailormen from La Perouse, Freddie Mongta, Percy Cruise, Errol Davison, Neville Dixon and an unknown youngster with his head bowed are enthralled by a dugout canoe they saw in Sydney



THE OLD MUSIC MASTER

Dear Kids,

Featured in our picture below is one of our pals, Neville Dixon, of La Perouse, receiving a lesson on the didgeridoo from Nim Bandak (63), a music master from Arnhem Land, who was in Sydney last summer. Unfortunately, it was Neville's one and only try-out.

This makes Ivan Morris (14), the undisputed juvenile didgeridoo champion of New South Wales. Ivan, who was in Sydney for the Summer Camp, lives with his family at 2 Bembrose Street, North Dubbo.

In a letter to this page expressing his appreciation of the enjoyable time given him at the Camp, Ivan says he may be back in Sydney soon to play his didgeridoo on T.V.

Ivan has already played the instrument on 2DU, Dubbo, for the Inland Mission Radio Sunday School, when people came from Peak Hill, Balladoran and Gilgandra to join in.

In addition, Ivan often makes public appearances in Dubbo with a musical group which includes his father.

Ivan is studying for his Intermediate Certificate and hopes one day to become a photographer in Sydney. Ivan tells us Greg McKellar is another Dubbo boy trying for his intermediate.

We wish you luck, kids. What about a picture for *Dawn*, Ivan, to let us see you blowing your didgeridoo?

Your sincere Pal,



