



Dawn



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

March, 1955



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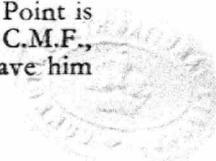


Our Cover

Whenever the call has gone out for men to defend our country, the people have always been well to the fore.

In these troublous days the catchcry of the wise is "Be prepared", and young Australian men, throughout the length and breadth of the country, are being trained . . . just in case.

18 year old Cecil Donovan of Stuarts Point is proud to be doing his training with the C.M.F., and his fellow trainees are proud to have him as a team mate.



A MESSAGE TO OUR PEOPLE

Nothing Need Keep Us Back

Dear Girls and Boys,

Once again the holiday season is over and, by the time you read this letter, you will have gathered up your books and returned to school.

Has it ever occurred to you that you are really travellers setting out on the road to knowledge?

What a thrilling adventure it will prove to those of you who are determined to make the distance, whether the path be rough or smooth!



Mrs. English.

There is a foolish notion amongst some people that, as an aboriginal, you can only stand on the sidelines of life and look on. Each boy or girl who achieves an ambition they have studied and worked for strikes a blow at such wrong thinking. Success in life is possible to each one of you, providing you have courage and perseverance.

Nothing can keep you back but your own apathy, and this is something you must be conscious of and strive to overcome.

In recent years I have watched with pride and satisfaction the progress of young aboriginal folk who have made good. There was no easy way to their success. They just set themselves a goal and pressed forward, determined to win for themselves a place in society. There are others, too, who are following the same road with every indication of succeeding.

Of course, we understand the fact that not all of us absorb academic knowledge easily. But how much is the person to be admired who can accept such limitations and make up for it by concentrating on becoming good at some practical manual work which, all in all, is a valuable and necessary contribution to the community!

Only recently I witnessed an example of courage and determination in a young aboriginal youth who had just failed to pass the Leaving Certificate Examination. He was not resentful or downcast, but said, "Never mind, I will continue to study and will pass this examination eventually".

Keep your minds wide open and make the best use of the opportunities that come your way. Remember that I have faith in your ability to succeed, and that education will make you a well-equipped traveller for the longer and harder journey through life.

Make up your minds to work hard at school and be a credit to your teachers and families.

Keep your bodies and minds clean, for by doing so you will help to form a wholesome personality. Assume the dignity and carriage which are your heritage and your right.

Best wishes to you all.

IRENE ENGLISH.

A READER'S APPRECIATION

Dear Editor,

I'm very pleased with the splendid work you are doing for our magazine which I enjoy reading every month.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Saxby and also all the staff in Sydney

Well, Mr. Editor, my white companions on this station say that our magazine is the ideal book for us, and I think it will be even better and brighter this year.

E. R. CARNEY,

Urawilkie Station,
Coonamble.

Cabbage Tree Island

XMAS TREE

One of the most exciting days of the year on Cabbage Tree Island Station was a day just before Christmas. During the morning an exhibition of the school children's work was inspected by parents and visitors. Mr. N. R. Lushwitz and Mr. David Bolt assisted Mr. Harris in the running of Sports after lunch. Later the Junior Red Cross Girls, acting as waitresses, very capably catered for all children and parents in serving supper. On the arrival of guests at 6.30, everyone moved to the hall. The evening items began with two Christmas Carols, "Away in a Manger" and "Infant Holy" sung by the 6th class girls. The senior Girls' Choir rendered four songs, "The Breton Sea Song", "The Mill Wheel", "A Day's Farewell", and four-part round "Birthday Greeting". The infant classes also sang "The Maori Carol Song". "The Toys That Came Alive" and "The Bewitched Potatoes" were the two plays humorously enacted. Charlie Bolt, George Cook, Micky Cook, Clancy James and friend excelled themselves as members of the C.T.I. Band and were so popular that they obliged with two encores. Then arrived the most popular visitor of the evening, Santa Claus, who was given a rousing welcome before proceeding to hand out toys to all children present.

Headmaster Mr. Harris, and assistant Miss Robinson were pleased Santa remembered them. The opening speech of the evening was delivered by the Headmaster in an official welcome to all visitors and all residents of the island. Among those present were Mr. Inspector Bryant, B.A., and family, Mr. Saxby, Superintendent of the Aboriginal Welfare Board, Mr. Morgan and family, Mrs. Alderman Wilson and Mrs. Harden. Manager Mr. N. R. Lushwitz supported the Headmaster in welcoming all, and carried a vote of thanks to Mr. Saxby on the safe arrival of the new launch "Irene". The C.T.I. Progressive Committee were congratulated on the work they had done so successfully.

Inspector Bryant stressed his enthusiasm for the evening, and congratulated the teachers on the fine efforts of the children. He emphasised the high attainments of the children under the headmastership of Mr. Harris, an offered his regret at the intended departure of Mr. Harris. Mr Saxby also commented on the good work of the children, and congratulated Allan Marlowe on the excellent manner in which he decorated the Hall and Xmas Tree. He also announced the intention

of building a bridge to facilitate closer contact between the island and outer environment. In respect to the anticipated departure of Mr. Harris, Mr. Allan Marlowe delivered a fine speech. He emphasised the respect and friendship the young Headmaster had earned during his four years stay on the island. He presented Mr. Harris with a gift in token of their admiration. In his reply, Mr. Harris thanked them for their gift and all the co-operation and friendship afforded him by the parents and children in C.T.I.?

Caroona Xmas Party A

Real Success

Caroona's new Progress Association set out to make the last Xmas party the biggest and best for many years, and the general feeling seems to be that they did it.

It was decided to extend the party to take in the invalids and older people as well as the children; and also to entertain the visitors to the station.

After the school concert, a picnic meal was served in the school grounds to 250 people. In addition, the children received sweets, nuts, cordials, ice cream, and a most popular gift of fancy hats.

One hundred and thirteen children and twenty older people were the guests of the day. A move was then made to the Hall, beautifully decorated, complete with Xmas Tree.

The Manager made a brief speech of thanks to the many hard workers, and read a message of good wishes from the Hon. R. Nott, M.L.A., who was unable to be present, owing to the late sitting of the House.

Mr. White, the Headmaster, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Spencer. A roar of welcome greeted the guest of the evening, Father Xmas, who said that he had to get a couple of extra reindeer to bring so many presents. After the gifts and balloons had been distributed, the hall was cleared up, and a dance concluded a most successful day, a credit to everyone concerned.

The traditional Xmas Hamper, made up of donations from the residents, was won by little Freda Saunders. The cupboards in the Saunders' house must be full, as it took two strong men to lift the hamper.

QUIRINDI AMBULANCE SERVICE

TRIBUTE TO PEOPLE OF CAROONA

The Board has received a letter from Mr. C. A. Edmonds, the Superintendent and Secretary of the Quirindi District Ambulance Service, speaking in very high terms of the co-operation of the people of Caroona Station. Every resident of the Station subscribes to the Ambulance Service and this is something for which they can be congratulated. They are commended for the example set for other Stations of similar opportunity to avail themselves of ambulance benefit without obligation.

But their co-operation does not stop at merely subscribing to the Ambulance Fund. They recently donated a modern ambulance stretcher valued at £30 to the Ambulance Service.

In these efforts, M. Spencer, the Manager, has been a great force. He has taken on the task of collecting the annual subscriptions and has done everything in his power to maintain the people's interest.

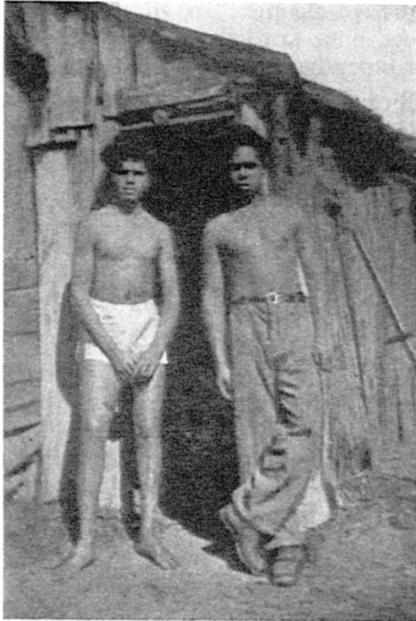
Well done, Caroona!



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



These two young fellows appeared to be dressed for the hot weather. They are James Donovan and Louis Cook, of Green Hills.



A nice sunny day and a new dress. What more could any young lady want? Katherine Sloan of Con-dobolin poses for the camera.



Another picture of Katherine Sloan, this time with Margaret South, of Parkes. Wonder what the joke was all about?



The young lady with the real beach girl stance is Bonnie Wighton, of Con-dobolin.



If that grass had been very much longer we would not have found Alf Robinson, of Woodenbong, at all.



"How will that do?" said young Bridget Johnson, of Murrin Bridge, as she posed for *Dawn's* Cameraman.



Two very charming young ladies, Margaret Purcell and Katherine Murray, of Condobolin.



And another two sweet young misses! This time Alice Bundock and Elaine Foster, of Woodenbong.



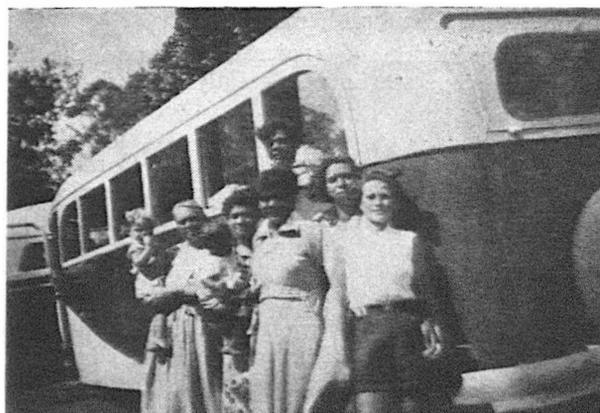
A very doubtful smile from Inda Bundock, of Woodenbong as she poses with sister Alice.



A couple of real speed merchants, John and Robert Sloan of Murir, Condobolin.



Down's cameraman found this young lady in the park too. She is Margaret South, of Parkes.



Mrs. Alice Campbell, Chlorine Waters, Maureen Moylen, Thelma Vale, and Mary Cochrane were among those from Burnt Bridge who went to Hat Head for a picnic recently.

Cabbage Tree Island Station

TWELVE NEW BUILDINGS NOW

The Board's policy of assimilation has been followed with some degree of success. Two families have left the Station, and five of the younger set have been encouraged to get work away from their homes. Work in the district is seasonal. To offset this disadvantage, private market gardening has been fostered through the co-operation of the Board. Five residents, apart from normal gardening, have commenced market gardening. This scheme is in its infancy, and it is hoped before long to have a larger following.

The advancement of mechanisation has shown its effects on the residents of this Station. Improved crushing of sugar has shortened the season. The automatic cane planter and rotary hoe has dispensed with labour which was normally drawn from this Station. The award wage enables only the competent workers to gain employment. Efforts to form a work gang to get available work in the area at contract rates, was not successful. A small percentage get work in the off season, but this is hardly adequate for normal progress. A few of the more progressive types tried to get permanent employment as labourers in railway gangs. One obtained employment.

This Station has twelve new buildings in very good condition. Sanction has been given for repairs and painting of six old homes. A new Manager's office will be constructed shortly. The wharf on the mainland has been repaired and the drainage system of the Island has been cleared. Damage caused by a high flood has been negligible, but it has counteracted efforts to stop soil erosion by killing young planted mangroves.

The health of residents has been generally good. Treatment room assistance and active co-operation by the staff of Ballina Hospital enables the residents to receive adequate medical attention. During the year a campaign against round worm was conducted by the Health Department; there are, however, still cases of infection. All the children on the Station have been immunised against diphtheria.

The introduction of a picture show on the Island during the cane season was greatly appreciated by the residents. Dances were held by the younger set with fine co-operation from Coraki. Football, the main attraction of Cabbage Tree Island, still holds predominance over all other sport. Owing to a shortage of players this season, all available players have joined Ballina Club. This has been an advantage in furthering assimilation, for they

have been very well received. Inter-school matches have been a step in the right direction. Parents showed great interest in watching their children playing on their home ground against the visiting Woodburn teams. A junior football field and volleyball court have been added to the advancement of sport for the children.



Competent guidance under the Headmaster of the School on the Island has shown great improvement in the tone and general progress of the children. It has been furnished with modern furniture, and supplied with the latest physical training equipment. Inter-school matches have broadened the outlook of the children and helped to lessen their shyness. The first school concert was given at Christmas to an appreciative audience. More could be achieved in this line with the active co-operation of parents.

Active participation by mothers did much in furthering the school breaking-up concert, sports and Christmas Tree. Funds raised by the Parents and Citizens' Association augmented the allowance provided by the Board. This, together with donations by mothers and local tradespeople, enabled a function for all the residents of Cabbage Tree Island to be held. Later, the mothers on the reception committee entertained the guests to tea.

Religious services have been conducted by the Church of England Minister, Seventh Day Adventist, Catholic Priest, and Aborigines. Due to the situation of the Station, these have not been as frequent as expected.

It's not difficult to see that these two people are brother and sister. They are Beryl Lonsdale, of Murrurundi, and her brother, Noel.



CHRISTMAS TREE AT WALLAGA LAKE

Santa Claus arrived at Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Station to sounds of a tumultuous welcome from all the children. The Xmas Tree function was held at the Station Recreation Hall which had been beautifully decorated by the old girls of the Settlement and looked a picture of gaiety.

Prior to Santa's arrival, novelty races were held, enjoyed by not only the young participants but also by the interested spectators. This was followed by a sumptuous tea provided by the Methodist Church.

Jim Chapman and Jim Stewart entertained the gathering with their accordions, and everybody sang Christmas Carols to their delightful music.

Both young and old thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

PLENTY OF WORK AT MURRIN BRIDGE

A Clean Healthy Station

There has been very little fluctuation in the number aborigines on the Station. Most of the able-bodied men have been in constant employment during the past year. Classes of employment are fencing, trapping, shearing, timber cutting, tree poisoning, burning off and general farm work. Several of the men are permanently employed by the Water Conservation Commission, and one or two by local timber mills.

A new 5,000 gallon tank, complete with stand, has been erected, and the children's playground completed and painted in bright colours. Repairs have been carried out to housing, gates and fences, and roads graded. The whole of the boundary fence has been renewed and the old one pulled down. A sullage pit has been made at the school teacher's residence and is now in operation, and the Assistant Manager's cottage completely painted. Lastly, the Station property was cleared of noxious weeds.

The health of the people has been quite good, complaints such as gastro-enteritis have dropped to almost nil, partly due to improved sanitary services. The school children have been given cod-liver oil and vitamin pills daily.

Dances have been held regularly and have been well attended by the Station residents.

The present enrolment of children at the school is 75. The school teacher reports that aptitude is being shown by senior girls in home science, and a number of pupils, especially in the lower classes, are showing great improvement in scholastic attainments. The school won the 1953 aboriginal school garden competition, and preparations for a spring garden display are at present under way.

Dances were held at Christmas time and proceeds went to the children's party. Assistance was given by the Lake Cargelligo branch of C.W.A. 135 children were present and all received a gift.

Sunday School has been held once a fortnight and religious instruction given twice a week at the school. During the last quarter, aboriginal missionaries have held meetings, these being very well attended.

Although most of the men are employed, work is not as plentiful as it was earlier in the year. Considering the background of these people, the houses are, on the whole, well cared for. Their social life is very much restricted, due to the isolation of the Station. The children make the most of their playground. This is definitely an asset to the Station. The Station property is stock-proof now that the whole of the boundary fence has been renewed.

Burnt Bridge : Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Luschwitz, appointed Manager and Matron.

Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Fairhurst, appointed Assistant Manager and Assistant Matron.

TRANSFER OF OFFICERS NEW APPOINTMENTS

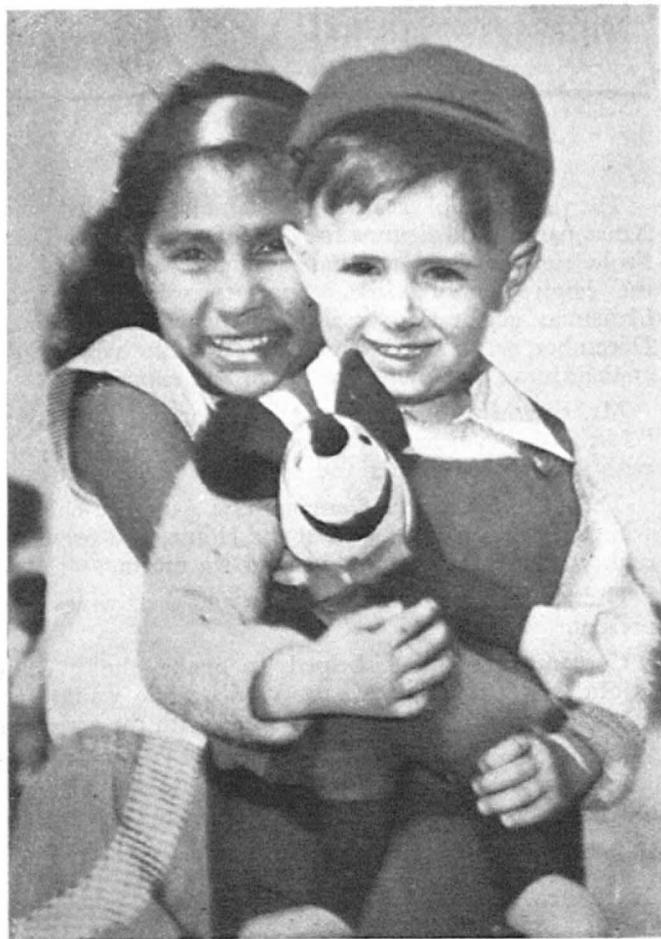
Cabbage Tree Island : Mr. and Mrs. McCutcheon, appointed Manager and Matron.

Moree : Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Levin, appointed Assistant Manager and Assistant Matron.

Murrin Bridge : Mr. and Mrs. H. F. S. Roberson, appointed Assistant Manager and Assistant Matron.

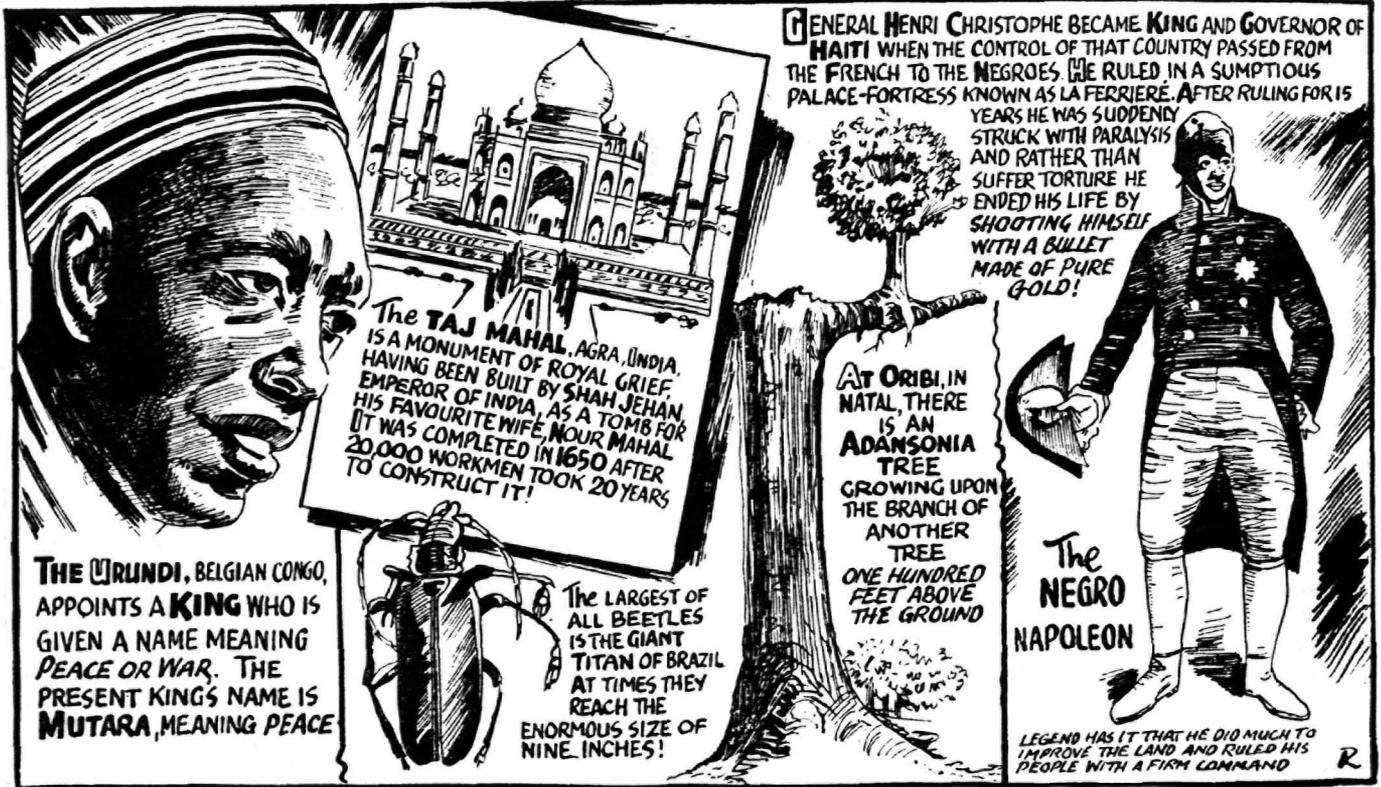
Moonahcullah : Mr. J. Hamilton, appointed Supervisor.

Karuah : Position of Supervisor has been discontinued.



Eleven-year-old Adelaide Taylor (*Moonahcullah*) nursing Ian Duncan, son of the teacher-supervisor, at the recent school sports.

NOW YOU KNOW!



COOTAMUNDRA

The last school year at Cootamundra closed with Xmas parties and Romps for the Infants, a Fancy Dress Frolic for the Primary, and a Dinner and Social for the High School Girls. Concerts were also held. Christmas celebrations really commenced on the 21st December, when the Methodist Fellowship held a party at the Home, supplying ice cream and supper.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller gave the senior girls a party at "Littledale," where they were entertained and supplied with a very nice supper and presented with a gift each.

The Rotary Club of Cootamundra gave the children a Xmas Tree on Xmas Eve at the Home, and presented each child with a gift, lollies and ice cream.

Quite a number of the Rotarians and their wives were present.

Cootamundra Band helped to make the evening bright, and the children sang carols while waiting for Santa to arrive. The evening closed with the arrival of the town carol singers conducted by the Rev. Mr. Ward.

Fourteen of the girls working in the district and three old Kinchela boys returned for Xmas, and in all sixty-two were present. The day commenced with all attending early Church and at 10 a.m. the gifts were distributed.

The afternoon was spent in swimming.

Cootamundra is at present experiencing very hot weather and the children are spending most afternoons at the local baths, very often taking their tea with them.

THE GHOST OF GRAVELY HILL

By R. SHERRY, Burnt Bridge.

I was walking one night from the pictures
 And I had about three miles to go,
 The picture I'd seen made me nervous,
 They had put on a real creepy show.
 In my mind I could see Boris Karloff
 As he rose straight out of a grave,
 So I whistled to give myself courage
 And to make out I really was brave.
 When somewhere out there in the darkness
 I heard a strange noise . . . just ahead,
 An old cow moved down by the roadside
 And I wished I was home safe in bed.
 I remembered the yarns of the old folk,
 Of the ghost dog on Gravelly Hill,
 They would say when the full moon is shining
 He'd come out of his den for the kill.
 Then a pale moon shone down through the treetops
 And a dog howled nearby in the night,
 So I stood there and looked all around me
 And by now I was shaking with fright.
 I looked down and saw something moving
 And I was off like a shot from a gun,
 And that night I'd have gone past John Landy
 If he'd have been out for a run.

WHY NOT TRY FISH POND FARMING?

It Offers Pleasure, Protection and Profit

Some of the fondest memories and pleasures of farm life can centre around a farm pond. So why not build a pond?

If you can construct one close to the homestead, so much the better. It may be more useful than fire insurance.

It can be used to irrigate the house garden and orchard.

If you stock it with fish, it will add to your pleasure and interest—and, if you give some thought to rearing and breeding, can vary your menu.

Fish culture is one of the oldest forms of farming. The Chinese over 2,000 years ago had a system of fertilising their fish ponds. Fish culture by the Romans is mentioned in the first century A.D. The Emperor Charlemagne's interest in keeping his fish ponds in good order in the 8th century is recorded, and a monk, Don Pinchon, is credited with having conceived the idea of artificially fecundating trout eggs as early as 1420.

Let us see what is involved in putting a pond on your farm. The requirements are :

- A soil capable of holding water. Clay soil is best, and if soil conditions are not suitable at a desirable site it is worth carting clay into the bottom of the pond and puddling it with stock to seal a leaking section.
- A permanent pasture or woodland for a drainage area.
- An area free from poultry or cowyard run-off.
- A site easily reached and viewed from the homestead.

Getting the water.

A regular flow of spring water entering the pond is ideal. A big run-off from cultivation paddocks is undesirable as this water is usually very muddy. If a location below a spring is selected, the water may be conveyed into the dam by a graded diversion bank. A spillway from the pond to take off the surplus water is essential.

If you plan to use the pond as a source of water for livestock a pipe drain to a stock tank might well be installed before construction begins. This will keep the water cleaner and prolong the life of the pond.

Where springs are not available, an alternative is to take water from a main watercourse by a small diversion bank into the pond area. Large flows do not enter the pond but pass down the main stream channel—which is most desirable, as muddy waters should by-pass fish farming ponds.

The size of a catchment area sufficient to maintain an adequate supply of water in a dam is important. Where the annual rainfall exceeds 25 inches for a pond of 1,000 to 1,500 cubic yards a catchment area of 20 acres of well-grazed pasture or 40 acres of well-timbered land is sufficient. If the catchment is a mixture of grazing land and timber the area might be varied accordingly. Many small dams of about 500 yards with a catchment area of less than 20 acres have proved very satisfactory over a number of years. If the area is well-grassed and reasonably grazed with stock, very little silt should reach the dam.

Choosing the fish.

Now for the question of fish. Here, because conditions and varieties vary throughout Australia, it is wise to first seek information from your State Department of Agriculture.

Consider what is being done in the Orange (N.S.W.) district, where Mr. H. T. D. Nicholas, District Soil Conservationist, has recorded results.

Mr. John Burn, of Waldegrave, constructed his first pond in 1947, walling off a gully-line with a bank 16 feet high, 22 yards wide at the base and 90 yards long, giving a water area of three acres. The catchment area above is approximately 200 acres and is fed by springs in wet seasons only. A silt tank is situated above the dam, and a four-inch pipe with a stop cock was put through the bottom of the wall during construction. The dam water was top-dressed with approximately 2 cwt. of superphosphate in 1948 and 180 lb. in 1950.

In January, 1951, 350 rainbow trout 1-inch long were released in the pond. In June, 1951, fish were found to be 6-inches long, and by August 8-inches long. In December they were measured again, and were 12-inches long. In February, 1952, fish were measured and found to be 14-inches long, and in June, 1952, trout measured by Mr. Burn were 16-inches long. In August, 1952, trout were spawning in the dam. Mr. Burn has now constructed three smaller ponds on his property, and has planted pines for both timber purposes and beautification.

A well-established fish-pond, of one-third of an acre, with reed growth at the edges can be seen on "Tregeagle," property of Mr. S. Stanford, near Orange. Two hundred fingerling trout were placed in this dam, and ten were removed after two years, the largest weighing 7½ lb. Mr. Stanford has never applied superphosphate to the water.

FINE GARDENS AT CAROONA

Residents House Proud

The total aboriginal population on the Station is 227, and a number living nearby, while not actually residing on the Station, are a part of the Station community. They are closely related to the Station residents, take a prominent part in Station activities, the children go to the Station school, and they come to the Manager and Matron for assistance in their troubles and illnesses.

All cottages are fitted with laundries and showers, and Station water is laid on. In addition, each new cottage is equipped with a 1,000 gallon rain water tank. Earth closets are provided, and a supply of disinfectant is regularly issued. Garbage is emptied once a week, and drawn to the township garbage dump.

Water is pumped from a well about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the buildings into overhead tanks, from which it is reticulated through the Station. This water, while very hard, has been passed as fit for use by the Health Department.

The employment position on this Station is good. No rations are issued. One family of nine has just moved onto the Station from poor living conditions in Moree. None have left the Station to merge into the general community. All houses on the Station are occupied.

There is no community garden. In a Station like this where there is practically full employment and men are only home for the weekends, community gardens would not be successful. Instead, every encouragement is given to home vegetable gardens. The home gardens on the Station are very creditable indeed, and with assistance and encouragement from the staff, should be a feature of the Station in the future.

There is a dairy herd of 34 and milk is supplied to the School for the school lunch. Milk is also distributed to the cottages for the benefit of the pre-school children.

There is a primary school on the Station with 43 pupils at present, but there is a seasonal fluctuation in numbers. The Headmaster is doing most excellent work. He is very interested in the children, both in school and out of school hours. The children are well behaved and reflect the care he has given them.

There are fifteen children from the Station attending the Quirindi High School, travelling by bus. Owing to the distance from Quirindi, the parents of High School children cannot attend the High School Parents and Citizens' meetings, and take no part in the various activities.

Buildings are in very fair condition. The residents take great pride in their houses and most are tastefully furnished and well kept.

The health of the residents is, generally, very good.

Religious instruction is given by clergymen of various denominations who visit the Station from time to time.

Football is a favourite sport and the football club entered two teams for the Tamworth League Competition. Working bees were organised and cleaned and levelled the playing area, fenced it, erected dressing sheds and generally improved the field. The teams did very well and achieved a reputation for sportsmanship through the whole district. The club is functioning with great enthusiasm. At one dance and match held, nearly £60 net profit was shown.

Some of the boys are attending the Quirindi Police Boys' Club. Owing to the long distance and transport difficulties, attendance is rather spasmodic. It is hoped to start a club of this description on the Station in due course. Some assistance is received from the white residents of the district and good relationships are developing.

Nine pupils who constituted the entire sixth class, commenced their studies at High School at the start of the school year. A school visit to the Binnaway Public School was very successful. The behaviour of the children was exemplary, and the entire lack of colour prejudice was extremely heartening.

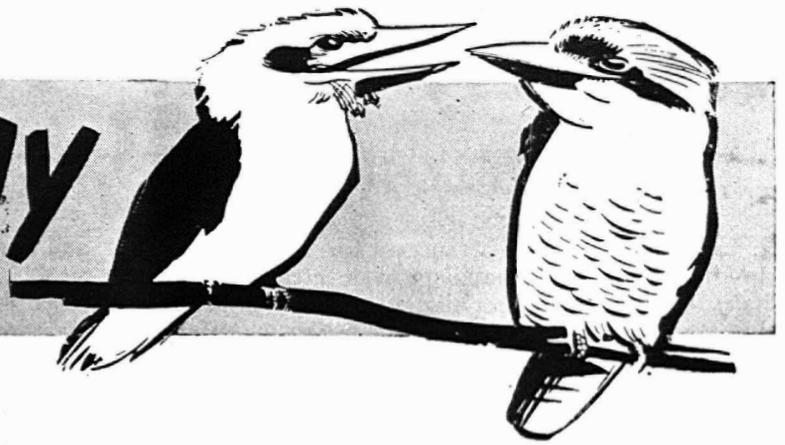
A breaking-up party was held at Christmas. Gifts of drinks and ice cream were made by Caroona storekeepers. The Parents and Citizens' Association is functioning satisfactorily. Generally the school had a successful year.

Caroona is a well designed Station in beautiful surroundings. It has a large number of visitors from the outside community who come from a wide area. The residents of the Station are generally of a very good type, although there are some backward families. They have considerable pride in their homes and in the Station generally, but it is disappointing that they will not pay their rent though well able to do so.

Betty Ridgway of Redfern didn't look at all happy when she posed for the cameraman. Nerves perhaps ?



THEY SAY



Caroona station recently had a visit from representatives of 2NU, the Tamworth A.B.C. Station, wanting to give a description of the station for the Northern Magazine programme. A tape recorder was taken to the school, and the kids had a great thrill when they heard their voices played back to them. Brief talks were recorded from Mr. White, the Headmaster, and Mr. Howard, the School Inspector, who was visiting the station, as well as songs from the children, and the "Saluting the Flag" ceremony.

The Station's oldest inhabitant, Granny Sampson, made a great hit with her memories of Caroona 60 years ago.

The visitors were very much impressed with the friendly and happy atmosphere of the station, and stressed this air in the broadcast.

The crowd around every wireless when Caroona was "On the Air," reminded everyone of "Cup Day."

Caroona residents are sorry to hear their Headmaster, Mr. White, is being transferred to Robertson. He has been at Caroona for three years, and will be much missed. He was untiring in his work for the children, and his kindness and interest in the children's problems was outstanding. Caroona residents feel they have lost a good friend.

The "Stork" has been very busy around Boggabilla Station. It has visited no less than 9 residents, recently. They were :—

- Mrs. Tom McGrady—a son.
- Mrs. Norman Duncan—a son.
- Mrs. Florence Boland—a daughter.
- Mrs. Mavis McGrady—a son.
- Mrs. Jessica Harrison—a daughter.
- Mrs. Jean Mackie—a daughter.
- Mrs. Kathleen Richardson—a daughter.
- Mrs. Linda Woodbridge—a son.
- Mrs. Nola McGrady—a son.

Stanley McGrady and Hannah Haines of Boggabilla were united in matrimony on Saturday, 5th February. The bride, wearing a beautiful wedding dress of white organdie, made a pretty picture. She was attended by two bridesmaids and two flower girls.

Stan McGrady, a real gentleman from the station, was smartly dressed and was looked after by Best Man Roy Knox. At the reception a large number of guests were present, including the Rev. M. McGregor, Vicar of Boggabilla, and the Manager and Matron of Boggabilla Station.

Dawn McIntosh of Boggabilla has left for a holiday in Sydney. She has been working in the home of Mrs. Mick Cook, of Wilga Station, for a considerable time, and is treated as one of the Cook family. Dawn, who is spending the holiday at Chatswood, was very disappointed when she could not go to Sydney by air. Wet weather prevented planes from touching down at Goondiwindi where she was to have embarked.

Mr. and Mrs. Siggs, the missionaries of U.A.M., La Perouse, have been transferred to the Warburton Ranges, where they will carry on the good work of the Mission.

The church workers of La Perouse gave Mr. and Mrs. Siggs a send-off in the little church, and Mr. Harold Stewart and Miss Lena Bungary are to be congratulated, with their co-workers, on their efforts in regard to the supper that was laid before the guests.



★

Who doesn't know the name of this charming young lady or the mischievous young fellow in the background. Who are they ?

A Busy Year For Tabulam

FLOWER GARDENS GALORE

Last year was one of success for Tabulam Station. In that period, new buildings were erected, new cow bales built with concret floors, a power house built, and a 32 volt lighting plant installed to the manager's residence.

The employment position has not improved, as most of the work in the district is casual. Better wages for casual labour have been obtained, due to discussions and meetings with the local townspeople.

Health among the older residents has greatly improved, although many of them still need quite an amount of dental attention. There has only been one death on the Station during the year, this being an aborigine of 65 years who had been in ill health for a considerable period.

During an inspection by the Shire Health Inspector of all the houses and sanitation arrangements, he informed me that he was very satisfied that all the houses and toilets were as clean as they could possibly be. Regular inspections are carried out of all the houses. Most of the residents have attempted to provide themselves with more furniture. Each house has been provided with a large coir mat measuring 12 ft. x 9 ft. These were bought from the profits of dances held on the Station. Each house has a flower garden, also a small vegetable plot. It is hoped during the next year to start a large Station garden worked by voluntary labour.

A cultivation farm has been started and eight acres of land has already been ploughed. The fencing of the farm was all done by voluntary labour, and a great interest is being shown by many of the residents. A Station dairy herd is being maintained.

Weekly religious services are being held on the Station, and the general morale is quite high. Various denominations visit the School regularly to give religious instruction.

Weekly dances are held which are well supported both by young and old.

A team from the school played social matches against all neighbouring schools. They were undefeated in these games and their good form led them to be nominated in the Far North Coast Schools Carnival at Casino. To obtain match practice and experience, matches were arranged every Sunday as a curtain raiser to the Grade Football against stronger combined teams, and their football improved. Although eliminated in the first round against a strong

Murwillumbah side, they received much praise as they played without boots. However, boots



and socks have been purchased, and now they possess a smart outfit and it is hoped that they will meet with more success this year. A large cup was awarded to them for their cleanliness and bearing during the march through Casino.

Pupils from the School participated in the Mummulgum and District Sports and were an unqualified success. For the first time they appeared in their smart white and green uniforms and this contributed to their success in no small way. Four trophies were won on the day. The Newton Cup was won as runner-up to all-comers.

The Athletic Team participated in the Casino District P.S.A.A.A. Carnival and came third out of 39 schools. The team received the Gooley Cup for being the runner-up in the Small Schools Section, which was indeed a meritorious effort.



The boys won the relay championship and two boys won their age races. As a result, these boys participated in the All-School Championships at Sydney. Although they were unsuccessful, they performed creditably considering they had at that time only been in competitive athletics for three months. Running shoes have been purchased and the experience gained should be very valuable for the next season. All children can swim and competitive swimming competitions are being arranged for next season.

A wide and varied programme of activities is included in the Physical Education lessons and the skills learnt here have been largely responsible for their success in the various sporting spheres.

Folk dancing was introduced and the children were very successful at this. However, this was discontinued at Christmas time and square dancing has been introduced. Their excellent rhythm, timing, and co-ordination have made this extremely successful. Most pupils have learnt seven square dances which they can perform with grace and confidence.

Various sporting equipment has been purchased by the School and this gives confidence and enthusiasm to the pupils. This, allied with their excellent foot-eye and hand-eye co-ordination, and instruction in the skills associated with each sport, make them very polished performers in practically every sphere of activity. Square dance skirts and blouses are being made and this will make a big improvement, due to the added confidence given and the realisation of the colourful spectacle it presents.

in

the

news



Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor of Caroonia on the death of their infant son, Darryl, at the Children's Hospital, Camperdown.

The wedding of Marie Sampson and Noel Saunders was recently celebrated in Quirindi. A wedding reception and dance was given by the parents of the young couple at the Station Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. John Tighe of Caroonia are being congratulated on the birth of a daughter, Jeanette.

The arrival of a number of unpleasant visitors at Caroonia in the shape of brown snakes has caused a good deal of excitement. The visitors are altogether too friendly for the residents' liking.

Irene Clarke, of Murrin Bridge, dressed up specially for the occasion when the cameraman paid her a visit.



This solid looking youngster is little Miss Deborah Lonsdale, a two year old, of Murrurundi.

The residents of Wallaga Lake have commenced painting their homes under the guidance of the manager and with paint supplied by the department.

So far four cottages have been re-painted and look very attractive and colourful.

One cottage has Surf Green fibro, Surrey Green weatherboard and Fiesta Yellow windows, doors and trimmings.

The second one has Lavender fibro, Deep Rose weatherboard and Light Blue doors, windows and trimmings.

The third is Cumulus Grey fibro, French Grey weatherboard, Fiesta Yellow doors and windows and Brilliant Red trimmings.

The fourth cottage has Sandstone fibro, Light Stone weatherboard, Mid Green doors, windows and trimmings.

The Manager and Matron of Wallaga Lake recently went on a very enlightening holiday by caravan to Queensland via the New England Highway and returned via the Pacific Highway.

They visited Roseby Park, Quirindi, Tabulam, Woodenbong and Cabbage Tree Island Aboriginal Stations and the Kinchela Boys' Home, and also had the pleasure of visiting Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement in Queensland.

Many families left the Station over the holiday period to spend a few weeks at the beaches at South-West Rocks and Hat Head, many being indigents who were transported by the Station Vehicle, and given tents to live in.

As has been the practice over the last two years, instead of holding a breaking-up party for school children on the Station, three buses were hired to take 184 children and approximately 50 adults to Hat Head for the day. The money for payment of the buses was raised by holding dances on the Station, and the cost of refreshments was met by the Board's allocation of the usual payment to each child, pre-school and school up to the age of 15 years. An enjoyable day was experienced by all, most spending considerable time surfing.

Bishop E. H. Burgmann, Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, recently paid a visit to Wallaga Lake, and was very impressed with the settlement.

One Bull Equals 72 Cricket Balls

A LOT OF WORK FOR A GAME

THERE'S a lot of craftsmanship behind the hand-made "leather".

Though the connection is not obvious, the more home-grown meat the people of Britain eat, the more chances they get of playing or watching cricket, tennis, football and boxing.

Food values have nothing to do with it, for the truth is that, without cows and sheep, most of the equipment needed in these sports could not be made. The four "quarters" of a cricket ball are quite small but only about 72 complete cricket balls can be made from the hide of one cow or bull.



One firm at Teston, Kent, which has been making them since 1808, turns out 30,000 every summer and then switches over to hockey balls, which are identical except that they are enamelled white.

In a recent BBC broadcast, Thomas Twort, who belongs to a family which has been making hand-made cricket balls for nearly 100 years, told of the great craftsmanship and skill that goes into the making of the "leather" which so many fieldsmen have to chase,

Twort said that a hand-made cricket ball is a work of art, correct in weight to a fraction of an ounce. One man makes only 12 in a week.

The cricket ball not only has to be strong; it has to be soft enough not to damage the cricket bat and strong enough to be knocked for any number of sixes without bursting or losing shape.

In the very early days cricket balls were made of wood. Later on the village cobbler used to cover the wood with leather. Later still they were made from cork tightly bound with worsted dipped in hot liquid glue. Leather was then sewn over this core. It was not until the time of George III that a cricket ball was, so we call it now, "treble sewn"—that is to say, with the two cups of leather sewn together over the core with three seams.

The modern hand-made cricket ball goes through five processes. It starts off as a square of cork—or rather a cube of cork. In the first department these cubes are bound tightly with coarse worsted until the cube is about the diameter of a halfpenny. Next, several thin layers of cork are bound on to this core or quilt, as we call it in the trade.

Meanwhile, the leather covers are being made in another department. They are made in the form of cups, two to a ball. Actually they are not large enough to take the core. There is a gap of half an inch or so between them, and before they can be sewn together they have to be put in a vice and the edges forced together until they meet and rise in a small ridge.

It is the stitching along this ridge that first holds the two halves of the cover together. But the ball has to go through quite a number more processes before it is ready to be used on the cricket field.

Two more rows of stitches have to be applied and squeezed flat, because it would never do to have raised stitching around the centre of the ball. Each ball has to be finally shaped and inspected, the name applied in gold leaf—twenty-three-carat gold is used—and the finished article polished to bring up that rich red glow that prompts the Australians to call a cricket ball a "cherry".

Footballs, of course, need more leather, and 15 is the average number made from one good hide. In a normal Soccer season in Britain about 20,000 dozen new ones are produced—so a herd of 10,000 cattle suffices for one season.

Most people know that catgut, as used in tennis rackets, is a misnomer. The material is made from the intestines of sheep. The best rackets contain about 40 feet, and one British manufacturer states that five sheep are needed to string a single racket.



During the last two summers manufacturers in Britain alone have made about 150,000—the gut they consumed would stretch from London to Montreal, a distance of 2,800 miles.

Sheep also figure in boxing contests, for most boxing gloves are made from sheepskin. About 10 square feet are needed per pair, and 12 different-sized pieces of skin go into a single glove.

Few first-class boxers have gloves made to measure, as they usually find one of the seven various sizes suits them, but if they want the best quality, then the skins of British sheep are not good enough. South African Cape skins are preferred and gloves made of them are stuffed with real horse-hair.

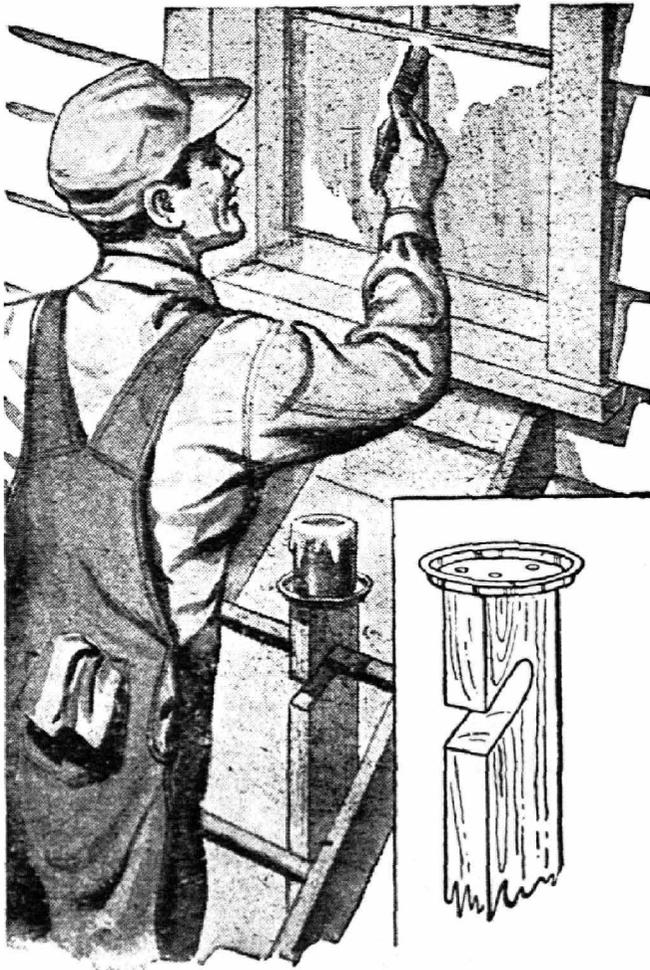


Help Yourself



Balanced Paint-Can Holder Hangs from Ladder Rung.

The difficulty of holding a small can of paint when working on a ladder caused one painter to devise this holder. It consists merely of a length of 2 x 4 that was notched at an angle near one end, as shown, to hang from a ladder rung. A paint can lid was nailed to the top of the holder to serve as a tray.



Heavy Two-Piece Ladder Put Up One Section at a Time.

A heavy two-section ladder can be put up against a building with less work and danger by one man if the following method is used. The lower section is leaned against the building, with the top section on the ground in front of it. Pick up the top end of the upper section and ascend the lower section as far as is practical. Then, with a hand-over-hand movement, continue to slide the upper section up until there isn't enough room to continue this method. Next, return to the bottom of the ladder, grasp the lower end of the upper section and slide it through the fasteners at the top. Now it can be pushed up to the desired height in the usual manner.

NATIVE BOYS WILL FARM WHERE THE GRASS IS GROWING WILD

NATIVE boys whose ancestors trod the heartless wastes of the inland with a hunting spear will learn to win food a new way. With their new skills will come a security that they have never known before, thanks to the Schenks.

Eighteen miles inland from Esperance, two and a half miles from Gibson's Soak railway siding, and within neighbourly distance of the local agricultural research station, two young farmers with diplomas day dream as they rip up the virgin soil with second-hand gift ploughs.

This wouldn't be of interest to Sandgroppers at large if at the end of their dreamland furrows were wealth and wives and the rest of the familiar pattern of prosperity, but these—if they come into the picture at all—are quite incidental.



The immediate object of their scheming is a flourishing training farm where young native boys, during the critical years between school leaving age and 16, can be

trained to lead useful lives on the land.

For these boys "go on the land" in this case means leaving the thirsty, dusty soil of the Goldfields, where their parents or grandparents hunted goannas, to till the well-watered coastal plains where, to their delight, "the grass grows wild".

The dreamers' long-range plan, which anticipates eventual government co-operation, is the ultimate establishment of the Wongutha Agricultural College. Wongutha is the name given by the aborigines to their own race.

The story goes that 22-year old Roderick Schenk, only son of the co-founders of Mt. Margaret Mission and an early playmate of many of its dusky inhabitants, became aware one day that he, too, had been born with a mission.

A graduate of Longernerong Agricultural College, Victoria, he took a temporary job as farmhand to gain local experience of the Esperance Downs, and snapped up two 1,000-acre lots that were advertised in the Western Mail.

Then, finding a twin soul in a fellow collegian—21-year old John May—the two began their back-breaking pioneering work in August last year.

The two-man team has begged, borrowed or been handsomely endowed with two second-hand ploughs a new ten-disc seeder, a 1929 utility truck, a second-hand trailer, a new post-boring machine, two tons of wire, one 2,000-gallon tank and temporary quarters in the shape of a 10 by 12 hut complete with stove and small tank.

Lords of all they survey, they are pressing on with clearing, fencing and ploughing preparatory to sowing a seedbed of clover next month.

Although the land is typical Esperance Downs country, light, sandy and hungry, the pals are confident that trace elements and clovers will build up the farm to productive capacity within five years, especially when they remember that the research station nearby has been carrying four sheep to the acre in the driest season for years.

Dipping into a prospectus which is just off the Schenk family typewriter—details have been sanctioned by the Commissioner of Native Affairs—the farm will be a place where native boys from six mission schools can train to become efficient farm workers, managers and even owners, as well as being watched for any trend towards specialisation in carpentry, plumbing, saddlery and similar occupations.

In accordance with the leader's ideals, the spiritual welfare of the little community will be of major consideration, and as both are good sportsmen, there will be plenty of guided reaction.

As the plan stands now, the biggest problems to be overcome are the building of dormitories and classrooms, refectory and kitchen, demonstration block and staff quarters; the recruiting of trained staff, and the drawing up of a suitable curriculum.



Further down on the agenda are workshop and machinery shed; piggery, fowl houses and dairy; shearing shed and hatchery; tennis courts, swimming pool, orchard, native homes and a community store.

Some of the pioneering difficulties over, the students will embark on a two-year course that will include the three R's, English, farm practices, social studies, physics and chemistry.

Later, confident in their new status, the boys should have ample opportunity for putting their knowledge into practical use, particularly in this newly opened-up district, which has been surveyed and sold to 200 farmers.

An ambitious project? Yes, but not so formidable by Schenk standards.

ABORIGINAL SCHOOL TABULAM

1954

H. ROBERSON.



Dear Friends,

I would like to draw your attention particularly to the shield and motto which has been adopted by the school children on Tabulam Station. You will notice that it depicts the beautiful layout of the station, nestling in its picturesque setting among the hills near the river bank.

However, you will be wondering what the motto "Mulla Bugilma" means. I am told that it means "Keep Trying". What a magnificent motto to adopt! It reminds me of what my parents used to tell me as a little boy: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again". Perhaps many of you have heard of the great Scotch patriot, Robert Bruce. On one occasion he had been defeated in battle and was being hunted for his life.

He lay alone among the heather and brooded over the misfortunes of his people. As he lay, he noticed a spider trying to cast his web between two branches. Over and over again the spider threw its web, but was unable to bridge the gap. Did it give up? No! It kept on trying and was eventually successful. Thus inspired, Robert Bruce determined to make another effort. He rallied his scattered forces and eventually gained a great victory over his enemies.

We all have our disappointments in life, and are often tempted to give up. To do so will only mean defeat; to "keep trying" will bring success in the long run. Congratulations to Tabulam school children, and to you all I say "Mulla Bugilma".—Yours sincerely,

M. H. SAXBY, Superintendent.

The Battle for the ABORIGINES . . .

by

DAME MARY GILMORE, O.B.E.

The conflict between those who seek to white-wash the white man at the expense of the black still goes on, and there is always argument as to how many blacks were here when the white man first came. Some try to make out that the number was comparatively small, whilst others ask that facts be quoted.

When I was young I always heard my elders say that Governor King, in his report to the British Government, estimated there were 1,000,000 natives on the Eastern Coast of Australia. (This figure, I believe, is repeated in Henniker Heaton's "Book of dates").

At this time there was no knowledge of inland N.S.W., Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Central Australia, The Northern Territory, or Northern Queensland.

For another authority: In a missionary report to Exeter Hall in 1840, the number of blacks was given as 1,400,000.

These figures are worth considering and the comment is needless.

CABBAGE TREE ISLANDERS HOME CONSCIOUS

The Aborigines Welfare Board's Policy of erecting modern houses for Aborigines is closely linked with the personal co-operation of the Cabbage Tree Island residents themselves, who in turn furnish and beautify their homes. It is pleasing to note that there has been a positive response made by the residents to further these aims.

Although the station has not made any spectacular advances, the consistent efforts of the residents has warranted the congratulations of the Superintendent, Mr. M. H. Saxby.



"A big smile please," said the cameraman, and Gloria Williams, of Merewether, was only too pleased to oblige.



The unfinished wall provided an ideal perch for Victoria Lang, of Burnt Bridge, when she posed for her photograph with Yvonne Cochrane.

POT-POURRI

Contributed by Mr. L. N. Briggs, Manager of Taree Station (mostly for kiddies).

(Copyright.)

GATHER round, kids. I want to tell you some stories. Don't be frightened by that queer-looking word up at the top. I just put that in to impress our Editor. If you must know what it means, I suppose I had better tell you now, so you won't be worrying about it when you get onto the stories. A pot-pourri is just a mixture of bits and pieces of lots of different things. Now forget it.

During the past twenty-six years among you people, I have moved about a bit and I know quite a lot of you, and quite a lot of you know me. However, there must be big lots of you whom I do not know and who do not know me. So, before I start to talk to you, I'd like you to get to know me as well as you can. Even those who think they know me, don't know how I came to be the sort of chap I am. Now don't get the idea that you are to hear the story of a great man. You can read stories about great men in almost any book you pick up. This is going to be a story about a very common man who has had some rather uncommon experiences and, perhaps, has some rather uncommon ideas.

Perhaps I am even a little bit queer, because, when I was a very little boy I had but few playmates and I had to do and think queer things to amuse myself, and I am quite sure that the things we do and the things we think when we are little boys and girls have a lot to do with the kind of men and women we grow into. Maybe, the queer things I did when I was a little boy, accounts for some of my queer ways since I grew up.

In the first place, I was not born in your beautiful country. I was born in the United States of America, which is also a very beautiful country. That makes me a sort of old New Australian.



My parents lived on a farm in the country, and there was so much to do on the farm that they didn't travel about much to see other places and other people. When I was born I had a brother twenty-one year old and a sister eleven years old. So I had no playmates near my own age even at home. However, my sister was a great reader and she could tell the most wonderful stories of Red Indians and Cow-boys and of peoples of other lands I have ever heard.

By the time I was seven years old I was becoming very sorry that my father and mother were both white people. I would have preferred them to be Red Indians, because then I would have been a Red Indian boy, which would have been ever so much more interesting than being a white boy.

When my sister found that I was so disappointed at being born white, she promptly set about doing something about it. She taught me that I could be

anything I liked, if I really thought about it hard enough, believed hard enough, and did enough to make myself what I wanted to be.

I already had a nice pony and a dog which were a big help in giving me a taste of the kind of life I wanted. My sister made me a headdress, decorated with dyed feathers, such as Red Indian Chiefs wear; a pair of trousers made of soft leather and a jacket of the same material. To complete my make-up, she made me a necklace of porcupine quills. So, during the long summer school vacations, and sometimes at week ends, I set off into the forest riding my pony bare-back like a real Indian. I built myself a wigwam of saplings and bark. I made a bow and arrows from the hickory wood which grew all around the place. I learned to shoot grey squirrels which I found to be delicious when grilled on the coals of my camp fire. Fortunately, my mother never found out about some of the things I did cook and eat. In the autumn, I gathered nuts and young corn, which I also roasted on the coals. Sometimes my sister would come with me to my camp in the forest. At such times, I insisted that she be my squaw (wife), and made her gather the wood and prepare my meals in the true Indian fashion.

Of course, when the sun was setting low in the west, I would have to ride home and become a white boy again. There were lots of unpleasant jobs to be done at the white man's camp which were not considered necessary in an Indian camp.

By the time the autumn turned to winter and the snow would begin to fall, covering the countryside with a beautiful blanket of white down, I would begin to tire a little of the life of an Indian brave. Then, I would change myself into an Eskimo, and dress myself in furs from head to foot. A different kind of home had to be built. This time, not so far from my real home, because darkness comes quickly in the winter. This home would be built with blocks of snow which I moulded and packed hard like ice. When it was finished it looked just like the pictures you see in your geography books of the igloos of the Eskimos.



POT-POURRI—*continued.*

Being an Eskimo wasn't nearly as much fun as being a Red Indian, but it was still better than being white and civilised all of the time.

The winter evenings were long and cold and at such times I was glad to be civilised and have a decent home with warm fires where I could eat my mother's wonderfully cooked meals and hear my father tell stories of the days when he was a little boy. Sometimes we would all gather round the family organ and sing songs until it was time to go to bed. Then we would all kneel down and thank God for His goodness to us before we crawled between sheets that had been warmed by hot coals in a big copper thing that looked like a frying pan with a lid.

Yes, it's fun to make believe you are someone you are not; and it's fun to talk to animals and birds and to pretend that they understand and answer you; but a little boy can get very tired of eating grey squirrels and frogs' hind legs like a Red Indian; and the tallow candles they make in Pennsylvania, just can't possibly be the same as those the real Eskimos eat.

Would you like to be somebody or something you are not? If you would, just try pretending you are and get as near to it as you can. It makes it easier to change your way of life, if you want to, when you become a man or a woman.

But just one word of warning: Don't try being too real a cow-boy or gunman. I drilled a hole through my ankle with a rifle bullet when I was ten years old and set my pants alight firing a pistol from my pocket when I was fourteen. It hurts terribly, and you can easily get killed. And it is not fun being a dead cowboy or a dead gunman.?



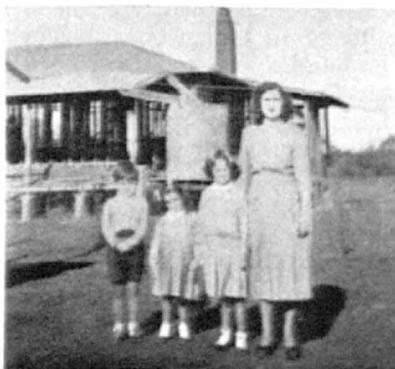
(Next month, I'll take you to a big town in America, where I went to High School and became interested in negroes and gaols.)



Zita Clarke, Nancy Bigges, Elaine Collins and Betty Black, four charming young lasses from Murrin Bridge.



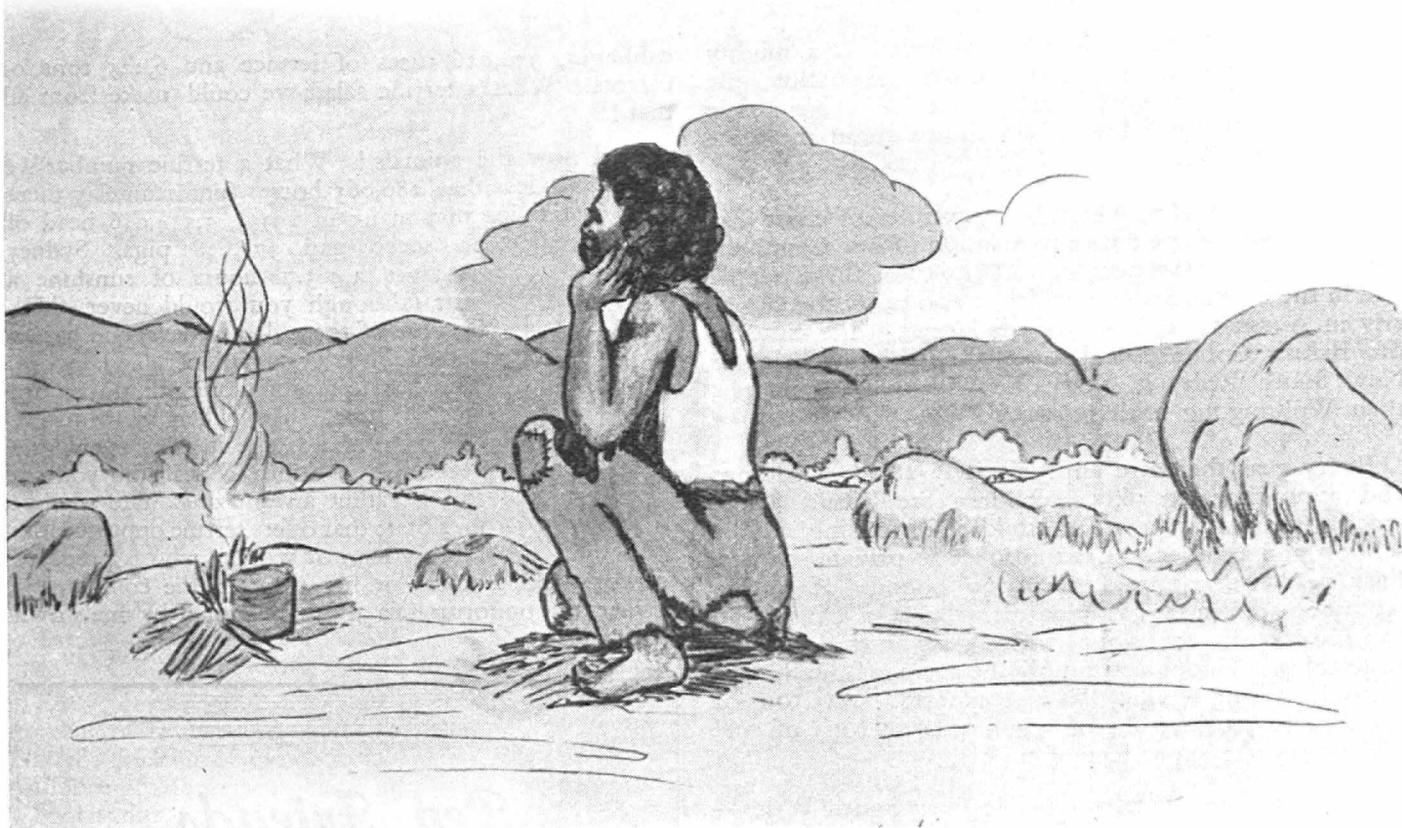
A group of Moonahcullah children at the recent school sports. They are: Muriel Day, Ray Briggs, Ralph Day, Watson Taylor, Melva Day, Gwen Taylor, Edgar Day, Priscilla Charles, Stephenie Charles and Eddie Hamilton. And don't they look nice in their neat uniforms?



Noreen, Gloria, Jean, Herb and Dawn Pettit, of Roto, line up for their photograph.



Mrs. Hazel Smith of Rivertree, via Wilson's Downfall, with Ian, Dennis, Alan, Carolyn and Nancy.



Steve Hoskins of Wallaga Lake wins a special prize for this fine sketch. We will probably have some more from Steve soon!

CAROONA NOTES

The birth of a son, Michael William, to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Allan, brought the Carooona station population to 200.

The Manager has been advised that the formation of an official Baby Health Centre at Carooona Station has been approved. It is expected that the Centre will be opened in March.

This will be a great advance in the care of the children, and it is expected that the centre will be well patronised by the mothers of small children, both on and off the station.

The junior branch of the Carooona Progress Association is doing very good work. To raise funds for various station activities, a soft drink shop has been started, and is staffed by voluntary helpers recruited from the "teenagers". These girls and boys are doing an excellent job, working hard, and seem to be really

enjoying it. The shop has been a financial success from the start, and, although there is a very long list of things to do, there is every prospect that sufficient money will now be raised.

The heavy rain and humid weather following the drought has caused the biggest growth of weeds seen for years on Carooona Station. While this is hard on the farmers, it is very good for the residents as the demand for burr cutters far exceeds the supply, and everyone on the station is working "all out" in response to the demand for labour. Even the school boys were working in the holidays.

A local grazier told the manager that, in his opinion, it would be very hard for the district landowners to carry on without Carooona Station, whose population of shearers and trained bush-workers supply the bulk of the labour needed on the land.

(Continued on page 23.)

Know Your Country

OURS IS A MIGHTY STATE

This State of ours, New South Wales, is a mighty place with an area of 309,433 square miles. But how many of us know very much about it? This article will tell us all just a few of the things about the State in which we live.

New South Wales, which has 907 miles of coast, has 38.1 per cent. of the entire population of our Commonwealth or 3,423,887 people. 1,861,685 of these people live in the capital, Sydney, which is also easily the largest city in Australia, and one of the largest white cities in the British Commonwealth. The next largest city in New South Wales is Newcastle with 178,086 people, then Wollongong with 90,811.

Every year there are approximately 28,000 weddings and approximately 36,000 children are born. There are approximately 401,629 children attending public schools and another 134,521 enrolled at private schools. Last year we exported 2,031,000 pounds of butter, 6,005,000 dozen eggs, 7,905,000 bushels of wheat, 534,369,000 lb. of flour and 65,677 cwt. of fresh vegetables. Enough to supply the average householder for quite a long while! We also exported 5,723 tons of sugar, 4,325,000,000 lb. of wool, 378,138 tons of coal and 29,515,000 super feet of timber.

There are 527,396 telephones in New South Wales—and thousands of people waiting for new phones—while 769,478 people have radio licences. We are getting so many vehicles on the road these days it looks as if we will soon have to build double-decker roads. We have 393,591 motor cars and 42,451 cycles. Unfortunately, the more vehicles we have the greater number of accidents, and it is terrible to realise that last year 728 people were killed in road accidents in New South Wales and another 14,660 injured. That casualty rate is terrible. Indeed, more people are killed in road accidents these days than in warfare.



More and more people are becoming air-minded, and this is borne out by the fact that last year 1,061,013 people travelled by air in New South Wales compared with 278,904 rail passengers. There is an acute housing shortage in our State, although many thousands of new homes are being built every year. We already have a total of 732,510 dwellings in this State, 2,026 hotels, 508 schools and 567 hospitals. According to the latest figures available, 346,067 of these are built of brick, 266,171 of timber and 67,277 of fibro. Last year we produced 58,046 tons of potatoes, 1,325 tons of onions, 1,540,751 bushels of tomatoes, 436,381 dozen

cabbages, 370,056 cases of lettuce and 6,223 tons of carrots. What a terrific salad we could make from all that!

And now the animals! What a terrific number we have! No less than 280,063 horses (unfortunetelay there were just twice that many in 1939), 3,554,016 head of cattle, 59,639,000 sheep and 371,608 pigs. Sydney averages 2,463.7 hours of sunshine a year (although you would never think it some of these dreary days) and has an average yearly rainfall of 46.99 inches. The heaviest rainfall month on record was in June, 1950, when 25.30 inches fell. On an average it rains 151 days a year in New South Wales. So you see this is rather an amazing State we live in, a State that offers terrific oppurtunities for any man or woman who is prepared

to work and take his or her place in the community. In fact, the opportunities are only limited by one's own efforts.



Pen Friends

Pen friends,

Florence Layton of "Towal Creek," Comana, Upper Macleay River, wants some pen friends.

In her letter to *Dawn*, Florence said: "I am working on a cattle station and it gets very lonely sometimes, so I would like some pen friends, particularly from Caroonia. I love the bush life and horse riding".

How about some pen friends for Florence?

Elva Lang (I'm sure you've all seen her photos in *Dawn* many times) is 16 years of age and lives at Burnt Bridge, Kempsey.

Elva also wants some pen friends.

She said: "My hobbies are a little of everything and I love all kinds of sports and dancing. I would like some pen friends from Boggabilla, where I have so many relatives, at Tingha and Cabbage Tree Island".

So now, a lot of letters for Elva.



Hello, Kids,

Well, here's Pete back again with you again. You see I had not had a holiday for such a long time I just had to take one, and that's why we had no Pete's page in February. Did you miss me? Just had a very nice long letter from my pal, Carol Donovan of the Racecourse, Bowraville. Carol, after telling me all about her last holiday at Nambucca Heads, told me about her new sister Robin Diane. Carol is very proud of Robin and said everyone loves her.

Carol's letter was an especially interesting one, and wins her a prize. Congratulations, Carol.

Kath Murray of Condobolin sent me an excellent drawing of Tasman and another fine drawing came from Narrelle Peckam of Quambone. Nine-year old James Cutmore of Moree sent me a nice essay, all about the school sports.

I also had two nice paintings from two lasses at Cabbage Tree Island, Gloria Kapeen and Cynthia Moran. Keep up the good work, girls.

I suppose some of you unfortunately have been right in the midst of the terrible floods that have been ravishing our country. It is my hope—and the hope of all *Dawn's* readers, I am sure—that none of our aboriginal people were killed or injured.

Doesn't it make you proud of your Australian people when you see how quickly they rally round sending food, clothing and money to the stricken areas?

CAROONA NOTES—continued from page 21

In these days of Test Match excitement, it is not generally known that the first Australian cricket team to visit England, in 1868, was composed of Aborigines. The team was led by Mr. Charles Lawrence, and played 47 matches, winning 14, losing 14, and drawing 19.

Between innings, and before and after matches, the team gave exhibitions of boomerang throwing and skill with native weapons. On one occasion, a lady spectator was hit on the head by a badly aimed boomerang.

We may represent all colours, classes, and creeds, but when there is some State-wide or Nation-wide calamity, our people forget their differences and rally together.

I would like to hear from some of you who have been in the flooded areas, so will you write and tell me of your experiences? Better still, send some photographs if you have them.

Well, that's about all for this time, kids, so cheerio for the present.

From Your Sincere Pal,
PETE.



A very nice drawing by Joan Dunn. Joan has won a prize for this sketch, but we don't know her address. Will you please let us know what it is, Joan?

KORKY THE CAT

TONY, ZE CHAMPION KNITTER,
KNITS KORKY ZE LOVELY NEW HAT.
BUT KORKY WON'T WEAR IT— HE EATS IT!
YET HE LIKES BEING MADE TO DO THAT!





IN THE GARDEN

CROWING ONIONS.

This month's sowings include onions, but selection should be confined to an early or quick maturing variety such as Early Barletta.

This is a particularly useful variety.

When the bulbs are just forming they can be eaten as "spring" or "salad" onions, others can be allowed to grow into pickling size, and the remainder to full size.

Sow the seeds, not too thickly, in drills (12 inches apart) and cover with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of soil which should be kept moist until they germinate. As the bulblets form, pull out those not required so that the remainder stand about one inch apart. In a few weeks these will be large enough for pickling and more bulbs can be pulled.

This should leave a space of about 4 inches between those to be fully matured.

DIGGING.

If there is any digging to be done, and no doubt there will be, seize the opportunity to do it when the soil is moist and pliable, but never too soon after rain because if worked when it is wet and soggy it will form hard clods in which plant life will have a struggle to live.

COMPOST IS NECESSARY.

All old plants, dead flowers, vegetable peelings, grass clippings, food scraps and manure should be put in a heap in a corner of the garden and then covered with a few inches of soil.

Leave a hole at the top of the heap so that vegetable liquids and slops can be poured in.

FLOWERS.

April will be the month to grow the following :—

Acroclinium, Ageratum, Alyssum, Anchusa, Anemone, Snapdragon, Columbine, Double Daisy, Blue Lace Flower, Branchycome, Calendula, Calliopsis, Candytuff, Canterbury Bells, Carnation, Chrysanthemum, Christmas

Bush, Cineraria, Clarkia, Cornflower, Delphinium, Dianthus, Forget-me-not, Foxglove, Friesia, Gaillardia, Geum, Godetia, Gypsophila, Heliotrope, Hollyhock, Larkspur, Linaria, Yellow Marguerite, Lobelia, Lupin, Marigold, Mathiola, Mignonette, Mimulus, Polyanthus, Nasturtium, Nemesia, Nemophila, Nigella, Pansy, Sweet Pea, Phlox, Petunia, Poppy (all varieties) Portulaca, Pri nula, Ranunculus, Saponaria, Scabiosa, Statice, Stock, Verbena, Viola, Wallflower.

VEGETABLES.

Bean (French), Beet, Silver Beet, Borecole, Broad Bean, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Cauliflower (early varieties), Cress, Endive, Herbs, Lettuce, Mustard, Onion, Parsnip, Pea, Radish, Rhubarb, Spinach, Turnip.

KEEPING DOGS AND CATS OUT OF YOUR GARDEN.

By spraying flowers or shrubs with a dilute nicotine sulphate solution you can keep small animals, such as dogs and cats, out of your garden. The spray is harmless to plants but is very offensive to the animals.

Commercial preparations usually contain 40 per cent. of nicotine sulphate, and such preparations should be used in the proportion of one and a half teaspoonsful to a gallon of water. Spraying should be renewed about every two weeks during ordinary weather, and after rain.

DISEASE IN SEED BOXES.

This can be disastrous—a soil-borne fungus rots the stems of seedlings at ground level, causing them to fall. It's known as "damping off"; and it will spread, almost within hours, through a whole planting of seedlings. An immediate spraying with Bordeaux mixture or copper oxychloride might save portion of the crop; but otherwise there is no cure; and the soil used in the box should be discarded.