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# Dawn

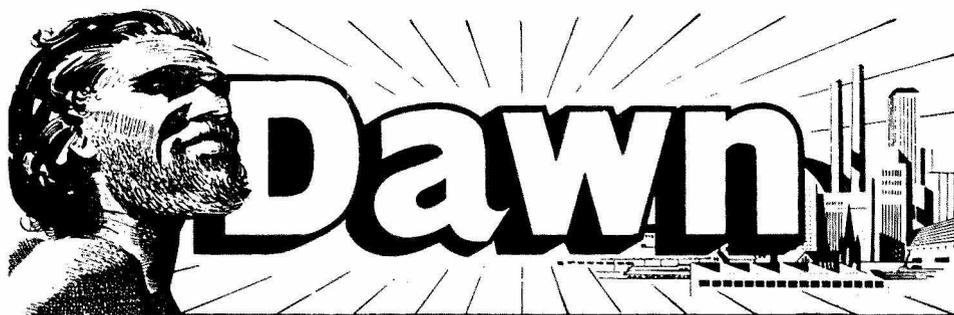


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A MAGAZINE FOR THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF N.S.W.

MAY, 1962





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## DAWN

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

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## Our Cover . . . . .

Blind aborigine student David Kerin (18) takes a class in Braille at St. Edmund's School for Blind Boys at Wahroonga. David is giving instruction while reading notes with his fingertips.

Picture by Courtesy "Sydney Morning Herald"

# WELFARE BOARD GIVES £1,000

## *Towards London Education for Blind Wahroonga Student*

*The Chief Secretary, Mr. C. A. Kelly, has announced that the Aborigines Welfare Board has donated £1,000 towards the cost of training a blind aboriginal boy in London.*

The boy is David Kerin, 18, of St. Edmund's School for Blind Boys, Wahroonga, Sydney.

Four days after the announcement of the Board's donation, Mrs. G. D. Milford, of Pott's Point, Sydney, sent to the Chairman of the Board, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, cheques for a total of £130 on behalf of herself and a relative, to be used to help David Kerin.

David was accepted earlier this year for a three-year course in physiotherapy at the Royal Institute for the Blind in London.

He is due to leave Sydney by air in September to take up his course.

Because of the length of time he would have to travel unaccompanied, David is to go to London by air instead of by the long sea trip.

The physiotherapy course is expected to cost between £3,000 and £4,000.

Announcing the donation by the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. Kelly said he had asked the Federal Minister for Territories, Mr. P. M. C. Hasluck, to make an equal donation.

Dealing with the Board's donation, Mr. Kelly said:

"The £1,000 will come from funds donated to or left to the Board by private individuals for aborigines' welfare. The Board considered this as a most worthy cause in which a special donation should be made.

"David Kerin came to Sydney at the age of four after he had lost his sight following an attack of conjunctivitis.

"He went to school first at St. Lucy's, Homebush, and after two years went to St. Edmund's School for the Blind, Wahroonga, where he is still living. His last two years of schooling before the Leaving Certificate examination were done at St. Pius X School, Chatswood.

"David, who is from Tennant Creek, Northern Territory, is a fine type of boy. He has shown great courage and aptitude throughout his years of schooling in Sydney and I believe his success would be of the utmost importance to his people, to the State and, in overseas eyes, to Australia itself.

"For these reasons, at the suggestion of the Aborigines Welfare Board, I have asked the Federal Minister for Territories, Mr. Hasluck, to give urgent consideration to making a donation equal to ours, so that David may be able to prepare for his course of study in London assured that the finance for it will be available.

"David was the first aboriginal boy to go through St. Edmund's School for the Blind, and I pay tribute to the staff and pupils there and at St. Pius X School, for the care and encouragement given him.

"He was educated and cared for free at St. Edmund's and at St. Pius X School. Special materials for education of the blind were provided also at no cost.

"In his last two years of schooling, the Aborigines Welfare Board gave him bursaries and for several years paid a weekly sum towards his maintenance."



# WRECK BAY CHILDREN SEE THE ROYAL EASTER SHOW

A party of 12 children from Jervis Bay made a trip to Sydney in April to have a look at the "big show", the 1962 Royal Easter Show.

For most, it was their first visit to the famous "Royal" and they enjoyed every minute of it.

The party, under the Jervis Bay station manager, M. L. J. Browne, went to Sydney early in the morning in the station's bus, and returned home at night, tired and happy after their jaunt.

They toured the Australian industrial, machinery and farm exhibits, and for relaxation from the more serious side they romped through sideshow alley.

Most of the children, who were aged from 11 to 16, attend Nowra High School.

Miss Mary Ryan, of the staff of the Aborigines Welfare Board office, assisted Mr. Browne in the children's Show tour.



*Above:—The whole party of 12 Jervis Bay visitors to the Royal Show, leave the Australian exhibition. Left to Right, they are James McLeod, Kenneth Brown, Elaine Ardler, Pat Brown, Larry Ardler, Dawn Chatfield, David McLeod, Pat Brown, Norma Ardler, Phillip McLeod, Eric Ardler, and Ross Moore.*



*Left:—The children met the Apprentice of the Year for Papua, William Champion Ruarella, who was in attendance at the exhibit of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. Pictured meeting William and talking to him of his country are (left to right) David McLeod and Dawn Chatfield.*



*Right:—The two Pat Browns in the party (they are not related) talk with William about a colourful basket made by Papuans, and which figured in the exhibit. William, a carpentry apprentice, works in Port Moresby.*



# The Cabbage Tree Island Story

**The story on Cabbage Tree Island is the first of a series on the history of stations and homes under the care of the Aborigines Welfare Board.**

Cabbage Tree Island is not an old tribal ground. The early aboriginal settlers were put there about 1885 by a mounted policeman of that time.

The first aboriginals to settle on the island were Yuke, Jack Roach and Jack "Poppa" Cook.

Very little is known about Yuke and Roach, even whether they died or later left the island.

Poppa Cook stayed on, and his family was really the foundation of the islanders.

Poppa was 18-19 years old when he and his wife went to the island. They had two children, one walking and one on the hip. A third was born on a hill where his wife had gone to escape a flood at the time. Many more children came later.

The next settlers to make their homes on the island were the Bolts (or Sparks), Kapeens and Roberts.

This group was made up of people from as far south as Kempsey and from the Tweed and Tenterfield. They usually took their names from white settlers for whom they worked.

For many years, sugar cane was grown on the island, and attempts are now being made to revive this crop. Poppa Cook grew the first crop of sugar cane.

The first homes to be built were made of cabbage tree palms split into slabs.

Four wells were dug in those early days to supply drinking water, and three are still in use.

Scarcity of game, apart from birds and fish, probably caused the islanders to become good gardeners.

Cedar cutting that was widespread on the north coast in the early days also was the first work for the Cabbage Tree men.

Poppa Cook was a bullock driver where Lismore is now situated but where then there was only one homestead.

When sugar cane growing developed, the Cabbage Tree men started cane cutting, and to this day there is a gang which is called the "Black Gang", with an aboriginal ganger.

Nothing is known of the tribal names of the early settlers on the island, though often the writer heard Poppa Cook speak in his own dialect.

Now on Cabbage Tree Island, there is only one cabbage tree left.

The death of Poppa Cook at the known age of 104 years broke the greatest link with the past.

Men from the island joined the Army in the first World War, and in the last war, one man who was a prisoner-of-war in Germany escaped three times.

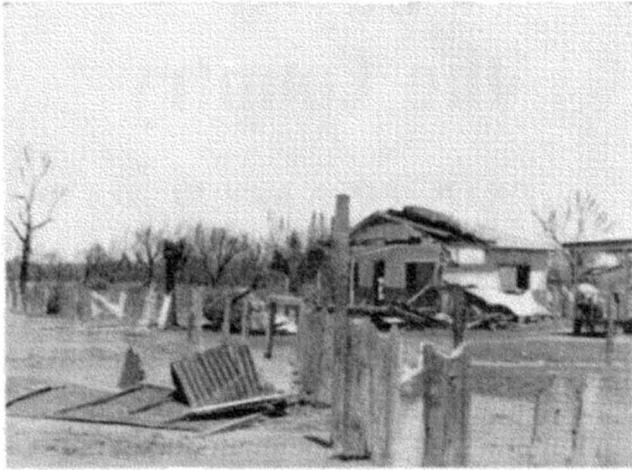
He made it at the third attempt, and got through safely to England.

**Jervis Bay children at the Royal Show learned vividly the need for care with fire when they inspected the exhibit of the N.S.W. Bush Fire Committee. This popular exhibit showed the destruction wrought by fire on a neglected property, and side by side with it, the children saw how a well-cared-for property can resist the onrush of fire.**



# WHIRLWIND LASHES

# WALGETT



A terrible 12-minute long storm caused more than £10,000 worth of damage recently among homes at the Walgett aboriginal station.

In the 12 minutes, while violent winds crashed through the settlement, 150 points of rain fell, and hail lay six inches deep in places.

Trees were stripped bare, and wreckage blown up to three-quarters of a mile by the storm winds.

The 160 people living on the station had an amazing escape from injury.

Emergency relief measures were taken immediately by the station manager, Mr. C. Mason, and in close collaboration with him, by the Aborigines Welfare Board and the Civil Defence authorities in Sydney.

Fifteen lavatories that had been completed only the week before were reduced to rubble.

Describing the storm, Mr. Mason said: "In a matter of minutes, the sky blackened, thunder roared, lightning flashed and ferocious winds and whirlwinds brought hail and rain which lashed the station for about 12 minutes.

"Trees were stripped of all vegetation and what had been gardens were reduced to plain earth.

"Limbs were blown off trees, and at the administration block, power lines were severed and a post carrying the power lines was snapped off at ground level," he said.

Only slight damage, mostly broken glass, was done to the manager's residence, to the school and to the school teacher's residence.

The residences on the station, however, took the full force of the storm.

Debris from the homes was scattered over half a mile, while sheets of iron were picked up and hurled three-quarters of a mile away.

In all, four homes were damaged beyond repair and varying degrees of damage was done to most of the other homes on the station.

Within 48 hours, men of the Department of Public Works were on the job, and the long task of repair had begun.

\* PICTURES show the severe damage done to homes, and debris littering the ground, after the big "blow" at Walgett.



## BURSARY WINNER WAS TENNIS SCRIBE FOR 'THE SUNDOWNER'

*Dawn* is proud to publish below a small tennis story drawn from *The Sundowner*, the Walgett Central School's magazine and written by former student Neville Thorne.

Like so many of our boys and girls who are now seeking a higher education, Neville reveals a natural flair for writing and an innate sense of sportsmanship.

Here is his story:—

"This year in tennis we did not play in many inter-school competitions but we did play in two. Both of these were played against Goodooga.

The first competition was held at Goodooga, where Pam Lucas, Beryl Gribble, Valerie Donnelly, Gararda Roggeveen, Tony Azevedo, Phillip Hall, Robert Green and Neville Thorne competed to uphold the reputation of Walgett School.

When we arrived we went straight to the courts after a friendly welcome had been extended by the Goodooga headmaster.

Before lunch the games were close with a slight lead to Goodooga. After lunch Goodooga raced away with a strong lead to win by 20 sets to 14. The games were fiercely contested but Goodooga proved their superiority.

During second term we tried our skill against Goodooga a second time. Once more they proved too strong and we were defeated. Our special thanks go to Mr. Tribe, Mr. Norris, Mr. Taafe, Mrs. Taafe, Mr. Smith and Mrs. Donnelly who provided transport for our visits.—Neville Thorne."

Now for a word about our budding sports scribe, Neville.

Neville has now gone on to Armidale High School after gaining his Intermediate Certificate and a bursary award from the Aborigines Welfare Board.

The bursary is tenable for three years and carries a cash grant of £50 per year.

Walgett's head teacher, Mr. J. Taafe, has won high praise for his assistance to Neville and for his general supervision and interest in the progress of our aborigine children who are integrated into the Central School.

The help of the Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines at Armidale and the Church of England is also greatly appreciated. For it was they who further sponsored Neville and arranged for his placement in Armidale High School and the St. John's Hostel for Boys in the New England city.

Neville will almost certainly continue to provide items of news for *The Sundowner* which is edited by his friend and counsellor Mr. David Tribe, of the Walgett teaching staff.

*Dawn* would also welcome contributions from Neville—particularly on his high school experiences.

# A Wonderful Day in the Country

## A TRIP TO KEEPIT DAM

by Queenie Ashton.

"Burra Bee Dee".

Was it going to rain? That was the important question on this particular day. The weather had not been very hot and there had not been many days when I could go swimming, so after some debating I decided to pack my swimsuit. Yes, this *was* the long-awaited day, the one chosen to see this wonderful engineering achievement of our present day. Quite a long way to go—just over 170 miles return—but after we had seen it, one and all declared it was well worthwhile.

Keepit Dam, for those who have not travelled in the Central Western part of New South Wales, is some 28 miles from Gunnedah, a well-known wheat growing area. The wheat had just been harvested and sent into the large silos, and some areas had already been busy turning their ground to give it a spell before the next sowing.

It was quite evident that this wonderful project of engineering had been well planned, even down to the planting of a long avenue of trees from the turn-in from the Oxley Highway, some 6 miles.

And what a sight met our eyes upon arriving at the Dam proper! The huge spillway that had long gates, looking very much like lanes on a bridge, and what an expanse of water and how wide! There were also many notices telling one where to go to see the views, and a huge map, numerically numbered, describing each portion of the dam. We passed over the long concrete laneway where it was possible to view the whole project, so high that it made you dizzy to look down for very long! The whole undertaking took up many, many acres, and the depth of the water reached 125 feet in the deepest portion.

Water ski-ing and swimming were permitted, so I had not taken my swimsuit in vain. The day had turned sultry with possibility of thunderstorms, and it was pure enjoyment to swim in the quiet waters of the dam. After swimming, lunching and taking snapshots, it was with regret that we found it was time to start our return journey. It had been a wonderful day's outing, both from an educational viewpoint and a picnic day as well. For anyone contemplating viewing this project, I consider the trip well worth while. I have known people who have come as far away as 200 miles to see it in the one day, and they were agreeably surprised at what there was to see!

# Percy Hobson

almost certain to represent in High Jump

*Glamour Event of the Games*

A slim 19 years old part aborigine from Bourke is certain to represent Australia at the Commonwealth Games in Perth late this year.

He is Percy Hobson, a young butcher, who for the last two seasons has been giving Australian athletics a shock with his fine performances in the high jump.

Percy, who is 5ft 10 ins. in height, on March 19 this year won the Australian high jump title in Sydney and was picked among the squad of four for the Games trials in October this year.

On his showing in jumps this season, Percy will have no trouble in making the Games as an Australian representative. He has shown he is among the best four high jumpers among Commonwealth countries.

The high jump is one of the glamour events of the athletic field here and overseas.

Percy had a quiet run up to the national champion status he now holds, but he arrived with a bang in the 1961-62 season, just finished.

His jump that brought him the national title in March was of 6 ft. 7 ins., three inches lower than his best performance.

His best, 6 ft. 10 ins., was achieved in Melbourne at an interstate match in February when the Victorian Tony Sneazwell set a new Australian record of 6 ft. 11 ins.

Percy beat Sneazwell for the national title in March on a count-back when both had reached 6 ft. 7 ins.

Percy's jumps had all been clean and decisive. Sneazwell had knocked the bar at 6 ft. 2 ins. and 6 ft. 5 ins.

Winning the national title in these circumstances was even more meritorious because Percy was just recovering from a bout of illness.

He had taken a week's holiday from his job to compete by invitation at the Victorian championships in Melbourne five days before, when because of his illness, he could notch only 6 ft. 6 ins.

He could not jump on the first day of the Australian championships because of the illness, but on the second day he did, and won.

Percy's fine spirit and sense of sportsmanship has made him a local hero at Bourke.





Mr. Kelly jokes with some of the children during his special visit to the camp.

The boys were quick to get in for their share of the soft drink.



# *In the Good*

**80 BOYS**

**EIGHTY** outback children from 21 districts had the time of their lives at the Aborigines Welfare Board's 14-day summer camp at La Perouse in January.

The children came from Boggabilla, Moree, Mungindi, Narrabri, Walgett, Collarenebri, Coonamble, Gulargambone, Pilliga, Coonabarabran, Armidale, Tingha, Wellington, Dubbo, Warren, Brewarrina, Murrin Bridge, Wilcannia, Bourke, Griffith and Balranald.

Floods held up the Boggabilla children for two days but they reached camp in time for all the major enjoyments.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. C. A. Kelly, and his wife visited the camp on January 16th. They were accompanied by Aborigines Welfare Board members, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill (Chairman), Professor Elkin, Mr. E. Wright, M.L.C., Mr. C. Leon and Mr. M. Sawtell; the Superintendent, Mr. H. J. Green, and secretary, Mr. J. Giblett.

Dr. Henson of the Health Department represented Board member Dr. Donnellan while Mr. J. McCaughn represented Mr. J. Goodsell, Chairman of the Public Service Board.

Mr. Kelly commented on the attractive children in camp and said that a finer assembly of youngsters would be hard to find.

The Minister quickly made friends with them all when he donated prizes for sports and afterwards turned on soft drinks and ice creams for the entire camp.

Other visitors included Mr. Keith Smith of the A.B.C. and representatives of television stations and newspapers who covered practically every aspect of the camp life.

Outside entertainment began with a visit to Her Majesty's Theatre for the pantomime, "Snow White".

T.V. sets provided by Inglis Electrix were popular and offset rainy days at the start of the camp. The children were entranced with the viewing, particularly when they saw themselves at Taronga Park Zoo.

# Old Summer Time

## AND GIRLS ENJOY CAMPS IN SYDNEY

The Chief Secretary, Mr. C. A. Kelly, met most of the 80 boys and girls from outback N.S.W. holidaying at the summer camp, when he paid a special visit there. Mr. Kelly, pictured talking to some of the children, is with (left) the Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, and the camp supervisor, Mr. D. G. Yates, who is welfare officer at Armidale.



The children also saw Cinerama by courtesy of Hoyts Theatres and Luna Park where they were entertained by the management.

One of the highlights of the outings was the trip to Manly for a day in the surf. The children were taken by bus from La Perouse to Central Railway where they took the underground railway to Circular Quay to join the ferry for the harbour crossing to the ocean beach.

The Lions Club took them picnicking to the Basin at Pittwater. The Randwick Lions Club arranged a morning for the children at Kingsford Smith Airport where officials of Qantas showed the group over its extensive plant and one of the Boeing 707 jets.

In camp good feature films were shown on alternate evenings and the Commonwealth Bank generously provided one film night. Col Hardyper performed for the children at an impromptu concert arranged by Mr. Tribe of the attendant staff and many of the children contributed items.

The camp staff under the direction of Mr. D. G. Yates, officer-in-charge, worked very hard and long to ensure the safety, care and happiness of the children.

The Matron, Miss Robison, took exemplary care of the children in an unobtrusive but highly efficient manner.

As Mrs. Griffith, the Camp cook on previous occasions, was unavailable this year owing to ill health, Mrs. Foley of the Y.W.C.A. took her place. The meals were well prepared and highly satisfactory.

Mr. W. Jones was responsible for preparing the camp area and helped in every way possible.



**Mr. Kelly distributes bottles of soft drink to some of the girls, with a movie cameraman watching proceedings.**

**Every day swimming and games were organised for the children at the camp, to fit in with their programme of tours around the Sydney area. Volleyball was one of the favorite games.**



# Walgett Wanderings

It was with deep sorrow that we learnt of the death of Sid Williams early this year.

Sid was a returned soldier from World War II.

His funeral was well attended by aborigines as well as white folk.

He was very cheerful and well liked by all who came in contact with him. His playing of the gum leaf was always of a first-class standard.

\* \* \* \*

Colin Hardy, of Brewarrina—the young fellow who went to Sydney last year to do more study in singing—is progressing from goal to goal.

He has toured with the Willie Fennell Show several times.

Colin was very popular down at the Aborigines Welfare Board's Summer Camp at La Perouse during the summer school holidays.

At present he is being trained by a leading personality in the singing world.

\* \* \* \*

Since the swimming baths have opened at Walgett, the sport has become very popular.

Among the promising up and coming swimmers are Geoffrey Thorne and Eddie Morgan.

Both boys are being coached during the swimming season and are very keen to become district champions.

Another promising young swimmer is Sandra Williams who seems to concentrate on the 110 yards distances.

\* \* \* \*

The Walgett Aboriginal Mission Church at the River Bank Reserve, opened at the end of February, was crowded to overflowing for the ceremony.

The ministers of the various churches in Walgett were present.

Vicar Dowe opened the church while Rev. Swartz offered the prayers. Mr. Southwell of the United Aborigines Mission at Bourke gave the dedication address.

In the evening Rev. Jeppson from Gunnedah conducted a service and showed films with a Christian message.

The building of this church was the answer to many people's prayer and simple trust and faith.

The service held every Sunday night out at the Government Station commenced once again this year.



Johanna Denis, one of the girls attending Walgett Central School.

Harry Greene continues to provide the music for the service.

This year we have welcomed Baymies Fernando who has now joined Harry to present a greater volume of music.

One evening at the Government Station service we were privileged to have Jeff Doolan from Bourke to give us a very challenging address from the Word of God.

\* \* \* \*

Neville Thorne after passing his Intermediate Certificate at Walgett has now gone to Armidale High School to continue his studies in fourth year.

He is enjoying every minute of it. He has made many new friends and is a very keen sportsman.



John Brown, of Walgett, dashes over the crossbar at the local sports.

The best wishes of all the people of Walgett go with Neville.

He is a great example to his race and he is also very pleased to be a great example to the younger children.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Barbara Fernando, Roslyn Murray, Clem Dodds and Clive Cubby attended the Summer Camp at La Perouse. They enjoyed themselves very much.

They were on television a couple of times and had their pictures taken many times.

Barbara took part in a young people's service at the La Perouse Mission Church.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The Christmas tree and party of 1961 at the Government Station was a huge success, even though it was marred by rain.

The singing of carols by the children will be long remembered as will the arrival of Santa Claus through the mud.

With very full tummies and big smiling faces the children of the station that night slipped off to bed in a very weary way.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The Walgett Central School dance was a very amusing and exciting event early in March. A "twist" competition was held and Janice and Richard Simpson were declared the Senior winners.

Many, including quite a number of the teaching staff, had sore backs the next day.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Page, of Reservoir Street, Little Bay, who died recently, had a total of 121 descendants.

Mrs. Page was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cooley, of Bateman's Bay.

She was married in 1906 to William Page, at Moruya. Mr. Page died some time ago.

Mrs. Page is survived by one brother, Harry Cooley, and 10 children.

They are Mrs. Evelyn King (Klimpton, Nowra); Mrs. Eileen Pittman, (Tarraganda, Bega); Mrs. Beryl Morgan, Reservoir Street, Little Bay; Mrs. Della Kelly, Children's Hospital, Camperdown; Mrs. Hilda Salvatori, Prince's Highway, Heathcote; Mrs. Mavis Longbottom, Orana Avenue, La Perouse; Messrs. Roy and Keith Page, Little Bay; Mrs. Lola Ryan, La Perouse; Mrs. Elvie Pender, 23 Taylor Street, Darlinghurst.

There are also 63 grandchildren, the oldest of whom is 34 and the youngest 14 months, and 48 great-grandchildren, ranging in age up to 14 years.

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### N.A.D.O.C. ART COMPETITION

**Another Art competition is to be conducted this year in conjunction with National Aborigines' Day.**

The winners will be announced on July 13.

The competition, open only to persons of aboriginal blood, is in two age sections. One is for persons 17 years of age and under. The other is for those over 18 years.

The judge will be well-known artist Mr. Eric Langker, who is President of the Royal Art Society of N.S.W.

Entries are to be sent to the Rev. A. W. Grant, 66 Smithfield Street, Fairfield, N.S.W.

There are three divisions in the competition. One is for drawings or paintings in tribal art forms, and another in Western Art forms. Persons who enter in these divisions must state their ages.

The third division is for a poster suitable for use on National Aborigines' Day. This is open to persons of all ages.

All works may be drawings or paintings in any media, but they must be between 12 ins. by 10 ins. and 24 ins. by 20 ins. in size. The entries must not be framed.

All entries must show clearly on the back of each the name, address and age of the artist, and the subject depicted.

First prize in each age group and for the poster competition is £2. Second prize in each is 10s.

THE BRIDE WORE CHANTILLY LACE . . .

# Riverina Couple Married

**Popular Griffith girl Miss Grace Allison Monaghan was married recently at St. Alban's Church of England, Griffith, to Mr. Lindsay Coe, of Condobolin.**

Grace's father was a patient in the Griffith Hospital on the day of the ceremony, so she was given away by her uncle, Mr. G. Bowden.

Grace wore a full length dress of ivory satin and Chantilly lace.

The lace formed the bodice, the satin skirt was finished at the bottom with a frill of lace held in place with small rosebuds.

The back of the skirt was pleated and a topknot encircled with a band of satin held the shoulder length lace veil.

The bouquet was a gift from a patient recently in Griffith Hospital, who happened to be there at the same time as Grace, and was made up of artificial lilies, orange blossoms and snowdrops.

The bride was attended by her sister Mavis, cousin Isobel Johnston, and sister of the groom, Pat.

Two wore taffeta dresses with over-skirts of embossed nylon one in rose pink the other in cornflower blue.

The third bridesmaid wore pastel pink nylon with embossed blue flowers. Each carried a bouquet of artificial flowers of rosebuds and snowdrops.

The bridegroom was attended by a friend from Condobolin.

Archdeacon V. E. Twigg performed the ceremony.

The guests included Mrs. B. Turner from Collaroy with whom Grace lived while she attended the Durungaling Training Centre for aboriginal girls to do a secretarial course which was sponsored by the Griffith Soroptimist Club.

Fifty guests travelled from Condobolin in a special bus.

Others present at the ceremony included members of the Griffith Soroptimist Club, and committee members from the Griffith Aborigine Assimilation Organisation.

After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Coe and their attendants drove to the Griffith Hospital to see the bride's father and then home to the wedding reception.

Grace's parents live in one of the cottages built by the Aborigines Welfare Board.

The day was brought to a close with dancing and singing in the new Community Hall recently built on the Reserve by the Assimilation Organisation with the assistance of the Griffith Apex Club.

Before her marriage the bride was on the staff of the Yanco Agricultural Research Station.

*Our picture by courtesy of the "Riverina Advocate"*



# Hawkesbury Camp Trip

## SPONSORED BY ROTARIANS

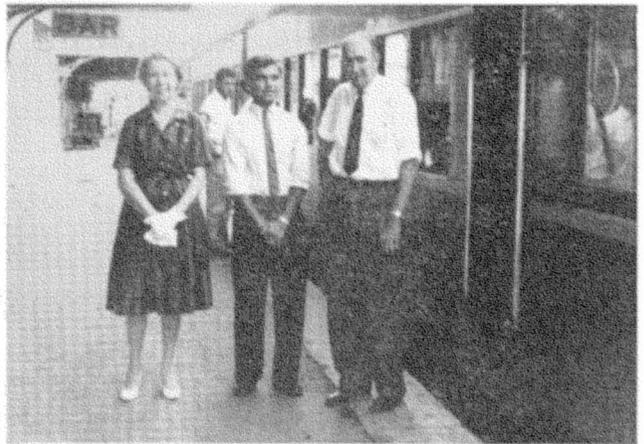
Percy Sucey, a ward of the Aborigines' Welfare Board, recently went from Moree to the Outward Bound Memorial Camp at Fisherman's Point on the Hawkesbury River, near Sydney.

Percy's trip, sponsored by the Moree Rotary Club, cost more than £100.

The Outward Bound movement was begun in England 20 years ago to equip boys between 16 and 19 to cope with the problems of adult life and to become active citizens.

Neville Toomey, of Morgan Street, Dubbo, spent a month at the school recently.

Pictures here show Percy being farewelled by his Headmaster, Rotarian W. Baldwin and Mrs. Baldwin, at Moree Railway Station.



Percy Sucey is seen here with his Headmaster and Rotarian friend Mr. W. Baldwin and Mrs. Baldwin at the Railway Station, Moree. Percy (pictured again below left) has now been placed in employment by the officers of the Board in Sydney on the North Shore.



### DANCE TO AID FOOTBALL CLUB

About 300 people went to a dance at Baryulgil recently to aid the local football club.

A highlight of the night was the announcement of the engagement of a local boy, Ray Gordon, to Maria June Roberts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Roberts, of Cubawee, Lismore.

The couple will be married at Lismore in August.

Miss Roberts figured in a number of events during the evening.

She and Johnnie Roberts were runners-up in the rock 'n' roll competition and in the competition for the best-dressed couple.

The rock 'n' roll competition was won by Patricia Mundine and Charlie Avery.

Lily Gordon and Ray Gordon won the prize for the best-dressed couple.

# DESTINATION—BARRIER REEF

## *Final Chapter*

After Bill had gone below, all sorts of thoughts began entering my head. The boat was rolling and the storm was pretty bad. Now and again the spray of a wave would touch my neck as it hit the boat. I kept looking back and I could see the dory tossing in the wake of the "X" as it was towed along. The lights in the cockpit were bright, and the glare was hard on my eyes. It is like driving a car at night with the lights turned on inside the cabin. I turned the cockpit lights off and kept checking the compass at short intervals, by the use of a flash-light. The wind was now blowing hard, and the boat was difficult to keep on a straight course. After a while, I changed course as instructed and about 4 o'clock I saw the flash of the lighthouse at Penrith Island. I got out the chart and had a look at it to get an idea where I was. It relieved me a great deal, as I had been thinking to myself, "What if Les made a mistake in his calculations, or what if the storm blows the boat off course, and I might end up on a reef, or run into an island." Those were the sort of things I was thinking, as it was the first time I had steered a boat at night in a bad storm on a pitch black night. However, after looking at the chart, and seeing where I was, a great deal of worry was lifted from my mind.

Those charts and the lighthouse relieved me just as if the sun had come up and showed me where I was. Rain was coming down in torrents, although the sky was beginning to get light and the darkness was brightening. It was then that trouble looked like coming again, as the engine gave a splutter. I immediately threw it out of gear and pulled the choke a couple of times. The engine came to life again and we were on our way. Les came out of the cabin and asked what was wrong. I told him that I thought we had run out of fuel, and just as we were talking, the engine gave another cough and stopped. The boat tossed and rolled all over the place and was drifting helplessly. As there was no more fuel in the emergency drum, we drained the tank of the dory. The wind and rain were cold as we sat huddled in the dory, trying to keep our balance in the tossing boat. We managed to get 3 gallons out of the tank, and during this time the boat was drifting uncontrollably towards an Island on our portside. Les seemed to be a long time down at the engine, and by now Bill was awake and helping him. I watched the island as it kept getting closer. I was thinking if Les doesn't hurry and start the engine, I would toss the anchor overboard. I disliked the idea as it would have been hard pulling the anchor in again. By this time the hazy coastline could be seen through the mist and rain. After what seemed to be an eternity, I heard Les swinging the crank handle and then with a roar, the engine came to life. Believe me, I was thankful when the engine started at the first turn of the handle.

Les came to the cockpit and told me to catch up on some sleep as we were still about 3 hours sailing from Mackay. I asked him to wake me as soon as we got aside of Flat Top Island, which is only a short mile from the

mouth of the Pioneer River. I went below and crawled into my bunk feeling very tired, and it wasn't long before I was asleep.

For anyone who cannot sleep, I would recommend they get into a boat with the engine going, for with the rocking of the boat and the purring of the engine, it will not take long before sleep comes.

I've always noticed that while asleep on a boat, one will soon wake up if the engine misses, or if someone gives the engine a "rev.". It must be the different pitch that tells something isn't quite right. I found that out when I was an engineer on a prawn trawler for several months in Queensland.

When I climbed out of my bunk I found we were between Flat Top and the mouth of the Pioneer River. By now, the rain had eased off but the clouds were still thick in the sky. The boat entered the mouth of the river and it wouldn't be long before we would be tying up.

Bill and I tied up, but as we were a bit early for unloading our catch, as the fish market didn't open till about 8 o'clock, we decided to wait and unpack our catch, after we got the fish market truck.

In the meantime we went for a walk. It was very strange to be on land, as we hadn't got back in the expected fortnight, for we had been 19 days at sea, and the only walk we had was on a reef about 120 miles east of Prosperine or Bowen. When I stood on the level ground, I felt as though I was being rocked, and it took a good while before the feeling left me.

It took the best part of 2½ hours to unpack the fish and take them to market, which is only a hundred yards from the fishermen's wharf at Mackay. After weighing the fish it was one of the best catches that had come to the market for a while . . . just over 2,900 lb. of fish. Les was pleased with everything, and he asked me if I would like to look after the boat for about a week, and clean the bottom with a certain type of soda used to prevent borers.

I took the boat close to shallow water while the tide was full and anchored it there until the tide went out. I then painted the boat with solution that he gave me, when the boat was high and dry. I welcomed the opportunity, it gave me time to have a well deserved rest, as I would have the boat finished in a day or two.

I was on the boat for about 3 or 4 days when I was approached by a man and was offered a job on his newly converted prawn trawler, as an engineer.

I transferred my gear to the other boat which was a 30 footer, and had a 27-horsepower diesel engine.

The engine room appeared to be a bit cramped, but once down in it, it was quite roomy. I went down and looked over it, as we had about a day or two before we were to give the nets and the winch a trial run before going out.

I got to work on the engine and soon had brass and copper pipes gleaming. I checked all tools and put them in their correct places. There were four bunks up forehead, but there were only three of us to run the boat and work on it.

The morning before the day we were to have taken the boat out, I went down to the fishing boats to see a couple of my mates. The tide was full and one of my friends suggested we try and get a couple of fish with spear guns. The three of us donned goggles and grabbed spear guns. We were only in the water about 20 minutes swimming under the wharves when I saw a dark shape beneath me, the next thing I heard a voice sing out "get out of the water quick". The shape I had caught sight of was a groper. My friend speared the fish on the side, but the spear harmlessly bounced off the fish. We decided to set a line for the groper, and as we didn't have any big hooks, we tied a couple of hooks of the type used for reef fishing, and baited it with a bonita.

They are good bait for sharks and gropers; we set the line and left one end tied to a 1 gallon tin, just as the tide was turning. There was a bang as the tin hit the water and sped through the water. The groper had struck, so we jumped into a dory and went after it. As we grabbed the line and started to pull it in, the pressure was too much for the hooks as they gave way and we lost the great fish. However, it was caught later on and weighed 280 lb. While net fishing there before I went to the reef, we caught about 6 or 7 gropers using a heavy cord and shark hook. They would average in weight from 250 lb. to 320 lb. On a couple of occasions these catches had made headlines in the daily paper.

The following morning we cruised down the river.

As we came into the open sea a cool breeze was blowing, and my thoughts were of the "X", as anyone who had been aboard that little ship could not forget her as long as they lived.

## FOUR GENERATIONS



**Dawn is happy to present the four generations of a well-known Bega family. Grandma Page (right) is shown with her daughter, Mrs. Pittman, grand-daughter, Pat, and great grand-daughter, Eileen.**



**THREE SMART GIRLS, Annette Murray, of Inverell (below left), Merle Bolt, of Cabbage Tree Island (centre) and Valda Connors (Tingha) are brought together by Dawn. Valda is now doing her nurse's training at New England Hospital at Armidale.**





Hello, Kids,

You will have seen the stories in recent issues of *Dawn* of the success aboriginal boys and girls are having at school all over the State.

These children have worked hard at study at school and at home for many years, and the result is that a big, bright future is opening up for them.

With this in mind, I have been very happy to get letters from children and from some school teachers about the good work being done by the younger ones.

For instance, I had a letter from Janice Mundy, of Collarenebri, who really enjoys her school. She told me her hobbies are singing in Sunday school, and painting in school. And just to make sure, she tells me "we have a nice big school in Collarenebri."

Mr. L. Jones, of the aboriginal school at Woodenbong, has sent me examples of the work of several children there. It was very neat and it is clear a lot of effort and care has gone into it.

Rhonda Close, aged 6½, tells of a visit to Brisbane where she says, "I saw 10 big ships. I saw sailors up on top of the ships. One of the sailors blew the trumpet. It made all of the children stop walking about."

Richard Close, who is nine years old, and is in 3rd class, wrote a short piece of news of Woodenbong. In it he described what he was looking forward to at the local Show.

Narelle Williams (2nd class), Merrick Close (2nd class), and Patrick Miles (aged 6½) also sent little pieces.

All the time I am getting letters from children telling me how happy they are at school and how much they like what they do there in the classroom and at games and in sport.

I do hope that all you boys and girls will stay as happy with school as you are now, so that you will learn a lot and pass all your exams as you get bigger.

I have received a beautifully coloured picture of a donkey, the original of which was published in a recent issue of *Dawn*.

The picture was coloured by William Donovan, aged 13, of Eungai Creek. He did a very good job and selected his colours wisely.

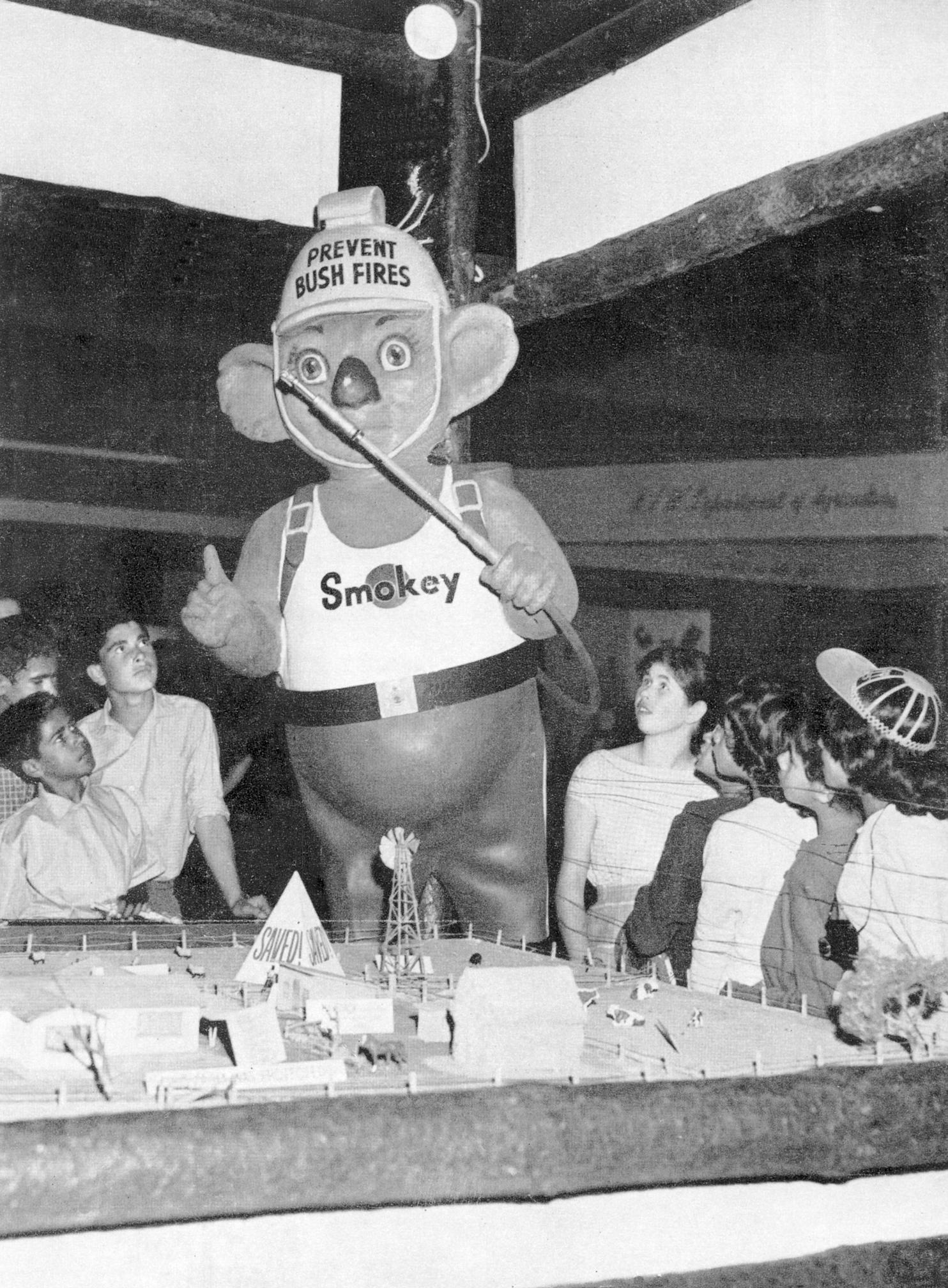
Patsy Ord, who lives at 28 Carnarvon Road, Roseville, a Sydney suburb, would like a pen friend aged 15 or 16. Patsy is keen on swimming, football and rock 'n' roll.



#### MUSTERING

*Drawing by R. D. Martin, of Brisbane*

**Back Cover:**— Pictured with "Smokey", the bush fire fighting bear, at the Royal Easter Show, are some of the 12 children from Jervis Bay who made a one-day trip to Sydney for the event.



PREVENT  
BUSH FIRES

Smokey

SAVED! WIND

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