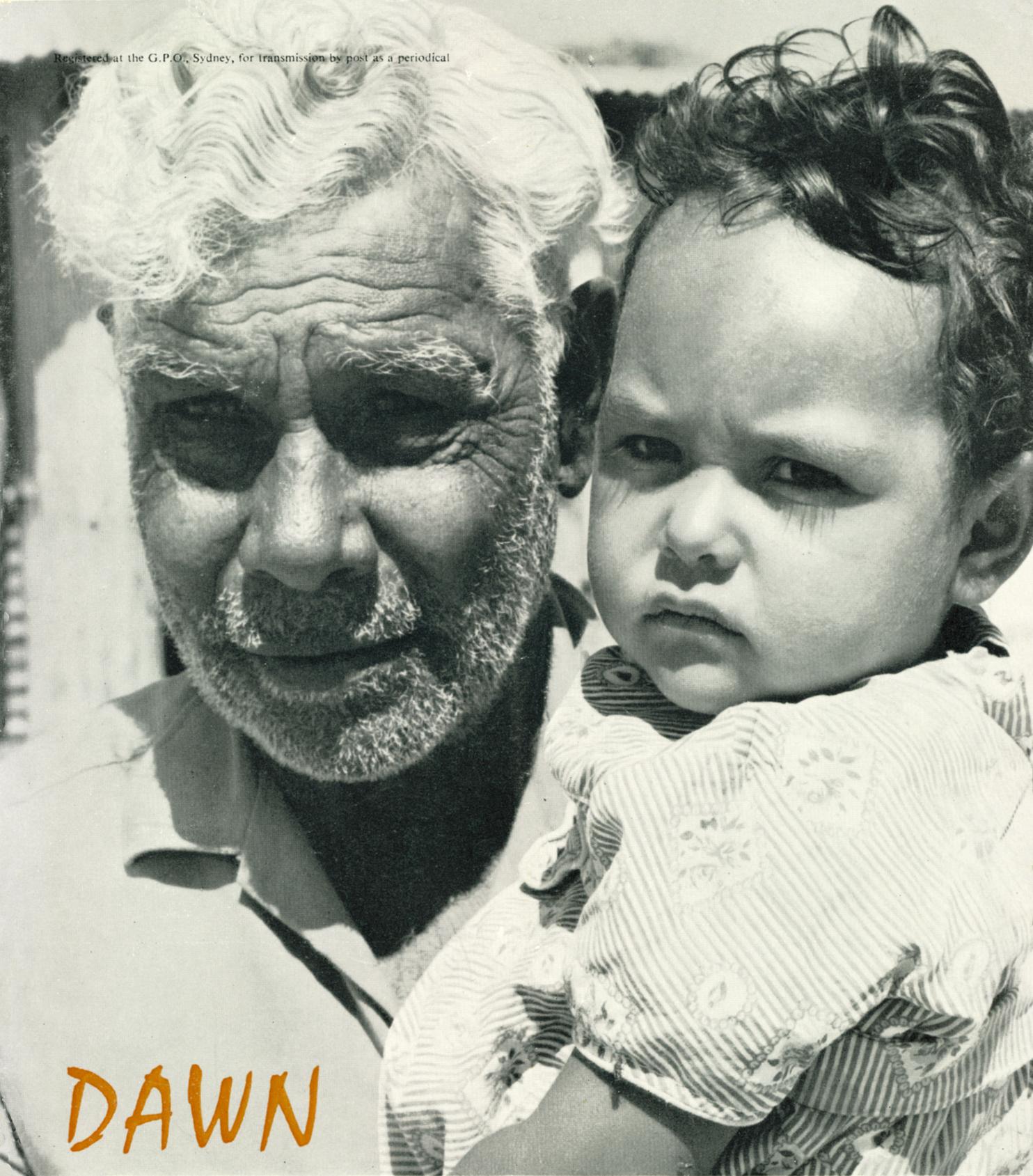


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DAWN

A Magazine for the Aboriginal People of N. S. W.

May, 1965

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE PRODUCED BY THE N.S.W. ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

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OUR COVER

This fine study was taken by a *Woman's Day* photographer during a recent visit to Bourke. Seventy-six year-old Mr. Charlie Phillips is holding his granddaughter. Mr. Phillips has 23 grandchildren.



Mr. E. A. Willis

The New Chief Secretary

Mr. E. A. Willis, who is the new Minister for Labour and Industry, Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourist Activities, has had a rapid rise to fame.

In the 43 years since he was born in a remote village on the far north coast of New South Wales, Mr. Eric Willis has won his way through high school and university, graduated with double honours, served 4½ years in the A.I.F., fifteen years in State Parliament and become a senior ranking cabinet minister.

These achievements did not come easily. In depression years when his father had several periods of unemployment he often worked after school to supplement the family income. He received his primary education at Tyalgum Public School and won a bursary to Murwillumbah High School. He recalls that, if he had not won it, secondary education would have been possible only if his parents had made even greater sacrifices for his sake.

Eric Willis did very well at Murwillumbah High. He finished as Vice-Captain of the School, was always at or near the top of his class, and matriculated with first-class honours in History and Geography. This performance won him a bursary to Sydney University where he graduated as a Bachelor of Arts, before his 20th birthday, again with Honours in History and Geography. In fact, he was dux each year in Geography winning both the Slade Prize and the Caird Scholarship; he also won a W. C. Wentworth Scholarship.

But at High School he had also done well in sport, particularly in tennis and athletics. His junior broad-jumping performance still stands as a school record.

By the time he had finished his studies, Australia was at war, so he went into the army, serving in the second A.I.F. in Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines. He was attached to a variety of units—Infantry, Artillery, Army Education Service and Intelligence Corps.

In the latter he was engaged for some time in topographic intelligence work and was attached to General MacArthur's headquarters assisting to prepare plans for the invasion of the Philippines and Japan; of course, the plans for Japan were never utilized. Although he was discharged from the A.I.F. as a Sergeant—a rank he had held during much of his service—he later enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces, was immediately commissioned and, after nine years service therein, is now on the reserve of the Australian Intelligence Corps with the rank of Major.

His war service and his education in geography proved to be valuable assets in peace time. He joined the Commonwealth Department of Post-War Reconstruction as a geographer in 1946, and in 1947 became a research officer with the Cumberland County Council. In his 3 years with this body he was engaged in the compilation of data which formed the basis of the Council's master plan for the County of Cumberland.

During this period Mr. Willis also embarked on a B.Ec. degree course, but after completing half of it, withdrew because of his growing interest in politics.

The newly-formed Liberal Party, which he joined when it was first formed and when he was still wearing "jungle greens", selected him in 1949 as its candidate for the Federal seat of Lang—a Labor stronghold. He considerably reduced the Labor majority and was then given a chance in 1950 in Earlwood—a new State seat created that year.

Mr. Willis won the seat with a good majority to become at the age of 28 the "baby" of the House. He has held it ever since; on 1st May, 1965, he was re-elected with a majority of 4,613—his biggest majority to date.

Mr. Willis has taken a keen interest in the development of his electorate and in local organisations such as Ex-Servicemen's, charities, youth and sporting bodies. He is either Patron or Vice-President of about two dozen organisations in Earlwood Electorate.

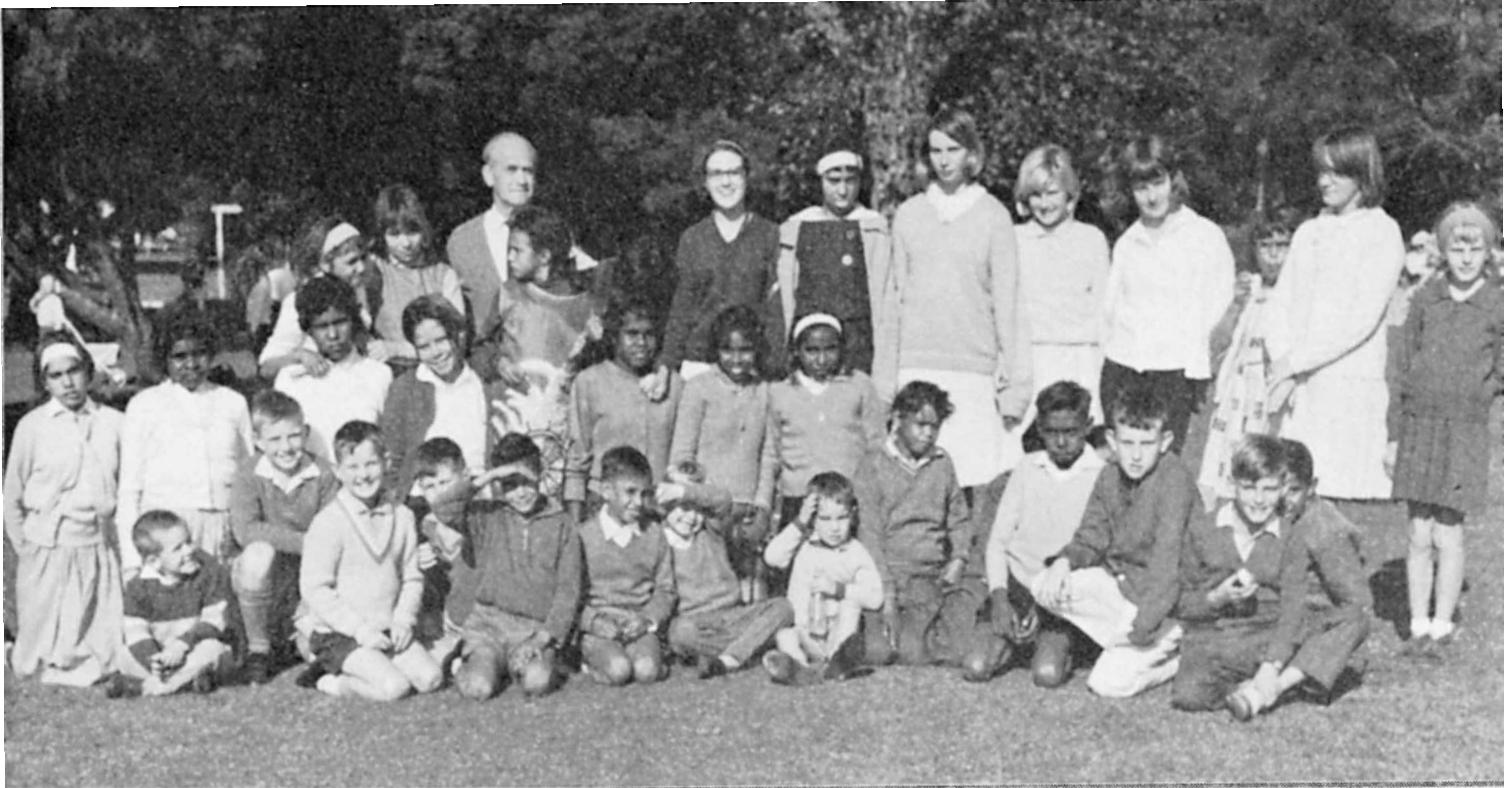
Mr. Willis lives at Bardwell Park in his electorate with his wife, Norma, a son who recently left school, a daughter attending St. George Girls' High School, and a younger son at Earlwood Primary School. His wife is a well-known worker for the Liberal Party and a number of local charities.

In Parliament, Mr. Willis has shown an interest in a variety of subjects. He has often led his party in debate, particularly on industrial and local government matters but also on health, education and matters coming within the jurisdiction of the Chief Secretary's Department.

For some years he has been Chairman of the Liberal Party's Industrial and Local Government policy committees. He is also a member of the New South Wales Liberal Party's State Council, its State Executive and its Joint Standing Committee on State Policy.

His efforts in this work won for him the recognition of his parliamentary colleagues, who in 1959, elected him Deputy Leader when Mr. Askin was chosen as leader. He was then only 37 years old—one of the youngest men ever to be elected Deputy Leader of a major political party. Two years later he was chosen as his party's representative in an all-party delegation which toured the world.

Until he became a Minister in the Liberal-Country Party Government on 13th May, 1965, Mr. Willis was for almost 10 years Secretary of the Fibrous Plaster Association, a trade association concerned with promoting that industry. He handled its industrial problems and public relations, organised its technical research, edited its publications and arranged its meetings.



The Weilmoringle children, with the children of their hosts, after their picnic lunch in the Sydney Botanic Gardens. Also in the group is Mr. H. R. Woolley, a Lion who organised the visit

WEILMORINGLE CHILDREN SEE CITY SIGHTS

Twenty-one Aboriginal children from Weilmoringle Station, about 180 miles west of Bourke, know all about Lions now.

They know the lions they saw in a visit to the Taronga Park Zoo, and the Lions Club members who gave them temporary homes during a memorable nine-day visit to Sydney.

Only a few of the children had been off the station before, and none of them had ridden in a train or seen a large town.

It was an excited group of children that arrived by the Bourke Mail at 6.30 a.m. one Saturday morning. That afternoon they attended a mayoral tea party in the Manly mayoral chambers, arranged by their hosts, the Balgowlah Lions Club.

Then followed a crowded stay in the city. On the Sunday the children went to All Saints Church, Balgowlah, and the next day Balgowlah Ladies' Bowling Club took them over for visits to local beaches and beauty spots. Tuesday was a free day, which the children spent with their host families.

Wednesday was a big day in the programme. There was a trip to the Museum, the Botanical Gardens, and then to the top of the A.M.P. building. The children had a picnic lunch in the gardens. There were more outings on Thursday and Friday.

Saturday started with a look at the northern suburbs sports, then the children were taken on visits to the Manly amusement pier, and to T.V. Channel 9.

Sunday night was departure home time, but during their last day in the city the children crammed in some more excitement, with a ride on the Manly ferry.

The eight boys and thirteen girls between 9 and 14, voted the visit the highlight of their lives.



Three straws and one bottle. From left: Allan Hooper, Pat Dixon and Edward Barker help finish up one of the last bottles of soft drink

It's lunch time at Sydney's Botanical Gardens, and visiting children from Weilmoringle join with the children of their hosts, the Balgowlah Lions Club, in sharing in the good things the ladies packed for them



Conference on Aboriginal

Education Held In Sydney

Important statements concerning hopes for the future were made by leading figures at a public conference on Aboriginal Education in New South Wales, in the Wallace Theatre, University of Sydney, recently.

The conference, which was organised by the Consultative Committee on Aboriginal Education and the Department of Adult Education, was officially opened by the Chief Secretary, Mr. E. A. Willis.

Other speakers during the opening ceremony included Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, Under Secretary to the Chief Secretary and chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, and Mr. V. J. Truskett, Assistant Director-General of Education.

Mr. Willis told those present:

“It is basic to our approach to the assimilation of Aborigines that they are equal before the law with white people, having the same rights and privileges and the same obligations that are implied in modern community living.

“Much has been done to improve the conditions under which Aborigines live in this State and representatives of the Aborigines Welfare Board present at this conference undoubtedly will set out in detail some of the progress made in this field.

“Although legal equality exists in New South Wales, it is unfortunately a fact that some extra assistance has to be made available for many Aborigines here to ensure that they will have every possible encouragement and incentive to seek higher education and living standards.

“Extra bursaries, extra subsidies for school transport, assistance with textbooks and uniforms—these are the kinds of special aid by which it is sought to give some material encouragement to Aborigines.

“In addition, the enlarged staff of trained welfare officers under the Aborigines Welfare Board gives intensive assistance, guidance and support in the home,” Mr. Willis said.

“No one can expect children whether they be Aboriginal or white to have much chance of successful study if their home environment is poor or sub-standard.

“Nor can children have much chance of staying long at school if there are severe pressures on them to abandon school altogether to take what amount to dead-end jobs to help out with the family budget.

“The extensive programme of the Aborigines Welfare Board on housing, Education and social work is directed to bringing about improvements where necessary, so

that Aboriginal families will be enabled to take the fullest advantage of the wide educational opportunities that are offering for all our people.

“While success in this effort cannot be expected with the speed that we would all desire, it is important for a number of reasons that every means at our disposal should be employed to maintain and even increase the impetus of our progress.

“For generations the positions of Aborigines in Australia has been a matter of concern largely only for Australians.

“With the arrival on the world scene of the new nations from Asia and Africa a new scrutiny has been turned on to the conditions of Aborigines in Australia.

“This has been further complicated by misrepresentations and distortion from sheer political motives of the positions of Governments and of the people of Australia in their assistance to and treatment of Aborigines on the road to full citizenship.

“Our achievements will stand up to any genuine examination, but the best will in the world will not stop deliberate distortions nor must it be the mainspring of our policies that certain things should be done merely to appease world opinion.

“This has not been the impelling force behind the policies of Australian Governments which have acted so far and will continue to act because they appreciate their responsibilities to a large, special group of citizens.

“This Government’s policy is by education, encouragement and deed to aim at the provision of the proper material advantages and the development of the ideal social atmosphere so that all Aborigines in New South Wales will be enabled to practise the undoubted legal equality they enjoy.

“This is a complex social task which confronts the Government and the community itself in equal measure,” Mr. Willis said.

“No solution lies in suggestions that responsibility for Aborigines should become a Commonwealth matter alone and that the States should withdraw from the field.

“Problems of development and assimilation of Aborigines vary widely throughout Australia from the organised tribal group through the various stages of detribalisation to the degree of urbanisation already existing in New South Wales.

“The fields generally in which Governments can act to improve conditions for Aborigines are peculiarly within the jurisdiction of the States.

“ Taking into account the great difference in conditions in various parts of Australia and the consequent varying methods of approach, no good purpose would be served by bringing into existence a centralised national responsibility.

“ This matter has already been discussed by the Commonwealth and the States at the Aboriginal Welfare Conference in Darwin in 1963 when the Ministers agreed after discussions that it would not be in the best interests of the Aboriginal people to have uniform Commonwealth legislation or uniform administration.

“ Much valuable assistance is being given by various community organisations in our work.

“ The initiative of the Consultative Committee on Aboriginal Education and the Department of Adult Education in the matter are welcome and deserving of the highest commendation.

“ There is no doubt that much of value in our task will emerge from the papers and the discussions at the conference,” Mr. Willis said.

Mr. Kingsmill said:

“ I think if a sound judgment is to be made on the condition of Aboriginal education in this State, you should be aware of what my Board is doing, not only in sponsoring a programme of adult education but in providing housing and other amenities for improving standards of living, health and hygiene generally.

“ These material aids, I submit, Mr. Chairman, are all part of the educational project.

“ A recital of these will not be out of place especially as the work of the Board is often taken for granted.

“ In the past four years houses to the value of £550,000 have been constructed or are in the process of construction or are about to be commenced.

Added to that, a contract for £92,000 is about to be let at one country centre and tenders called for another centre for a project costing £100,000.

“ Coupled with this the Board is making loans up to £3,500 to approved Aborigines who have a block of land or a deposit of £50 for homebuilding or purchase.

“ Over the same period, repairs and maintenance and provision of services such as electricity, water and sanitation are of the order of a quarter of a million pounds.

“ The closing of schools is being speeded up and in the past five years five Aboriginal schools have been shut down, in accordance with the policy of the Education Department and the Board.

“ The Board has for some time been relieving parents of children on Stations and Reserves of the cost of transport over and above the amount paid by the Education Department to enable them to attend High Schools and the last year of primary school in the nearest town.

“ Since then it has decided to extend for three years this assistance to all parents of children on Stations and Reserves and it is hoped that this will accelerate the closing of Aboriginal schools.

“ The Board is also assisting the Save the Children Fund in establishing pre-school centres and already four have been opened at Coffs Harbour, Armidale, Griffith and Kempsey.

“ Bursaries have been granted on a generous scale and now carry the same rates as those awarded by the Education Department.

“ The Board’s policy is assimilation in the terms and according to the definition of the Commonwealth and State Ministers’ Conference on Aborigines Welfare at Darwin in 1963, and once again so that we may all understand the things we are talking about, it is worth stating:—

“ The policy of assimilation means that all Aborigines and part-Aborigines will attain in the same manner of living as other Australians and live as members of a single Australian community enjoying the same rights and privileges, accepting the same responsibilities, observing the same customs and influenced by the same beliefs, hopes and loyalties as other Australians. Any special measures taken for Aborigines and part-Aborigines are regarded as temporary measures, not based on race, but intended to meet their need for special care and assistance to protect them from any ill-effects of sudden change and to assist them to make the transition from one stage to another in such a way as will be favourable to their social, economic and political advancement”, Mr. Kingsmill said.

“ The Board’s method of implementing this policy is to give to Aboriginal people the opportunity of living according to normally accepted standards of the community around them from which at present they are partly isolated.

“ It is doing this in the manner I have indicated, together with welfare guidance by a team of officers led by a Senior Welfare Officer with the best qualifications.

“ On the one large Reserve at Cumerroogunga where a small group of Aborigines are living on the Murray River; the Board has agreed to make the Reserve available for agricultural or grazing pursuits to a Company with a Board of Aboriginal Directors.

“ The Board is not attracted towards the concept of creating artificial situations based on agriculture or other pursuits under which attempts would be made to have them living to themselves as a unit.

“ There are few Reserves in New South Wales of sufficient size to provide even one family with a reasonably full-time livelihood.

“ In a State such as New South Wales it is inevitable that the Aborigine must be caught up in the tide of humanity and whether he sinks or swims depends very much on education.

“ The Board wishes to see that he has opportunities to become equipped physically and mentally to the degree necessary to enable him to compete and to live with dignity in this community,” Mr. Kingsmill said.

"It is the hope of the Board that, in good houses with electric light, proper sanitation and normal living, young people will, in the natural processes, be encouraged to study and fit themselves at least to the same extent as other young people in the community around them.

"Although these aids to normal living are so important we must avoid over-simplification and remember that inherent in the problem of educating the Aborigine is the factor of different attitudes.

"Children are receiving educational opportunities which were simply not enjoyed by their parents. So a child coming to the crucial Intermediate stage or faced with going on to his Leaving is met with the parental attitude that good money can be earned at pea picking or other unskilled work.

"It is not that there is lack of responsibility so much as lack of any personal experience.

"Only recently 10 apprentices at Port Kembla gave up their apprenticeships and returned to their districts attracted by the temporary lure of higher wages.

"The conditions were most favourable—opportunity for fellowship, a community favourably disposed, close welfare interest, and a special interest by the personnel section of a large Port Kembla company.

"So there is need also for social education of the adults which involves leading them to an appreciation of the value of opportunities which were never part of their own experience.

"I have had some figures taken out in relation to rents," Mr. Kingsmill said.

"Of 534 tenants, only 60 are up-to-date with their rent.

"During the year ended 30th June, 1964, only 57.5 per cent. of rentals were paid but in the period represented by the first six months of the following year, the percentage had risen to 69.6.

"This is felt to be due to the emphasis placed by the Board and its officers on obligation and improved response by the people.

"The Board has resisted attempts to have it build new homes in places remote from schools and other amenities so necessary to the process of assimilation. It has gone as a Board to country centres and discussed such things with Councils.

"The Board knows that there are some places in New South Wales where attitudes are not as sympathetic as others.

"But we cannot hope to bludgeon or coerce communities which have been conditioned by years of custom or even prejudice into accepting the Aboriginal people overnight.

"Neither can the Aborigine be forced into any similar shot-gun relationship.

"I suggest, that these changes will come in good time and perhaps sooner than some of us may expect when it is seen that Aborigines are being given

opportunities for decent living in conventional homes with normal amenities and are responding to the wider educational opportunities.

"May I just read to you a letter which has been written by Mr. W. (Billo) Laurie of Yamba to the *Daily Examiner* in Grafton which emphasises this aspect;

"Speaking on behalf of the Angourie Aborigines, through your paper, we thank all people who have supplied our needs. The furniture they supplied us has made us very comfortable, and we appreciate it all very much. Also we thank Mr. W. Weiley for the help he has given us and the interest he has taken in us.

"Also the Aborigines Welfare Board for the homes built, which we all like very much.

"Also our man, the Rev. S. Gaden, for all the marvellous work he has done for us.

"To all the people who have given us so much to make our homes comfortable, we thank and will never forget.

"We also thank Mr. and Mrs. Francis Plater for all the help they have given us.

"From the Angourie people who now have their new cottages at Pippi Beach, Yamba, we thank you."

Mr. Kingsmill concluded:—

"I wish the conference success. Our eyes and ears will be open for ideas and suggestions which may help us. So we do not come here with closed minds, but as co-operators and collaborators in an undertaking of the greatest social and national importance."

Mr. Truskett said:

"At the outset of my brief remarks concerning aboriginal children in our Departmental schools, I must make it quite clear that, in association with the Aborigines Welfare Board my Department has for many years now been working towards the abolition of Aboriginal schools and the assimilation of their pupils in our normal school stream.

"It is of interest to note that in 1948 there were 32 Aboriginal schools with an enrolment of 1,030 pupils whilst this year there are 15 schools with a total enrolment of 675.

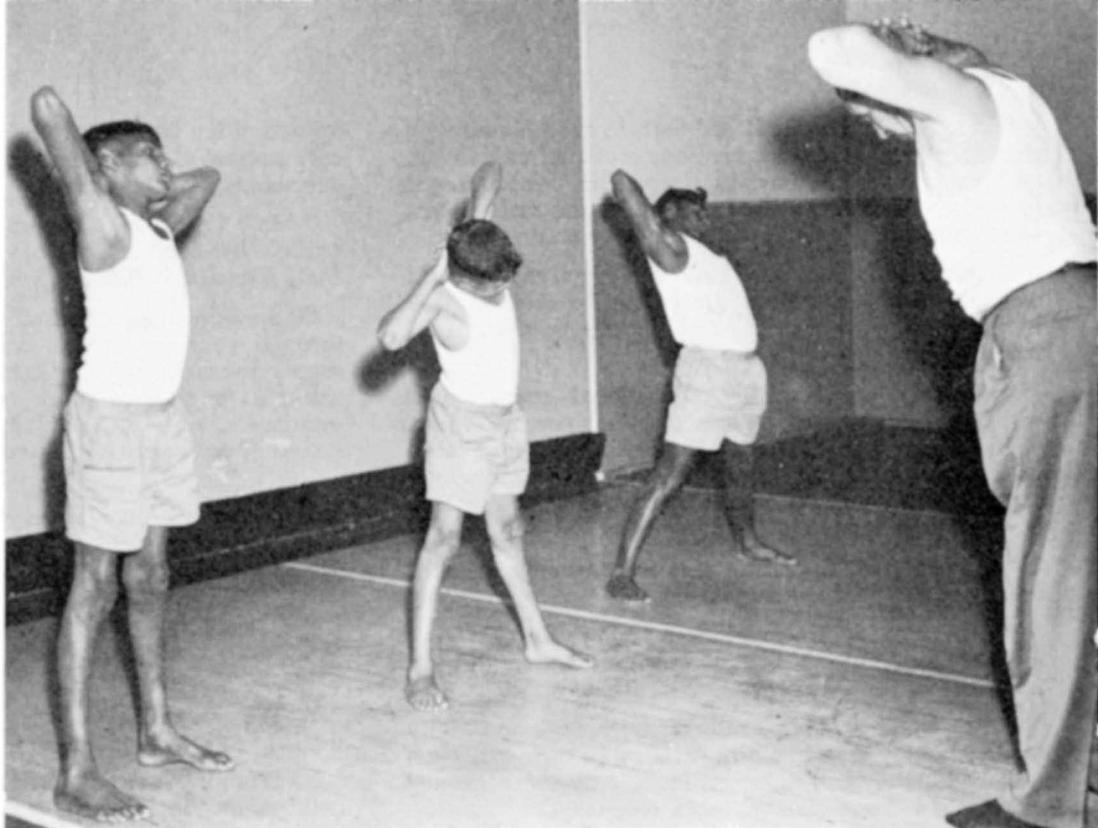
"Apart from closure of schools over the intervening years since 1948 the policy of gradual absorption of secondary pupils in nearby high schools has been effected.

"Principals of High Schools and officers of this Department have made strenuous efforts to see that the secondary Aboriginal children are made to feel welcome and to assist them in their personal and social problems. We would be the first to admit, however, that the wastage at the secondary level has been disheartening.

"The Directors of our administrative areas and their district inspectors have made every effort in conjunction with the Aborigines Welfare Board and the principals of the schools to encourage the Aboriginal children to take full advantage of the courses available to them.

Continued on page 16

The boys go through their exercises at Paddington



Below: A hard right from the champion. Gus Bates in action at the punching bag, held by Mr. Purvis

KINCHELA BOY WINS BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP





Training at the Police Boys' Club

Below: William Leslie puts everything into his training at the Paddington Police Boys' Club

Kinchela boys are making names for themselves in the amateur boxing world.

Three of them fought in the recent N.S.W. Amateur boxing tournament held in Sydney.

Gus Bates became N.S.W. champion in the 5 st. 7 lb. division.

William Leslie was runner up in the 7 st. division.

Desmond Simon was a semi-finalist in the 5 st. division.

"I'm very proud of them", said their trainer, Mr. W. J. Purvis, of Kinchela.

The championships, under the control of the New South Wales Amateur Boxing Association, were held in the N.S.W. Buffalo Club, Regent Street.

The Kinchela boys had fine work-out facilities at the Police Boys' Club at Paddington.

The three boys, with other promising young fighters from Kinchela have made good showings at country boxing tournaments.





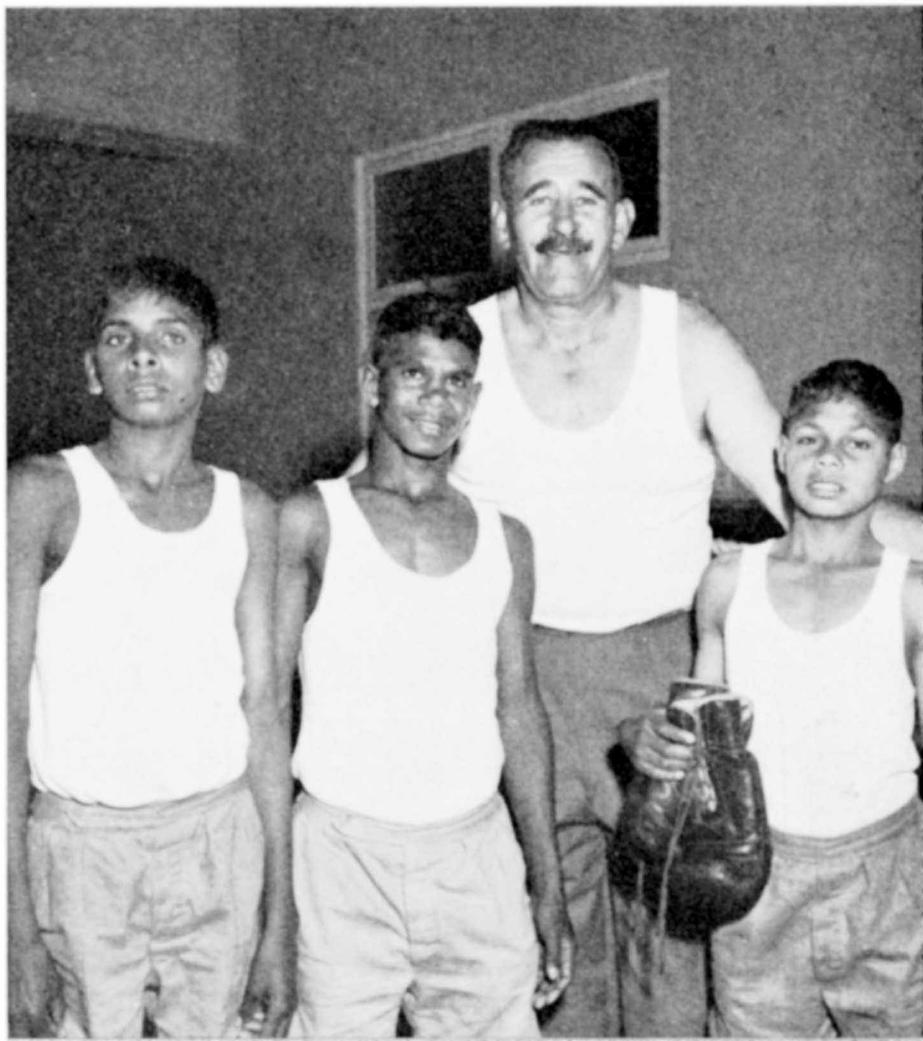
Sparring at the Paddington Police Boys' Club. Gus Bates, left, and William Leslie

At Singleton on May 1, wins were recorded by Desmond Simon, Richmond Murray, Gus Bates, Tom Clayton, William Leslie and Matty Perry. Robert Peters was defeated.

The *Singleton Argus* said the Kinchela boys were the most successful during the night.

Later that month, at Maitland, victories were recorded by Doug. Russell, Matty Perry, Tom Clayton, Dennis Johnson and Desmond Simon. Gus Bates was also a winner, defeating the N.S.W. champion and the Police Boys Clubs' champion. That night William Leslie, Peter Knight and Richard Murray lost on points.

The three Kinchela boys who fought in Sydney. From left: William Leslie, Douglas Gus Bates and Desmond Simon. With them is their trainer, Mr. W. J. Purvis



He is an Expert with a Boomerang

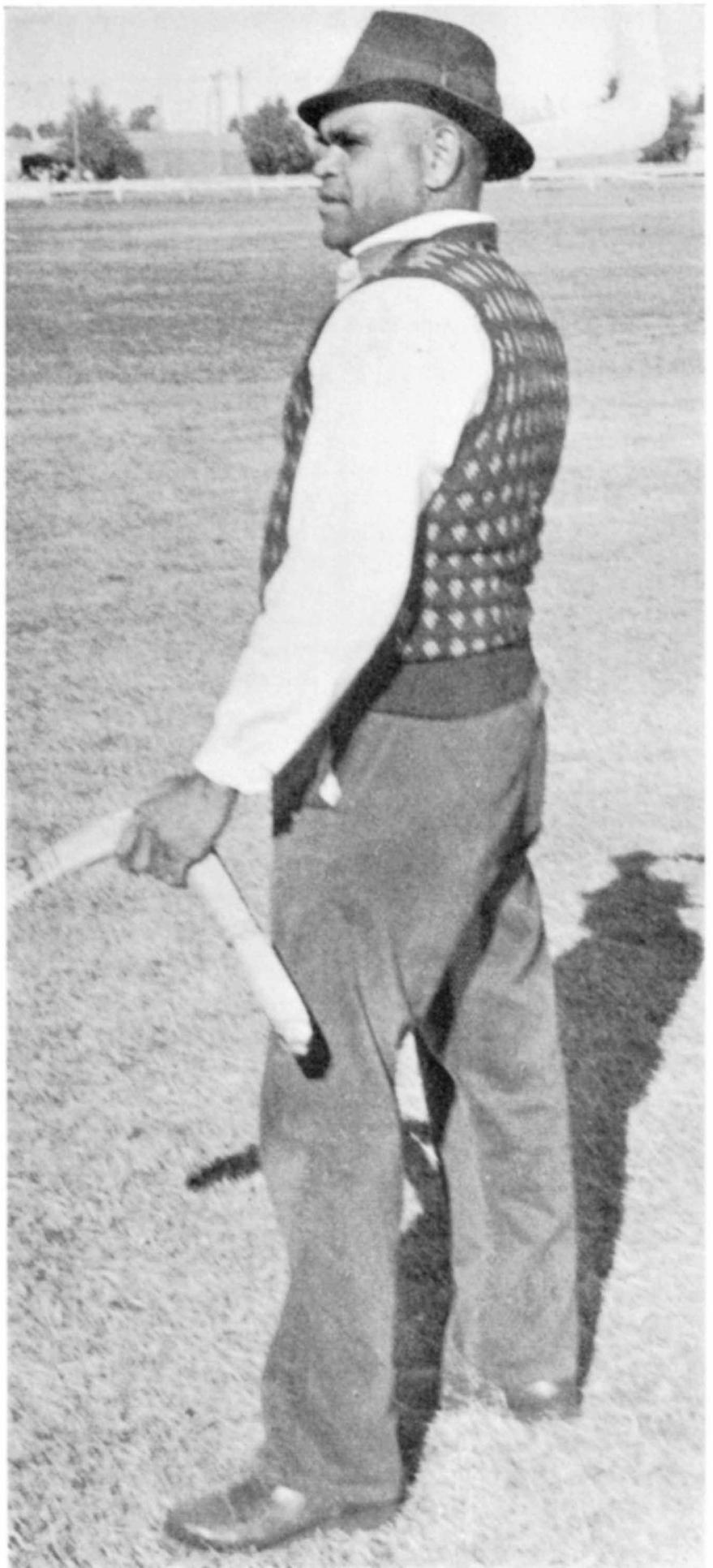
Here's a man whose boomerang always comes back.

Mr. Fred Powell, of Peak Hill, is pictured by the *Dubbo Liberal* during an exhibition of boomerang throwing which he gave at the annual Dubbo Show.

Mr. Powell's skill with a boomerang is becoming well known. He entertained a group of American tourists on a "Jolly Swagman" tour last year, and he also appeared at Bathurst in last year's Festival of Fun.

His daughter, Joan, was a member of the Western Districts swimming team.

DAWN, May, 1965



BLIND ABORIGINE IS WELL KNOWN NOW

Percy Bamblett, of Gilgandra, the blind Aborigine with a "seeing eye dog", Ivy, is becoming a familiar sight to Gilgandra people.

Prior to receiving Ivy he was practically unknown to most people, but this has changed since he and his dog returned from Melbourne and his family moved into a new weatherboard home.

He has now another claim to fame. At the last Gilgandra Show he entered five samples of his cane work in the handicraft section and he received the following awards:—

Cane shopping basket, 1 and 2; best tray, 1; basket with woven base, 1; thermos or bottle-holder, 1.

He has been encouraged in this work by two local citizens, Mesdames Enid Macdonald and Marie Franke.

Future intentions are for a small workshop to be built for Percy to enable him to expand his activities, for orders are now coming in for his work. An exercise yard is also needed for Ivy. This work will be carried out by local service groups, following assistance of Gilgandra townfolk.

Says Mr. H. S. Kitching, area welfare officer for the Aborigines Welfare Board: "This is an example of the co-operation and assistance that is always available if the recipient is willing to try and overcome disabilities. Too many are content to bemoan their fate and carry the proverbial "chip on the shoulder", yet here is a young man who, when given the opportunity, has accepted it and is proving that he too can become a useful member of the community."

COTTAGE FOR WIDOW

The Tumut R.S.L. has handed over a new, fully furnished cottage to Mrs. Minnie Freeman, widow of an Aboriginal ex-serviceman.

Through the co-operation of R.S.L. members, tradesmen, mills and business houses, the cottage on the Brungle Aboriginal Reserve cost only about £200, although it is valued at £1,500.

Members of the Tumut sub-branch held working bees for nearly eight months to help the family.

In addition, there were many donations.

Mrs. Freeman's husband, Ernest Joseph Freeman, enlisted in the A.I.F. in 1941. He was discharged three years later on medical grounds and died in 1963.

Mrs. Freeman has a 16 year-old daughter and an 11 year-old son.

"The sub-branch has undertaken to keep an eye on the boy, who has been showing promise at school," an R.S.L. official said.

PLASTIC BAGS ARE NOT PLAYTHINGS

"... some three million plastic bags enter Australian homes each day, or more than 1,000,000,000 plastic bags every year. But remember to keep them out of the reach of children".

Above is an extract from a safety brochure released by the Plastics Institute of Australia, and the N.S.W. Department of Public Health requests parents to take particular notice of those last ten words;

BUT REMEMBER TO KEEP THEM OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.

Fatal accidents, due to smothering by plastic materials, can be caused in a number of ways warns the Department.

- a piece of plastic, such as a plastic bib, being placed over or in the mouth;
- a plastic bag being pulled over the head;
- the turning of a baby's head downwards on a soft plastic pillow.

The thin plastic coming into contact with the face often clings to the lips, which are moist, and so leads to suffocation. Plastic bags keep food fresh for children, clothes clean in the cupboard, and keep hygienic many of the things you buy—from food to mattresses and pillows. They provide protection against germs and dirt in the kitchen, bathroom, wardrobes, medicine and linen cupboards—BUT they must not be left where children play, and particularly not in young children's bedrooms. Older children should also be warned not to use plastic bags as playthings, particularly when there are younger brothers and sisters in the home.

Precautions:

- Never let children play with plastic bags.
- Never leave plastic bags on pillows or mattresses.
- Keep plastic bags out of reach of children—or destroy them by promptly tearing or knotting.

(Contributed by the N.S.W. Department of Public Health)



HARMONY AT BOURKE

“Harmony in Black and White” was how the *Woman’s Day* magazine headed a picture story of a visit to Bourke.

One of the pictures from the series is our front cover.

The other two pictures show a happy group of children from the Bourke school, and an elderly Bourke resident talking to two young mothers.

The Aborigines Welfare Board has built 10 homes at Bourke at a cost of £33,000.



MANY ABORIGINAL ARTISTS FOR N.A.D.O.C. FUNCTIONS

National Aborigines' Day this year will see impressive programmes of Aboriginal talent both at the actual ceremony in Martin Place, and at associated functions in the city.

This year, National Aborigines' Day will be observed on Friday, July 9.

Aboriginal artists will present musical items during the ceremony in Martin Place.

On the previous evening, there will be a big popular concert by Aborigines at the Paddington Town Hall with entrance at specially low prices so that families will be encouraged to go along together. There will probably be 20 or 30 performers.

Speakers at the Martin Place ceremony on July 9 will include the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Ald. Jensen, Miss Joyce Mercy representing N.A.D.O.C., Mr. J. Hamilton, representing O.P.A.L., in Queensland, Mrs. Kath Walker, the well-known Aboriginal poet, Mrs. Edna Roper M.L.C. and Mr. Charles Perkins.

A feature of the ceremony will be the presentation of awards to winners of the N.A.D.O.C. competitions.

Prizes will be presented by the Vice-President of the Rural Bank, Mr. E. Carroll, and by Mr. A. Duncan, of the Consultative Committee on Aboriginal Education.

The ceremony will take place in the presence of the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Eric Woodward.

A team of footballers from Moree school will be in Sydney for the occasion.

At the ceremony, they will form a guard of honour to Sir Eric.

The Moree children will have had breakfast at the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, and then will be entertained to morning tea at St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Street.

In the afternoon, the children will meet a team from Cromer Public School, Dee Why, at football.

In the evening of July 9, Mrs. Kath Walker will speak at an "open house" meeting at the Foundation.

. . . AND THE SUCCESS OF TWO

Two Aboriginal artists have made great strides since they were given an initial helping hand some years ago by the National Aborigines' Day Observance Committee.

They are mezzo-soprano, Lorna Beulah, formerly of Alice Springs, and well-known entertainer, Col Hardy, who originally came from Brewarrina.

Miss Beulah, whose married name is Mrs. Oliphant, and who lives at Toongabbie, near Sydney, won the 1963 N.A.D.O.C. talent quest.

She and Col Hardy sent recording tapes to Sydney. Their artistry was immediately recognised by N.A.D.O.C. officials who brought them to Sydney and set them on their way to their present success.

Miss Beulah is studying at the Sydney Conservatorium by courtesy of Sir Bernard Heinze.

She has passed her audition for the Australian Broadcasting Commission, and will give a concert over the A.B.C. radio at 9.45 p.m. on the evening of July 9, National Aborigines' Day.

Miss Beulah has already appeared on Bobby Limb's highly rated T.V. musical show, "Sound of Music".

Col Hardy's success story already is well-known.

However it has taken a new turn. Col Hardy has just moved into his own home at Kogarah. He is buying the home through one of our banks.

Col lived for most of his four years in Sydney, with Mrs. L. H. Cocks, of Bexley and her husband. Mrs. Cocks is one of the most active figures of N.A.D.O.C.



Above: Lorna Beulah discusses the music for her "Sound of Music" appearance with Bobby Limb and the show's producer

Right: Colin Hardy with his baby son Stephen Gregory, pictured outside his new home at Kogarah



CONFERENCE ON ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

(Continued from page 7)

"Of the recent movements in assimilation at the primary level, two interesting projects have taken place," Mr. Truskett said.

"In the Kempsey district, the pupils from Kinchela Boys' Home all attend West Kempsey Public School as do the 4th, 5th and 6th Grade pupils from Greenhill. The Aborigines Welfare Board meets the parents' contribution on the buses subsidised by the Department of Education. In addition the 4th, 5th and 6th Grade pupils from Burnt Bridge (20) attend Kempsey East Public School. The infant groups at present will remain at their home schools and special care will be exercised in training and preparation to travel to the Kempsey Schools when they reach Grade 3.

"The ultimate aim is to transfer all children but we feel that, for the time being the infant sections should remain where they are.

"There are, in all, 45 secondary Aboriginal pupils travelling to Kempsey High School from the surrounding schools.

"The Kempsey project is, we feel, proving successful as the local parents and staff are doing their best to make the children feel at home. A problem to overcome is the tendency of the Aboriginal children to gather in groups during recess periods.

"In the southern area of the State, Roseby Park School (28 pupils) has been closed and the children conveyed to Nowra Public School. Wallaga Lake (22 pupils) closed and the pupils conveyed to Bermagui Public School, whilst the Wreck Bay School (39) has recently been absorbed at the Jervis Bay Public School with the co-operation of the Department of the Interior and the willing assistance of the Jervis Bay people.

"Russell Vale Public School has for some years, prior to the closure of the schools just mentioned, maintained a programme of inter-school visits with the Aboriginal schools with special emphasis during the week in which National Aborigines Day falls.

"The pastoral care exercised at Nowra High School has involved various service organisations as well as the parents and staff of the school and creditable results have ensured.

"In the southern area there is a measure of local pride and satisfaction in the disappearance of the segregated schools.

"In the western area there are still problems to be overcome. The Condobolin position should soon be met as, in our view, there has never been a logical reason why these children should not walk to the nearby public school. I make no apologies for an insistence that from the point of view of transport the same conditions should apply to Aboriginal children as apply to white children.

"The Nanima people had the opportunity to be absorbed into Wellington but elected otherwise. But it must always be remembered that assimilation is a two-way process and can only be successful if both parties are agreeable and co-operative.

"The Brewarrina situation will be solved when the station is moved but at present local conditions have precluded closure and transfer.

"Moree presents our major problem of transfer because of the numbers involved.

"The whole attitude to assimilation throughout the West-North West is changing. Our main difficulty at present in Moree is the need to provide sufficient accommodation to meet the requirements of the whole community. The secondary Aboriginal children have already been provided for and it is hoped that gradual assimilation at the primary level will ultimately be effected," Mr. Truskett said.

"In the south western area, Cummeragunja (on the Victorian Border) is the only Aboriginal school remaining (22 pupils). With the closure of Moonacullah Station and the building of new houses in Deniliquin by the A.W.B. the children have been absorbed quite naturally in Deniliquin South Public School.

"My Department has recognised the difficulties of obtaining special equipment for Aboriginal schools and for some years approximately £3 per head of enrolment has been made available to provide amenities which P. & C. Associations usually provide.

"I should like to state the close association we enjoy with the A.W.B. in meeting the needs of Aboriginal children and to reiterate that our Directors, Inspectors, Supervisors and the staffs of schools are all concerned with meeting the challenge of doing what we can to ensure the educational and social growth of these children.

"We believe, indeed we know, that the curricula at both primary and secondary levels meet the needs of Aboriginal children—as they meet the needs of other children. We feel that the problem is still mainly social and you can be assured that we shall continue to play our part in meeting the challenge with increasing success in the years ahead.

"You are doubtless aware that we have provided the services of Mr. Duncan and are meeting his salary for his work in the Adult Aboriginal Education programme and will continue to co-operate with the University of Sydney and the Aborigines Welfare Board until a programme is determined following these pilot years.

"May I wish this conference every success and trust that the participants will work as a team in "facing our task". May I hope also that as a result of our Adult Education activities more and more Aborigines will participate in the general programme. Particularly do Aboriginal children need the firm, sympathetic backing of their parents and friends in meeting the challenge of filling a full life in the Australian community," Mr. Truskett said.

PETE'S

PAGE

Dear Kids,

Well, you wanderers from Weilmoringle, what did you think of the big city?

I hope that after your wonderful holiday you went back to school with fresh ideas, and a new determination to learn all you can.

We had a look at you when you went to the Botanical Gardens for lunch that day. What a giggly lot you were, too, when we tried to aim a camera at you. It was nearly as bad as trying to rope in a bunch of puppies to have their photographs taken.

Who IS that girl in our big group picture who insisted on hanging her head? Never mind. It was lots of fun, wasn't it?

Many of you made good friends with the children with whom you were staying. We hope that you won't forget these friends, and that you will write to them sometimes, and tell them how you are faring. No doubt some of you will return to Sydney some day, perhaps to work. There are opportunities for you in Sydney, and in your own country areas, as long as you do everything you can to improve yourselves at school.

Now let's see. Who are all you people who came from Weilmoringle?

Five of our young visitors from Weilmoringle rest on the lawns of the Botanical Gardens



DAWN, February, 1965

We'll try to get you all right—Perhaps we had better put Essina Shillingsworth first, because at 14, she was the oldest of your group. Then there were Gwen West, Frieda King, Valerie Orcher, Brenda Dixon, Dawn Howlett, Kathy Howlett, Edith Morris, Lorretta Carroll, Gloria Winters, Gwen Elwood, Lois Mackay, Sonny Orcher, Roy Barker, Eddie Barker, Alan Hooper, Peter Orcher, Denis Francis, Denis Johnson, Malcolm Shillingsworth and Pat Dixon.

We are sure you all appreciate the action of the Balgowlah Lions Club in inviting you down for this wonderful holiday.

We hope that the success of this Lions Club venture will encourage other such organisations to bring country children to the city.

Perhaps some of you other children who read this page will be able to visit the city one day soon. I hope so.

Cheerio for now kids,

See you next month.

Pete

Chris Eccles, left, a Sydney lad, shows Sydney's newest skyscraper to Peter Orcher, one of the boys from Weilmoringle.

