



Dawn



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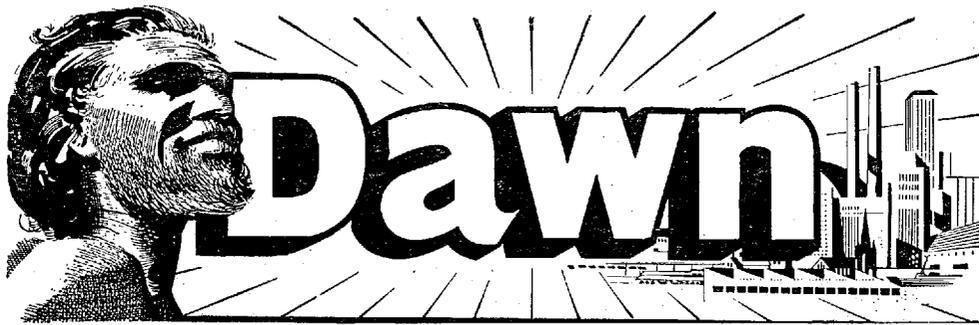


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A MAGAZINE FOR THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF N.S.W.

NOVEMBER, 1957





Our Cover . . .

Our Cover photograph this month is of IRWIN LEWIS studying the orientation handbook at the commencement of Orientation Week at the University of W.A., in March, 1957. Irwin had the unique experience of being the first Aboriginal student to attend the University, having gained two scholarships—a Commonwealth Award and one from the National Union of Australian University Students.

Irwin Lewis was born on the 21st April, 1939, at Morowa, a country town some 250 miles north of Perth. He is one of a large family and his primary and early secondary schooling was obtained at the Morowa State School.

In 1953, Irwin was granted a two-year scholarship by the Anglican Schools Board, and was accepted as a student boarder at the Christ Church Grammar School, Claremont—entering a second year of secondary school. His parents, the Morowa Branch of the Country Womens' Association and the Department of Native Welfare collaborated with the Anglican Schools Board in making it financially possible for Irwin to be given an equal educational opportunity with other boys.

In 1954, Irwin passed the Junior Certificate in eight subjects and his scholarship was continued a further two years. In 1956, Irwin passed the Leaving Certificate, but failing in Physics by 4 per cent., he did not matriculate. However, in the supplementary examination, he passed this subject. In his final year at Christ Church he was a school Prefect and was elected captain of the school 1st cricket XI and 1st football XV.

The National Union of Australian University Students have made it possible for Irwin to be awarded a scholarship at Perth University, together with a Commonwealth Scholarship. He is taking an Arts Course.

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"DAWN"

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

Editor: E. COLIN DAVIS, F.R.E.S.

WHO ARE THEY?

Precise knowledge of the origins of our aborigines is lacking and theories vary. But it seems probable that the Australoid race of which the aborigines are representative, and which conforms with none of the world's three main racial groups, originated many thousands of years ago in the islands north of Australia. Hunters and food-gatherers, men and women of this race probably moved slowly northwards (notably to Malaya and India where pockets of them still survive in remote fastnesses), southwards to New Guinea (where they developed into new racial sub-groups), and to Australia. In Australia, undisturbed for many centuries, they preserved their original racial type substantially unchanged. From their first land-falls—on Cape York and thence elsewhere in the north—they spread round the coastline and probably by way of the great river system, across the continent.

They were never very numerous in Australia. In 1788 (when the first European settlement was established) their numbers probably did not exceed 300,000. But we do not know how many centuries it took their population to achieve that figure. They were completely dependent upon the unimproved natural resources of the country. They sometimes used infanticide and abortion as means of keeping their numbers in balance with their water and food supply.



Our aborigines did not build permanent homes. In many parts they slept and rested in the open, small fires burning beside them through the night if they needed warmth. Some groups, it is true, built huts of saplings and mud (though mainly to escape mosquitoes). Most, however, merely bundled saplings and branches together into wurlics or made primitive lean-tos of bark sheets or bushes (far less formal shelters than those of some of the creatures they hunted).

This did not mean, however, that their lives lacked all forms of physical permanence. Each tribe (there were about 500 tribes), and each group within each tribe, recognized each other's tribal and group areas. Not only were these their hunting and food-gathering areas—on them they centered their ceremonial and "dream" lives and within and through them maintained their social ties. But inside these areas they lived a nomadic existence, wandering in search of food, practising no form of agriculture or animal husbandry, pitting themselves so ceaselessly against their environment that they developed amazing skills in tracking, hunting, finding water and all else that was necessary in order to live.

Their life left them little room for material possessions (which, indeed, were an encumbrance to them). Generally they wore no clothes—or only a skin cloak. Their few personal goods were related to the practical or ceremonial purpose of their days—for example, the skin water bag, the dilly bag for carrying food, the drone instrument known as the digeridoo. Their weapons and tools (varying according to areas) were the boomerang, the barbed wooden spear, the throwing stick, the stone axe and chisel, the club, the net, the trap, the pointed yam stick. Their weapons, however, became not merely their means of survival but the expression of a most remarkable skill and precision in construction, the vehicles of many of their art forms, symbols of magic and religious significance and, with



the hunt itself, parts of their fundamental religious and social patterns. The designs (of circles, wavy lines and herring-bone patterns) with which the weapons were often ornamented were usually those appearing on the sacred symbols used in the religious life. They could only be worked by fully initiated men. They were held to endow the weapons with the magic which came from the spirit world, the mystical beings responsible for the creation, and the traditional heroes of the aborigines. Into the field also the hunter might take with him magic objects to guide his weapons (but the game obtained through these might only be eaten by fully initiated men). Such men also would perform the totemic ceremonies designed to ensure the plentiful game and good natural conditions the hunter sought.

Totemic ceremonies were also the link between the daily social life of the aborigines and the secret life of myth and ritual—the secret life into which only the initiates might enter (often only after painful ordeals) in which man was brought into touch with the invisible things of the world of the past, present and future. In their more important phases only men could take part in these and the old men of the tribes were the custodians of the religious secrets.

The naked hunter

At many points allied with and springing from the religious background of their life were the institutions and social organization of the aborigines. Here again the tribal elders were the guardians and the teachers. Far from being unrestricted, the aboriginal life was strictly disciplined by various social institutions and by involved kinship rules. With food and the other necessities of life the young and vigorous were required to provide for the old and feeble.

Within the aboriginal society death was the most significant event. It evoked wild outbursts of mourning. Public burning of the dead man's goods often took place. The disposal of the corpse might take several months. The death (except for such as death in

battle) was usually regarded as the work of some other person who would be diligently sought by magic means. The whole camp might be moved after a death.

Nevertheless the aborigines were neither gloomy nor oppressed with witchcraft and magic. Singing and dancing were part of their lives. Around their fires, in their crude shelters, in natural clearings, or in specially designed areas, men and women came together in their dances freely and often (far from confining their dances to the secret occasions in which, for the most part, only men might participate).

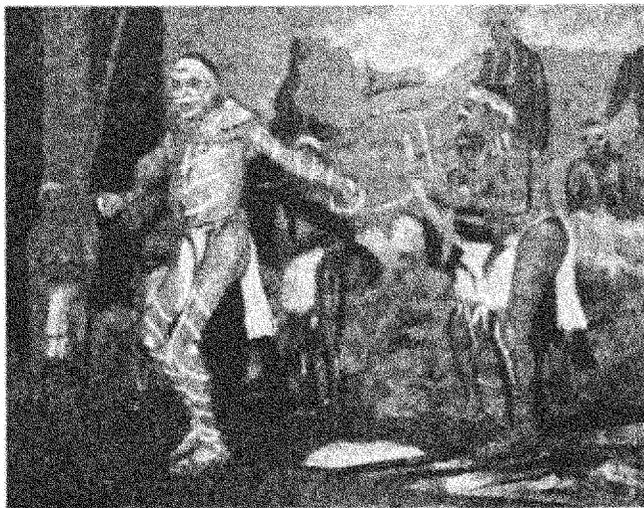
These then were the aborigines in their natural state: few in numbers; racially apart from the rest of the world; nomads; naked hunters and food-gatherers; houseless; artists in primitive forms; mystical; enclosed within firm and intricate social patterns; in a measure stone-age men who had nevertheless fitted themselves to survive where only the wild animals of the Australian bush and desert could survive besides themselves.

Where are they now ?

It is assessed that there are now 74,214 aborigines or people with a significant amount of aboriginal blood living in Australia. Queensland has an estimated 9,800 aborigines, some 7,000 half-blood aborigines (and 5,663 Torres Strait Islanders); New South Wales numbers only 231 full-blood aborigines, 6,388 half-bloods and 5,751 other mixed bloods; in Victoria perhaps 20 full-blood aborigines remain and there are about 1,346 people of aboriginal descent (though some of these latter are obviously of less than one fourth aboriginal blood); South Australia has a little over 5,000 aborigines and part-aborigines, the latter perhaps slightly outnumbering the former; in Western Australia there are about 21,300 aborigines and part-aborigines classified as natives, of whom an estimated 6,000 are "nomad natives beyond the confines of civilization"; in the Northern Territory almost 16,000 full-blood aborigines are now living and about 1,400 of mixed blood.

These numbers (even allowing for the numbers of persons of aboriginal blood who have passed into the white community) represent a big decline in the aboriginal population since 1788. From the dawn of history this appears to have been the fate of an aboriginal population in face of an invasion of people stronger and more numerous than themselves. What happened to the Ancient Britons, the primitive pagans of the Russian steppes and the "Indians" of North America centuries earlier began to happen to the Australian aboriginal.

Neither white nor black initially bore the other ill-will. But neither had time or the understanding to adjust themselves to the new conditions before these fought both together in sharp clashes. The newcomers could see so signs of villages, gardens or centralized organization. In the absence of these outward signs of the aboriginal culture, and ignorant of the native



ways, beliefs and values, the newcomers could scarcely avoid the error of thinking that the natives were so primitive that intrusion could mean little to them. For the aborigines on the other hand, usually shy and harmless at first, would come the slow realization of the permanent usurpation of their land, of fundamental interferences with their lives. The inevitable clashes inevitably meant defeat for the natives. The swift tide of settlement, however, flowed on before the defeated natives (lacking any firm points round which to build) had time to adjust themselves to this realization. They were capable of such adjustment for they have survived in the marginal areas of European settlement through what Professor A. P. Elkin calls "a state of intelligent parasitism . . . Adaptation, which was formerly to nature . . . is now to the settler . . . based on the necessity for adaptation, not on a desire for civilization, nor on a respect for the white man".



The mental and spiritual effects of this clash, however, were ultimately the most important. As tribes found that settlement made their old life impossible in their own territory, social and religious organization broke down, belief in the future and the will to survive were weakened. The younger tribesmen became more amenable to and dependent upon the white men and contemptuous of the old men's knowledge and authority before they learned that they did not really share the

white men's views and ways of life. Thus many of them, not entrusted with the sacred knowledge and, finally disillusioned, found themselves then with no spiritual retreat.

Nevertheless a definite increase in the numbers of the aborigines is becoming a mark of the present. This is the first and most tangible result of the development of knowledge of the aborigines, the application of enlightened policies, scientific approaches, and increasing goodwill on the part of white Australians.

The problem, however, remains a most complicated one—in part through the extreme diversity of the ways of life of the aboriginal people. To-day they are living at all stages of change, from a wholly primitive life to a modern one. There are probably none who have not seen white men, but, in the remote deserts, there remain a few who see white people very infrequently, and who still wander naked over their tribal grounds. In other remote regions and on reservations there are still some thousands, who, although they are more closely in touch with Europeans, are still more subject to tribal than to European influences. However, the great body of people described as aborigines are living almost constantly in touch with Europeans. Even if it were desirable to leave them alone in untouched seclusion, and even if this modern age would permit this, they refuse to be so left. A recent scientific survey in Western Australia concluded that "there appears to be some irresistible attraction towards centres of white man's culture leading more and more natives from being aristocrats in the seclusion of their own hunting grounds to the outskirts of the towns". Perhaps the present position in the Northern Territory may be taken as typical. There, about 5,000 aborigines are in touch with the Missions; possibly 4,000 are centred around Government settlements; perhaps 6,000 work or are based on pastoral properties and on the fringes of European towns; the lives of the rest approximate to their traditional tribal lives. The problems of administration and assimilation posed by these people are as diverse as their ways of living.

Direct expenditure by Governments on aboriginal welfare now totals more than £3,200,000 annually. Indirect expenditure adds substantially to that. If the cost of work of missionaries could be assessed the figure would stand at least at several hundred thousand pounds per annum. Four hundred and fifty-nine Government officers are directly employed full time on aboriginal welfare and many more are indirectly employed; well over 600 missionaries are also at work full time and others on a part-time basis. Approximately, for every 70 aborigines or part-aborigines one white Australian is working full time. Some 79,500,000 acres are constituted as aboriginal reserves.

These figures are indicative not only of the scale of the effort which is being made (to individuals, unrewarding in a material sense, calling for self-sacrifice and great devotion) but of the difficulties.



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.



This is Mrs. Kath Walker of Myrtle Street, Buranda, Queensland, the mother of two fine children and a very accomplished artist.



Some of the boxers who train in the Cowra Station gym. Roy Carroll, the local champ and contender for the Riverina title, and Trevor and Lindsay Christian with the station manager.



Mr. Pat Wallace, Mrs. D. Nicholls, M. Nicholls, Mumbie Nicholls, all of Walgett.



Meet Tom Leonard and Don Smith of Collarenebri.



Les Franks, of Cobargo, an accomplished artist.



Dick Brown and Charlie Connors of Texas.



Gloria Mundy and Queenie Shepherd of Collarenebri.



The Kinchela Boys football team which played in the Saturday North Coast under-18 competition.



Ray Hall of Collarenebri.



Meet some of the happy Woodenbong residents.



Patsy and Gale King of Murrin Bridge.



This musical man is John Laurie of Yamba.

ALONG THE MAIL ROUTE

GENEROUS DONATIONS BY SYDNEY SCHOOL GIRLS

The Board is very pleased to receive from three of the Sydney Metropolitan Girls' Schools amounts collected amongst themselves to be used for the benefit of some aboriginal child or children.

The Board deeply appreciates that thought of the children and the amount received will be apportioned as special cases arise.

The donations were :

Campsie Girls' School, £3 3s.
Strathfield Girls' High School, £30
Brighton College, Manly, (Intermediate Class),
£1 10s.

THANK YOU GIRLS.

TRANSFER OF OFFICERS

The following appointments have been effected since 23rd July, 1957 :—

Kempsey : Miss D. M. O'Brien—Female Welfare Officer.

Cootamundra : Mrs. M. J. McPherson—Assistant Matron.

Aborigines in C.M.F.

Four full-blood N.T. aborigines are now serving in the C.M.F., the first N.T. natives to voluntarily enlist for military service. They are fine specimens and have the making of first class soldiers, and all are initiated tribesmen. They are Jimmy Havelock of the Wagaitj tribe, Wilfred Rubijirima of the Tewis, Andrew Henda of the Mudgras, and Harold Phillips of the Warramungas. The boys are serving as gunners in 121 Medium Coast Battery, at Darwin. The C.O. of N.T. Command, Lieutenant-Colonel C. P. West, said he hoped the example of these boys would inspire other natives to enlist in the Australian Army.

Aboriginal Surgery.

Aboriginal surgery in their primitive days was drastic but apparently effective. My maternal grandfather who was cane farming at Hambleton, in the Cairns district in 1912, told me that a young aboriginal was bitten on the heel by a black snake. Two other aboriginals held the victim's leg firmly above and below the knee. The wizened old "surgeon" placed the

blade of a steel tomahawk into the fire, and then gashed the heel with a piece of glass bottle. When the blade of the tomahawk was red hot it was thrust into the open wound, and held there by main force for a full minute. Apart from having to walk on the ball of the afflicted foot until the ugly wound healed, the patient suffered no ill effects.—C.L.

(With acknowledgements to the "North Australian Monthly".)

MISS D. O'BRIEN NEW WELFARE OFFICER

Sister D. O'Brien, formerly Sister-in-charge of the Kempsey Chest Clinic, began duty yesterday in her new appointment as Aborigine Welfare Officer. She will be looking after the welfare of Aborigines on the North Coast.

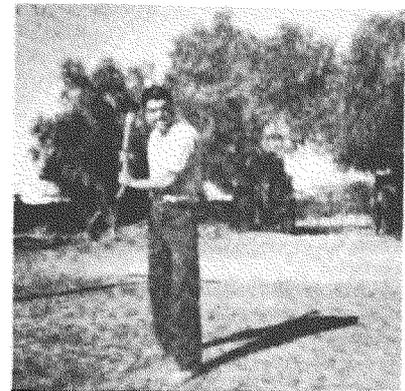
Sister O'Brien will be working in conjunction with Mr. A. Norton and Mr. E. J. Morgan, Aborigine Welfare Officers in the districts which comprise the area.

She will be responsible for formulating a programme to control worm infestation, and is now working with Dr. L. Dunn, District Health Officer from Maitland and will ultimately open clinics at Burnt Bridge, Greenhills and other centres, for worm treatments.

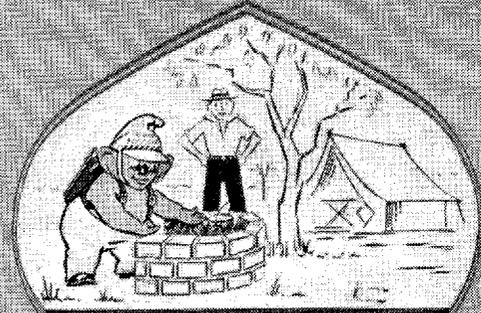
In addition, she will instruct Aboriginal mothers in home management, domestic hygiene and infant and maternal welfare. Hers is the first country appointment in this sphere of welfare.

* * * * *

Congratulations to G. Connelly, of Yass, on the birth of a baby daughter, Doris Rose.



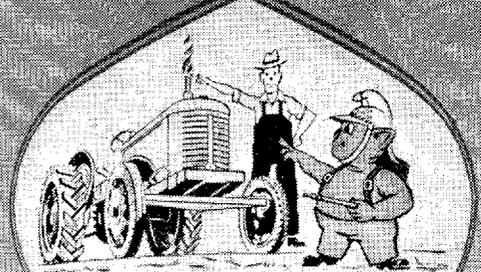
A game of cricket to while away the time.



Smokey — "USE FIRE-PLACES FOR CAMP FIRES"



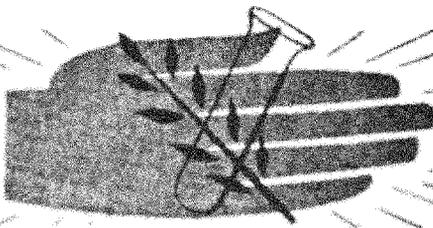
Smokey — "OBTAIN A SMOKE PERMIT BEFORE BURNING OFF A NEIGHBOUR'S YARD"



Smokey — "FIT A SPARK ARRESTOR TO YOUR TRACTOR"

PREVENT BUSH FIRES

ISSUED BY THE N.S.W. BUSH FIRE COMMITTEE, AUTHORIZED BY THE HON. D. A. KELLY, M.L.A. CHIEF SECRETARY



MEASLES!

A. NATURE OF THE DISEASE.

1. *Measles is infectious (or "catching").*

Measles is highly contagious and persons of all ages, but especially children, are susceptible to it. It is apt to be more fatal to children under the age of five years. The older the child the less is the likelihood of it taking the disease, and should infection take place, the less dangerous will be the attack.

2. *How infection is spread.*

The infection is caught from a person suffering from, or sickening for, the disease. The infective material is contained in the secretions of the nose and throat of the patient even before he is ill enough to take to bed. Whilst the disease is usually spread by direct contact with a sufferer, it may also be spread through the medium of any article infected by the patient.

3. *Time between infection and illness.*

About ten to fourteen days usually elapse between the receipt of infection and the occurrence of any obvious signs or symptoms.

4. *Signs and symptoms of measles.*

The onset of the disease is gradual and the child is commonly thought to be suffering from a "feverish cold" or "influenza". Occasionally the attack begins suddenly with headache, vomiting and perhaps a convulsion. The most common symptoms are fever accompanied by sneezing, running at the nose and redness and watering of the eyes. A dry cough is frequently present during the first few days. On the fourth day after such symptoms first appear the characteristic rash shows itself. Red spots and blotches come out on the forehead and face and spread progressively downwards to the feet until the whole body is affected.

5. *Measles is not infrequently a serious complaint.*

It is a mistake to regard measles as being a simple complaint of childhood of no importance. An attack may be accompanied or followed by serious lung conditions (bronchitis or pneumonia), so that great care should be taken in protecting young children from exposure to infection.

Many people go through life without suffering from measles. The longer an attack can be avoided, the greater the probability of escaping the disease altogether.

B. HOW TO AVOID MEASLES.

6. *A "cold" may be an indication of measles.*

During the first few days of illness, it is not uncommon for a person suffering from measles to be able to go about and these persons may be regarded as suffering merely from a "cold in the head". Nevertheless, such cases are highly infectious. When measles are known to be about children with feverish colds should be excluded from school, as they may in fact be in the first stage of the disease and may be the means of spreading the infection broadcast.

7. *Precautions against infections.*

Do not let a child go near a case of measles, nor enter a house, nor receive anything from a house, nor associate with persons belonging to a house in which there is a case of measles.

C. HOW TO PREVENT SPREAD OF INFECTION.

8. *Patient should be kept isolated.*

Immediately measles is suspected, the patient should be separated as completely as possible from the rest of the household, and the advice of a medical practitioner obtained. This isolation should be maintained for at least two weeks from the appearance of the rash.

9. *Disinfection of utensils and discharges of patient.*

Discharges from the nose and throat of the patient should be received on cloths which should at once be burned or immersed in a suitable disinfectant solution. Feeding utensils, bed-linen and other articles which have come in contact with the patient should be sterilized by boiling or other suitable means. Prevent flies gaining access to any of the secretions or discharges from the patient.

[Continued on page 9.]

A Proud Honour

"I honour my God. I serve my country. I salute the flag." These solemn declarations rang out strongly and clearly over the public address system and echoed throughout the playgrounds of the Gardener's Road Junior Technical School on a recent Monday morning when I visited the school. Three hundred-odd boys stood at attention and repeated the words of their leader, 15-year old Roger Brown, Vice-Captain and just about the most popular boy in the school.

There is nothing unusual about this little ceremony which takes place in nearly every public school in New South Wales on Monday mornings. What makes this particular ceremony worth reporting in *Dawn* is the fact that Roger Brown, elected by his classmates to the position of vice-captain of his school, is a very fine young fellow of aboriginal blood who has reached a standard of achievement in leadership which makes us all proud of him.



Vice-Captain Roger Brown, and his Headmaster.

The Gardener's Road Junior Technical School is no "tin-pot" school. About four hundred boys from one of Sydney's main industrial areas attend this school to prepare to become skilled tradesmen in various fields of industry. Apart from its training activities, this school has a fine record in the sporting field.

In some subjects, particularly technical drawing, Roger is well up among the top-notchers of his class of 89 boys. He is by no means a dud in any subject.

He is also a member of the military cadets' band and looks a very proud and handsome young soldier in his spick-and-span uniform on the parade ground.

On the rifle range he shares top honours with another classmate. Both scored 24 points out of a possible 25 points at the last competitive target shoot.

Rugby football is his favourite sport. He plays half-back in his school's first-grade team. He also plays first-grade cricket, in season, just to show that he is a real all-rounder.

Roger has a definite goal in mind. He wants to become a technician in the Postmaster-General's Department. I believe Roger has what it takes to achieve his objective, and I am sure that you will all want to join me in wishing him every success in his efforts to reach whatever goal he may set for himself.

I also hope that Roger's success will be an inspiration to many of you young people who haven't made up your minds yet whether it is worth while to try to do something a little better than what your mates are doing.

L. N. BRIGGS.

HOME HINTS—Measles—*continued.*

10. *Exclusion from school attendance.*

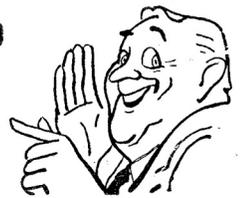
A child suffering from measles must be excluded from school for three weeks from the appearance of the rash and until free from any discharge from the eyes, ears or nose. Contacts who have not previously had measles are excluded until sixteen days after the last exposure to the disease. Where the patient remains at home such "contacts" in the house must be excluded until the patient is entitled to return to school. Contacts who have previously had measles are not excluded.

REASONS WHY EVERYONE SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO PREVENT MEASLES.

1. It is preventable; it is unnecessary; it may have serious results.
2. The longer an attack is deferred, the less likely is it ever to occur.
3. The younger the child the more serious is the disease, hence in deferring the attack the danger to life is lessened.



They say



The Matron at Brewarrina, who has now resumed duty after a successful operation in Sydney, has recommenced Brownies, which she had formed some weeks ago.

The youngsters were very eager to get back to this happy form of games and instruction after a break of some seven weeks.

To those who think that the Brownies is just "playing-about" it should be explained that the basic idea is to encourage each child to help in the home. They are trained as fairies or elves. The idea being that "a good fairy" has done this or that little job for her mother. Some of the jobs which they are taught are making beds, washing-up, and cleaning and dusting about the home.

Instruction is balanced with organized games, and each child is expected to learn the Brownie law and promise.

The Matron was an experienced Guider in England, before coming to Australia and carried on this work during the war and the raids on London. In addition to re-forming the Guide Company at Casino in 1953, Mrs. Roberson as Assistant Matron at Murrin Bridge helped the Matron, Mrs. Carlin, form a Brownie Pack, which, as we know, is doing very well.

FURTHER SUCCESSFUL SHOWS BY HILLBILLY TROUPE

The Wilcannia Aborigines Hillbilly Troupe went on to further success, when they recently visited Broken Hill. On the 18th October, 1957, the Troupe travelled to that city and put on a show in the Town Hall, half the proceeds going to the Flying Doctors Service and the other half towards building and equipping a children's playground at the Wilcannia Aborigines Settlement.

Arrangements for their appearance at Broken Hill were in the hands of the Flying Doctor, Dr. Huxtable, and the Apex Club of that City.

On the Troupe's arrival at the Flying Doctor Base, they were met by Mr. Frank Basden who welcomed them on behalf of the Flying Doctor and made them comfortable till the arrival of Dr. Huxtable and his wife and daughters. A barbeque lunch was then arranged for the party, and after everyone had their fill photos were taken, and they continued their journey to the city.

The Troupe was billeted in the North Broken Hill Boys Club, where they soon settled down to a refreshing shower and a spruce-up for the big event of the evening. After a light meal they were then taken to the Town Hall where preparations were made for the show to go on at the prescribed time, 8 o'clock.

At 7.50 p.m. the Troupe assembled on stage, and after the playing of the National Anthem, the Lord Mayor, Alderman Riddeford, opened the concert, and welcomed the party to his city.

The curtain then rose and a deafening applause greeted the Troupe as they waited for the signal to commence their opening number, "Caribbean". The boys and girls were all nerves when they started, but they warmed up as they went along and, needless to say, they performed like veterans. Some of them showed outstanding promise and ability. One outstanding feature of the show was Billy Webster with his gum leaf, he so impressed the crowd that he was asked to continue his performance out in the street, and finished up with another large audience.

After the show a buffet supper was provided for the Troupe by the Women's Auxiliary of the Flying Doctor Service, and was much appreciated by the party.

There was a capacity crowd to witness the performance of the Troupe, and there were many speakers to express their appreciation and views on the aborigines' performances and initiative in helping themselves as well as helping the Royal Flying Doctors Service.

Interest in the future of this Troupe is mounting high, and in all probability, this Troupe may be seen in the larger cities, taking their place as members of the general community, entertaining over the radio, or as an independent Troupe of entertainers travelling around Australia.



This is Neville Lilley of Karuah.



Vincent Smith of Greenhills.



Bill Madden and George Lamb of Collarenebri.



This pretty little lass is Gwenda Torrens of Mallanganee.



The Knox and McGrady gang of Nevertire.



Ray, Michael and Billy Laurie of Yamba.



Kay Bozer of Tabulam with her pets.



Janice Knox of Narrabri.



Rodney Blair, Maxie Green, Mitchell Green and Michael Green of Ashford.

This is the fourth instalment of



NAMITJA

Written and Illustrated by

MARGARET PAICE

"Dawn" gratefully acknowledges the permission of the Authoress and publishers, Messrs. Angus and Robertson, Ltd., to reprint "Namitja" in serial form for "Dawn" readers.

The story so far:—

Namitja, our boy hero, who has broken his leg whilst hunting alone, has been found by a drover, given first aid treatment, and taken to the cattle station homestead where arrangements are made for the Flying Doctor to treat him.

Now read on—

Early the following morning, Mr. Fletcher got all his men to work clearing an air-strip. They cut down the scrub and levelled the ant-hills. Peter took an axe and worked with the men. But he soon grew tired and went back to the house. Here he sat on the fence looking into the sky waiting for the first sight of the aeroplane.

Then suddenly he noticed something very strange. Though he was looking into the sky the sun was not blindingly bright but looked like a pale yellow moon. Yet it was nearly midday. How queer!

He raced inside to tell his mother about it.

"Bedourie Dust," said his mother; "and just when I've got the place all clean. What a pest these dust storms are!"

She went off to tell Annie to close all the windows and doors.

By afternoon they could see the dust drifting across the plain, coming closer and closer like a thick red fog. As they watched trees and ant-hills disappeared into it and became ghostlike. You could smell it now and taste the grit in your mouth.

Peter felt disappointed. The dust storm did not worry him, but it meant that the Flying Doctor could not land. So he decided to see how the aboriginal boy was getting on.

It was so dark in the store-room with the window closed that at first he could scarcely see anything. Then his eyes grew accustomed to the gloom and he saw the bed in the corner. But the bed was empty! The black boy must have run away.

Peter dashed into the kitchen banging the screen door behind him. "Hey, Mum," he cried, "The boy's gone! He's not in the store-room!"

Mrs. Fletcher was lighting a lamp. It was only the middle of the afternoon and yet it was almost dark. They could hear the low moaning of the wind rattling loose shutters and driving the dust into every nook and cranny.

"Gone!" she frowned. "Nonsense, Peter! How could he run away with a broken leg. Really you do say some foolish things!"

"Well, he's not in bed. Come and see!"

Mrs. Fletcher followed him, carrying the lamp.

For a moment she, too, thought that Namitja must have been mysteriously spirited away. Then she saw a black foot sticking out from under the bed. He had rolled off the bed and underneath it.

"Poor little fellow! He must have been frightened of the dust storm," she said.

Namitja had to be coaxed out like a frightened puppy. He had known many dust storms in his seven years, but it was one thing to lie in his father's gunyah or shelter in a cave with his own people and quite another to be pursued by a dust-devil in unfamiliar surroundings shut in the dark with no way of escape. No wonder he was frightened!

Mrs. Fletcher left the lamp in his room and told Peter to stay with him a while. Peter wandered round the room looking at things, helping himself to a handful of dried fruit when he felt like it. Then he had an idea.

He took down a tin of jam, showed it to Namitja and pointing to the label said, "Peach." Namitja tried to say the word after him. Peter tried another. This was quite interesting, like a game.

He pointed to himself and said, "Peter."

"Pe-ter," said Namitja slowly. After a while he pointed to himself and said, "Namitja."

Peter felt very pleased with himself. Wouldn't Mum be surprised when she found he had discovered the boy's name?

When Mrs. Fletcher came in with some food for the black boy, she found the two boys quite friendly.

"The dust seems to be clearing a little," she said, "but Mulga Downs just rang to say the doctor won't leave there today. He couldn't land with the dust as it is now. Poor boy, I do hope his leg is not hurting too much."

"His name is Namitja," said Peter.

"How do you know?" Mrs. Fletcher asked.

"He told me."

"Well, fancy that now, and did you tell him yours?"

"Yes," said Peter.

"Pe-ter," said Namitja.

The following day was clear and bright. Quite early a tiny speck appeared and the people at Mingin watched it grow larger. They heard the drone of the engine grow louder as the plane approached.

Everyone who could do so went down to the strip to watch the plane land. It came in like a big bird, bounced a little over the uneven ground, and came to a stop near the little group of onlookers. The pilot and doctor climbed out.

"Well, well!" the doctor said, after he had greeted Mrs. Fletcher and Peter. "Where is my patient?"

Mrs. Fletcher took him to Namitja, then left him while she went to make tea for the doctor and the pilot. They were very pleased to have visitors and to hear all the news from the outside world.

Presently the doctor joined the others in the cool gauze room under the house where tea was waiting for the visitors.

"I've decided there's no need to take the boy to hospital," he said. "Someone did a good job of first aid on that leg. It's a simple break, and he's healthy. There shouldn't be any trouble, but if there is, get in touch with me. He's a game little fellow; not a squeak out of him when I fixed the leg."

It was soon time for the doctor and the pilot to be on their way. They had to be back at the base as soon as possible, for they had many calls.

Everybody at the homestead went down to the airstrip to see them go. Everybody, that is, except Namitja. He was propped up on a pillow looking at his leg. It looked very strange, indeed, in a plaster cast. His black toes stuck out at the end of it. He wondered if he would ever see his leg again.

The final instalment of "Namitja" will appear in the next issue of *Dawn*.



Everybody went down to the airstrip to see them go



Happiness Unlimited! There's no colour line here.

THE ABORIGINAL BABY SHOW

The Mayor of Kempsey, Ald. N. C. Long, in officially opening Kempsey's second annual Aboriginal Baby Show, congratulated Kempsey Apex Club on its efforts to improve the living conditions of the Aboriginal population of the Macleay valley, and also commended the Apex movement for its work on behalf of Aborigines throughout Australia.



Some of the entrants with their mothers.

Over 400 people, including more than 100 Aborigines, assembled at the Agricultural Hall one Saturday recently, where about forty bonny babies, aged from three months to three years were presented for judging.

The judging was very capably carried out by Matron K. Everingham, of Taree Hospital, Matron Eastwood, of Macksville Hospital, and Dr. T. Dunn, Director of Public Health, Newcastle.

The Baby Show was organised by Kempsey Apex Club, Mr. J. Savage being chairman of the special committee immediately responsible.



Another group of entrants.



Still more of the many entrants.

Ald. Long congratulated the Apex Club for the work it had done through the years for the benefit and uplift of Aborigines, a work Apex had continued in despite many set-backs.

"To our shame the Aborigines have been sadly neglected in the past, but something should be done to help them," said Ald. Long.

"I congratulate the organisers and I can assure them that the people of Kempsey are very appreciative of their efforts.

"To the Aboriginal folk present I extend a warm welcome, and I most heartily congratulate the mothers on the manner in which their babies are presented here this afternoon.



Geoffrey Maher, winner of the "oldest" section.



The winner, Carmel Quinlin of Bellbrook, with her mother, Mrs. Vale Quinlin.

“To the losers I would say not to be disheartened, for the real object of this Baby Show is not to win prizes, but to make the mothers more fully aware of their responsibility in the care of their children and to assist them to train the children to be good citizens.

“Don’t confine your efforts to today ; don’t let the fine work you are doing be a flash in the pan ; but carry on with the effort to have your children grow up into better Australians,” concluded Ald. Long.

Mr. Alex Norton, Aborigine Welfare Officer, said Apex had done a wonderful job in helping towards the betterment of the Aborigine community.

“I congratulate Apex on what it has done and on what it proposes to do in the future,” said Mr. Norton.

Dr. Dunn, in reply to a question by a “Macleay Argus” reporter, said the Aborigine babies shown that afternoon were all well cared for, well nourished, and were physically comparable with any other section of the community.

Unfortunately, contingents expected by buses from Bellbrook and Bowraville did not arrive ; but about thirty came by bus from Purfleet, with Greenhill and Burnt Bridge well represented.



The lovely Donovan twins.

Every baby competing received a prize, all the prizes pertaining to the feeding and care of babies.

Carmel Quinlin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vale Quinlin, of Burnt Bridge, won the principal award at the Show, the prize being a fine stroller.

The presentations were made by the Mayoress Mrs. N. Long, assisted by Mrs. R. Melville.

The awards were as follows:—

Section 1, four months and under : Louisa Smith, Bert Holten, Mervyn Clarke, Ken Hoskins, Julie Simon, Ian Ballangarry.

Section 2, 5 to 12 months : The Donovan twins (much admired), Clarrie Bellangarry, Richard Campbell, Charles Quinlan, Viva Donovan, Michael Hoskins.

Section 4, 13 months to 2 years : Carmel Quinlin, Judy Davis, Alf Moylan, John Dixon, Lucie Maher.

Section 5, two to three years : Geoffrey Maher, Connie Smith, Stafford Knox.



The Mayoress, Mrs. Long, presenting a stroller to Mrs. Quinlin.

HOME HINTS

Soft biscuits can be made crisp by brushing them with milk and popping them in the oven for eight minutes.

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Have much fly trouble ? Try hanging a bunch of mint in your larder. It will help keep the flies away.

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Some people think that no rice pudding is worth eating that has not been baked for a long time in a slow oven. While undoubtedly this is the best way, unless you have a fuel stove it is expensive, so here's a tip for the flat dweller or business woman. You can make your rice pudding equally rich by boiling up the rice and milk for—say half an hour—over a low heat, before you go off to work. While still just on the boil, place a well-fitting lid on the pan and quickly wrap a cloth about it, then enclose the whole package in a nest of cushions or an old eiderdown to exclude the air (a hay-box, if you have it, for this is the same principle). After about twelve hours the pot will be still warm and the rice will be found to be beautifully creamy. You can then add a little more milk and pop into the oven to brown.

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Don't throw away those egg shells. Dry them and crush finely with a rolling-pin. Place round the roots of rose-trees, and the trees will benefit.

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While in the garden take a look at that old clothes prop that keeps slipping. Slipping can be prevented by knocking one or two strong nails into the ground end.

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For flushing drains, particularly in hot weather, use boiling strongly salted water.

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If your sink is blocked, place chloride of lime in the pipes and let hot water trickle through.

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If you resent the time it takes to sew in shoulder pads for your frocks after washing—try making pads of old nylon stockings. These can be tapered away to nothing by layers of different size. Tack the layers well together and enclose in a triangle of thin silk. The pad can be washed with the frock and will dry almost as quickly.

After the summer heat, furniture, like the complexion, often needs a little beauty treatment. We have had furniture polishers in our house and this is the reviver they recommend. Take equal parts of mineral turpentine, raw linseed oil and vinegar. Put in a bottle and shake well. Apply to furniture with a soft pad and *rub well in*. Polish off with a clean soft cloth. This will not hurt the most delicate nor valuable antique furniture, but will give it a necessary reviver.

* * * *

Recently we gave a recipe for a good carpet shampoo, but if it is only a reviver you need, put three tablespoonfuls of vinegar into a bowl of water and wipe over the surface with rags damped with the solution. Wipe over again with a clean rag. Have plenty of rags handy for they soon become soiled.

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A very good drink for a party with the quantities increased to requirements is zipp. To make it, take one pint of lemon squash, a small bottle of cider, $\frac{1}{4}$ pint of tinned pineapple juice, one pint of soda water, one tablespoon of castor sugar.

* * * *

Today I found my newly-wed neighbour pretty annoyed. It seemed young husband had been sarcastic about the breakfast, objecting to being given mince two mornings running. "But it wasn't mince, it was sausages," she said, "only they'd all split." I advised: "Next time dip the sausages in boiling water before frying and they will not split." She asked, "How does one get to know such things?" My reply was, "I try out all the hints I can get." Do you?



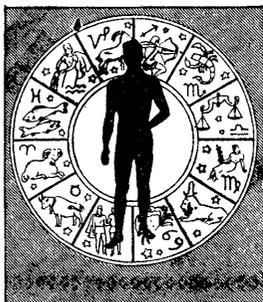
Alfie Trindall, Vera Nean, Esma Trindall and Stanley Trindall, of Narrabri, all in playful mood.

DID YOU KNOW...

by **Sci**



Thirsty camels, when given free rein in the desert, have been known to lead their lost caravans to oases more than a hundred miles away



New scientific studies have shown that 98% of the human body is replaced yearly, disproving the theory that the body takes seven full years to completely change its substance.



With both hands working at top speed, the great pianist Paderewski could hit 120 notes a second, or a dozen notes a second with each finger



Many know that America's Statue of Liberty holds a torch in her upraised right hand, but few know her left hand holds the American Declaration of Independence.



More aluminium went into the construction of the S.S. United States than into any other single structure on land or sea.



Twenty thousand earthquakes are recorded each year in various parts of the world, according to the National Geographic Society



During the International Geographical Year, which lasts from July 1957 to December 1958, scientists of 40 nations will be engaged in the greatest study ever made of the earth.



The 200-inch star-gazing telescope on Palomar Mountain in the United States is powerful enough to detect the flame of a single candle 18,000 miles away.



A Scandinavian Airlines plane's non-stop flight from Long Beach, California, to Stockholm, 6,005 miles, established a new distance record for commercial airlines in Nov., 1956.



The largest iceberg on record — 200 miles long and 60 miles wide — was sighted by a U.S. Navy observer in 1956, about 150 miles west of Scott Island in the Antarctic

Raindrops come in many sizes and shapes! Scientists have found that the artist's favourite drop—pear shaped and beautifully tapered—is rare. The typical raindrop is shaped like a fat mushroom, almost flat on the bottom and rounded on the top, while the smaller drops are just round balls.

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U.N. scientists have increased rainfall more than 50 per cent. in parts of West Pakistan's semi-arid Punjab region by blowing finely ground salt into the air. Water vapour collects on the salt particles and, carried on the wind, falls over large areas.

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No large body of land on earth is separated more than 290 miles from some other body of land.

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In January, 1957, three U.S. Air Force B-52 planes flew non-stop around the world in 45 hours. Other historic flights around the world: 1924, three U.S. Army biplanes, 14 days 15 hours flying time; 1929, German Graf Zeppelin, 20 days 4 hours; 1933, Wiley Post, solo, 7 days 18 hours 49 minutes; Bill Odom, solo, 3 days 1 hour 5 minutes.

The Netherlands boasts the world's highest average longevity for humans. Average life expectancy for a Dutch woman is now 79.9 years; for a man, 70.6; U.S. women rank second with 72.7 years. U.S. males (66.6) rank seventh, topped by Norwegians, Swedes, New Zealanders, Danes and Englishmen.

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Linen bandage used to wrap Egyptian mummies averaged 1,000 yards in length.

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A full-grown elephant weighs about 10,000 pounds.

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A pigeon's bones weigh less than its feathers.

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Experts say an average man's beard is as tough as copper wire of the same diameter.

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Contrary to popular belief, bulls do not become enraged at seeing the colour red. To the bull, red is but a shade of grey. The bull in the arena is not aroused by the colour of a red cape but rather by the fact that the cape is moving.

THE BRAVEST KID IN THE WORLD

A Little Native Girl

Here is a story before which we stand humbled, feeling our inability to fully convey its greatness. It is a story not for Africans alone although it is a story of the African people, but for the whole nation, the whole world—this story of a little girl cruelly handicapped, of the loving attention lavished on her by the personnel of the Child Welfare Department, of a desperate decision by agonised parents, and the generosity of an anonymous white man whose deed of kindness shines brightly against the dark sky of interracial misunderstanding and strife.

The facts are few and simple. To Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ramagaga, of Payneville Springs, South Africa, some nine years ago, there was born a daughter, with pitifully deformed legs and crippled hands, each with only three fingers. They named her Nellie and loved and cared for her despite their pain at her affliction. What could life hold for such a child? It was plain that she would never be normal and walk upright and do things like other children. The only way she could move about was to shuffle along on her knees.

One day, about two years ago, Nellie was taken to the Margaret Ballinger Convalescent Home for Non-European Children, outside Roodepoort, to see if something could be done to ease the severity of her affliction. She was sent to a clinic at the Coronationville Hospital where a physical examination revealed that nothing could be done for her legs, but it was decided that she should receive occupational therapy for her hands to develop them to their fullest capacity. At the same time, the Child Welfare section of the Johannesburg City Health Department took an interest in her and rendered much valuable assistance.

At the Margaret Ballinger Home, Nellie received treatment for her crippled hands. She revealed a lively intelligence and soon learned to read, write, knit, sew, dress, and look after herself like a normal child. All this delighted her, for by nature Nellie is alert and cheerful, but despite all her progress she was still forced to shuffle along on her knees. And so it seemed she would spend the rest of her life.

Yet there was one way—one terrible way only. This was to amputate the useless, twisted lower part of her little legs and fit her with artificial limbs! But such legs, which need to be replaced periodically, are very expensive and are not made generally available. Then in September, 1956, a white man from Johannesburg, who wishes to remain anonymous, heard about Nellie and offered to supply her with artificial legs until she reached the age of 16, bearing all the expense involved.

Nellie's mother and father finally gave their consent, after being assured that, with artificial legs, the child's life would be much more worth living. It was not easy for them to make such a decision—a decision that involved the amputation of their daughter's legs at the knees. So Nellie's legs were amputated at the Coronation Hospital and it is not for nothing we call her "Bravest Kid in the World"—the next day she was sitting up in bed, knitting.

There followed a few months of waiting for the stumps to heal, which called for much delicate treatment and special bandaging. In November, Nellie was taken to an orthopaedic firm in Johannesburg to be measured for her new legs and a week later she returned to have them fitted. What a great day that was for Nellie—what a day of joy and triumph! For, to everybody's amazement, as soon as the legs were fitted and the harness strapped on to her body, she walked, taking her first-ever steps into freedom of movement. She soon mastered the art of walking with her artificial legs, discarding the stick she had used for a while to steady herself as she moved along.

Nellie was excited and happy with her new-found freedom, and everyone who loved her and cared for her was overjoyed. Nellie returned to the Home, where she received further occupational therapy to strengthen the muscles in her stumps. When the Christmas party came along Nellie had a wonderful time—and when the presents were handed out she was able to go up to the Christmas tree and receive hers. During the laughter and festivity of the party there was a brief, solemn silence as Nellie, erect and steady, walked up to the tree and was handed her present. Then there was clapping—and many eyes were moist.

Those who watched her knew they were seeing a brave child, one who had achieved a great victory of spirit over flesh, and they all shared the thrill of pride in her achievement.

Paid for Her Legs—Remains Anonymous.

Nellie owes her freedom of movement to an anonymous white man who paid for her artificial legs and who will provide two more sets of legs for her, one when she is about 13 and the final pair when she reaches the age of 16. These highly scientific legs are expensive, and the amount involved runs into hundreds of pounds.

* Aboriginal Concert Tops *

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NON-STOP VARIETY

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The first all-Aborigine concert held recently in Kempsey made such an impact on the audience that it is now the intention of the Rev. Father Hoade (who organised the entertainment) to engage Aborigine artists from Sydney to the Queens—Kempsey's main theatre.

The uninhibited enthusiasm of the capacity audience of whites and Aborigines was a handsome tribute to the musical ability of the performers.

At the end of the concert, Father Hoade promised that the next show would be in a larger hall, "and we should have an exceptional night. It has been a great night tonight, and I hope it will do a lot to help our dark people on the great road of life."

Later, Father Hoade said that Father Dunlea, who founded Engadine Boys' Home, had phoned to say that as a result of this success, the artists would be taken to Sydney for a concert there in the near future, and transport arrangements will shortly be finalised.

The concert, held in the Catholic Hall, netted £48.

Champion artist was Alan Saunders, of Taree, who won the cash prize for the best performance. A baritone, with a fine quality voice, he was recalled time and again, as, self-accompanied on a guitar, he sang and yodelled his way through "pop" hits.

Authenticity and colour came from a quartet calling themselves "The Torres Strait Islanders" whose battle song and corroboree provided an original touch of entertainment. The Islanders have been holidaying in Kempsey and came down from Bellbrook for the concert.

One of the group, Les Webster, also featured in an hilarious fortune-telling act with Mr. A. Norton and Mr. Bob Dunning.

Two gum-leaf players, Mr. Fred Mumbler, of Greenhill, and Mr. Ivan Ballangary, of Bowraville, produced instrumental quality from their leaves and an incredible brilliance of tone, while electric guitarist, Reuben Pacey, of Burnt Bridge, who has appeared on the amateur hour, made several emphatic appearances both as soloist and accompanist. Playing with skill and technical ability, he handled his borrowed instrument professionally.

Mr. Pacey, a self-taught guitarist, makes his own plectrums and practices on a dummy instrument he made himself.

With his brothers, Andrew, Henry, William, Lyle and Harold, he also featured in a bracket of western-type songs, which produced some very tight harmony.

The blend of voices of the Burnt Bridge choirs, conducted by Mrs. F. Nolan and accompanied by Mrs. Brogden, make it imperative that this choir should be heard more frequently in public. The children display an inherited love of music and, with encouragement and increased appearances, could develop into a very fine group of singers.

From Bowraville.

Bowraville sent a vocal trio, Lily Ballangary, Veronica Brown and Frances Chapman, who were audience-pleasers with a group of songs in harmony, accompanied by Ivan Ballangary (mouth organ) and Mick Donovan (piano). Mick, who received his musical education at the Bowraville Convent, also appeared as a soloist with several brackets of dance music.

The Islanders, with guitar accompaniment, supported Ruth Tidy, of Burnt Bridge, in a selection of island songs, with one of the Islanders, Rusty Aran, introducing some fluid hula movements, to the delight of the audience.

Best comedy act of the night was Chris. Dotti's impersonation of the three Marx Brothers. The audience, rocking with laughter, did not want him to leave the stage.

There were also some very good performances from Edna Dotti and Mrs. Fred Cochrane, Mavis Lang and Cyril Davis, in addition to a spirited Elvis Presley impersonation from Garry Saunders, of Taree.

Pam Morris and Janice Cochrane, both ten years of age, dead-panned their own version of "Marianne" and provided some unexpected comedy.

The full cast assembled on stage for the final number, "The Maoris' Farewell", to conclude one of the brightest and most entertaining concerts held in Kempsey for many years.

Comper for the night was Mr. A. Norton, Aborigine Welfare Officer in Kempsey.

BOARD ACTIVITIES

MANY AND VARIED



Education

The same educational facilities exist for aboriginal children as are available to children of white parents. All schools are staffed by fully qualified teachers of the Education Department and wherever possible children attend the district Public School and mix freely with their white companions.

Many excel in sport and approximately 200 have gained admission to High Schools.

One girl who secured her Leaving Certificate at Casino High School last year is now enrolled in the Arts Course at Brisbane University, to which she gained a scholarship.

During the year, ten bursaries, each of the value of £50 per annum, were awarded by the Board. There are now eighteen current bursaries held by aboriginal pupils attending High Schools.

Welfare Activities

The Board now has a staff of six male Welfare Officers stationed at Sydney, Kempsey, Leeton, Dubbo, Moree and Lismore.

In addition, two lady Welfare Officers are located at Sydney. One of them is a trained nurse whose time is spent mainly in country districts working among mothers, babies and adolescent girls, in the field of child care, home management and domestic hygiene.

Welfare Officers cover large territories and are in constant touch with members of the aboriginal population. While they regularly visit all Stations and Reserves, their work lies primarily among those people who have not the advantage of the advice and guidance of Station management, and the facilities available to Station residents.

By their contact with individuals and organizations in the general community these officers endeavour to enlist the sympathy and intelligent co-operation of the white population in the problem of aborigines.

Over the years, their work in this direction has been fruitful and there is now in the community a much better informed public attitude towards the needs of our aboriginal population.

Aboriginal Wards and Children's Homes

Contrary to a popular misconception, the Board has no power to assume control of aboriginal children—they can only come under the legal control of the Board on the application of a responsible person, or if committed by a competent court.

Welfare Officers are vigilant in their oversight of sub-standard homes. Their efforts are directed towards the rehabilitation of the residents of such dwellings and only in extreme cases is court action taken for the removal of neglected children from their parents' care.

The Board maintains two Homes for wards, one for girls at Cootamundra and one for boys at Kinchela.

It is the policy and constant endeavour of the Board to secure suitable foster homes for its wards. Such placement is considered to be superior to institutional care, since it provides the best substitute for a child's own home.

Many worthy citizens in the white community have offered their services as foster parents, and quite a number of aboriginal children are happily placed in the homes of these people. Others are boarded out with selected aboriginal families.

At the 30th June, 1957, 260 children were in the care of the Board as wards. Of these, 89 were in the Board's two Homes, 128 were in foster homes, and the remainder in denominational or other supervised Homes.

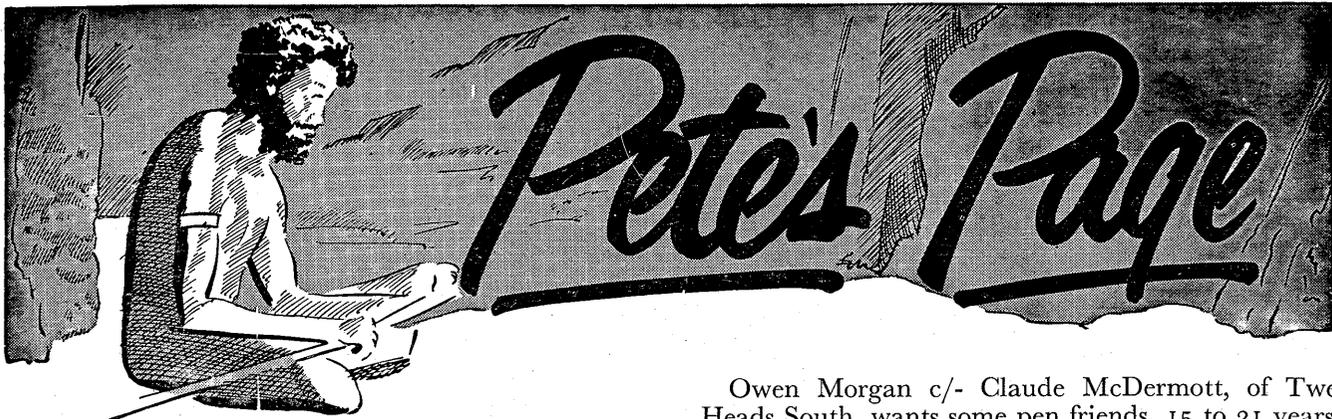
Foster parents are paid a weekly boarding-out allowance, and are further assisted in the payment of medical and dental expenses, as well as incidental fees for educational purposes.

Wards over school leaving age, are placed in employment, and a proportion of their wages is paid to a trust account available to the ward on attaining the age of eighteen years.

Visits by Board Members

The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare paid a total of 78 visits during the year to Stations and Reserves and the training Homes for boys and girls. Other visits were made by the Chairman and Board Members.

On a number of occasions contact was made with local civic authorities and other bodies interested in the welfare of aborigines. Addresses were given by various groups on the problems of aborigines welfare and the work of the Board. Such contacts have had a noticeable impact on the understanding and attitudes of many interested white citizens.



Hello Kids,

Well, we're really getting close to Christmas once again, aren't we? I suppose you are all looking forward to this grand occasion and all the nice things that come with it. I've had quite a lot of mail lately and some very nice drawings, but there are still a lot more young people who *should* write.

Dennis Cain sent me a nice pencil sketch of an old rooster and his offspring. Congratulations Dennis; this wins you a prize.

Now, what do you know about Urunga?

I have just had a letter from Kevin Degges, of Sydney, and he said he would like to see more in *Dawn* about this town. Kevin said, "I come from Sydney where I am a junior clerk with the Railways Department, but I am holidaying here in Urunga, a lovely seaside resort. I found here a fellow-aborigine, an ex-Alamein digger named Andrew Boney, who owns a lovely home in Nambucca Street. A few doors away his father-in-law, Mr. Harry Kelly, a wonderful man, and one of the pioneers of the district. Then next door again, Mr. Robert Avery and his family. Not to forget the three well-known boys Kevin Boney, Bruce Brown and Brian Kelly, all topline footballers. Then there is Ray Kelly whose tracking instinct has assisted the police on many occasions. The white folk here in Urunga do not object to the aboriginal children in the schools and the older generation attend local housie, card games, dances and many other activities. This Urunga is really a town!" Well thanks for that letter, Kevin. It sounds quite a place.

Brian Irving of Armidale Road, South Grafton, wrote me a nice letter and sent me a sketch of a racing car. I think Brian must have a few problems at school for he said in his letter, "Mr. Bell, our teacher, is sometimes good and sometimes bad". Well, Brian, aren't we all like that? Ismay Slater, whose address is c/- Post Office, Carroona, via Quirindi, wants some pen friends, boys and girls, 13 to 16 years, interested in all outdoor sports. Well, how about some letters, kids. Max Jarrett, c/- Post Office, Bowraville, wins a prize too, for his nice pen and ink sketch, "The Title Fight". Max also wants some pen friends about 15 or 16 years of age.

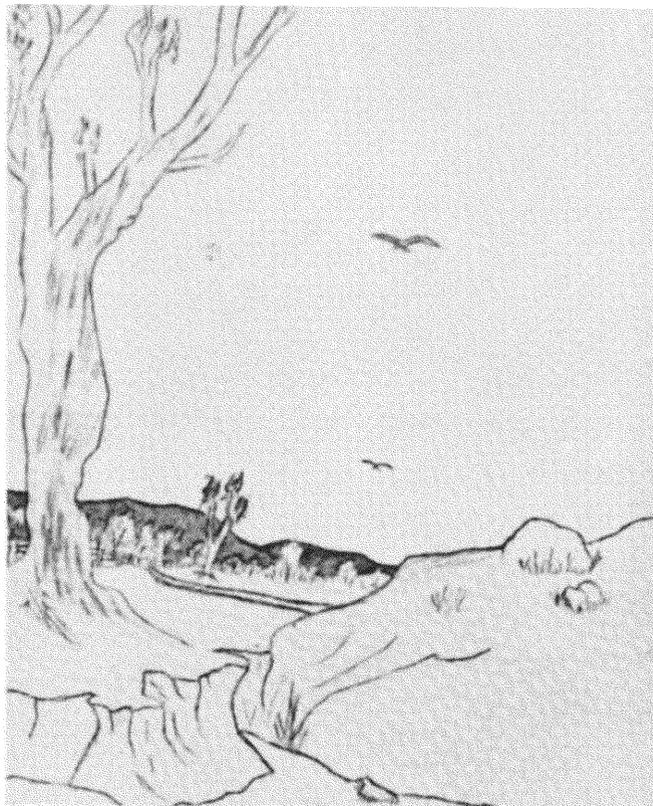
I also had a lovely painting from Pamela Hayns of 112 Palmer Street, East Sydney. It just missed a prize, Pam, but try again will you? My old pal Carol Donovan, of Bowraville, sent me three nice sketches and one of them, "Bringing in the Washing", wins a special prize.

Owen Morgan c/- Claude McDermott, of Tweed Heads South, wants some pen friends, 15 to 21 years of age. Owen said, "I am 20 years of age, 5 ft. 7 in., weigh 10 stone 5 lbs, have wavy hair, dimples in the cheeks and all my teeth, I will be glad to exchange photos." Well there you are, a full description, and I'm sure he'll get plenty of letters.

Also a nice black and white sketch, which wins a prize, came from Matilda Williams of Wrambie, West Cowra. Congratulations to you Matilda. Well, kids, that's all for this month, so all the best for now.

Your sincere pal,

Pete



A fine black and white sketch by Betty Black of Murrin Bridge.



YOUR GARDEN IN NOVEMBER

PLANT SOME OF THE NEW VARIETIES THIS SEASON

The flush of Spring is now over and the crops that have outlived their usefulness should be removed from the beds they are occupying. Spent refuse of this kind can be transformed into valuable humus, either by medium of the compost heap or by digging it well in to rot. Should any disease be apparent it is safer to burn the plants and thus prevent the possibility of the trouble spreading.

Keep the soil well worked to allow the moisture to penetrate freely, and destroy all weed growth. To bring the garden beds to their proper tilth a further application of lime may be required, and a little later a dressing of stable manure or well balanced fertiliser will tone up the beds ready for new plantings.

Time for Further Sowings

Spring-sown seedlings should be well advanced but there is ample time to make further sowings either as supplementary plantings or to try out varieties that have not been planted previously.

Many of the new introductions are outstanding, for instance the cosmos of yesterday has been superseded by early flowering strains which are vastly superior in every way to their forerunners. Mandarin, which is brand-new, must take pride of place with its brilliant orange flowers which have as many as 40 petals. Its dense foliage and long cropping season are added attractions. Sensation Radiance is another cosmos of distinction, for its masses of flowers are often four to six inches across.

'Crackerjack'—True to Label

Another newcomer is Crackerjack marigold, a magnificent new African marigold. This is sure to attract attention among connoisseurs and home gardeners for it produces all double blooms which are four to five inches across. The flowers are borne well above the foliage and are richly coloured.

For those who like something different in zinnia, Maypole is much better in every way than the Peppermint Stick which made its appearance some years ago. It is a double flowered type and its colour range includes red, orange, rose, lavender and white. Seventy per cent. of the blooms are striped.

It is a good month for planting dahlias and chrysanthemums. These recognised charmers are always a highlight of the garden and both are easy to grow.

In the vegetable section. Chieftain beet is something new and good. Its texture and flavour are superb. Baby Blue pumpkin is ideal for small families, for its fruit weighs only two to three pounds. Many other newcomers are also available and there is always fun in trying out a crop that has not been grown before.

There are ample chores to keep the home gardener busy this month and a little attention to the lawn will pay handsome dividends. It may require topdressing and overseeding to cure any thin patches.

Flower Seeds for Sowing This Month

Ageratum, alyssum, amaranthus, aster, balsam, begonia (fibrous rooted), Californian poppy (eschscholtzia), calliopsis (annual), carnation, celosia, cockscomb, coleus, convolvulus (dwarf morning glory), cosmos, dahlia, dianthus, gaillardia (annual), gerbera, marigold (African), Mexican poppy (hunnemannia), nasturtium, petunia, phlox, portulaca, salpiglossis, salvia, saponaria (big gyp.), snapdragon (antirrhinum), Sturt's desert pea, sunflower, torenia, verbena, zinnia.

Vegetable Seeds for Sowing This Month

Bean (French and climbing), beet, silver beet, carrot, cress, cucumber, herbs, lettuce, marrow, melon, parsley, parsnip, pepper (capsicum), pumpkin, radish, rhubarb, squash, sweet corn, tomato.