

Registered at the G.P.O., Sydney, for
transmission by post as a periodical

Volume No. 11

Serial No. 10

OCTOBER, 1962



DAWN

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

DAWN

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

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OUR COVER

The CHERUBS OF BURNT BRIDGE:—Is it any wonder that audience reaction rated the Burnt Bridge children high in the list of competitors at the recent Kempsey Eisteddfod?

The picture shows the kindergarten class in the verse-speaking section — one of two teams entered by Burnt Bridge school. Front row (from left to right) they are: Charles Quinlan, Keith Marr, Judy Davis, Nita Davis, Veronica Waters and Claude Flanders. Back row faces visible in the group are those of Kerry Ward, Russell Duguay, Warren Nixon and Willie Flanders.



Aboriginal Art Museum

Retired Station Manager hopes gifts will found Welfare Board collection

Some historic pieces of aboriginal art and a collection of photographs have been presented to the Aborigines Welfare Board by retired station manager and teacher, Mr. J. R. Milne.

Mr. Milne hopes that his gifts will lead to the founding of a museum at the Welfare Board's Sydney headquarters.

"Among *Dawn* readers there must be many like me who have gathered small collections together over the years," he said.

"Old Aboriginal art is becoming so rare these days I felt I was being selfish in keeping mine at home where few people saw it. Things like these should not gather dust.

"I hope my small contribution will encourage other collectors to help the Welfare Board set up some kind of museum where visitors from out of state and overseas can view the talent of our native craftsmen.

"I feel also that the work of aboriginal painters could form a special and greatly prized section."

Mr. Milne, who will be 80 in December, will be remembered by thousands of our people.

A Scot, who served in the Boer War and in World War I as a Royal Artillery signals sergeant, Mr. Milne and his wife came to Australia in the 1920's. He was appointed teacher-manager at New Angledool at the beginning of 1925 and from that day until his retirement in March, 1942, the children of his schools all talked with a faint Scottish burr.

From New Angledool (later shifted to Brewarrina) he transferred to Roseby Park in 1930 and afterwards saw service at Urunga, Valhallow, Cabbage Tree Island, Bellbrook and Taree.

Mrs. Milne was matron at these stations and their daughter, Miss Agnes Milne (now Mrs. R. W. Mutch of

OUR PICTURE

A Boomerang that was carried across Sydney Harbour Bridge at the official opening more than 30 years ago is presented to the Superintendent, Mr. H. J. Green (left), by Mr. Milne



One of Mr. Milne's favourite boys was Charlie ("The Actor") Edwards in his role (above) as the villain at a Corroboree at Taree

Below.—Purfleet Scholars photographed before a wartime charity march in Taree. The group includes Mr. and Mrs. Milne, Mr. Gordon Young (present director of physical education in N.S.W.—second from right), and the late Mr. Harkness, former chief inspector of Schools (extreme right)



Longueville) was for a time matron of the girls training home at Cootamundra.

When Sydney Harbour Bridge was opened on March 19, 1932, Mr. Milne was chosen by the old Aborigines Protection Board to take charge of the aborigine contingent which took part in the celebrations.

He chose a party of full-bloods, including seven women, to march over the bridge. The warriors, who wore warpaint and kangaroo skins and carried boomerangs and spears in the pageant, were drawn from Wallaga Lake, Brewarrina, Menindie and La Perouse.

Mr. Milne's art collection included a boomerang made by one of the Sims boys of La Perouse. He describes it as "one of the first boomerangs to go over the Harbour Bridge and come back."

But the only time it was airborne was when the contingent staged a boomerang throwing exhibition at Vaucluse House where they camped in the grounds in gunyahs for a day or two during the celebrations.

Mr. Milne said that perhaps the greatest hit of the aborigine entertainment for Sydneysiders was the performance of their gum-leaf band. "That group was a symphony orchestra among gum leaf bands," he said proudly.

A fine specimen of the sand art work of the late Sam Kelly of Urunga is among the items which Mr. Milne has given the Board.

Thirty years ago, according to Mr. Milne, Sam Kelly was a clever, proud aboriginal in late middle age.

“He possessed a wonderful skill as a magician and juggler but he refused to cash in on his talents,” Mr. Milne said.

“The art of making coloured sand pictures in glass jars was one of his best kept secrets. Whenever he agreed to produce a sand picture he would vanish and return some days afterwards with the finished product. Sam would never let anyone see him at work.”

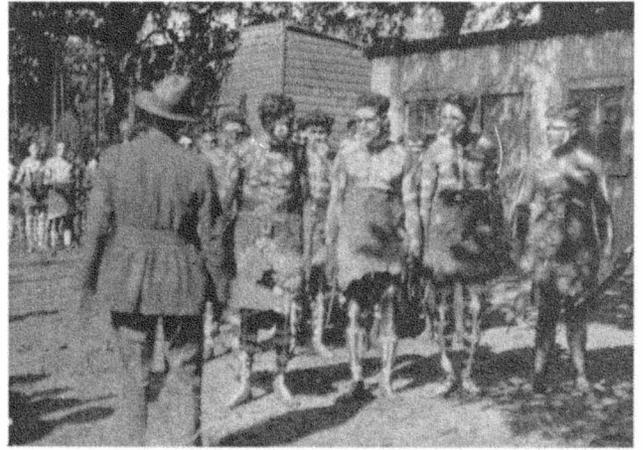
Other personalities remembered with affection by Mr. Milne are Charlie (“The Actor”) Edwards and pianist Rex Morris of Taree.

“These two boys had great talent,” Mr. Milne said.

“I will never forget Charlie Edwards in his role as ‘The Devil’ at a corroboree we once staged. He was so good that when he appeared out of the dark women fainted and dogs attacked him.”

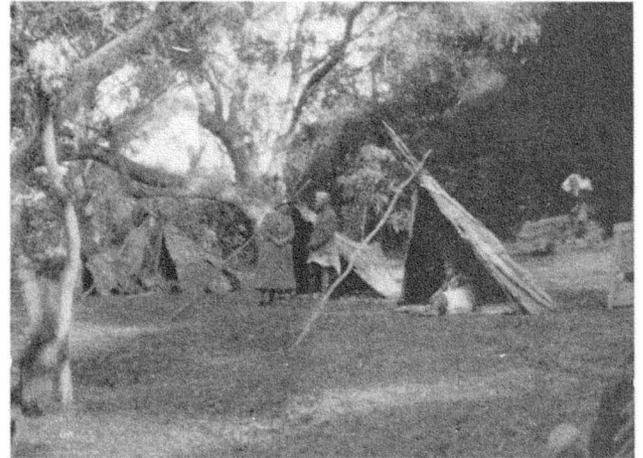
Mr. Milne praised the advanced policies of the present Aborigines Welfare Board, particularly on assimilation, town housing and education.

“The bursary system towards higher education is a magnificent idea”, he said. “Our aboriginal children have opportunities today that were never dreamed of 20 years ago. With leadership and training they can go a long way. Today there is nothing to stop them going to great heights. They have the brains to do it.”



↑
The aborigine contingent which marched across the Sydney Harbour Bridge at its opening, assembles in kangaroo skins and warpaint

Gunyahs set up in the grounds of historic Vacluse House



↓
 ← **Talented Taree pianist Rex Morris at the keyboard**

There were few winter colds at New Angledool. The kids loved their ration of Cod Liver Oil—being dispensed by Matron Milne



ARMIDALE GIRL MAKES HER DEBUT IN SYDNEY

A former Armidale girl, Muriel Briggs (17), made her debut at the Ball of Progress staged by the social committee of the Royal New South Wales Institution for Deaf and Blind Children at the Trocadero ballroom on August 8.

The ball marked the centenary of the institution's work in this State.

Muriel, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Briggs of Armidale, was one of 11 girls presented to the Governor, Lt.-General Sir Eric Woodward, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and Lady Woodward.



Matron of Honour was Mrs. Russell Nash, a daughter of a former State Governor, Sir John Northcott.

Muriel, who has been in Sydney for the past 20 months, is at present employed on the secretarial staff of the Water Conservation Commission.

Members of the social committee of the Deaf and Blind Children's institute who were impressed by Muriel's natural charm and dignity invited her to make her debut at the ball.

A committee member, Mrs. Ron McDonald, of Castlecrag, made her beautiful ball gown of white delustrated satin cut on simple, classic lines with scooped neckline and short tailored sleeves.

The bell skirt was slightly shorter in front and a feature was a hand made rose in the same material at the centre back waistline. The rose was made by a friend, Mrs. Les Penman.

Muriel was partnered by Mr. Tony Jay of Pearith, an industrial chemistry student at the University of N.S.W.

Glamour deb from Armidale, Muriel Briggs →
← Muriel and her University student escort, Tony Jay
Muriel Briggs curtsies prettily as she is presented to the
State Governor, Sir Eric Woodward, by Matron of Honor,
Mrs. Russell Nash





FEELING FOR THE WORLD OF *Light, Sound and Plants*

The poetry section of the National Aborigines Day writing quest this year was judged by Mrs. Bertha Maxwell, whose death occurred shortly afterwards.

It is with a great deal of sorrow that *Dawn* has to report that Mrs. Maxwell died suddenly in her garden at Mt. Kuring-gai, among the wattle trees and native flowers and shrubs she made famous all over the world by her embroidery designs.

Well-known among Australian women writers, Mrs. Maxwell recently acted as Controller of the Parramatta Literary Competition to mark the Centenary of Local Government in that city.

She was very pleased to be asked to be one of the NADOC writing quest judges. This is what she said of the poetry in general:—

“Most of the poems are concerned with feeling and observation for and of the world of light, sound and plants. Some show inner thought, some are a reflection of what has been heard or taught. All are good and fresh.”

*And yet we have to change with time,
And live as best we may,
And life is often hard and sad
But sometimes it is gay.*

*Who knows but in a hundred years
The old days may come back,
And where we tread the concrete now
May be a wild bush track.*

*Our homes, our stately buildings
Will crumble and will rust,
All living things may perish
In a cloud of atom dust.*

*But the world will still be different
From the one that we have seen,
From the one our fathers lived in,
From the one that might have been.*

*Judge's remarks:—*This poem has rhyme, balance and much thought for other days as well as question of the future. It would probably be easy to recite.



Equal First Prize

“2062”

By
Dulcie Cooley (11)

La Perouse
Public School

*I wonder how the world will be
A hundred years from now.
I wonder if I'd like the world
If I came back somehow.
When I re ad in a history book
How we lived wild and free,
And how we wandered far and wide,
From mountains to the sea.
And how we found our daily food,
By hunting and by fishing,
And how we slept beneath the stars,
I'm sad for all I'm missing.*



Equal First Prize

ANZAC DAY

By
Ivan Simon (12)

La Perouse
Public School

*We stood together in the crowded hall,
For once all were still.
No one spoke or even moved a chair.
A slow and solemn voice told us of men who died far away,
That we might live and play as we do now.
Then all was silence.
A bugle sounded sweet and clear,
And the whole world started to move again.*

*Judge's remarks:—*This is a distinguished piece of writing: It makes more impression on the mind than any of the other poems, has thought and feeling of a high order.



Second Prize

THE MOUSE

By
Mervyn Davison (11)

La Perouse
Public School

*A tiny mouse, a grey one
With big ears and two bright eyes
Crept into the tuck-shop.
He ate the tops off cakes, and nibbled jelly beans.
Somehow he slipped into a box with steep, smooth sides
And there was caught.
I said I'd drop him in the furnace.
I saw the red and hungry flames,
I looked at him crouched in the corner.
He was small and frightened.
I had to let him go.*

Judge's remarks:—There is pity in this poem, a regard for small wild creatures. It begins as a light trifle and turns to consideration for the mouse in a catching way. A good reciting poem, delicate and soft.

Judge's remarks:—Good, thoughtful, but rather short: at the same time, it says all it has to say by its brevity which is to be commended.

Special Consolation Prize

Awarded to Rose Dennis, Walgett, N.S.W.

BEAUTY OF THE BUSH

*I love the Winter sunrise
That warms the earth so cold,
I love the Autumn sunset
Of colours red and gold;
I love the beauty of the bush
The birds, the trees, the hills,
And the slow and gentle trickle of the
Of the ever moving rills,
I love to watch the butterflies
Dancing on the flowers,
And the drowsy, droning beetles
Clinging to the boughs.
I love to watch them all by day
And dream of them by night,
While the stars are twinkling up above
And the moon is shining bright.*

The remainder of poems are as follows:—



CORAL TREES

By
Lorraine Simms (12)

La Perouse
Public School

*When Summer's heat is hard to bear,
Their bright green leaves are good to see;
I sit and breathe the cool, clear air,
And watch the flight of bird and bee.
When Winter blew their leaves away,
Their arms were splashed with bright red flowers,
And still beneath the tree I lay
And warmed myself for hours and hours.*

A WINDY NIGHT

By Noelene Longbottom (12), La Perouse Public School

*I love to hear the wild wind shout,
I love to hear him rush about,
I love to see my Coral tree
Play with the wind from the restless sea—
I love all this when I'm warm in bed,
And the moon shines bright, and the sun is dead.*



Third Prize

LOST PLANE

By
Noel Stewart (12)

La Perouse
Public School

*"Man has conquered space," That's what they say.
Around the world, a steel bird, he flies.
Soon he will tread the surface of the moon,
And roam the skies, or so they say.
Well then why all these bodies,
And this wreckage
In the Bay?*



HILL 60

By
Glenda Ardler (12)

La Perouse
Public School

*You once were gaily dressed,
The wild flowers made you bright and gay,
Lizards and snakes lay in the sun,
The grasses danced with breezes from the bay.
But now your face is bare and scarred—
Gone is your coat of green and gold.
An iron monster breathing smoke and fire
Has wounded you and made you grey and old.
To build new homes upon your furrowed face,
This must be done they say,
Well maybe I wont feel so sad,
If children come and laugh and play.*



CLOUDS

By
Yvonne Simms (10)

La Perouse
Public School

*Clouds are sometimes soft and white,
Sometimes dull and grey;
Sometimes they seem to touch the trees,
Sometimes they're far away.
I often watch the flying clouds
And wish that I were one,
I'd play with all the twinkling stars,
And kiss the dying sun.*

THE SAGA OF LOUIS BRIGGS — 2

“My little son became ‘abo

Mr. Briggs talked of the day he became accepted as a real Australian. He and his wife attended a country funeral a few weeks after their arrival.

“We were passengers in a Model ‘T’ Ford just behind a lady who was riding a young, flighty horse,” he said. “The horse didn’t like going so slowly and reared and tried to get rid of its rider. I got out of the car and grabbed the reins and asked the lady to dismount and take my seat in the car.

“My friends were rather terrified when they saw me prepare to mount the young half-broken horse. They thought of me as a raw ‘pommy’. No one knew that I, as a boyish ‘Red Indian’, had learned to ride bare-back over logs and fences away in the forests of America. I spoke to the horse in horse language and he settled down and behaved very well indeed for me.

“I always think of this as the day upon which I became an Australian, because it was then I was accepted as an equal among the community of expert Australian horsemen.”

Mr. Briggs had been in Australia three years when he met a man he had known in Ceylon.

“He told me about the dark people of this country and of a station at a place called Carowra Tank, away out west, between Ivanhoe and Cobar.

Louis Briggs relaxing in the garden at his home

The End of an Era

This is the final instalment in the life-story of the late Mr. Louis Briggs, one of the Aborigines Welfare Board’s best loved welfare officers.

Mr. Briggs died at his Padstow, Sydney, home on July 30 at the age of 59.

Born on a farm in Pennsylvania, U.S.A., the late Mr. Briggs left his home as a Salvation Army cadet officer at 19 for India.

While in charge of the Colombo Prison Gate Home for boys in Ceylon he met and married Captain Vera Redman, a Salvation Army officer from Hannan Vale, near Taree.

They came to New South Wales from Ceylon in 1924 after a near fatal attack of malaria forced Mr. Briggs to forsake work in that tropic zone.

Together Mr. and Mrs. Briggs worked for 35 years in the service of some of the least favoured of our aboriginal people.

Shortly before his untimely death Mr. Briggs told the story of his life to Dawn.

'origine' at Carowra Tank'

A young couple was needed at this Aboriginal Station to look after the needs of the dark people who lived there.

"So I went down to the old Board Office in the Domain, in Sydney, where I saw Mr. Charles Pettit, who was the secretary of the old Aborigines Protection Board. I told him that my wife and I wanted to go to Carowra Tank to work among the aborigines.

"I had no trouble in convincing Mr. Pettit that I had the necessary experience in dealing with people, but he wanted to be quite sure that I could also do road repairs on a 'T' model Ford truck. I wasn't at all sure of this but I told him I thought I could keep it going.

"After a long and terribly dusty journey on the old Broken Hill Express train we arrived at Ivanhoe in the middle of the night. No one turned up to meet the train until after daylight. We found our way to the pub and after shaking a thick coating of red dust from our beds we lay down to smother in dust for the rest of the night. It was in the middle of January and in the midst of a terrible drought. The fine, dry dust lifted into the air with the slightest breeze.

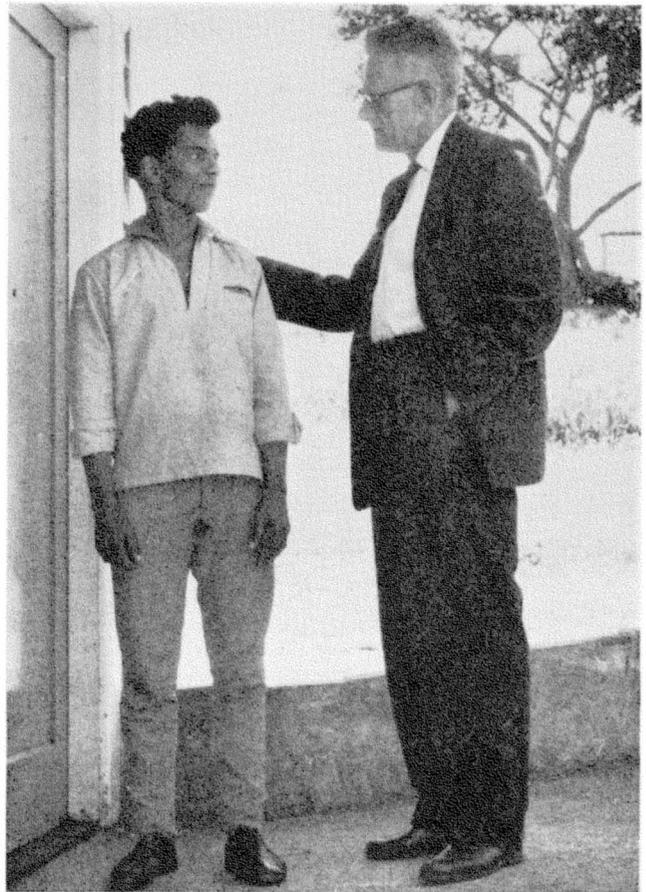
"After a breakfast of goat chops and sand, we went out to the verandah of the hotel where we were greeted by a clatter of loose bolts and bearings housed in what we were informed was the 'T' model truck I had come so far to nurse. Harry Pettitt, who was driving the truck introduced himself and the truck, and after explaining that the top gear was the only one which worked, he just said: 'There you are, boss. She's all yours. Jump in and drive her home'.

"But it wasn't quite so easy as it sounds. This is the way it had to be started: first, crank the engine; second, everybody push until the truck was moving at a running pace; finally, all jump in as the driver pushes the hand brake forward and lets her straight into top gear. Thus I performed my first duty upon entry into the service of the Government of New South Wales."

Carowra Tank—in a dry, desolate part of the State, must have presented a grim appearance to the ex-farm boy. Of these early experiences Mr. Briggs wrote: "When my wife and I arrived there it was much drier than usual. We had a little son, three years old and a little girl of two years. It didn't look like a very good place in which to bring them up. There was no fine house, such as many of you live in now, to call our home.

"There were houses of galvanised iron for the dark people on the Station but our home for two and a half years was a camp made up of two large tents facing each other, with a galvanised cooking galley between them.

"Our nearest neighbour lived 16 miles away. He was a lonely bachelor. There were no white children



Many young boys, like the one above, will remember Mr. Briggs for the part he played in placing them in trades and jobs

for our little ones to play with. Just as I had become a 'Red Indian' when I was a child, so my little son became an 'aborigine' at Carowra Tank.

"One of the men of the station made him a set of little boomerangs and shields which amused him for hours as he played with them in the scrub. One day the little fellow cut his hand rather badly on a boomerang. Ted King, who was just a big boy then, bound his wound with a piece of his shirt and carried him home. The little boy doesn't throw boomerangs any more. He is now a foreman in a big engineering works in Sydney.

"There were many full-blood aborigines on this Station and they were a fine and friendly people. They would never think of stealing or of doing anything which was not honest. If any of the young people did do something which was not quite right, a council of old men would have a meeting and then tell the manager what punishment they thought should be meted out to the offender. Sometimes the one who had done wrong would be told to leave the station for a few months. The council of old men would see that he did not return until his time was up.

"Many of the older people did not have what we know as surnames or family names. There were many



Mr. and Mrs. Briggs and daughter toast the bride at a wedding the Briggs' family attended a short time ago

Facing camera in centre is Mr. Briggs, photographed with children from La Perouse during an inspection of Aboriginal art in Sydney

Jacks and Willies. But to distinguish one from another, the name of the place where they were born was used as a prefix. Thus, there were Keewong Willie, Cobar Jack, Red Tank Maggie and so on. Today throughout the western part of the State there are many families of Johnsons and Williams. This is because the sons of the Jackies took the name Johnson and the sons of the Willies took the family name of Williams.

"The Carowra people were a happy people. It was just as well with so little to make them happy. The State Government had very little money to spend on our people in those days. It was hard to get good food. The sheep were terribly poor and fresh vegetables were hard to get. Our bread came with the mail every Sunday. It was three days old when we got it. But my good wife learned to make her own bread which was much better. We both became experts at making dampers.

"When meat was scarce I would go out with the station hunters with my rifle and bring home kangaroos and young emus. The emu had to be cooked under the ground because the old people were scared of what the evil spirits might do if the smoke or steam from the cooking emu were to rise in the air."

Mr. Briggs and his wife remembered the old Carowra Tank people as the most lovable folk they had ever worked among. He wrote:—

"Freddy Biggs and dear old Nancy, we remember you for your help and advice. Charlie Bourke, we remember



you as a saver of lives in the back country. Your name will live long in the west country because of your skill as a tracker and your superb bushcraft. There must be quite a number of people living today who would have perished of hunger and thirst had you not found them in time. Faithful old Gidget Williams, happy-go-lucky Cobar Jack, and all the rest of you, we still remember you and the happy times we had together so many years ago.

“Carowra Tank itself still remains to mark the spot where the old station stood but the station and its people have moved in closer to more settled places and their children and their children’s children are gradually learning to grapple with the problems of an advanced civilisation and to take their place as one with a great and new Australian family.”

The tough lonely life of Carowra changed when the two elder children became of school age. Mr. Briggs applied to the Board for a position as teacher at the aboriginal school at Condobolin.

A naturally humorous man, Mr. Briggs, appreciated the extremely odd circumstance under which this appointment occurred.

“One day a telegram came from the Board,” he wrote. “It stated that Mr. Briggs could go to Condobolin any day and that arrangements had been made to meet a Mr. Webb there. So we packed up our belongings and took the train to Condobolin. However, when we reached there we could find no one associated with the Education Department who knew a Mr. Webb.

“I telephoned Mr. Pettit at the Board’s Office in Sydney and he was most surprised to learn that we were in Condobolin. It appears that the telegram we received was not quite the same as the one which had left the Board’s office.

“It was intended that Mabel Biggs (now Mrs. Clarke), should go to Condobolin to be employed by a farming family whose name was Webb. However, since it was considered I’d make a very poor housemaid it was decided that I should stay in Condobolin until the teacher of the school there could be transferred to another school.

“Taken as a whole the Condobolin kids were a grand bunch of youngsters. They were a very patient lot of boys and girls who never seemed to tire of making things which took a long time to finish. Their weaving and basketwork was always of a high standard and much admired by visitors.

“They learned other crafts too. Some of them wrote very nice stories about animals and bush lore. Of course some were very young and had not tried to write much before and they would write some very funny little stories.

“Little Jimmy Barlow wrote about ‘Trees and their Uses’ in a very brief essay. ‘Trees are good to make chairs and sit in the shade of.’

“A school inspector called to inspect the school one day. He was very pleased with the efforts of the children in writing autobiographies of various animals,



A keen angler Mr. Briggs seldom had time for his favourite sport—but he knew how to land the big ones

but he wanted them to learn to write descriptions of people. It was his own suggestion that they should start by writing descriptions of visitors to the school. So they started on the Inspector.

“Monty Knight started his description like this: ‘The first thing I noticed about the new inspector when he came into the school was his baldy head.’

“Exercises in words and meanings also produced some funny results. A list of words would be written on the blackboard and the children asked to use them in written sentences to make sure they knew their correct meanings. Ralph Naden produced the following amusing sentences using the words ‘income’, ‘neither’ and ‘nor’. Here they are:—‘I opened the door and *income* a big black dog. *Nor* was a good man. He made an ark when the flood came. He didn’t get drowned *neither*.’

“There is so much I could write about the people of Condobolin. They were a co-operative people living in the midst of a community of kind and big-hearted people.”

Mr. Briggs, who went to Taree Station as manager from Condobolin, wrote finally:—

“Let me leave you with one final message to all aboriginal people in New South Wales. This is the message: Your community will do as much to help you as you do to help your community. If you wish your family to reach a high standard of living in the community, *You* set the standard and then *Work* towards it. *Don’t* look for help to come. Help yourself and help *Will* come, without you having to look for it.”

WALGETT MIDGETS

WERE STARS OF TAMWORTH RUGBY CARNIVAL

The Walgett Central School 4 st. 7 lb. football team had an extremely popular win at the Tamworth Peel Boys' Football Carnival during the winter. This team consisted of aboriginal and white lads—a wonderful example of assimilation and understanding.

The following are two reports dealing with the team. The first is written by Mr. A. King, Sportsmaster of Walgett Central School while the second is an extract from the "Northern Daily Leader", Tamworth.

George Rose, Danny Rose, Trevor Hall, Billy Cargill, Alan Simpson, Arthur McBride, Alf Beale, David Morgan and Stanley Sullivan were among some of the members of the Walgett Central School 4 st. 7 lb. football team that played in Division 2 weight division at the Peel School Football Carnival held at Tamworth this year.



The Rugby wizards, Walgett's 4 st. 7 lb. team

After travelling 240 miles, the longest distance any one team had to travel, the boys bunked down at Tamworth Showground for Friday night. The night being fairly cool, most of the boys found it warmer by sleeping two to a bed. In several cases in the same beds were aboriginal and white boys sleeping peacefully side by side. This closeness and togetherness set the foundation for an excellent team spirit.

After breakfast the boys prepared for their first match which was against Aberdeen Convent. In this game George Rose, playing half-back, scored two tries with well-timed runs from the scrum. The boys finally won this game 12 points to nil.

Our second game against Werris Creek was a tough one. With good service from scrums, hard running by the Rose brothers and tigerish tackling by Arthur

McBride and David Morgan, Walgett won 6 points to nil, George Rose scoring one try.

This win entitled Walgett to meet St. Xaviers Convent of Gunnedah in the final.

This final game saw Alan Simpson move into the forwards where he, Alf Beale and Billy Cargill combined into a hard, bustling front row.

At half-time, the scores were even at 3 points all. Our try being scored by George Rose.

About five minutes from the end Alf Beale was rewarded for his good forward play when he took a good intercept and scored the match winning try.

It was a good win and a real pleasure to see the boys combine the way they did. Everyone was thrilled.

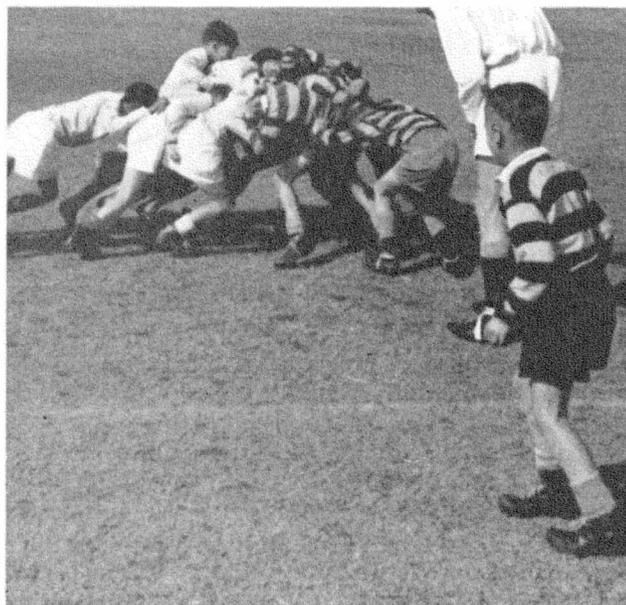
However, the captain, Danny Rose, was in store for another thrill. After being presented with the cup at the end of the carnival, Danny was called back to sit on Jack Wilkinson's shoulder. Jack Wilkinson was one of the English forwards then touring Australia with the Great Britain Rugby League team. The local newspaper reporter then photographed the two footballers.

What a great day it had been for the Walgett boys.

EXTRACT FROM TAMWORTH PRESS

"Though Tamworth won the main division of the programme, it was probably the barefooted Walgett midgets who won the hearts of the crowd.

It's Walgett's ball again





Speedy George Rose streaks down the sideline for a certain try

"They left Walgett on Friday afternoon for the journey to Tamworth, spending the night in pavilions at the Tamworth showground.

They then went on to take top honours in their four stone seven division with a brand of football that amazed spectators."

CAROONA TOOK FINAL

The Peel Schools' carnival was also notable for the success of the boys from Carooona in the 6 st. 7 lb. final. The three teams they eliminated failed to score one point against them.

The team was R. Allan, G. Porter, D. Sampson, A. Porter, J. White, B. Sampson, C. Tighe, T. Allan, J. Allan, G. Sampson, P. Allan, R. Allan, T. Ryan, T. Cohen and E. Ryan.

In their first game Carooona defeated Walcha Central School by 11 points to nil. Tries were scored by D. Sampson, P. Allan (two) and G. Sampson kicked a goal.

Carooona again won the second round, this time defeating Christian Brothers College, Tamworth, by 29 points to nil. The try scoring splurge was headed by P. Allan (five), T. Cohen and G. Sampson, while goals were kicked by D. Sampson, P. Allan and G. Sampson (two).

The boys then went into the final against Boggabri. This was a hard rugged game and after a tense struggle Carooona emerged winners by 6 points to nil. The tries were scored by A. Porter and T. Allan.

The team's play was highly praised by the visiting English Rugby League players.

The boys also looked well in the March Past, decked out in their new white shorts which parents and other donors had provided to go with the black and gold jerseys bought last year.

Darryl Sampson received the trophy on behalf of the team and the boys were happy with the new football that went with it. But, perhaps the happiest person on the day was the coach, Mr. Dunicliff, who had worked hard with the boys.

SPORTS DAY PRELUDE

The rapid rise of Carooona Aboriginal School rugby team to final winners at the Peel football carnival at Tamworth, was demonstrated a week before the carnival at a sports day.

On that day the boys met Wallabadah school team and reversed a defeat by the same team in their first clash early in the season by almost a cricket score.

Final tally was Carooona 56 points. Wallabadah 16.

The girls upheld the tradition in a softball match defeating the Wallabadah girls by 34 runs to 16. The second girls team also won by 32 runs to 21.

In athletic events, on the station's recreation ground, Sue Porter won the senior girl's championship; Barbara McClellan and Lynette Slater the junior girl's championship; Darryl Sampson the senior boy's title and Jim White the junior championship.

Altogether 120 children, including many from Carooona Public School and Wallabadah, took part in the sports and they were given soft drinks and cakes by the parents on the station.

Blind Student departs by air for England

Blind aboriginal boy, David Kerin (18), left Sydney by Qantas jet on September 22, for England, to begin a three-year course in physiotherapy at the Royal Institute for the Blind in London.

The Aborigines Welfare Board donated £1,000 towards the cost of David's training in London. In announcing this bursary last April, the Chief Secretary (Mr. C. A. Kelly) said the £1,000 would come from funds donated to or left to the Board by private individuals for aborigines' welfare. The Board considered David's higher education as a most worthy cause in which a special donation should be made.

David, who is from Tennant Creek, Northern Territory, came to Sydney at the age of four after he lost his sight following an attack of conjunctivitis.

He went to school first at St. Lucy's, Homebush, and after two years went to St. Edmund's School for the Blind, Wahroonga. His last two years of schooling in Sydney before gaining a Leaving Certificate pass were done at St. Pius X School at Chatswood.

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

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



Mrs. J. W. Redmond, Relieving Matron, Purfleet Aboriginal Station, Taree, placing on the scales the first baby to "weigh in" at Purfleet C.W.A. Baby Health Centre. Baby is Corina Slater. With her is Mrs. M. Barber, State President of C.W.A., who officially opened the Centre and Mrs. E. McLennan, C.W.A. Group Secretary, and standing behind is Mrs. Ella Simon, Purfleet President

Photo. by Manning Studio

Display cases inside the Gillawarra Gift Shop, Purfleet give a glimpse of the wide variety of handicrafts which the people of Purfleet produce for sale. Every item could well be labelled "Made in Australia by true Australians."



A MILESTONE IN PROGRESS OF PURFLEET

A further development in the progress of Purfleet Aboriginal Station and its people, culminated in August with the opening of the C.W.A. Rest Room, Baby Health Centre and Gillawarra Gift Shop.

Mrs. M. Barber, State President of the Country Women's Association, opened the Rest Rooms, and Mr. Bill Onus, an aboriginal manufacturer of Belgrave, Victoria, officially opened the gift shop.

Because of wet weather, the ceremonies were held in the Station Hall instead of at the building housing the new amenities.

After the official opening, Mr. Onus gave a demonstration of boomerang throwing. Another highlight of the afternoon was the weighing by the Relieving Matron, Mrs. J. Redmond, of the youngest baby at the Station—Corina Slater, who was only nine weeks of age.

The hall was packed to capacity, and under the chairmanship of the President of Taree Chamber of Commerce, Mr. B. Cowan, proceedings began with the reciting of the C.W.A. Pledge, after which the Mayor of Taree, Ald. Martin, welcomed the guests and visitors. The Mayor said the citizens of Taree were delighted to see the progress made at Purfleet, and to see their fellow citizens improve their lot by their own efforts.

President of Purfleet C.W.A. Branch, Mrs. Ella Simon, also welcomed the guests and thanked all for their untiring efforts in helping the development of the branch. She introduced Mrs. Barber, who described it as an historic occasion for Purfleet and the Mid-North Coast Group of the C.W.A.

"Members throughout the State have taken a keen interest in the work of the Purfleet Branch, and to-day

there are 26,000 other members who are with you as you enter your new home."

Mrs. Barber thanked those who had co-operated, and given assistance and encouragement to the women, and she hoped the mothers at Purfleet would bring their children to the centre where they would receive attention and advice.

Officials of the Mid-North Coast executive, as well as presidents of the many branches present also congratulated Purfleet Branch.

Tracing the history of the Gillawarra Gift Shop, Mr. Cowan said that it was in 1958 that a shop was first mooted in the Taree Chamber of Commerce. Earlier this year the Chamber invited Mr. Onus to address it, and six members were then appointed to establish the shop.

This shop was established for two main reasons:—

- To foster a business which would materially assist the aborigine people of Purfleet.
- To help foster the tourist industry of the town and district.

Mr. Onus in replying to the official welcome, said that Australia had something to sell, but some people had the idea that Australia "could be sold without doing something about it." People overseas know very little about Australia, but the aborigine can produce something of their culture and colouration which would allow us to say "This is Australia".

Amongst other things mentioned by Mr. Onus was the fact that whether we are New Australians, white Australians or of aboriginal extraction, we are all Australians and have to work for the betterment and future of this great land—all together.

Other speakers were Mr. E. Arthur-Mason, Aborigines Welfare Officer, Mr. Jordon, M.L.A., and Mr. Alan Cowan, who has worked so tirelessly for the whole function, and the Gift Shop.

Section of the crowd which turned out (despite heavy rain) for the opening of Purfleet C.W.A. Baby Health Centre-Rest Rooms and Gillawarra Gift Shop. The striking design for the Gift Shop was designed and sign-written by Mr. Jim Nesbitt of Taree



DAWN, October 1962

Three Television Channel photographers were in attendance, as well as press and radio representatives.

Barbecue steaks were sold, and if it hadn't been for the rain an outdoor concert and corroboree was to have been a feature of the day. However a concert was held in the hall, given by the many Purfleet artists to the enjoyment of all present.

To finish the last part of the evening off, a dance was also held in the hall.

Women from Barryulgil Help Form New C.W.A. Branch at Copmanhurst

Aboriginal women from Barryulgil helped form a new branch of the Country Women's Association at Copmanhurst, near Coff's Harbour recently.

Mrs. M. H. Bowen, of Kororo, group president of the C.W.A., presided at the inaugural meeting, supported by Mrs. V. Williams, group secretary of Bonville; Mrs. S. W. Gulliver, group treasurer of Grafton and a number of district branch members.

A delegation from the Grafton branch was led by the President, Mrs. W. O. McEwan.

A telegram from the State President, Mrs. Thelma Bate, conveyed her greetings and best wishes for the success of the branch.

Officers elected for the new Copmanhurst-Barryulgil branch were:—President, Mrs. E. Brown; secretary, Mrs. G. Harrington; treasurer, Mrs. S. Hinnett.

Four vice-presidents are:—Mesdames O. West, A. A. Ford, P. Mundine and L. Daley.

Handicrafts officer is Mrs. C. Carroll.

The Group President (Mrs. Bowen) later described the display of work on show at the meeting as "outstanding".

She described the contributions of the aboriginal as being high-class particularly preserves, chutneys, needlework, a patchwork quilt, shellwork and dressmaking.

The aboriginal women's work also included a very fine hand made frock, and splendid examples of floral decorations.

The pianist for the afternoon's gathering was also an aboriginal woman, said Mrs. Bowen.

Wreck Bay C.W.A. Extends Congratulations to Nowra

The 38th birthday anniversary of the Nowra branch of the C.W.A. coincides with International Day which was celebrated in August by a luncheon in the C.W.A. Rooms at Nowra.

Mrs. Belle McLeod of the Wreck Bay-Worrigeer branch delivered birthday greetings to Nowra in a charming speech and introduced Mrs. E. Glanville who cut the birthday cake.

Among guests of honour were the Shire President, Cr. R. Bishop, and Mrs. Bishop; the Rev. N. Symes;



Mrs. B. McLeod, hon. treasurer of the Wreck Bay-Worrigee branch of the C.W.A. stands by (right) as Miss E. Glanville cuts the Nowra birthday cake

the C.W.A. Group President, Mrs. Cayford; the International officer, Mrs. F. Brown; the Group treasurer, Mrs. J. P. Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Wisheart.

As Italy was chosen as the country for study this year, Italian colours were used to decorate the room and tables at which 100 guests were seated.

Nowra's International Day was a combined effort of the Milton, Berry, Wreck Bay-Worrigee and Nowra branches.

Guest speaker was Mrs. F. O. Moorhouse, the President of Nowra branch who spoke of "Rambles Through Italy" in 1956 and again in 1961.

Mrs. Moorhouse, who visited Rome, Naples, Florence, Milan, Sorrento, and the Isle of Capri with her husband, told of the work of the Food and Agricultural Organisation in Rome and the Freedom from Hunger campaign in which the C.W.A. will be assisting this year.

Miss Glanville, a foundation member of Nowra branch, praised the record of friendship and unselfishness which she has always found in the branch.

The anniversary day was followed on October 2 by the first annual meeting of the Wreck Bay-Worrigee branch.

The election of officers was as follows: President, Mrs. Vera Brown; vice-presidents, Mesdames N. Timbery, M. Moore, J. Jarrett, G. Coombs; hon. secretary, Mrs. A. Brown; hon. treasurer, Mrs. McLeod.

"Little Toot" saved the Fruit

One of the oldest working steam engines in N.S.W. was instrumental last fruit season in saving from waste hundreds of tons of raw materials—without turning a wheel.

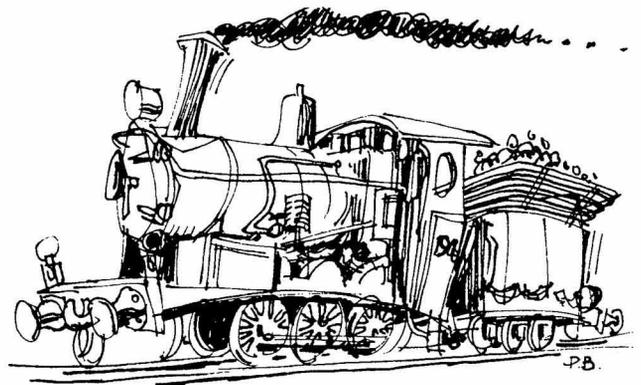
The ancient engine, lent by the State Railways Department, swung into action when a smoke stack fault put the Batlow Packing House cannery's boiler out of action.

The breakdown occurred when the cannery was operating at top pressure during one of its busiest periods.

Thousands of pounds worth of vegetables and fruit were arriving at the cannery and any delay in production would have caused serious losses.

An emergency generating plant was set up and the staff attempted to work around the clock to process the raw material. But the task was almost hopeless.

Then a cannery executive recalled reading an American magazine article which told how a steam locomotive had been pressed into service to overcome a similar emergency in that country.



The cannery approached the Railways Department and asked for the loan of an engine. Permission was given and the engine performed magnificently at its unusual job of supplying the necessary steam for the cannery.

The engine, which is a 19 class type, built last century, is one of the few remaining models. Used on the Batlow-Gilmore run, it was one of the few steam engines capable of making the long, hard pull, said to be one of the steepest grades in N.S.W.

The Railwayman, house journal of the N.S.W. Government Railways, says that even while the engine was generating steam at Batlow cannery, its days of usefulness with the Department were drawing to a close.

OUR BACK COVER

England's Rugby League team were amazed at the prowess of our boy footballers at the Tamworth Peel Boy's Football Carnival this year. After the game, giant English forward, Jack Wilkinson, grabbed up Walgett boy, Danny Rose, and carried him shoulder high in front of the crowd. See story page 12

PETE'S

PAGE

Dear Kids,

I am sure you will all be interested in news of Neville Thorne, the former Walgett boy now at Armidale High School.

Neville has kindly written his experiences away from home for our page under the title "My First Year at St. John's Hostel and Armidale High" and we are indeed glad to publish it.

Here it is:—

"When I first arrived in Armidale early this year, I knew there would be many surprises awaiting me. I was met at the railway station by Mrs. Passey, a member of the Assimilation Association for Aborigines. Mrs. Passey's husband is a lecturer at the University of New England. I was taken to the hostel by Mrs. Passey, introduced to Mr. Peters and was shown my living quarters.

"The following Monday, I spent my first day at Armidale High School and was enrolled in fourth year, my first lesson being woodwork. Armidale High School is situated on a small hill next to the New England Highway. In 1961, I believe, the school had witnessed many major changes in its appearance. At the back of

Our writer, Neville Thorne, pictured on the extreme left of the back row was a prominent member of Walgett Central School's Tennis team before going to Armidale. Others in the group are, back row from the left, Phillip Hall, Tony Azevedo, B. Hardy, J. Andrews and Mr. David Tribe (coach); front row, Beryl Gribble, Pam Lucas, Gararda Roggeveen and Valerie Donnelly



the older buildings, there are eleven new rooms plus the new Assembly and Dance Hall. A new oval and shower rooms have been built in front of the main buildings.

"I played cricket at the beginning of the year as a summer sport then football in the winter. At present I am playing basketball. I have represented the school in the first XV Rugby Union team, swimming and athletics.

At the high school, there are about eight or nine other aborigines, two of them are girls. Two, in particular, are doing quite well. They are Ray Beale in fifth year and Terry Widders in third year. Both of them board at the hostel.

However, back at the hostel where I spend most of my time, it is like another home to me. We are well looked after by the Matron and Mr. Peters in many ways. At first I lived in Dorm. One, but later I was moved to Dorm. Four and Five which are the Fourth and Fifth Year dormitories. There are many sporting activities going on at the hostel almost every afternoon. We acquaint ourselves with tennis (there are two tennis courts), touch football, soccer, table tennis and cricket.

"On the academic side, we have two hours set aside every school night for study, revision and homework. Third, fourth and fifth years may come back after showers at a quarter to nine and do extra work if they wish.

"Since I have arrived, I have made many new friends and I have been going regularly to school socials. I am proud to be an example to my race and to those aborigines who seek the honour of gaining a higher education. I will be continuing my studies and finally hope to be a schoolteacher.

"In concluding my account I wish to express my utmost and deepest gratitude to Mr. J. Taaffe, Mr. D. Tribe and the staff of Walgett Central School for their help and encouragement in assisting me to be where I am to-day."

Thanks Neville and keep up the good work.

Your sincere Pal,

