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Sewing and Printing Projects Help Coff's Harbour Aborigines

Adult education projects in sewing and silk screen printing begun last year have proved of increasing interest and value to Aboriginal people of Coff's Harbour.

Mr N. R. Lawson, welfare officer at Coff's Harbour, said adult education for Aborigines in the area began last year. The Committee for Aboriginal Welfare wrote to the local branch of the Save the Children Fund, which decided to establish a sewing class.

In August, 1966, the Coff's Harbour *Advocate* carried an appeal for treadle sewing machines, at the request of the Aborigines Welfare Board through the S.T.C.F. Six of the nine machines donated were reclaimed and became the foundation of the sewing class.

Sewing Classes

Ladies of the Church and Life movement, which was formed shortly before the *Advocate* appeal, volunteered to act as instructors for the planned sewing classes.

The classes have been most successful. They are held every Monday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the S.T.C.F. pre-school kindergarten on the Woolgoolga Road Aboriginal Reserve.

Fourteen women and girls have attended the classes. Among them are Mesdames Kim Craig, Susan Hoskins, L. Laurie and J. Smith, and Misses Daphne Wilson, Anita Quinlan, Jenny Yuke, Marie Craig and Judith Kelly.

Judith Kelly hopes to enrol in the Dressmaking With Patterns course at Coff's Harbour Technical College. Mrs Corben, one of the sewing class helpers, will introduce Judith to her teacher and fellow class members so that she will feel at home among friends.

About twelve of the ladies who volunteered act as sewing instructors; among them are Mesdames B. Landale, M. Collins, and O. Nobbs.

Welfare officer Lawson said that the instructors were greatly surprised recently by the Aboriginal students' request that the sewing lessons be extended to a second day each week. As an alternative to this, knitting classes have been planned.

Bowraville

The people of Bowraville Aboriginal Reserve have their share of the donated sewing machines, and Mrs Ussher and other volunteers have been giving lessons in Aboriginal homes there.

Another indication of the success of the scheme is the request by students for cooking classes at Bowraville and Bellwood Reserves. These classes are planned to begin before the end of the year.

Screen Printing Project

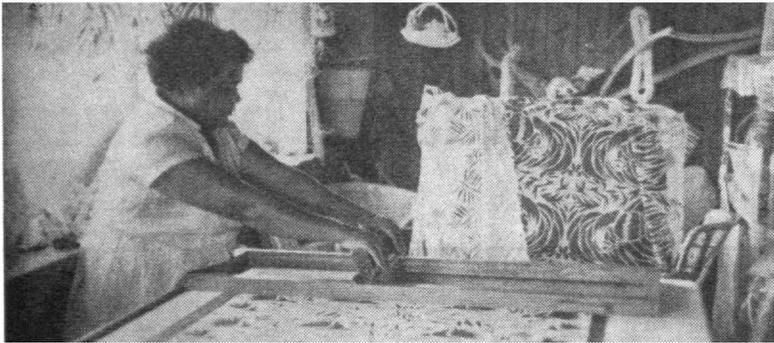
The silk screen printing project, unique in this field, is another successful venture involving Aboriginal women at Coff's Harbour.

At the gift store on the Macauley's Headland banana plantation, the town's major tourist attraction, about 2,000 tourists a day watch as Aboriginal women operate screen printing equipment which turns out material for sarongs, shifts and beach wear.

In January this year, the Coff's Harbour *Advocate* ran a front-page story about the project; the story was reprinted soon after in Brisbane's *Sunday Mail*.

The *Advocate* said:

Here under the tuition of Mr Tony La Spina, Arts teacher at Coff's Harbour High School, Aborigine women produce silk screen printed materials for women's shifts, sarongs and beach wear.



Daphne Wilson (left) and Mrs L. Laurie use sewing machines donated by people of Coff's Harbour at the S.T.C.F. senior sewing class

Above left: Mrs Roberts, of Woolgoolga Road Aboriginal Reserve, screen-printing shift lengths at the Macauley's Headland gift shop. Mrs Roberts' (and Mrs Hoskins') continuing loyal support has been of considerable encouragement to the Aborigine Welfare Committee and Mr La Spina

Above right: Displaying some of the screen-print products are (left to right) Mrs Roberts and (see story) Miss Barbara Hannaford and Mrs J. Enevoldson

This is an adult education project, made possible through the co-operative effort of the proprietors, Messrs John Landi and John Enevoldson, the local Aborigine Welfare Committee, and Mr La Spina.

The Aborigine Welfare Committee provides the material and the dye; Mr La Spina prepares the stencils from original designs and assists the Aborigine women with the silk screen work, which is carried out to the customers' individual taste in the gift store at the plantation; and the store staff assists with the sales of the finished article.

Small way

The idea is the brain child of Mr La Spina. He started in a small way last year, when through the Aborigine Welfare Committee, he taught the women silk screen work on table mats.

He said they had little difficulty in transferring to the larger items such as dress lengths, and he hoped one day they will also be able to produce the designs for the silk screen.

When we visited the workroom last Friday, Mrs G. Roberts was assisting Mr La Spina in the production of a striking design for a woman's shift.

the buses we were able to corner Mr John Landi, from whom we got these comments:

"The whole idea was Tony's. He takes a tremendous interest in Aborigine welfare work and we were only too happy to help.

"This is a good thing for these people and the customers have shown a tremendous interest in their work.

"We were late in starting the scheme this year, but Tony has plans to elevate the project next holiday season," said Mr Landi.



It had a floral motif in a pleasing blend of soft colours.

We asked Mrs Roberts how she liked working in front of such a large crowd. (There were two tourist bus loads of visitors and a large group of travellers in the store at the time.)

She said: "I like doing the work very much. The people are always kind to me and they show a great interest in what we are doing."

When the store cleared with the departure of

Taking a tea break at one of the classes are (left to right) Judith Kelly (who hopes to enrol in a dressmaking course at the local technical college), Mrs Hoskins (who also screen prints at the Macauley's Headland project), Jenny Yuke, Mrs J. Smith, and instructor Mrs M. Collins

Asked how the sales were going, Mr Landi said they were quite good.

"People are generally looking for something unusual and these are original designs which you cannot purchase anywhere else," he added.



Pretty Jenny Yuke is one of the fourteen girls and women who has been attending the sewing classes at the pre-school kindergarten on the Woolgoolga Road Aboriginal Reserve

Mr La Spina explained how the designs and colours were constantly changed to maintain their originality.

He said the table on which the material is printed was donated by Mr Peter Seccombe. [Mr Lawson said that this large draughtsman's table had enabled the project to start earlier and helped produce better-quality work.]

In addition to Mrs Roberts, another regular worker on the project is Mrs S. Hoskins. Mr Lawson adds that the continuing loyal support of Mrs Roberts and Mrs Hoskins was of considerable encouragement to the Aborigine Welfare Committee and Mr La Spina.

This is a fine community service which is being put to practical use.

It has the blessing of the Aborigine Welfare Committee which is expanding its scope in adult education for these people.

Technical Education

Another major breakthrough was made recently when, with the co-operation of Coff's Harbour Technical College, a motor maintenance course was arranged for people living on the Aborigine reserve.

To date seven students have been enrolled for this course. Mr Lawson said that a by-product of the adult education projects at Coff's Harbour was the greatly increased understanding between the Aboriginal and European women.

Sue's Pal Joey

Eighteen-years-old Sue Hoskins, of Warrell Creek, read the June *Dawn* and decided to send in some information about her cousin Joey Donovan and his boxing successes.

Sue wrote: "On Pete's Page in the June *Dawn* you asked what we would like to read in the *Dawn*. Well, seeing Joey Donovan is my cousin, I think it would be nice to see him in the *Dawn* . . . We are all very proud of Joey. . . ."

The photograph of Joey on a newspaper clipping sent in by Sue could not be reprinted in *Dawn*. But it's easy to understand why Joey's friends are proud of him.

This handsome 17-years-old boy holds a divisional boxing title in the Australian Golden Gloves

championships held recently in Melbourne, a New South Wales divisional championship, and a gold medal won overseas at the Asian boxing championships. He has also fought in New Zealand.

Competing in the light-flyweight division of the Asian championships he scored an easy points victory over his Indonesian opponent, Faial Rizal.

Joey is the smallest boxer ever to represent Australia overseas. He lives at Stuarts Point, and is a member of the Smithtown Police Boys' Club.

His trainer, Bobby Saul, of Smithtown, is grooming Joey for the Australian boxing championships to be held in Brisbane later this year. On his present form Joey will be hard to beat.



Dubbo Boys Fiddled as Manager Burned

The mostly-Aboriginal North Dubbo under 10-years boys' soccer team was new to the sport this season, but made quite an impact on the district's sporting community.

Early in the season the boys did not always know where to play, and were confused by the names of the various ovals. To make sure they would not be late for the first game of the season, at the new soccer oval, they arrived by themselves at 9 a.m.

Their match was due to start at 1 p.m., so they thought they would kill the hours pleasantly by exploring the nearby river. Time flew for the boys in the wondrous world of water, and by 1 p.m. on the referee's watch, they had not arrived.

Mr J. Keizer, team manager (and trainer early in the season) looked desperately over the soccer ground but saw only the green of his team's opponents. Where were his boys?

Mr Keizer could not stay long because the under 12-years team had a match at another oval at 1.15 p.m. Mr Keizer left the oval disappointed that his under-tens had not turned up.

How wrong he was! A few minutes after he left, the little fellows returned from the river—sensing that the game was due to begin. They

presented themselves to Referee Hurley, and played with a will to win.

They didn't win that day, but they put up a great show. The eight-boy team played a draw against the eleven boys of South Dubbo school team.

Since that first game, the North Dubbo under 10-years team has lost a few games, had a few more draws, and a good number of wins. Towards the end of the season the boys were well up in the competition.

Mr Keizer wrote to *Dawn* and said that the boys train on Saturday mornings under the capable leadership of Mr Percy Darcy. Some of the boys, who take their training seriously and never miss practice, have shown outstanding form; among them are Harold Fuller, John Lake, and the Nixon Brothers.

North Dubbo's under 12-years team had more difficulties than the younger boys. They had more losses than wins because they played against teams with years of experience. Mr Keizer said that the team had settled down and results were improving. Outstanding players in the team are Geoffrey and Wayne Toomey.

The Morans Move to Town

It was a great day for Mr and Mrs Arthur Moran, with their daughter and twin sons, when they moved into their new \$8,000 house in Armidale's Rusden Street.

The story made front-page news in the *Armidale Express* earlier this year, and was a success story about this attractive, intelligent Aboriginal couple.

Mr D. G. Yates, Armidale area welfare officer, said that the Morans had great faith in their ability to settle down successfully within the town community. They had approached the matter with forethought and planning, and not in the haphazard manner adopted by many Aboriginals who grabbed at a chance to leave reserves for town houses without thought of the subsequent economic problems.

Mr and Mrs Moran's new house is fully carpeted and in an area of good homes. It is opposite West Armidale Public School, connected to all facilities, and rent for it is \$7.90 a week. Rental for similar cottages on the open market in Armidale would be more than twice the Moran's rental.

The Morans have the option of buying their house from the Aborigines Welfare Board in two years, and the money paid in rent during that time will be deducted from the price of the house.

Other Welfare Board cottages provided in New England area under this tenancy scheme are at Tamworth (1), Inverell (2), Glen Innes (1), Tenterfield (1) and Quirindi (1). Apart from the Moran's Armidale house, two others have been purchased in Armidale.

Rentals

Mr Yates said that weekly rentals for the average \$8,000-house varied from \$7 to \$8.

"These are economic rentals," Mr Yates told the *Armidale Express*. "The tenants who are going into these cottages have shown they can handle the economics of ordinary rented premises. This is progress.

"There has obviously been some talk at the reserve about the selection of tenants. Those who cannot keep up with their \$1.75 a week would obviously find it hard to pay \$8 a week rent, and the quarterly gas and electricity bills and so on."

Mr Yates said he had found all the neighbours of the town cottages the Board had bought to be most co-operative.

Change

Mr and Mrs Moran and their three children lived on the Armidale Aboriginal Reserve before moving into their new home. It must have been quite a change. They lived with Mr Moran's father and six of his twelve children. Mr James Moran is the Reserve handyman. Later, Arthur and his wife and children moved to his wife's parents' home in Tamworth.

Mrs Moran, formerly Wilga Munro of Tamworth, is a trained telephonist, and has served in the Womens Auxiliary Air Force.

Arthur Moran is a bench foreman at the Walcha Case and Saw Mill, Armidale, and his boss holds a high opinion of him, and was glad that Arthur obtained the house so that he could continue to work at the mill.

Mrs Moran holds her eighteen-months-old daughter Catherine, and Mr Moran his twin six-months-old sons Michael and Wayne. With them outside their new home early in June is Mr D. G. Yates, Armidale area welfare officer (photo courtesy The Armidale Express)



Brewarrina People Form Association

Residents of the recently completed Aboriginal housing project built by the Welfare Board at Brewarrina have formed the West Brewarrina Progress Association. At a well-attended meeting early in June a committee was formed to meet each month to discuss matters of interest to the West Brewarrina community.

Committee members are Messrs L. Doole (president), B. Trapman (secretary), B. Pittman (treasurer), K. Williams, and Mesdames K. Williams, H. Clarke, C. Hunter and P. Williams.

Fund-raising functions organized by the committee have been fruitful. Mr Bruce Wilson, welfare officer at Brewarrina, said that the recent social get-together of Walgett Reserve and Brewarrina people was a great success.

Walgett sent three football teams and a small band of supporters to Brewarrina. The matches were keenly contested, and the subsequent barbeque and dance provided fine entertainment for the visitors and the hosts.

Barbeque

Bruce Wilson reckons it was a good thing the barbeque started *after* the football games, otherwise most of the under 4 stone 7 pound team would have gone well over the weight limit.

It must have been quite a do. A sheep and 80 lb of sausages were eaten and 500 bottles of soft drink emptied; the tuck shop sold out of chocolates, chips and the like midway through the first football game. Luckily, the manager of a local store interrupted his bowling match to replenish the supply for the spectators and players.

The dance in the town's Fitness Hall drew a very large crowd. The makeshift band of two guitarists from Walgett and a drummer from Brewarrina kept the dancers satisfied. The youngsters twisted and shook, and the oldies thrived on waltzes and quicksteps.

Many people were too shy to join in the dancing, but it is hoped they will gain more confidence for future dances planned as a result of the unqualified success of this first social event planned by the West Brewarrina committee.

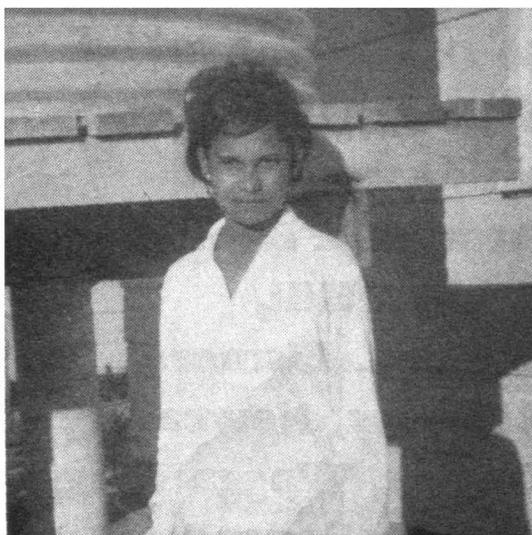
The day's profits will be used to buy football jumpers for the proposed West Brewarrina football team, provide posts for a new basketball court, and for a childrens' Christmas party later this year.

Pen Friends, Please

Sue Hoskins, 18, and her sisters *Mary-Lou*, 16, and *Elizabeth*, 14, would like pen-pals. Sue wrote to *Dawn* about Joey Donovan's success in boxing, and he'll never find a cousin more proud of him than is Sue. Write to the three Hoskins sisters c/o Post Office, Warrell Creek, 2492.

Annette Coe, 16, would like to correspond with other teenage girls and older boys. She likes playing hockey and basketball; in summer she likes to swim. Write to Annette c/o Post Office, Condobolin, 2877.

Elizabeth Rose Williams, 17, (pictured) lives with her parents in one of the new cottages built in Brewarrina by the Welfare Board. She gives her mum a lot of help with household chores and is a very capable girl. Elizabeth's sporting interests are basketball and football—she follows the Brewarrina team, especially the juniors, of which her brother is a member. Elizabeth would be pleased if you wrote to her c/o Post Office, Brewarrina.



AGE PENSIONS

This guide to entitlement to age pensions was prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. The N.S.W. address of the Department is Australia House, 50 Carrington Street, Sydney, 2000. Branch offices are at Armidale, Bankstown, Broken Hill, Gosford, Lismore, Lithgow, Newcastle, Orange, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong

These pensions are paid to people who satisfy age and residence requirements. There is a means test on income and on property except for blind people.

Qualifying Age

At least 60 years for women, or 65 for men.

Residence

A person must have lived in Australia at any time continuously for a period of 10 years. If he has completed 5 years' but not 10 years' continuous residence and has lived in Australia for periods which, in total, exceed 10 years he may be eligible. Residence in New Zealand or Britain may be treated as residence in Australia. Certain absences do not affect eligibility.

Rates of Pension

The maximum Married Rate is \$1,222 a year (\$23.50 a week) for a married couple, both pensioners, i.e., \$611 a year (\$11.75 a week) each.

For a married person whose spouse receives an unemployment, sickness or special benefit, a tuberculosis allowance or a service pension, the maximum is also \$611 a year (\$11.75 a week).

The maximum Standard Rate is \$676 a year (\$13 a week). This applies to a single person, to a married man whose wife receives a wife's allowance, or to a married person whose spouse does NOT receive an age or invalid pension, an unemployment, sickness or special benefit, a tuberculosis allowance or a service pension.

Note: The maximum standard or married rate may be increased by additional pension for children but only the husband's pension is increased in the case of a married couple, both pensioners. The standard rate pension may also be increased by the addition of the guardian's allowance and supplementary assistance. The actual rate payable may be less than the appropriate maximum rate after taking *means as assessed* into account.

Information about the additional benefits mentioned, and others, is shown in this article.

Definitions of income and property are given on the next page.

"Income" includes earnings and any other form of income with certain exceptions.

The main exceptions are: income from property; gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers or sisters; payments, other than annuities, by way of benefit from friendly societies; child

endowment or other payments for children; sheltered employment allowance; Commonwealth health benefits and amounts received from registered benefit organizations.

In addition, in arriving at income for means test purposes, income as defined above may be reduced by up to \$156 a year (\$3 a week) for each dependent child.

“Property” includes all real and personal property, e.g., houses; land; money in hand, in a bank, invested or lent; shares; legacies; vehicles other than for personal use; livestock.

“Property” does not include the pensioner’s home, furniture or personal effects.

Other types of property disregarded are: The surrender value (up to \$1,500) of life insurance policies; the value of any revisionary interest; and the capital value of any life interest, annuity or contingent interest.

Married People

For married couples, except where they are separated or in other special circumstances, the income and property of each is taken to be half the combined income and property of both, even if only one is a pensioner or claimant.

The rate of pension payable depends on the claimant’s *means as assessed*. These consist of:

- his annual rate of income, *plus*
- a property component equal to \$2 for each complete \$20 of his property above \$400.

A person’s *means as assessed* may consist entirely of income, entirely of property component, or of various combinations of income and property component.

OPERATION OF THE MEANS TEST

The actual pension payable is the maximum married or standard rate plus, where appropriate, additional pension for children and guardian’s allowance, less the amount, if any, by which the *means as assessed* exceed \$442 if the claimant is married, or \$520 if the claimant is single, widowed or divorced. The effect of this is as follows:

WHERE THE CLAIMANT IS MARRIED

The figures shown are those applying after the combined income and combined property values of husband and wife are halved (*see* ‘Married People’ in previous column).

	Where the Married Rate applies	Where the Standard Rate applies
If the claimant’s property is valued at less than \$420:	\$	\$
● a full pension is payable if the annual rate of income does not exceed	442	442
● no pension is payable if the annual rate of income reaches or exceeds	1,053*	1,118*
● a part pension is payable where the annual income is between \$442 and \$1,053* or \$442 and \$1,118*, as appropriate.		
If the claimant has no income:		
● a full pension is payable if the value of property is less than	4,840	4,840
● no pension is payable if the value of property reaches or exceeds	10,940	11,580
● a part pension is payable where the value of property is in the range \$4,840 to \$10,940 or \$4,840 to \$11,580, as appropriate.		

* Increased by \$78 for each child in excess of one. Where husband and wife are both pensioners only the husband receives the increase; the wife would not be eligible for pension if income reaches or exceeds \$1,053 and the standard rate would then apply to the husband. Also see ‘For all claimants’ below.

WHERE THE CLAIMANT IS SINGLE, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED

If the claimant’s property is valued at less than \$420:	
● a full pension is payable if the annual rate of income does not exceed	\$520
● no pension is payable if the annual rate of income reaches or exceeds if guardian’s allowance is payable	\$1,196 or, \$1,404*
● a part pension is payable if the annual rate of income is between \$520 and \$1,196 or \$520 and \$1,404*, as appropriate.	
If the claimant has no income:	
● a full pension is payable if the value of property is less than	\$5,620
● no pension is payable if the value of property reaches or exceeds if guardian’s allowance is payable,	\$12,360 or, \$14,440
● a part pension is payable if the value of property is in the range \$5,620 to \$12,360 or \$5,620 to \$14,440, as appropriate.	

● Increased by \$78 for each child in excess of one.

FOR ALL CLAIMANTS

If a claimant's property is valued at \$420 or more, the rates of income which will permit him to receive a full pension, or make him ineligible for a pension, both vary with the value of his property. Conversely, the value of property which does not affect the pension, and the value which makes him ineligible for a pension, both vary with his income. In all cases property of \$400 is disregarded.

Guardian's Allowance

A Guardian's Allowance of \$208 a year (\$4 a week) is payable, as an addition to the standard rate pension and subject to the means test, to widowers and other unmarried pensioners with one or more children.

Supplementary Assistance

Supplementary Assistance of \$104 a year (\$2 a week) is available to standard rate pensioners who pay rent, or pay for board and lodging or for lodging, and whose *means as assessed* do not exceed \$52. The assistance is reduced by the amount of *means as assessed* in excess of \$52.

Benefits for Dependants

A Wife's Allowance of \$312 a year (\$6 a week) may be paid, subject to the means test, to a non-pensioner wife if the pensioner is permanently incapacitated for work or has a child. The wife's allowance is affected by income and property on the same basis as the pension, i.e., it is reduced by the amount of *means as assessed* over \$442.

A Child's Allowance of \$78 a year (\$1.50 a week) may be paid, free of the means test, for one child, and extra pension of \$78 a year may be paid, subject to the means test, for each other child.

Children

For pension purposes the term "child" means a child under the age of 16 years in the pensioner's care. It also includes a child over that age but under 21 years if dependent on the pensioner and receiving full-time education.

Special Provisions for Blind People

Permanently blind people, if qualified in other respects, receive the maximum standard or married rate of pension and child's allowance of \$1.50 a week free of the means test. Wife's allowance, guardian's allowance, the extra pension for children other than the first, and supplementary assistance are subject to the means test. There are limits to the amount a blind person may receive from age and war pensions.

Payment of Pension

Age pensions are paid fortnightly by cheque posted to the pensioner's address or, in special circumstances, in cash at a nominated Post Office.

Pensioner Medical Service

Free medical treatment of a general practitioner nature is available to most age pensioners and their dependants, while all age pensioners and their dependants are eligible for free pharmaceutical benefits. Entitlement cards are issued by the Department of Social Services.

Pensioners who hold Pensioner Entitlement Cards, and their dependants, are generally entitled to in-patient hospitalization, without charge, in the public wards of public hospitals.

Telephone Rental, Radio and Television Licence Concessions

A concessional telephone rental equal to two-thirds of the amount otherwise payable is available for blind people; pensioners who live alone; and pensioners living in a household each member of which is also entitled to the concession or has an income not exceeding \$1,196 a year.

Reduced rate radio and television licences (free for blind pensioners) are also available to pensioners in the abovementioned categories.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PENSION

Claim forms may be obtained from any Post Office and from all offices of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

People living in metropolitan areas should send their claims to the Director of Social Services in the capital city of the State in which they live. Others should send them to the nearest Registrar of Social Services.

If both husband and wife wish to claim a pension, a separate form should be used by each.

A person cannot receive an age pension as well as an invalid or widow's pension, a tuberculosis allowance, or a service pension (except one for pulmonary tuberculosis).



Michael's Seeing the Sea

Michael Jarrett joined the Navy in March, 1965, and he has seen quite a lot of sea, and land, since then. He certainly likes the Navy life because he has just signed on for nine years.

Michael, the grandson of Mrs M. Jarrett of Corindi-Clarence, has served on the *Melbourne*, the *Sydney*, and at present is on the *Moresby*. He has visited New Guinea, New Zealand, many islands in the Pacific, and went with troops to Vietnam.

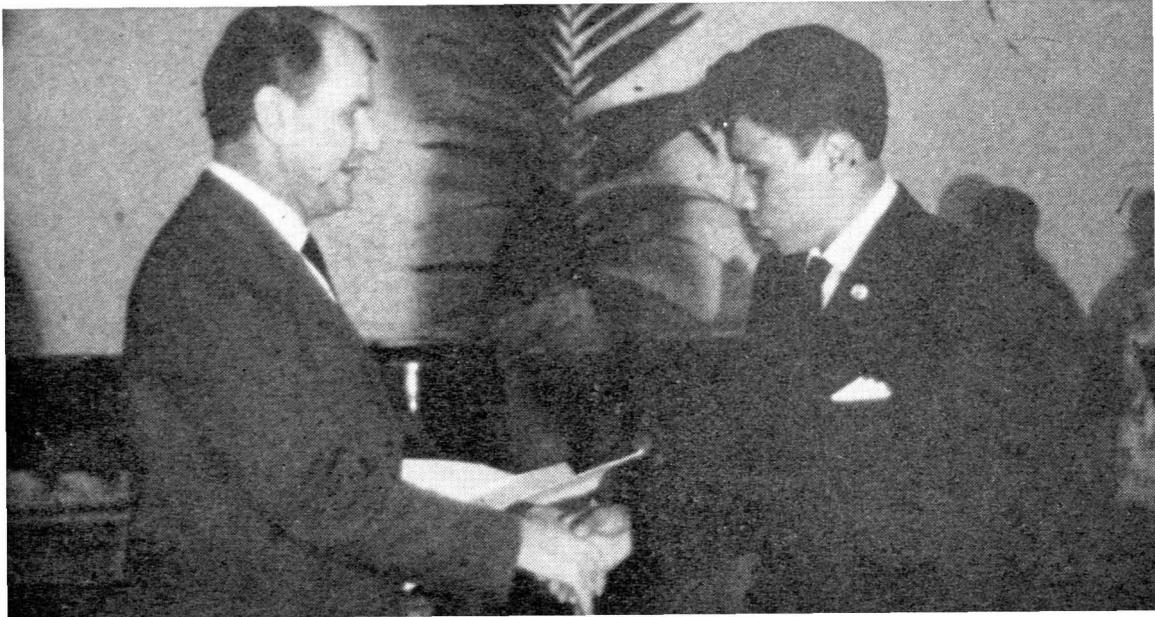
He attended Grafton High School—travelling 56 miles a day in the school bus—and on leaving school, joined the Navy in Brisbane.

Michael has completed two years as marine engineer, and, according to his grandmother, his present rating is M.E.D.

Above: Michael Jarrett (in uniform) at Corindi-Clarence with his friends (left to right) Michael McDougal, and Cecil and Bruce Runner

Right: Michael doing signal duty at Sydney's Garden Island naval base





Bill Johnston, Jaycee president for North Queensland and Papua zone, congratulates Jim Canuto, president of the newly-formed Yarrabah Jaycees, at the inaugural dinner in June

Yarrabah Forms Australia's First Aboriginal Jaycees

The people of Yarrabah Aboriginal Settlement, near Cairns, North Queensland, formed Australia's first Aboriginal Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce) Chamber in June. Twenty-years-old James Canuto (pictured)—the settlement's post-master—is the Chamber's first president.

Most of the eighteen members are, like vice-president Charles Fourmile, labourers, truckdrivers or sawmill workers; secretary Robert Sands is a boat skipper.

The Yarrabah people became interested in the Jaycee organization late in 1966. In May this year the three office bearers mentioned above went to a Jaycee zone conference in Mackay to further their knowledge of the organization in action.

Within a month of the Mackay trip, the Yarrabah community held a Council meeting which called for the formation of a Jaycee chapter at the settlement.

The inaugural dinner in the Yarrabah Progress Hall on 15 June was attended by many local people and representatives of Mulgrave Shire Council, Cairns Rotary, Lions and Apex clubs, and about 50 Jaycees from Innisfail, Mareeba, Mossman and Cairns.

Mr T. Murphy, regional district officer of the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, was guest speaker. The event was extensively covered by news media of the North, and TV film was screened in all eastern capitals; Radio Australia broadcast the news in three of its overseas programmes.

Mr Duncan Ezzy, public relations officer of Cairns Jaycees, wrote to *Dawn* about the inauguration and the events leading to it.

"Yarrabah Aboriginal Settlement was founded 75 years ago by the Church of England, but has been run for the past five years by the Queensland

Government's Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs," Mr Ezzy said.

"It lies across the bay from Cairns, some ten miles by boat, but it is not as accessible as it could be. There is no road from the outside world, and of course there is no airport. Access by boat is not all that easy, either—rounding False Cape in a small boat is always a memorable event, especially in torrential rain, as we found on several occasions.

"The population of Yarrabah is in the vicinity of 850, of whom some 50 are Europeans. Some of the Aboriginal men work outside the settlement, and some are attempting to make something out of the settlement itself.

"There are several organizations on the settlement, such as the Parents and Citizens and Progress Associations. To assist these groups, the Cairns Jaycees in early 1966 sent over some copies of 'Notes on Effective Speaking', and other literature. Late last year, at the invitation of these bodies, a dozen Jaycees travelled to Yarrabah to stage a mock meeting to further educate the organizations concerned, in general meeting procedure.

"Seeing tremendous scope for self (and community) development, Jaycee president for 1967, Wal Tracey, began actively investigating the formation of a Jaycee chapter at the settlement. In batches of half-a-dozen, young Aboriginal men attended regular Cairns Jaycee dinner meetings, and a regular Cairns Jaycee council meeting was held at Yarrabah (with prospective new members sitting-in) during Jaycee Week in April this year.

"Cairns Jaycees also conducted a community service project at the settlement to mark the beginning of Jaycee Week. An old tractor was taken by barge to Yarrabah and was set up and painted in the community's park as a plaything for the youngsters. Afterwards, a combined church service was attended. These activities gave the local men an insight into Jaycee activities at the normal chapter level.

"The next step was up to them, but no one expected things to move as swiftly as they did! Three days after the council meeting was held at Yarrabah, a public meeting was called, which called for the formation of a chapter at the settlement, and which also elected office bearers!

"The new chapter is off to a good start, but no one is ignoring the difficulties ahead, most pressing being finance. However, it is felt that, with plenty of liaison in both directions across the bay, Yarrabah Jaycees will soon be playing their part both in their own small community and in the national organization as well."

It's a Fact



The average adult has about 120 square inches of scalp which can grow some 15 pounds of hair in 70 years — just enough for one medium-sized mattress.



In many parts of Southern Egypt, an ordinary teacup left outdoors to collect rain water would (forgetting evaporation) take 60 years to fill.



Smoke Signals

TIP FOR THE MONTH Loosen rusted screws by striking the head slot at one end with the point of a nail. The hammer-driven nail will break the rust seal and start the screw in a counter-clockwise direction.

► Mr Walter Stallworthy, stock and station agent of Collarenebri, reports that the Aboriginal people on the Reserve have created an emergency fund. Each family pays 25c a week, and since May over \$1,000 has been lodged with the Bank of New South Wales branch in the town. Families without finance can draw on the fund to pay for a funeral and for finance in emergencies. So far \$129 has

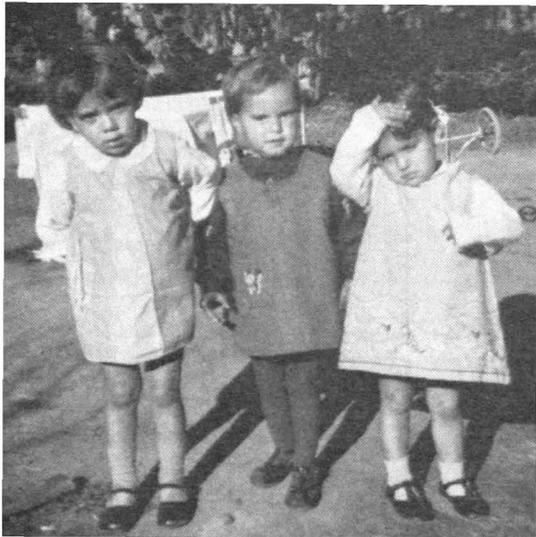
been paid out for funerals. Officials of the fund are Isabelle Flick (president), Mrs T. Ryan (secretary) and Mr Stallworthy (treasurer).

► It won't be long before these three little cuties are leaving a trail of broken hearts down Deniliquin way. Welfare Officer D. J. Hall sent the photo of (left to right) Deborah Jackson (3), Moya Whyman (2) and Kerry Jackson (2).

► Borroloola's (N.T.) first race meeting in 40 years must have been quite a turn. Some of the 400 crowd chartered aircraft from Darwin (500 miles away) and others travelled hundreds of miles by road to the August meeting. There were a few punch-ups and quite a bit of gambling and drinking, but police made no arrests. In fact, some of the visitors were allowed to camp overnight in the police cells.

► A Railways Department officer revealed in August that an average of 195,790 people travelled by train to Sydney's city stations each day. But the average number to leave the city was 190,790. "Nobody knows what happens to the other 5,000," he said. One theory is that many of the lost passengers are men who meet up with friends in hotels after work and are later driven to their homes by car.

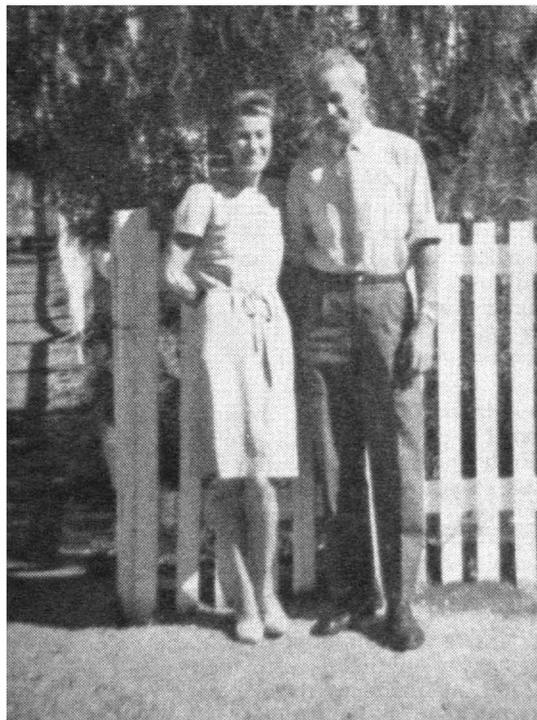
► A valley rich in cave paintings and other Aboriginal relics has been discovered near Laura, about 70 miles west of Cooktown (Qld). Captain Percy Trezise, an Ansett-A.N.A. pilot first saw the valley from the air several years ago, and recently explored the area from the ground. He believes some of the paintings date back thousands of years while others were painted last century. "There are six big cave galleries, most of them painted in a very old style," Mr Trezise said. "The major



painted area is 100 ft long by 15 ft high. There's a horse 21 ft long and 12 ft high." Captain Trezise said the only way to preserve the hidden valley and its art treasures at the moment was to keep its exact location secret.

► Sydney artist Ron Drury hopes to promote a duck racing boom. In England they have the Buckingham Duck Racing Club in Kent, and the sport is taken quite seriously. "They have a club tie and an annual dinner and they race ducks in a pool," Mr Drury said. "The owners stand at one end with a morsel of food and handlers release the ducks at the other end." Duck racing has advantages; it can't be cancelled because of rain, and if your racing duck doesn't live up to form, you could eat it.

► Mrs C. Merritt, of Walgett Aboriginal Station, sent in the photograph of Mr and Mrs T. Austin—the former manager and matron at Walgett. Mrs Merritt said that the Austins had moved to Wallaga Lake.



► The man in the burnt car was lucky compared to Joe Ramirez, 19, of New York. Joe drove to the courthouse to fight a traffic ticket. As the case was about to be called he realized his parking meter was running out. He asked the judge for time to feed the parking meter, but a policeman booked Joe for jaywalking and gave him a long lecture. Too long. The meter ran out and he got another parking ticket. Joe ran back to the court house, but the judge had gone to lunch. After the judge's verdict—guilty, \$5 fine or gaol—Joe found he was \$3 short, but the clerk let him go with a promise to pay. When Joe got home, he found a letter. "Greetings," it said, "report for induction in the U.S. Army."

► A few weeks ago, Dempsey Knight was an unknown outback drover living in a dusty, hot, back-'o-Bourke camp. When he wasn't droving he did relief work to get a few dollars to support his wife and five children. But things have changed—dramatically. Although Dempsey cannot read or write, he can sing "all right"—his mates reckoned. And a theatrical agent heard Dempsey singing in a television documentary, brought him and his family to Sydney and got a house for them in Newtown and is grooming the singer for an entertainment career. The agent thought Dempsey's singing quite a bit better than "all right", and predicts a great future for him.

► Gloria Flanders is the first Aboriginal girl to be enrolled in the 2nd Coff's Harbour Guide Company. Company captain Mrs Jeffs says that Gloria shows every sign of becoming a good guide.

► Another first for a north coast Aboriginal girl was Bernadette Balangarry's acceptance of the position of secretary of the Bowraville Aborigines Welfare Committee. Coff's Harbour welfare officer Mr N. R. Lawson said that Bernadette might be the only girl secretary of a country welfare committee. She attended meetings regularly and accepted the position of secretary on the retirement of Mr W. E. Kelsey.

► Minutes after he drove his new car from the showroom, a Melbourne man pushed in the car's cigarette lighter and the car burst into flames. The man escaped with minor burns, and the company replaced the damaged vehicle with another new car exactly like the first. Well, it wasn't *exactly* like the first: so far it hasn't burst into flames.



► Animal stories last month were about pigeons, bees, and crocodiles. The CSIRO is investigating why 80 per cent of all homing pigeons don't come home. About 200,000 are lost each year. Some trigger-happy hunters take their toll, and hawks, bad weather, and power lines are other reasons. The scientists are trying to determine the hazards pigeons face and the methods they use to navigate. A girl's beehive hairdo attracted a queen and thousands of bees in a swarm in Britain in August. Evidently the bees thought the hairdo was just like a real beehive. The girl was lucky to be alive after the attack. The bees left 100 stings in her head and 25 in her face. Two men used their hands to rake the angry bees from the girl's hair. Batinarra, an Aborigine from Yirrkala Mission in Northern Territory, had a run in with a 20-ft crocodile. Batinarra was hunting a small bird along a billabong when the crocodile grabbed him around the shoulder. He stuck his rifle barrel in the croc's throat as it made another lunge. Three of Batinarra's friends rescued him and he was taken to Darwin Hospital, where he has recovered satisfactorily.

► Earlier this year 27 Aboriginal children from Bowraville and 9 from Coff's Harbour went to Channel 11's Children's Session. The picture of them with some of their European friends, tells the story of their enjoyment. Mr N. R. Lawson, Coff's Harbour welfare officer, extends thanks for the children's transportation to Father Daley, Mrs Henderson and Mr Ussher.

► Mr R. Livingstone, Justice of the Peace, a member of the Yarrabah Aboriginal Settlement in North Queensland, ran wild in the bush until he was 10 years old. But life at the Settlement has changed and today there are full educational opportunities for children and home-life rather than the old system of dormitories. Yarrabah's population is 870, and those who commit minor offences appear before Mr Livingstone in a special court. He believes that a lot of trouble can be prevented by having a little talk with the people concerned. "After an interview, there is often no need for a court case," Mr Livingstone said.

Pete's Page

Hello Kids,

Remember my letter to you in June *Dawn*? I hope you do. In it I asked you children (and parents, too) to write to me and tell me what you would like to see in *your* magazine *Dawn*.

So far I have received less than a dozen letters—and there are about 20,000 people of Aboriginal extraction in New South Wales. It seems that even far less than I thought are interested in the magazine.

In my office I have lots of photographs but I can't return them to their Aboriginal owners because they carry no name or address. If you send in a letter and a picture, put your name and address on both, and then I will make sure that I send the pictures back to you.

One of the letters sent in came from Mike McDougall, c/o W. Dootson, Private Mail Bag, Woolgoolga, N.S.W. Mike wrote:

Dear Pete,

I am an Aboriginal boy. I stand about 5 ft 3 in and weigh about 10 stone 7 pounds and was born at Coff's Harbour Base Hospital on 10th December, 1947. As I have no brothers and sisters or mum and dad, I find life a bit lonely.

Well Pete, I was reading the June *Dawn* magazine when I came across your advertisement and I'm wondering whether you would accept my letter, as

I agree with you that the *Dawn* magazine is a wonderful magazine for our Aboriginal people of New South Wales.

I am really very disappointed with the very little correspondence you received from the Aboriginal people of New South Wales [so am I, Mike]. I would really like to see plenty of Pen Pals and photos of different places.

Well Pete, I bring my letter to a close hoping to hear about my essay in next month's *Dawn*.

Yours in friendship,
Mike McDougall

Thanks a lot for your letter, Mike. If more people are encouraged by it to write to me I will be only too happy to try to include the things they mention, to improve *Dawn*.

Write to me (or the Editor),

c/o *Dawn* Magazine,
121 Macquarie Street,
(Box 30, G.P.O.),
SYDNEY, 2000.

'Bye for now kids,
See you next month.

Pete

SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Dull, stupid fellows
- 6 Part of a dairy
- 11 Expand
- 12 Agree
- 14 Many hills
- 15 Some
- 16 Level
- 17 Preposition
- 18 Pronoun
- 20 School punishment
- 22 Kill
- 25 Negative
- 27 New Zealand (initials)
- 28 Boy's name
- 30 Friendly Islands
- 32 Food
- 33 Crusty food
- 35 Aged
- 37 Baby carriage
- 38 Slow
- 40 Trim a tree
- 42 Not any
- 43 Precious stone
- 44 Past indicative

Down

- 1 Remains of fire
- 2 Run quickly
- 3 Exchange for money
- 4 Girl's name
- 5 Cut
- 6 Exclamation of disgust
- 7 Hard . . . nails
- 8 Name in the Bible
- 9 Boy's name
- 10 Pronoun
- 13 Expanse of water in Africa
- 17 Upward
- 18 Preposition
- 19 Small child
- 21 Rage
- 23 Gives protection
- 24 Give up
- 26 Child's toy
- 29 Woman
- 31 Small boy
- 34 Together with
- 36 Not quick
- 39 Fear
- 41 Number

