

NEW DAWN

N.S.W

LAND RIGHTS

LEGISLATION

A MAGAZINE FOR THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

FEBRUARY 1973

NEW DAWN A magazine for the Aboriginal community of New South Wales.

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EDITOR: Peter Vaughan, Publicity Officer, Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare.

During the coming session of State Parliament legislation granting land rights to Aborigines in New South Wales will be introduced.

The effect of the legislation will be eventually to place existing recognized reserves throughout the State under the ownership and control of an all-Aboriginal Lands Trust.

The area involved includes about fifty reserves covering approx. 6,000 acres. Freehold control of the reserve lands will be vested in the Trust which will consist of nine Aboriginal members elected by people throughout New South Wales.

Plans to grant land rights have been under consideration since late 1971, and in November, 1972, State Cabinet accepted a recommendation from the Minister for Child Welfare and Social Welfare, the Hon. John L. Waddy, that an Aboriginal Lands Trust be established. Since then the relevant legislation has been undergoing drafting in order to be presented in the coming session of Parliament.

The N.S.W. Aborigines Advisory Council offered various suggestions and opinions prior to the drawing-up of the original proposal. Existing

land rights legislation in Western Australia and South Australia was also taken into account.

Areas Involved

The scheme will cover recognized reserves as they exist at the moment. It will not apply to reserve lands revoked prior to the 1969 Aborigines Act nor to areas where Aborigines live but which are not recognized as reserves. It is possible, however, that the Trust will acquire other land in the future. Because it will be established as a corporation the Trust will have the power to sell and acquire land, and to lease areas under its control.

Government funds will be made available to the Trust. Grants will be made to cover the Trust's operating expenses, including the possible employment of a manager, secretary etc. The Trust will be able to apply to the Government or private banking institutions for loans. It will also be able to make submissions to State and Commonwealth Governments for special grants, particularly if it should wish, for instance, to foster some sort of local development project.

The Trust will not be a Government agency of

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any kind. It will be an independent body completely controlled by the Aboriginal community. But as an organization established by an Act of Parliament it will have to present an annual report to Parliament and undergo a yearly audit of its books.

Trust Members to be Elected

Membership of the Trust will comprise the same people who sit on the Aborigines Advisory Council. At present the Advisory Council consists of six elected members and three members appointed by the Government. It is chaired by the Director of Aboriginal Welfare, who does not have a vote. This will change.

Initially the Trust will consist of the six elected members of the Advisory Council. However a new Advisory Council is due to be elected towards the end of this year. Before then the six existing electorates from which the councillors are elected, will be altered. People living in each of the nine new electorates will be eligible to vote for a local representative who will become a member of both the Advisory Council and the Lands Trust. The members will hold office for 3 years. The Director of Aboriginal Welfare will no longer be a member of the Advisory Council.

Voting for members of the Council and Trust will be carried out by postal ballot. In order to receive a ballot paper a person must first be registered. Registration cards will be available from the Electoral Commissioner, district offices of the Department of Child Welfare and from local Aboriginal organizations.

Problem of Residential Areas

Once the Lands Trust is elected, it will have full independence. It will make all decisions regarding the administration of the lands under its control. If it decides that some or all of its members should be full-time paid officers, then it may submit a proposal to the Government to provide the necessary funds.

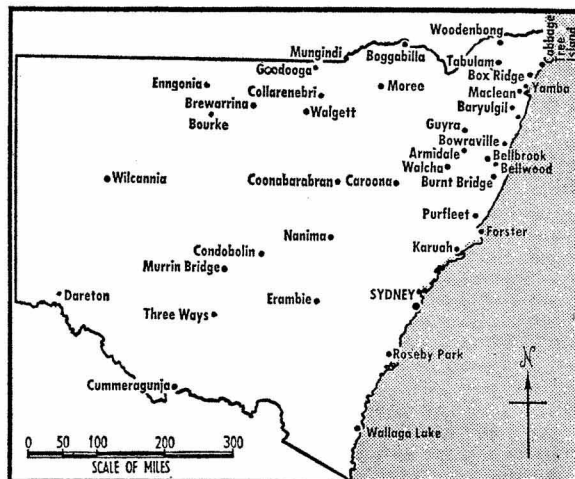
It is important to note that no reserve will automatically come under the control of the Trust. Where houses on reserves are under tenancy agreements those areas will not immediately be handed over to the Trust because of some other technical problems associated with housing. Where the problem arises that houses on reserves are being leased it may be possible to split-up the residential and non-residential areas, handing the non-residential land over to the Trust. Eventually, however, all reserves will be handed to the Trust.

NEW SOUTH WALES RESERVES

This is a list of most of the N.S.W. reserves, their size, and the year in which they were gazetted:

Reserve	Acres	Gazetted
Armidale	7 ..	1958
Baryulgil	50 ..	1960
Bellbrook	85 ..	1881
Bellwood	40 ..	1951
Boggabilla	457 ..	1937
Bourke	25 ..	1946
Bowraville	36 ..	1931
Box Ridge	10 ..	1937
Brewarrina (West)	15 ..	1964
Brewarrina (Barwon)	3 ..	Uncertain
Burnt Bridge	106 ..	1939
Cabbage Tree Island	40 ..	1917
Caroona	220 ..	1899
Collarenebri	50 ..	1940
Condobolin	7 ..	1957
Coonabarabran	20 ..	1954
Cummeragunja	1,300 ..	1883
Dareton	11 ..	1969
Enngonia	10 ..	1957
Erambie	40 ..	1890
Forster	16 ..	1911
Goodooga	4 ..	1966
Guyra	1 ..	1962
Karuah	48 ..	1898
Macleay	3 ..	1956
Moree	63 ..	1947
Mungindi	5 ..	1958
Murrin Bridge	937 ..	1944
Nanima	120 ..	1910
Purfleet	60 ..	1900
Roseby Park	56 ..	1900
Tabulam	293 ..	1949
Three Ways	5 ..	1954
Toomelah	457 ..	1937
Walcha	23 ..	1959
Walgett (Gingie)	340 ..	1895
Walgett (Namoi R.)	106 ..	1952
Wallaga Lake	323 ..	1891
Wilcannia	50 ..	1950
Woodenbong	126 ..	1908
Yamba	1 ..	1966

... and where the reserves are:



THE LEGEND OF THE CUTTING STONE

Fourth, fifth, and sixth form students from Central Coast high schools recently took part in an Aboriginal legend competition.

The competition was sponsored by an Australian company celebrating its 25th anniversary and on the occasion of the official opening of its factory at Wyong.

Stephanie Rule, a 15½-year-old student from Woy Woy High School, wrote the winning essay. The legend she chose was that of the cutting stone:

There was a time when people gathered with their hands and they could not cut down trees for they had no axes.

Two brothers, Ganjarra and Jumbunna, said "This is no good, we have to work too hard." So they journeyed many miles in search of something to cut with.

Ganjarra asked Gilwa the Goanna. He said, "I have my tongue but it can't cut down trees".

So they asked Taiwong the Magpie. He said, "My beak is strong but it can't dig your gardens". Jumbunna said, "We will keep journeying". They came to Koolewong where the Koalas gather, and they asked Colo, but Colo said he could not help them.

Ganjarra and Jumbunna sat on a rock and their hearts were very heavy. Jumbunna said, "Let us go back, we will die away from our native land". But Ganjarra said, "Let us go to Dooloomo the Sky Spirit, maybe he can tell us". So they journeyed to Mourawaring, the sacred place, and called to the Spirit of the Sky. A voice thundered, "Go to my brother the Spirit of Deep Waters".

Ganjarra and Jumbunna journeyed many days. They asked Arunta the Cockatoo, "Is it far? Is it far?" "No, brother," he called. But Jumbunna said, "I am weary, the sand burns my feet. I am

hungry." Ganjarra gave him some fern roots and said, "Don't stop, the Sky Spirit has told us where to go, Arunta told us it isn't far". So they finally reached the sea.

The big wind was making the Sea Spirit very angry and he was roaring and foaming. Jumbunna was frightened. "Let us run away, for we might die." But Ganjarra said, "We have the word of Doolooma, you can't turn back".

The Spirit of Deep Waters was stirred up and he took a flint and carved the shore out, and made bays for his waters to escape to. This is how the headland Bulbaranang was formed and Mt Ettymalong was formed.

Ganjarra said, "O Spirit of Deep Waters there are good yams at Wyong. Come and cut down the trees for us and dig our gardens. Show us how to make cutting stones".

Spirit of Deep Waters said, "I would surely die if I left the water". But Jumbunna cried, "We have come many days searching. For a long time, we can not go without the stone".

The Spirit of Deep Waters was sorry for the brothers. He said, "I will give you this stone but I can not come. My home is here, since the dreamtime I have been here". The Spirit threw the stone and it was carried to Wyong by his brother Doolooma, the Sky Spirit.

Yet Ganjarra and Jumbunna could not lift it for it was too heavy. It has remained a sacred place over a long time, and everyone knows how Ganjarra and Jumbunna searched for a cutting tool, and how they pleaded to the Spirit of Deep Waters. You ask Arunta the Cockatoo, he knows. You ask Colo the Koala, he knows.

Since then man has been making axes like the big stone that the Spirit of Deep Waters gave to Ganjarra and Jumbunna.

These photos were taken at a Christmas party held at the Commonwealth Centre, Chifley Square, for Aboriginal children from the Sydney area. The party was sponsored by the ladies who work in the centre's cafeteria and they were assisted in the organization by those people associated with the Aboriginal Employment Section of the Commonwealth Department of Labour.



CHANGES IN ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The Commonwealth Government will soon introduce a scheme whereby primary school children living in distinctive Aboriginal communities will be taught in their own native tongue.

The scheme is part of a programme aimed at preserving Aboriginal languages and tribal culture. Other aspects include the teaching of traditional Aboriginal arts, crafts, and skills, including carving, music, dancing, tracking, traditional religion, and mythology.

In nearly all cases the teaching will be done by Aborigines. Because of this there will be a delay before the scheme is fully implemented. Aboriginal teacher assistants will have to be trained and there will be new courses for European teachers.

The programme will be implemented at special schools, beginning first in the Northern Territory. Alice Springs, Gove, Groote Eylandt, Roper River, Bathurst and Melville Islands and Port Keats will be among the first areas where schools will be established. Plans involve later extending the scheme to tribal areas in North Queensland, the Kimberleys in Western Australia and the north of South Australia.

At Hermannsburg Mission School outside Alice Springs a similar scheme has in effect been operating

for several years. All primary schooling is conducted in local Aboriginal languages and English is taught as a second language.

It was found that the children experienced virtually no trouble in adapting and in most cases they spoke better English than children who had learned only one language.

There are more than 600 recorded Aboriginal languages. Teaching, however, will be confined to less than a dozen of the most widely known and used languages. English will still be used in such subjects as mathematics.

It is hoped that this approach, which gives equal recognition to both Aboriginal and European culture, will make it easier for Aborigines to adjust to life in white society without losing their own identity and culture. In this context it is essential that Aboriginal teachers be used.

Since the Second World War there has been a growing recognition among missionaries and others that the most effective form of communication with Aborigines in tribal areas is the native tongue. The scheme now proposed gives official effect to what has previously been an informal practice.

1973 Junior Secondary Bursaries

Each year the Directorate of Aboriginal Welfare awards up to ten special bursaries to Aboriginal secondary students under the age of 15.

These are awarded to students who do not receive a regular State bursary but who show the ability to carry on their studies and who need encouragement. The value of the bursary is approximately \$39 per year.

The following Aboriginal children have been awarded Junior Secondary Bursaries for 1973:

Shane DEVITT, Dumaresq.
Max McDONALD, Annandale.
John IVANOFF, Narrandera.

Terrance DOOLAN, Bourke.
Daniel POWER, Eungai Rail.
Peter KNIGHT, Bourke.
Vincent LONGBOTTOM, Kingsford.
John MACKAY, Bourke.
Maxwell SAUNDERS, Holsworthy.

HOME LOAN FINANCE INCREASED

As of 1st January, this year the maximum amount available for a home loan has been increased from \$9,600 to \$13,080.

Applications or enquiries about home loans can be made at any office of the Department of Child Welfare or to the Directorate of Aboriginal Welfare, P.O. Box K 718, Haymarket, N.S.W. 2000.



Mrs Munro being congratulated on her award by Mr Barry Rafter. Mr Rafter is Resident District Officer of the Child Welfare Department at Grafton and is Citizenship Director of Tamworth Apex Club. (Photo courtesy of Northern Daily Leader.)

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Apex Clubs of Tamworth and West Tamworth recently chose Mrs Florrie Munro as the Apex "Citizen of the Year" for 1972.

Mrs Munro is better known to the local community as "Granny". She is a 77-year-old widowed pensioner and lives with her granddaughter at Oxley Vale. In addition to raising her own ten children she has been responsible for the upbringing of seven adopted children.

Mrs Munro has been associated with the Australian Inland Mission for 50 years and was responsible for the formation of the Tamworth branch of the AIM Ladies Fellowship. In 1913 she went to Tingha to work as a missionary, welfare worker and midwife and went from there to Tamworth in 1940.

She was responsible for the commencement of schoolteaching for Aboriginal children in the Ashford area. Although she received only three to four years schooling herself she organized and

taught the children for half a day for 5 days per week until proper schooling arrangements were organized.

The AIM Ladies Fellowship set up by her meets every week. Its primary aim is to seek out needy people in the Aboriginal community and to arrange assistance. One area of work associated with this Fellowship is the collecting of clothing and the forwarding of it to Aborigines at Tingha, Ben Lomond, Guyra, and Ashford.

Granny Munro is highly respected in the community to which she devotes her attention. She continues her work while struggling with less than good health.

Mrs Munro believes herself to be the last surviving member of the Kamilroi tribe which came from the Bundara/Tingha area. Mrs Munro married into the tribe. She can still speak the language and has worked with the University of New England in tape-recording it.



This group of pictures was taken at the Children's Christmas Party held in Alexandria Park. About 800 Aboriginal children from the Sydney area attended the party organized by the Aboriginal Legal Service, the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, and the Aboriginal Medical Service.

LA PEROUSE

The pictures on these pages were taken at La Perouse reserve in about 1934. They were loaned to *New Dawn* by Mr H. W. Jeffrey, a former supervisor and manager at the reserve.

La Perouse has changed a great deal since these photos were taken. The buildings shown did not have outer walls at that time. Subsequently walls were added. Today very few of these places are still standing and those that remain are due to be pulled down under the redevelopment scheme now being carried out at La Perouse. The January edition of *New Dawn* showed some of the new dwellings that have been constructed.



Mrs Marie Ritchie Page ("Sugar Dot" Foster, now living in La Perouse) and her daughter Nola Roberts (nee Leitch).



This is a view from the reserve overlooking Botany Bay, before the refinery was built at Kurnell. The house on the left used to be the old mission. The small wharf is still used.



This is the old hostel. It was used to house outpatients coming from the country to attend Sydney hospitals.



Originally this building was the single men's barracks. It later became the manager's residence and subsequently the home of Mrs Eliza Foster and then her daughter Nola (Mrs Roberts).



(nee Simms) who still lives at La Perouse; Mrs Doris () now living at Maroubra; Miss Joan Foster; Phillip in the city; Alan Foster, twin brother of Joan; Mrs Foster) who still lives at La Perouse; and Gus Sherrett.



The house in front is now occupied by Mr and Mrs Jack Simms. Originally it was occupied by Mrs Bungary, who is now deceased, and then by her daughter, Lena. The house behind it used to be occupied by Miss Jane Simms before her death.



This house was once occupied by Mrs Eliza Foster, the oldest and one of the original residents of the reserve. It is in the process of being pulled down at the moment.



This building housed the communal laundry and the men's and women's showers. It has now been pulled down. Botany Bay is in the background.



This picture shows a general view of the old homes. On the extreme left part of Jack and Maude Simms' house can be seen. Next to it is the old home of Joe and Jane Sutton, grandparents of Mrs Doris Page. The house second from the right is that of Mrs Eliza Foster. The last house on the right was occupied by Mrs Milligan. All these residents are now believed deceased.

Third, it recommends a greater use of Aboriginal health inspectors to raise the level of hygiene and cleanliness.

Fourth, the report recommends the use of the Aboriginal *Ngangkari* or "Medicine Man". It acknowledges that he "possesses considerable power and prestige among his own tribesmen, can make a useful contribution to a total health care programme if his role is better understood, and if he in turn can be offered understanding of European type medical treatment and its aims, so that he will not delay urgent treatment for those conditions which will respond to it".

The report goes on to state that "he possesses an intimate understanding of his people's personality, he is always on duty and readily available, his fees are low and most of his treatment is performed in the presence of friends and relatives and with their support". In the United States the Indian Health Service has utilized the role of the traditional healer, especially for Navajo Indians living on settlements.

Improving housing conditions alone, the report says, will not improve the health conditions. It also states, however, that nothing can be achieved without adequate housing. It is critical of staged housing programmes that failed to be accompanied by skilled guidance in helping people adjust to their new conditions. It states that "the encouragement of an intensive and informed participation by the people themselves" is as essential in improving housing conditions as it is in any other area.

The report questions the apparent increase in alcoholism among Aborigines. "Whether its incidence among Aborigines is higher than in the European population," it says, "remains uncertain as the issue may be confused because a drunken black person appears to attract more attention than a drunken white, and Aborigines are obliged to do more drinking in public and less in private than most Europeans".

The authors of the report express concern about the long-term social implications of the conditions faced by groups such as the fringe dwellers at Alice Springs and other country towns. "It is difficult to escape the conviction," it says, "that the small children of today who will be brought up in these marginal slums, will be the larrikins and delinquents of tomorrow".

Before stating its specific recommendations for improving the health services available to Aborigines, the report quotes the conclusion reached by the Monash Aboriginal Health Services Seminar:

"The current disastrous health situation is a by-product of the complexity and diversity of an Aboriginal society under the pressure of European society. It is a total community problem and not primarily one of individual health. A strategy to meet this problem requires a comprehensive approach including a drastic improvement in education, housing, and economic opportunity as well as health services."

Among the recommendations relating to the administration of Aboriginal health and medical care, the report urges the establishment of a National Commission responsible for the "co-ordination of all aspects of Aboriginal care, health, and advancement"; the appointment of two advisory committees, one composed of medical specialists with expertise in the field of Aboriginal health, the other of experts in Aboriginal culture and traditions; and the establishment of local Health Committees on each settlement and reserve.

In the area of staff training it makes two main recommendations. One is the establishment of orientation and training programmes for medical staff, aimed at developing an understanding of Aboriginal history, customs, beliefs, and dialects and the role of the *Ngangkari* as the local practitioner. The other proposal is for the immediate development of simple teaching material on hygiene, child care, etc.

Other recommendations include the appointment of an elected Aboriginal person to the Advisory Boards of hospitals and the provision of special hospital facilities for the treatment of Aborigines. To meet the special needs of tribal Aborigines in hospitals is "impossible . . . without at least some segregation of Aboriginal and European adult patients. We believe", the report continues, "that there is a need for separate wards and rooms for adult Aborigines and furthermore that most Aborigines, as well as Europeans, wish this. Segregation, however, need not and should not, be total and certainly should not be obligatory. It could largely be left to the patient's own free choice on admission".

The report concludes by quoting from the *Medical Journal of Australia*: "We owe the Aborigines much, and have barely begun to repay the debt. It would seem rational to set aside adequate funds now, so that a proper estimate can be made not only of the Aboriginal population's needs, but also of their relative strengths and weaknesses. It is important not to make ourselves feel better by giving the Aborigines a lot of what will be of no use to them."

CLEANING UP 'DODGE CITY'

At 24 years-of-age Steve Gordon had been blackballed from most jobs in the Brewarrina area as a result of his continuing refusal to accept second-rate status for himself or other Aboriginal people in the district.

But following a brief visit to Sydney just prior to Christmas he has returned to Brewarrina with a new job—that of field officer for the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs. He is now employed to pursue those activities that previously cost him jobs.

Steve's particular concern is the community of 300 people at Brewarrina West, an area more commonly known as 'Dodge City'. The people who live in the twenty-nine houses in this area were originally residents of the old mission. Eight years ago they were moved into new homes built a mile out of town. Most of the men are employed by the shire council on relief work. Few have a permanent job.

One of Steve's aims is to persuade the council and police to accept more responsibility for the area. Among other things, the social and physical conditions at West Bre are believed to be having an undesirable effect on the children's schooling.

The success at school of the daughter of one family who moved from West Bre into town indicates, says Steve, that progress is possible once people get away from the 'Dodge City' atmosphere or once that atmosphere is removed.

Despite the problems that beset West Bre there are some signs for hope. Steve believes that the situation that has characterised Brewarrina for so long is beginning to ease. "At least," he says, "the white community now acknowledges there is a problem".

Like many others Steve has been waiting a long time for that breakthrough. With the exception of a 12-month stint working in Sydney he has spent all his life in Brewarrina. He attended school there, has worked in shearing sheds, and was employed by the local meatworks till three years ago when he "protested the under-award wages being paid Aborigines and was dismissed".



Steve Gordon.

He claims the conditions which he objected to then and which led to his blackballing still exist in some places. Most people accept the situation because they are either too frightened of losing their jobs or else just do not understand what is happening. Steve was 17 when he first started to protest and was fired.

He believes that part of the reason he has refused to accept the situation faced by Aborigines in Brewarrina and what has made him fight is that with the exception of his early childhood years spent on the river bank, he had the benefit of living in town.

He has been tempted to take his wife and four young children and leave Brewarrina. He would have no trouble finding a good job and settling down elsewhere. "The people seemed in a hopeless position", he says, "but if I'd left they would have been worse off. It's my intention to move—but only after I've got the blacks up to the level of the whites".

Steve's assessment of his own role is not inaccurate. That many in the white community regard him as a "trouble-maker" is as much a measure of his achievement as the fact that the black community views him with respect and admiration.

Steve is now employed as "Aboriginal affairs ombudsman throughout New South Wales" and is responsible to the Sydney manager of the Foundation. His responsibilities include civic rights and community-organizing.

One particular project he has in mind is to emphasize the role of sport in the Brewarrina community. Blacks and whites are already playing sport together and this is helping break down the discrimination that still afflicts the town. He hopes to obtain a grant from the Aboriginal Sports Foundation in order to foster football.

The most immediate goal, he believes, is to stop the fighting and brawling that sometimes occurs at West Bre. Ultimately he aims to improve the living conditions of the people, especially housing. "If people have something to work for", he says, "then they will work. And if they move from West Brewarrina into the town, then the liquor and violence will be less of a problem".

Steve will be working in close co-operation with other groups. He believes that, however justified it may have been, his past hostility to the white community in Brewarrina was pointless. He now feels that more can be achieved through co-operation with the townspeople.

continued top next column

Helen Daley of Empire Vale, Mrs Joan Lawman, Lismore, and Kay Cook, Ballina. This photograph was taken on the occasion of Helen and Kay's graduation from The Joan Lawman Department School held in Ballina.



He will also be working with various government departments. The Department of Labour's Vocational Officer at Brewarrina, Phil Eyre, will be working with Steve in finding employment for the people.

Steve will also have the assistance of Mrs Essie Coffey, the recently appointed Aboriginal Community Health Worker who lives at West Brewarrina.



COMMONWEALTH ABORIGINAL SECONDARY GRANTS SCHEME— EXTENDED PROGRAM 1973

Applications are invited for 1973 Aboriginal Secondary Grants under the new terms of eligibility announced by the Prime Minister. The grants will be tenable from first term 1973.

ELIGIBILITY

The grants are open to full-time students of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent who—

- A. ● were 14 years of age but under 21 years on 1 January 1973;
 - will be attending in 1973 an approved primary or secondary school in any Australian State or Internal Territory;
 - are likely to benefit from remaining at school

OR

- B. ● were under 14 years of age on 1 January 1973;
 - will be attending in 1973 an approved secondary school in any Australian State or Internal Territory.

The continuation of a grant is subject to the student attending school regularly and to his conduct and progress being satisfactory.

The grants include assistance with living costs, school fees, clothing and text books and other expenses associated with attending school.

APPLICATIONS

Application forms and further details may be obtained from the Commonwealth Department of Education at the address below, from offices of the Commonwealth Employment Service, the Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare or some school principals.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

The Regional Director
New South Wales State Office
Commonwealth Department of Education
Lasalle Building
Cnr. King and Castlereagh Streets
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000
(Box 3987, G.P.O., SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2001)
Telephone 29 7351

These children from Bourke were photographed at Sydney airport on their way to Melbourne. They were going there to stay with families over part of the Christmas holidays. Each year the Harold Blair Foundation's Aboriginal Children's Project arranges for a group of Aboriginal children from country areas to be able to spend part of their holidays in Melbourne if they so wish. The children in these pictures and that on the back cover are: Lorna, Graham, Denise, Jessie, and Kim Dixon, Bede Mumbler, Lynette Knight, Pat Edwards, Patricia Bates, Marlene Knight, Sue Gibbs, Leatia Gillon, Thomas Gibbs, Larry Johnson, Maxwell Bates, Jack and Denise Edwards, Roger Hartnett, Glen McKellar, and Patrick Shephard.



Smoke Signals

►UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS:

The University of Sydney has rejected a proposal that matriculated students of Aboriginal descent seeking admission to the University be automatically included in the student quotas for various faculties. It was decided that although the proposal was admirable, it was too narrow. In the university's view it did not take into account other socially underprivileged groups who, like Aborigines, did not enter university in big numbers. It has decided to set up a committee to investigate social biases in university admissions. The committee will report on ways in which the university's admissions policy can be adjusted to assist social groups who because of disadvantages have low university entrance rates. The University of New South Wales already has a policy which exempts students of Aboriginal descent from normal restrictions.

►THE ARTIFACTS BUSINESS:

The Commonwealth Capital Fund for Aboriginal Enterprises plans to sponsor an Aboriginal artifacts company to ensure that Aboriginal craftsmen receive a fair return for their work. In its annual report to Parliament, the Fund states that its company, Aboriginal Arts and Crafts Pty Ltd, will make a study of the production, distribution, and sales of Aboriginal artifacts.

►RIDING ON THE TURTLE'S BACK:

Another project envisaged by the Capital Fund is the development of the turtle industry in the Torres Strait and parts of Western Australia. A new authority will be established to promote products of the turtle industry and to market them internationally. About thirty turtle farms have already been established and another eighty are planned for Northern Queensland and W.A. Finance for the marketing operation will come from the Capital Fund which is also expected to give support to the new farms.

►PROPOSALS FOR ENDING DISCRIMINATION:

The Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders recently

submitted a proposal to the Commonwealth Government in connection with a proposed "bill of rights" to be incorporated into the Australian Constitution. The FCAATSI proposals along with those from other groups would enable the Constitution to "accurately mirror the growing social awareness of the seventies and its corollary; a determination to end discrimination and unnecessary curtailment of civil liberties."

►BUS SHELTER FOR EAST ARMIDALE RESERVE:

The State Government is to finance the construction of a bus shelter shed at East Armidale reserve by the Armidale City Council. The decision followed a local appeal to provide facilities at the reserve. The shelter will be built of concrete. The Directorate of Aboriginal Welfare authorized the council's construction of the shed.

►COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR ABORIGINES:

The new Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs, under the Minister, The Hon. Gordon Bryant, M.H.R., has announced several new initiatives. Eight grants totalling more than \$100,000 for Aboriginal projects throughout Australia have already been approved. The biggest of the grants is \$34,000 for the Balgo Housing Society in Western Australia to provide facilities for Aborigines. \$33,500 has been made available to the Aboriginal Advancement Council in Perth to extend their premises and hostels; \$8,000 to the Carpentaria kindergarten in Queensland to cover expenses for a social worker; \$5,000 to the Maningrida Progress Association in the Territory to assist an art and craft centre; \$2,180 to the South Australian Aboriginal Art Co-operative which has some works the National Art Gallery is negotiating to buy; and \$4,000 to buy a bus for use by Aboriginal students and tutors from Armidale's New England University. Other moves planned by Mr Bryant include early legislation to give land rights and an immediate attack on Aboriginal poverty. The Minister has asked every member of Parliament for a report on Aboriginal poverty and welfare in their electorates.

In the field of land rights, the Government has frozen the granting of all new mineral leases on reserve lands.

►A NEW RECORD:

Aborigines have been mentioned in the latest edition of the *Guinness Book of Records*, an international publication listing world records of all sorts. Under the heading "Human Achievement—Endurance and Endeavour", it is recorded that the poorest people in the world are the Pintibu Aborigines whose entire collective wealth is valued at less than \$10.

►MORE HOMES AT MOREE:

The Department of Child Welfare is to acquire seventeen houses for Aborigines at Moree. Some of the houses are to be constructed by the Housing Commission and the remainder will be purchased. All will be available for Aboriginal people of the Moree area.

►WOODBURN'S DISTINCTION:

Mr Joe Crofts, according to the people of Woodburn, is the first Aboriginal person to acquire the managership of a newsagency. For Mr Crofts managing a newsagency is a far cry from the 5-year-old boy whose mother placed him in a home at Alice Springs because she could not care for him. He was later educated at Charters Towers where he became school captain. Only a year ago he finally located his mother's whereabouts, in Darwin. He served in the army and for a short time studied engineering at university. He then set out to see Australia, working in cane cutting and farm labouring. He later took up surveying and met his wife while working on the Snowy Mountains project. After a period living in Western Australia the family returned to New South Wales. Eventually Mr Crofts decided that for the sake of his three children's schooling he should settle down. It was then that Mr Crofts combined his own savings with a loan from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs in order to purchase the newsagency. Despite its stringent standards Mr Crofts got the go-ahead from the Newsagency Transfer Committee. In the 12 months since moving to Woodburn Mr Crofts has found the people friendly and loyal. Mr Crofts and his wife work long hours at the shop—she assists 3 days a week—but feel their efforts are worthwhile. Already they have painted the interior, and installed a new sign, which advertises the Aboriginal artifacts Mr Crofts sells.

►YIRAWALA:

According to Sandra Holmes, who has just published her book *Yirawala, Artist and Man*, Australia's greatest traditional Aboriginal artist may never paint again. With the onset of age, bad health, and advancing blindness, he has not painted for over a year, virtually since the time he was awarded the M.B.E. for his achievement. He is famous for his bark paintings depicting the laws, legends, and spiritual beliefs of the Western Arnhem Land Aboriginal culture. Yirawala is 80 years old.

►GRANTS FOR ABORIGINAL ART:

The Commonwealth Government has recently made two grants to foster Aboriginal culture. The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, announced the grants in December. The Aboriginal Publications Foundation, sponsors of the magazine *Identity*, will be given \$16,000 to help its operations. The Craft Council of Australia will receive \$5,000 to prepare an exhibition.

►COMMONWEALTH LAND RIGHTS MOVES:

As the first step towards Commonwealth recognition of land rights the Federal Government has appointed Mr Justice Woodward to inquire into how land rights should be granted. Mr Justice Woodward acted as counsel for the Yirrkala in the Gove land rights case of 1970. At that time Mr Justice Blackburn rejected Woodward's claims on behalf of the Yirrkala. The Commonwealth Government has already decided in principle to grant land rights. Mr Justice Woodward's role will be to advise how this should be done. He will report on: Arrangements necessary in the Northern Territory for vesting title to Aboriginal reserve land, including rights in mineral and timber, in the Aboriginal groups and communities concerned; procedures for the examination of claims based on traditional rights in the areas outside reserves or alternative ways of meeting effectively the needs of Aboriginal communities outside the reserves for land; and amendments to legislation necessary to give effect to his recommendations. In announcing Mr Justice Woodward's appointment the Prime Minister said: "The settlement and development of Australia has been achieved at the expense of long-established rights of Aboriginal clans and other groups to title in the land with which they and their ancestors have been traditionally associated." Once Mr Justice Woodward has completed his present inquiry the Prime Minister intends to refer subsequent matters involving Aboriginal rights or claims to land to him.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

The Minister for Child Welfare and Social Welfare, the Hon. J. L. Waddy, O.B.E., D.F.C., has recently approved the building of the following homes for Aborigines in country and city areas:

Deniliquin	.. 1 home	.. ..	.. ..	.. Lot 25 Halfleur Street	.. ..	3 bedrooms.
Mt Druitt	.. 6 homes	.. ..	.. ..	Lot 838 Ball Place	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
				Lot 111 Reliance Crescent	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
				Lot 636 Hartog Avenue	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
				Lot 778 Discovery Avenue	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
				Lot 309 Weisel Place	.. ..	3 bedrooms.
Coffs Harbour	.. 2 homes	.. ..	.. ..	Lot 604 Van Diemens Avenue	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
				Lot 53 Kurrajong Street	.. ..	3 bedrooms.
Tamworth	.. 2 homes	.. ..	.. ..	Lot 68 Kurrajong Street	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
				Lot 145 Cnr Tingira and Sussex Streets.		3 bedrooms.
Narrandera	.. 2 homes	.. ..	.. ..	Lot 128 Green Street	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
				Lot 9 Dalgetty Street	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
Kempsey	.. 1 home	.. ..	.. ..	Lot 4 Dalgetty Street	.. ..	3 bedrooms.
				Lot 106 Keith Moses Crescent	.. ..	5 bedrooms.
Toronto	.. 1 home	.. ..	.. ..	Lot 22 Tora Street	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
Campbelltown	.. 1 home	.. ..	.. ..	Lot 57 Bilgola Street	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
Walgett	.. 4 aged units	.. ..	.. ..	Lot 3 Peel Street	.. ..	2 for elderly couples, 2 for single persons.
St Marys	.. 2 homes	.. ..	.. ..	Lot 206 Liddle Street	.. ..	3 bedrooms.
				Lot 220 Brett Street	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
Wilcannia	.. Manager's residence	.. ..	.. ..	Caravan Park..	.. ..	4 bedrooms.
La Perouse	.. 7 homes	.. ..	.. ..	Reserve	.. ..	5 x 3 bedrooms.
				4 aged units	Reserve	.. ..	2 x 4 bedrooms.

Letters

Dear Sir,

I have a son, Trevor Ward, who was in Kinchela as a child and should now be about 30.

If anyone has news of him, could they let me know if he is O.K.?

Yours sincerely,
Lena Ward,
c.o. Post Office,
Greenhill, N.S.W. 2440.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for putting the Wellington photos in the October *New Dawn*.

Our school made a mistake about the name of one boy. He should be called Albert Cooper and not Albert Thomas.

Yours faithfully,
Arthur Stanley.

