

THE RETURN OF A BOOMERANG

This is a story of a long journey and the return of a boomerang that was made by the late John Simms of La Perouse Reserve.

Nearly twenty years ago a young man and his girl friend alighted from a tram at the junction known as the Loop at La Perouse. It is here that the aborigines sold their boomerangs for many years to the sight-seers of Sydney. The aborigines also demonstrated the art of boomerang throwing.

After watching the graceful flight of the boomerang the young man bought a boomerang from John Simms. This was the start of a very long journey for the boomerang that John had made—it took seventeen years to return from its starting point, namely La Perouse, but, true to its form, it returned.

To name a few points over which the boomerang hovered during its travels—Brisbane, Townsville, Thursday Island, Darwin, and many others.

This boomerang now hangs in the Supervisor's Office at La Perouse, and the young man and his girl friend, what of them? Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery, now the Supervisors of the La Perouse Aboriginal Reserve.

AUSTRALIA—LAND OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Australia was first definitely placed on world maps by the Dutch who discovered parts of the west and north coasts while sailing to and from Indonesia. In 1770, Captain Cook landed at Botany Bay, sailed up the east coast and claimed the country for Britain. In 1788 a penal colony was established at Sydney Cove, but free settlers, the development of the wool industry and the discovery of gold, made Australia a free and prosperous nation. The Commonwealth of Australia came into being in 1901 by Royal Proclamation.

From convict settlement to nationhood, from a few grains of wheat to millions of acres sown annually, from a few sheep to a hundred million grazing on the slopes and plains, and from bark huts to comfortable homes and many thousands of modern factories—much has been done : much more is being done or is planned. Vast hydro-electric schemes, vital new railways, irrigation projects, inland development, immigration and housing programmes are among the national aims.

Australia, a land of great potential production and high living standards and with a firm foundation laid by its pioneers, settlers and statesmen, has a great future which can be secured by faith and energy.

◆ ♦ "THE HOSPITAL FUND" ◆ ♦ ◆ ♦ HOW IT OPERATES ◆ ♦

Quite a number of aboriginal people have a wrong idea of their responsibilities in regard to hospital treatment, thinking as they do that just because they are aborigines they are entitled to free treatment. This is far from the case. Every person, aborigine or not, is expected to pay for hospital treatment if they can afford it and to the limit that they can afford. Further, a hospital is entitled to sue for its fees.

These conditions can sometimes cause embarrassment and hard feelings, and there is no necessity for this.

Join your local Hospital Fund.

For a small weekly payment, usually only a matter of a couple of shillings, payment of your hospital fees and those for your family are assured.

Ask the Welfare Officer or the Manager to explain this to you.



The bushland makes an ideal background for Mrs. Jean McGrady of Garah.

Harold Blair's Success

Dawn readers will be pleased to learn that Harold Blair, the aboriginal tenor, has been appointed to the teaching staff of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. He is the first aboriginal to be appointed a singing teacher with an Australian conservatorium.

This is surely a great honour, and one which Mr. Blair undoubtedly deserves. He will now have the opportunity of passing on to other young singers some of the experience he has already gained during the two years he spent overseas.

Dawn extends heartiest congratulations to him, and wishes him every success as he continues his own singing career in the future.