

ABORIGINES *need friendship*

By MICHAEL SAWTELL, well-known Author and Traveller and member of the Aborigines Welfare Board.

The excessive drinking by aborigines of all types all over Australia is a most distressing problem. I have recently visited the N.T. and Alice Springs and I was shocked at the drinking by full blood and lighter cast aborigines, both men and women. Of course many of the white people are just as bad, but the sight of a drunken aborigine woman does the cause of aborigine welfare untold harm. At the sight of a drunken aborigine, many people say, "There you are, what can you do with those people. We don't want them living up in our locality."

Unfortunately most partly assimilated aborigines drink to get drunk and to forget. There is very little social drinking among them. Even many of those who are "exempted" and may legally buy drink, buy the "plonk" to drink in the park. They do not just sip a drink. They gulp down a whole bottle at a time. Of course we people actively engaged in trying to help the persons of aborigine blood to become good citizens, know well the demoralisation that excessive drinking causes, and also how drinking aborigines get behind in their rent.

Now what can we do? I suggest that most persons of aborigine blood need more friendship. The Welfare Board can prepare the way, but private citizens must also play their part and try to make the aborigines feel that they are really Australian citizens, just the same as you and I. Many aborigines now only feel equal with the white man when they are drunk. They have actually told me this.

Never pass a person of aborigine blood without talking to him, or making a friendly gesture. Tell them to keep off the drink. I always do! Ask them their names and if they get *Dawn*, and if necessary post them a copy. I am delighted with the work that Rotary, Apex, Lions and most of the Churches are doing in this direction. "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."



Some more of the young lasses who had a wonderful time at the Lennox Head National Fitness Camp



Meet Marie Mitchell and Barbara Sandy, of Cootamundra

Princess Lilardia Writes

Dear Editor,

I don't know how to put into words how grateful I am for the October issue of *Dawn*—the poem by Michael Thwaites, the article "A Great First Australian", and the Magna Carta written by Muriel Smith.

The truth she speaks—"to put away our wounds" is the answer to our inferiority as a race. We have been put in this world not to think of ourselves, but of others.

Human nature is the same all over the world—it is wonderful to have an answer.

Why should not the Aborigines of Australia give a message to the world? Out of past misunderstandings can come fresh hope through living the four absolute standards of Moral Re-Armament—absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love, which embrace the truths of all religions, whatever the race.

Mr. Michael Thwaites' apology at the graveside of my Mother did much to help us see where we also are wrong, and have had bitterness, suspicion and hatred of our white brothers. My people at the graveside did appreciate what he said—they pressed forward to shake his hand.

Yours sincerely,

Lilardia (Margaret Tucker),
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(Member, Victorian Aborigine Board.)