

Good start to self-help farming venture

This article, by Kevin Elsley, appeared in the Lismore *Northern Star* when the maize harvest was under way earlier this year. *Dawn* thanks the *Star* for permission to reproduce the article, which reflects great credit on the Woodenbong Aborigines Progress Association.

Woodenbong Aborigines have made a successful start to a self-help venture in grain and small crop production.

The Woodenbong Aborigines Progress Association last year obtained two loans totalling \$1,400 and with this money grew 30 acres of maize and 5 of potatoes.

The maize is being harvested and according to the buyer the quality and cleanliness is high enough for export.

Progress Association vice-president, Mr C. Taylor (left) and secretary, Mr V. Vesper inspect some outstanding cobs of corn grown with loan money from the Aborigines Welfare Board. These men obtained \$1,400 in loans after going to Sydney to meet the Welfare Board. Mr Taylor is one of two full-blood Aborigines at Woodenbong Station



The Progress Association has undertaken the venture with two main objectives:

- Better education for children at the station.
- Improvements on the station.

The association's secretary, Mr V. Vesper, said proceeds from the maize and potato crops would repay the loans and help toward sowing bigger areas next year if the land could be made available.

Mr Vesper said there were 60 acres available at the station for crops and his association wanted to see it all under maize.

Profitable

He said there was no doubt about this year's efforts being profitable even after paying contractors for ploughing the land, the cost of seed and more contractors to harvest it.

The first potato crop grown by the Aborigines Progress Association has been encouraging, and plans are to put another area in next season. Here, Mr Taylor (left) and Doug Williams look over some of the first harvested. Five acres were grown with a \$400 loan from the Aborigines Welfare Board

