

Smoke Signals

► ABORIGINAL ARTS BOARD GRANTS

The Prime Minister has recently approved a series of grants recommended by the Aboriginal Arts Board of the Australian Council for the Arts. A total of about \$200,000 in all was approved for fifty-six projects covering the fields of theatre, music, visual arts, films, literature, crafts, etc. Among the grants were: \$450 to the N.S.W. Aboriginal Land Rights Council to cover the transport costs of tribal dancers and elders to Woodenbong; \$6,500 to the N.S.W. Division of the Arts Council to cover Miss Carole Johnson's salary and expenses for 6 months as a consultant on urban Aboriginal arts programme; \$3,700 to the Elizabethan Theatre Trust to cover Rosalyn Watson's fares and living allowance while attending a 1-year course to the Dance Theatre of Harlem; \$175 to the National Black Theatre to cover Mrs Euphemia Bostock's lessons in modern dance instruction; \$3,000 to the Arts Council to cover Gerry Bostock's living expenses and secretarial assistance for 1 year while preparing for publication of a manuscript on the visit of the Aboriginal delegation to China; and \$3,000 to Moree Aboriginal Advancement Association to cover the establishment of an Arts and Crafts Workshop for the local community. Some of the largest grants included: \$10,600 to the Nindethana Theatre of Victoria to perform at the Adelaide Festival of Arts and at three settlements; \$44,300 to the Aboriginal Theatre Foundation to cover its activities in theatre and dance across northern Australia; \$15,000 to the Bathurst Island Housing Association Inc. to assist the redevelopment of facilities for the local screen printing project; \$10,800 to Oenpelli Literature to assist Aboriginal authors to produce books in their own language; and \$14,100 for the Aurukun Festival Gathering. Enquiries about and applications for grants from the Arts Board can be addressed to: Secretary, Aboriginal Arts Board, Australian Council for the Arts, P.O. Box 302, North Sydney N.S.W. 2060. Tel.: 920 1271.

► GOANNA FARMING UNDER STUDY

Preliminary studies are being made into the feasibility of commercially farming a wide range of native fauna, including emus, goannas and wombats. If the projects could be developed, they would involve conservation principles while at the same time providing employment and livelihood for the people involved, thereby reducing dependence on social service benefits. Other species under investigation are kangaroos, Murray cod, yabbies,

marron and other species of fresh water fish. The scheme may be based on that being used for turtle farming in the Torres Strait.

► MOVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH POLICE

Following recent clashes involving police and Aborigines in Redfern and other parts of the country, a special study-group has been set-up to look into relations between the two groups. The study involves Aborigines, a former police officer and State M.L.A., Mr Les Shilton, and social scientists. The group will investigate the causes of the abnormal amount of conflict between police and Aboriginal groups. It will also be responsible

Keith Riley of Dubbo with his two dogs, Dino and Buddy's Hope.

