

# ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE FORMED AT DUBBO

**Over recent months the Dubbo community has established the city's first Aboriginal advancement organization.**

The formation meeting which took place in August has been followed by regular meetings since then. The president of the association is Mr Fred Powell and the secretary, Joan Powell, his daughter.

The initial meeting in August attracted about seventy local members of the Aboriginal community. The follow-up meeting, early in September, was attended by a number of guests, including Mr Bill Bird, a liaison officer with the Directorate of Aboriginal Welfare, and Mr Eric Craigie, president of the Moree Aboriginal Advancement Association. (Eventually the Dubbo association decided to adopt a slightly modified version of the Moree association's constitution. The sample constitution printed below is based on that of the Moree association).

Also present at the August meeting were the local welfare officer, the regional vocational officer from the Department of Labour, and the adult literacy officer from the Directorate of Aboriginal Welfare.

The meeting spent some time discussing the elections for the N.S.W. Lands Trust and for the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee.

A number of people expressed an interest in an adult literacy class which could be set up in conjunction with the local evening college. The possibility of establishing a second pre-school at Dubbo was also discussed.

Mr Bird stressed the importance of each community establishing its own advancement group as a way of getting more things done. Mr Craigie outlined some of the achievements of the Moree association, such as its recent success in persuading the Australian Government to provide homes for sixteen families lodged in caravans.

Such associations, however, must be properly organized (that is, have a constitution) before they

will be recognized by the Government, said Mr Bird. He pointed out that State and Federal Aboriginal liaison officers were always at the disposal of such communities.



*Some of the office-bearers in the Advancement Association recently formed at Dubbo: Joan Powell (secretary), Ray Nolan (treasurer of the funeral fund), Valda Ryan, Bob Towney, Fred Powell (president), Dot Probert, Cecil See, and Daisy Carney (seated at front).*



*People who attended the second meeting of the Dubbo Association.*