

NEW DAWN

NOVEMBER

1973

This Season
at Wee Waa



NEW DAWN A magazine for the Aboriginal community of New South Wales.

November, 1973. Vol. 4 No. 6 ISSN 0028-4513

A monthly magazine produced by the N.S.W. Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare, P.O. Box K718, Haymarket, N.S.W. 2000. Subscription to *New Dawn* is free of charge and may be obtained by writing to this address.

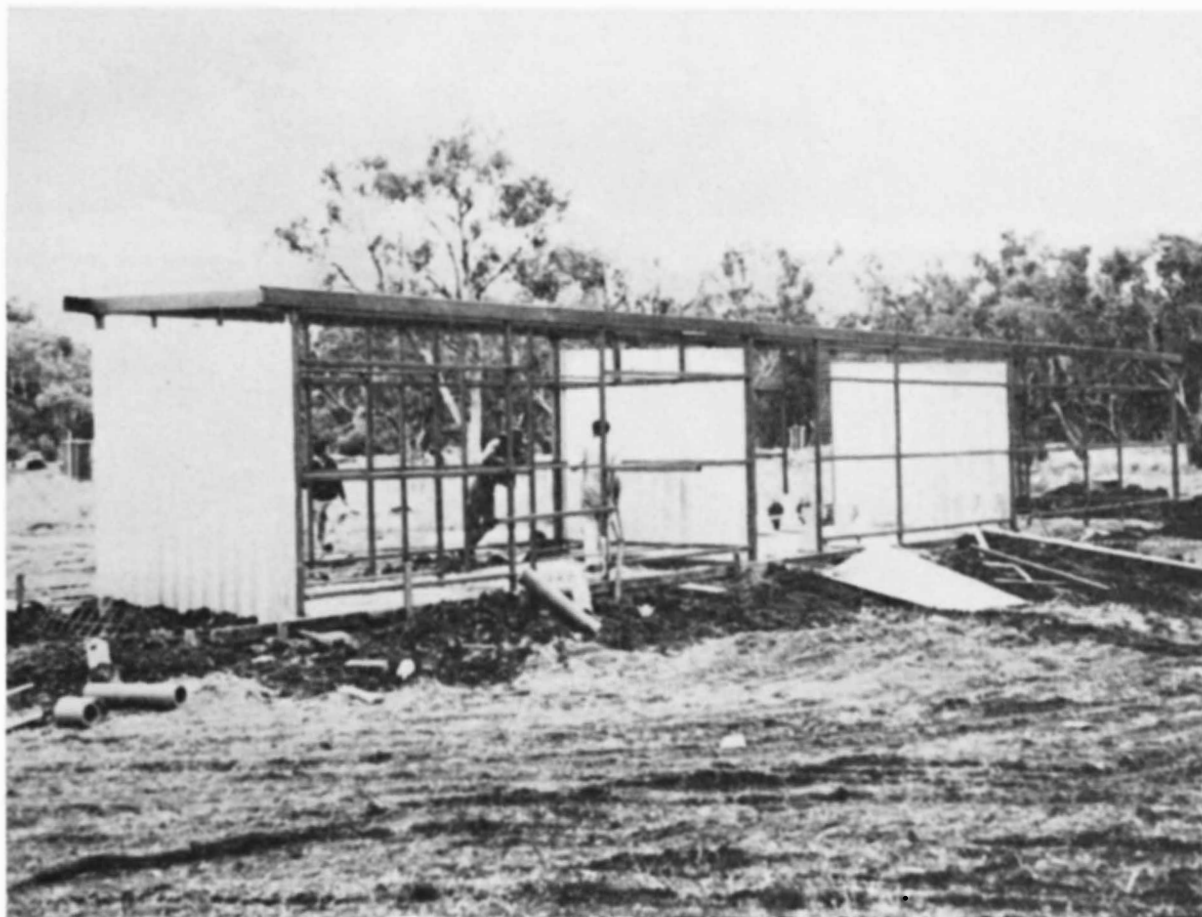


IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 This season at Wee Waa
- 4 Upsurge in head lice
- 5 S.C.F. Teacher Assistants seminar
- 6 A.A.C. moves to discourage metho-drinking
- 7 National plan for Aboriginal health
- 8 Central Australian Aborigines Congress
- 10 Letters
- 11 Scenes from Brewarrina and Bourke
- 12 Budget grants for Aboriginal advancement
- 13 Aboriginal Study Grants Scheme
- 15 Smoke Signals

FRONT COVER: *Wee Waa.*

EDITOR: Peter Vaughan, Publicity Officer, Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare, Tel.: 20982.



Shower and laundry facilities under construction in August at the Tulladunna camp site at Wee Waa.

This Season at Wee Waa

The situation at Wee Waa for cotton-chippers this season is likely to be different to previous years. Among the major changes this year will be:

- *probably less work available;*
- *some improvement in living and camping facilities;*
- *higher wages.*

How much work will be available?

It is estimated that overall there will be work available for only about two-thirds as many chippers this season as there were last year.

Such a reduction in the demand for chippers will be due to a fall in the total acreage devoted

to cotton and the increasing use of chemicals to control the growth of weeds. The fall in the cotton acreage appears to have been caused by lower returns per acre due to an infestation of heliothis grubs; increased costs of controlling the grubs; a shortage of water supply; and increases in the labour costs associated with growing and chipping.

The employment situation for Aborigines may be worse this year not only because of a general drop in demand for chippers but also as a result of the increase in chippers' wages awarded at the end of last season.

In particular the higher wage may, for instance, discourage growers from employing children in the



This photo shows the access road to the fenced-off Tulladunna camp, with the washing facilities under construction.

fields. It has been customary for entire Aboriginal families to go to Wee Waa for the season. This year the employment prospects for children, women, and elderly people may be considerably less than normal.

Not only has it been suggested by growers that only "able-bodied men" will be employed but there have also been suggestions that a "better style of chipper" will be required this season. Whether such comments are directed against Aboriginal people remains to be seen—there is some bitterness among growers following last season's events—although it is possible that Aborigines will face increased competition from white chippers now attracted by the higher wages.

Such factors suggest that the question of discrimination in employment could be raised this season. The Department of Labour has recently established a special committee to deal with alleged discrimination in employment on the grounds of religion, sex, race, etc.

Because of the likely increased difficulties in obtaining work at Wee Waa this year it would be

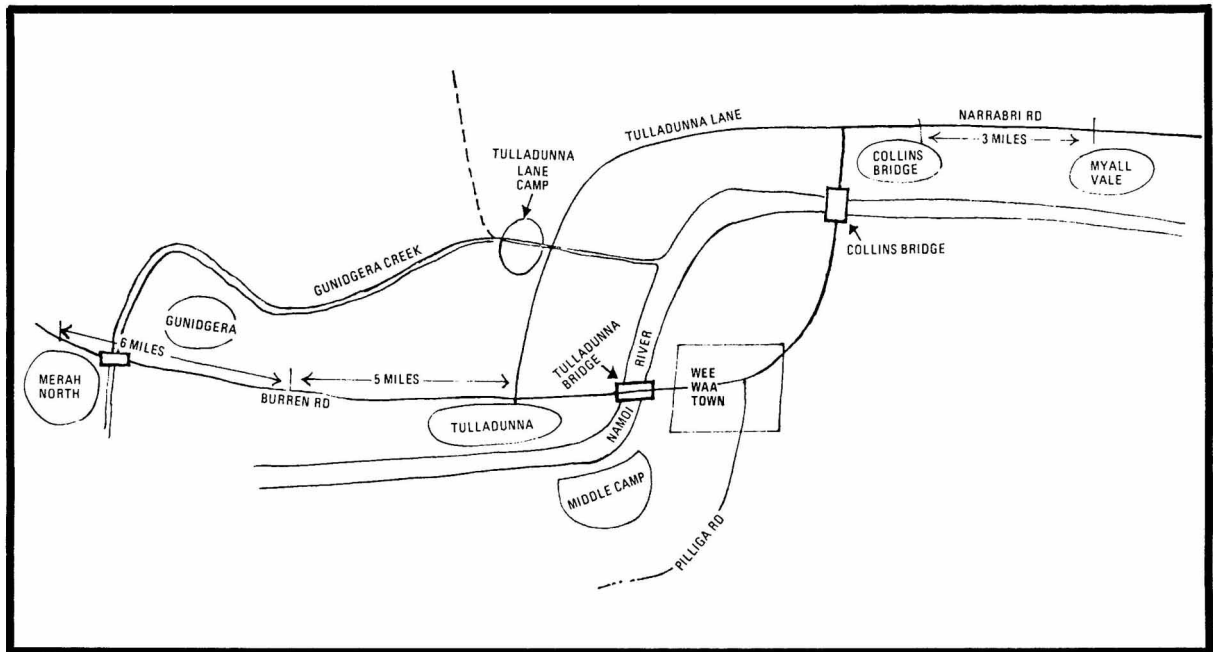
unwise for anyone who already has regular work or can obtain such work locally, to risk going to the cotton fields this season.

One way in which Aboriginal people might be able to minimize some of the difficulties mentioned above is through increased use of the Commonwealth Employment Service. In the past the District Employment Office at Narrabri has helped several hundred men obtain chipping work, although because Aborigines have not tended to take advantage of the service most of these men have been non-Aboriginal.

It is possible that the Employment Service will set up a special seasonal office at Wee Waa this year. In any case, people intending to go to Wee Waa might find it an advantage to contact their local Employment Office or Vocational Officer before leaving for Wee Waa.

What wages will be paid?

At the beginning of last season the wage being paid to chippers was \$1.16 per hour, or about \$12 for a ten-hour day. As a result of agitation and



Rough map (not drawn to scale) showing main chippers' camps at Wee Waa. Water, toilets, showers and laundry facilities will be available at the Tulladunna, Gunidgera and Myall Vale camps.

industrial negotiations wages were increased in January of this year.

The rate then agreed upon was \$1.45 per hour for an 8-hour day between Monday and Saturday. Overtime rates are to be paid for time worked in excess of eight hours per day. For Sundays and public holidays the new rate is \$2.80 per hour.

This agreement is due to be renegotiated towards the end of this year. That could result in a further increase in wages. In the meantime the figures quoted above represent the *minimum gross* wages for chippers.

What facilities will be available?

As a result of events at Wee Waa in 1972-3 there have been some improvements in camping conditions for itinerant workers.

Due to various local factors all the proposed improvements will not be completed for this season.

The accompanying map shows the various camps used by Aboriginal chippers during the season. A \$50,000 grant from the Australian Government is being used to provide a bore water supply, standard internal and access roads, toilet buildings and cess-pits, fencing, showers and laundry facilities at the Tulladunna, Gunidgera ("6 mile") and Myall Vale

camps. Facilities at other camps will not be significantly different from last season.

The Tulladunna camp has traditionally been used by people from Walgett, Goolooga and Brewarrina, and the Gunidgera camp by people from Dubbo, Coonamble, and Gilgandra.

At Tulladunna, as the accompanying photos show, a limited area has been fenced in and provided with an all-weather road, 10 scattered toilet buildings, and a structure containing 12 shower cubicles (6 for men and 6 for women) and 4 laundry tubs. The photos were taken in August. At that stage work at Gunidgera was not so advanced.

In future it is probable that further grants will be made available to develop at least one other camp site and to employ a field officer/maintenance man over the chipping season.

One other possibility being considered for this and future seasons is the provision of some sort of picture theatre at Wee Waa. Negotiations on this project are still proceeding.

All such developments, as in the case of those so far, are dependent on the goodwill of Namoi Shire Council.

(Continued on page 6)

UPSURGE IN HEAD LICE

Recently there has been an upsurge in the incidence of head lice, particularly amongst school children and teenagers.

Commenting on this outbreak, Dr S. J. Krister, Director, Division of Health Education, said, "It is undoubtedly caused by a combination of cool weather and the current 'Long Hair' vogue, not the result of unclean conditions."

"It is highly contagious and is likely to spread wherever children play together or teenagers congregate."

Head lice is caused by parasites living in the hair of the head.

Their eggs (nits) are whitish specks found stuck to the hair, usually above the ears, around the nape of the neck and top of the head.

Their presence should never be neglected as it may lead to the formation of scabs and sores on the head and enlarged glands in the neck.

Highly Contagious

Eggs or lice can fall or brush off on to floors, desks, chair backs, bus or train seats. From these places they can be picked up very easily by anyone who afterwards comes in contact with the infested surface.

The present trend of long hair not only makes it harder to actually see the lice or nits but allows for easier contamination from seat-backs too.

Contact at play or sport can result in the exchange of lice or nits, or they can rub off on pillows, cushions, clothing, hats and caps.

One infected child at a school or kindergarten can quickly cause spreading of the lice to many of his or her classmates and to anyone who comes in contact with them, before the lice are detected.

Treatment

If head lice are found, live lice must be destroyed, eggs must be removed and treatment continued until all signs of lice have disappeared.

There is no overnight cure and treatment at present available, will kill only live lice, not the eggs.

Begin with soap and water. Cut very long hair and comb with a fine tooth comb, lifting small sections of hair away from the scalp, and combing with a firm pressure from root to tip.

Apply gamma Benzene Hexachloride, from your chemist as a shampoo, lotion, or a cream and allow hair to dry naturally.

This will effectively kill any live lice.

Do not wash hair for seven days when same treatment should be again given.

Continue every seven days until all traces of lice and nits have gone.

Parents' Responsibility

The primary responsibility for dealing with head lice belongs to each child's parents.

Remember that this condition is not necessarily due to neglect. Many children can become infected without their parents knowing.

Inspect your child's hair weekly. Keep hair short, or if long, tied back or plaited whilst at school.

Dr Krister advised that affected children are excluded from school until the hair is completely free of lice and nits.

Children can be re-admitted to school after inspection by the school principal.

"Head lice will not just 'go-away'. They must be removed and killed. Prompt and persistent treatment is the only remedy", Dr Krister added.



Teacher Assistants at the seminar: Back row standing—Mrs Ping, Mrs McGuinness, Mrs Roberts, Miss Williams, Mrs Goolagong, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Millgate, Mrs M. Clark, Mrs Vincent, Mrs Thorne, Mrs Bradshaw, Miss Simpson, Mrs Vale. Second row seated—Miss Kennedy, Miss Rose, Mrs Wright, Mrs Jerrard, Miss Marshall. Front row kneeling—Mrs Hoskins, Mrs Morgan, and Miss Davis. Mrs Craig is missing from the picture.

S.C.F. TEACHER ASSISTANTS SEMINAR

Assistants from the 10 pre-schools operated by the Save the Children Fund in New South Wales country towns gathered in Sydney on Wednesday, 8th August, for their annual seminar.

There was a great deal of activity at the airport as hosts and hostesses—members of the Save the Children Fund—met their guests and whisked them home.

On Thursday morning Miss Robinson of the Kindergarten Union led a discussion on the books that children like to read. The assistants had prepared themselves and brought with them various books which had proved popular to discuss with Miss Robinson.

This was followed by a discussion on children's puzzles, concentrating on their advantages and disadvantages for certain groups and on the amount of sheer learning and skill acquired by young children from puzzles.

A quick lunch was followed by a trip to Revesby to see a Kindergarten union pre-school with a marvellous adventure playground. This small school (run very much on the lines of the assistants own schools) and its playground equipment proved extremely interesting.

Following afternoon tea, some shopping and a rest the assistants travelled by bus to the home of Mr and Mrs Blaiklock in Castlecrag where they rejoined their hosts and hostesses for a buffet meal followed by two films, "Belinda" about the pre-school at Walgett, and the "Princess and the Children."

On Friday morning Mrs Renate Harding, senior nutritionist at the Health Commission, led discussions on children's favourite foods, how children are encouraged to try new foods, etc. The general interchange of this information between the assistants was most useful. Generally it would appear that more milk is needed in the children's diets. There was also a lengthy and interesting discussion of "Belinda".

Friday lunch proved a glamorous and exciting occasion when the assistants went to the Summit restaurant on the top of the Australia Square Tower for a buffet lunch, general chatter and talk, and the taking of some photographs.

Assistants attending the seminar: from East Armidale came Mrs Helen McGuinness and Mrs Diane Roberts; from Ashford Mrs Barbara Jerrard; from Coffs Harbour Mrs Anita Craig, Mrs Susan Hoskins, and Miss Evelyn Williams; from Cowra came Miss Leonie Simpson, (Miss Coe and Miss Bamblett were unable to attend due to sickness); from Griffith Mrs Margaret Millgate and Mrs Gloria Goolagong; from Murrin Bridge, Lake Cargelligo Mrs Merle Clarke and Mrs Vincent; from Greenhills, Kempsey came Mrs Thora Wright, Mrs Shirley Vale, and Mrs Merle Bradshaw; from Bellwood, Nambucca Heads Miss Lorraine Marshall and Miss Gail Davis; from Purfleet, Taree Mrs Barbara Clark and Mrs Marcia Ping; and from Walgett Mrs Dorothy Thorne, Mrs Carol Morgan, Miss Karen Rose, and Miss Roslyn Kennedy.

Save the Children Fund

ADVISORY COUNCIL MOVES TO DISCOURAGE METHYLATED SPIRITS DRINKING

As a result of the initiative of the Aborigines Advisory Council it is likely that the taste and colour of methylated spirit will soon be altered in such a way as to discourage the drinking of it.

The Council has for some time been concerned that some Aborigines, among others, have become addicted to the spirit and that this is seriously endangering their health.

The Departments of Customs and Excise and of Health are at the moment finalizing the preparation of a new formula for the production of methylated spirit. This new formula, it is hoped, will so alter the taste of the spirit as to make people unwilling to drink it.

The Council first suggested altering the colour of the spirit in late 1971. Soon afterwards the Council was informed that simply altering the spirit's appearance would be unlikely to discourage people from drinking it.

As a result of negotiations between the Department of Child and Social Welfare, the Department of Mines and the producers of methylated spirit, it was agreed that perhaps the most effective way to discourage the drinking of methylated spirits would be to give it an objectionable taste.

The issue was raised by New South Wales at the conference of Aboriginal affairs Ministers and Administrators in Darwin last year. As a result it was eventually taken up by the then Office of Aboriginal Affairs and the Department of Customs and Excise in Canberra. In April this year the Customs Department proposed a new formula.

Since then the Customs and Health Departments have been checking the formula before requiring that the producers of methylated spirit begin using it. The Health Department wishes to be sure that it would not be too dangerous if swallowed by accident.

The formula has the effect of giving the liquid a yellow/green colour with a quite unpleasant taste.

WEE WAA

(Continued from page 3)

Postscript: Late developments

In mid-September the Department of Aboriginal Affairs made a further grant to Namoi Shire Council for the purpose providing two blocks of showers and laundry facilities at Myall Vale camp.

This will mean that the three camp sites of Gunidgera, Tullandunna and Myall Vale will have reticulated water, roads, fences, toilets, showers, and laundry tubs.

The facilities should be as follows:

Tulladunna: 20 toilets.
24 showers.
8 sets of laundry tubs.

Gunidgera: 10 toilets.
10 showers.
2 sets of laundry tubs.

Myall Vale: 30 toilets.
24 showers.
10 sets of laundry tubs.

All of this work is due to be completed by the 1st of November or shortly afterwards.

In addition, a team from the Aboriginal Medical Service and a field officer of the Aboriginal Legal Service (Mr Jack Smith of Moree) will be stationed at Wee Waa during the season.

NATIONAL PLAN FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH

The Federal Government has embarked on a national plan to raise the standard of health of Aborigines throughout Australia.

The Minister for Health, Dr D. N. Everingham, announced in August that the plan was being co-ordinated through a newly established Aboriginal Health Branch within the Australian Department of Health.

Dr Everingham said that at present responsibility for health services for Aborigines lay with various Federal and State Departments of Health, Statutory Commissions and a variety of smaller organizations, some of which were associated with academic institutions.

The establishment of the central organization within the Department of Health was necessary for the national campaign to succeed, but there would be full consultation and co-operation with the various State and Federal authorities in health and welfare.

Two new bodies established

Dr Everingham said that two bodies had been established as additional steps in the new plan for Aborigines.

They were a Study Group on Aboriginal Health and an Aboriginal Health (Standing) Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

The Study Group was set up at the request of the Council of Aboriginal Affairs and consisted of



The Minister for Health, Dr Everingham.

doctors responsible for Aboriginal health planning in the States and Territories, expert advisors from the Departments of Health and Aboriginal Affairs and a number of Aborigines with experience in health work.

Dr Everingham said this group would make recommendations which would serve as guidelines for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and other Ministers on all matters relating to the health of Aborigines.

The second body, the Aboriginal Health (Standing) Committee of the N.H.M.R.C., apart from being a national advisory body on Aboriginal health, would encourage research workers to look at problems of Aboriginal health where research was needed.

Plans to involve local community

The Minister said the approach to research would be changed from acceptance and evaluation of projects to one of stimulation of research into areas of need.

The approach to the delivery of health services would be changed from the former system of providing these entirely from outside the communities to one of involvement of the people themselves in the planning and delivery of health care.

Ways and means of achieving this were already being studied.



Mr Helmut Pareroultja (centre), vice-president of Central Australian Aborigines Congress, discussing with Pitjantjatjara tribesmen the general concept of C.A.A.C. (Docker River)

The major purpose of this meeting was to establish a new and representative Aboriginal organization, equipped with both flexible and a viable constitution. This purpose was ultimately achieved.

The meeting was well attended by approximately 100 Aboriginal representatives from Alice Springs, Aileron, Areyonga, Amoonguna, Docker River, Ernabella, Finke, Haasts Bluff, Hermannsburg, Jay Creek, Kai Kaily, Maryvale Cattle Station, Papunya, Santa Teresa, Warrabri, Willowra Station and Yuendumu. The following important business was conducted:

1. Name of Organization

After much discussion, it was resolved that the new Aboriginal organization be called the Central Australian Aborigines Congress in preference to the Central Australian Aboriginal Rights Council. It was noted that certain sections of the community at Alice Springs were antagonized by the name and existence of an Aboriginal Rights Council. So in accordance with our new policy principles and objects it was desired that we create a fresh image of an Aboriginal group which is prepared to work towards constructive goals in Aboriginal Affairs, and to promote greater mutual respect and understanding between Aboriginal Australians and other Australians.

2. Definition of an "Aboriginal"

Interesting discussion was focused upon defining the term "Aboriginal". It was finally resolved that the term "Aboriginal Australian" be employed, for the purposes of the new constitution and as a flexible definition of Australians of Aboriginal descent. "Aboriginal Australian" means essentially a descendent, whether full-blood or part-blood, of the indigenous inhabitants of Australia, who

The Central Australian

On Saturday, 9th June, 1973, an historic meeting took place at the Institute

identifies as such and is accepted as such by the Aboriginal community in which he or she lives. The following points among others, were raised about this new definition:

- (i) It allows for the descendants of the original inhabitants of this continent to be regarded as a distinctive race of people with a unique culture and values.
- (ii) It takes into account both full-blood, tribal and the part-blood people, who express a strong desire to maintain kinship ties and to identify with each other.
- (iii) It indicates the close affinity of Aboriginal people with the land of Australia.
- (iv) It allows for people of Aboriginal descent to identify proudly as both Aboriginals and Australians within the context of modern Australian society.
- (v) Finally, the term is not an arbitrary one. Its definition and application is by choice. People of Aboriginal descent do not have to identify as Aboriginal Australians if they do not want to.

3. Policy and Principles

A constitution drafted and circulated by Mr Neville Perkins was accepted and adopted after the necessary and appropriate amendments were made. The policy and principles of the Congress read as follows:

Aboriginal Australians should be:

- (i) Recognized as a distinct and viable cultural group.
- (ii) Subject to the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as other Australians.
- (iii) Guaranteed the right to retain, as they wish, their own culture languages and institutions.
- (iv) Enabled to participate fully in the formulation of any programmes designed to change the existing structure of their communities.
- (v) Guaranteed ownership and mineral rights, collective or individual, over the lands which they have occupied traditionally.

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress

Meeting of tribal and non-tribal Aboriginal Australians for Aboriginal Development.

- (vi) Entitled, as dispossessed and under-privileged groups to special assistance in promoting their social, cultural economic and educational development."

In addition to the above principles it was resolved that the following clauses be stated in the constitution:

"We stand for self-determination. We stand for self-reliance. We depend mainly on our own efforts on the united stance of our people."

The major objects of the Central Australian Aborigines Congress shall be:

- (i) "To promote the interests of the Aboriginal people of Central Australia;
- (ii) to provide both a forum whereby the Aboriginal people of Central Australia may air their grievances and the means by which these grievances can be taken up with the relevant authorities;
- (iii) to preserve the culture and languages of the indigenous inhabitants of Central Australia;
- (iv) to establish an Aboriginal Legal Service to supplement other services;
- (v) to promote and stimulate greater mutual respect and understanding between Aboriginal Australians and other Australians."

4. Office-bearers and Representatives

Elections were held for office-bearers in the executive of the new congress. The following representatives were elected to the following positions:

<i>President</i>	Mr George Bray
<i>Senior Vice-Presidents</i>	Mr Bill Turner Mr Milton Liddle Mr Roy du Bois
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	Mr Helmut Pareroultja Mrs Trixie Simpson Mr Bobby Liddle Mr Martin Jumbajimba
<i>General Secretary</i>	Mr Neville Perkins
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr Bobby Stewart
<i>Alice Springs Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Malcolm Cooper



Mr George Bray (centre), President of Central Australian Aborigines Congress, discussing aspects of the inaugural conference of C.A.A.C. with Neville Perkins (right), general secretary, and Mr Greg Bray

<i>Amoonguna Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Dennis Williams
<i>Aileron Sec./Rep.</i>	Pastor Tom Pnunga
<i>Areyonga Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr W. Brassie
<i>Docker River Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Mick Mima
<i>Ernabella Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Albert Lennon
<i>Finke River Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Joker Doolan
<i>Haasts Bluff Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Jim Jugati
<i>Hermannsburg Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Simon Enarlunga
<i>Jay Creek Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Bill Okay
<i>Maryvale Station Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Charlie Scobie
<i>Papunya Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Phillip Lane
<i>Santa Teresa Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Clover Young
<i>Warrabri Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr David Long
<i>Willoura Station Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Jim Jungari
<i>Yuendumu Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Roy Fry
<i>Kai Kaily (Papunya) Sec./Rep.</i>	Mr Shorty Bruno

It was resolved that at the next full meeting of the executive of congress arrangements would be made for the appointment of elected representatives from Tea Tree, Ayres Rock, Hooker Creek and Tennant Creek.

5. Consultant Committee of Experts

It was resolved that at the first available opportunity a Consultant Committee of European experts in various social, cultural, economic and legal fields would be set up to advise the Congress on complex technical matters.

Neville Perkins,
General Secretary,
P.O. Box 1604,
Alice Springs, N.T. 5750
698 2052 (Sydney Telephone)

Letters

Dear Sir,

I wish to contact and make enquiries with any person who knows or has heard of my mother, Helen Landsborough, age about 55 years.

I have been trying to get in contact with her for at least 20 years now.

It is important as I would like to see her before many more years, and to meet my family.

Please reply to the above address.

Yours sincerely,
David Landsborough,
Dawkin Street,
Bundarra, N.S.W. 2359.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the pleasure of receiving *New Dawn* for so many years.

I have a second-hand bookshop and will paste the "Dirge for Hidden Art" on the wall. It was so realistic and sadly beautiful. It would be a privilege to know Mary Duroux.

Would it be possible to print the enclosed words of my song in the magazine?

Wishing *New Dawn* continued success in all future endeavours.

Yours sincerely,
Kathleen Ramsay,
Kingsford.

A Song Dedicated to All Aborigines

A dreamtime isle—in a southern clime—Australia.
Her guardians—nature's men of fine physique—
They loved the starlit sky and plains where grass grew
high,
And rivers wide—alive with cod to eat.
The summer's sun ablaze brought out earth's riches
Whilst winter's snows caused man and beast to rest.
Cummeragunga, Meekathavia, tiny Nananidgee,
Yarrowonga, Oodnadatta and flowing Murrumbidgee,
These names will always mean Australia,
The distant past, today and aeons to come.

Dear Sir,

Recently I became a sub-agent for the International Penfriends Club and my agency is now seeking new members.

The club is world-wide and has its headquarters in Ireland. It caters for all groups over 12 years of age. The members come from all walks of life.

The club is a non-profit organization and is attempting to help needy children throughout the world. It is doing this through club membership and the collection of used postage stamps.

It is able to provide members with penfriends from any corner of the globe.

Anyone interested in the club should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Miss J. Piesse,
International Penfriends,
1461 Burke Road,
Kew East Victoria 3102.

Thanking you for your help.
Yours sincerely,
Jenny Piesse.

Dear Sir,

This is my first letter to our *Dawn* magazine of which I am proud.

My age is 12 years and I would like a penfriend in the outback country around that age also. I am interested in all types of sports and letterwriting.

Also I had a try at writing a national anthem, which I entered in the Narrabri National Anthem Courier Quest. It was of no success. I hope you find a space for it in the magazine.

Yours sincerely,
Rene Adams,
Pilliga.

Anthem

Our praise be to God,
Our loyalty be to the Queen,
And our hearts remain in our country,
Whose leaders govern our country
In many traditional ways.

Chorus:

"Oh Australia, land of the free,
Faced with waratah and golden wattle
That blooms throughout our sunburnt land.
And may the kangaroo and emu
Be our symbol of a friendly nation."

May our hands reach out to
Our neighbouring countries,
To show our great opportunity.
And may our friendship remain in
Peace, love and loyalty.

SCENES FROM BOURKE AND BREWARRINA



Davey and Valma Shillingsworth.



Bourke all-blacks men's football team.



Mannie West, Fred McKella, and Albert Coffey.



Brewarrina all-blacks Flyers football team, with referee Dennis Gibbs in front.



Bill Reid and daughter at Bourke.



Bourke schoolboys football team.



Albert Coffey and friends at Bourke oval.



Brewarrina schoolboys Flyers football team taken at Bourke after beating Bourke schoolboys team.



Sharon Coffey and Jo Ann.

BUDGET GRANTS FOR ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT

Total funds allocated for Aboriginal advancement in this year's federal budget amounted to \$117.4 million.

Last year's original allocation was \$48.4 million, although this was increased earlier this year to \$61.4 million.

The \$117 million grant for 1973-4 includes an interim grant of \$22 million to the various State Governments, of which New South Wales will receive \$4.75 million.

The major items of expenditure will be: *housing*—\$30 million; *health*—\$9.6 million; *education*—\$4.75 million; *employment* projects—\$6 million; and *legal aid*—\$1.5 million.

Help to government settlements and missions, spending on civil works projects, administration and other costs will absorb \$20 million of the budget.

\$5 million has been set aside for the Aboriginal Land Fund, which is used for buying properties for Aborigines off Reserves.

In addition \$3 million has been allocated for grants in support of community enterprises; and \$1.8 million for grants for community amenities, water, sewerage, and electricity.

	\$ million		\$ million
Interim Grants to States—		Break-up of N.S.W. Interim Grant—	
Queensland	7.70	Housing	2.624
West Australia	6.89	Community amenities	0.250
New South Wales	4.75	Health	0.665
South Australia	1.70	Education	0.327
Victoria	0.77	Employment	0.066
Tasmania	0.154	Community and regional projects	0.213
Total	\$ 22.00	Total	\$ 4.75

ABORIGINAL STUDY GRANTS SCHEME

Aboriginal Study Grants are intended for students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands descent who want to study further after leaving school.

The Commonwealth Department of Education administers the scheme for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, and with the co-operation of the Directorate of Aboriginal Welfare.

Courses

Most Aboriginal students take courses at such places as Universities, Teachers Colleges, Technical Colleges, Business Colleges, Agricultural Colleges, and other educational institutions. Other kinds of studies are also considered.

Your application can be for a full-time or part-time course given in classes, by correspondence or some other approved form of teaching. Your course may be quite short or take several years, but you must attend all classes or other training sessions and make good progress, or your award may be taken away.

A. Full-time Grants have these benefits

A living allowance: A living allowance of \$70 per fortnight if over 21 years is paid to each student

given a study grant to do a full-time course. If the student receives any other income it may reduce his living allowance.

Living allowance is paid by cheque. If your study grant has already been approved before your course starts, payment will begin when you begin the course. Payment continues through terms and vacations until the course is completed or until the grant is taken away.

If the student is doing a full-time University course and living in a University College, the study grant will pay the College residence fees during the academic year and the student will be paid \$16 per fortnight allowance.

A dependents' allowance: A married man given a study grant for a full-time course is also paid \$16 per fortnight for his wife, if she has no income of her own. A full-time student (man or woman) is also paid \$9 per fortnight for each dependent child.

Both these allowances are added to the living allowance and paid each fortnight.

An establishment allowance: This allowance is paid students given their first grant for a full-time course which will last at least one academic term. The amount paid depends on whether the student must live away from home to study or is able to

live at home. It is to help the student pay costs which arise around the time he starts his course.

Textbooks and equipment allowance: Up to \$100 each year may be paid towards the cost of the textbooks and equipment which a full-time student must buy for his course. The actual amount paid depends upon the course and the cost of the books and equipment which the student is required to buy.

Before buying any books or equipment the student should get a signed list of everything necessary for the course from the person in charge of the course. This list should then be given to the State Office of the Commonwealth Department of Education.

Travel costs: A student who must live away from home to study will have his travel costs met, within certain limits, for the journey between his home town and the town or city where the course is given. The cost of up to three such return trips each year at vacation times may be paid by the Commonwealth Department of Education.

If a married student must study away from home for at least one year, the travel cost of his wife and children between his home town and the town or city where he studies may also be met at the beginning and end of each year of his course.

No travel allowance is given for travel each day to and from the place where he is studying.

Students should let the State Office of the Commonwealth Department of Education know of their plans for travel at least two weeks before they want to leave.

B. Part-time Grants (including correspondence) have these benefits

An allowance of \$10 per month (maximum \$100 per year) or \$5 per month (maximum \$50 per year) is paid to meet the student's expenses. It is not meant to be a living allowance.

The number of hours of classes or the number of subjects by correspondence determines which allowance is paid.

If a course lasts more than one academic term the allowance is paid at the beginning of each term, not each month.

Residential school expenses (correspondence students): If a correspondence student must go to a residential school as part of the course the study grant pays the travel and accommodation cost of attending the school. Students who will have to attend such schools should write to the State Office of the

Commonwealth Department of Education at least one month before the travel, and give details of dates, costs, etc.

C. All study grants (full-time and part-time) cover these:

All compulsory fees charged by the Institution for the course are paid direct to the Institutions. Compulsory fees include tuition, examination and graduation fees such as union, sport, library, and laboratory fees.

What you should do

1. Your application must be on an application form. You can get one from the Office of the Commonwealth Department of Education in New South Wales. The address of the New South Wales Office is:

Regional Director,
New South Wales State Office,
Department of Education,
Cnr King and Castlereagh Street,
Sydney, N.S.W. 2000 (G.P.O. Box 3987,
Sydney 2001).

You can discuss your study plans and application for a study grant with Education Officers in the State Office of the Commonwealth Department of Education.

2. When you have filled in and signed the application form send it to the State Office. It is very important that you send in your application *well before* the course begins. If your course is before April, 1974, your application should be sent before November, 1973. If it comes late your study grant may also come late.

Approval of your application will depend partly on whether you are suitable for the course. To help decide this, you might be asked to do some tests of interests and skills if you have not done them before. If you are not sure what course you want to study, say so in section B (proposed studies) of the application form. The Commonwealth Department of Education will arrange for you to be advised, and tested if necessary.

3. You should apply for admission to your course yourself, but do not wait until you are accepted for the course before applying for a study grant. Apply early for both. As soon as you are accepted for the course, let the State Office of the Commonwealth Department of Education know. No benefits can be paid until your acceptance is known.

SMOKE SIGNALS

▶A.M.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In August the Aboriginal Medical Service held its Annual General Meeting. The new office-bearers are Gary Williams, President; Isobelle Coe, vice-President; Eddie Neumann, treasurer; Lyn Thompson, Secretary; and Prof. Hollows, medical adviser. The management committee's chairman is Mrs Elsa Dixon and the committee consists of W. Reilley, Dr M. Asher, Dr J. Ward, and Str S. Richter. Ordinary members of the A.M.S. are W. Craigie, S. Bellear, Dr F. Grunnsiett, P. Coe, A. Phillips, P. Hunter, S. McGuinness, E. Bostok, B. Bellear, B. Egan, C. Morton, B. Maza, L. Monroe, H. George, M. Williams, T. Coorey, A. Weldon, G. Silva, L. Ingram, A. Morgan, A. Coorey, N. Foster, Dr R. Laing, S. Hausman, Str Ignatius, P. Thompson, M. Tuck, M. Parsons, and J. Butcher. The full-time staff of the Medical Service includes 2 doctors, 2 sisters, 2 field officers, 2 nutritionists, 1 driver, 1 secretary, and a publicity officer.

▶ABORIGINES IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Australian Government departments have been asked to take further steps to facilitate the employment of Aborigines in the Public Service. The Australian Public Service Board has requested departments to examine the possibility of employing Aboriginal staff in positions which involve a significant amount of liaison with the Aboriginal community. The board is aware that many Aboriginal people are reluctant to enter and be served in offices staffed wholly by non-Aborigines. The board has also asked that where such jobs had been identified particular care should be taken in advertising vacancies for these jobs outside the service in a manner which would encourage Aborigines to apply. At the moment the board, in co-operation with various departments, is conducting an Australia-wide survey to identify the numbers, locations, and types of jobs held by Aboriginal staff employed under the Public Service Act. Both of these developments are part of the policy announced by the board in February to increase the number of Aborigines in the Public Service.

▶PREFECTS AT WEE WAA CENTRAL SCHOOL

The accompanying photo on this page is that of William Toomey and Kerry Toomey of Wee Waa Central School. Earlier this year Kerry and William were elected prefects by their classmates. Both are in third form. Kerry was presented with

her prefect's badge by Mr Frank Higgins, District Inspector of Schools for the Gunnedah District; and William received his badge at the ceremony from Mr Mauris Veidelis of Aboriginal Secondary grants. William and Kerry, who are cousins, are the first Aboriginal prefects at Wee Waa Central.

▶CANBERRA APPOINTS N.S.W. LIAISON OFFICER

Mr Chicka Dixon commenced work in early September as a senior liaison officer with the Australian Department of Aboriginal Affairs. He will be based in Sydney, although responsible to Canberra, and operate throughout New South Wales. Before taking up his new position Chicka was already serving on a number of Government bodies, including the Aboriginal Arts Board, the Homeless Men Committee, and the interim National Aboriginal Consultative Committee. As a liaison officer his responsibility will be to visit Aboriginal communities across the State and report to Canberra.

▶NEW SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

In June of this year the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs proposed legislation which would have the effect of transferring the administration of all the Bureau's Indian programs from the Government to tribes. Known as the "Indian Tribal Government Grant Act", it proposes that programs and activities now performed by the bureau, be

William and Kerry Toomey of Wee Waa.



performed in future by the tribes. The legislation is designed to carry out a policy of promoting Indian self-determination and is aimed at achieving the greatest possible degree of Indian control. The policy would bring to an end the present situation whereby governmental and other programmes are controlled by Bureau of Indian Affairs employees who are responsible to government officials rather than to elected tribal governments. Another aspect of the new legislation proposes that the government make block grants to tribes in place of a number of existing economic development programs. The purpose of this would be to provide tribal governments with funds which they could use at their own discretion to promote development of their reservations. Perhaps similar policies might be applicable in Australia. Any suggestions?

►ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE EXPANDS

Following the Australian Government's policy of providing free legal aid to Aborigines, the N.S.W. Aboriginal Legal Service has begun to expand its activities. Recently three additional field officers were appointed: Lyn Thompson, Sydney; Lyall Munroe, Moree; and Steve Gordon, Brewarrina (Steve Gordon had earlier resigned as a liaison officer with the Directorate of Aboriginal Welfare). The A.L.S. has established regional offices at Moree and Brewarrina where it has employed its own full-time solicitors. In August the Legal Service held its Annual General Meeting which resulted in the election of Paul Coe as President; Lyall Munroe, Vice-President; Naomi Mayers, treasurer; and Eddie Neumann, secretary. The new council of the Aboriginal Legal Service consists of Ambrose Morgan, Faith Bandler, Billy

Craigie, Pam Hunter, Jack Smith (Moree), Tom Winters (Brewarrina), John Delaney, Bob Bellear, Max Silver, Hal Wooten, David Barr, Paul Landa, John Lawrence, Selwyn Hausmann, and Martin Mowbray. The new management committee includes Brian Donovan, Jack Timms, Peter Stapleton, Kay Bellear, Vivian Abraham, Isobelle Coe, Shirley Smith, Tarboy Smith, Mary Jane Mosman, Susan Armstrong, and Peter Thompson.

►MOREE APPRENTICES

The accompanying photo is that of Mr John Stevens and some of his apprentices at Stevens Rural Engineering, Moree. In the photo (from left to right) are Peter McNamara, Trevor Swann (3rd year welding), Kerry McNamara, Mervyn Brennan (1st year welding), Lyall Dennison (1st year welding), Wayne Sully, and Mr Stevens. John Stevens employs 4 Aboriginal boys as apprentices in his engineering firm—not included in the photo is Fred McGrady, also in his 1st year of welding. All 4 boys are attending Moree Technical College where they have successfully passed recent exams.

►GRANTS TO LOCAL HOUSING SOCIETIES

The Australian Government has instituted a program of making direct grants to Aboriginal Housing Societies for the construction of their own homes. Recently grants have been made to the Port McLeay Aboriginal Housing Society in South Australia and to the Erub (Darnley Island) Co-operative Society Ltd in Torres Strait. The

(Continued on opposite page)



Mr Stevens and apprentices.



ABORIGINAL SECONDARY AND STUDY GRANTS SCHEMES

Applications are invited for 1974 Aboriginal Secondary and Study Grants which the Australian Government offers each year to assist Aboriginal students with their secondary school studies and to undertake further study after leaving school.

The grants include assistance with living costs, school fees, clothing and textbooks, and other expenses associated with attendance at school and other educational institutions.

ELIGIBILITY

Aboriginal Secondary Grants

The grants are open to full-time students under the age of 21 years on 1 January 1974, who are of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent, and who will be attending in 1974 an approved secondary school or class in any Australian State or internal Territory. Students who are in their final year of primary schooling in 1973 and will proceed in 1974 to an approved secondary school or class will be eligible for grant benefits in 1974.

Grants may also be made available to full-time students who are attending in 1974 an approved primary school provided the student is 14 years of age but under 21 years at 1 January 1974.

Students who are 14 years but under 21 years of age on 1 January 1974 must also be likely to benefit from remaining at school.

Aboriginal Study Grants

The grants are open with no age restriction to students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent who have already left school and wish to undertake further studies or training in an approved course.

APPLICATIONS

Application forms and further details may be obtained from the Department of Education at the address below, from offices of the Commonwealth Employment Service, the Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare and some school principals.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

The Regional Director
New South Wales State Office
Sydney Plaza Building
Department of Education
59 Goulburn Street, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000
(G.P.O. Box 3987, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2001)

SMOKE SIGNALS *(Continued)*

South Australian group has received \$204,000 to take over management of all the existing houses, renovate a number of them and build eight new homes. The style, design, materials, location, and rents of the homes will be substantially determined by the local community. The grant will allow the Society to engage staff, enlist professional

guidance, and buy materials, plant and equipment. The Port McLeay village, of about 150 people, is on the shore of Lake Alexandrina, 100 miles by road from Adelaide. The Torres Strait group has received \$38,000 to build 3 houses already designed by the Islanders. They plan to carry out all the construction work themselves.

NOTICE

Voting for the election of
the Aborigines Advisory Council
and the Aboriginal Lands
Trust, closes on:

WEDNESDAY, 12TH DECEMBER