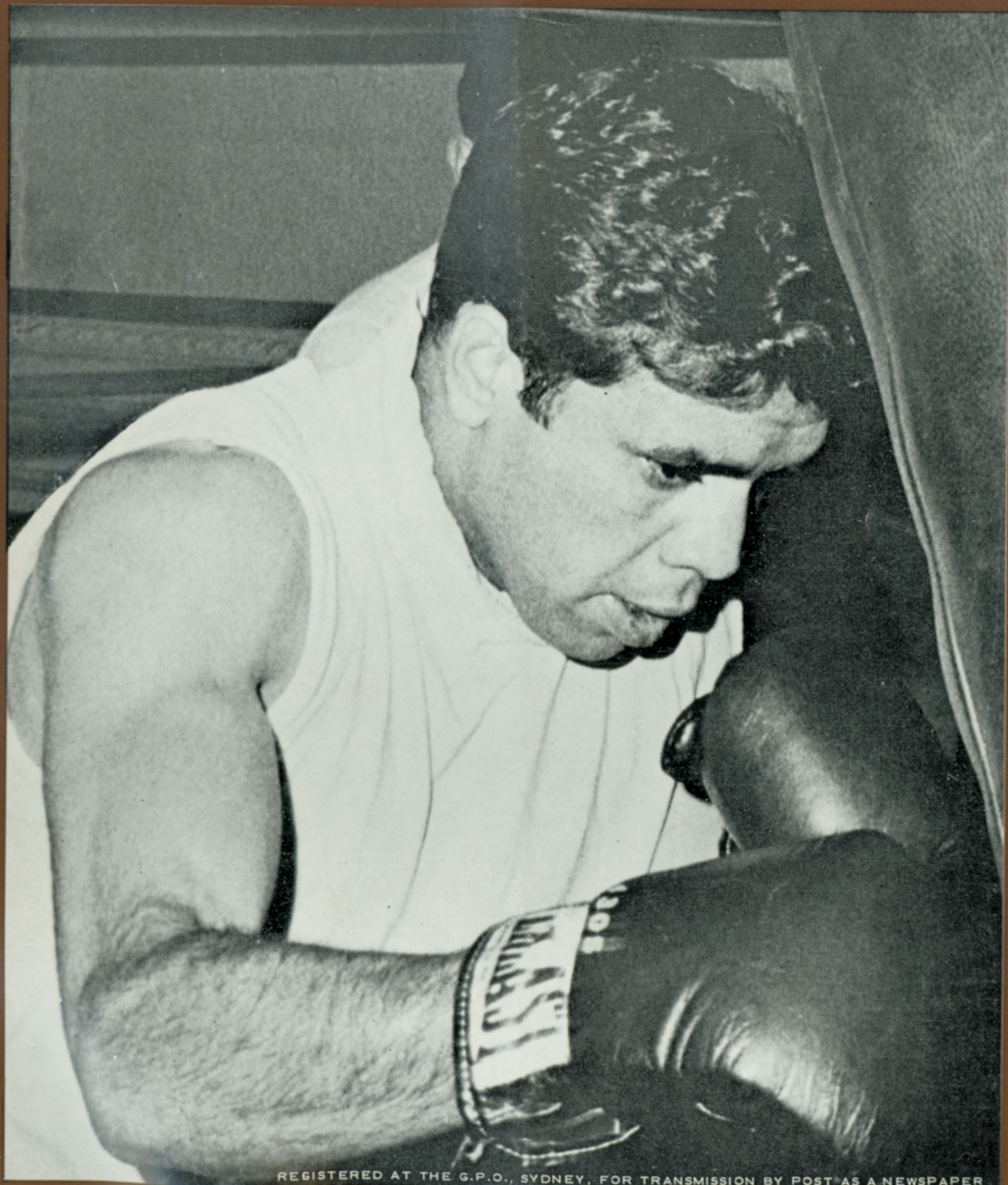


# IDA WAIN

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N.S.W. ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD**

## In This Issue

- 1 Role of the Aborigines Welfare Board in Aboriginal Progress
- 5 Aboriginal Family Handed Keys of Bowraville Home
- 8 Lionel Rose, a True Champion
- 10 Aboriginal Rock Engravings in the County of Cumberland
- 12 Czech Expedition
- 12 Pen Pal Wanted
- 13 Distinguished Grandmother
- 14 Mariner 4
- 16 Health and the Kitchen

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### FRONT COVER

Lionel Rose, Australian of the Year, and world champion, working out on the heavy bag. Story page 8

*(Photo, courtesy Sydney Daily Mirror)*

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### Editorial

*Chief Secretary's Department*  
121 Macquarie Street (Box 30, G.P.O.), Sydney, 2000.

# The Role of the Aborigines Welfare Board in Aboriginal Progress

This is the last issue of "Dawn" published by the Aborigines Welfare Board, which, as we explained last issue, is being disbanded. The Board was established 86 years ago, 17 years before Federation, and has played an important part in aboriginal affairs in New South Wales. In the following article the role of the Board in aboriginal progress is reviewed.

The Aborigines Welfare Board, or as it was originally known, a Board for the protection of Aborigines, came into being in June, 1883, when from five to seven members appointed by the Governor were almost wholly concerned with protecting Aborigines from injustice, cruelty, and immorality, and the disbursement of limited funds on rations, clothing, and huts for shelter.

This Board functioned without any statutory authority until the passing of the Aborigines Protection Act in 1909. Various amendments to the Act have been made since that date, with particular emphasis being placed on measures for the assimilation of Aborigines into the general community and the removal from legislation of all suggestions of discrimination against Aborigines.

Perhaps a detailed record of the Board's activities could well commence in the year 1938 when the Minister responsible for Aboriginal affairs indicated to the Public Service Board he was "very concerned with regard to the question of the protection and development of the Aboriginal population of the State". He requested the Board to review the whole question with a view to any recommendations which, in its opinion, would tend to effect improvements.

The Public Service Board in its review of conditions felt that the situation was one of urgency. In the short preamble to its findings, the need for immediate and early action on various issues was mentioned no less than five times.

Major recommendations dealt with the need for the adequate representation on the Board of interested persons (Aborigines), repairs to existing cottages, the provision of new homes, the appointment of additional staff, and adequate training and education for Aborigines to enable "their gradual absorption into the economic and social life of the general community".

In addition a Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare was to be appointed to be the executive member of the new Board and to travel extensively throughout the State, thus providing a link between the Board and its work in the field. The first Superintendent was appointed in 1940.

In 1961, following an extensive growth in the Board's field staff, a fully University trained social worker was appointed a Senior Welfare Officer to co-ordinate and oversee the work of the Board's field staff.

In the 30 years since the Public Service Board report, there has been a remarkable development in both Aboriginal and public attitudes. Progress in the fields of civil rights, education, housing, and Commonwealth/State relations call for special mention.

### **Civil Rights**

It is clear that in the early days the Board's powers were in some respects paternalistic and restrictive. The appointment of Managers of Stations supported by manifold regulations for the administration of the lives of residents was basically restrictive. The existence of local committees designed to be guardians of Aborigines encouraged the belief that the Aborigine was unable to fend for himself. The prohibition on Aborigines obtaining liquor from recognized sources led to unfortunate abuses.

With the passing of time a more enlightened approach to Aboriginal affairs has prevailed. Aborigines now enjoy full citizenship rights, including the right to receive the whole range of social service benefits. The last remaining restriction to the supply of liquor to Aborigines was removed without incident some time ago. Moreover all suggestion of discriminatory legislation has been deleted from statute.

It needs to be stated that the possession of full citizenship rights and the enjoyment of such rights are not necessarily one and the same thing. Every right carries a corresponding responsibility. It is clear that Aborigines are increasingly rising to the challenge of citizenship. The growth of a spirit of independence and the emergence of persons with gifts of leadership should hasten the day when aspiration and realization are one.

### **Education**

In 1938 the Public Service Board recorded that the existing system of education left much to be desired. Teaching on the whole was in the hands of unqualified teachers—managers who were not, in many cases, in a position to give essential instruction. Aboriginal children, for various reasons, attended segregated schools located on stations and reserves.

By virtue of amendments to the Act in 1940 the responsibility for the education of all Aboriginal children was transferred from the Board and came entirely within the province of the Department of Education.

It was realized by the Board that the educational advancement of Aboriginal children would be best fostered by their assimilation into the normal school system, and action was set in train to transfer pupils from schools on stations and reserves to town schools. Whilst in the initial stage progress was slow and limited by reason of staff shortages occasioned by the active service of many teachers in the armed forces, and in isolated cases by the antagonism of white communities, the desirability for the closure of special aboriginal schools was always kept in mind.

In 1953 the Board was able to report: "It has been found that where it has been possible to merge the children into public schools that they are not only well accepted by white children but they invariably held their own and in some instances outstripped the white pupils in educational attainment and sporting ability".

In the following year it was able to report the closure of two aboriginal schools and the transfer of all pupils to the local public school. The closure of the remainder of station schools followed in succeeding years, except in areas where by reason of isolation and distance to be travelled to a town school, it has not been practicable to make the transfer.

Perhaps the most significant development in the field of education has been the inauguration of a Grants in Aid Scheme under which all secondary school children capable of completing the normal syllabus receive financial assistance from the Board to provide for the purchase of school uniforms and the payment of school fees and associated expenses.

In approved cases where the educational advancement of a child is retarded by difficult home circumstances, the payment of hostel or boarding school fees may also be approved.

The provision of the Grants in Aid Scheme was deemed necessary when a review of the educational achievements of Aboriginal children revealed that only a small percentage remained at school after reaching leaving age, and children attempting the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate examinations were few in number.

During 1968 successful pilot schemes were operative in the Kempsey and Dubbo welfare districts and funds have been made available for the implementation of proposals throughout the State from the commencement of the first term in 1969. Whilst it is too early to evaluate in depth the progress of the scheme, there is every indication that it could provide the means for the satisfactory education of the rising generation of Aborigines.

The Board has also fostered the development of work in both the pre-school kindergarten and adult education fields.

Pre-school kindergarten work has been accepted as the major responsibility of the Save the Children Fund (N.S.W. Division). From a small beginning at Coff's Harbour in 1962, pre-school kindergartens now operate in seven centres. The Board has made available the land, and in a number of cases buildings for these groups, whilst the fund has provided staff and day to day requirements for the groups.

Very valuable contributions have also been made in this connection by the religious orders of the Daughters of Charity at Moree and the Sisters of Compassion at Wilcannia.

Progress in adult education has been limited to a large extent by the lack of adequate finance and the need to ensure that selected objectives will meet the requirements of individual Aborigines and enable them to improve their prospects of employment in other than unskilled work.

In 1963, a sub-committee of the Board under the chairmanship of Professor A. P. Elkin, prepared plans for a comprehensive scheme of adult education. This programme, which is now in the hands of the Department of Adult Education, University of Sydney, involves the conduct of leadership schools, pilot projects in the Richmond River area, and special classes to meet specific needs in the Sydney metropolitan area. The Board has met the day to day running expenses of the courses whilst the University has paid the salary of the staff tutor.

Tribute must be paid at this stage to the important role played by Professor A. P. Elkin in the Board's approach to Aboriginal education as well as other matters affecting the general welfare of Aborigines. As far back as 1931 Professor Elkin had advocated the formation of a positive policy for the advancement of Aborigines as opposed to the protectionist policy of former days.

Professor Elkin had the distinction of being appointed to the reconstituted Aborigines Welfare Board in 1940 and has served as Vice-Chairman of the Board since 1942. In recognition of the Professor's outstanding work in the field of anthropology he was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (C.M.G.) by the Queen in 1966.

## Housing

The provision of adequate housing for Aborigines has been a matter of major concern for some time. In the Public Service Board report of 1938 it was recognized that many homes on stations and reserves were in need of repair or replacement.

Action along these lines has been pursued with the utmost vigour having regard in the early post-war years to the shortage of building materials, and until very recent years, limited finance.

It is not generally appreciated that prior to February, 1949, Aborigines lived "rent free" on stations and reserves. Following a decision that occupants of these homes should, in keeping with other Australians, accept responsibility for the payment of rent, nominal rentals of from \$1.50 to \$1.75 were imposed. In many cases these rentals still apply.

During recent years an increased emphasis has been placed on the erection of homes within the towns and cities. The houses now being erected are modern homes with individual laundry-bathroom facilities, running water, electricity, and sewerage if available. They compare favourably with houses erected by the Housing Commission of N.S.W.

Many former station residents have appreciated the opportunity to enjoy the advantages of a town situation and have merged into the general community with a marked degree of success. On the other hand, others are diffident about the move and for a variety of reasons need encouragement and assurance to accept the challenge of a new life.

From a small beginning in 1954 the Board's home loan purchase scheme has developed to the extent that some eighty-five families have been assisted to purchase their own homes. Amounts of up to \$7,000, (recently increased to \$8,520) have been available on loan for a period of up to thirty years at very low interest rates of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent reducible.

The Board's scheme was well received by the recent Joint Parliamentary Committee of enquiry into Aboriginal welfare, and a recommendation made that it be expanded and more widely publicized.

With the proposed injection of Commonwealth funds into Aboriginal affairs there is every reason

to believe that major advances in the home building field are in sight. Further details of Commonwealth proposals are supplied under the heading of Commonwealth-State relations.

### **Commonwealth-State relations**

Responsibility for Aboriginal affairs has been, until comparatively recently, a matter for State authorities. It has been maintained that each State has, of necessity, been occupied with different aspects of Aboriginal progress—different numbers of Aborigines, different levels of development, different priorities.

Whilst it is not proposed to review in detail the growth of a more co-ordinated approach to Aboriginal affairs it is of note to mention that arising from the 1967 referendum on Aborigines, the Commonwealth Government now shares responsibility with the States for the advancement of Aborigines. The Commonwealth has indicated that it proposes to assist the States mainly in the fields of housing, education, and health and has allocated an amount of \$775,000 to New South Wales during the current financial year to this end.

The provision of these funds will enable the acceleration of the building programme to meet the needs of adversely accommodated Aboriginal families throughout the State. Plans have already been implemented for the erection of an additional eighty-two homes during the current financial year.

To provide for families who desire to improve employment opportunities by residence in large cities, a number of homes will be provided in the Sydney and Newcastle areas.

Advice has been received from the Housing Commission of New South Wales that it is prepared to make available land in towns specified by the Board and to arrange for the letting of contracts. This offer of assistance will materially assist in the expenditure of funds provided, and ensure that the standard of homes will be in keeping with that made available to other sections of the community.

In the field of education, Commonwealth funds will enable the full implementation of the Board's Grants in Aid Scheme to which reference has already been made. It is estimated that over 2,000 pupils will be eligible for assistance to the extent of approximately \$75 per head. Additional funds will also be made available to the Department of

Adult Education, University of Sydney, to enable the expansion of the Adult Education Programme.

Other proposals include assistance for the establishment of additional pre-school kindergartens and grants to educational hostels providing residential accommodation for students.

Preliminary discussions have been held with the Department of Public Health on matters relating to Aboriginal health. It is felt that early consideration is necessary for the development of satisfactory water supplies and sanitation schemes on all stations and reserves not yet serviced. The appointment of additional public health-welfare officers and nursing aids in areas with large concentrations of Aborigines is also thought to be desirable.

The Aborigines Welfare Board has played a significant role in the advancement of Aborigines in this State.

All discriminatory legislation has been removed from statutes; funds have been provided to rehouse hundreds of adversely accommodated families; Aborigines have been encouraged to become independent of Government and welfare agency assistance; progress has been such on stations and reserves that it has been possible in most centres to remove management; a home loan scheme to enable Aborigines to acquire homes of their own choice has been implemented; an Educational Grants in Aid programme, designed to ensure that the rising generation receives an adequate education, is in operation and there is a deep well of public sympathy and interest on the part of the community.

The Board has set the stage for the next phase of advancement.

At a time when public interest in Aboriginal affairs is such that action to advance their interests is of increasing concern, it naturally regrets that it will not be responsible for furthering the work, the foundations of which have been so soundly laid by its staff.

The Board wishes the new administration, when it takes over, the utmost success in their difficult, but challenging assignment. Success will depend upon the willing co-operation of Aborigines and the desire of the general community, expressed in a practical manner, to advance the well-being of persons of Aboriginal blood.

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# Aboriginal Family Handed Keys of Bowraville Home

A Bowraville Aboriginal family, Rod and Sandra Buchanan, with their four children, Patricia (3½), Fred (2½), Dean (1½), and Barry (8 months) accepted the keys to a new home in Carbin Street.

The home, of 12½ squares, was erected by the Christian Youth Council of N.S.W. with materials provided by the Aborigines Welfare Board.

The official opening and handing over ceremony attracted more than 200 people including about 50 Youth Fellowship members who had worked on the construction since Boxing Day.

Present were Mr Ian Robinson, Federal Member for Cowper, shire president, Cr B. M. Laverty; councillors B. D. Gillett and J. Davies; the superintendent of the Aboriginal Welfare Board, Mr H. J. Green; Coff's Harbour area welfare officer, Mr Lawson; Kempsey area welfare officer, Mr Norbert Luschwitz; members of the Bowraville Aboriginal Welfare Committee, including president Allan Ussher; members of the Bowraville clergy.

Ron Junghans, camp supervisor of Sydney, was chairman of the hand over ceremony and said that when the Christian Youth Fellowship moved into the situation at Bowraville on Boxing Day it had been well organized by local people.

He extended thanks to those who had helped in making arrangements, with special reference to Mr Alan Ussher, Rev. R. Constant, Mr Ian Fairbanks, shopkeepers, and people of the town.

Mr Junghans congratulated Rod and Sandra Buchanan on being selected by the Aborigines Welfare Board to go into the home.

## Misconceptions

He said there were some misconceptions he would like to correct.

The house had not been given to Rod and Sandra. They would move into the house as any couple moving into a Housing Commission home.

They would have to abide by the usual rules.

"This is not another hand out", he stressed.

He said that in choosing the family to move into the house, recommendations of the local welfare committee had been considered by the Aborigines Welfare Board.

## **Eleventh house**

Mr Junghans said this was the eleventh house built by the Christian Youth Council. It was probably the most involved one in that cupboards had been built in bedrooms and hallways and it had taken more time to complete.

He said the council had been in Bowraville for three weeks.

While primarily they were building a house, they also tried to do something else.

They tried to get to know people and to break down any barriers which may exist.

"This has been easy for us", he added.

"The hard task now lay with the people of Bowraville who would be with the problem (this difference of opinion) for 52 weeks of the year.

Work leader Dave Williamson said he would like to say thanks to a lot of people.

These included Mr Arthur Renshaw and Mr Smith (next door neighbours), also Mr Allan Ussher for preliminary arrangements, and Brian Hennessey, a Bowraville builder.

"Our problem would have been great without the assistance and co-operation of so many people who went out of their way to help us", he added.

## **Just spend money**

Mr Williamson said the Youth Council expressed its thanks to the Aborigines Welfare Board.

"The Board provided the money, we just spent it", he said.

"We thank them for having the confidence in us to allow us to go to stores and buy materials without filling in great numbers of forms."

## **Must be grateful**

Mr Green, superintendent of the Aborigines Welfare Board, told the gathering that the Board was grateful to have a group of young people doing what had been done in Bowraville.

He said shortly after he took office as superintendent, the Christian Youth Council had come in and asked to be allowed to build a home.

Mr Green said the Board had some doubts, but went along with the scheme.

It had never regretted it for one moment.

He said it was his last duty as superintendent of the Board (it has now been superseded by the Aborigines Advisory Council).

Mr Green said the lot of the Youth Council members had not always been a pleasant one.

In one town the members had been hosed. In another, garbage had been tipped over the site on which they were working.

"But they always continued", he said.

"They are a group of people of which the Christian Church can be justly proud—a group who don't go round demonstrating, writing letters to editors or carrying banners, but are prepared to knuckle down and produce something worthwhile and practical."

## **Tremendous job**

Further tributes came from Mr Ian Robinson, Federal Member for Cowper, who added his congratulations to the C.Y.C. for a tremendous job done.

Mr Robinson said this would be one of the last houses to come under the jurisdiction of the Board, as it is at present constituted. Changes had been made, he hoped, for the better.

The Commonwealth Government had allocated \$10,000,000 for Aboriginal advancement during the next year.

Half of this would be used for capital projects, such as the setting up of Aborigines as graziers in their own right. He had some applications from this area in this regard.

Allocations would be made after processing by the officer of Aboriginal Affairs for Aboriginal ventures, either corporate or individual, which appeared to be economically viable.

The remaining \$5,000,000 had been allocated to housing, health, and education.

It was proposed to split this money between the States approximately in proportion to their Aboriginal population.

Mr Robinson congratulated Rod and Sandra Buchanan, expressing a hope that they would have a happy home which would fill their aspirations and desires.

## **Culmination of efforts**

Mr Alan Ussher, speaking on behalf of the Bowraville Aboriginal Welfare Committee, said this day was the culmination of two years' effort by the local committee.

He was proud of his part in it.





*The official party at the handing over ceremony—Rod and Sandra Buchanan, with Patricia and Fred, two of their four kiddies, are at the left of the picture*

He congratulated the couple who would receive the key and made a presentation to them on behalf of the local committee.

### **Dedication**

The Rev. R. Constant, Church of England, Bowraville, then conducted a service of dedication of the home.

### **Presented key**

Before handling the key to Rod Buchanan, the shire president, Cr B. M. Laverty, described the building of the home as an expression of love for their fellow man by members of the Christian Youth Council.

He congratulated Mr Junghans and Mr Williamson on their work and the Buchanan family on being selected as tenants.

“I am proud to know that you have received the co-operation of so many local people and organizations in the construction of the house”, added Cr Laverty.

The Youth Council group had an average of 25 girls and 25 boys working on the house for three weeks and three days.

They worked an average of 11 hours a day with Sundays only for rest.

*(Acknowledgements to the Nambucca “Guardian News” for our report—Editor.)*

# Lionel Rose - A True Champion

The World Boxing Council's Fighter of the Year;  
the Australian Sportsman of the Year  
and finally, the Australian of the Year!



That's Lionel Rose.

What a record! What a man!

And what a sense of humour, too.

When he was named Australian of the Year in Melbourne in January, he said:

"A hundred and eighty years ago one of my mob would have been a dead cert for this!"

Lionel Rose, the world bantamweight champion, succeeds as Australian of the Year people like Sir Macfarlane Burnet, the Nobel Prize winner, Joan Sutherland, the operatic star, Dawn Fraser, the great swimmer, and Sir Robert Helpmann, of ballet fame.

Lionel Rose was selected as Australian of the Year by the Australia Day Council from 29 nominations.

Not yet 21, he has brought Australia more to the fore internationally than any other boxer since Jimmy Carruthers won the world bantam title in 1952.

He did not win his world-wide honours, including an M.B.E. bestowed upon him by the Queen, merely for his skill as a boxer.

He has proved himself a great sportsman, modest in victory, a great ambassador for his country and his race, and an example to the children and youth of all races and creeds throughout the world.

The noted boxing critic, Ray Mitchell, wrote of him: "Lionel Rose, at the age of 20, has done more for the Aboriginal race than all the statutes handed down in the past 200 years."

We salute Lionel Rose, champion boxer and champion man.

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# Aboriginal Rock Engravings in the County of Cumberland

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Among the capital cities of Australia, Sydney is unique in possessing an unusually rich and interesting heritage of rock engravings left by its now extinct Aborigines and their ancestors. These engravings, in fact, are not excelled in range of subject and imaginative conception by similar carvings in any other part of the world. One of the major reasons for their existence is the occurrence in the Sydney-Hawkesbury district of the Hawkesbury sandstone formation, originally deposited at the bottom of a freshwater basin in the Triassic period. The area was subsequently uplifted to form a plateau which has been dissected by the elements during this long period of time into a tangle of rugged gorges and ridges, covered by a surprisingly dense epiphytic vegetation now famous for its wealth of native flowers.

The Aboriginal artists found in the numerous comparatively flat or sloping rock surfaces an excellent medium for their art, and they have left an enduring record, a permanent link with their occupation, of their religious and economic life among the four thousand odd figures known.

While there are many isolated figures, the majority are to be seen in groups consisting of from half-a-dozen to over a hundred carvings, the larger groups covering areas of rock up to an acre in extent. The rock engravings dealt with herein are found within the area embraced by the coast and the Blue Mountains extending from the southern side of the Hunter Valley to National Park.

The widely varied subjects include spiritual and mythical beings, men and women, mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, and a few insects. Shellfish and plants, both staple foods collected by the women, are extremely rare subjects. Then there are maps, circles, weapons, ornaments, utensils, baskets, and implements. The engravings are in outline, but in a few figures a line pattern inside the outline represents body ornamentation as a rule.

Most of the groups consist of a wide range of the above subjects. In some instances, however, only one motive is present, such as a school of fish, some boomerangs, echidnas, or other animals.

Their significance varies from economic to religious in nature. Thus the individual groups have different meanings according to the purpose they served in the ritual and daily life of the tribes. As most of the figures of animals represent totems of clans and individuals, and of the sexes as opposed to one another, they constituted a link between the living people and their eternal totemic spirits passed on from generation to generation, from the dead to the new-born child. The totems served also as emblems and omens of the clans and their members. The groups of engravings depict these totems, often associated with gigantic spiritual beings or culture-heroes, the creators of the world of the Aborigines, of man and the animals and plants, the sea and the celestial bodies. Through the totems and the spiritual ancestors, man and nature in Aboriginal philosophy are bound together into an integral whole of which the art, myths, and legends, songs and chants, are both an explanation and an expression. Groups of rock engravings in which the spiritual ancestors are included are regarded as the most sacred because they illustrate incidents in the lives of these heroes, incidents which were re-enacted during the rituals performed at the sites. Special tracks were followed to these sacred groups, often indicated by lines of human,

kangaroo, or bird tracks carved in the rocks. The various groups along these sacred tracks each illustrate portion of a long historical legend, but unfortunately civilization destroyed the culture of the Sydney-Hawkesbury tribes so rapidly that none of these sagas have been preserved. During the initiation ceremonies the novitiates were taken along these ritual paths to learn the myths and see the carvings, and to be taught how to make them.

Some groups were connected with magical practices to promote successful fishing and hunting, and possibly with sorcery. Other groups are pictorial compositions recording successful hunting and fishing expeditions. The aesthetic feeling of the people is well illustrated by the many figures engraved in idle moments. Thus, on rocks where the men fashioned their stone axes, and beside camping grounds on river banks, are to be seen engravings of animals, particularly fish, kangaroos, and wallabies, abundant in the locality, or made as a record of a kill.

The majority of the carvings are life-size, but some both tiny and gigantic engravings, are out of all proportion to natural size.

Huge kangaroos up to 24 feet long, koalas up to 7 feet, emus up to 15 feet, whales up to 60 feet, and spiritual ancestors up to 35 feet, exist among these remarkable pictographs.

Most of the subjects are stylized. Human beings are shown from the front aspect, mammals, birds, and most fish in profile, rays and lizards from above. These are the views most vividly impressed upon the Aboriginal artist's mind. He paid scant attention to the correct number of toes and fingers, the mouth and nose are not shown, and both ears and neck are usually omitted. The artists were, in a sense, impressionists concerned primarily with posture and general outline, depicted within traditional limits, but even under this restraint they have produced admirable examples of rock art demonstrating a high appreciation of line in the best of the figures. Such an achievement and approach is to be expected. The artists lived among the animals they drew, studied their habits daily as part of their quest for food, and filled their minds with vivid pictures of their subjects—their poses in feeding, observing and moving about—in a wide variety of which they portrayed them. For the spiritual beings, the constant performance of their rituals, their omnipotent presence in daily life, and their religious importance as the source of magical and life-giving powers, offered a sacred inspiration akin to that of the painters who decorated the churches of Europe in mediaeval and later centuries.

The manner in which the rock engravings were made is not fully known. It is thought that the subject was first drawn or scratched on the rock surface. Sometimes, the outline of a man's shadow or that of a dead animal were traced in this manner. A series of punctures was then made along the outline either directly with a sharp corner of a hard stone such as ferruginous sandstone or ironstone held in the hand, or with a stone gad and hammer. No implements of a specialized type used for this purpose have yet been found. The punctures often overlap or they may be an inch or more apart.

The outlines of the majority of the figures consist of conjoined punctures, but in a minority, comprising probably the most sacred of the carvings, the grooves were rubbed with an abrading stone to form a smooth outline widened and deepened by re-rubbing from time to time during ceremonies.

It is impossible to estimate the age of any particular group of rock engravings. Those with wide and deep grooves, up to 2 by 1 inches and in one group 4 by 2 inches respectively, may be thousands of years old, while those very lightly punctured can only have been done within the past few hundred years. The carvings of the earliest times have probably weathered right away. The variation in the hardness of the sandstone affects the preservation of these carvings, those in the softer types showing signs of disappearing since the times of the Aborigines in the short space of from 100–150 years. Archaeologically, there are indications that the custom may extend back in time for some thousands of years.

It is interesting to note that the weapons and motives depicted among these engravings are the same as those of the Aborigines living in the Sydney-Hawkesbury area at the time of white occupation, indicating that no major change took place in their culture over a long period of time. It is believed that the custom of rock engraving continued until shortly after white settlement.

The preservation of these rock engravings can only be achieved with the co-operation of every citizen, municipal and shire councils, and all undertakings such as the Main Roads Department and others which carry out construction works in the area concerned. The Main Roads Department has saved several important groups of engravings, notably at Maroota and Mt Kuringai, by diverting roads, a policy greatly appreciated by those interested in the subject.

# Czech Expedition

A team of eight Czech scientists arrived in Australia recently to make a study of two Aboriginal tribes in Arnhem Land later this year.

The leader of the expedition is Dr Josef Brinke, who, on a former visit to Australia in 1958, discovered one of the earliest Australian maps while studying for a diploma in geography. It was dated at the beginning of the 16th century.

The expedition plan to spend three and a half months doing anthropological research amongst the Rembarncas and the Djinbas Aboriginal tribes on the reserves in Arnhem Land.

The scientists will study the similarities between the Aboriginal culture, living habits, and the use of bone and stone implements with those of Stoneage European man.

Dr Brinke said in an interview that the study would be made relatively easy in many ways because there were in Australia Aboriginal tribes still living in virtually the same conditions as their ancestors hundreds of years ago.

The expedition's Aboriginal studies will include birth rate, mortality rate, age structures, infant mortality, relations between husband and wife, and local migrations.

The scientists and their assistants will make several films of their travels throughout Australia and will return to Prague in December to process their information and write several books on their findings.

Dr Brinke said they were most willing to cooperate with Australian scientists and would make their findings available to Australian scientific bodies, including the Australian Museum in Sydney and the Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

The expedition is being sponsored by the Moravian Museum in Brno, Czechoslovakia, which has one of the richest anthropological collections in Europe.

The expedition is being backed by a foundation grant from the United States.

Dr Brinke is planning a second anthropological expedition in 1971 or 1972 to Papua-New Guinea.

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## Pen-Pal Wanted

The Editor,  
Dawn.

Dear Sir,

I am a teenage girl who enjoys all music, swimming, tennis, dancing, reading, and boys. I would like as a pen-pal a male aboriginal boy (preferably), who has just about the same interests as mine. I would be grateful if you could print my name in your magazine. I would like the boys ages to run from 14-25.

Thanking you sincerely,  
Miss Rhonda Wright.

83 Mitchell Street,  
Glebe 2037.  
28th December, '68.

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## Distinguished Grandmother



Pictured is Mrs Granny Gordon, of Baryulgil.

Mrs Gordon is one of the most respected part Aborigines in the N.S.W. coastal regions.

She is aged 92.

Mrs Gordon has exerted a wonderful influence for good amongst her children and grandchildren, many of whom have inherited her unusually high intelligence and commonsense, and have made a great success of their lives.

Mrs Gordon can bathe in the reflected glory of having three grand-daughters who were Aborigines Welfare Board bursars, and one great-grand-daughter who is also an Aborigines Board bursar.

One of her grand-daughters was the first ever to receive an Aborigines Board bursary, and the first position she held was that of typist for the Board itself. She is now a secretary in Toronto, Canada.

Another grand-daughter became the first girl with Aboriginal blood to qualify for tertiary education, and later became the first of her ilk to win an overseas scholarship, which took her to England, Europe, and America.

Another of Mrs Gordon's grand-daughters worked in London as a typist, while yet another is a trained nursing sister.

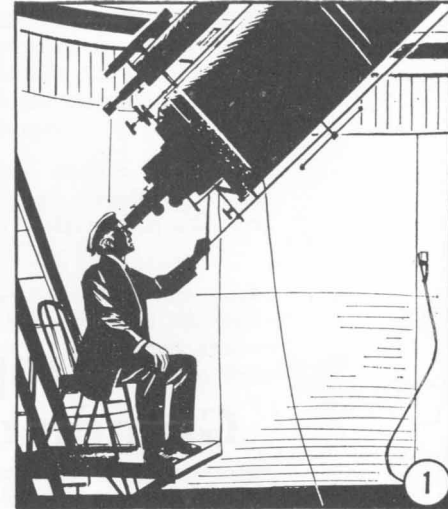
There are other descendants who have distinguished themselves, and many more are sure to do so.



The planet Mars, named after the Roman god of war, is one of the easiest to identify in the night sky because of its reddish tint. One of earth's nearest neighbors, Mars is an average of 47 million miles (75 million kilometers) farther from the sun than earth is. The diameter of Mars is half that of earth's. It is twice the size of the moon but 150 times farther away from earth.

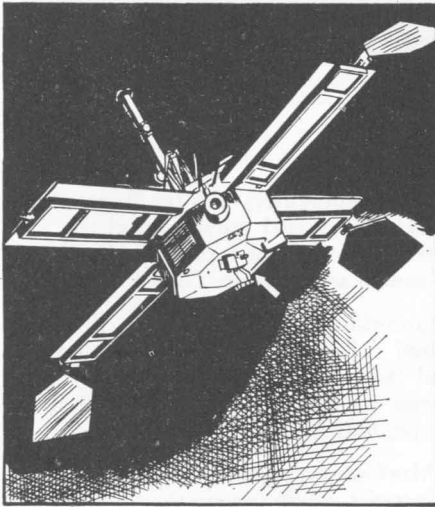


Since the early 1600's when Galileo, the Italian scientist, turned the first telescope on Mars and saw what he called mountains and seas, men have wondered about the possibility of life there. Martians have been the subjects of fiction writers and scientific speculation ever since. They have been fancifully pictured as monsters, men and supermen.

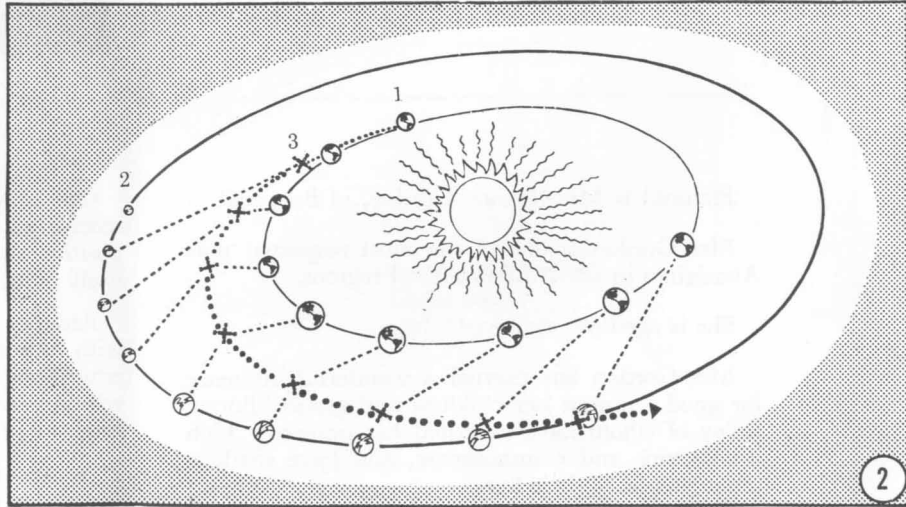


One prominent believer in life on Mars was the late Percival Lowell of Boston. So fascinated with Mars was Mr. Lowell that he built the Lowell Observatory in Southwestern U.S. and devoted his life and fortune to the study of the planet. He contributed much to the study of Mars and astronomy. In 1905, Mr. Lowell predicted the discovery of the planet Pluto, 25 years before it was located. (Continued)

## Mariner 4



To get more accurate information than is possible with telescopes, U.S. scientists and space engineers developed the Mariner 4. The craft's mission was to cross millions of miles of space, intercept Mars, and not only photograph the Martian landscape but measure its atmospheric pressure and magnetic field, then relay the information back to earth. The camera (arrow) was equipped to take 21 pictures, store them on tape; then on proper command, transmit them across 134,000,000 miles (214,000,000 km.) of space.



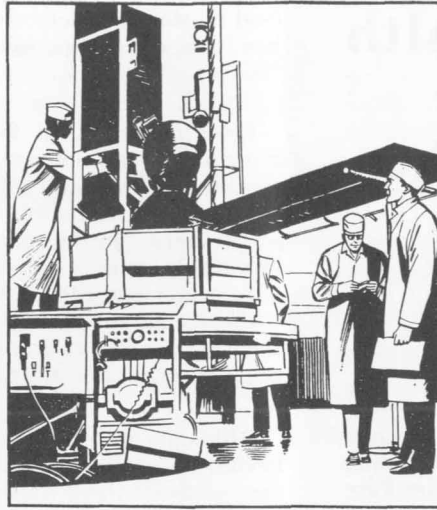
Mariner 4 was launched from Cape Kennedy on November 28, 1964 (1) when Mars (2) was 160 million miles (256 million km.) from earth. The above chart shows the relative positions of the earth, Mars and Mariner 4 (3) in 30-day intervals as they orbited the sun. On July 14, 1965, the 228th day of Mariner's 325 million-mile (520 million km.) journey, it slipped past Mars to go into a perpetual orbit about the sun. With its four great solar panels extended it swept past Mars at a speed of about 10,000 miles

(16,000 km.) per hour. On command from an earth tracking station the craft assumed a position with its cameras pointing at Mars. Due to the great distance the command signal took 12 minutes to reach the craft. The picture-taking sequence began when about 10,000 miles away from Mars and continued for only 25 minutes, by which time Mariner was on the dark side of the planet. Mariner's closest approach to Mars was 6,118 miles (9,789 km.).

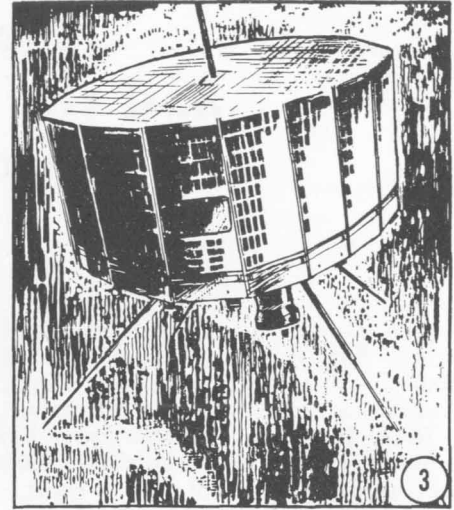




The project manager for the U.S. Mariner space mission was 43-year-old Dan Schneiderman of the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Schneiderman, holding a model of Mariner, and his teammates are responsible for the superb marksmanship which placed the 575 pound (258 kg.) craft accurately in its curving path to rendezvous with Mars.



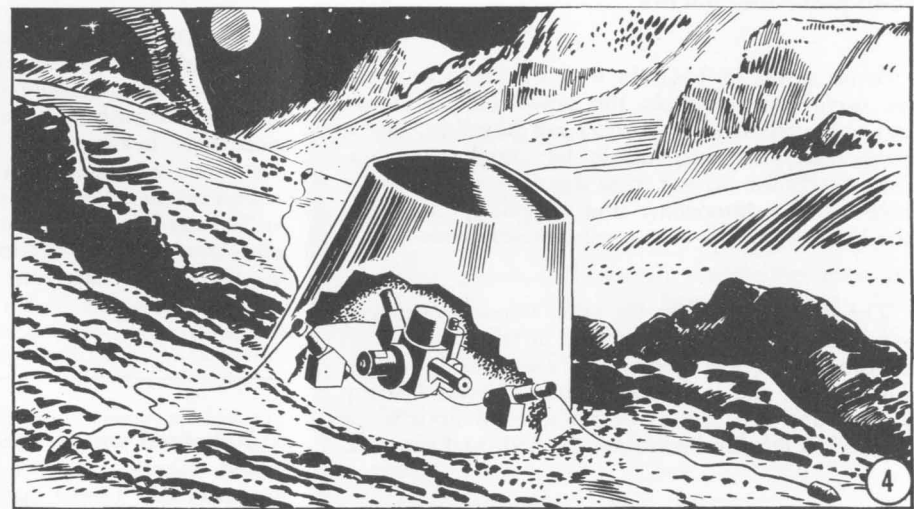
Mariner 4 could have been aimed closer to Mars but was deliberately steered wide in order to avoid contaminating any form of life that might exist there. Containing more than 138,000 parts, Mariner 4 was assembled in surroundings as sterile and dust-free as a hospital operating room. Dust particles within the delicate assembly could have created serious trouble during the long flight.



U.S. scientists and engineers do not regard the Mariner 4 pictures as proving or disproving the existence of life on Mars, but they consider the project an important first step. Photographs of earth sent back from space by the U.S. weather satellite Tiros, using similar camera equipment, reveal only continental shorelines. Cities are not identifiable. (Continued)



After the longest voyage ever undertaken by a man-made object, Mariner 4 radioed information about Mars back to earth that is necessary to scientists before the next step can be taken. Mariner 4 told us that the Martian atmosphere at ground level is too rare to support life as we know it, it has no magnetic field and would therefore be an unhealthy place for man because it is unprotected from space radiation.



Pictures taken by camera were divided into dots and coded into digits indicating each dot's degree of darkness—zero being white and 63 solid black. These dots—40,000 for each picture—were then radioed to earth by means of the code. The transmission time for each picture was eight and a half hours and came out on rolls as a long numerical formula. Electronic computers recreated, dot by dot, the camera image viewed hours before far out in space.

Despite the forbidding nature of the planet, many scientists are convinced that life in some form will be found there. In order to discover what if any forms might exist, a Voyager satellite will, sometime in the 1970's, land an instrument package containing electronic sensors and detection devices which will relay their findings back to earth receiving stations. (The End)

# Health and the Kitchen

Every housewife wants to know how she can protect her family from the risk of food poisoning without undue waste of food or effort. The Pure Food Act is our safeguard of the foods we buy, but it is the housewife's responsibility to protect foods from contamination in the home and to reject those she is doubtful of. This is a decision it is sometimes difficult to make, since the bacteria responsible for food poisoning do not usually advertise their presence by taste, appearance, or odour—in fact, dangerously contaminated foods can appear quite normal.

## Food poisoning germs

Some germs or bacteria which flourish in foods are useful (for example the ones used in cheese and yoghurt making), others are harmless, but a great many are responsible for much suffering. Fortunately for us, the most dangerous bacteria in foods, the salmonellas, the shigellas, and the botulinus organism—are comparatively rare.

The staphylococci on the other hand are thought to be responsible for 80 per cent or more of all food poisonings. These germs are harboured on the skin and in the nose and throat of even healthy persons and are also to be found in their trillions in infected cuts and sores and in boils and pimples.

Other germs less commonly responsible for food poisoning, such as the salmonellas, inhabit the digestive tract and excreta of rats, mice, cats, birds (including chickens and ducks), and humans. Still others are found in water contaminated by animals and in soils. Any of these and (what is sometimes forgotten) the viruses responsible for the common cold, influenza, infectious hepatitis, etc., may be carried and deposited on eating utensils or

food by slovenly methods of dish washing and food handling, or by flies, mice, cockroaches, and other "life".

Once deposited on food or eating utensils the growth and multiplication of bacteria depend on conditions of warmth and moisture and the suitability of food materials present. For instance, a single germ in twenty-four hours will, under favourable conditions, produce as many as 281,000,000,000 other germs! They grow best at body temperatures; high temperatures usually kill them. Freezing does not hurt them; it merely preserves them in a state of suspended animation.

Although water is a favourite home of most bacteria, they are also great milk drinkers and meat eaters—facts which make the pasteurization of our milk supplies and the cooking of meat necessary precautions. Access of bacteria to milk is of course dependent in the first instance on the standards of hygiene in the dairy.

The degree of contamination of meat depends on the cleanliness of the knives, meat blocks, hands, and wrapping paper used in the butcher's shop. Some infection is of course unavoidable but it is normally confined to the moist lean surfaces formed by cutting carcasses into smaller portions.

Thus "joints" keep best, steak and chops next best, and minced meats most poorly. In minced meat, germs ordinarily confined to the outside of meat are distributed throughout the entire mass, and there is the added difficulty of cleansing the inside of a mincing machine sufficiently well to rule it out as a source of contamination. Therefore it is desirable to refrigerate meat straight away after mincing, and to thoroughly cook it as soon as is practicable—say not more than twenty-four hours later.

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**Reheated soups, stews, and gravies are the most likely vehicles for the staphylococci organism. These produce an enterotoxin in foods which if eaten, cause illness in 1-5 hours, most commonly 4 hours. Unfortunately the reheating of foods in which the enterotoxin has developed is a useless precaution, as although it may destroy the bacteria themselves, the enterotoxin can only be destroyed by prolonged boiling.**

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## Special dangers in the kitchen

1. Handling food with fingers having cuts, sores, or burns, uncovered or covered with slovenly bandages. These are an obvious vehicle for staphylococci.
2. Uncontrollable coughing or sneezing can deposit hundreds of germs on foods.
3. Hands which may be to all appearances clean but which have not been thoroughly washed, for example after blowing the nose (or wiping the baby's nose), visiting the toilet, or stroking the cat.
4. Exposing foods or eating utensils to dust, flies, and rodents.
5. The quick rinse of culinary utensils and cutlery under the tap, the transient dip in lukewarm water followed by a wipe with a week-old tea towel.

## Better housekeeping

### *Dish-Washing*

This most unpopular of household tasks, all too often results in what had been described as an "impartial distribution of disease organisms".

It should be remembered that a certain amount of saliva is deposited on drinking utensils and cutlery, with its usual content of bacteria—staphylococci and streptococci among others, and that average dish-water provides ideal conditions for their growth. It is warm, it is moist, it contains nutriment and there is time for many generations of bacteria to multiply. In fact dish-water not uncommonly contains as many as 300,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre. For the same reasons danger lurks in damp, soiled tea-towels, greasy dish-cloths, and mops; these are frequently just as grossly contaminated as the dish water.

Even when clean methods of dish-washing are employed, with hot water frequently changed and sufficient soap or detergent, utensils are easily contaminated again by towelling. It is better therefore to allow them to dry off naturally by the heat they have absorbed in washing. Tea-towels should be changed frequently and reserved for polishing cutlery and glassware. Dishmops and cloths should be washed daily, rinsed and opened out while drying, if possible where the sun can penetrate the threads.

### *Food Storage*

Store all perishable foods in the refrigerator at 50° F or less but remember refrigeration merely *retards* the multiplication of bacteria, it does not *kill* germs in foods already contaminated.

Defrost your refrigerator at least fortnightly and clean it with a weak solution of vinegar and warm water. Inspect it daily to make sure each food is in good condition. If in doubt **THROW IT OUT**.

Take particular care in the preparation of dishes containing milk, eggs, fish, and meats, especially shopped or minced meats such as brawn, meat pies, sausage meats, and rissoles, and lightly cooked foods containing milk and eggs, such as custards and salad dressings. These should be cooked and eaten as soon as is practicable. Even if refrigerated meanwhile it is risky to use left-overs of this type two or more days after preparation.

When reheating semi-liquid dishes such as soups and stews bring to the boil and simmer at least fifteen minutes. Do not reheat on more than one occasion.

Never use any canned food if it is mouldy, has a bad odour or comes from a bulging can. Even tasting such food is dangerous.

### *Clean Hands*

Cleanliness is one of the basic needs for good health. Possibly more than any other part of our body our hands are directly responsible for the spread of much disease.

Clean hands will not in themselves give you good health, but if your hands are clean, your chances of escaping many infectious diseases will be very much higher.

In the home—and in fact, in every other part of the community—the hands should be thoroughly washed:

- Before handling food.
- After using the toilet.
- After handling pets.

If this is done the risk of catching, or spreading, an infection will be greatly diminished.