



This old photograph taken at the Bundarra picnic, shows Queen Mary Ann (centre, wearing sash and crown) surrounded by her people. With the exception of two sons and a daughter, they were nearly all her grandchildren.

### Note . . .

The Editor recently had a very interesting letter from Mrs. K. Broun of "Raino," Tingha, referring to Mrs. Munro's previous articles on Queen Mary Ann, and enclosing the picnic photograph shown above.

Mrs. Broun said, ". . . If I had time I could write you up some early facts on the life of our full-bloods.

"Mary Ann was a half-caste. Her father was a very good man, and when Mary Ann's full-blood mother died he put his little girl in a convent (he was an Irishman). But Mary Ann's black blood could not stand that, and despite the fact that she cut her hands very badly, she climbed a high tin wall and got back to her tribe. She was about seven years of age at the time.

"My mother, who was a very good friend of the blacks, always had them working for her and was the first to get them blanket rations and a little meat on Stoney Creek, Ngoorumbah, about 12 miles from Bundarra. She wrote a full history of the life of Mary Ann from the Queen's own words but, unfortunately, it was burnt when I lost my house by fire in 1935.

"The day of the picnic (see photograph) was the day they gave Queen Mary Ann her sash and crown.

"They had a school on this settlement and everything was in order until they moved them to Ponderoy, and that was their downfall. They lost their settlement and drifted back to their old home, on Stoney Creek, Blacksnave, Nimula."



There's no mistaking this character drawn by Don Nolan of Dubbo. It looks as if Don has met Donald!