

(Continued.)

Automatic Brain.

Man, as a creature, has lost many other arts and senses over the millions of years of his evolution.

Today a man, lost in a desert, hasn't a clue to finding the nearest water if he relies on his senses.

An aboriginal, familiar with the locality (due to "walkabouts"), could help.

He might guess the direction of water by watching animals and birds. If in absolutely strange country, he'll find his way home by back-tracking or retracing his course.

Man, Nature's topnotch creation, can't smell distant water, despite some old bushmen's claims.

But in insects the water-smelling faculty is highly developed. And not only can they "home" in the nest-finding sense, but they possess automatic equipment which ensures accurate "homing" on a target, which they use when finding their prey.

Australian scientist J. Monro recently located cockroaches' water-finding sense in their feelers or antennae. As these are also the organs they smell with, you can say that, like camels and horses, our cockroaches have a "nose for water".

A sense like this can be a lifesaver in droughts and deserts. Man, Nature's topnotch thinker in other directions, has lost his water and direction-finding senses with civilisation. It has taken him thousands of years to do it, and it may take thousands to develop them again—if he ever does.



Jim Little. This talented young man is well known to thousands of country radio fans.

PENSIONS NEED REVIEW

Unjust Discrimination

Unemployment Benefits are paid to aborigines on the same basis as to ordinary individuals. This payment is made irrespective of the applicant's caste or place of residence.

Pensions are paid to exempted aborigines living off Stations or Reserve, or if living on a Reserve, which is not under supervision of a Manager. This distinction, in the Board's view, is illogical and unjust. Residence on a supervised Station does not entitle an aborigine to any greater benefit than otherwise. As a result of this discrimination, aborigines are frequently obliged to move off the Board's Stations in order to qualify for a pension.

Efforts to secure full Commonwealth Social Service Benefits to all aborigines in New South Wales, whether exempted from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act or not, will continue.

Exemption Certificates

Where an aborigine has attained a degree of social adjustment as to indicate that he or she is able to take his or her place as a responsible member of the community, a Certificate of Exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act may be granted. These are issued only after careful enquiry as to the applicant's character and mode of living.

Ninety-nine Certificates were issued last year, and a comparison with previous years is as follows:—

	1952-1953	1953-1954	1954-1955
Granted	60	50	99
Deferred	...	2	...
Declined	3	6	3
Cancelled	1	3	3