

The first aborigine in South Australia to be allotted a block under the soldier settlement scheme is Tim Hughes. He may also be the first in Australia. He comes from Pt. Pearce, where his father was a highly respected Methodist Local Preacher, and at whose funeral six white local preachers bore his mortal remains to their last resting place in the Pt. Pearce cemetery.

Tim won the Military Medal at Gona in New Guinea in December, 1942. The citation says he silenced two enemy machine gun posts with the use of hand grenades and a machine gun, so that his platoon could move in. It goes on to say, Private Hughes showed remarkable bravery, exceptional coolness, and initiative. His total disregard for his own safety set a fine example throughout the platoon, and also throughout the company.

His block is of 987 acres, and is at Reedy Creek in the South East. On the property is a new five roomed timber framed Trust Home. In this Tim lives with his wife and two children. In preparing his block for occupation he cleared much scrub, and erected 6 miles of fencing.

In the preparation and working of the block, Tim, who is now 36, has had the wholehearted assistance of his wife, who was a Colebrook Home girl, and son Paul, and daughter Denise 8. They run sheep and cattle, including 11 milking cows.

They all speak highly of the kindness and helpfulness of their white neighbours. Recently Tim said this: "Our time is all pretty well taken up with our work on the property, but on Sunday we all like to go to the service in the Conmurra Methodist Church." And of the aborigines he said, "To give them everything now would be a waste of money. They have to be trained. Some would be capable, but most of my people need training and understanding."

Time prevents my mentioning many others. How have these people become outstanding? Well, in the very same way as white people do. In the first place they have had the natural ability, and in the second someone to take an interest in them and show them what they could do and how they could do it. Most white children wouldn't get anywhere but for the encouragement and co-operation of their teachers, parents, and homes.

And it is so with the aborigines. We can't do much for those of fixed habits. We must concentrate on the children. For their preparation for absorption into the general community three things are necessary. First, an improvement in native housing. Children who live in hovels or shanties are not only likely to have an inferiority complex, but also have no means of cultivating the habits of modern civilised living.

Second, teachers should frequently impress upon these children the opportunities that are open to them. To arouse in them an enthusiasm for better things. And third parents must be given every inducement to see that their children receive a good education. Many take them away too soon—even from the primary school.

It has been found that scholarships for boys and girls—such as are provided in New South Wales, and hostels for them to live in—such as Western Australia provides, are helpful inducements.

Our Government here, in South Australia, is aware of this need, and has expressed its willingness to pay board and lodging for aboriginal boys and girls, who, after qualifying in a primary school, wish to go on to some form of secondary education. The door is wide open. Some are coming in. Let all of us do our best to induce many more to do so.

CAN YOU TAKE A HINT?

Homemade cakes are a treat these days and to prevent your freshly baked cake from sticking to the cake plate, be sure to sprinkle the dish with a little icing sugar before setting the cake on it. The sugar will absorb the moisture on the bottom of the cake and keep the pieces from adhering to the cake plate.

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From time to time your sink may become blocked. When you next suffer this inconvenience press some chloride of lime into the vent pipe. The second step is to pour in some boiling water slowly to dissolve the lime. Fill the sink one-third with water and when this has emptied, allow the tap to run for a few minutes.

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When the warm weather returns, it's time for refreshing salads. To prevent the hard-boiled eggs from turning black on the outside, drop them into cold water immediately they are cooked.

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If your light cotton or linen frock is stained with vegetable or fruit juice, first wet the stained area and use a chlorine liquid diluted with ten parts warm water. When the stain is removed rinse and dry thoroughly.

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Try this mixture for removing those particularly stubborn stains on baths. Into equal parts baking soda and bon-ami pour enough kerosene to make a paste; then rub into the stained areas of the bath.

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For those who live near the sea or in a wet climate this is a little tip for keeping salt dry. If the salt is kept in a screw-top jar put a dry pea in it; or if it is kept in an open dish place a piece of blotting paper at the bottom of the dish.