

NEW FACES IN OLD SYDNEY UNIVERSITY'S GREAT HALL

Two part-aborigines were among 4,500 students formally admitted to Sydney University on March 7 during four special matriculation ceremonies held in the University's Great Hall.

They were Gary Williams (17), of Bellwood Aborigines Reserve, Nambucca Heads, and Charles Perkins (26), a native of Alice Springs, who now lives in Sydney.

Both matriculated at the recent Leaving Certificate examinations. Both won scholarships which ensures that their fees are paid and they also receive living, clothing and book allowances.

Faculty of Arts

Gary is the first New South Wales aborigine to enter Sydney University, while Charles is the first to gain a similar distinction for Northern Territory.

Both have been admitted to the Faculty of Arts where Gary will take English, Geography and History as his subjects. Charles will study Anthropology, Psychology and Economics.

The aboriginal pair were among students welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor S. H. Roberts, and were later addressed by Deans of the various faculties.

Professor Roberts told the students that by signing the register they had taken one of the most important steps in their lives.

Rich in Tradition

He said it was a legal document which entitled them to the benefits of university life.

It was fitting that the ceremony should be held in the Great Hall, which was rich in university tradition, Professor Roberts said:

The hall is almost a replica of Westminster Hall, London.



Our picture (see also Cover) by Bob Gould first appeared in the Catholic Weekly. It shows Dr. Burnheim welcoming Gary to St. John's while Henry Roberts (the holder of a Reserve Bank Scholarship), George Mukembo and John Matera look on

Gary Williams has entered St. John's College.

He came to university from St. John's College, Woodlawn, near Lismore where he studied on scholarships from the Waterview Group and Police Benevolent Fund.

He passed the Leaving Certificate with three A's and three B's.

Gary was welcomed to St. John's University College by the Very Rev. Dr. John Burnheim, D.Phil., M.A.

Also on hand to greet the young freshman from Nambucca Heads were the first Papuan to enter an Australian University, John Matera (who has completed two years of the Agriculture course), Henry Roberts, a native of Rabaul (who passed his first Economics examination last year) and George Mukembo, who hails from Uganda in Africa.

Dr. Burnheim told *Dawn* that although the great majority of Johnsmen were Australian born the College welcomed students from neighbouring countries.