

# FIREWORKS SAFETY CAMPAIGN

There were two fatalities in the metropolitan area of Sydney—both boys—while 199 sought hospital or medical treatment for injuries. In country districts 65 were injured.

## Explosives Experts' Warning

Experts from the Mines Department who are responsible for checking all fireworks for safety say that irrespective of their size all fireworks are a fire hazard and can cause injury.

The gunpowder content of crackers now on sale in Australia was last reviewed at the 1962 Interstate Explosives Conference and the majority opinion was that present standards were reasonable.

One mines expert said; "Gunpowder is the only explosive we permit. Nobody should come to much harm with that.

"We have to reject only a few fireworks each year because importers know how strict our regulations are.

"But we have to be on our guard. Some types of explosives used in fireworks from overseas make gelignite appear comparatively harmless. They could blow a man's arm off."

The Department has expressed the view that provided they are handled sensibly fireworks passed for release to the public are safe enough. Naturally the Department has no control over the actual use of fireworks sold but each year it issues warnings by press, radio and television as to precautions which should be taken and the need for parents or adults to supervise the use of fireworks by children.

## Play it Safe

On the question of plastic nosed rockets (one of these caused the death of a boy last year) the Department, which was supported by the police, said they seemed no more dangerous than normal rockets and in fact have less penetrating power than many flat top rockets now on sale.

So if you plan a fireworks celebration this year play it safe. Here are some tips for letting off fireworks in safety:—

- Do not place rockets in bottles that might be knocked over. Use a piece of conduit piping hammered into the ground.

- Place fireworks of the Roman candle type in a bucket of sand.
- Stand well clear after lighting the fuse.
- Never let crackers off in your hand.

## Watch Over Pets

These are just a few simple precautions but first and foremost make sure the domestic pets are safe. Dogs, cats and birds hate the noise of fireworks and should be kept at a safe distance from the firing line. It might be wise to chain your dog or he might bolt off into the night at the first explosion.

Cheerio, kids. I know you'll play your part in making Cracker Night, 1963, a safe night.

Your sincere pal,

*Pete*



Frank Kelly and Jeff Tungui of Wallaga Lake are inseparable pals