

STATE LOAN BOOSTS BOOMERANG BUSINESS

A recent picture of Fred Powell explaining boomerang construction to Mr J. Buck, of the Aborigines Welfare Board



The State Government, following an approach to it by Mr H. S. Kitching, area welfare officer at Dubbo, has agreed to grant its first loan for the expansion of an Aboriginal-owned and operated factory to exploit the market for boomerangs and other native crafts.

The Minister for Decentralisation and Development, Mr J. B. Fuller, M.L.C., gave details of the project on 13 January.

Mr Fuller said that the loan had been approved for Mr H. Keed and Mr F. Powell, who already make boomerangs, woomeras and other souvenirs on a limited scale at Peak Hill in central western New South Wales.

The new factory would enable considerable expansion.

"Mr Keed and Mr Powell are already working on an order for 1,000 boomerangs and have been approached to manufacture for a market in the United States," Mr Fuller said.

"Most of the boomerangs are of the return variety and are made from local timbers. Some, purely souvenirs, are made from 3-ply."

Mr Powell has become well-known to many people through his displays for tourists taken to Peak Hill by Airlines of New South Wales, as well as for his appearances on television throughout Australia.

Mr Fuller said he was pleased that this assistance could be offered to a group who could provide a local industry important to Peak Hill, and which had even greater significance in its recognition of the skill and enterprise of the Aborigines of New South Wales.