



## LONDONERS KNOW OF PEAK HILL'S BOOMERANGS

Fred Powell and Harold Keed's boomerang factory at Peak Hill, near Dubbo, has received world-wide recognition since details were released last January of its establishment by a \$2,000 N.S.W. Government loan.

Mr J. B. M. Fuller, M.L.C., Minister for Decentralization and Development, who opened the factory on 10 October, said that when he was in London in January he read the story in *The Times*.

It is unlikely that *The Times* will print pictures of the opening ceremony, but for the 1,000 people of Peak Hill it was an important day.

Before the opening ceremony the local branch of the Country Women's Association provided a luncheon for Mr Fuller, the nine-man Parliamentary Select Committee investigating Aboriginal welfare, and other guests. Mr Fuller thanked the ladies and said it was the best luncheon he had eaten for several years; other guests agreed without qualification.

Anyone feeling drowsy after this midday meal was soon awakened by the school band, which had been practising for this day. Its playing led visitors to the Willaroo Street factory.

The band played the National Anthem with gusto to the crowd of about 150 people, and the proceedings were reported by representatives of the Press and television.

### Opening

Mr George Hoy, Mayor of Peak Hill, welcomed visitors to the function and introduced the distinguished guests, who included Mr Fuller, Mr G. R. Crawford (chairman of the Select Committee), and Mr Mason, Member of Parliament for Dubbo.

Mr Hoy said that the boomerang factory was, as far as he knew, the first new industry in the town in at least 15 years, and Peak Hill was glad to get it. He offered Council's co-operation to the Aborigines Welfare Board and the Parliamentary Select Committee.

Mr Fuller said that last January while in the United Kingdom he read in *The Times* the story of the N.S.W. Government's loan and the Peak Hill boomerang factory. He said the factory had received world-wide recognition.

History of the boomerang was difficult to determine, Mr Fuller added. The boomerang might have been derived from the falling blue gum leaf, which had a similar flight pattern to the boomerang. A tribe which roved the Sahara Desert used an implement of similar shape to the Australian boomerang.

Mr Fuller said that his Department—Decentralization and Development—through its contacts with men in many branches of industry, would help to establish contracts for sales of high-quality