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# Coraki Women Receive Unique Awards

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Two Aboriginal women from Coraki late last November became the first in Australia to be awarded helper's certificates under the pre-school training scheme for Aborigines.

Lismore's *Northern Star* newspaper said that the certificates were awarded to Mrs Olga Yuke and Mrs D. Knight by two trained supervisors of the Play Centre Federation of New Zealand, Mrs Hine Campbell and Mrs Mana Rangi.

Mrs Yuke is secretary of the Box Ridge Family Education Centre and Mrs Knight the treasurer.

The centre was formed in May last year, following a visit to Box Ridge by a team of six Maori women, who also conducted the first Aboriginal pre-school training course held in Australia, at Evans Head.

To qualify for the certificates, the women had to complete a series of formal observations and prepare reports.

These were given their final check by the two New Zealand officials in November who then decided whether or not the certificates would be awarded.

The next step for the two Box Ridge women now is to study for an assistant supervisor's course which will involve 12 months practical and theoretical observations of the growth and development of children.

Mrs Campbell and Mrs Rangi were accompanied to Box Ridge by the Sydney University's Department of Adult Education staff tutor for Aboriginal adult education, Mr Alan Duncan.

Before going to Box Ridge, they spent five days at Tabulam where another Aboriginal family education centre was established.

Mr Duncan said an application had been made to the Department of Education to use the school building when it was not occupied for the centre. In the meantime, the centre would use a hall at the Tabulam reserve.

## Need Help

He said the Box Ridge centre was still finding it difficult to establish a permanent building and was meeting under a tree. A small amount of money had been raised through the centre's own efforts towards a meeting hall.

Mr Duncan said it was obvious the Aborigines, despite their willingness to help themselves in this venture, would require aid from some outside organization.

He said the Department of Adult Education at the university was pleased with the success of the Box Ridge centre and it, too, would make an award of suitable certificates to the two women.