

# SMOKE SIGNALS

► A 6-weeks course on Aboriginal culture and the present and future situation of Aborigines ended in Canberra halfway through February. Aborigines who attended the course ranged from fully tribalized people such as Lindsay Roughsey of Mornington Island to city people such as our own Chicka Dixon, of Sydney. Chicka said that the lectures on Aboriginal culture came as a revelation to him. *The Australian* reported him as saying:

“I swelled up with pride when I got the first concepts of our traditional culture. For once in my life I was really proud.”

► Adelaide University's language laboratory was the scene for an interesting experiment over the New Year. Twenty-eight men and women were being taught Pitjantjara by full-blood Mr Gordon Inkatji, from Ernabella. The course director, Rev. W. Edwards, who is also in charge of Ernabella Mission stressed the importance of a knowledge of the Pitjantjara language for anyone who wanted to work with the Pitjantjara people. He said that it gave Aboriginal children and their parents much more confidence if they were spoken to in their own language.

Some of Sydney's Aborigines too, are interested in learning Pitjantjara. Last year Director of Aboriginal Welfare Ian Mitchell gave evening classes in the language at Sydney University to the

Aboriginal women's discussion group which meets there. They are to start again, this year. I hope to do an article about it as soon as I am able to sneak up and catch them at it.



*Len Watson.*

*Some of the people who attended February's pre-school conference.*

