

the Mialuni Pastoral Co. Pty Ltd. The community obtained funds for the purchase through a combination of Commonwealth loans and grants. As in the case of Willowra Station a firm of pastoral consultants has been retained to assist and advise the community in the operation of the station as a pastoral undertaking and a cattle adviser appointed to assist in the day to day running of the station.

▶APPOINTEE ON LIQUOR INQUIRY BOARD:

Mr Claude Narjic has been appointed as the first full-time Aboriginal member of the Liquor Inquiry Board which is currently sitting in the Northern Territory. Claude is a member of the Murinbata tribe and has spent most of his life in the Port Keats region. He will act as liaison between the Board and the Aboriginal communities where it will hold some of its sittings. Claude has participated in several government advisory bodies in the past, notably the Northern Territory Aboriginal Advisory Council and national advisory conferences in Canberra. When not sitting on such bodies Claude spends his time organizing an independent fishing business centred at Port Keats.

▶DANGER OF WHITE BACKLASH:

When he opened recently the annual conference of FCAATSI the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Gordon Bryant, warned of the need to combat any reaction from whites against projects being sponsored by the Commonwealth Government in the interests of Aborigines: "One of the important functions that unofficial organizations involved in Aboriginal advancement will have to perform is to defeat 'white backlash'. . . . As projects in housing, land, education, and health develop, deprived groups in the general community are going to feel a natural resentment. Some of this will be reasonably based, but much of it will

Virginia Skuthorpe, age 5, of Goodooga, who began school this year.



ignore the great advantages the general community has at its disposal compared to Aboriginal communities. Very few Aboriginal people live in a house of the same value as supplied by Housing Commissions throughout Australia. No Aboriginal families arriving in the metropolitan area are received with the same hospitality as the Commonwealth hostels afford the last arrived migrant. No remote Aboriginal communities have had as much spent on communications for them as the Beef Roads Project has cost. The programme of re-education of the Australian community will depend upon the development of new attitudes towards racial differences."

▶JOBS IN FORESTRY WORK:

The Directorate of Aboriginal Welfare has recently made funds available to the Forestry Commission for the employment of ten men for 1 year. Positions for two men from Casino were made available, two from Armidale, four from Wallaga Lake or Bega, and two from Tumut or Brungle. The Aboriginal Special Works Scheme, under which the men are employed, provides that they must be paid award wages; they must be unemployed at the time; and there must be no suitable alternative employment available. In order of priority preference for jobs is given to: (a) males with dependents; (b) adult males; (c) junior males.

▶JEWELLERY CLASSES IN OUTBACK:

The Federal Government has made an \$8,600 grant for Aborigines in the outback of Western Australia to be tutored in jewellery making. If this pilot project proves successful similar schemes will be sponsored in other communities. The experiment is being carried out in the Jigalong area. The tutor is Mr Albert Steen, a metal craftsman and silversmith at Melbourne University. He will supervise the building of a simple craft workshop before embarking on his main role of tutoring four Aboriginal men in foundry techniques so that they can produce suitable findings for rugged jewellery using local wind-, sand-, and river-tumbled gem stones. The men will initially use simple tools and equipment going on to more sophisticated methods using oxy-acetylene and power grinders. The project will provide employment for four men and part-time employment for about four women in collecting, sorting, and handpolishing gem stones. It is expected that once jewellery is produced and sold others will become interested. It is hoped that the project will provide gainful work for the local people who are at present dispirited because of a total lack of employment opportunities.