

# **new dawn**

a magazine for the aboriginal people of n.s.w



**february 1974**

---

NEW DAWN A magazine for the Aboriginal community of New South Wales.

February, 1974. Vol. 4 No. 9 ISSN 0028-4513

A monthly magazine produced by the N.S.W. Department of Youth and Community Services, P.O. Box K718, Haymarket, N.S.W. 2000. Subscription to *New Dawn* is free of charge and may be obtained by writing to this address.

---



#### IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Redfern Housing Project
- 5 Girls Training College at Newcastle
- 6 New course for apprentices
- 7 National Aboriginal Consultative Committee
- 12 Smoke Signals
- 14 Land Rights Commission
- 16 Penfriend/Poems

---

FRONT COVER: *The Prime Minister speaking to Department of Aboriginal Affairs Officers and N.A.C.C. Co-ordinators at the official luncheon for the declaration of the N.A.C.C. poll, National Library, Canberra, 13th December, 1973. L. to R: John Moriarty and Charles Perkins of the Department, the Prime Minister, Pat Kruger, and Michael Anderson, N.A.C.C. co-ordinator for N.S.W.*

BACK COVER: *People from the far west.*

---

EDITOR: Peter Vaughan, Publicity Officer, Department of Youth and Community Services, Tel.: 20982.

---



*Artist's impression of what the community courtyard will look like when the project is completed. (Photo courtesy John Fairfax & Sons)*

## THE REDFERN HOUSING PROJECT

**Late in 1972, a Sydney development company bought a group of run-down terraced houses in the inner-Sydney suburb of Redfern.**

Some of the houses were being lived in, others were dark and silent, their windows boarded up and rubbish piled in the street.

When the homes were purchased their residents, many of them Aboriginal, were evicted and the houses further boarded-up pending renovations. It was intended that ultimately the houses would be demolished to make way for factories.

But the local Aboriginal people moved back into the houses and soon found themselves faced with charges of trespassing. Eventually, however, the squatters reached an arrangement with the development company whereby they were permitted to use the houses.

Soon thereafter the Aboriginal Housing Committee was established and the Australian

Government was approached for financial backing to buy the houses and establish the present project.

On the 15th April last year, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs announced a \$530,000 grant to cover the cost of purchasing and renovating the homes. Although the project initially met with opposition from some residents and from South Sydney Council, the company which had bought the homes agreed to sell them to the committee at virtually their original purchase price. The Builders Labourers offered their assistance to the Committee.

The project is managed and controlled by an all-Aboriginal committee. It has undertaken to rehabilitate the houses and will act virtually as a landlord, being responsible for screening the tenants and renting the houses. The rent collected will be used for maintenance and further development.

According to Aub Phillips, foreman on the project, it is intended that when all the houses are

fully renovated, they will be mainly let to people who need special assistance—pensioners, invalids, widows and widowers with families etc.—and not to young people who can adequately take care of themselves. The rents charged will be based on a percentage of the tenant's income.

The homes involved are forty-one terraced houses located in a block bounded by Caroline, Louis, Vine and Eveleigh Streets, Redfern.

The design of the project was drawn up by an architect working from specifications laid down by the committee. It envisages an attractive



*This photo shows the state of the backyards of the homes prior to work on the project*



*This photo shows the state of the backyards after temporary renovations and work on the project*



*At work on the project, clearing out the backyards*

community courtyard in place of the broken-down backyard fences and littered laneway which presently lies at the rear of the homes. Each house, however, will have a small section of the courtyard closed off for its private use. It is hoped to establish within the project community services such as a clinic, facilities for alcoholics, a pre-school run by Aboriginal mothers with the help of trained teachers, a cultural centre, and a workshop for instruction in various trades.

There will be separate living areas designated for married couples, single people, and transitory groups from other parts of the State.

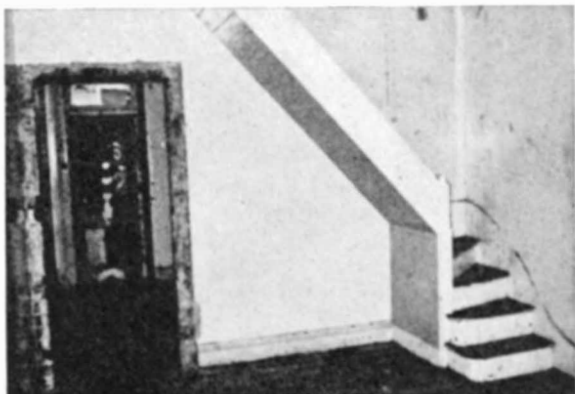
The project has been designed in such a way as to incorporate traditional Aboriginal habits into the housing scheme. For instance, the covered area will be increased to allow for outside sleeping and the rooms are not specifically designed for any one purpose.



The scheme will not be without its problems. There have been suggestions that the effect of the project will be to establish a black ghetto. Dick Blair, who was the original moving force behind the project, has replied to this charge by saying "If we don't start now and educate our people to live among whites, we will end up with ghettos. It's a sort of institution where Aboriginals will graduate and move out into the broader community." In other words, the scheme could prove a means of preventing the development of other ghettos.

A newspaper editorial also dismissed the ghetto suggestion: "The main argument against the plan is that it amounts to segregation and will establish an Aboriginal ghetto. The blunt answer to that is: Do we not have many such areas already? And aren't living conditions in most of them quite appalling?"

One unresolved problem still facing the project is its location. According to present plans for the



*This photo shows the delapidated state of the houses inside prior to renovation*

development of Sydney's transport system, the community could become isolated between the railway line and the proposed route of the southern expressway.

Any problems with discipline will be handled by the Aboriginal community itself. "The thing is if we get the project going we've got something to take care of and we're going to do it. A black man's going to listen to another black man where he won't take any notice of a white man. If they'll only give us a chance we'll solve the problem ourselves. We'll be tougher on our own people than anyone else would be." (Dick Blair.)

Beyond these problems, however, lies the greater significance of the project. Most important of all in this respect is the fact that the scheme originated with the Aboriginal community and is controlled and administered by that community.

This is the project's strength and its challenge. As another newspaper editorialist put it: "The most pleasing aspect is that the initial impetus and the driving force have come from the Aborigines themselves. It will be their efforts that will determine the success of this scheme and others like it."

Success or failure will also partly depend upon the attitude of the white community. Dr Coombs has said that: "Only the Aborigines can determine the pattern of (their distinctive) life style and the degree to which it will be achieved. Whether it is won from us in bitterness and in conflict or whether it develops as an honoured and welcome diversity in the fabric of our national life can, however, be for us to decide."

The project is significant in other respects. In announcing the Government grant, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs pointed out that: "It will be

a model for inner city communities who wish to preserve their homes and the identity of their areas." In this sense the scheme offers hope to non-Aboriginals as well.

---

"The whole aim of the project is to bring Aboriginal people together so that we can live in the way we want to live and share what we have with one another. Many of us are now living in slums and pigsties because we cannot afford the high rents. It is difficult for us to get jobs because we have no skills and because white people don't want to employ us. We can't be proud to live in these conditions. But when we are living together we will be able to help each other to learn skills and to get jobs and, most importantly, we will be proud of our houses and proud of our community. Our children will be able to grow up with more opportunities than we had and they too will be proud of their community and proud of themselves. All we ask is that we be given a chance to prove that it can work."

*(Dick Blair).*

---

The Minister also stressed that the project is significant in that it provides for detribalized, urban Aborigines, a rare opportunity and incentive to develop as a community rather than as individuals: "Small groups like this give strength to one another without developing a total separate existence. I know this project carries the hopes of thousands of Aborigines in Sydney. It will give encouragement to others to take action for themselves. This project will enable the people to help one another and allow them to take a proud place in the community." By providing a half-way settlement for Aborigines coming to the city, as well as homes for permanent residents, the project offers a stepping-stone for country people finding their feet in Sydney.

The notion of self-help is at the centre of the scheme. The scheme will generate its own finance, thereby freeing it from dependence on government grants. All activities will be run by the community. The people will be attempting to solve their own housing, employment, health, education and welfare problems.

# GIRLS TRAINING COLLEGE AT NEWCASTLE

**“DURUNGALING”, a word meaning “young woman”, is the name of the first training college to be established in Australia for Aboriginal girls and young women.**

The college, which will be completed in May this year, will provide accommodation and training for twenty girls. Training at the college will be open to girls from all over Australia, although most will probably come from New South Wales, and particularly from the North Coast, north central and northwest areas.

As Durungaling will not be completed in time for enrolment in full-time technical college courses which commence at the end of January, the Newcastle Technical College is offering Durungaling students an 18 weeks' full-time course commencing in the second half of the year.

This is the Office Assistant/Typist course which is being introduced for those students both Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal who do not wish to learn shorthand, or who prefer a shorter course to train them in general office duties and typewriting.

The Office Assistant/Typist course will concentrate on typewriting, English (both spoken and written), office machines, bookkeeping and

clerical procedures. For those students who have not completed their schooling to the School Certificate level, a special entrance test in English and Maths will be held. In general, students who have not completed at least 3 years' secondary schooling will not be accepted into the course.

From the beginning of 1975, when Durungaling should be fully operational, students will be able to enrol in any full-time or part-time course for which they possess the necessary entrance qualifications.

Durungaling College aims to train any young Aboriginal woman for any skilled job or profession, and hopes in time to have students attending teachers college, university, and other specialized places of training, as well as the technical college.

In addition to their normal training course, students at Durungaling will receive special tutoring within the college, as well as a number of evening courses dealing with cooking, public speaking, deportment, Aboriginal history and culture, and co-operative techniques.

The Durungaling project will be of benefit to Aboriginal girls who are not accepted at a local

(Continued inside back cover)

*The Hon. Gordon Bryant, former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Mrs Bryant at the setting of the Foundation Stone of the Durungaling College. Also pictured (L to R) are Theresa Samuels, Rosemary Knight and Fay Samuels of Newcastle. The photograph gives some idea of the beautiful view from the College, overlooking the whole of Newcastle out to the ocean.*



# NEW COURSE FOR APPRENTICES

**A number of young people have this year begun a new pre-employment programme which is quite different from the normal apprenticeship course.**

Under the scheme, the first year of training consists of 12 months full-time technical course where theory and background in a particular trade is provided.

Following this course, the apprentice then commences his four-year apprenticeship on work sites.

The accompanying photo shows Terry Johnson, 18, of Goodooga, who passed his School Certificate in 1972. He spent last year at Blacktown Technical College studying the special pre-employment carpentry and joining course, where he topped the practical section. He is now working full-time to complete his apprenticeship.

The 12 month pre-employment course was first started at Blacktown and this year has been extended to colleges at Dubbo, Orange, Murwillumbah, Tamworth and Wagga. Fitting and turning is also among the courses available under the new scheme.

The full-time tech course replaces the old system where tradesmen studied part-time throughout their apprenticeship.



*Terry Johnson from Goodooga at work on job site in Sydney. Terry has just completed his one-year pre-employment course under the new scheme for apprentices*

During the tech course students such as Terry Johnson are supported by an Aboriginal study grant and living away from home allowance. In the case of a 17-year old, this can amount to \$36 per week. Assistance is provided in obtaining accommodation.

Students wishing to undertake the new pre-employment scheme *must* first have passed their School Certificate.

Pictured on this page are six boys from Brewarrina and Goodooga who visited Sydney after completing their School Certificate exams last November.

Following their visit most had decided on their plans for this year. Glen Williams and John Barker of Brewarrina and Tony Lamb of Goodooga are considering going to Orange or Dubbo to do the same pre-employment carpentry course as Terry Johnson did in Sydney.

Robert Chapman and Rodney O'Neill are planning to do the normal 4-year apprenticeship course through the Department of Supply at St Mary's. They will study fitting and machining plus specialized training in diesel fitting through Penrith Technical College. Wayne Gibbs of Goodooga has just completed the first 12 months of this course where he came third in his class.

*L to R Standing: Rodney O'Neill, Tony Lamb, David Samuelson, and Robert Chapman, all of Goodooga, and Glen Williams, Brewarrina. Kneeling: Terry Johnson, Goodooga, and John Barker, Brewarrina*







Successful candidates and their wives at the declaration of the poll for the N.A.C.C. election, National Library, Canberra, 13th December, 1973

## N.A.C.C. TAKES OFFICE

**Elections for the first National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (N.A.C.C.) have been completed.**

**The 41 successful candidates have already had two meetings in Canberra and are currently at work in their electorates.**

The N.A.C.C. is the official link between the Aboriginal people and the Australian Government. It is the elected voice of the people, advising the Minister and the Department on the policy and administration of all matters affecting Aborigines.

It will meet in Canberra two or three times each year, apart from sub-committee meetings. Its members are paid a \$6,000 annual salary plus \$2,000 allowances for city representatives and \$3,000 for country members. Elections will be held every two years.

Altogether 193 candidates, 167 men and 26 women, nominated for the elections. Prior to polling day, November 24, 37,000 Aborigines and Islanders had enrolled to vote, about 75 per cent of the estimated adult population. Overall 80 per cent of those enrolled did vote.

In New South Wales 75 per cent (4,328) of those enrolled (5,710) voted. Thirty-eight people nominated for the 8 electorates and the successful candidates were: Messrs Tom Williams (Sydney), Phillip Hall (Sydney), Keith Smith (Mogo), Rex Marshall (Armidale), Leonard Brown (Grafton), Harry Hall (Walgett), Ray Nagas (Broken Hill), and Mrs Valmai Mackay (Narrandera). (The actual voting figures in each electorate are published on page 10.)

Tom Williams and Harry Hall were also successful candidates in the elections for the N.S.W.

Aborigines Advisory Council and Aboriginal Lands Trust. Phillip Hall is the youngest member of the N.A.C.C. Mrs Mackay is one of only 2 women elected.

The percentage of people who voted in each State compares more than favourably with the percentage of people who voted in the first non-compulsory State Government elections held in Australia.

Compared with New South Wales' 8 members on the N.A.C.C., Queensland (including Torres Strait) has 9, the Northern Territory and Western Australia each have 8, South Australia 4, Victoria 3, and Tasmania 1. Seven of the eight Northern Territory representatives are tribal people.

The results of the election were officially declared at the National Library, Canberra, on Thursday, December 13. Most of the successful candidates attended the ceremony, which was addressed by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, and the Secretary of the Department, Mr Barrie Dexter. Also in attendance were Pastor Sir Douglas Nicholls, Mr Charles Perkins, Mr Gordon Bryant, N.A.C.C. officials, and parliamentarians.

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, addressed a special luncheon held for those attending the ceremony and met many of the N.A.C.C. members. (His address is reprinted on page 8.)

A statement issued by the N.A.C.C. after its first meeting, criticized the press for misreporting its deliberations, and stressed that "*This is the first time since the arrival of Europeans in Australia that Aborigines and Islanders have been democratically elected by their peers to represent them at a national level*".

## WHO ARE THE N.S.W. MEMBERS OF THE N.A.C.C.?



**PHILLIP HALL,**  
Electorate 1, Campsie.  
Age: 25 years.  
Occupation: Field Officer.  
Of Eulamai tribal origin,  
born in Walgett. Worked  
in Aboriginal advancement  
for 3 years as a field officer  
and for 2 years as an  
executive. Worked with  
Aboriginal people for 10  
years, 8 of which have been  
with the Foundation for  
Aboriginal Affairs



**TOM WILLIAMS,**  
Electorate 2, La Perouse.  
Age: 51 years.  
Occupation: Social Worker.  
Born and lived in Sydney  
all his life. Former  
manager of Foundation for  
Aboriginal Affairs, Sydney,  
and now welfare officer for  
the Prisoners' Aid  
Association. Chairman of  
N.S.W. Aborigines Advisory  
Council. Executive member  
of Aboriginal Medical and  
Legal Services



**VALMAI MACKAT,**  
Electorate 3, Narrandera.  
Age: 40 years.  
Occupation: Home Duties.  
Born at Narrandera.  
Married with 5 children.  
Interested in the welfare of  
Aboriginal people and has  
been actively involved in  
Aboriginal affairs for past 3  
years. One of only two  
women members of N.A.C.C.



**KEITH SMITH,**  
Electorate 4, Mogo.  
Age: 39 years.  
Occupation: Timber Worker.  
Married with 7 children. Has  
lived on the south coast of New  
South Wales most of his life.  
Educated at Christian  
Brothers College, Lewisham.  
Involved in Aboriginal  
welfare and currently field  
officer for the Aboriginal  
Legal Service

### EXTRACT FROM PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO N.A.C.C.

**The Australian Government hopes that the declaration of the poll for the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee will mark a watershed in the history of Australia's Aboriginal people.**

You can be assured that the Government will treat and attach to the N.A.C.C.'s proceedings and recommendations great importance. If we are to make real progress in meeting the needs of Aboriginal people, we will need the advice and guidance which we look to the Council to provide.

The N.A.C.C. represents a further step in meeting the Government's objectives to provide a new deal for Aborigines. Since taking office we have done much to restore their dignity and opportunities. We have embarked on many important reforms in education, health and vocational training. We are pledged to end racial discrimination. We have appointed a commission to determine the best way to grant land rights to the Aboriginal people.

In accordance with the clear wish of the people expressed in the referendum of 1967, the Australian Government is moving to assume full responsibility from the States for the administration of Aboriginal affairs.

Many of the things we want to do are quite new when compared with the old assimilation policies of the past. We want to preserve the culture of the Aboriginal people—their tribal values such as music, languages and beliefs. We regard that as our sacred trust.



*Mr Keith Smith, N.S.W. South Coast representative on the N.A.C.C., and Mrs Smith talk with the Prime Minister, Mr Whillam, at the luncheon following the declaration of the N.A.C.C. poll. Next to the Prime Minister is Mr John Moriarty of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs*

Our most important objective now is to restore to Aborigines the power to make their own decisions about their way of life. Already the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has been transferring responsibility for community affairs from Government superintendents and managers to Aborigines themselves.

We believe the establishment of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee is an important part of this process. We want the committee to be a forum for the expression of Aboriginal opinion. We want it to allow a healthy two-way communication between Aborigines and the national Government.



**REX MARSHALL,**  
Electorate 5, Armidale.  
Age: 31 years.  
Occupation: Male Nurse.  
Came from Baryulgil Reserve  
and active in Aboriginal  
affairs in that area for 10  
years. Now lives and works  
in Armidale. Involved in  
Abschol and welfare officer  
for New England  
Aboriginal Society.  
Dedicated to welfare,  
especially in the field of  
health, of Aboriginal people



**LEN BROWN,**  
Electorate 6, Grafton.  
Age: 43 years. Occupation:  
Council Leading Hand.  
Treasurer of Clarence  
Valley Aboriginal  
Association. Interested in  
the welfare of Aboriginal  
people



**HARRY HALL,**  
Electorate 7, Walgett.  
Age: 49 years.  
Occupation: Manager.  
Has been manager of  
Foundation for Aboriginal  
Affairs, Walgett, for last  
3 years. Member of  
Aboriginal Progressive  
Association for past 5 years.  
Worked for Department of  
Main Roads, 7 years.  
Elected Member of N.S.W.  
Aborigines Advisory Council  
since 1970



**RAY NAGAS,**  
Electorate 8, Broken Hill.  
Age: 33 years.  
Occupation: Carpenter.  
Of Torres Strait Islands  
descent. Born and lived in  
Cairns for 20 years. Has  
also lived in Darwin. Lived  
in Broken Hill since marriage.  
Fully qualified Cabinet  
Maker and Carpenter

## EXTRACT FROM ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

**This is a unique occasion. It is the first meeting of an elective body representing the Aboriginal people.**

There has been condemnation over the years of what has been happening in Canberra. There has been a feeling that its decisions are those of white men who are handling problems they know nothing about. Experience shows there was some justification for this criticism.

Under this Government there has been more money spent on Aboriginal affairs but without producing the results we had hoped for. The reason, we are told, is that we are dictating to Aboriginal people, not listening to them.

I think the job of the N.A.C.C. is to bring to the Department, the Minister, and the Government in Canberra, the wishes, the thinking and the aspirations of the Aboriginal people outback. If we keep that in mind we may achieve a lot.

You are not, as some of the criticism says, a parliament. You are a consultative body for the purpose of advising.

If your proposals are logical and justified, a Government would reject them only at its own peril. I don't think you need worry that if you make wise, logical decisions, those decisions might not be considered.

Your job is out in the field getting the views of the people you represent, taking to them some assistance and particularly knowledge of what assistance is available through Government Departments, and bringing back to us their criticism, their requests, their requirements.

There will be meetings from time to time in Canberra for the purpose of co-ordinating decisions, hearing reports



*N.S.W. representatives on the N.A.C.C., Mrs Valmai Mackay and Mr Harry Hall, talk with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, during the declaration of the N.A.C.C. poll*

on the groups you have mixed with and represent, and making representations to the Minister and the Department.

That will be how the N.A.C.C. will work during its life time. Whether it continues or not will be solely dependent upon whether it is doing a service to Aboriginal people. Whether you continue as the representatives of your people will be determined by the people themselves, by whether you are doing the job for which they elected you.

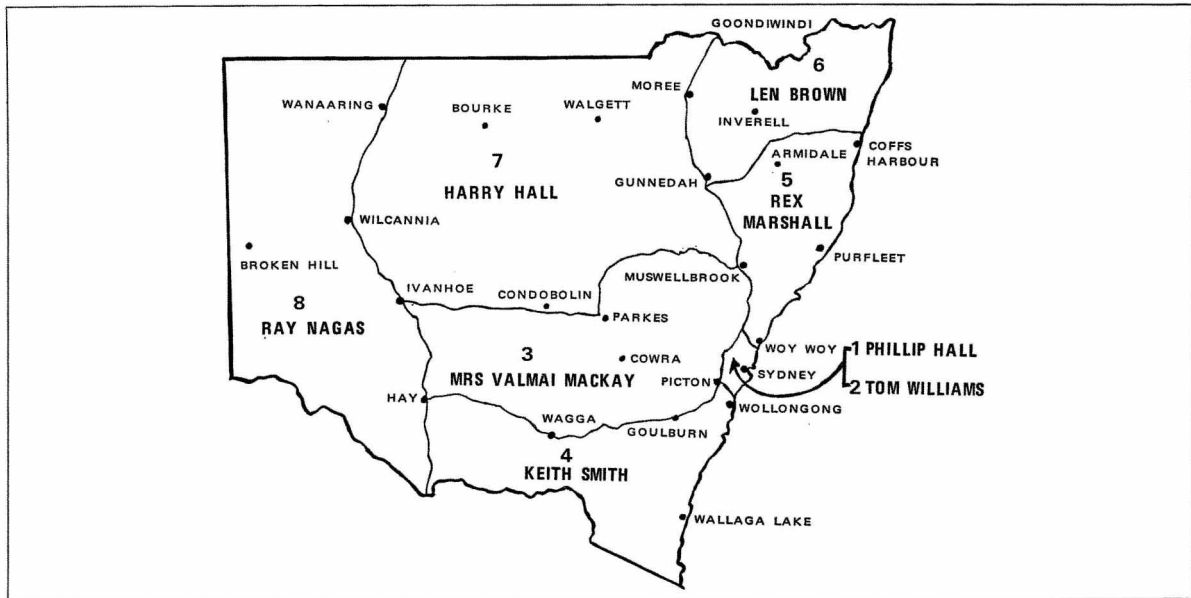
While there have been Aboriginal spokesmen from time to time, we recognize today that you are the ones that have been selected on a vote of the people. The number of voters showed that the Aboriginal population accepted the N.A.C.C. as something they desired and supported. You are truly representative of the people that elected you. You owe them a responsibility.

If we can co-operate, the annual allocation of money by the Federal Government can be used with much better results. With your co-operation we can move a lot faster than has been done before.

# N.S.W./N.A.C.C. ELECTION RESULTS

The voting figures for the various N.S.W. electorates of the N.A.C.C. are as follows:

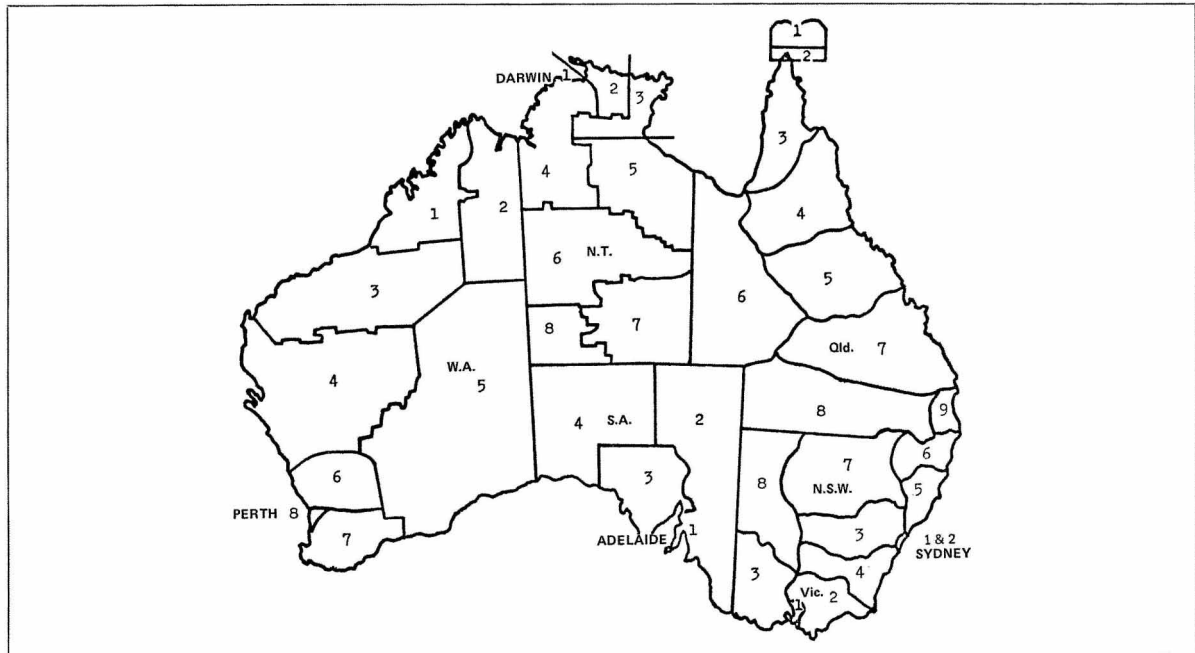
Electorate	Candidates	Votes	Enrolment	Electorate	Candidates	Votes	Enrolment
1	Syd Cunningham ..	73	(Prior to election day)	6	Robert Wright ..	105	(Prior to election day)
	Phillip Hall ..	83			Informal ..	28	
	Informal ..	26					
	Total ..	182	500			670	729
2	William Glover ..	121	519	7	Angus Binge ..	223	991
	Tom Williams ..	189			Leonard Brown ..	233	
	Informal ..	31			Dulcie Duke ..	61	
		341			Lawrence Hinett ..	60	
3	Roy Carroll ..	49	295	8	Bruce Morris ..	60	1,582
	Mrs Valmai Mackay ..	232			Stein Romaldine ..	23	
	Arnold Williams ..	91			Lester Romaldine ..	23	
	Informal ..	28		Bill Towney ..	105		
		400		Informal ..	46	834	
4	Bob Brown ..	11	736	8	Jack Barker ..	85	458
	Margaret Lawrie ..	15			Steve Gordon ..	185	
	Vernon Longbottom ..	44			Alan Hall ..	118	
	Robert McLeod ..	39			Harry Hall ..	284	
	Keith Smith ..	245			Lloyd Nolan ..	98	
	Harold Stewart ..	35			Richard Sullivan ..	36	
	Informal ..	31			Bill Reid ..	170	
		520		Informal ..	30	1,006	
5	Ken Brindle ..	41			Myles Lalor ..	65	
	Bill Cohen ..	121			Ray Nagas ..	269	
	Mary Duroux ..	117			Margaret Philp ..	18	
	Rex Marshall ..	168			Ron Riley ..	62	
	Les Ridgeway ..	90			Informal ..	1	
					415		



Map showing N.A.C.C. electorates in N.S.W.

Overall 80 per cent of those enrolled throughout Australia did vote. In N.S.W. 75 per cent (4,328) of those enrolled (5,710) voted. The corresponding figures in other States were: Victoria—81 per cent; Queensland—89 per cent; S.A.—81 per cent; Western Australia—73 per cent; Tasmania—84 per cent; N.T.—74 per cent.

With the exception of one electorate, where only one person nominated, all of the forty-one seats were contested.



Map showing N.A.C.C. electorates throughout Australia

## INTERSTATE MEMBERS OF N.A.C.C.

State	Electorate	Member	State	Electorate	Member
Queensland	1	George Mye	Western Australia	1	Tommy Edgar
	2	Geoffrey Loban		2	July Oakes
	3	Keith Saunders		3	Herbert Parker
	4	John Grainer		4	Phillip Councillor
	5	Kevin Saylor		5	Benjamin Mason
	6	Anthony Assan		6	Keith Riley
	7	Stanley Alberts		7	Ossie Miller
	8	James Hagan		8	Edward Bennell
	9	Allen Fisher	Northern Territory	1	Walter Fejo
Victoria	1	Bruce McGuiness		2	John Gwadbu
	2	Nessie Skuta		3	Alfred Wayatiwuy
	3	David Anderson		4	Hyacinth Tungutalum.
South Australia	1	James Stanley	5	Jack Isaac	
	2	Alfred Aguis	6	David Long	
	3	Glenmore Miller	7	Milton Liddle	
	4	Ivan Baker	8	Philip Lane	
		Tasmania	..	Morgan Mansell	

# Smoke Signals

## ▶LANDS TRUST AND ADVISORY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections for the 1974-76 Aborigines Advisory Council and Aboriginal Lands Trust were completed in December. The successful candidates were: Mr Ron Riley (Far Western), Mr Harry Hall (Western district), Mr Les Ridgeway (North-western), Mr Charles Leon (North and West Sydney), Mr Ossie Cruse (South Coast and Central West), Mr Lawrence Kelly (Northern Tablelands), Mr Anthony Barrett (North Coast), Mr Tom Williams (East and South Sydney), and Mr William Glover (Central Coast). Tom Williams and Harry Hall are also N.S.W. representatives on the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee. The nine representatives elected to the Advisory Council and Lands Trust will hold their first meeting this month. Photos of the representatives and details of the election will be published in the March edition of *New Dawn*.

## ▶TOBACCO FARMING AT YETMAN

The accompanying photo on this page shows George and Donella Sen with their children Ivan and Djuro. George and Donella share-crop a tobacco farm at Yetman in northern New South Wales. Donella comes originally from Toomelah Reserve, near Boggabilla.

## ▶ABORIGINAL NUTRITION STUDY

The nutritional problems of Aboriginal children are to be examined as part of an international study sponsored by the World Health Organization. The Australian segment of the international study will be carried out in Central Australia under the direction of Dr David Jose. It will look into malnutrition and infection and their effects on the immune response of Aboriginal children. During the 1960's Dr Jose was one of the principal workers in studies carried out by the Queensland Institute of Medical Research into the problems of malnutrition among Aborigines. At that time the

*George and Donella Sen with their children on their tobacco farm near Yetman*



Institute was one of the first to describe and document the widespread occurrence of malnutrition and growth retardation among Aboriginal children.

### ▶ ABORIGINAL HOSTELS GETS UNDER WAY

Mr Harry Penrith, 37, a well-known figure in Aboriginal affairs, has been appointed as the Executive Officer of Aboriginal Hostels Ltd. He was the first Aboriginal appointed to the company's staff. Aboriginal Hostels Ltd was formed by the Australian Government in June of last year, to develop and run hostel projects for Aboriginal people throughout Australia. The Board of Directors is chaired by Mr Charles Perkins, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Since Mr Penrith's appointment the company has been employing several other Aborigines in project officer and clerical positions, as well as being employed in the managerial side of the hostels themselves. Mr Penrith matriculated from Kempsey High School and recently passed Law 2 Level at the Tasmanian Law School. For

*Eight of the students who took part in the careers visit to Broken Hill: Ian Martin (Wilcannia), Shane King (Menindee), Jenny Bates (Broken Hill), Geraldine Williams (Menindee), Kathy Lawson (Wilcannia), Karen Sloan (Menindee), Pam Hampton (Wilcannia), and Dulcie O'Donnell (Wilcannia)*



13 years he was employed by the N.S.W. Public Service. He has been involved in the establishment of many projects for Aboriginal advancement, including being the first Treasurer of the Aboriginal and Islander Legal Service in Queensland and vice-president of the Townsville branch of the Service. Aboriginal Hostels Ltd has already purchased properties in Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne and Redfern.

### ▶ SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT BROKEN HILL

Twelve third form students from the southwest and western areas of New South Wales recently visited Broken Hill under a careers visit programme organized by the Department of Labour and Aboriginal Secondary Grants. Pictured in the accompanying photo are eight of the students who took part in the visit. Those not appearing in the photo are Josephine McCormack and Noeline Clarke from Ivanhoe, and Wilhomena Thorpe and Pam Mitchell from Wentworth. The programme was similar to that of the fourth form students' visit to Canberra as reported in the December edition of *New Dawn*. During their stay in Broken Hill the students visited the hospital, Water Board, University Extension College, one of the mines, Technical College and other places of interest. It is hoped that this visit will provide a model for similar careers visits by third form students in the future. During their visit the students attended a special barbecue organized by the West Darling Aboriginal Advancement Association.

### ▶ NORTHERN TERRITORY LAND CLAIM

Pending the final report of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission, the Australian Government has decided to act in relation to an area of land in Darwin claimed by the Larrakia people. Negotiations have begun with the company Sabrina Holdings to achieve deferment of the use of land for which it currently holds an agricultural lease, until December of this year. In 1971, the Larrakia sought protection from development for the suburban area of Darwin known to them as Kulaluk. The area is situated on vacant Crown land but an adjoining area also claimed is held by the company under an agricultural lease. In 1970, the area was approved for urban development. It is understood that the Larrakia do not press a claim to the area already developed. The company holding the lease has asked the Government to resolve the claim so that development may proceed. The Government has deferred any decision of the land claim until after the presentation of the final report of the Land Rights Commission.

# THE LAND RIGHTS COMMISSION

*(This is the final part of an article on the interim report of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission. The first and second parts, dealing with the historical and social background to land rights and the problems in implementing such a policy, were published in the December and January editions of New Dawn. This part of the article outlines the recommendations and suggestions contained in the Commission's first report and discusses some of the responses it has aroused. The final report of the Land Rights Commission is due to be released in May or June).*

## **Recommendations and suggestions:**

### **(1) Regional Councils**

The report's first recommendation is that "two Aboriginal land councils be set up in the Northern Territory—one for the central region, based on Alice Springs, and the other for the northern region, based on Darwin".

Mr Justice Woodward decided against recommending a single overall regional council because "it would be too large and unwieldy"; travel and accommodation difficulties; and differences in population density and social structure which could determine attitudes to land rights problems, etc. The idea of establishing smaller land councils was rejected principally because of the difficulty in drawing satisfactory dividing lines between communities when tribal groups are divided between several different communities.

However, the report stresses, there is no reason why the two councils recommended "should not in the future amalgamate, or promote the establishment of separate regions if they see fit to do so".

The report recommends that unless and until the two councils decide otherwise, they should consist of one representative from each community. It was thought that multiple representation for larger communities would bring the already large councils to an unworkable size. The representatives are to be chosen by their respective community councils.

The councils are to be supplied with secretarial assistance and independent legal advice. Eventually, the report recommends, the councils will need to be provided with consultants on accountancy and business management.

### **(2) Aid to smaller groups**

Although, says the report; "it would be neither practical nor helpful for all communities to be separately represented (by legal counsel)", any community or group should have access to the land council's solicitors.

Where the group is not satisfied with those solicitors, or where its interests conflict with those of the land council, the Commission is prepared to consider providing special legal aid.

### **(3) Incorporation**

"It is recommended", says Mr Justice Woodward, "that the Department of Aboriginal Affairs should proceed with plans to draw up a system of incorporation for Aboriginal Communities and groups", having regard to the Commission's earlier suggestions.

Mr Justice Woodward suggests that "action on this matter should not be delayed by awaiting the final report of this Commission".

### **(4) Vesting of the title**

On the basis of "a fairly clear consensus . . . of Aboriginal views put to me" Mr Justice Woodward outlines a proposal for a form of Aboriginal ownership of land.

This proposal is put forward so that it can be "the subject of further discussions among Aborigines" who are invited to "propose amendments to it or, if they wish, to urge the adoption of some quite different approach".



According to this proposal, "title to Aboriginal lands should generally be vested in community land boards. These boards would consist of representatives chosen by a community, or by several communities jointly, for the purpose and would be incorporated under special legislation.

"Before seeking title to a defined area of land, the community would have to negotiate with existing neighbouring communities to secure their consent to its proposed boundaries . . . In some cases, neighbouring communities may wish to join together for land-owning purposes.

"Any disagreements should, so far as possible, be ironed out by further negotiations . . . If provision is to be made for the compulsory settlement of boundary disputes, it would take the form of a specially constituted tribunal, arrangements for private arbitration or a decision by the regional land council.

"It is suggested that any areas which cannot properly be claimed by an existing community (such as vacant reserves) should be vested in the appropriate regional land council. The same could apply to areas which cannot for a time be vested in communities because of a delay in agreement as to boundaries.

"The system would have to provide for transfer of title from a land council to a community board and from one community board to another.

"It is assumed that the system of community titles, suggested to satisfy the requirements of both European and Aboriginal law, would not cut across Aboriginal respect for the views of the owners and managers of any particular piece of land as to the use of that land".

As to the form which the title to the land should take, the report rejects the idea of leasehold title (including perpetual lease) on grounds of principle. Freehold title is rejected because "the title must be communal and incapable of sale or mortgage. It must, however, be capable of voluntary transfer between communities".

"These considerations", says the report, "seem to point to the need for a special system of land-holding by registration which could perhaps be known as Aboriginal Title".

Under this scheme, title would initially be given by a grant from the Government of a defined area of land to an incorporated Aboriginal council or community. This grant would be registered by a person known as the Registrar of Aboriginal Titles.

Any subsequent transfers of land between the incorporated bodies, would need to be registered before they become effective. The registrar would have to satisfy himself that the proper consents to such transfers had been obtained or, in the event of a dispute, that the matter had been ruled upon by the appropriate authority. The whole system would be under the control of an appropriate Federal Court. (Leases could be registered and controlled in a similar manner.)

Mr Justice Woodward envisages that communities holding Aboriginal title to land would be free to give leases over part of that land to Aborigines or Aboriginal groups. He suggests, however, that some supervision (by, for example, the Regional Land Board) would be desirable where communities were considering leasing their land to non-Aborigines or non-Aboriginal groups and companies.

"It is suggested", warns the report, "that there should be no right for any individual, or any group not established as a separate community, to obtain any title better than a lease. If a different view is taken in the future, legislation could then be introduced to provide for it".

#### (5) Further submissions

"It has already been made clear", concludes the report, "that the main purpose of this report has been to stimulate consideration and discussion of, and invite submissions on, the issues to which the report draws attention".

The Commission can be contacted through:

The Secretary,  
Aboriginal Land Rights Commission,  
451 Law Courts Place,  
MELBOURNE, Vic. 3000.

#### Response to the Commission's Report

Following the completion of the interim report, copies were circulated to various interested groups and a summary of its recommendations was translated into Aboriginal languages for the use of Aboriginal communities in the areas affected.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs stressed that "While the Commission's suggestions and tentative proposals are made on the basis of full discussions in some twenty Aboriginal communities, they are no more than suggestions for consideration by those and other groups".

The Minister endorsed Mr Justice Woodward's observation that "an imposed solution to the problem of recognizing traditional Aboriginal Land

Rights is unlikely to a good or a lasting solution"; and authorized the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to "give all possible help to Aboriginal groups and communities in their discussions of the interim report".

In late August the Australian Government accepted the major recommendations of the report to convene the two proposed Land Councils as soon as possible. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs, through the Attorney-General, engaged lawyers to assist the councils. Work was also begun on the preparation of draft legislation for the incorporation of Aboriginal communities and groups.

In September, the first meetings of the two Land Councils took place in Alice Springs and Darwin, where discussion began on the suggestions and matters raised in the Commission's report. Community representatives on the two councils have been provided with maps, etc., to help their communities outline their tribal boundaries.

From the time the Land Rights Commission was announced, however, it has encountered criticism. It has been suggested that the Commission is essentially non-Aboriginal and that if Aborigines are to play a greater role in Aboriginal affairs, its framework and composition should be different.

There has been criticism that it is unclear at this stage whether the land granted to Aboriginal communities will be inalienable; that there is no provision in the terms of reference for compensation for detribalized people; that the Government might retain power to decide ultimately whether natural resources on Aboriginal lands will be exploited, rather than the community having full and unrestricted ownership; and that it is paternalistic to suggest that mining royalties should be distributed among Aboriginal communities in a certain way.

Questions have also been raised in regard to the report's suggestions that decisions should be taken by representatives of the various communities, rather than through the traditional method of the community itself arriving at a consensus; that groups can only lay claim to their traditional lands, not to new lands which they have adopted as a result of dislocation; that the problems of the dislocated groups are those of social welfare and urban development rather than land rights; that incorporation should be under the supervision of the Australian legal system, rather than traditional laws and customs; and that control of entry to Aboriginal lands should be shared with Government agencies.

## PENFRIEND

Dear Sir,

I am sixteen years old and I would like girls or boys as penfriends to write to me around about sixteen to eighteen years old.

My hobbies are dancing, listening to hot pop music, swimming and meeting other nice people.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss Rachel Roberts,  
c.o. Wardell Post Office,  
Sneesbys Lane.  
WARDELL, N.S.W. 2480.**

---

## Doems

**Albert Namijira**

You painted with pride  
The things around you  
In the countryside.

You painted the trees  
And the mountains and hills  
You painted your paintings  
With Aboriginal skills.

People called you a genius  
The master of Art  
And you become known  
Even in these parts.

**Marie Clarke,  
Age 12,  
Wolseley, S.A.**

**Aborigines**

We are few, but we were great.  
Our tribes were scattered  
Unlike our heritage torn and battered.  
We drink, we gamble, we've lost our respect.  
Our children scattered in schools and out-numbered by  
whites,  
Sometimes feared, sometimes rejected, sometimes accepted.  
Never go on Walk-about anymore  
Our ancestors angry, our Dream-time left out.  
Who are we? the quarter and half-caste.

**Janette Forrest,  
Age 16.**



## ABORIGINAL SECONDARY AND STUDY GRANTS SCHEMES

Applications are invited for 1974 Aboriginal Secondary and Study Grants which the Australian Government offers each year to assist Aboriginal students with their secondary school studies and to undertake further study after leaving school.

The grants include assistance with living costs, school fees, clothing and textbooks, and other expenses associated with attendance at school and other educational institutions.

### ELIGIBILITY

#### Aboriginal Secondary Grants

The grants are open to full-time students under the age of 21 years on 1 January 1974, who are of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent, and who will be attending in 1974 an approved secondary school or class in any Australian State or internal Territory. Students who are in their final year of primary schooling in 1973 and will proceed in 1974 to an approved secondary school or class will be eligible for grant benefits in 1974.

Grants may also be made available to full-time students who are attending in 1974 an approved primary school provided the student is 14 years of age but under 21 years at 1 January 1974.

Students who are 14 years but under 21 years of age on 1 January 1974 must also be likely to benefit from remaining at school.

#### Aboriginal Study Grants

The grants are open with no age restriction to students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent who have already left school and wish to undertake further studies or training in an approved course.

### APPLICATIONS

Application forms and further details may be obtained from the Department of Education at the address below, from offices of the Commonwealth Employment Service, the Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare and some school principals.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

The Regional Director  
New South Wales State Office  
Sydney Plaza Building  
Department of Education  
59 Goulburn Street, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000  
(G.P.O. Box 3987, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2001)

(Continued from page 5)

technical college, or who do not have a technical college locally where they can obtain the training they desire. The minimum age for enrolment will be 16 years, but there is no maximum age, so that young women, or even in some special cases more mature women, who desire special training may apply for entrance to the college.

Durungaling is being built and will be run by the Hunter Region Aboriginal Co-operative Limited. It will be built at Lambton, a suburb

of Newcastle, within easy access of all places of training.

The Federal Government has guaranteed the total cost of the college building and furnishings, but the Hunter Region Aboriginal Co-operative will be completely responsible for the management of the college and all running costs.

Interested persons may obtain further information from the Secretary, Rev. W. A. Brown, P.O. Box 4, Lambton, N.S.W. 2299, or from the Department of Labour.

## PEOPLE FROM THE FAR WEST

(Photos courtesy of Mr Ron Riley.)



*Mr and Mrs Bill Kennedy from Wilcannia, while at Broken Hill*



*Marianne O'Donnell, Joan Bates and Doreen Harris of Wilcannia*



*Back row: David Jones, Frank Payne, Bill Button, Johnny Wyman, Joey Jones; Front row: Bob Jones, Muddy Wyman, Johnny Williams. This photo was taken at Broken Hill last year*



*This photo was taken following a meeting of Broken Hill Advancement Association at the South Broken Hill community centre last October: Malcolm Smith (Dareton), Mrs Margaret Phillip (Menindee), Alf Bates (vice-president), Joan Bates, Myles Laylor (president), Alice Laylor, Mrs Cole (secretary), Mrs Isabel Bennett (assistant secretary), and Will Button*