

Star Attraction at Australian World's Fair

The Australian World's Fair for 1956 was recently held at the Sydney Showground and the exhibit presented by the aborigines of La Perouse proved to be a star attraction in spite of the fact that visitors to the Fair were able to see Lady Docker's golden car, a model railway, and all the other wonderful attractions.

The Fair presented the various Industries in Australia, and it can truthfully be said that the oldest industry was well represented by the display by Bob Simms and his many helpers.

Mr. H. W. Jeffery, the Supervisor at La Perouse, has always been very keen on the "Industry" of those in his charge, and the display at the Fair was no exception. Naturally, he could take no active part in the display itself—he is not an aborigine, nor can he make boomerangs—but he was responsible for the whole of the organisation of the set-up and was present at every session to answer the many and varied questions of the onlookers. The Executive of the World's Fair, expressed their appreciation of his efforts in no uncertain terms.



Larry Walker of La Perouse admires Lady Docker's gold car as he poses for the camera.

As each visitor entered the Handicraft Pavilion, he or she was presented with a truly Australian scene—Bob and his workers seated on the sand amongst the gum trees, producing boomerangs and shields right from the mangrove wood to the finished, highly-decorated product. The visitors were very interested in the poker-work decoration.

Marjorie Timbery and her helpers at the special stall which sold souvenirs, had quite a busy time. The

product of the labours of their men-folk was on sale at the Fair, together with shell work and other novelties.

During the day sessions, there were exhibitions of boomerang throwing in the Showground Ring, and those who had not seen a boomerang thrown before—and there were many— marvelled at the skill of Bob Simms. Bob, of course, is renowned for his boomerang throwing and has entertained quite a number of distinguished overseas visitors at different times.

In conjunction with the display of boomerang manufacture, the children of La Perouse had an exhibition of paintings which were arranged in a corner of the Pavilion and furnished with their own special tables and chairs. Here, visitors could sit in comfort and admire the very creditable work which the children have done. This work compares more than favourably with that of other children of the same age groups, particularly that of Peter Mongte, 13, Peter McKenzie, 13, and Cecily McKenzie, 12.

Dawn offers its congratulations to Bob Simms and all of those who took part.



A charming Australian model demonstrating an aboriginal shield and boomerang.