

In this particular clash of wills the success of the women owed much to the opportunity taken by the tribal elders, of saving face by declaring that their rulings were overborne by the authority now vested in the superintendent. The position is, nowadays, that they continue to make their pronouncements but take no positive action against those who act in defiance of them, provided they are aware the latter are acting in accordance with the settlement superintendent's wishes.

The resultant situation is as satisfactory as can be hoped for by all parties concerned with the elders going through the motions of exercising authority. As time passes, and a new generation moves into these positions of authority within the tribe, awkward situations such as that given above (or in respect of the practice of "giving" in marriage already discussed), may be expected to become less common.

In June, 1959, it was decided to issue as an experiment a news-sheet containing items of local interest. The success of this experiment astonished everyone at the settlement and the paper has now become one of the most popular local amenities. Persons who could not read have their children read the news to them and publication day of each edition is now eagerly awaited.

An important consequence of the appearance of this paper has been a marked increase in the social awareness of the residents generally.

An essay competition was run in 1959 and a prize valued at £5 offered for the winning entry. The interest aroused by this competition was enormous and the editor of the paper is now arranging for other similar competitions.

Entries were received from school-children, young people and a few adults, all of whom wrote (in English) an account of events affecting their life. A point which should not be lost sight of in this particular respect is that English is a foreign language to the Australian aborigine.

The efforts submitted reflected great credit on the individual author and, indirectly, on the teaching staff also.



## PENSIONS FOR ABORIGINES

### Beware the Hangers on!

Several aborigines are now in receipt of pensions at Boggabilla. The important thing is that these pensioners can live with the relatives on the Station and no longer have to leave the Station to live a sometimes unhappy and doubtful existence as in the past.

The pensions, as issued are—two old-age; one widow's and two for invalids. All these people have received a lump sum of arrears of about £60 and it is gratifying to note that without exception they have used their money wisely. Money spent went on such comforts as blankets and rugs for the winter. Also sheets and pillow slips were bought. Items of furniture including kitchen cabinets, tables and chairs, and a couple of inner spring mattresses were purchased. One pensioner secured a small battery radio for £9, and in these days such things are no longer a luxury, but a necessity.

As all of the people were at one time assisted and dependant on the Board for their welfare it has been necessary to point out to them that their future depends entirely on themselves. From years of having food and clothing doled out to them at regular intervals by the manager, they now have to think for themselves. Besides keeping themselves in food each week they should put a little money away for clothing, especially with regard to winter clothing, as they have to wear more of it and it is more expensive.

Unfortunately one pensioner, appears to be falling down on the job, or to be more truthful he is being dragged down by his poor type of no-hoper fellow men. The fact that he gets a regular cheque does not go unnoticed by these types, who batten on him on these occasions. Their behaviour has been noticed by the police so we hope that this will make the old fellow "wake up" to himself, as the saying goes.

However, if the old folk carry on as well as they have done so far, this kind of "independence" to do what they please with their allotment should be for the benefit of them all in matters of managing for themselves and self reliance.



These boys from Kinchela Boys' Home recently acted as Colour Boys at the Kempsey Professional running races. They are Harold Harnson, Gordon Edwards, John Carroll, Dallas Thompson, Eddie Pender and Alex Thompson