

ROCK CARVINGS TO BE PRESERVED

The Cumberland County Council has taken action to preserve 11 areas around Sydney containing Aboriginal rock carvings and relics.

The areas are at Maroota, Berowra Creek, Cattai, Mount Kuring-gai, Wheeler Creek, Gumbooya, Arcadia and Bantry Bay.

The council has opened a register of Aboriginal carvings and drawings to record those which "warrant recognition and protection."

Plans, sketches, aerial photographs and descriptions of the areas will be included.

Chief County Planner, Mr. R. D. L. Fraser, said the department would recommend protection for some of the areas.



NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ABORIGINES IN SOCIAL SERVICE PAYMENTS ●Says Minister

Racial discrimination was not applied to social service benefits in Australia and consequently there was no record of the amounts paid annually to Aborigines.

The Federal Minister for Social Services, Mr. Hugh S. Robertson, said this at a dinner given in Lismore by the Richmond River branch of the Country Party.

He said that any restrictions applied to Aborigines would also apply to other people in similar circumstances.

For 58 years, a clause in the Social Services Act precluded the payment of social service benefits to Aborigines.

Mr. Robertson said that following his appointment as Minister eight years ago, he was assigned to solve this problem.

Australia then was becoming a country of international importance and the exclusion of Aborigines from the benefit scheme was a source of international embarrassment.

Finally, the clause was deleted completely and now, in the Act, there was no reference to Aborigines.

"Social service benefits are paid to Australian citizens who qualify for them and the citizens' ethnic origin is of no concern to the department or to the government."

Ald. M. Hill asked whether an Aborigine whose unemployment pension was cancelled because he had broken the law perhaps for a minor offence, could apply for restoration of the benefits.

Mr. Robertson replied that as soon as the Aborigine had "expiated his misdemeanour" he could again receive social service benefits. A white man would be treated in exactly the same way.

ABORIGINAL ARTIST AGREES TO PAINT IN OILS FOR DUKE

Alice Springs artist Edwin Pareroultja (46), one of the water-colour artists of the "Namatjira" school, was given an unexpected commission by the Duke of Edinburgh during the Royal visit to Central Australia.

The Duke promised to send Edwin materials to paint in oils, and Edwin, who long ago rejected oils as a medium, agreed to paint a picture, using his water colour styles, for the Duke.

The Duke had accompanied the Queen in a visit to Rex Battarbee's Tmara Mara Gallery to see works produced by Aranda Aborigines who live at the Hermansburgh Mission, 78 miles west of Alice Springs.

The "Namatjira" school has been successfully fostered by Mr. Battarbee, who is a director of the gallery.

He presented six of the artists to the Queen and the Duke—Enos Namatjira (46), Oscar Namitjira (44), Ewald Namatjira (30), all sons of the late Albert Namatjira and Edwin Pareroultja, Otto Pareroultja and Richard Moketerinja, all cousins of Albert.



AMERICAN TOURISTS SEE OUR NATIVE ART WORK

An exhibition of primitive aboriginal art works attracted 20 American tourists in one day during March. They were among 350 passengers who called at Sydney on the Norwegian-American tourist liner, Bergensfjord.

The exhibition, which was opened by the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Alderman H. F. Jensen, was held at Farmer's Blaxland Gallery.

It was a collection of bark paintings, wood carvings, ceremonial objects and weapons from primitive tribes living in remote parts of the Northern Territory.

The collection of more than 250 items was made by a Sydney woman, Mrs. Dorothy Bennett, who spent 10 months living among the tribes.

The Director of the Blaxland Galleries, Mr. S. de Teliga, said the Americans who visited the exhibition spent about 300 dollars buying aboriginal art works. In one day about 60 items worth £800 were sold.

Money from the sales will go to the Bennett-Campbell Australian Aborigine Trust. The trust was formed a year ago by Mrs. Bennett and Mr. Michael Campbell, a Sydney businessman, to promote and preserve aboriginal art.