

T.V. BRINGS NEW LIFE TO TABULAM

Television came to Australia ten years ago, but not till March this year did the Aboriginal people of Tabulam begin to sample its magic. In the past few months it has created new interest in life in many of the older people, and provides wonderful entertainment for children and adults alike.

A 25-inch T.V. set was purchased by the Tabulam Aboriginal Station Social Club, and installed in the Station's community hall. Mr Seymour, welfare officer at Tabulam, asked Mr Bert Walker, Station council president, to arrange for residents to:

- set a time limit on children's viewing (to prevent interference with schoolwork and sleep);
- place a responsible person in charge of the set at each viewing (to prevent mishandling by children); and
- obtain voluntary workers to keep the hall clean.

All these requests have been complied with by the people of the Station. The hall is always clean and tidy, and children are not allowed into the hall after 8 p.m. in the evenings preceding school days unless accompanied by a parent.

Mrs E. Seymour, matron at Tabulam, said that some of the older residents had taken a lively interest in T.V., and particularly liked the way news was explained in the T.V. newsreel form. Several old-age pensioners, who had seldom left their homes in years, now walked to the hall in the evenings to watch television.

One old man watches everything from cartoons to newsreels, then goes home and describes in detail what he has seen to members of his household. Before the television set arrived, this man could not find entertainment and used to spend most of his time just sitting about the Station; he doesn't read or write, and till a few months ago had never seen a movie picture.

Mrs Kate Robinson, speaking about the T.V. set, said "It's the best thing that ever happened to the people on this Station". And you can be sure that the old man agrees with her.

PEN-FRIENDS WANTED

Christine Anne Frankham, of Richmond Main Colliery, Kurri Kurri (near Newcastle), would like to write to a pen-friend. She will be 11 years old on 26 July, and learns tap and ballet dancing, and the piano.

Michael McDougall (see picture), c/o W. Dootson, Private Mail Bag, Woolgoolga, N.S.W., would like to correspond with a girl about 16 years of age. Michael is 18, and plays the guitar in the Rambling Sea Foam dance band.

