



Smoke Signals

TIP FOR THE MONTH Keep colds at bay by baking an orange. Cut into an orange to form a lid and put in a teaspoon of lime juice; bake until thoroughly heated, then eat.

► The new 30,000-acre national park at Hawkesbury River has been named after the Dharugs—an Aboriginal tribe which lived in the area until it became extinct between 1850 and 1870. The tribe's origin and much of its culture is obscure, but Mr Frederick McCarthy, principal of the Institute of Aboriginal Studies in Canberra, said that it was a strong and virile tribe of skilled hunters. They lived mainly in the forests along the Hawkesbury and Nepean Rivers. Governor Phillip came into contact with them during his early explorations of the Nepean in the 1790's. Mr McCarthy will excavate, examine shells and animal bones in the area, and will be able to estimate the age of the tribe and how long it inhabited the Hawkesbury.

► Prizemoney of \$70 will be awarded to the exhibitor of the best bark picture at next year's Royal Easter Show. Second and third places will be worth \$20 and \$10. The prizemoney was donated by Mr Rupert F. Swan, of Clifton Gardens, an R.A.S. councillor and member of the arts and crafts committee.

► Mr Jeff Lewry, of Albury, plans to include "boomergolf" as a contest in the Riverina and north-eastern Victoria Boomerang Championships he is arranging for September. Because of apparent disinterest by the public in boomerang throwing, the new sport of boomergolf was originated to give the activity a new twist. Mr Lewry said: "All you need is either 1, 9 or 18 helium-filled balloons and a returning boomerang. You stand up to 35 yards away and throw the boomerang at the suspended balloon floating in the air. If you miss the first time, you keep going until you burst the balloon. The number of throws is your score for the hole." Mr Lewry thinks that some frustrated golfers might throw away their clubs to try for a balloon-in-one at boomergolf.

► Exploitation of manganese deposits by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company on Groote Eylandt, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, has proved two things. One is that Australian capital and know-how can contribute to developing the North at least as effectively as foreign capital and knowledge. The second important thing is that the Aborigines there, who previously had little contact with Europeans, make good workers and need no special treatment. The Company pays the Aborigines more than ten times as much a week as it is required by law, and even encourages workers to bring their wives and families into the community the Company has created. B.H.P.'s social experiment may have far-reaching consequences.

► Aboriginal choirs at the North Australian Eisteddfod held in Darwin in July were "magnificent", according to the judge, Dr W. Lovelock. He said he was amazed at the excellence of their music. A junior choir from Elcho Island, in north-eastern Arnhem Land, was "quite magnificent", Dr Lovelock said. After hearing another concert by a group from Bathurst Island he said: "Give them any marks you like—go to 100".

► Fred Powell and Harold Keed's boomerang factory at Peak Hill was erected early in July and is producing boomerangs, spears, woomeras, shields and nulla nullas for export. Present output of boomerangs is 50 a day. The two partners were given a \$2,000 State Government loan in January under the "decentralization of industry" plan; the Aborigines Welfare Board, acting on advice from Dubbo area welfare officer Mr Harry Kitching, helped get the loan approved. The one-storey, steel-framed factory measures 42 ft x 24 ft; it has a concrete floor, and because of its prefabricated construction was put up in two days. Messrs Powell and Keed hope to extend their activities to include the polishing of gemstones.