



Smoke Signals

TIP FOR THE MONTH. An old motor car cylinder head makes a good workshop anvil; its flat surface is solid for shaping or hammering metal, and spark plug and stud holes serve as openings for knocking out rivets, pins or bolts.

▶ David Kerin, 22-year-old blind physiotherapist who spent 5 years studying in London, has joined the staff of Bankstown District Hospital. David returned to Australia last year (see *Dawn*, January, 1968).

▶ Under the heading "Eggs-actly", the Western Australian Department of Native Welfare's publication *Newsletter* carried this item: "Recently, in an effort to meet the heavy tourist demand for carved emu eggs, the harassed Project Officer at the Department's Stock Centre in Perth sent out an urgent call for fresh supplies to our Eastern Division. Superintendent Cornish's pithy reply is worth recording. 'The possibility of obtaining emu eggs in August is so remote as to be unworthy of consideration', he said, '. . . in fact, the eggs have become so mobile as to present a definite traffic hazard. May I suggest that the order be pending until April, as, with only one breeding season per year, this project is strictly seasonal.'"

▶ Gay Gauntlet, winner of the \$29,000 Doomben Ten Thousand in July, was hardly favourite with its 25-1 starting price. But its Aboriginal jockey, well-known "Darby" McCarthy, didn't let that worry him, and Gay Gauntlet got up in the last stride to win by a nose from Academy Star.

▶ Nineteen-year-old Bob Ware, South Australia's first Aboriginal policeman, graduated at Fort Largs Academy in Adelaide late in June. Bob comes from Colona, on the West Coast.

▶ CSIRO scientists in Melbourne have proposed a plastic raincoat to keep Australia's sheep warm in winter. Almost a million sheep a year die from exposure to cold, wind and rain. Everyone knows that a sheep crossed with a kangaroo results in a woolly jumper. But a *plastic* raincoat? Surely the synthetics manufacturers are playing it a bit close to the (sheep's) bone.

▶ Napper, an Aboriginal tracker who works for the police in Northern Territory, lifted a car weighing nearly a ton off a woman trapped under it near the Queensland border early in July. The driver of the car, a woman, was killed in the accident, and her two women companions were injured. After freeing the trapped woman, Napper ran a mile to the Avon Downs police station.

▶ The petrol strike in July created a few good stories. An AMOCO garage at Mona Vale told prospective customers that "All My Octane's Cut Off". The two counters most rushed in a large Sydney store were selling locking caps for petrol tanks, and plastic syphon pumps. And a Melbourne-Sydney traveller hired a taxi cab for the trip because 'planes were grounded.

▶ A steam car returned to the factory in 1906 by its disappointed owner has helped make the family millionaires. The car gave its retired army officer owner a lot of trouble, so the factory returned him its purchase price—\$800—in the form of shares, because the firm was short of cash at the time. A few months ago the firm became a public company, and the shares, which had been gathering dust since 1906, were found by the family to be worth \$2,143,000.