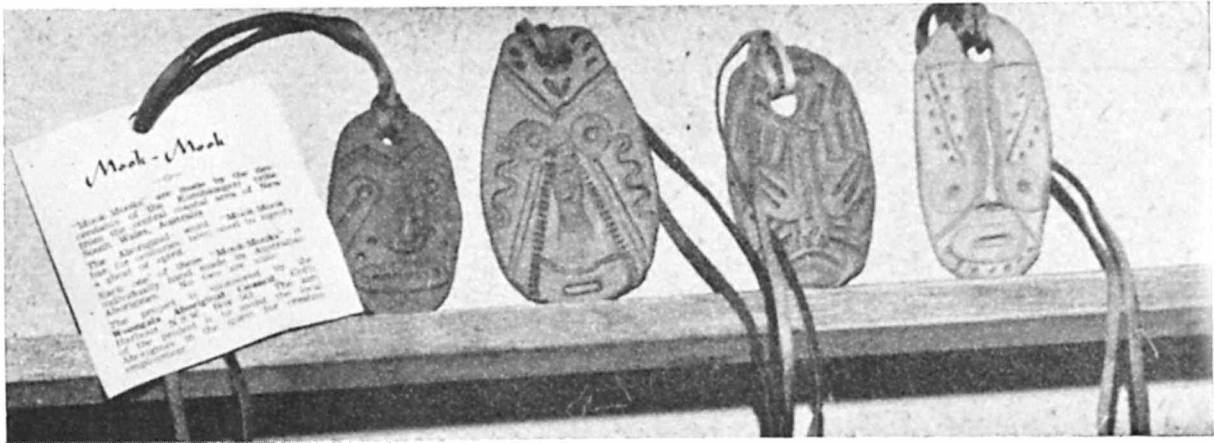

Mook-mooks



Mook-mooks.

To quieten naughty, noisy children, Aboriginal parents used to say something like "Behave yourselves now, or the mook-mooks will get you . . ." Therefore, when one-time art teacher Tony La Spina, who is a Field Officer of the Aboriginal Family Education Centre movement in Coffs Harbour decided to encourage a craft industry amongst Coffs Harbour's Aboriginal community, what better name than "mook-mooks" could be found?

Tony began encouraging silk-screen printing done by the people in 1966-7. Himself a potter, he then hit on the idea of teaching them to make

souvenirs for tourists something similar to Maori Tikis. That is how the baked clay mook-mooks got their beginning.

The venture started in earnest in 1968 at Tony's house, using his kiln. Aboriginal boys used to go there to learn the skills of making the souvenirs. Later the Aboriginal community approached the

Darryl and Douglas making Mook-mooks. The new kiln is just behind them.

Placing the Mook-mooks out to dry.

