

# SMOKE SIGNALS

## ►CATTLE STATION RECEIVES SUBSIDY—

The Aboriginal-owned Yugal Cattle Co. Pty Ltd in the Northern Territory has recently received a grant of \$336,000 from the Commonwealth Government for its development. This is the first Aboriginal cattle station to be developed on a reserve in the Territory. Yugal is a 2,100 square miles lease in the southeastern corner of the Arnhem Land Reserve. The lease was granted almost a year ago on condition that finance for development could be arranged. Considerations taken into account in making the grant included maximum Aboriginal employment and adequate training for Aboriginal employees.

## ►ABORIGINAL THEME IN ART FOR LONDON—

A large kaleidoscopic painting based on Aboriginal designs has been presented to New South Wales House in London by German-born artist Joe Rose. Mr Rose, now in his late fifties, emigrated to Australia in 1957 but is at present back in London. He presented the painting, titled "Australiana", to N.S.W. Agent-General Sir John Pagan after being invested with the British Empire Medal for his services to art. The five-foot square work will hang on the executive floor of the new N.S.W. House in the Strand. Mr Rose describes the work as a kaleidoscopic blend of the old Australian mysticism of the Aborigines with modern ideas. Painted in Sydney 2 years ago, it was first hung in Sydney's Macquarie Gallery during an exhibition by the artist in 1971.

## ►ASSISTANCE TO PURFLEET GIFT SHOP—

Financial assistance has been arranged for the Gillawarra Gift Shop on Purfleet Aboriginal Reserve, near Taree. The Department of Child Welfare has made \$2,000 available to help with renovations and extensions to the shop. Representations are also being made to the Commonwealth Government for further assistance for the undertaking.

## ►MAORI LAND PLAN—

A New Zealand lawyer, Mr Bruce Paton of Wellington, has recently proposed a scheme which would allow the Maoris to start buying back New Zealand. The plan involves the establishment of sixteen Maori regional land companies to buy up European city properties. The sixteen groups would be regionally based and would own a

company for national-type investments. The groups would sell shares to Maoris and exchange them for existing Maori land surrendered to them. They would also get capital funds from grants which the Government makes through the already existing Maori Education Foundation and the Maori Purposes Fund Board. Instead of the present system of Government agencies acquiring what are considered "uneconomic interests" held by Maoris and paying compensation, small holders could trade their land for shares. Capital injection by the foundation and the Fund Board would earn dividends from the land companies, thereby providing more money for Maori education and general welfare. Where Maoris own land collectively, transfer of such land to the companies would be decided by a majority vote. In addition to transfers of freehold land, traditional Maori land would be invested by statute in the control of the regional companies, not in the Crown. Maoris wishing to retain their lands would not have to offer them to the companies.

## ►MORNINGTON ISLAND TOURIST ENTERPRISE—

The 700 people on Mornington Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria have formed themselves into a



*Miss Vanessa Dennis, aged 18 months, from the mission station at Walgett*