

LETS HAVE A

HAIR CUT PARTY—continued.

School teaching in little bush schools certainly meant a lot more than merely teaching reading, writing and arithmetic.

Many people still living will remember the basin crop, a popular type of haircut in the early days. It was about the simplest method of cutting a man's hair.

A pudding basin or similar utensil was merely placed on the man's head, and any hair protruding around the edges of the basin was cut off as neatly as possible. This method of cutting hair led to complications though.

One woman who used a metal basin on her husband's head found she could not get it off again, so the husband had to harness the horse and drive 16 miles into town to get a plumber to cut the basin off his head.

Despite rapidly changing hair styles it is unlikely that fashions will ever revert to the days when boys wore their hair in long curls until about three or four years of age.

Up to the days of World War I, women took great pride in their children's hair, particularly if it was naturally curly. Eventually there came the day when junior's hair had to be cut. Mother curled it nicely before Dad got to work with the scissors.

Each curl was carefully fastened with a piece of ribbon before being cut off, and then the curls were packed away in drawers or between the pages of books.

Some were sent to friends in distant parts to let them see what lovely hair junior had before it was cut off.

In many country homes today some of these curls are stored carefully by the older generation. One old lady, now in her eighties, cherishes the curls of a son, who was later killed in World War I, and on each birthday the curls are taken out and placed beside his photographs.

Modern motor cars and better roads have done away with the amateur bush barber, for despite the rise in costs, outback families now get their hair cut whenever they go to town to do some shopping.

Even the Tree of Knowledge has disappeared. It was ringbarked and finally cut up for firewood. No longer do farmers gather under it to discuss topics of the day. The radio seems to have killed that pleasant bush custom, too.

Durable row markers for the garden can be made from short lengths of water pipe and spring-type clothes pegs. Drive the pipe into the ground and insert one leg of the clothespeg in the end of the pipe. Then catch an empty seed package in the jaws of the clothespeg to mark the crop. An alternative is to fasten the clothespeg to the top of a wooden stake with a screw or nail.

THE CABBAGE TREE ISLAND YOUNGER SET

The Cabbage Tree Island Younger Set is being enjoyed by the young folk. Apart from active ball games, the main highlights of the Club are the recently purchased and very popular table-tennis, quoits, snakes and ladders, ludo, drafts and race game. Meetings are held every Wednesday night and the Club has its own President, Vice-President and Secretary, elected by the members. Minutes on the various social functions are read and new suggestions for entertainments put forward.

Cane work is very popular, and some of the lucky youngsters have made trays and shopping baskets and hope soon to commence flower making.



Dawn Johnston, of Palm Island, finds a nice sunny spot and got busy making a palm leaf hat.

OLD DAYS AT CUMEROONGUNGA

Writing to *Dawn*, Mr. A. W. Jinks of North Stockton says:

"It was interesting to me to learn of the transfer of some of the houses from Cumeroongunga to Moama (N.S.W.) because during 1907-1908, when I was the Minister of the Echuca Baptist Church, I conducted divine services at that station.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris, assisted by their able daughter, supervised that large station, and helped me to arrange social and other functions.

Cumeroongunga then was laid out as an excellent township, with an overhead water supply, a store, a post office, and other amenities.

A medical officer was in weekly attendance, but the health of the residents, who kept their homes in a clean condition, was of a high standard.

I can never forget the happy times experienced with the aborigines who took an intelligent and enthusiastic interest in church services and concerts."