
Smoke Signals

► In Central Australia moves are being made to alter the council structure on reserves. At Ernabella the council decided to change its structure. In the future the people will choose an advisory council to consult regularly with the superintendent and deal with day to day matters. Subcommittees relating to different work areas will plan work and development in these areas and they will send representatives to a general council to meet every 2 months on matters of co-ordination and policy. It is aimed to gradually shift the authority from this general council (which will have equal representation of staff and Aboriginal people) to the advisory council (all Aboriginal).

► In February we asked for a recipe for the Bogong moths. One of *New Dawn's* readers has come forward to meet the request. The Aborigines of the Monaro are reputed to have feasted on the moths during the summer months. The "sweet, nutty and nourishing" moths would migrate into the mountains in the springtime. In the early part of their journey they feed on the spring blossoms but once in the tablelands they take little or no food. They rest in hordes in dark crevices and caves. Towards the end of summer they begin to return to the plains, where they mate and feed on the crops. But come spring they return to the mountains, fat, nourishing and tasty. To catch the moths the Aborigines made "smothered" fires on the rock, suffocated the moths with smoke and then collected them in thousands. After that they allowed the fire to burn to ash, cleared the ash away, placed the moths on the heated rock or ground and stirred them about until the wings came off. Finally, they placed the moths on pieces of bark and winnowed them, to separate the dust and wings from the fatty bodies. The moths were then ready to be eaten, or pounded into lumps of fat and carried away.

► The Christian Youth Work Camp consisting of eighty people working 14 hours a day for 3 weeks recently completed the construction of two houses for Aboriginal families in the Casino area. Mr and Mrs Lindsay Gordon, of Old Bonalbo, and Mrs Alma Roberts, of Urbenville, will live in the four-bedroom homes. The spacious homes are equipped with refrigerator and hot water services. The Christian Youth group which built them comprised eighty young people from all walks of life, about an equal number of boys and girls, the youngest a lad of 17 and the oldest, a teacher well into his 30's.

The camp leader was Mr Roger Dadd and the work leader Mr Tim Seale. A crowd of 22 defied rainy weather to attend the opening performed by the Hon. R. W. Manyweathers M.L.C. on behalf of the Minister. His wife is president of the local Aboriginal Welfare Group. The opening was also attended by the Mayor of Casino, Ald. J. Lane.

► The Minister for the Environment, Aborigines and the Arts, The Hon. Peter Howson M.H.R., has approved a grant of \$143,500 to be paid over the next 3 years to South Australia's Flinders University to finance an Aboriginal community development programme. The programme is part of a pilot project at Point Pearce Reserve in South Australia which began in July.

► Four soccer fields and three cricket pitches are among the facilities at the Pioneer Park sporting and recreation complex at Wellington which was recently opened by the Hon. John L. Waddy, Minister for Child Welfare and Social Welfare. Planning for the scheme began in 1967 and work was carried out in consultation with local community groups. The 18-acre complex provides for a road system, parking facilities, amenities, buildings, and three picnic tourist areas. There is also provision for the planting of lawns, trees and shrubs. Further facilities are to be provided as funds become available. \$35,000 has already been spent by Wellington Shire Council. Six Aborigines were employed on the project as a result of a \$12,000 grant received by the Council under Aboriginal Employment Relief Scheme. In all fifty-nine Aborigines are employed by Wellington Council under the scheme.

► Recently 40 new leases have been granted to Aborigines and Aboriginal groups on reserves in the Northern Territory. This brings to 109 the number granted since the commencement of the new legislation at the beginning of last year. The two largest of the new leases are for pastoral projects in the Top End. The Aboriginal Gulperan Pastoral Company will have a leasehold of an area of 2,290 square miles. Daly River Pastoral Company will have 1,126 square miles. Of the other 38 leases, which were approved as special purpose leases, 23 were for residential use, 13 for mission purposes, one for a club and meeting rooms at Bathurst Island, and one for a recreation building and sports courts at Port Kembla.