STATE
LOAN
BOOSTS
BOOMERANG
BUSINESS

A recent picture of Fred Powell
explaining boomerang construction to
Mr J. Buck, of the
Aborigines Welfare Board

The State Government, following an approach
to it by Mr H. S. Kitching, area welfare officer at
Dubbo, has agreed to grant its first loan for the
expansion of an Aboriginal-owned and operated
factory to exploit the market for boomerangs and
other native crafts.

The Minister for Decentralisation and Develop-
ment, Mr J. B. Fuller, M.L.C., gave details of the
project on 13 January.

Mr Fuller said that the loan had been approved
for Mr H. Keed and Mr F. Powell, who already
make boomerangs, woomeras and other souvenirs
on a limited scale at Peak Hill in central western
New South Wales.

The new factory would enable considerable
expansion.

“Mr Keed and Mr Powell are already working
on an order for 1,000 boomerangs and have been
approached to manufacture for a market in the
United States,” Mr Fuller said.

“Most of the boomerangs are of the return variety
and are made from local timbers. Some, purely
souvenirs, are made from 3-ply.”

Mr Powell has become well-known to many
people through his displays for tourists taken to
Peak Hill by Airlines of New South Wales, as well as
for his appearances on television throughout
Australia.

Mr Fuller said he was pleased that this assistance
could be offered to a group who could provide a
local industry important to Peak Hill, and which
had even greater significance in its recognition of
the skill and enterprise of the Aborigines of New
South Wales.