FROM GOODOOGA

The four young people pictured on this page are Tom Shillingsworth, Loreen Shillingsworth, Serina Powell and Doris Shillingsworth, of Goodooga. The town’s location is clearly indicated by the signpost. Tom and Serina are in first form of high school this year. Loreen has been involved in nursing for the past 5 years. Doris sat for her fifth form exams at a Potts Point convent in Sydney last year.

ELECTIONS FOR N.A.C.C.

Preparations are currently in progress for the election of the Commonwealth Government’s National Aboriginal Consultative Committee. The NACC will advise the Government on most matters relating to Aboriginal affairs. It will consist of about thirty-four members elected throughout the country. N.S.W., Queensland, W.A., and the Northern Territory will each have six representatives, S.A. five, Victoria four, and Tasmania one. The six electorates in New South Wales consist roughly of the North Coast and Tablelands; Northwest; Central West; South Coast and Southwest; Far West; and Sydney. At present electoral rolls containing names of people in each electorate are being prepared. It is expected that the election will be held in about 2 or 3 months time. Earlier in the year the Federal Government set up an interim Consultative Committee pending the establishment of an elected body. The interim group and its steering committee have met several times in Canberra and have been involved in organizing the elections.

VICTORY AT NOWRA

A dispute over discrimination at hotels in Nowra in May eventually ended in a victory for the Aboriginal community. Certain hotels had been excluding Aborigines from some of their bars. When the segregation was disclosed the hotels faced the threat of a union boycott until the discriminatory policy was abandoned. A meeting ensued as a result of which the hotels agreed to drop their policy and apologize to the people who had been its victims. Bernie Longbottom, a spokesman for the local Aboriginal community, received a written apology from one publican. The letterhead on which the apology was written, carried the inscription, “He profits most who serves best”.

CHURCH GRANTS LAND RIGHTS

About 800 square miles of pastoral leases owned by the Presbyterian Church in the far north of South Australia are to be handed back to the Pitjantjatjara people. With the land they will also receive Ernabella Mission, several houses and about 1,000 cattle. Lying about 800 miles northwest of Adelaide the land is adjacent to the vast North-West Aboriginal Reserve and the Northern Territory border. Everard Park, the station bought by the Federal Government for the Pitjantjatjara last year, is a neighbouring property. The church hopes to complete the transfer of its leases by the end of the year. The