

GREAT CHANCE FOR ABORIGINES

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

by

Professor A. P. Elkin, Vice-Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board

A lady, who had the benefit of a University education, made available to the University Senate some months ago sufficient money for the Sydney University to offer a Scholarship to a person of Aboriginal descent to enable him or her to study for a degree. The Scholarship is quite good financially, and with other facilities which will be forthcoming, will make it possible for the student to live and study under very good conditions. I have had most thoughtful co-operation in this project, in which I am particularly interested.

I hope that some young man, for example, will do the Science Courses, leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science, and qualify for a position as an industrial or scientific chemist, or a physicist; perhaps, if he is good at mathematics, he might do an Engineering Course and take the degree of Bachelor of Engineering. These are all good avenues to permanent, important and interesting employment.

I would suggest one of these two courses, but the young man must be good at mathematics and be interested in such subjects as chemistry and physics, or geology.

As an alternative, an Arts Course could be taken, leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts; then if the student also took the Diploma of Education in the following year, he would be qualified for school-teaching in a High School.

The first step, however, is to pass the Leaving Certificate at the Matriculation standard. Your High School Master can explain this to you. Then, if you do this and win the Scholarship, you must determine to work constantly at the University—though you will also take part in sport and University life. After that, you must aim at making good at your profession.

What a great day it will be for all the Aborigines and people of Aboriginal descent, when the first one of you successfully finishes his University Course! It will encourage many more to matriculate and to attend the University.

You can do this. So I hope those of you who are at High School will work for matriculation, and that parents will encourage their bright children to do so. Don't say, it is of no use. It is all the use in the world. Make good at the University and in your Profession, and everyone will then acknowledge that you can reach the same heights as any other citizen.

For over a quarter of a century I, amongst others, have been working to make conditions more satisfactory for the Aborigines—all over Australia, and to help you all realize your citizenship. I hope to see, while I am still a Professor at the University, one of your young folk as a student here. And why only one?

If you want more information, your teachers or the Welfare Officer, or the Station Manager, or Mr. Saxby could help you. Or you can write to me. My full address is:—

Professor A. P. ELKIN,
The University of Sydney,
Sydney, N.S.W.



Ready for school. Retta and Blanche Ferguson, of Brewarrina.