

HUNTING 'CROCS' FOR A LIVING—*continued.*

In a flash, Rolph, Oliver and the crocodile were struggling in the water and the overturned boat was floating with the tide to the sea.

Rifles, ammunition, spotlights and batteries were at the bottom of the river.

Still clinging for dear life to their first man-eater (and, naturally, concentrating on the bared fangs of the threshing animal) they hadn't noticed what had happened to their gear and the boat.

Rolph suddenly shouted, "The boat!" and struck out after it. Oliver released his hold on the crocodile and went after the boat, too.

The crocodile, meanwhile, sank slowly to the river bottom. They found it three burning days later, floating belly-up and bloated.

They didn't know it then, but they found out later when they bagged their second salt-water crocodile that the flesh isn't as palatable as its fresh-water brother. Old hands mince the yellowish flesh and cook it a la rissole. That's the only way it can be cooked and eaten.

Rolph and Oliver stuck it out for four months in the wilds. During that time they lived off the land. "That part of it was easy," they say. "We had geese, turkey, pig, fish, duck, papaws, mangoes and wonghi plum. It was cheap living out there. All we took with us was tea, sugar, dried milk and flour. We did all right."

They came back to Cairns a few weeks ago, with 140 skins, and well satisfied with themselves.

By standards set by experienced shooters like Vince Vlasoff and Lloyd Grigg (of Cairns) this wasn't a good return. A top-ranking, experienced pair should get upwards of 500 skins over a similar journey and time, at least.

But the resultant cheque squared the outlay for Rolph and Oliver.

"There are plenty of crocodiles left," they say "But it seems there isn't enough for profit."

Now, the two happy migrants—well assimilated into one phase of the Australian way of life, at least—are going back north to Cape York and beyond to New Guinea this year as professional shooters for Vlasoff and Grigg.

That will be a new phase of "assimilation" for them, but they'll make it.

Inland Australia

A LETTER FROM MUDGEES.

Mr. Michael Sawtell, well-known author, traveller, and member of the Aborigines Welfare Board recently gave a talk to pupils of the Mudgee High School on "Inland Australia."

Bruce Hanna a fourth year student, was so impressed he wrote the following composition.

"Although native children do not receive the academic training that we do, they have to pass a 'Leaving Certificate' Examination which requires just as much skill and training as ours. This is the test undergone both before and during the initiation ceremony which each young aboriginal boy has to pass through, and there are no failures. The boy must show a perfect knowledge of tracks of animals and human beings, of the habits of bush creatures, and of all bush lore; he must show no fear under severe tests, and must not flinch from pain inflicted on him in the test.

Aborigines have been able to trap dingoes which no white man could; one native did this by smearing fat containing poison around a dead kangaroo. Natives also practise what we know as 'mental healing', by what they call 'singing', and this works remarkable cures indeed. Mr. Sawtell also told us that the way to get on with Aborigines is to laugh and joke with them—they have a very good sense of humour and like to be treated in a joking manner.

In his address, Mr. Sawtell also spoke of the geography of our inland. Most of our maps, he said, do not give us an accurate picture of the inland. For example, the Finke River is really the longest river of the one name in Australia, starting from behind the Macdonnell Ranges.

Lake Eyre nearly always contains water. Every year, more water than it would take to fill Sydney Harbour pours into the lake, and none of it is conserved. The two greatest needs of the Inland are water and trees, and with these the 'desert' can be transformed to a highly productive area; Australian Eucalyptus trees have been used for a similar purpose in the Sahara desert. Inland Australia needs Science: With Science the great reserves of underground water can be tapped, and used for full development of the Inland."

PROUD HOME OWNERS

Congratulations to the following who have completed tenancy agreements with the Board in respect of their cottages:—

Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Station.

Mrs. C. Kelly	— Cottage No. 7.	Mr. Albert Scott	— Cottage No. 11.
	Mr. Arthur Andy	— Cottage No. 13.	

Coffs Harbour Reserve.

Mr. George Cavanagh	— Cottage No. 1.	Mr. Cecil Hart	— Cottage No. 5.
Mrs. A. Carberry	— „ No. 2.	Mr. Lewis Craig	— „ No. 6.
Mr. Percy Harvey	— „ No. 3.	Mr. Keith Smith	— „ No. 7.
Mr. Western Harvey	— „ No. 4.	Mr. James Kelly	— „ No. 8.