



### A BRIDEGROOM SAYS THANK YOU.

Mr. William Green of Tabulam writes . . . . .

"Would you please extend to me, an opportunity of expressing my thanks through our magazine *Dawn*, to the many people who helped to make my wedding ceremony so pleasant.

In particular I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Levine, and Mr. and Mrs. Soorley.

I hope that all those concerned will please accept this as my personal thanks."

## The Battle at Wilcannia

The flood waters are still holding out at Wilcannia, and the Aborigines are finding it hard to battle out an existence without the comforts of their homes. The flood waters reached a new peak, at 36-feet 6-inches stationary, and it is expected that it will be some time before they will take up residence again as the Settlement has gone wild with vegetation, even the gardens have gone wild. There is very little hope of anyone being settled in properly before Christmas as it will take some time to clear the area. A working bee will have to be enlisted to do the job before anyone can move in. The Settlement has been completely surrounded by water, and there is plenty of snakes to get rid of in order to

make the place safe for young children. When it became necessary to strengthen the levee bank to cope with the second rise in the Darling River, sand bags were flown from Sydney to do the job. A gang of volunteer aborigines worked for a whole week filling the bags and placing them in position. They did an excellent job as the flood waters rose nearly to the top of the sand bags, but they never looked like weakening, although they were under a very heavy strain when early wind storms hit the place.

As the St. Theresa Mission School is under water, school has been going on at the Burke Park Show grounds for the larger children only (the younger ones were kept home). There is little doubt the school on the settlement will not open until next year as the ground has had a more severe soaking and it will not dry out properly for months as it is all black soil. Progress on the Settlement has been hampered because of the flood waters, and all sport has been dropped for the present. Those unfortunate people who were just making head-way with their gardens and painting operations had to stop when the flood waters reached the Settlement.

However, a progress committee will be formed when the residents return to the Settlement again, and will endeavour to collect enough funds to erect a Recreation Hall. A women's committee is also working on a cooking class, and a sewing class project, which they expect to be under way as soon as everyone returns. A long range programme has been drawn up by the Progress Committee and we wish them the very best of luck in their venture. Quite a number of the residents are anxious to get back to their homes now that the hot weather is beginning to set in as the water situation on the Town side of the River is rather serious, and very soon the mosquitoes, sandflies, and house flies will be on the move. These pests will cause much discomfort for the people who are camped in tents, but every effort will be made to get them back to their homes as quickly as possible after the flood waters recede.

Transport is one big problem in itself as there are approximately 250 aborigines to move back across the river when it goes down, and very few of them have transport of their own. This means that those who have transport will have to help the rest to move. All this will take time, as some of the people left a lot of their furniture in the houses when they shifted, but the majority took everything with them. However, the spirits have risen considerably now that the water looks like going down, although it will take some time for it to clear off completely.



This young fellow with the southpaw stance is Cyril Bayley, a promising young lightweight from Condobolin.