

FOUR NEW HOUSES FOR ABORIGINES AT PEAK HILL.

For years, the aboriginal folk at Peak Hill have lived in huts which they built on the Common and the Hill near the old mines, but now four families have shifted into four new cottages which the Board has just completed near the Parkes Road at Peak Hill. The cottages look most attractive with their brightly painted exteriors, and they are just as colourful inside too.

The tenants, who are Harold Keed, Robert Read, "Mick" West, and Bill Cohen, are busy settling in, and have not had much time to do any gardening yet, but in a few months time, we hope that the tenants will be able to send us photographs of their new homes and gardens.

NANIMA ABORIGINES SCHOOL, WELLINGTON.

The Minister for Education, the Hon. R. J. Heffron, recently paid a visit to Nanima School, and we hear that he was most impressed by the good work that is being done at that School. The children must have impressed Mr. Heffron very much because he gave them a special holiday.

At the Wellington District Schools Sports held in November the Nanima Aboriginal School won the marching competition in the Staffed Schools section. This is a very creditable result, because the Nanima children were competing against larger schools. They looked very neat in their white shirts with red "N", and pale blue shorts, and sandshoes.

NEW COTTAGES AT COONABARABRAN.

Following on the five cottages which the Board built in White Street, Coonabarabran, four new cottages have just been completed on the New Reserve near the Gunnadah Hill, quite close to the town.

The proud tenants are Bill Sutherland, Mrs. Queenie Robinson, Vin Cain, and George Cain. The tenants are busy clearing their yards, and preparing to plant their gardens; they hope to start fencing in their blocks shortly, and one tenant has already laid a concrete path from his front door.

The builder was Mr. W. French, of Coonabarabran, who was formerly a Manager at Burra Bee Dee Aboriginal Station, Coonabarabran, before he became a building contractor.

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Friends of Mrs. Elaine Waterloo, of Peak Hill, will be sorry to hear that she is suffering from a painful illness in Dubbo Base Hospital, and that she may be some months encased in a suit of plaster of Paris.

WANTED

Pen friends

Three young fellows from Menindee are looking for some pen friends, particularly some of the pretty girls they read about in *Dawn*.

These young men, whose address is c/o. Post Office, Menindee, are Leslie Burke (17), Terry Whyman (20) and James Williams (19).

They are all very fond of music and play the guitar and the mouth organ. How about some letters, girls!

Miss Isa Randall (16), c/o. Post Office, Maclean, is also looking for some pen friends of either sex.

Isa's main hobbies are collecting photos of filmstars, and reading. She is particularly anxious to hear from a former pen friend, Coral Binge.

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Aboriginal Relics in the Sutherland Shire

There is no need to go to the Northern Territory for aborigine relics—Sutherland Shire is full of them.

The amateur historian or sleuth can find many aboriginal rock carvings, shell mounds, or kitchen middens within the Shire.

These relics prove that the area was a favourite settlement of aborigines.

The region now known as Sutherland Shire gave food, water, and natural protection to Australia's earliest inhabitants.

Even after the beginning of white settlement, the area was cut off from Sydney by Port Hacking, and the aborigines continued to live unmolested for some time.

An ardent student of local aboriginal habitations, Mr. F. Cridland, wrote in his book, "The Story of Port Hacking, Cronulla, and the Sutherland Shire":

"Burraneer Bay (now Cronulla) was a favourite haunt of the blacks.

"No part of Port Hacking shows more evidence of continual aboriginal habitation. It was a fine strategic position to hold against the enemy . . .

"They left behind some very fine rock carvings cut with remarkable fidelity and proportion to life.

"The flat rocks on the Gunnamatta side of the Point are exceptionally rich in this respect.

"The Burraneer Bay side is, no doubt, still rich in these treasures, for some of the private properties contain great mounds of half decomposed shell and other debris."

The aboriginal history of the shire is retained in the names of some of the neighbouring places.

These include Gymea, Burraneer, and Gunnamatta.