

I was taken out to Petone where the first settlers landed from England in the year 1840 by a ship called the "Aurora", and there I saw the memorial erected in honour of those pioneers. There is a plaque on which are the names of those who arrived by the "Aurora" in 1840 and among the names are those of my great grandfather James Petherick and his brother. It was interesting to see Wellington as it is now, and try to visualise what it seemed like to those people who arrived so long ago. Had it not been for the friendship of some of the Maoris not many of them would have survived, as there were fierce natives who resented the coming of white folks.

Some things are cheaper than in Australia but on the whole prices are about the same except that butter is two shillings a pound. Wages of course are not so high.

The time passed all too quickly and at last it was time to catch the plane from Wellington to Auckland. A couple of days there visiting the various beaches and the new suburbs that have sprung up, and the date for leaving was due. I caught the plane for Sydney at night and again was fortunate in having a smooth trip, and again I was coming home, for Australia is now my home. Both countries are indeed wonderful and sometimes I think we do not appreciate them fully.

The lights of Sydney were an unforgettable sight viewed from the air. In fact I do not think it would be possible to see anything more beautiful anywhere. A very Happy New Year to you all, especially the sick and lonely.

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This young man with the southpaw stance is Jimmy Daley of Woodenbong.



Outback brotherhood. Billy Kemp, a fencing contractor, and Harold Johnson, both of Wilcannia.

## TABULAM'S PARTY

On Saturday, 22nd December, at 3 p.m., a Christmas Tree Party was given by the Tabulam Station Social Club at the Recreation Hall, and was attended by over 150 persons.

The hall was decorated with multi-coloured plaited streamers, and the Christmas Tree, mounted on the stage, was decorated with balloons, tinsel, and crepe decorations.

A table running the full length of the hall, was decorated with bowls of beautiful flowers grown by the residents in their home gardens, and loaded with plates of sandwiches, cakes and biscuits.

The new hall seats which are painted five different bright colours gave an added brightness to the scene, and every person was able to be seated.

The party started for the children first, and then the adults joined them later. Drinks and icy poles were donated and served by members of the Mallanganee and Tabulam Buffalo Lodge.

After everyone had eaten, Christmas Carols were sung, and individual items were given by station residents to the accompaniment of guitars played by Lance Walker and Robert Caldwell.

Father Christmas presented each child with a parcel of toys, donated by the Casino Branch of the Australian Red Cross, and oranges donated by Mrs. Murray of Tabulam.

Each child was given a bag of sweets, a blow out whistle and a balloon.

Much of the success of this party was due to the efforts of the children who decorated the hall, and the residents who helped with the preparation of sandwiches, etc.

All visitors to the station were later entertained by the Manager and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. F. Levin, at their residence.