

ABORIGINES IN BUSINESS TO ATTEND BUSINESS SCHOOL

Two aborigines recently stepped from a T.A.A. Viscount ready to go to a business school in Sydney.

They were Frank O'Brien, 33, and John Butcher, 36, from the Australian Board of Missions, Lockhart River Mission, in Northern Queensland.

It was their first flight, and the first time they had been any distance from their homes.

At Mascot, they watched television for the first time.

They were in Sydney for a five-day school on leadership and management and organisation of co-operative societies.

They then had various types of training for six months before returning to the mission station.

They are members of the first aboriginal co-operative society in Australia, which has been in operation for five years at Lockhart River Mission.

Frank O'Brien is president of the co-operative and John Butcher is vice-president.

Both are married. John has two children. Both have been luggie skippers.

Frank O'Brien is a motor mechanic, while John Butcher is interested in boatbuilding.

Altogether eight aborigines returned to their communities in Cape York and the Richmond River with fresh ideas of leadership and farming techniques.

The eight men, aged from 35 to 53, took a course in these subjects at the Tranby Co-operative School for aborigines at Glebe, Sydney.

The Chief Secretary (Mr. C. A. Kelly) officially opened the school, which was run by the Australian Board of Missions. It also gave instruction to natives engaged in trades.

The scheme aims at quicker assimilation of aborigines into Australian communities.

Arthur Ferguson, 35, from Cabbage Tree Island, Richmond River, said:

"As soon as we get back we will have to start from scratch.

"Our island covers 110 acres and 130 people live there.

"We intend to form committees to teach our people to farm."

—From "The Evangel".

She's Captain by a Vote!!!

Twelve-year-old Marjorie Tye is the first aboriginal girl to become a form captain at Box Hill Girls' Technical School, Victoria.

Only two of the 5 girls in the form knew Marjorie when she became a student at the beginning of last year.

"I had no idea they would elect me," Marjorie said to-day. "I felt so funny at first—it was so exciting.

"My duties are to see that the room is in order each morning and to collect the rolls.

"If the teacher is away I have to sit in front of the class and keep order."

Marjorie said the girls all obeyed her.

"Sometimes I have to tell some of them two or three times to stop talking before they obey me," she said. "But in the long run they settle down."

Marjorie is one of a family of 11, and came from Mooroopna three years ago.

A bright pupil, she has been able to start her higher education in Melbourne through the help of the Kildonian Presbyterian Children's Home. She lives at the home and is cared for by the sisters there.

—With acknowledgment to "The Evangel".



These two pretty lasses are Hazel Jones and Bonnie Kirby, of Wilcannia