

Aren't We All God's Creatures

A Letter to "Dawn"

Dear Editor,

Will you please allow me a little more space enabling me to speak to "Aboriginal Reader of *Dawn*", who put up such a marvellous defence in the September issue.

Thank you, Mr. Editor, yes, I have a great deal of affection and respect for our Aboriginal people. Through knowing them I feel sure that we white people will become much more human human-beings.

First of all "Aboriginal Reader" I am sorry if I hurt you in any way; using the term "creature" was not meant to be insulting—for aren't we all God's creatures?

Our old friends at Yamba enjoy talking about their tribes, speaking in their mother tongue, and talking of the days gone by. And we enjoy listening to all they are willing to tell. How sad it is that such a past has to be lost, that the native crafts are no longer done. It seems a pity to me that all the good old things have to go and be forgotten.

Such a well-planned, co-operative and intelligent way of living as the Aborigines had is something to be very proud of, and something we white people could do well to study. Out of the past we must build the future, so, please, all Aborigines, think well about your past, it is something that should not be forgotten.

With your help, "Aboriginal Reader", and people like you who can stand up for their rights, we white people may succeed in getting a better deal for your

people. We have to discover how you feel, think and what you really want. Such letters as yours is just what we want—it is the answer to those white people who say how hopeless it is to do anything about improving the Aborigines' way of living.

Yes, you are forever being cruelly hurt, goodness only knows why. We can't undo the past, but let us pray that from now on, by helping each other, we will come to a greater understanding, and that we will be able to show the rest of the world that coloured and white people are all one when it comes to living and working in this modern world.

So please, "Aboriginal Reader", if you can help me help our Yamba people to "get a fair go", will you do so? This striving has to come from both sides—white people willing to offer the hand of friendship may not always be welcome. We might be considered interfering busybodies, simply because our approach is wrong. We might be trying to hurry things too fast, or going the wrong way about things. We must have your help, help from all Aborigines, and we need it badly if the plight of the Aborigines is to be made better.

We need this help badly, so anyone who can help us please do. All constructive advice will be very welcome. So come on you people let us know how you feel and what we can do for you. I am sure there are lots of white people all ready to help but they just don't know how to go about it.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs. M. E. Plater.
Maclean.



Just a "fence sitter". Joey Kelly, of Balranald



Pretty Dawn Edwards, of Enngonia



Sorry, we don't know the name of this pretty musician