

# WALGETT WANDERINGS

by David Tribe

The aboriginal folk of the Walgett district are certainly putting it on the map.

Three of the "fellows" were recently very successful in the National Aborigines Observance Day Talent Quest. They were Peter Doolan, Colin Hardy, and Robert "Blondie" Parton. Peter Doolan caused a great deal of interest in Sydney with his "bush" guitar (or "bomb" as Peter affectionately calls it).

It consists of a one gallon petrol drum, a broom handle, and two guitar strings. Peter also appeared on T.V. session called "People".

Colin Hardy, of Brewarrina, proved to be very popular with the young people of Sydney. He appeared on Teenage Cabaret, and his singing shows promise for the future.

"Blondie" Parton also excelled with the song "Old Shep".

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Fifteen years old Marie Peters, of Walgett, won first prize in the under 17 years Tribal Type Painting section in the recent National Aborigines Observance Day Art competition—Congratulations, Marie, it was a great effort.

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A Silver Cup Talent Quest recently held at the Walgett R.S.L. Hall by Radio Star Willie Fennell, was won by Beatrice Welsh, of Coonamble, who sang some modern songs beautifully.

Colin Hardy also appeared at this Talent Quest singing "Mary Lou". He came a very close second to Beatrice Welsh.

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Mr. and Mrs. Dupen, missionaries working among the aboriginal folk in the Walgett District have almost finished the bush chapel over on the Namoi River Reserve. It has been made entirely of bush timber cut in the district. It is a direct answer to prayer and a challenge to anyone's faith.

The people of the reserve through this wonderful effort now have a place of worship of their own.

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The Church services at the Mission at Walgett are continuing quite successfully, with Colin Hardy and Harry Greene providing very bright accompaniment on their guitars.

A 4 stone 7 lb. Rugby League Team consisting of aboriginal and white children competed in the Peel Boys' Football Carnival at Tamworth on 5th August. This team was very successful in getting to the finals, but were beaten however, by an even better team. Some of the aboriginal lads who played a good game on the day were George Rose, Danny Rose, Richard Simpson, Arthur McBride, Wally Dixon, and Doug Dixon.

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A team of footballers from the Walgett Mission attended a football carnival at Goodooga. They won the knock-out competition by defeating Goodooga 34-4. Congratulations to the Mission.

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We all deeply regret that Mr. Bob Hippit passed away suddenly while working on one of the stations near Walgett.

He was well liked and respected by all who knew him.



This lovely lass is Fay Nixon, photographed at Cootamundra Baths