



Hello Kids,

You will all have read with pride in this issue the success story of three young aborigines at the Leaving Certificate examinations held last year.

One of the candidates, Michael Bryant, was granted a scholarship by the Education Department and is now at a Teachers' Training College studying to be a school teacher.

Patricia Davis from Casino is in Sydney where the Aborigines Welfare Board has placed her in employment as an office assistant at the Institute of Clinical Pathology laboratories at Lidcombe.

David Kerin, who is blind, plans to go on to the Royal Blind Institute in London to study physiotherapy.

The success of these three young people shows what can be done by our children and the Board is proud to have been able to assist them by way of bursaries.

In N.S.W. every aborigine has the right to the best in education in the same way and on the same level as any other child.

They take the same lessons and the same opportunities are given for them to progress to Leaving Certificate standard and even higher.

Despite these chances we still find many children being encouraged by parents and others to leave school as soon as they reach 15.

Parents who might skip reading our page should be reminded that the Board will help keep children at school, particularly where kids show promise of reaching Intermediate Certificate standard.

The Board assists with fees, text books and uniforms. Bursaries awarded by the Board and other interested groups are intended for this purpose.

The days when aboriginal boys leaving school were able to find only casual jobs on station properties or farms in the country and dead-end tasks as unskilled labour in towns are fast disappearing.

The Public Services—both State and Commonwealth—as well as large city firms and banks are only too anxious to employ boys as clerks and apprentices provided they have reached Intermediate standard.

There are also expanding opportunities for girls in the business world, the nursing profession and other responsible tasks.

That is why education is so vitally important today. The rewards are great and parents would do well to keep in touch with headmasters and teachers who have the interests of their children at heart. The teachers are only too willing to talk over the progress of their pupils and advise on prospects for the future.

In a special message to our page the Chairman of the Board (Mr. Kingsmill) has stressed: "There is room at the top for the aborigine child through education. Let us see more of our students in the teachers' colleges, public services and universities".

I'm sure most parents will back the Board to the limit in that aim but so much is up to you kids. I for one reckon you have what it takes. Let's have more success stories.

Your sincere pal,

Back Cover Caption . . .

Clem Dodd, 12, of Walgett (left) and Donella Waters, 12, of Boggabilla sit inside the jet engine air intake for a close look at a V-Jet.