

LETE'S

AGE

Dear Kids,

By the time you get this issue of *Dawn* you will probably have heard quite a great deal in your schools about preventing bush fires this summer.

Already we have had signs of what promises to be an extremely hot summer. There will be danger everywhere in the bushland when the grass and scrub becomes tinder dry and brittle and ready to flare up at the first spark.

In the past years how often do we read in the newspaper of the vast destruction of land and houses caused by fire. Fauna and flora reserves are completely destroyed. The birds and animals who are the

permanent residents of these reserves are either killed or left without homes.

A large number of fires are caused through the sheer carelessness of some thoughtless person who does not completely put out a fire or tosses an unextinguished cigarette butt or match into the bush.

A number of years ago I can remember the severe bush fire that rushed up the side of the Blue Mountains and burned its way right through the town of Leura.

You can all play your part this summer by being very careful with all kinds of fire, in the home and also in the open. Never play with matches at any time.

You can all play a role as fire-spotters, too. If you happen to see a bush fire, immediately tell your parents so that they can notify the police and action can be taken to prevent loss of property and life.

The story is told of a man who, one day, decided to make a fire in the bush. He wanted to cook his lunch. He did not bother to look for a safe place to make the fire, but built it without protection, close to some ferns and trees.

After his meal he went off without making sure that the fire had been put out properly. A breeze started to blow up and soon some sparks were carried into the ferns and bush nearby. Soon the sparks were fanned into a blaze and within an hour the fire was spreading over a large area.

Luckily a ranger gave the alarm and police and civilians rushed to the place, ready to fight the fire. They brought fire-fighting equipment and worked hard all day and well into the night before the fire was put out. Terrible damage had been done to the bush and to animals and birds.

For many miles around nothing could be seen but burnt trees and blackened earth. The man who had started the fire was found and arrested by the police, but his punishment could not undo the destruction and suffering he had caused.

How true was the statement of a young school pupil one year—"Fire prevention is the business of every man, woman and child in the community."

Cheerio until next month,

Pete

Pen-Friend Wanted



Rachael Murray (pictured) and Jean Bamblett, c.o. 15 Kenna St., Griffith, would like to have some pen-friends, boys and girls. Thanks for your photo, Rachael, and also the one Jean sent me. Unfortunately Jean's was not suitable in size for publishing.
—PETE

Patricia Griffiths, 16, seeking either a boy or a girl as a pen-friend.

Her address is:
Miss Patricia Griffiths,
C.o. Mrs. Gardner,
Killarney,
Wallendbeen, N.S.W.