

Mervyn Bishop Graduates from Photographers' Course



Mervyn Bishop, an Aboriginal, was one of the outstanding students in a group which was the first to graduate from a course in photography at Sydney Technical College.

The first graduates, announced in February, were from the photographic section of the School of Graphic Arts, where they completed a three-years course of four hours a week.

Mr Harry Millen, teacher-in-charge, said: "I have been particularly impressed with the enthusiasm and the standard of work of the photographers enrolled in the pilot group. The standard of work of these young photographers has been particularly high and the experiment has been an unqualified success".

Mr Millen said that one of the outstanding students was an Aboriginal—Mervyn Bishop, 21, from Brewarrina—a cadet photographer on the staff of *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

Mervyn was educated at Brewarrina and at the Dubbo High School. In Dubbo, he boarded at the Holy Trinity Hostel where his fees were met partly by the Aborigines Welfare Board and partly by a bursary scheme supported by members of the staff of *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

The Herald group was organized by the sub-editors who took a keen interest in Mervyn's progress.

When he left Dubbo High School in 1962, Mervyn took a job first as a clerk with the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

But his ambition was to begin a career in the newspaper industry and, in April, 1963, he joined the staff of *The Sydney Morning Herald* as a cadet photographer.

Newspaper photography is an exacting profession demanding a high degree of skill and precision in work frequently done at high speed or in difficult conditions.

The manager of the photographic department at the Herald, Mr Graham Wilkinson, said Mervyn was doing well and was very popular with all members of the photographic and editorial staff.

Mervyn Bishop and the photographic manager of The Sydney Morning Herald, Mr Graham Wilkinson, discuss a negative which Mervyn is about to enlarge. (Picture courtesy The Sydney Morning Herald)