

Walgett Girl Wins Bravery Award

Fourteen-year-old Rhonda June Dennis, of Walgett, has won the N.S.W. Royal Humane Society's certificate of merit for a daring rescue attempt. She will receive the award at a special ceremony in Sydney in September.

Rhonda tried to rescue a four-year-old boy who fell from a weir into Gunidgera Creek, near Wee Waa, on 30th January this year.

The boy was being sucked through an 18-inch weir pipe when Rhonda jumped in and caught him by the ankle. But the water current was too strong and dragged him from Rhonda's grasp; the boy's body was later recovered.

This picture of Rhonda Dennis was taken 2½ years ago at Narrabeen Beach when she was holidaying at the Summer Camp conducted by the Aborigines Welfare Board



Trained Dolphins Helped Aboriginal Fishermen

Gold Coast journalist Scott Derrick, responding to *Dawn's* plea for letters from readers, here describes the intriguing way in which north coast Aborigines many years ago trained dolphins to herd mullet schools close inshore to waiting fishermen.

"On the Gold Coast," Mr Derrick said, "there are two 'marine parks'—places where people can go to see performing dolphin (or porpoise, as many people refer to them). Dolphins are highly protected in New South Wales and marine parks must have a permit to hold them in captivity.

"Along the Gold Coast and in Moreton Bay the Aborigines also highly protected the dolphins. They never killed them. But they did use them.

"The dolphins were used in a strange method of fishing. When the mullet were running along the coast they were usually followed by feeding dolphins. The Aborigines somehow had trained the dolphins to respond to their signals, much like the present dolphin trainers do. Upon the Aboriginal hunters' signals the dolphins rounded the mullet close inshore and the hunters swept in to make their catch.

"As a reward the Aborigines always threw back some of the catch to the dolphins. This reward system is still used today by dolphin trainers in the marine parks.

"Early settlers have recorded that the Aborigines knew their dolphins so well they even had individual names for some of the animals."