

Smoke Signals

► Rehearsals for the re-enactment of Captain Cook's landing at Kurnell, which was part of the Bi-Centenary Celebrations held in Sydney, were not altogether uneventful. During one rehearsal recently, Freddy Beale, Albert Brown, Stan Roach, Vince Sullivan, Ben Blakeley, and Ken Colbung, who played the six Aboriginal fishermen, were out in their bark canoes spearing fish. The script called for Albert Brown to dive into the sea to grab one of the speared fish. As he was trying to get back into the boat, the elastic in his pants broke. His struggles to save the situation resulted in his pants wrapping themselves firmly around his ankles. There was no help to be got from his mates, either. They were safely in the boat, nearly killing themselves laughing!

► *The taming of the editor:* Not fancying the idea of being killed in the crush of people at Kurnell on Captain Cook day (29th April) I decided to go to La Perouse to watch the wreath-throwing ceremony in memory of the vanished tribes. At one stage one of the leaders yelled from the beach: "Righto you Kuris, get down here!" After his call, a group of students and others began to make their way down to the beach with the Kuris. Noticing a Kuri standing next to me wearing a red head band, I innocently asked him "What about the gubs, are they in it?" "Agh," said the disgusted Kuri, "They're always in it." Up shut one thoroughly squashed editor.

● *Cooking problems?* If you make your stew or soup too salty, add a small teaspoon of brown sugar and the salty taste will disappear.

► Aborigines ask: "Why don't the authorities employ more Aborigines as District Officers or Employment Officers?" The point is that these and similar positions are public service jobs. This means that they are pegged to an educational standard. For example, to become a District Officer in the Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare, an applicant has to have at least a Leaving Certificate or better. Then he may be selected from hundreds of applicants to do a special one year's District Officers Training Course.

Aborigines can get jobs like these as well as anyone else, provided that they have equal qualifications. That means that you must be prepared to stay at school and climb up, in competition with the general community.

► One night recently I went to the Alexandria Basketball Stadium to photograph an Aboriginal girls team, the *Tullawongs*. They are one of the seven teams competing in the Western Suburbs Basketball Association's men's rules basketball competition. Apparently they haven't been going too well—something they will tell you with great glee. They put it down to the fact that they need more players, at least three more. With this in mind, the Tullawongs instantly tried to con me into playing for them. The trouble is, that I am incredibly unathletic and frankly, too lazy. But if people like Gwen Williams would like to join the team, it would certainly help!

● The following extracts are from accident claim forms. They are reported by insurance companies.

"I knocked over a man. He admitted it was his fault, as he had been run over before."

"I thought my side window was open but it was up as I found out when I put my head through it."

"A cow wandered into my car. I was afterwards informed that the cow was halfwitted."

"I heard a horn blowing and was struck in the back. A lady was evidently trying to pass me."

"Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a stationary tree I haven't got."

People sure mix themselves up, don't they?

► Details of a scheme to rehouse Aborigines at La Perouse reserve was announced by the Commonwealth and State Governments on 1st May. The scheme involved the building of 28 houses for families and 4 units for old people, at a cost of \$350,000. The whole reserve is to be landscaped and parts of it will become parkland.

A \$70,000 cultural centre—which the Commonwealth will provide—will include a community hall, library, study centre, and facilities for continuing social welfare work.