

# SMOKE SIGNALS



*Pastor Doug Nicholls addressing the crowd at the launching of *IDENTITY* on July 5*

► On July 5th the Aboriginal Publications Foundation launched its new magazine, *IDENTITY*, at the Chevron Hotel in Sydney. The Foundation Secretary, Mr Charles Perkins, said that the magazine, to be published quarterly, would "strive for the identification of the indigenous people and give other Australians a true, sincere understanding of their situation." At present, the activities of the Aboriginal Publications Foundation are subsidized by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, but it is hoped that the Foundation will be financially independent by 1973.

► Mr Willie Shadforth, 53, is the proudest Aboriginal in Australia, according to Queensland's "COURIER MAIL". Shadforth has just knocked back \$1½m. and he couldn't care less. The offer was made in July by a group of Darwin businessmen for Willie's 1,556 square mile property, Seven Emus station, which fronts the Gulf of Carpentaria. However he has agreed to sell the less valuable southern inland half of Seven Emus, for \$150,000.

The Shadforth story began last century, when a Scottish-born indented convict, Bernard Shadforth, married a Garrwa tribe girl in the Gulf country. One of his sons married back into fullblood Aboriginal membership of the tribe. His son, Willie Shadforth, was born near Seven Emus. Later Willie was to buy Seven Emus and extend it by lease ownership.

Commenting on the partial purchase of the property, Shadforth said, "I didn't mind selling the inland half at this figure. The area does not have any great tribal significance to me. The valuable northern half of Seven Emus is between two good rivers, the Robinson and the Calvert, and has eight streams in between. It fronts for fifty miles on the Gulf just south of McArthur River, where there will be a big Mt Isa mines lead-zinc town one day. I can't put a figure on what I'd take for Seven Emus. I would knock back \$20m. It is my land and I will never let it go. I've got it fixed that my ten children and none of my descendants can ever sell it."

► Seven years ago, a blind full-blood Aborigine, Henry Dongup, was found wandering in the bush near Boyup Brook, 168 miles southeast of Perth. He was taken to the Braille Society in Perth. The Society looked after him until he died. On July 12, Henry's dying wish was granted when his body was taken from Perth to Gnowangerup, 213 miles southeast of the city to be buried amongst his ancestors. He had known that if he was not buried in his home district, the spirits of his relatives would worry about him and his own spirit would get no rest until he was re-united with them. Co-operation between the Department of Native Welfare and the Braille Society has ensured that Henry Dongup's spirit has now come to rest with his people.