



Noel Gillan

► NEW COMMITTEE ELECTED AT BOURKE:

Bourke Aboriginal Advancement Association recently elected a new committee. Noel Gillan, whose picture appears on this page, has been elected President, Bill Reid, Secretary, Allan Thorne, Vice-President, and Sid McKellar and Bernard Coates, Treasurers. There are in addition ten other members of the committee. Bourke Advancement Association is one of the most active committees in the State.

► EXTRA FUNDS FOR N.S.W.:

New South Wales is among the four States which recently received additional grants from the Commonwealth Government for Aboriginal advancement projects for this financial year. In all an extra \$17 million was granted to N.S.W., South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania to improve health and housing and to increase employment for Aborigines. New South Wales received \$1,030,000 of this amount. This includes \$200,000 for housing, \$80,000 for health, \$30,000 for Aboriginal nurses and training, and an extra \$750,000 for special works projects through shire councils, i.e. rural relief work.

► AID FOR TURTLE AND CROCODILE FARMS:

The Commonwealth Capital Fund for Aboriginal Enterprises has allocated \$100,000 to purchase shares in a company being formed to market the produce from more than sixty turtle and crocodile farms being developed in Northern Australia by Aborigines and islanders. The farming of turtles and crocodiles provides a useful avenue of economic advancement for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders who have a traditional association with

the sea. Farming also assists in conserving the population of these reptiles, which is believed to be dwindling as a result of indiscriminate hunting. The company, Aboriginal and Island Marketing Pty Ltd, will be initially engaged in the farming and marketing of the 4,000-5,000 green sea and hawksbill turtles which are now reaching a marketable stage. Initially, the shareholding of the company will be held in the corporate name of the Capital Fund but arrangements will be made for ownership to be vested in Aboriginal and Islander incorporated bodies as soon as practicable. Pilot farms have been established in selected areas and Aborigines and islanders trained as farmers to conduct their farms on a commercial basis. The project provides employment for 65 people and is expected to support 300 to 400 people in the course of this year. Since the project started 60 turtle farms have been established in North Queensland and 3 in Western Australia. In North Queensland, 2 crocodile farms have also been established.

► LAST VESTIGE OF DISCRIMINATION:

The Migration Bill 1973 recently introduced in Federal Parliament removes the last vestige of discrimination against Aborigines in Commonwealth legislation. Prior to this Act, Aborigines wishing to go overseas had to obtain special permission. Under the new legislation black Australians will only be subject to the same conditions as anyone else wanting to leave the country.

► COMMUNITIES MAKE TELEVISION SHOWS:

Four Aboriginal communities in Central Australia have begun making their own television shows and two more in the Top End plan to do the same. The communities at Yuendumu, Amoonguna, Papunya and Haasts Bluff settlements bought their TV equipment last year, and now the Bamyili and Snake Bay people are planning to buy some. The social club or parents and friends association of the community in each case collected about \$300 and got a grant of \$1,500 from the Aborigines Benefit Trust Fund to buy the basic gear. Each community knows it must pay the cost of running its television equipment and repairing it and of buying anything it needs to improve it. The groups film local sport, corroborees, concerts, news and anything of local interest and show it on their closed circuit community television sets. They also hire or borrow videotapes of programmes from television studios in other parts of Australia. Most of the groups have at least two showings a week of programmes they have recorded themselves or ones they have got from television studios.