

# Smoke Signals

## ► W.A. INTEGRATES WITH CANBERRA

Agreement has been reached between the Australian and Western Australian Governments on the integration of the W.A. Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority with the Australian Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Legislation has been introduced into the W.A. Parliament to allow for the new arrangement. The proposed arrangement provides for most of the staff of the Planning Authority to be transferred to the Department and for the Commissioner for Aboriginal Affairs Planning to become the Director of the W.A. Office of the Department. He would continue to act as Commissioner and to be responsible to the W.A. Minister in relation to his responsibility under the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act. He will only exercise many of these powers after prior consultation with the federal Government.

## ► SPORTS AWARD TO MOREE BOY

The accompanying photo is that of Bernie Briggs of Moree who won the North West Area Education Department's sports boy of the year award for 1973. He was presented with the award at a special dinner at Tamworth. Quietly spoken, Bernie is

*Bernie Briggs of Moree*



*NEW DAWN, March, 1974*

15, stands 5 ft 10 in and tips the scales at 12 stone. He amassed an enviable record last year, despite that in many instances he had to concede up to a couple of years in age. At school he played second row in the successful Moree High University Shield Rugby League Team; was a member of the Moree High 16 years team that won their division of the all-schools carnival; and won the 15 years javelin event at this year's CHS Athletic Championships in Sydney. In open sport he was a member of the undefeated Moree Rugby League under 18 team and is currently enjoying an extraordinarily successful season in the Moree first grade cricket competition. Bernie has been offered a cricketering scholarship at a private school in Queensland, which he is thinking of taking up next year. Although concentrating a lot on football and cricket, he is not neglecting his schoolwork—he got mostly advanced passes at the final third form exams last year. Bernie is known around Moree as a quiet, modest person, well-liked and respected. He is the son of Mr and Mrs Noel Briggs and is one of six children. His sisters, Barbara and Shirley, have represented both Moree and New England at basketball and another sister, Evonne, has also played basketball for Moree. Barbara works at the Moree office of the State Housing Commission.

## ► LAND SETTLEMENT FOR ALASKAN NATIVES

Under the recently enacted Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Alaska natives—Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts—have acquired land, money and an interrelated corporate structure of native villages and regions, 40 million acres has been ceded to Alaska natives, a land-oriented people, under the Act. One-twelfth of Alaska will be in their hands starting this year. More than \$962 million will be paid in compensation to the Alaska Native Fund over a period of 11 years. About half of this will come from the U.S. Treasury and the remainder as a result of mineral leases. The money will be distributed quarterly to the Alaska Native Regional Corporations. There are twelve such corporations, covering geographic regions composed of Native people with a common cultural heritage and common interests. There will also be village corporations. Villagers have to incorporate before they become eligible for lands and other benefits under the Act.