



*Mrs Joyce Ellis collects Suzy's prize at the Barraba Baby Show*

## **SMOKE SIGNALS**

### ►BACK COVER

The photo on the back cover of this edition of *New Dawn* is that of Suzy Helen Ellis of Barraba. The photo on this page shows Suzy with her mother, Mrs Joyce Ellis, collecting Suzy's prize at the Barraba Baby Show. She was 11 months old at the time. The Ellis family lives in Douglas Street, Barraba.

### ►WHAT BACKLASH?

There has been considerable publicity over recent months concerning the alleged backlash in the white community to benefits and assistance provided to Aborigines by government. A recent public opinion poll, however, revealed that this backlash is much smaller than was originally thought. The survey showed that only 15 per cent of Australians believe Aborigines are receiving too much financial help, whereas three times as many people (46 per cent) thought Aborigines were not receiving enough help. About one-quarter of the people surveyed thought that the present amount of assistance is about right; and 13 per cent were unsure. The survey also found only a small difference in attitudes to Aborigines between urban and rural dwellers. More young people than older people tended to think Aborigines receive too little assistance. Questioned about the likelihood of racial violence, 54 per cent of people thought it

unlikely, while 41 per cent feared that it could happen. More women thought racial violence was likely than did men. Commenting on the survey the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs said that the "white backlash apparently represented only a minority opinion and very often was generated by those white people who believed they had in some way been disadvantaged by Aboriginal advancement". During the 1960's in America President Johnson once said: "The danger in the white backlash is that it threatens to vest power in the hands of men whose only qualification is their ability to pander to the worst in other men".

### ►ROSEBY PARK GOES TO LAND TRUST

The Minister for Youth and Community Services, Mr R. O. Healey, has approved the transfer of ownership of Roseby Park Reserve, near Nowra, to the Aboriginal Lands Trust. The Lands Trust had applied for title to the reserve following a submission it received from the Jerrinja Aboriginal Tribal Council Housing Company. The company had put forward a plan to demolish the existing dilapidated homes on the reserve and to build new houses for the residents. Once the details of the transfer of the land to the Trust are finalized, it is anticipated that the Trust will offer the company a long-term lease over the area. Roseby Park is the first reserve containing houses managed by the Government to be transferred to the Trust. The Trust had already been offered thirty-nine reserves which were either uninhabited or which contained improvised dwellings. The Lands Trust can be