

STATION SNIPPETS!

The Macleay District Hospital at Kempsey has been well patronised by Bellbrook residents lately.

Muriel Miller, Susie Murray, Janice Graham, David Quinlan and Maisie Kelly, have been patients there but are all well on the road to recovery again now.

Three Bellbrook girls recently accepted permanent employment and are now living at the homes of their employers.

The girls are Chrissie Cohen at Nulla Nulla; Edie McDonald at Comara; and Marlene Little at Uralgurra.

Congratulations, Girls!



While ringbarking trees at Comara last month, David Quinlan was unlucky enough to cut his leg with an axe.

After being taken to Kempsey Hospital to have the wound stitched, he was allowed to return home.

Mr. Dave McDonald, of Sydney, recently spent a holiday at Bellbrook with Mr. Joe Quinlan. It was his first visit to this part of the country and he saw plenty to keep him interested.

When the Burnt Bridge Social Club held a dance in the Station Recreation Hall last month, more than £19 was raised.

This money will go towards the purchase of a new piano for the Hall.

When His Excellency, the Governor of New South Wales, Sir John Northcott and Miss Northcott, recently visited Brewarrina the fifty-two children from the Brewarrina Aboriginal Station School were taken into town in the Station truck.

Children from the Convent school, Central school and the Aboriginal school were assembled in separate groups in front of the dais from which His Excellency delivered an interesting address.

Later, accompanied by the various teachers, he spoke to many children in each group. The Brewarrina children were very shy until His Excellency asked if they would like a holiday and then their "yes" could have been heard two miles away.

The severe winter weather, with its extremely heavy frosts, has laid low many Brewarrina people with colds and serious chest complaints.

Quite a number were admitted to hospital but are now all well again.

Nation's Oldest Aborigine!

A Grand Old Man!

Nearing 100 years of age is Charlie Dennison, an aboriginal resident of the Boggabilla Aboriginal Station, in New South Wales, 14 miles south-east of Goondiwindi. Charlie thus disproves the recent press claim that a man who died in South Australia at the age of 94 was Australia's oldest aboriginal. Charlie can reasonably claim that honour.



Charlie Dennison is 99 years of age and heading for the century. Up to ten years ago he was breaking in horses, and only twelve months ago he was riding round on horseback, and occasionally helping to throw cattle.

Born at Boomi, he has been never more than 100 miles from that centre, and went to the Boggabilla Station fourteen years ago.

Charlie is quite happy at the Station, and so he should be, as it is a model settlement where 300 aborigines of all fractional castes are cared for by the Aborigines Welfare Board.

In charge of the Station is Mr. M. R. Foster, a Londoner, who has been in Australia for many years, and who, with his wife, has the interests of his charges at heart. "We like the work," he told the *Goondiwindi Argus*, adding that in work of this nature one had to have a complete understanding of the duties and the interests of these original Australian citizens.

Charlie's New Pipe.

Charlie Dennison, he said, was quite a favourite at the settlement. "We bought him a new pipe recently," Mr. Foster said.

Mr. Foster took over the Station three years ago, and prior to that had been in charge of two other Aboriginal Stations on the New South Wales south coast.

Hero of our story, Charlie Dennison has numerous descendants and he has been married twice.

Son Fought for Australia.

Outstanding point in this story is the fact that Charlie's son, Albert Dennison, is a veteran of World War I and was overseas with the First A.I.F. Albert is a member of the Goondiwindi R.S.L. sub-branch and marched with ex-service personnel in this year's Anzac Day parade.

