

THE BOYS FROM TABULAM

A DAY OUT IN THE CITY



There are many readers of *Dawn* who have never been to Sydney and never seen the sea. I wonder how many? How many have never left the small town in which they live? Recently, a party of boys and their parents came to Sydney from Tabulam so that the boys could participate in the All Schools Sports, and it was quite an adventure as most of the party had never been away before.

As it was their first visit to Sydney, the Board arranged for them to see something of the city before returning. First of all, they were taken for a ride in an electric train which goes under the ground to the other end of the city. Here, both children and parents were thrilled to have a ride on the long escalators. An escalator is a moving stairway. You just stand still on a step and you are taken to the top without having to move!

Then it was decided to visit the Zoo, and everyone went down to Circular Quay and caught a ferry boat. It was quite exciting to be able to see the Harbour, the Harbour Bridge high overhead, and a large ship which had come all the way from France.

At the Zoo there were so many things to see—animals and birds from all over the world are there—lions, tigers, zebras and, of course, the monkeys. One of the monkeys had a mirror and couldn't understand why he couldn't find another monkey behind the mirror.

All the boys were asked whether they wanted to ride on the merry-go-round, miniature train or the elephant, and they all chose the train. Then everybody rushed off to see the seals fed. Almost as soon as the fish thrown in by the keeper had touched the water, one of the seals gobbled it up.

There were more animals to see then, the crocodile who looked just as if he was smiling in his sleep but who would eat you up if he had the chance, the giraffes with their long necks, the tortoises who live for hundreds of years and big grizzly and polar bears.

Even though there was a storm during the afternoon, nobody minded, and I think the parents were glad to sit down and rest. The Welfare Officer from the Board who was in charge of the party certainly was.

The afternoon came to an end too soon and back across the Harbour in the ferry. On the way, dozens of little sailing boats were passed as they took part in races. Sunday afternoon on Sydney Harbour is always a pretty sight.

After a good rest and a good dinner, the party boarded the train and set off for home. They were all very tired but assured everyone that they would never forget their visit to Sydney.

The Welfare Officer in charge of the outing, Mr. H. J. Green, commented afterwards:—

“The behaviour of both children and adults was excellent. It is a long time since I have found a group of aboriginals so well mannered and they were sincerely appreciative of everything that had been arranged for them.

“The Manager of Tabulam Aboriginal Station and the Teacher-in-Charge of the School can feel justly proud of the members of the visiting party.”



When little Audrey Jane Durnam (5), came across a motherless six weeks old Soay sheep at the London Zoo recently, she was delighted when told she could give the baby its morning bottle.