

The Battle for the ABORIGINES . . .

by

DAME MARY GILMORE, O.B.E.

The conflict between those who seek to white-wash the white man at the expense of the black still goes on, and there is always argument as to how many blacks were here when the white man first came. Some try to make out that the number was comparatively small, whilst others ask that facts be quoted.

When I was young I always heard my elders say that Governor King, in his report to the British Government, estimated there were 1,000,000 natives on the Eastern Coast of Australia. (This figure, I believe, is repeated in Henniker Heaton's "Book of dates").

At this time there was no knowledge of inland N.S.W., Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Central Australia, The Northern Territory, or Northern Queensland.

For another authority: In a missionary report to Exeter Hall in 1840, the number of blacks was given as 1,400,000.

These figures are worth considering and the comment is needless.

CABBAGE TREE ISLANDERS HOME CONSCIOUS

The Aborigines Welfare Board's Policy of erecting modern houses for Aborigines is closely linked with the personal co-operation of the Cabbage Tree Island residents themselves, who in turn furnish and beautify their homes. It is pleasing to note that there has been a positive response made by the residents to further these aims.

Although the station has not made any spectacular advances, the consistent efforts of the residents has warranted the congratulations of the Superintendent, Mr. M. H. Saxby.



"A big smile please," said the cameraman, and Gloria Williams, of Merewether, was only too pleased to oblige.



The unfinished wall provided an ideal perch for Victoria Lang, of Burnt Bridge, when she posed for her photograph with Yvonne Cochrane.