



They say



WALGETT STATION

Much relief is felt in Walgett now that the river is dropping slowly. The town of Walgett is on the Namoi River, but the Aboriginal Station is on the Barwon, five miles below the junction of the Namoi and Barwon rivers, so the Station had higher water than did the town. The river rose to about the height it reached in the 1953 flood.

The main road to the town has been cut off and the Barwon river has been flowing over a long embankment the Station side of the Barwon bridge.

It will be some time before the embankment can be built up again, so meanwhile a sixteen mile detour has to be made when we have to go to town, over a rough bush track.

Water swept up the gullies on either side of the manager's residence and the water pipes which supply the station, normally about five feet above ground in the gully, are under several feet of muddy water.

The water which was expected to hit Walgett with a rush, spread out and slowed down.

No trains could get through for over a fortnight and flour, butter, etc., for the shops, had to be brought by plane. For a while there were neither papers nor mail so we had to depend on the radio for news of the outside world. Station life was enlivened by the visit of two Army Ducks much to the delight of the children.

Some of the Aborigines from the Reserve in the town, were brought out to the sandhills outside the Station. Two youths from there, Bruce Sharpley and Harry Winters, added to the excitement by going out hunting and becoming lost. The Station lorry was out of action so the Manager arranged for Dudley Dennis (senior) to take his lorry out with a search party. It was found later that both youths had arrived at Bairnkine Station some miles away and were safe and well.

Superintendent Macauley a member of the Aborigines' Welfare Board paid a short visit to the Station, while he was doing a survey of some of the flooded areas.

The mosquitoes arrived in clouds and are giving the Manager, Matron and residents of the Station no peace. No spray seems effective. The only time they seem to rest being between 2.30 and 6 o'clock in the mornings.

The residents have cleared the grass from outside their houses and make small fires to smoke them away.

Mr. Green the Welfare Officer, stayed at the Station for six days.

Before the flood, there was heavy rain and the roads became impassable. Jack Murphy became very ill, and it was necessary to get him to hospital, and as the ambulance could not get out, a Land Rover took him in. He is well again now.

When the flood was expected to hit Walgett, everything was packed up and put on shelves or hung up, and it will take some time to sort everything out, but, tedious as such a task is, the residents are thankful that there is not mud and debris to be shovelled away as was the case in many other places.

We would like to remind our readers that "Legacy" is anxious to get in touch with any of our people who are "legatees". A legatee is the widow, orphan or dependant of anyone who served in a theatre of war, and is dead. It does not matter whether the death occurred on active service, or after he left the army.

If you know of anyone who should be legatees, tell the nearest manager, welfare officer, or Returned Servicemen's sub-branch, who will tell you what to do.



How's that for a real fish. Here's one that certainly didn't get away—the proud fisherman is Stanley Murray of Collarenebri.