

SEARCH FOR ABORIGINAL PILOT

Flying Associations Offer

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia is offering a flying scholarship for some lucky aboriginal youth.

In a letter to the Editor of *Dawn*, the Manager of the Association, Mr. Kevin M. Moloney, said

“AOPA represents all aircraft owners and pilots except Airline and Military personnel. It is a non-profit organisation, whose aim is to encourage and develop aviation in Australia . . . mainly in the light aircraft and gliding field.

A Memorial has been founded in honour of our late President, Dr. Mervyn Hall, which each year takes the form of a scholarship or project: e.g., last year a prize was offered for the best design submitted for an ultra light aircraft suitable for home building. This year we propose to sponsor a scholarship to train an aboriginal youth to private or commercial pilot standard. Money to be raised by public subscription.

As aviation is the primary interest of AOPA, the only form of assistance we can offer the aboriginal is as outlined above. As far as we know this is something never before attempted by any member of this race, and the successful conclusion of the project would do much to further the cause of these unfortunate people. We are convinced that there is no basic difference between humanity's races, except opportunity.”

This is a very generous offer and one which will undoubtedly attract a lot of attention.

In the very near future more specific arrangements will be made and aboriginal youths will be advised how they may apply for consideration.



Steps and Stairs! Irene and Lena Gardiner and Aileen Scott, of Tingha.

More Memories of Cootamundra

Another old girl writes

Writing to the Editor of Dawn, Mrs. E. Nicholls, of 7 Caroline Street, Redfern, says . . .

It was with a great deal of interest that I read the memoirs of W. K. Boxsell in the October issue of *Dawn*, as I am one of the girls who was under Matron Lamont, Miss Wales and Miss Owen. Yes, there are still some of the old Cootamundra girls about who remember the old place. We often meet and talk about our beloved Matron and teachers and we have never forgotten them. I don't think we will.

Our love for them has grown no dimmer over the years for their thoughts were always for the girls in their care. We are very grateful to them today for it was their help and guidance that made it possible for us to face the World today and to accept and overcome any task that may confront us, and do it cheerfully.

How well I remember the long hot, dry, summers we used to have and the long walks over the Common with our beloved Miss Owen, listening to her intently as she told us of her homeland Wales, and hearing her sing some of her lovely quaint Welsh songs. I remember how we used to go to Church with Matron Lamont and Miss Wales. How could we ever forget this trio of unselfish women?

I also remember, as if it were only yesterday, little Willie in the watertub, and our little dog Jock who loved to chase snakes. Truly a lot of water has flown under the bridge since those far off days but I am sure all of us will always remember those three very grand women.

All of us who knew them would say to Matron Lamont, Miss Owen and Miss Wales: “We are truly thankful for everything you have done for us and with love and pride, we say, very sincerely, thank you all, Vale.”



Out Shopping! Robyn Crowe, of Gundagai Road, Cootamundra, and her sisters.