



Hallo Kids,

Well, here we are in a brand new Year and let us hope it's going to be a really good one for all of us.

Wouldn't it be really marvellous if this old world of ours could just settle down to peace and prosperity and forget all about wars and troubles for a while . . . even if just for one short year.

First of all, I must say a very sincere thank you to Mrs. N. H. Luschwitz, of Wymann Street, Broken Hill, and Alan Ridgeway, of Rozelle, for those really lovely Xmas cards. I did appreciate them so much.

Just before Xmas I had one of my usual interesting letters from Carol Donovan, of the Racecourse, Bowraville. Carol said, "I had a swell holiday at Coff's Harbour recently with my aunty. The holiday was a kind of celebration for the finish of the intermediate examination. One day we went to Mutton Bird Island and my cousin caught a large groper and a rock cod. Unfortunately, the waves washed the rock cod away but the groper was certainly sweet. It's so hot up here, we almost live in the creek."

Well, thanks indeed for that nice letter, Carol. It's so hot here at present I wouldn't mind being in that creek myself.

Another nice letter came from Mildred Murray, c.o. Mrs. L. Cusack, "Oakleigh," Murringo, via Young. Mildred said "I have settled down in my new position very well except that it is still a bit lonely. Although there are five children here I still miss all the girls at Cootamundra Home. My brother and sister Dorelta and Richard are at Cootamundra and my three brothers Percy, Claude and Alan are at Kinchela.

I went up to the Cootamundra Home for Xmas and enjoyed it very much. On Xmas Eve we all attended the Christmas tree out on the lawn. As we sang Xmas Carols we had the music of the Cootamundra Jazz band in the background. We also had a lot of visitors from the town. After the carols we sang Jingle Bells and old Santa Claus appeared to give us our presents, followed by soft drinks, sandwiches, cakes, sweets, and lots of other good things.

On Xmas Day we all tried our luck at seeing how many threepences we could get out of the pudding, and in the afternoon we went swimming. At night we had dancing, finishing up with Rock'n Roll. It was certainly a grand time."

It certainly must have been Mildred and I am pleased you all had such a fine time. Thanks for your letter and a special prize to you. That's a good start for the New Year isn't it ?

Well kids, another few weeks and many of you will be back at school again so then I suppose I can expect a lot more letters. All the best for the time being and a very Happy New Year.

Your Sincere Pal,

Patriotism has no Colourline

Aborigines in the Army

The September cover of *Dawn* showed five young aboriginal men, proudly wearing the uniform of their country, in the service of their country.

Our caption said "Patriotism knows no colourline". How true that was.

Now we have just had a letter from those five young men, signed by one of them, Private G. E. Hill, and he says:

"We are very grateful to you for publishing our photos in *Dawn* and we would like to thank you for what you said about us. It is our sincere hope that those words will bring more people to realise that in the services there is no such colour bar as that one that exists, unfortunately far too often, in civilian life. We have a duty to carry out, and duty which we hope will be an asset to our people and our country.

So far this year no less than twenty young aboriginal men have volunteered for full-time service for their country. We sincerely hope that we are not the last and that more of our race will follow in our footsteps."

Surely every reader will say "amen" to that and share with these young men, these truly Australian citizens, their pride of race and country.