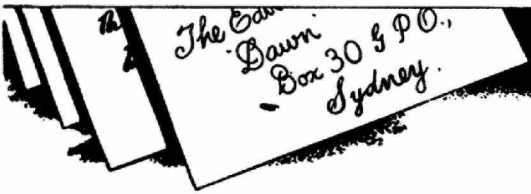




ALONG THE MAIL ROUTE



The Editor
Dawn
Box 30 & P.O.,
Sydney.

HE HELPS HIS LONELY MATES TENNIS CLUB SCHEME

A young aborigine has begun a tennis club for lonely coloured people in Sydney.

The club meets on Friday nights on a hired court in Prince Alfred Park, and has 25 members.

The organiser is 24-year-old Harry Penrith, a clerk with the Agriculture Department.

Harry, a State Rugby Union player last season, hopes the tennis club will help some of the young people of aboriginal blood gain self-confidence, individuality and a sense of responsibility.

There are about 1,000 part-aborigines in Sydney, and about half are young people.

Harry and some friends have financed the club.

"The idea of the club is to find some sort of outlet in a healthy atmosphere," Harry said.

"There are many young dark people in Sydney who come down from the country and who feel lonely here.

"Most of them have an inferiority complex, and this club will get them to feel as though they are someone.

"Because they are lonely they tend to congregate in milk-bars and get into bad company.

Make them important

"We want to encourage them to take on the responsibility of organising the matches and taking charge of the balls so that in a small way they feel important.

"Anyone is welcome at the club, but at present we are keeping it to coloured people.

"When they come out of their shells we plan to ask some of our white friends".

Harry is a non-drinker, a non-smoker and a regular churchgoer.

He lives at the Baptist Hostel at Petersham.

A number of people have offered to help the club with gifts of equipment, but Harry consistently refuses.

"We want to get away from the idea of accepting charity," he said.

"We want to stand on our own feet."

Harry is the product of the programme of the Aborigines Welfare Board, a branch of the Public Service which protects and guides the assimilation of New South Wales' aboriginal population.

Harry went through the Board's school, Kinchela, at Kempsey, and reached Leaving Certificate Standard at Kempsey High School.

He joined the Public Service six years ago.



Esma Madden, of Guyra, and Valda Connors, of Tingha