

Two Aboriginal Women Study in New Zealand

Two women from Box Ridge Aboriginal Reserve, Coraki, left for New Zealand late in March to further their training in care of pre-school children.

They are Mrs Dorothy Knight and Miss Olga Yuke; last November they became the first in Australia to receive Helpers' Certificates.

The certificates were issued by the Northland Association of Play Centres, New Zealand.

"*The Northern Star*", which gave extensive coverage to activities at Box Ridge, said that earlier last year a group of Maori-trained play centre supervisors initiated family education centres at three district Aboriginal reserves—Box Ridge, Tabulam, and Coraki.

The Maori play centre training scheme covers about five years training. It is probably the most extensive system of pre-school training in the world, including the U.S.A. system.

The Coraki women's certificates are for stage one of the work. They had to watch and report on their children's activities.

In New Zealand, they will undergo an intensive program. The first three weeks will be for training, then two weeks visiting, another three weeks training and four weeks for special projects.

Left: Visitors to Box Ridge Aboriginal Reserve late in February included (left to right) Dr E. A. Icton (University of New England), Mrs E. McKenzie (Armidale Mothers' Club), Mr Lex Grey (Sydney University) and Mrs E. Ahoy (president, Armidale Mothers' Club). They are watching children at the reserve's play centre

Right: Box Ridge residents have progressed with the play centre because of their desire to learn, their attitude to the children, and their energy and enthusiasm

photo courtesy *The Northern Star*

