

▼Mr Gordon Simpson photographed with his family at Cowra. Mr Gordon's wife Valli (once a Williams) was at work when this shot was taken. She has worked for many years at the Cowra Hospital and the family now lives in a neat Housing Commission home in central Cowra. Valli believes that the only real Aboriginal advancement possible in the community is self-advancement. "If



you want any of the plums in life you must show the courage and effort needed to get up off your backside, face life squarely and give the plum-tree a thorough shake now and again," she said. Valli, Gordon and their daughter Naomi (shown here) have proved the truth of Valli's comment themselves, by their position in the community and by the respect generally shown them.



## LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I seriously think that Aboriginal culture should be taught as a subject in schools. Very, very few European children know anything about how an Aboriginal lives—he throws a boomerang and a spear and that's about all they know. This state of affairs should not continue.

I know that when I went to school, some twenty years back now, we never learnt anything at all about Aborigines, their tribal ways, Dreaming, walkabouts and so on. We should have been taught these things instead of English history. We are living on Aboriginal soil and must realize that this land has been occupied by Aboriginal people for thousands and thousands of years. The average person is completely ignorant of such facts. That is why I feel that it is about time Aboriginal culture was taught in all schools and taken very seriously by all children.

I have recently bought a book of poems by Kath Walker called *My People*. It has made me realize what the white man has done to the Aboriginal and the way we have upset his way of life and spoilt his country. Almost every poem by Kath Walker has made me ashamed that I am white—something of

which I used to be very proud. Now I feel so guilty and think that every white person living on this soil owes the Aborigine a great debt.

I now have a little, adopted Aboriginal boy and he is going to be proud of being an Aboriginal. By the time he will be able to attend school, I hope that he will be able to learn about his people in his school lessons.

I feel too, that photos should be put up in all school rooms of famous Aboriginal people such as Kath Walker, Charles Perkins, etc.

—MAREE WELSH, 25 Melford St.,  
Thurlstone Park, N.S.W., 2193.

Dear Editor,

I have been asked by many of my friends to write a poem about Evonne Goolagong, as I have had poems printed in the old *DAWN* about Dave Sands, The Ghost of Gravely Hill, The Greenhill Ghost, Kid Macleay and others long forgotten. I thought I would make some of my old friends happy by giving them this little poem.

—R. SHERRY, 61 Yarravel St.,  
South Kempsey, N.S.W., 2440.  
(The poem is printed on page 3—Ed.)