

1973 Sixth Form Seminar

One of the positive achievements of the Aboriginal Secondary Grants Scheme is that more students have been encouraged to stay at school to the sixth form.

In 1972, twenty-two students completed sixth form and this year up to forty students are expected to complete. It is expected that the number will increase further in 1974.

Students who complete sixth form can rightly expect a wider variety of career opportunities open to them. To help these students see the range of possibilities, the Australian Departments of Education and Labour arrange a seminar for the sixth form students who hold secondary grants.

This year the seminar was held in the August vacation and of the forty eligible students, twenty-three attended. Six of these were girls. The students were mostly from country areas as far away as Mullimbimby, Goodooga and Griffith.

Karen Lonsdale (tertiary study grant), Rhonda Keys (Bondi Junction), and Madeline Anderson (tertiary study grant).



They stayed at the Kirinari Hostel, Sylvania, which provided an informal and friendly atmosphere.

A barbeque lunch was held on the first day, but the formal programme commenced next day at the University of New South Wales. There, Mr John Wheeler, a student counsellor, discussed the demands of studying beyond school level. In particular, he mentioned that tertiary study required a greater intensity of work than school.

Inevitably, higher level courses are conducted in the larger cities and consequently country students who choose these courses would have to live away from home.

Later in the day the group visited the N.S.W. Institute of Technology and the Careers Reference Centre. Among other attractions at the institute, the students saw themselves being interviewed on closed circuit television. The Careers Reference Centre provided information on a wide variety of occupations some requiring further study, others not.

On other days, students who were interested in courses at technical colleges were able to discuss their interests with counsellors of the N.S.W. Department of Technical Education. Courses in cooking and social work were among those which interested some of this year's group.

Of the 1972 sixth formers, nearly half have entered teacher training and this year a similar proportion had a meeting with Mr W. Rose, an Assistant Director of the N.S.W. Department of

Harrold Allan (Moree), Danny Chapman (Nerrigundah), Les Smith (Kempsey), Les Ridgeway (Moree), and Joseph Craigie (Narrabri).

