

Dubbo Advancement Committee

Dear Sir,

I am writing to correct an error in the December, 1973, copy of *New Dawn*, in the article starting on page 5 called "Advancement Committee Formed at Dubbo".

The article begins with the sentence, "Over recent months the Dubbo community has established the city's first Aboriginal advancement organization". It goes on to describe the initial meeting in August, 1973.

It is very good that advancement organizations are being started in the towns of N.S.W. for this is the way the people will hold the representatives on the Aborigines Advisory Council and on the Lands Trust to their responsibilities. The Trust and Council were set up to be responsible to the Minister originally and when organizations of Aborigines meet regularly in the various towns they can be the beginning of grassroots contact for the Council and the Trust.

However, Aboriginal organizations at Dubbo began much earlier than *New Dawn* reported.

Perhaps I am being fussy. But Dubbo was the city where William Ferguson set up the N.S.W. Aborigines' Progressive Association in June, 1937. It continued having annual meetings until December, 1941. At these annual conferences the A.P.A. talked on resolutions that Mr Ferguson brought forward on current Aboriginal affairs, and elected a small committee as an executive.

The new advancement organization has a constitution and a working elected committee. In the A.P.A. a great deal of the work depended on the abilities of Mr Ferguson who held the body together. This may possibly be recalled by Mrs P. Gibbs and Mrs Carney whose photo is in the magazine, both living in Dubbo. The present constitutional body spreads the work and means continuation of effort.

I just wanted to put the record straight. My biography of William Ferguson is due to be published in the middle of this year, and will be entitled "Vote Ferguson for Aboriginal Freedom".

Yours faithfully,

Jack Horner.

NEW EMPLOYMENT OFFICES OPENED

The Department of Labour has recently opened agencies of the Commonwealth Employment Service at Brewarrina, Woodenbong and Wilcannia.

The following people have been appointed agents for the Commonwealth Employment Service in these towns:

Mr P. Tobin,
Aboriginal Legal Service,
95C Bathurst Street,
Brewarrina, N.S.W. 2839.

Mr J. J. Smith (Pharmacist),
McPherson Street,
Woodenbong, N.S.W. 2476.

Mr T. Griffin (Newsagent),
Reid Street,
Wilcannia, N.S.W. 2836.

The establishment of an agency at Collarenebri is still under consideration.