



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

This article was originally published in printed form. The journal began in 1973 and was titled *The Aboriginal Child at School*. In 1996 the journal was transformed to an internationally peer-reviewed publication and renamed *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*.

In 2022 *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education* transitioned to fully Open Access and this article is available for use under the license conditions below.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

- 34 -

We very seldom got sick and if we did Dad was always right beside us with the bush medicine, even when we had a toothache, ear-ache, sore eyes, headaches, sores or any cuts on our feet or hands.

We had everything within hand's reach out in the bush. We had shelter wherever we went. We didn't have to carry anything with us.

My opinion is, now as I look back over my shoulder in my memory, that we were all like kings and queens and the bush was our palace.

But now as I bend my head in memory I regret with sorrow that in days of today we can never be kings and queens any more because the bush is no longer our palace because, now today, everywhere you walk, you are always walking on a white man's property and the Aboriginals are always trespassing on private property - a white man's property.

.....

ABORIGINAL AIDE

AT PORT LINCOLN SOUTH PRIMARY



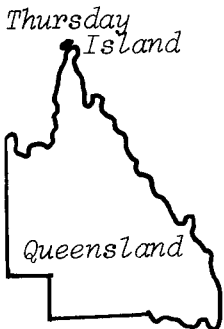
Natalie Bilney,
Teacher Aide,
Port Lincoln South
Primary School,
Port Lincoln S.A.

Working with the Aboriginal Resource Centre gives me an opportunity to learn about, as well as see, actual artifacts that tribal Aboriginal people use every day of their life. The basic aim of the Resource Centre is to give schools on Lower Eyre Peninsula a chance to teach in their school about the ways Aboriginal people live, showing the children the "tools" they use. We are trying to develop a collection of Aboriginal artifacts from all over Australia, slides, books, pictures, tapes and records. It is hoped that eventually the artifacts are sent to other schools using a borrowing system which is in effect.

During the next year, the Centre should be running smoothly

with books, magazines and articles from newspapers being added to scrapbooks etc. This Centre also gives an opportunity to the Aboriginal community to give their ideas and their support, as it is for them as well as the European population. So I would greatly urge all the Aboriginal people to get involved. If they have any old photos that would be of help, or stories they would like taped and left in the Centre they would be welcome to ask for information at the school.

I also like working here because it gives me an opportunity to meet and work with people with totally different ideas to mine, but here both lots of ideas work reasonably good together which makes working here very enjoyable. Camps are also another aspect of my job I like very much, as I go out on them and cook. On these camps I usually get to know the children a lot better. With all this going on in the school (Resource Centre, camps etc.) it makes working here a pleasure.



.....

TEACHER AIDES - THURSDAY ISLAND

Mrs. L. Joseph,
Thursday Is. High School,
Thursday Island

I am of Torres Strait Island descent and I've lived in Torres Strait all my life. I did my schooling at Thursday Island up to Grade 10 standard and worked at the local hospital as an assistant nurse, and dental assistant at the Dental Clinic. I'm married, with four children and I'm working as a Teacher Aide specifically in the Home Economics section with two Home Economics teachers.

There are about 150 children of mixed descent in this school, these being Malaysians, Chinese, Japanese European, Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. Some of the children who come in to do their schooling here have very limited education. These children would be from the surrounding islands where often a very limited education is available.

There are four other aides working here. Their working areas are Science Laboratory, Library, Manual Arts and Audio Visual. There is a high turnover here for the staff, as most of them are European