



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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ABORIGINAL AND

ISLANDER VIEWS



ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER ADVISORY GROUP CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TOWNSVILLE

*C. King

In January this year, the Bishop convened a meeting in Townsville of people who are involved in the education of Aboriginal and Islander children. The purpose of the meeting was to form a Committee to review and co-ordinate Diocesan policy in regards to the education of Aboriginal students.

At its second meeting, the Review and Co-ordinating Committee considered a proposal by the Aboriginal Advisor, Catholic Education Office. The essence of that proposal was that there ought to be an Aboriginal and Islander Group to advise on matters relating to Aboriginal and Islander education. Subsequently the Committee approved of the proposal and a submission was made to the Diocesan Education Council requesting that an Advisory Group be established.

On 2nd June, Education Council recommended to the Bishop that:

1. An Aboriginal and Islander Advisory Group be established as a Sub-committee of the Education Committee.
2. The Advisory Group to have a majority of Aboriginal and Islander representation.
3. The Advisory Group be entrusted with the task of developing policy recommendations to the Education Council on the education of Aborigines and Islanders through negotiations with the relevant groups and authorities.
4. The Advisory Group has the power to second any person necessary to fulfil its task.

* Mr Chris King, Aboriginal Advisor, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Townsville, Qld.

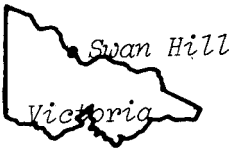
The Bishop subsequently approved Council's recommendation.

The Advisory Group is currently working on developing a philosophical stance in relation to Aboriginal and Islander education. Later the group will examine the practical implications of this philosophical stance.

In future the Advisory Group will meet on the first Monday of every month beginning in July. Any suggestions, thoughts or information would be welcomed by the group and can be forwarded via the office.

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JEMURAJI



Jon Kirby
Aboriginal Teacher Aide
Swan Hill North, Vic.

Our school, Swan Hill North Primary School, held a special day for National Aborigines Week. It was called *Jemuraji*, meaning Today's Dreaming Time. We had 38 Aboriginal activities during the day.

There was assembly at 8.55 to open the day: I had to tell the people what the special day was for. I was very nervous in front of a big crowd of 700 or more people.

Then to start the day off, the Bwungal Cultural Group performed; the people enjoyed their performance immensely. I did not see the show because I was busy organising materials for activities.

Program

10.30 Assembly, before going into groups for their activities. By the time assembly finished I had finished giving out materials.

10.45 Session 1 got underway very smoothly.

11.15 Session 2.