



READ THIS AND THEN SEE IF YOU'RE STILL PROUD TO BE AN AUSTRALIAN. IF YOU'RE NOT, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

# Wantirna C.W.A.

Wantirna C.W.A. shared their birthday party with Mrs Bateman, president of Upper Fern Tree Gully on Thursday afternoon.

Mrs Meredith, president of the C.W.A. branch presented Mrs Bateman with a posy of flowers to mark the occasion. Twenty charming Victorian posies arranged by the president were presented to visitors including Lady Knox, Mrs R. R. Rawson, group president, Miss Money, and group secretary, Mrs Pullen.

Mrs Hilgrove, guest speaker, received a magnificent sheaf of dahlias and the many C.W.A. branches and other organisations present, handed the traditional flowers to Wantirna.

Mrs Hilgrove told of the formation of the Sinhalese equivalent of the C.W.A. which is celebrating 25 years of existence this year. After much spade work during which the men had to be educated into permitting their wives to take part in the group activity, the first meeting was held in a Christian church and was attended by a number of Buddhists as well as Christians. This was the first time that the Buddhist women had entered such a place and was a heartening sign to those who were trying to start the movement on the lines of the British women's institutes.

# Big Bayswater meeting sees the most horrible film made in Australia

Films of conditions so horrible that some parents took their children from the hall were shown at Bayswater on Friday night to an audience of 150.

The films were taken by Mr Grayden, M.L.A., of Western Australia, at the Warburton mission area on a visit about a fortnight ago by himself and Pastor Doug Nicholls, of Melbourne.

Mr Grayden, Pastor Nicholls and Mr W. Onus addressed the meeting at Bayswater, which was organised by the Upwey A.L.P. and presided over by Mr R. R. Rawson, M.L.C.

The films were taken within a few days of statements by the W.A. and Federal Governments that the natives in the area were well-fed and happy and that

their earlier condition which had been investigated by a select committee of the W. A. Parliament had been only seasonal.

## Blind natives walk 600 miles

Mr Grayden told of:

- Three blind natives trying to walk 600 miles for help;
- Two blind women, who searched on their hands and knees for two days to gather enough grass-seed to make one scone;
- A blind woman left beside a tiny pool of water in the desert, without food and still there;
- Children too weak to stand up and bleeding from their mouths with scurvy;
- Forty-three natives in one party so dehydrated from lack of water that it took them three days to pass water after being brought into the mission;
- A native whose foot had rotted off with yaws travelling 150 miles by pole-vaulting along with a stick;
- 700 aboriginals without work or food and denied food by the policy of government and mission alike;

## Die in warrens

- Women digging so deeply down rabbit warrens after food that the warrens collapsed, killing the women;
- Nursing native mothers without food for days, so that their milk dried up and their babies died.

Mr Grayden said, "When a doctor on Heard Island got appendicitis, the Government sent a destroyer to bring him back at a cost of £40,000. But we can't get a Government to do anything to bring these people into somewhere where they can be decently fed."

"The select committee consisted of members of all parties in the Parliament and it was unanimous in its findings. But nothing has happened, except that the Government says these are only seasonal conditions. I have been through the country for at least four years back and it has always been the same."

"The water-holes are only a yard across and 20 miles apart. Parties of natives walk from hole to hole. If two holes are dry they all die because they can live for only two days without water in country where the rainfall is five inches a year and the rate of



Mr. R. R. RAWSON, M.L.C. evaporation 96 inches a year. "No able-bodied adults are given rations, only about 60 children and 20 indigents. The rations are supplied by the Government subsidising the mission which also is short of funds."

"To make the Giles weather station in this area, the Government built a road 150 miles long. There is abundant water only 25 feet beneath the surface and the area will carry a pastoral industry in a belt 30 miles wide and 150 miles long. The select committee recommended the establishment of a pastoral industry to provide employment for the aboriginals."

## Urgent needs

Their urgent needs are:
• Food;
• Drinking water; and
• Medical attention.
Pastor Nicholls, an aboriginal who accompanied Mr Grayden on the expedition which took the films shown on Friday night, said that his

people were a great and noble people.

"On this journey with Mr Grayden, I saw the most tragic sights I have ever seen. It was one of the saddest stories I have ever heard in the dealings of one people with another."

"It is the skeleton in the cupboard of Australian national life."

"At Giles weather station, the white people had a comfortable home, with hot showers and ice-cold running water and there were flowers in the garden."

## "Not animals"

"But the children of my people after they have been to school in the mission school and been educated up to the standard of your sixth grade, are sent back to the ashes of the camp fire. We could be an independent virile people."

"We are not animals. We are human beings. What we want is opportunities."

"You have done a great deal in this country since you came here. You have built roads and have made bridges over the running water but you haven't bridged the gulf between yourselves and the old Australians, the aboriginals."

"We have been forgotten in your march to nationhood."

"We want a strong public opinion behind us. We hope that a new day will dawn for our people."

"We'll play our part with you; we'll turn the wheel and till the soil."

Mr W. T. Onus, president of the Aboriginals' League and a member of the Upwey A.L.P., said, "Never have I seen such an indictment as I have seen to-night. If this film were shown in the United Nations where would Australia stand? Could we hold our heads up again?"

"We are asking for your support, we aboriginals; no letters to members of Parliament; not your sixpences or your cast-off clothing; or your prayers."

"We say, 'Back the movement for a new deal for ALL aboriginals.'"

"You are the invaders. You brought a lot of virtues; but you brought a lot of faults."

"Tonight you have seen what is happening in one place. There are dozens of places like this in Australia."

## Federal control

The only way out is the abolition of control by state governments and the establishment of a federal ministry.

"We spend £1,300 on every new Australian from overseas. Spend £1,300 on every aboriginal child and you would have a better migrant than you're bringing into the country now."

"We could make a film in Victoria nearly as terrible as the one you have seen tonight. If there is only one Government responsible there can be no more buck-passing between the state and federal governments and the missions."

Moving a vote of thanks to the speakers, Rev. Mr Furness said, "We have been taking it on the chin tonight from these aboriginal speakers and I hope they go on doing it and I hope it wakes us up."

"I am quite prepared to accept the truth of what has been said. But for the work of the missions, however, the position would be much worse. The mission represents only a minority in the country. When the majority take an interest something will be achieved."

Supporting Mr Furness, Mr W. Webber, who contested Latrobe as an endorsed Labor candidate, said, "I hope the missions, the politicians and the people all see the need to act on behalf of the old Australians."

## Mount Waveley Football Club PRE-SEASON

PRE-SEASON

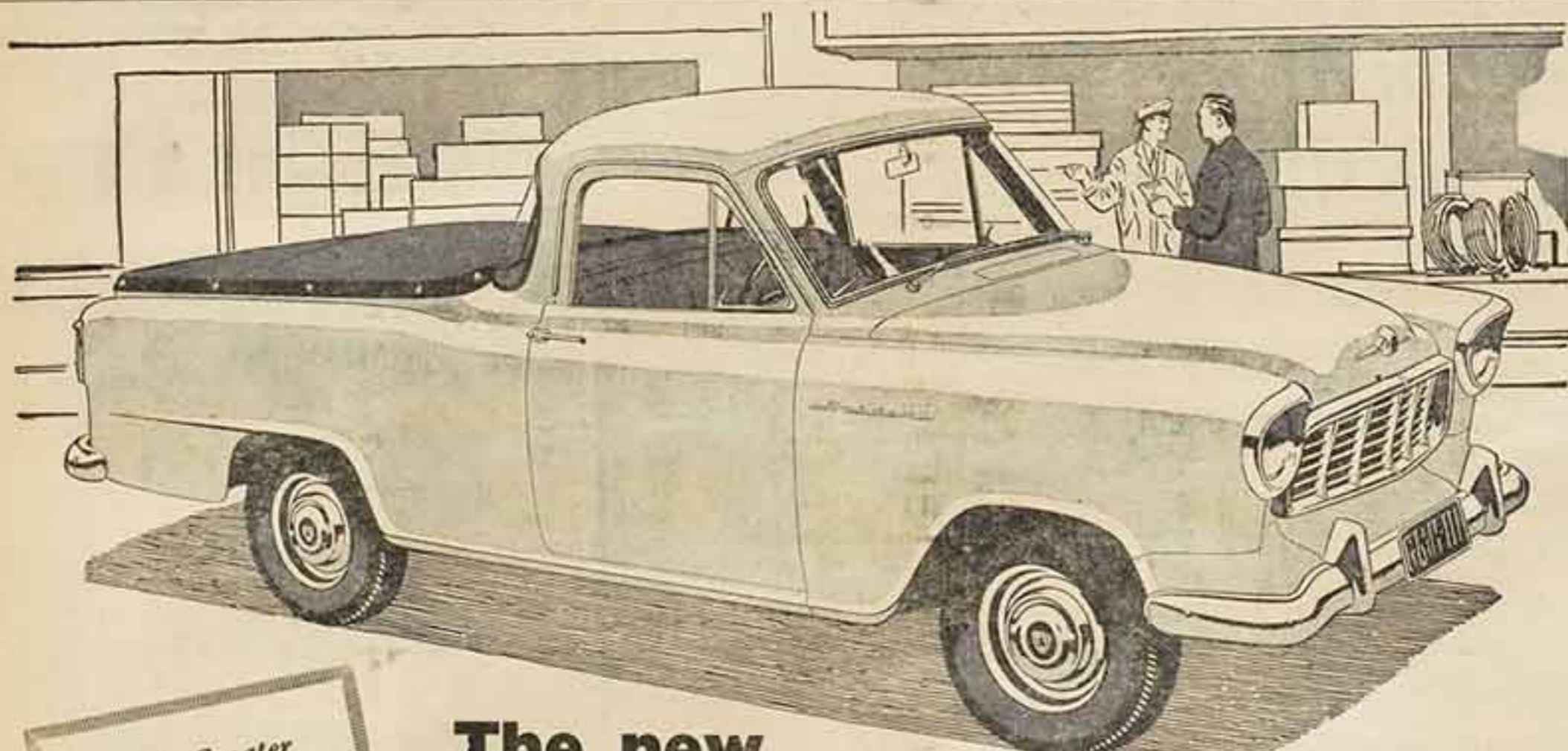
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