

THE ABORIGINAL CHILD AT SCHOOL

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Department of Aboriginal Affairs
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Cover: *A First Sighting* - For Aboriginal men the first sighting of the "Gubba" revealed creatures covered with strange drapings and possessed of white skin. White was known to be the colour of death and the mark of the spirits of the dead. It was a most terrifying experience. Accompanied by strange dogs, and mounted on huge and unknown animals, they must have presented an unfathomable challenge to credibility and lore. *Illustrated by Billy Reid.*
(See article by Barry Wright, "Lake Mungo", p.27)

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the editor.*

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EDITORIAL

We have been fortunate that, in this issue of *The Aboriginal Child at School*, we have been able to include a number of articles on topics that provide background knowledge of Aboriginal life styles and values. Knowledge and empathetic understanding of the cultural traditions and mores from which students come are important factors in the development of appropriate and effective teaching styles. The diversity and uniqueness of Aboriginal cultural traditions make special demands on teachers of Aboriginal children in building an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the cultures of the children they teach.

As a number of Australian tertiary institutions are presently investigating schemes whereby Aboriginal students might gain special entry, the article by Dr Arthur Kaufman on the Native American experience is of topical interest.

More of Billy Reid's highly competent art work is to be found in the Lake Mungo article, and Davina Barry has continued her series of reviews of materials relevant to the teaching of Aboriginal students.

Best wishes.

Dawn Muir.

Honorary Editor

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