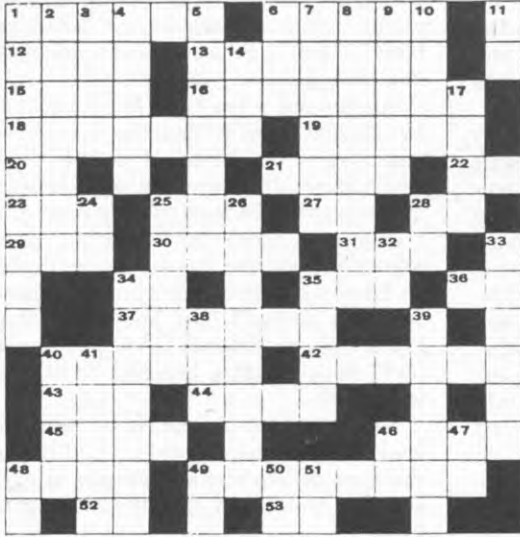


Crossword Puzzle No. 10

CLUES DOWN

1. A native tree — white pine
2. Start suddenly
3. Large N.Z. insect; Dirt, excrement
4. Pass by, go
5. The first victim in a battle; the first fish
6. Swarm around, infest, molest
7. Until
8. Daughter
9. Sickly, cold
10. Sound of voices, singing
11. Drag
14. Away (adv.)

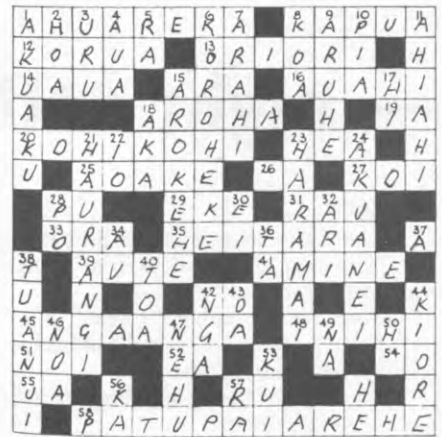
17. Then indeed
24. World
25. Broken
26. Skull
28. Bee
32. Avenged, paid for
33. Wonder, marvel at
34. Common shoal fish, proverbially like a woman
35. Sea egg
38. For, since, inasmuch as
39. Tent
40. Be hampered, distressed
41. Octopus
46. Time



47. Cabbage tree
48. Print, dash, strike
49. Night
50. Stand
51. He, she; current

CLUES ACROSS

1. A native tree; yellow
6. A native tree — the black pine
12. Able, possible; Collar bone
13. Head. 'Upone —'
15. Chatter, jabber
16. Power station on the Waikato
18. Nephew, niece
19. Long (time), when
20. Different; snap, scream
21. Boundary
22. Sun, day
23. Path
25. Four
27. Int. expressing surprise; beget



Solution to crossword puzzle No. 9

28. Fortified village; happen
29. Stake, specially for tethering a canoe
30. Fat, oil, grease
31. Here
34. Set fire to
35. Large mountain parrot of New Zealand
36. Fish
37. Drive away
40. Assist
42. Ancient times
43. Female animal
44. A shell or husk; face a certain way
45. Bald on top
46. Extinguish, put out
48. Right
49. Flattering, deceiving
52. Interjection in poetry
53. Rain

Letters

Dear Sir,

Tu Tangata of October/November 1982 contained an article by Mr L.E. Scott 'Writers from a Dying Race (Black Poets in Australia)'. Without wishing in any way to take issue with Mr Scott's appraisal of the authors' poetry, Mr Scott's review contains some commonly held misconceptions about the Australian Government's treatment of Australian Aborigines.

Over 160,000 Australians — slightly more than one per cent of the population — are Aborigines. Today, the Australian Government offers those Aborigines who wish to participate fully in the wider society the necessary opportunities and skills while, at the same time, it encourages self-management for Aboriginal groups who wish to adopt a different life-style. Aboriginal Australians possess legal rights, including rights of access to services identical with other Australian citizens. In particular, they are entitled to universal adult suffrage, the same employment conditions and industrial protection as any other Australian, access to the same social security benefits as other Australians, access to special additional education assistance and to government funded Aboriginal-managed health and legal services. For the financial year 1981/82 the Aus-

lian Government allocated a total of A\$228.31 million on special programs for Aborigines.

I am surprised that Tu Tangata should give credence to the silly hyperbole of allegations of genocide contained in Mr Scott's review. Suffice it to say that far from declining, the annual rate of natural increase of the Australian Aboriginal and Islander population is some 2.2 per cent, compared with the national figure of 1.4 per cent. In the 1971 census 115,953 Australians identified themselves as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; in 1976 160,915 people identified in this way.

The Aboriginal population has nearly doubled in the last 50 years, and this trend is continuing.

It may be of interest to your readers to note that Aboriginal authors are supported in their writing by the Aboriginal Arts Board and the Literature Board of the Australia Council, the Australian equivalent of the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council. For example, in 1979/80 one of the authors mentioned in Mr Scott's article, Mr Kevin Gilbert, received a Senior Writers Fellowship from the Literature Board. The Aboriginal Arts Board also assisted other Aboriginal authors, in-

cluding the novelist Colin Johnson, and Aboriginal theatre groups.

While the authors mentioned in Mr Scott's article are well known, to suggest, for example, that Ms Sykes is the closest thing in Australia to a national black leader is to diminish in your readers eyes the achievements of many other Aboriginal Australians, in the arts and in other wider fields of Australian life, including the achievements of Aboriginal politicians and administrators.

The Australian Government does not claim that the progress made in recent years has resolved the Aboriginal predicament created, in part, by an earlier history of misunderstanding, neglect, and injustice. Australia is very conscious of the need for continued work to remedy the disadvantage still all too often suffered by Aborigines and Islanders. Our policies in this respect are varied and extensive, and are constantly being developed in consultation with Aboriginal groups and representatives.

Yours faithfully,
G.R. Bentley
Deputy High Commissioner
Australian High Commission
Wellington