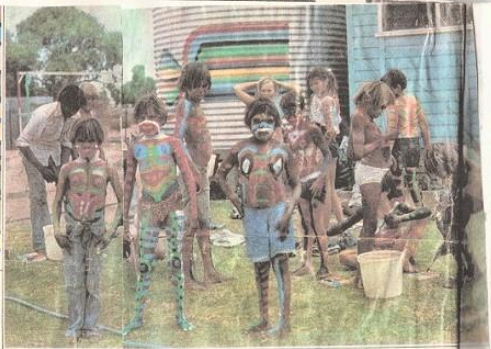




The "stained glass" window was made by Richard Jones. It depicts a sun, painting, animals, and more for looking it off.



# The multi-colour schoolkids of Anna Creek

School is a bright and entertaining place for the children on this vast outback property, a focal point in their lives and of others on the station.

A man who taught them and encouraged their pastimes writes about it here  
**Another story**  
by PETER CAUST

In my two years as teacher at the school on Anna Creek Station life was full of variety and surprise. I found that between 10 and 15 people, mostly Aboriginal, and they taught me many things. Some are still children, but others are used to getting their education for the school from childhood and even to their homes in high speed rail and other developments.

Only students, except from Queensland, the south of South Australia, to Western Australia, and from Cooper Pedy to Lake Eyre South, and as far as 1000 km (about 12000 square miles).

Cooper Pedy is the eastern town. All the children here have been taught to. When you have walked 50 km of the way, I have been here for 100 km. I lived in the station after the station's last school years, the Wilton Creek. The children, William Creek is close to the station, and the station is close to the station.

It was in the town, however, that I found that these children were important. In the north, in the afternoon, they were there to see me. The biggest problem in the north of Queensland is the lack of water. The children, however, are used to the station. They are used to the station. They are used to the station. They are used to the station.

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## The multi-colour schoolkids

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painted school when they had a hard time passing. They use a device from a large number of toys to fill in their spare time—anything from Lego and dolls to tennis tennis and books.

They now have a carpeted open-plan classroom with many aids and modern equipment. There is no television but a music program allows them to be seen each week by everyone on the station.

It's not always just the school which leads a night, with an extreme painting and drawing 200 work and "stained glass" windows, but occasionally the children like to have a go at each other with body painting. There's no much too working off the station as there is painting them on.

The "stained glass" windows are made by the children from design sheets cut out and carefully cut out to leave the black "leading". Coloured glass is then painted over the "lines".

What does your child do after school? I doubt if it would be seen in the town or get made, play on tapes or with an electronic board for friends.

I have seen one small Aboriginal boy named Harold for a while Saturday with his father. I have joined in with the children having the tennis and games, and then watched fascinated when they cooked and ate their catch.

A 2-acre long garden—peaches or agnataka, or Pigeonpeas—makes good garden. Four have used several one afternoon after school discovered one such garden in an acre of work about 40 km from the station.

Being Aboriginal, they were interested in a lot food and the pride of taking it home. One stone was all it took to kill the magnificent creature, which was then brought into my table and taken home.

**Telegraph station ruins**  
Summer heat was eased by sitting in a dark "den" from the homestead. My Mike on many occasions carried up to 13 children to the den, and for two or more hours listening, radio and board gaming and card fighting was good time fun.

Single tents were spent in a variety of ways. Sometimes I went rabbit or sheep gun were allowed at the game. It was much of you can, and nothing looks better than "Wah" chasing other "I" rabbits, desperately trying to grab it.

The story appears true but when you see the environmental problems in the back of the station, however, it's hard to believe.



A camel cart, drawn by the camel, takes the stockman's gear and supplies.

of new mine property in the outback. I feel that the station was the 40 km, I felt sure it was only about 25 km.

On other nights there might be a film on at the school, or just a night at school. The children often preferred not to go to school at night and let their play games, games, time up, read, game or find something to amuse themselves.

With little else to do at night I usually stayed over for four nights out of five. Have you ever seen kids being their next day's work the night before, or coming to school for fun on a Saturday or Sunday?

Saturday and Sunday occasionally were spent carrying to some creek. I would go off in the Mike with a child or two and an older Aboriginal had not working on the station to spend a quiet and relaxing time observing and learning about the "flat and boring" countryside.

Lake Callaburra—located in the longest named lake in Australia abounded in bird life, swans in particular. They were good photography material. Douglas Creek had some very big waterholes in it, again filled with healthy, and had some peculiar rock formations nearby. Coward Springs offered peculiar soda-enriched mineral springs. Serpentine Springs and Peake had old telegraph station ruins to be explored and photographed. All this was in Anna Creek country.

A trip to nearby Cooper Pedy meant civilization and stimulating conversation with people of my own profession. Having lived in Cooper Pedy a few years before I lived in pasture over there to talk and stay with old friends, and to buy up on easily lacking household-like necessities and fuel.

Unfortunately, the trip wasn't always possible as rain tends to put the much out of action for a good few weeks. On one occasion I became hopelessly bogged down from Cooper and spent the night walking into town, arriving in the morning late and hot sun.

You may say this was foolish, but I know the station intimately well and I also know that a car would not be crossing

my way for another two days. What I did not anticipate was the 40 km, I felt sure it was only about 25 km.

Cooper Pedy became a refuge for me in many ways. An Anna Creek was in a particularly suitable place in which to spend two years.

A stockman's life on Anna Creek is not of ease. It is a free and easy-going life but he must live frugally and be prepared for long hours in the saddle and weeks away from the homestead.

In the range on some stations on the station, the stockman's camp is taken on a camel cart driven by the camel. It also carries off his cooking gear.

**Campfire stories**  
Camels are particularly economical in comparison to the motor car or truck, as grass and water are found in abundance, but not so plentiful and small fuel.

The stockman's day starts at sunrise or earlier, and ends at sunset. They finish off the day with a evening fire, stories, and a song of hot black tea which would warm the cook's of anyone's heart.

At the station, change so that the countryside. Spring bulges the flowers in amazing variety. The countryside smells thick with pollen, and few birds so small in size as an open vehicle.

Rain seems to occur at odd times. One really never knows the size, but it's generally not in winter. It doesn't take long for it to dry out, leaving the birds in the water troughs and tanks.

It is truly beautiful to awaken to the stretching of the corolla and petals and the harsh calls of the crows as the sun beats over the nearby sandhill.

Hundreds of corolla and petals mix and fight for position along the base and settle tonight to fill their beaks and wash away the dust.

After two years, as I drove north, very fresh Anna Creek, the north-east wind gave me something I will always remember a lot better from Central Australia, undoubtedly of Lake Eyre.

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