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# KUNMANGGUR

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The motif used by the Commonwealth Council and Office of Aboriginal Affairs has been adapted from a painting by an unknown but probably ancient Aboriginal artist in a rock shelter on the Fitzmaurice River in the Northern Territory. The Aborigines of today consider the painting to be not simply a representation but a simulacrum of Kunmanggur or Kanamgek, the Rainbow Serpent, a Dream Time personage of extraordinary powers exercised beneficently towards man. It is believed that Kunmanggur still survives as a sky-and-water being who is a guardian of human well-being. A similar belief was very widespread if not universal throughout Aboriginal Australia. Alongside the main motif can be seen a stencil of a human hand which was probably superimposed on the original painting.



Aboriginal Study Grants Scheme

The Aboriginal Study Grants Scheme began in 1969, and some very encouraging success stories of students receiving grants are now emerging. Below are listed three students whose success is worthy of notice. They are by no means the only successful students from last year, and it is hoped to print details of more successful students in further series of "Kunmanggur".

Patrick Dodson completed his secondary education in Victoria, is 22 years old and a seminarian at the Sacred Heart Seminary in Canberra. In 1969 he was given a Study Grant for part-time studies at the Australian National University. Last year he attempted, in addition to his theological studies at the Seminary, the subject Modern History at the University and gained a Distinction.

John Moriarty was given a Study Grant in 1969 to complete his Arts course at Flinders University in Adelaide. Last year he completed his course and qualified for the award of the B.A. Degree. He was the first Aboriginal to graduate from a university in South Australia. He has now received a Churchill Fellowship to continue his studies overseas during 1971.

Roslyn Watson is a young ballet dancer from Queensland. Last year she received a Study Grant to continue her studies in Melbourne under Kathleen Gorham. Recently she was auditioned for entry to the Australian Ballet School and was judged to have reached a standard sufficiently high to be admitted. Entry to this leading ballet school is highly competitive. Roslyn was one of the twenty selected this year from over one hundred applicants. Her success brings her great credit.

Both the Aboriginal Study Grants Scheme and the Aboriginal Secondary Grants Scheme are administered by the Department of Education and Science. A Study Grant may be made to an Aboriginal student who has gained admission to an institution for post-secondary education, e.g. technical college, secretarial college, university. Secondary Grants are available to Aboriginal students from the beginning of the year in which they turn 15. Full details of both schemes are available from the Department of Education and Science regional office in each State.