



RESOURCE 5 - Primary sources and illustrations about The Coolbaroo League - from 1945

'Colour Prejudice'

Sir,—The strongly-worded opposition to the section of the Bill to amend the Native Administration Act which would permit us to enjoy with whites the benefit of hotel accommodation when travelling in this State, indicates that, notwithstanding, colour prejudice in this State is still a dominant force. What is wrong with us?

The whites who have attended our socials, dances and the recent ball in the Town Hall, who included members of Parliament, have seen and met us, danced and talked with us. They have surely seen that we speak well, behave well, dress well—that we are not in a class lower than the lowest section of the white community who, unless they are disreputable in appearance or obviously otherwise unacceptable are not refused a bed and meals in an hotel. Or are they, too, so blinded by colour prejudice that they do not want to see?

What can we do to convince those who are so antagonistic towards us that we have no such feelings towards them? That we are capable of living up to any standard required of us for normal social purposes? I write on behalf of a large body of young native men and women, many of whom live in country centres, and of the young men and women of tomorrow.

READ this article is from The West Australian - Letters to the Editor section - on Tues 19th October 1954 (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/75861268>) about the Coolbaroo League and their Reconciliation Ball at the Town Hall. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article75861268>

What is Miss Shea the Secretary of the Coolbaroo League writing in to complain about?

What is your view about the justice of this complaint?

Is this pre- or post the prohibited area ban in Perth?

What is the use of Alvan House and McDonald House, and the Missions, and of education and training we receive if, even at the level of the meanest country public house, we are denied this minor social concession. Where are we to seek accommodation when we travel in the State if normal facilities are not available to us?

Perhaps the Licensed Victuallers Association may provide the answer to that question.—
Yours, etc.

(Miss) N. SHEA,
Hon. Secretary, Coolbaroo
League,
Perth.



Significant Occasions for the Coolbaroo League - Explore its meaning & purpose for the People of Perth

Just a thought ... 'A system of segregation separates ALL people from one another'

Welcoming the Artist, Albert Namatjira



The Coolbaroo Pageant Winner 1947

Learn more about the Coolbaroo League and its founder, the activist: [Helena Murphy](#) through [Kaartdijin Noongar](#)

