



The Inland review

The only National Magazine Published in Central Australia

VOLUME 2. NUMBER

FOUR SECTION

Churches of
Central Australia

The Flowering Heart
of Alice Springs

FEATURES . . .

- When Did Inland History Begin?
- A Century for "The Curragh"
- Live Theatre in The Alice
- Stop Over / Down Under
- Book Reviews

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The Inland review

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PHONE 2-2011

A new light in the Inland

Christmas marks the anniversary of the beginning of the Christian Era.

Christmas, 1967, in Central Australia could well be the commencement of another era—a revolution that promises to change the destiny of Alice Springs and steer the course of Central Australian history into an hitherto unthought-of channel—Industrialisation.

1,967 years ago there was "a new light in the East." Today, a new light burns in the arid regions west of Alice Springs bringing to the Centre the prospect of prosperity, the potential of which is, as yet, incalculable.

The front cover plate of this issue is symbolic in that it typifies the very spirit of Christmas and the words of The Master "I am the Light of the world." Certain it is that the burning oil flare at Mereenie No. 4 gives promise of things to come, sheds a light in the industrial darkness of Central Australia and illuminates the birth of a host of new industries that can only lead to a population explosion.

To date five wells capable of producing rich gas in commercial quantities have been completed in the Mereenie Field west of The Alice and according to the 1967 progress report issued by Magellan Petroleum Australia Limited:

"The discovery of large reserves of natural gas in the Amadeus Basin and the deliverability potentials of producers completed to date at Mereenie and Palm Valley undoubtedly will have a significant impact on the development of Central Australia. For the first time energy is available at a competitive price for the development of mineral and other resources within an area of several hundred thousand square miles. For instance, a subsidiary of the International Nickel group currently is evaluating a large nickel deposit at Wingellina, about 200 miles southwest of Mereenie, which would be classed uneconomic for development without reasonably priced energy. Eighty miles to the north of Mereenie and Palm Valley substantial deposits of quartz-haematite have been found . . .

"Estimates of the oil in place in the Pacoota Reservoir at Mereenie have ranged as high as 500 million barrels. If it develops that one-fifth of this amount of the high gravity crude oil reserves and gas liquid reserves would make it commercially feasible to build a pipeline from Mereenie to Australia's southern coastline

The work is far from complete. Magellan technicians consider the results at Mereenie clearly demonstrate that oil can be produced successfully from Pacoota sandstones and further "wild cat" drilling is envisaged to test the petroleum potential

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water transportation along

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Mereenie clearly demonstrates
sandstones and further "wild
of this formation on several

A large volume of oil is
reason there are strong economic
production rates from Mereenie
recover substantial quantities

Visitors to Palm Valley
Coach Captain or Guide points
Mission and says . . . "Up the

But in the not-too-distant
complex of buildings towering
off The Inland.

It opens up the possibility
Australia with a gift, secured
and tagged with the label: "For

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other structures in the area
known to be present in the
economic incentives to find methods
wells and to develop exploitation
of the oil in place.

can be excused for displaying
to a hill on his right not far
ere, folks, is the gas well."

at future the present well-site
ring high on the skyline and marking
of development on a grand scale
ly wrapped in many folds of
For Economic Security . . .

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west of Hermannsburg

could be hidden beneath
marking the "powerhouse"
scale and presents Central
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Happy Christmas."

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