

# 'Hunting in packs must stop'—Judge

### Hunting in packs had to stop, Judge Clapin said at Newcastle Quarter Sessions yesterday.

The Court had been told a pack of young men had hunted for homosexuals to attack.

Judge Clapin said their behaviour was against the code of even the worst type of hoodlum.

He ordered each man to enter a bond, and fined them a total of \$500.

They are — Kevin James Brown, 18, apprentice boiler-maker, Brown-street, West Wallsend; Lawrence Wayne Thurecht, 19, machinist, Cornelia-road, Toongabbie; Kerry David Ogle, 19, labourer, Wilkinson - avenue, Birmingham Gardens; Duncan Charles Bain, 20, labourer, Sandy Hollow; and Trevor Kenneth Yates, 18, labourer, Furbur - street, East Maitland.

All pleaded guilty to a charge of having assaulted Francis Doyle, at Newcastle, on February 10.

#### "Shocking conduct"

They pleaded not guilty to a charge of having assaulted Doyle and caused him actual bodily harm.

The Crown accepted their pleas to the lesser charge.

Judge Clapin said they attacked Doyle at odds of five to one.

"This is shocking conduct, and contrary to what I believe to be the code of the worst type of hoodlum," he said.

Judge Clapin said the maximum penalty for the offence was two years' gaol, but he thought it better to have them out of the State.

He deferred passing sentence, and ordered each of the defendants to enter a \$200 bond for two years.

He fined each \$100 and ordered each to pay \$25 compensation to Doyle.

"If any of you are not of good behaviour, you will be brought back and I will impose a sentence of at least six months," his Honor said.

#### Bond conditions

Among conditions of the bonds were that the offenders must not associate with one another without the approval of the Adult Probation Service, and must limit their drinking of alcohol and visits to places where it was sold, at the discretion of the set vice.

Constable N. R. Appleby (Toronto) said that on the night of February 9, the defendants went to a Blacksmiths hotel and drank till midnight.

They were all affected by liquor, and decided to go "catting" in Newcastle.

Appleby said the word "cat" was slang for a man with homosexual tendencies.

The defendants decided to visit toilets at the eastern end of Newcastle and have a fight with anyone they found.

He said it was generally known that men with homosexual tendencies were prone to frequent those toilets.

#### "No suggestion"

The defendants arrived in Newcastle at about 1 a.m. and went to the toilet at the Newcastle surf club pavilion. One of the group entered

and spoke with a man in a cubicle.

He returned to his companions, then they all went into the toilet and began to fight with the man.

Answering the Crown Prosecutor (Mr. R. D. M. Ashton), Appleby said there was no suggestion at all that Doyle was a homosexual.

Doyle had been for a walk and in no way provoked the fight.

"Each of the accused admitted that no steps were taken to determine whether the complainant was what they regarded as a 'cat,'" Appleby said.

"The fact that he was in there at that hour was enough for them."

#### Fought back

He said Doyle suffered bruises and abrasions but also gave a very good account of himself.

He fought back and injured several of his attackers.

The defendants took Doyle's shoes to stop him from kicking them.

Brown was later taken to hospital to have his mouth stitched.

Judge Clapin told Brown he had often heard people say they would like to give somebody a kick in the teeth, but this was the first time he had seen the process reversed.

Bain, committed for trial on two other charges, was remanded to next sitting on August 20, on \$20 bail.

Mr. D. Geddes for Brown, Thurecht and Ogle; Mr. W. G. Cannington for Bain and Yates.

### THEFT OF DRUG BRINGS BOND

DARWIN Wednesday.

An aboriginal mother of four, charged with having stolen drugs from Oenpelli Mission Hospital, was released on a two-year bond in Darwin Police Court to-day.

The Court was told the woman, known only as Hager, 40, had taken the pills to relieve pain from boils on her arm.

## 2 GAOLED FOR DISHONESTY

### In Newcastle Court yesterday, a youth was gaoled for three months for having received money stolen by a friend.

A 36-year-old father of four was also gaoled for a month on two charges of stealing.

Mr. R. L. Radford, S.M., before whom the unrelated charges were heard, said he had often warned the public about the serious penalties he could impose for offences of dishonesty.

The youth, Donald James Murray, 18, storeman, Dawson-street, Cook's Hill, pleaded guilty to a charge of having received \$20, the property of R. J. Wood Pty. Ltd., at Nelson Bay, on Monday.

Detective Sergeant Sampson (Maitland) said that on Monday Murray and two other youths went to Nelson Bay.

One of them saw a truck owned by R. J. Wood Pty. Ltd. and went to see the driver.

He returned with a bag containing money and cheques worth \$73, which had been stolen from the truck.

Sampson said the youths drove back to Newcastle, and on the way Murray was given \$20 from the stolen money. The third youth was given \$18.

#### Copper wire theft

Before they reached Newcastle the youths saw a police car following them and threw the money away.

Some of the money, including what was believed to have been Murray's share, was recovered.

The man gaoled for a month is Murray Ownsworth, labourer, Soldier's-road, North Blacksmiths.

He was gaoled for having stolen \$1 worth of copper

wire, the property of Amalgamated Hardware Co. Pty. Ltd., on Tuesday.

He was also gaoled for 14 days, concurrently, for having stolen \$3 worth of the wire from the same company the previous day.

Detective Sergeant M. Stead (Hamilton) said that on Monday Ownsworth drove his car into the yards of Lane Amalgamated Hardware Co. Pty. Ltd., North Hamilton, where he had worked about a year.

He stole about 10lb. of copper wire, which he put in his car.

Next night he stole about 4lb. of copper wire the same way.

Stead said Ownsworth told him he was heavily in debt and stole the wire for some extra money.

He said Ownsworth would lose his job as a result of the theft.

## Election this year predicted

LONDON, June 19.

A.A.P.—There was increasing speculation in Canberra that the Australian Prime Minister (Mr. Gorton) would be forced to hold a Federal election late this year, a report in the "Financial Times" said to-day.

The report from the newspaper's Australian correspondent, said: "This is because his personal authority in the Government is so low.

"His visits to Asia have done nothing to strengthen his position in the country or within his own Government, and his Ministers continue to war among themselves.

"In recent weeks there has

## BOND FOR FIGHT

A youth who has been gaoled for having received stolen money...