



BREAKING THE COLOUR BAR

Writing in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Mr. J. Holmes, of Mosman, said,

“While deploring the segregation of aborigines undoubtedly practised whether with or without official knowledge or sanction, it is heartening to learn of places where integration is proceeding happily.

A case in point is the First Bellbrook (near Kempsey) Scout Troop, which has just been represented at the Lansdowne Jamboree by nine boys, two white and seven dark. This troop, founded and led by a young local police constable, is backed up by a mixed group committee, whose fund-raising efforts last year included a “black and white ball” to which people came from as far as Armidale and Wauchope.

Given enlightened leadership, goodwill on both sides, and a common objective, it seems that the problem of integration is no problem.”

Commenting on the letter, the Area Welfare Officer, Mr. Arthur Mason, pointed out that the Troop Leader mentioned was Constable Thompson, Officer-in-Charge of Police at Bellbrook, and the seven aboriginal boys who attended the Jamboree were Alfred Quinlin (13), Lewis Kelly (13), Victor Wright (12), Victor Holton (11), Colin Holton (13), Dennis Kelly (11) and Tony Kelly (11). The other two boys were Michael and Christopher Harohy. The Committee consists of three aborigines, Mr. John Quinlin, Mr. Les Holton and Mrs. Kelly, and a number of white residents.

MURRIN BRIDGE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Murrin Bridge residents recently formed a Progress Association with Mr. Watty Clarke as President and Mr. Willie Riley as Secretary.

The aim of the Association is, by mutual help, to make Murrin Bridge a better place in which to live.

At the first business meeting of the Association, the Secretary was instructed to write to the local electricity authority regarding the extension of 240-volt power to the Station. It was also decided he should write to the district telephone department requesting the installation of a public telephone.

It was also agreed the Association should request the local bus proprietor to call into the Station each Saturday night to enable adults and children to attend the pictures at Lake Cargeligo.

A working bee is also to get busy completing the Station tennis courts and making them playable.

The Progress Association meeting was very well attended and the lively discussion indicates that the Murrin Bridge people are really going to make their presence felt.

Congratulations to the people behind the scheme.

WALLAGA HELPS HEART CAMPAIGN

Recently, donations of £10 and £2 to the Departmental appeal in connection with the National Heart Campaign respectively were received from the Wallaga Lake, Progress Association and the Purfleet Progress Association at Taree.

These donations from aboriginal people are greatly appreciated by the Committee and the opportunity has already been taken to mention them to the Chairman of the State Government Departments and Instrumentalities Committee and it is also understood that the headquarters of the Campaign has made some reference to these generous donations in Press statements.

WALGETT NEWS

Congratulations go out to Mr. and Mrs. Fields upon the birth of a son. They are new arrivals at the Station, Mr. Fields being employed at the well-known “Bairnkine” sheep-station.

An outstanding concert held in aid of the Far West Health Scheme recently attracted a large percentage of amateur artists. Many came from the Station and Reserve. Through the tireless efforts of Mr. Dave Tribe, a girls’ “hula” item was presented with much success, the girls wearing suitable Hawaiian attire. Those taking part were Cynthia Bullaman, Gloria Nean, Susan Doolan and Barbara Fernando from the Station, and Lindy McBride, Lorna Hall, Adrienne Fernando, Mary Clark and Rose Fernando from the Walgett Reserve.

Guitar player Colin Hardy and Allan Sullivan, formerly of Brewarrina, were loudly applauded by the huge crowd present, both giving very good renditions on the guitar and “bones”. Other artists taking part were H. Green, Reserve (guitar), H. Hall, Walgett township (gum leaf), Sid Williams, camping reserve (gum leaf), and Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Thorne, Walgett township (vocal items). The visiting Far West Sister (Sister Martin) expressed her thanks on behalf of the Far West Health Scheme at the conclusion to all those who had helped to make the concert the huge success that it was.