

TRIBUTE TO A KINDLY MAN

The sudden death of South Grafton businessman Mr. Charles B. Pidcock (53) in March came as a great shock to the community.

The late Mr. Pidcock, shown here with his wife at a "mixed" dance in Grafton, conducted by one of his employees, Freddie Skinner, was a great friend and supporter of our aborigines.

Freddie Skinner, who feels the loss deeply, has asked *Dawn* to publish a message of appreciation of his late employer which first appeared in the *Daily Examiner* at Grafton.



Here is Freddie's eulogy:—

May I take this opportunity of expressing my heartfelt thanks for the wonderful treatment I received at the hands of my departed master and friend, Mr. Chas. Pidcock.

Words cannot express the appreciation that I have felt over the past nine years during the time I worked for Mr. Charlie Pidcock and his company. His kindness to me will always be remembered and cherished as one of the highlights of my life.

Although my skin was dark, I always felt that Mr. Charlie looked beyond my dark skin and treated me as a fellow-being, and in consequence I felt that at all times I must give of my best to one such worthy master.

I appeal to all employers on behalf of my people to try and give anyone working for them a similar type of tolerance to that which I received from Mr. Charlie. I know then that our people would endeavour to reciprocate to such wonderful treatment.

Please look beyond our dark skins, as our intentions are good and our hearts are in the right place and we will surely repay and respond to any such kindness shown.

I would like this appreciation to be placed on record, also my thanks to the rest of the Pidcock family. Thanks to your memory, Mr. Charlie.

*In this topsy-turvy world,
Sincere and lasting friendship is a rare gem;
How good and kind you were
Throughout the years to me.
A cheerful word and kindly deeds,
A helping hand to all in need;
Always sincere in heart and mind,
And when God called from heaven,
You left so suddenly,
Your last thoughts unknown,
My saddened heart was riven
For you did not say good-bye.*

Freddie Skinner,
Through Street, South Grafton.

New Era for People of Purfleet

For the residents within Purfleet Mission Station, a new phase of their place in the community should shortly unfold, said the *Taree Times*, in an Editorial on July 12th.

To them the opening of a Baby Health Centre, Rest Rooms and Library, on August 11th, should represent tangible evidence of the desire of the people of Taree to fit them more closely into the country's social order.

These amenities had their origin with the C.W.A., which is now exercising considerable influence on the new outlook on life that residents of the station are now taking.

They are being made to feel that they are no longer members of a forgotten race, but are entitled to all the privileges that a Democracy can bestow on them.

That is reflected in the Station providing its own personnel for a C.W.A. branch, which functions with equal efficiency to its counterparts.

In that there is a good beginning for a section of the people not previously receiving sufficient sympathetic encouragement to embark on plans for the conduct of their own affairs.

From it may stem moves for other organisations to be created within the mission, to have as their objective a better deal for dark people in the Australian way of life.

Should there be a worthwhile indication of any such venture being undertaken, the service clubs of Taree could be counted upon to give advice and support.

In this connection the Newcastle Trades Hall might be induced to lend its aid in shaping future public activities of the station.

With a committee comprising men and women that was set up to watch over the welfare of aborigines, it was some time ago very active in Purfleet affairs when eviction proceedings were taking place.

It could now demonstrate its earnestness by being represented at the big day on August 11th, if not of its own volition, then by invitation.