

The Assimilation of Aborigines

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Other regular activities at the Club room of a Wednesday morning are the hairdressing section—where Mrs. Aitkinson, with the help of aboriginal and white friends, shampoos and sets hair—and the dressmaking which I have already mentioned, but which is such a central part of the Club's activities that I will say more about it. Many skirts, dresses, shirts, etc., have been made under the direction of two fine and regular teachers, Mrs. Riven and Mrs. Coates. Sometimes material is brought by aboriginal members, sometimes it is supplied by the Club and sometimes donated clothing is cut down for small dresses, trousers, etc., but it all helps to solve the clothing problem of the local aboriginal people—largely through their own effort—and that is why this section is felt to be so important.



Mrs. Moran always takes young Brian with her when she attends the meetings

The Club is able to meet its running expenses by the donated clothing which comes from members and friends all over the country and it is sold cheaply to the local people. The hostesses now number twenty-five and they take turns in groups to be present each week. These regular hostesses are all white women, as the aboriginal women cannot be regular because of their employment in and around Armidale but they are always ready to help when they are present.

I could tell you of different ways we have fun together—concerts, baby show, etc., but I am sure I have written too much already. I am enclosing some photographs you might like to print and I offer an invitation to anyone interested to come and join us one Wednesday and see what is going on for themselves.

FORTY-FIVE POLICE

in

FUNERAL ESCORT

Forty-five police officers from Stations throughout the Lismore District one day last month formed a guard of honour at the funeral at Tabulam of Tracker Sergeant Jim Mundine.

The funeral was one of the largest held in Tabulam district. Sergeant Mundine had lived in the Pretty Gully area until he joined the police as a tracker at Lismore in 1941.

Those present at the funeral included former Sergeant W. J. McPherson who is now living in retirement in the Newcastle district. He was senior Sergeant at Lismore when sergeant Mundine received his appointment.

Sergeant Mundine collapsed and died at his home in Goonellebah on his 49th birthday. Superintendent R. J. McNeill and Inspector G. Munro of Lismore attended the service. The cortege was preceded by an escort of four motor cyclists and police officers. The pall bearers who marched beside the hearse from the Church to the police station at Tabulam were Sergeant G. Tarrant, of Ballina, Sergeant E. Simpson, of Byron Bay, Sergeant J. O'Connor, of Bangalow, Sergeant R. Rippon, of Mullumbimby, Sergeant J. O'Neill of Lismore, and Sergeant G. Clarke of Coraki. Sergeant P. Askew of Lismore, was in charge of the Police contingent. A brother, Mr. Tom Mundine of Pretty Gully, was present.

In the Service in the Church of England, Rev. Hilliard of Mallanganee, said that Sergeant Mundine had been respected throughout the district for his work in the police force and as a sportsman whose prowess was matched by his sense of fair play and sportsmanship.

Apart from being a district representative in a number of sports, Sergeant Mundine was a recognised rough rider at rodeos and shows throughout the North Coast. He won the National bulldogging title at Tamworth some years ago.

The attendance at the funeral included representatives of sporting organisations in Lismore and some show and rodeo committees.

The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, Mr. Saxby, said "Sergeant Mundine was a man who was always able to look after himself and never came to the Board for assistance.

"His memory should be a constant reminder to other aborigines that recognition and acceptance lies ahead of them if only they make the effort. To the white population his memory should be a reminder of the fact that more could follow in his footsteps if given just a little more encouragement."