

Pastor Nichols was at Moonacullah

Pastor Doug Nichols was among the distinguished visitors present at a convention at Moonacullah Aborigine Station during the Christmas-New Year holiday period.

Mr. B. S. Kinnear, a former manager of the station, came from Leura in the Blue Mountains for the occasion, accompanied by Mrs. Kinnear, who wrote last week from Leura to tell of her pleasure at being back.

Mrs. Kinnear wrote :

" Mr. Kinnear and myself have the happy experience, as it were, of rolling back the years (18) on our just completed visit to the ' Back to Moonecullah ' Convention. This was convened by Mr. and Mrs. V. Page, of Deniliquin, who are associate workers for the Australian Aboriginal Mission.

" Our impression was that the people were enjoying quite a measure of prosperity, their homes and persons well-cared for looking. The little flower gardens looked nice, and the approach via the new bridge was fine.

" The people enjoy and are benefited spiritually by the weekly visits of Mr. and Mrs. Page. Also a lot of work has been put into the lining, painting inside and out, and decorating the quite substantial church. The work is quite voluntary and we can imagine they need to dig deep into their pockets for this.

" The Convention itself was history-making. Guests included Rev. Egerton Long, president of A.I.M., Pastor Nichols of Melbourne (native Pastor recently decorated by the Queen), missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Caddy and Mr. and Mrs. Collins of Mildura, associate workers of the A.I.M. in that district. These latter brought over a large party of young folks from their district, among them three very talented young fellows from Queensland. They gave us some very nice singing, accompanying themselves on guitars. Films were shown by Mr. Caddy, and proved very informative, mostly taken in the back of beyond among our most primitive tribes.

" Also it was good to see the Salvation Army in force, and they too have proved themselves very good friends of old Moonacullah. We remember with gratitude how helpful they were to us when we were managing out there. Also we were pleased to see two girls in the uniform, who were children of old residents of Moonacullah.

" Games and fishing competitions were indulged in. We can't remember seeing a happier throng. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Beasley had loaned us their very comfortable cottage on the river bank opposite Mr. Austin Eastman's which meant fresh eggs and delicious peaches.

" The Missionaries and their charges were camped in the manager's house, which was vacant, so everybody's needs were provided for.

" It was good to see our old friend Hubert Day in a position of trust and we notice the years had given him dignity and prosperity. We did not even miss our Christmast dinner, as calling in on Mr. and Mrs. Middlemiss, they insisted on us accepting their hospitality.

" We thought, too, that the town of Deniliquin had had a good facelift. We never remember it looking so spic and span.

" We trust there will be another convention next year, and that the weather will be as accommodating.

" Altogether, an unforgettable visit."

WALLAGA LAKE PARTY

Once again the people from the Bega Methodist Church combined with the Station residents to give the children a wonderful Christmas party. The Bega people supplied the food and seemed to have a never ending supply of good things to eat. They also supplied an excellent Father Christmas.

The hall was beautifully decorated and the Christmas tree was a work of art. Two little boys, Ian, the manager's son and " Teckie " Thomas were absolutely amazed at the lovely toys they could see on the tree.

The committee are to be congratulated for the splendid job they did with the decorating and also for the manner in which this event was organised.

Mr. Neville Guthrie, who, for many years has interested himself with the welfare of aborigines, has answered a call. He has given up a prosperous farm at Bega to take up work for the Master as a pastor of the Methodist Church. The Wallaga Lake people say farewell with regret, but know that their loss will be someone else's gain. " May health and happiness attend you and your wife for the future."

DENTAL OFFICERS VISIT WALLAGA LAKE

Every child on Wallaga Lake Station paid a visit to the Dental Officers. Some, to their dismay, had to have a number of extractions, whilst others had a number of teeth filled.

The children behaved very well and put on a courageous front in most cases.

Some of the children had very bad teeth and showed evidence of neglect and in most cases there was no evidence of any dental hygiene at all.

Bad teeth cause many ills with children and adults, but most teeth troubles can be avoided by regular visits to the dentist and correct use of a tooth brush.

It is to be hoped the parents, after seeing the number of extractions and fillings necessary this time, will, in future, see that their children clean and look after their teeth.
