

KEMPSEY FESTIVAL

ABORIGINES' FLOAT



The Kempsey Spring Festival was brought to a close one Saturday night recently with a procession of floats, the crowning of the Festival Queen, and wound up with an open air concert.

There were 28 floats entered in the procession and about 20 of these were entered in the best decorated float competition. All 20 were beautifully decorated and much time, labour and money had gone into their preparation, in fact, any one of them could have been given first prize and no one would have quibbled.

Burnt Bridge Station had an entry and it was awarded third prize.

The float was decorated with all Australian native flora and done in such a way as only aboriginal women know how. Partially hidden among the green were a number of koala bears. The beauty of the decorations had to be seen to be believed.

The theme of the float was a portrayal, by tableaux, of the progress of the aborigines from 1788 until the present day. The first tableau showed two aborigines in their tribal state, the next showed two primary school and two high school students seated at their desks with books open and a well dressed young man acting as their teacher. The next showed a typical business girl seated at a typewriter and the last four nicely dressed young men and women enjoying a discussion among themselves. Two cat-walks were built on to the lorry and on these stood a naval rating, an army captain, a R.A.A.F. flying officer, a nursing sister, a Boy Scout, a boundary rider, and a man dressed in football togs.

The most exacting commanding officer could not have faulted the uniforms nor the way they were worn. They were worn with a proud dignity showing that the wearers were well aware of the signal honour bestowed on them by being chosen to represent our gallant fighting services.