

BURNT BRIDGE STAGES CARNIVAL ON LIONS CLUB SPORTS GROUND

The new sports ground at Burnt Bridge—built by the Lions Club of Kempsey—was the venue for a memorable carnival on July 28th, to commemorate National Aborigines Week.

The sports programme, the most ambitious and successful ever staged, was originally set down for July 14th, but rain forced a two-weeks postponement.

The new oval, freshly mown and marked out with seven running lanes looked a picture and was enough to gladden the heart of any athlete.

The Burnt Bridge Gift, a 100 yard sprint, was the main event and attracted 21 starters. It was won by B. Hoskins of Coff's Harbour in the splendid time of 10.4 secs. Ron Vale of Bellbrook was second and John Silva of Burnt Bridge third.

Our Burnt Bridge correspondent says the success of the carnival and the dance which followed at night, was largely due to the co-operation of every resident, particularly the Progress Association President, Mrs. E. Davis and her livewire committee, who outlaid £80 for the day.

"The racing commenced at 1.30 p.m. and the programme went like clockwork through to the last event at 5 p.m.", our correspondent writes.

"Our thanks for this are due to Mr. C. Storey of Kempsey who not only ran the day, but loaned us colours for the competitors, a judges stand, right down to the starting pistol.

"The Kempsey Lions Club were again to the fore as Messrs. C. Ralph, R. Saul, A. Cannane, C. Bowen, P. Gorman and P. Trever acted as starters, judges and stewards. They went further than this, they put on an extra event, the mixed couples relay and supplied the prizes for the winners.

The Burnt Bridge sports oval, which was built by Kempsey Lions Club, was officially opened on 23rd June, by the Superintendent of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. H. J. Green

The Mayor of Kempsey, Ald. R. G. Melville, said he was proud to be associated with the opening of such a magnificent venture—the culmination of a grand thought by the Lions

Mr. E. Masters, of the Lions, presented a set of framed photographs to Mr. Green and the manager of the station, showing the project from virgin scrub to the finished oval

Mr. Green expressed the Board's appreciation of the Lions Club effort and commended the work of their leader Mr. Cliff Ralph

The first football match on the oval after the official opening was between Kempsey Convent and Burnt Bridge 4 stone 7 lb. teams. The match ended in a 3-all draw Beau Ritchie (Burnt Bridge) and Paul Clarke (Kempsey Convent) winning best and fairest player trophies

