

250 at Armidale Ball

Mr Yates, area welfare officer at Armidale, thinks this report of the ball is somewhat late (the editor of *Dawn* feels this is an understatement) but knows that those who attended the ball would be pleased to see the report. Maybe it is better late than never.

More than 250 people from the Armidale area attended the annual ball for Aborigines held in November last year. The ball was organised by Father Kenny of the Armidale Roman Catholic Church.

Six beautiful girls made their debut, being presented to Monsignor Ryan by the Matron of Honour, Mrs Sarah Archibald. The girls' gowns were outstanding and lent a great deal of colour to the throng on the dancefloor.

Dean Fisher, one of the many guests at the ball, came from Mungindi to renew old friendships with Armidale Aborigines.

A wonderful night of dancing and a good supper made the ball one of the best social functions yet held by Aborigines at Armidale.

The debutantes (photographed after being presented to Monsignor Ryan), their escorts, and ball officials. Left to right: Mr Yates, area welfare officer, Armidale; G. Smith; Lola Cutmore, of Moree; Shirley Duke, of Moree; L. Wright; Zona Craigie, of Moree; K. Cutmore; Dean Fisher, of Mungindi; Audrey French, of Moree; W. Towney; Mrs Archibald, of Armidale; Pat Mumbler, of Nambucca Heads; Mr Archibald; M. Bryant; Monsignor Ryan, of Armidale; Sue Towney, of Woolbrook; and G. Widders.

Some of the official party were Mrs Sarah Archibald, Matron of Honour, being escorted by Monsignor Ryan (left) and Dean Fisher. Behind are Mr Archibald (left) and Mr Yates



—and another at Collarenebri

A ball to celebrate Aborigines' Observance Day on 9 July was held by the Aboriginal people of Collarenebri and proved to be the best social event there so far this year.

About 150 people attended the Town Hall for the ball which was organised by Joe Flick and his family. Joe and his friends decided that the proceeds from the ball should be donated to the Collarenebri Swimming Baths Appeal.

When the town's white residents heard of this community effort they were so impressed that they gave as much help as they could. Refreshments, soft drinks,

dance prizes, and a Belle of the Ball prize were donated, and other help was given to Joe.

Kay Hynch, resplendent in a beautiful red gown, was a worthy Belle of the Ball. Dancers came from Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Rowena, and New Angledool, and all had a wonderful time.

The nett proceeds of £45 were donated to the Baths Appeal, but Joe Flick and all Aborigines at the Ball earned much more than that in goodwill for their people because of the way in which the evening was conducted.

The night was such a success that another ball is planned to raise money for the district hospital, and yet another later this year again for the Baths Appeal.