

PLENTY OF WORK AT MURRIN BRIDGE

A Clean Healthy Station

There has been very little fluctuation in the number aborigines on the Station. Most of the able-bodied men have been in constant employment during the past year. Classes of employment are fencing, trapping, shearing, timber cutting, tree poisoning, burning off and general farm work. Several of the men are permanently employed by the Water Conservation Commission, and one or two by local timber mills.

A new 5,000 gallon tank, complete with stand, has been erected, and the children's playground completed and painted in bright colours. Repairs have been carried out to housing, gates and fences, and roads graded. The whole of the boundary fence has been renewed and the old one pulled down. A sullage pit has been made at the school teacher's residence and is now in operation, and the Assistant Manager's cottage completely painted. Lastly, the Station property was cleared of noxious weeds.

The health of the people has been quite good, complaints such as gastro-enteritis have dropped to almost nil, partly due to improved sanitary services. The school children have been given cod-liver oil and vitamin pills daily.

Dances have been held regularly and have been well attended by the Station residents.

The present enrolment of children at the school is 75. The school teacher reports that aptitude is being shown by senior girls in home science, and a number of pupils, especially in the lower classes, are showing great improvement in scholastic attainments. The school won the 1953 aboriginal school garden competition, and preparations for a spring garden display are at present under way.

Dances were held at Christmas time and proceeds went to the children's party. Assistance was given by the Lake Cargelligo branch of C.W.A. 135 children were present and all received a gift.

Sunday School has been held once a fortnight and religious instruction given twice a week at the school. During the last quarter, aboriginal missionaries have held meetings, these being very well attended.

Although most of the men are employed, work is not as plentiful as it was earlier in the year. Considering the background of these people, the houses are, on the whole, well cared for. Their social life is very much restricted, due to the isolation of the Station. The children make the most of their playground. This is definitely an asset to the Station. The Station property is stock-proof now that the whole of the boundary fence has been renewed.

Burnt Bridge : Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Luschwitz, appointed Manager and Matron.

Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Fairhurst, appointed Assistant Manager and Assistant Matron.

TRANSFER OF OFFICERS NEW APPOINTMENTS

Cabbage Tree Island : Mr. and Mrs. McCutcheon, appointed Manager and Matron.

Moree : Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Levin, appointed Assistant Manager and Assistant Matron.

Murrin Bridge : Mr. and Mrs. H. F. S. Roberson, appointed Assistant Manager and Assistant Matron.

Moonahcullah : Mr. J. Hamilton, appointed Supervisor.

Karuah : Position of Supervisor has been discontinued.



Eleven-year-old Adelaide Taylor (Moonahcullah) nursing Ian Duncan, son of the teacher-supervisor, at the recent school sports.