

THE "AUSSIES" CAME TO SYDNEY

The Purfleet "Aussies" marching girls' team came to Sydney in January, and had themselves a ball. Over 100 people offered their houses as accommodation for the 13-girl team and officials, and they were treated to a great time.

The girls competed in the State marching girls' championships, and gave displays at Newcastle, Blacktown and Merrylands. While in Sydney they were presented to the Governor, Sir Roden Cutler, Sydney's Lord Mayor Armstrong, and Mr R. Askin, State Premier.

Mr Davis Hughes, acting Chief Secretary, was photographed marching with the girls, and invited them to inspect Parliament House, Sydney.

This was the girls' second trip to Sydney. In November they gave displays at Liverpool, and met the mayor; and they met Sir Edward Hallstrom during an inspection of Taronga Park Zoo—one of several visits they made while in Sydney.

The Purfleet Aussies Marching Association is unique in Australia; it is all-Aboriginal, as is the organization behind it. Providing uniforms and equipment for the girls was a problem at first, but a Taree bank made a donation to start the team's savings account, and help came from marching teams throughout Australia.

The Aborigines Welfare Board paid the girls' rail travelling expenses so that they could come to Sydney for the championships.

The photographs here of the November trip were taken by Mr A. G. de Voogd, who trains the girls, and who is responsible for their present high standard.



Above : Gail Russell, leader of the "Aussies" proudly presents her team to Joy Simpson, former Australian Champion Leader. Miss Simpson presented to Gail the whistle and gold chain used when she won the national title in 1965. Miss Simpson was runner-up in 1966

Below : Aussies on the Manly ferry as it pulls out from Circular Quay. The girls saw a lot of Sydney (including the Harbour Bridge in the background) during their November and January trips. The 13-girl team includes Gail Russell (leader), Beverly Saunders, Patricia Russell, Francis Ping, Yvonne Ping, Marilyn Clarke, Isabel Bungie, Rita Morcome, Joy Ridgeway, Vicki Clarke, Wilma Morcome, Marcelli Mitchell and Beth Maher.
