

Kinchela is a Model Home

Boys are happy and well trained

Kinchela is a home for male wards near Kempsey, on the bank of the Macleay River. It comprises 44 acres of good dairy land on which is maintained a dairy herd and poultry farm. The buildings are of a simple



design and comprise dormitories, dining room, recreation room, kitchen, laundry, ablution block and the usual out-buildings and school. A

swimming pool is on the property, but this was damaged by flood during the year and is at present out of use. The number of inmates on 30th June, 1954, was 51, compared with 57 the previous year. During the year there were three admissions and nine discharges.

The general health of the inmates has been of a high standard, and a complete medical examination was conducted in January. A dentist visited twice during the year and gave attention to inmates. Where necessary, hospital attention is given at the Macleay District Hospital in Kempsey. Surveys were also made for tuberculosis and worm infestation.

Forty-three inmates attend the Public School situated in the Home grounds and four attend Kempsey High School for higher educational training. Of the four boys attending Kempsey High School, one is in fifth year and sat for the Leaving Certificate Examination this year, one is in second year and two are in "opportunity" first year class.

The Public School boys competed in the Public Schools Amateur Athletic sports day meeting held at Kempsey, and although not placed in the winning schools, created much pleasurable comment by their demeanour, dress and cleanliness through the day whilst in the full public view.

Insofar as the High School Sports were concerned, one boy emerged as Senior Athletic Champion for Kempsey High School. Two have represented the High School in the First Grade Rugby Football team, First Grade Cricket team and have travelled to many towns throughout the State with such teams. These two lads have been billeted with white people whilst on such visits and all reports have been most favourable concerning their behaviour and sportsmanship. One boy represented Kempsey High School in swimming championships held at Taree.

The school choir won first place for the third successive year in the 1953 Kempsey Eisteddfod—small school choirs section—and the professional judges are quoted as saying "their singing qualities were most professional and of a very high standard."

No effort is spared to keep all boys actively interested and engaged in some form of recreational pursuit, a balanced programme being maintained as far as is possible. Most boys take part in cricket and softball during the summer season and rugby and soccer

football during the winter seasons. Every inmate has been taught to swim and this particular form of recreation is actively followed at all available times during spring, summer and autumn.

Boxing is a favourite form of sport amongst practically every boy, and many boxing competitions are held in the Home recreation hall. Indian club swinging is taught to senior boys. Gymnasium work is of a very high standard and a gymnasium display was held for members of the Kempsey Rotary Club on their annual visit to the Home at Christmas 1953.

A number of lads are members of the Smithtown Rugby Football Club and the end of the 1953 season saw their team major and minor premiers of Group 3, New South Wales Country Rugby Football League.

Six lads are members of the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club and take part in all functions of that Club. One holds the bronze medallion for life saving and five have passed their proficiency test. During the Surf Life Saving carnival season, one boy won every beach sprint (100 yards) throughout the season. The boys would each be qualified to sit for the examination for their bronze medallions except that they are not qualified by age.



Claude Mercy, of Coff's Harbour, an ex-Kinchela boy. Claude wants to contact Herbie Simms, Ronnie Hart, Harold Stewart and Bennie Gordon.