

MURRIN BRIDGE NEWS

Recently a concert was held at Lake Cargelligo, in aid of the Lake Cargelligo Ambulance, presented by the residents of Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Station. Needless to say it was an overwhelming success and all credit goes to Willy Riley and Vincent Quayle. These two lads are extremely talented; Willy Riley particularly can be congratulated for not only his instrumental ability, but also for some of the songs composed and sung by him. (Talent scouts please note!)

A sum of Fifty pounds was collected and this amount was handed to the President of the Lake Cargelligo Ambulance.

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Mr. Clarke of the Aborigines Inland Mission is to be congratulated for his good work amongst the residents of Murrin Bridge. Lately he started the teenage club and this has proved such a success, that he has had to request the aid of two schoolteachers to handle the boisterous and happy teenagers. The sub teens, not to be left out of things, gate crashed the other day and were permitted to stay. A good time was had by all. Are there any more sausage sizzles coming up Mr. Clarke? The kids are anxious to know.

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By far one of the most interesting subjects at the Murrin Bridge school would be Social Studies.

Schoolchildren are taken in the station truck on excursions to various places to assist them in social studies. So far they have visited the water tower, the bakery, the slaughter yards, and a dairy where they saw milking machines in action for the first time.

Their last visit was an inspection of a DC3 passenger aircraft of the East West Airlines.

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A dance was held in the Murrin Bridge hall recently and the proceeds were given to the Social Club. Everyone who attended had a good time.

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It appears that some teenagers like causing a disturbance while church service is held in the hall. Besides being disrespectful, it is a poor sign of family discipline. So teenagers do show some respect.

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The manager's A model Ford "Shooting bus" is in great demand by some residents for shooting parties. One resident reckons that the bus has the uncanny knack of smelling out and chasing kangaroos and rabbits. One thing for certain—it jumps over logs. However, by the number of kangaroos brought home, weekend shooting parties have quite a bit of success.

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The death of "Nugget" Johnson has been a great loss to his relatives and friends. He was buried at the Murrin Bridge cemetery.

CONFERENCE ON ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Teachers, social scientists, ministers and experts on co-operatives were among the lecturers at an Armidale University Conference on "The Future of Aboriginal Groups".

The Conference was held at the Diocesan Centre, Grafton, over the week-end, 22nd-24th September.

The organiser of the Conference, was Mr. J. W. Warburton, Senior Lecturer, Adult Education Department of the University of New England, and the lecturing team were:—

Rev. A. W. Clint, Director of Co-operatives, Australian Board of Missions, widely known in Australia and overseas for his work with Lockhart River communities.

Mr. R. A. McCrohan, a school teacher at Cabbage Tree Island Aboriginal Station in the Richmond River, who is conducting an experiment in community development.

Mr. A. J. Mockler, Publicity Officer in the Registry of Co-operative and Friendly Societies, Sydney.

Mr. J. M. Praed, Richmond-Tweed Regional Director for the Department of Adult Education, University of New England.

Mr. C. D. Rowley, Principal of the Australian School of Pacific Administration and author of "The Lotus and the Dynamo". Mr. Rowley has made a detailed study of United States Indian policies.

Mr. R. Hausfeld, Anthropologist, formerly Manager of Woodenbong Aboriginal Station, who has studied many aboriginal communities in New South Wales and written a thesis on his Woodenbong observations.

Mr. Warburton himself spoke on "Maori Policy" from his experience with the Native Department of the New Zealand Government.

"The recent controversies over conditions in aboriginal reserves at Box Ridge, Cubawee and Armidale underlined not only the need for urgent action to improve living conditions, but for a full examination of an assimilation policy which has been operative for twenty years", Mr. Warburton said.

Assimilation cannot consist merely of housing and hygiene, important though these may be. There is a need to recognise that many mixed blood communities in N.S.W. still retain strong group feelings and traditions. Welfare policies which do not take them into account could be seriously frustrated, Mr. Warburton explained.

"Some anthropologists join with social workers and aboriginal leaders in believing that attempts at assimilation which ignore the importance of group life are doomed to failure," Mr. Warburton added.