

Nothing but joy from twins

(Based on an article in the Richmond River Express, 30th July, 1971)

Aboriginal twins, Dale and Gayle, are thriving with their Casino foster parents. Ever since they were 7½ weeks old, they have been cared for by Mr and Mrs Bob Hayes of Division St in Casino. Mr and Mrs Hayes took the babies because their real parents were unable to cope. They already had nine other children including another set of twins born 12 months previously. So, they were happy to leave the new twins in the Hayes' care and visit them regularly to check on their progress. Mr and Mrs Hayes are delighted to continue the arrangement indefinitely—as long as the real parents wish.

When Mrs Hayes was asked if she would take care of the twins, she accepted eagerly. She is a deeply religious woman who regarded the task before her as a challenge. And a challenge it has been, for she is a middle-aged mum who has already reared her own family. However she has had the full support of her husband and they have not been disappointed by their decision. People frequently stop the family on the street to admire the babies.

Because Dale and Gayle are so obviously well cared for, Mrs Hayes has had Aboriginal mothers complimenting her and seeking her advice on child-rearing. Like many Aboriginal babies, Dale and Gayle had a bronchial condition when they were small. On a doctor's advice, Mrs Hayes gave them a concentrated vitamin and mineral supplement. She started them early on chicken flesh and other meat and vegetables and found that raw egg straight from the spoon suited them. The twins gained weight rapidly and have been thriving ever since. Mrs Hayes has reason to be proud of the babies' well-rounded limbs and flawless skins. To keep their skin fine and silky, she massages the children with oil three times a day.

The Minister for Child Welfare and Social Welfare, Mr J. L. Waddy, was greatly impressed with the twins' condition when he visited them in July. The district welfare officer for Casino area, Mr A. J. Madden, is hoping that the Hayes' fine example will inspire other people to care for Aboriginal children who need foster homes. As Mrs Hayes has testified herself: "We have received nothing but joy from these babies and been more than repaid with their love."

Mick Whiton and family—Condobolin



Cowra or Condobolin? I can't remember who or where about this photo, but I hope they see themselves in NEW DAWN

