M.L.A. VISITS ULGUNDAH ISLAND

Radio Recording Made

Mr. W. R. Weiley, M.L.A. member for the Clarence Electorate, paid a visit to “Ulgundah Island” recently, accompanied by Mr. Raymond Atchison, news compiler for Station 2NR, the Supervisor and Mrs. E. Cameron.

They were met by Mr. Dick Randall, a well-known and highly respected aborigine, who introduced the visitors to the residents of the island.

Mr. Weiley saw the crops and vegetables the men had planted but the majority of the men were away cane cutting, their gang operating on “Warregah Island” on the north arm of the Clarence River. The children who attend school at Maclean were also away and Mr. Weiley hopes to meet them in the near future.

While there Mr. Atchison arranged with the 77-year-old Mr. Randall to make a tape recording of his early life and Aboriginal customs. This recording will be broadcast in the near future and should be a very interesting one.

MUSICAL FESTIVAL

Had Tabulam won the recent Musical Festival in Lismore they would have established a record that possibly would never have been equalled.

Already this school possessed the champion small school football team on the North Coast and had won convincingly the small school athletic title at Casino. A win at Lismore would have made this school the champion small school on the North Coast in football, athletics and singing.

But unfortunately Tabulam was unlucky to oppose one of the finest choirs ever heard in this festival and was beaten into second place by a narrow margin.

One of the highlights of the afternoon’s performance was the appearance of the Tabulam Aboriginal School Choir in the one teacher school section.

The choir gave a delightful rendition of the set piece “The Little Spinner” (Mozart), but it was in “The Happy Wanderer” that the youngsters excelled.

They gave all they had to this rollicking number and were unfortunate to be beaten into second place. They not only sang well but appeared to thoroughly enjoy the singing. The judge awarded first prize with 83 points to Kerrong whose rendition of “Silent Night” was one of the best heard at a school Festival for many years. Their win was thoroughly deserved and full credit is due to Mr. C. J. Renner for his fine interpretation of this splendid number.

The adjudicator congratulated both Tabulam and Kerrong. He said that for a while he thought the former choir under the able baton of Mr. A. Soorley, was going to win but he had no hesitation after hearing “Silent Night” in awarding the prize to Kerrong.

TABULAM SCHOOL BOY

Was Outstanding Competitor

A thirteen year old aboriginal boy was the outstanding competitor at the 23rd Annual Casino District P.S.A.A. Sports last Monday.

He is Eddie Phillips who tallied 26½ points in a total of 32 points scored by the Tabulam Aboriginal School.

The school in a fine performance won the Small School’s Webster points score cup and finished third in the overall aggregate, embracing 32 district centres and more than 1,000 competitors. Phillips set new records in the senior 100 yards championship, high jump and broad jump and equalled the 220 sprint mark. He lowered the 100 yards figure from 12.2 to 12 seconds, cleared 4 ft. 7½ in. in the high jump to beat the existing mark by 1½ inches, increased the broad jump figure by an inch to 13 ft. 4½ in. and ran the 220 yards sprint in 27 seconds.

For the greatest points score he received the Sloane Cup and his 100 yards win carried the Linz Trophy. These trophies will be retained in the school, but Eddie received six special certificates, six silver medals and a gold medal.

Eddie has proved himself by his performance one of the finest schoolboy athletes that the North Coast has ever produced and his performance will be watched by his many North Coast friends when he competes in the State titles at Sydney.

This fine sketch comes from Georgina Saunders, now working at Branxton Private Hospital, Ashfield.

A prize to Georgina.