New Welfare Officer

HAS HIGH HOPES FOR CHANCES OF OUR NATURAL SWIM TALENT

Former station manager at Moree, Mr. D. J. Reynolds, has been appointed Welfare Officer attached to the Aborigines Welfare Board’s headquarters staff in Sydney.

Mr. Reynolds replaces the late Mr. Louis Briggs, whose death occurred last year.

One of his first jobs on reaching Sydney was to conduct the Board’s highly successful Summer Camp for outback children at La Perouse.

A war veteran, Mr. Reynolds served with the A.I.F.’s 6th Division in the Middle East and later with the 4th Armoured Brigade.

After the war he went into business at Penrith. He joined the Board’s staff more than 10 years ago and one of his first appointments was as station manager at Coonabarabran.

For the past nine years he has managed Moree station—the State’s largest. In his time at Moree he saw electricity and street lighting come to the station, the development of playgrounds and the installation of the Apex Club’s swimming pool.

“The swimming pool is one of the delights of the picturesque Moree station and there is hardly a child under the age of five who cannot swim,” Mr. Reynolds told Dawn.

Olympic Star’s Display

“More than 160 children go to the five-teacher school on the Aboriginal station and they are encouraged to make use of the pool every day in summer,” he said.

Mr. Reynolds is a former Vice-President of the Moree Swimming Club with its headquarters at the Artesian Pool. He said that during that time the club’s coach, Hilary Smith, regularly brought a number of white children to train in the station pool with the Aborigine children.

Olympic representative Sue Costin also gave swimming exhibitions for the station children at their pool during a visit to Moree.

Mr. Reynolds said Aboriginal children attending the High School and town primary school swam in perfect harmony with white children at carnivals and weekly swimming days at Moree’s town pool.

Robert Stanley (15), an Aboriginal boy who learned to swim in the river, was a member of the team which represented North West high schools in the State high school swimming championships in Sydney last year. Barry Johnson was another promising teenage swimmer.