

MAYOR GUEST OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

SUCCESSFUL MOREE FUNCTION

THE Member for Barwon, Mr. Geoff Crawford, D.C.M., M.L.A., the Mayor of Moree, Ald. R. L. Simpson and other visitors were the guests of pupils of Moree Aborigines' School at luncheon recently.

Other guests were Ald. C. D. Jones, Moree Council, Mr. J. Burless, Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. E. McGuiggan, Moree Teachers' Association, Mr. G. Petschler, Mr. E. Bridge, headmaster of the school, and Mrs. Bridge.

Also present were Mesdames Duke and French, senior vice-president and member of the school's Parents and Citizens' Association, respectively.

Hostesses were Edna Madden (13), Judy Duke (9), Gwen Clark (14) and Frances Binge (11).

The meal was cooked by the children of the cooking class which is taught by Mrs. Bridge, and consisted of baked meat and salads, salad dressings, plum pudding, sauce, cakes and scones and was beautifully prepared and efficiently served.

In welcoming the visitors, Mr. Bridge apologised for the absence of the Secretary of the P. and C. Association, Mrs. T. Saunders, who is in hospital with a new baby. He wished her and her child well and expressed the hope they would soon return home.

He told the visitors that the Moree Aborigines' P. and C. Association was a live body and last year raised £114 of which £140 had been spent on the school. There were 112 pupils at the school.

"In twenty-four years of teaching, I have never had a better P. and C.," Mr. Bridge said. "That £140 was spent wholly and solely on the school, and this year about the same amount will be spent."

He said that by next year it was hoped to have more crockery and cooking gear for the cooking class.

The Department of Education had spent about £400 on equipment, including new lino., but the equipment was only sufficient to keep the class going.

Paying tribute to the girls, Mr. Bridge said they had not broken a thing since the class had started.

"The girls, their mothers and the teachers of the school are proud to have you here today," he told the visitors.

The Mayor, Ald. R. L. Simpson, replied that that was an expression which the guests owed to the girls for what they had done that day.

"I congratulate you on your effort, and I don't think I am exaggerating when I say the dinner, and the way it has been served, is equal to any dinner I have had placed before me at any function during my term as Mayor of Moree," he said.



Shy, Judy Duke presents a souvenir to Mr. Geoff Crawford, M.L.A.

"It should make you very proud indeed that you have been brought along to such efficiency by Mrs. Bridge."

The Mayor said many girls should be taken along to the school to learn from its pupils.

He added he would like to see similar functions held more regularly, and assured them that if he were re-elected Mayor he would make more frequent visits.

Mr. Crawford said he was most inspired by what the girls, in conjunction with Mrs. Bridge, had done.

"The dinner was beautifully served and nicely cooked. You are a credit to your mothers and Mrs. Bridge.

"I think the Department of Education owes a great deal to Mr. and Mrs. Bridge for giving so much time and energy in teaching you things the correct way.

"Mr. Bridge has pointed out the work and efforts of your P. and C., and I think you can be proud of your effort," he added.

Mr. Crawford congratulated Mesdames Duke and French for their work and interest in the P. and C., and said he knew of a lot bigger associations which did not raise half the money or take half the interest as did the Moree Aborigines' School P. and C. Association.

A feature of the luncheon was the spontaneous presentation of inscribed cards to the Mayor by Thelma Johnston, and to Mr. Crawford by Judy Duke.